Listen to the speakers talking about their heroes and do the exercises to practise and improve your listening skills.

Do the preparation exercise before you listen. Then do the other exercises to check your understanding.

1. Preparation: matching
Match the two halves of these phrases and write a–g next to the numbers 1–7.

1. to make  
2. to risk  
3. to campaign  
4. to spend  
5. to become aware  
6. to be interested  
7. to admire

a. someone (for …)  
b. of the danger  
c. a discovery  
d. your life  
e. all day working  
f. against slavery  
g. in ecology

2. Check your understanding: multiple choice
Circle which speaker (A, B, C or D) talks about …

1. someone who was dedicated to world peace. A / B / C / D
2. someone who has been the victim of violence as a result of their campaigning. A / B / C / D
3. someone who left a more conventional job to help young people in their country. A / B / C / D
4. someone who was excluded from the professional community of the time. A / B / C / D
5. someone who she wishes she could meet. A / B / C / D
6. someone who wrote a book about the effect humans could have on nature. A / B / C / D
7. someone who made an important scientific discovery while still a child. A / B / C / D
8. someone who faced strong criticism from big business. A / B / C / D
3. Check your understanding: multiple choice
Circle the best answer to complete the sentences.

1. Mary Anning's discovery was important because it showed that _________________.
   a. fossils could teach us about the past  
   b. an animal could become extinct  
   c. the shape of the coast was constantly changing

2. Mary Anning's dog died because _________________.
   a. it fell off a cliff  
   b. a large amount of earth and rocks fell on it  
   c. it got stuck down a hole while looking for fossils

3. Mary Anning didn't write a famous book because _________________.
   a. she was too busy exploring the cliffs  
   b. she did not have access to a formal education  
   c. she believed only men could be scientists

4. Kailash Satyarthi first saw the problems of child slavery when he was _________________.
   a. 6 years old  
   b. 11 years old  
   c. 26 years old

5. Kailash Satyarthi has saved over ________________ children from enforced labour.
   a. 18,000  
   b. 80,000  
   c. 800,000

6. Because of their work, two of Kailash Satyarthi's _________________.
   a. friends were injured  
   b. children were attacked  
   c. co-workers were murdered

7. Rachel Carson first specialised in _________________.
   a. human biology  
   b. the study of insects  
   c. marine biology

8. Rachel Carson's book made people realise that _________________.
   a. using pesticides was damaging the ecosystem  
   b. birdsong is essential to humans  
   c. humans cannot control nature

9. These days, more and more people are buying _________________.
   a. powerful pesticides  
   b. organic food  
   c. Rachel Carson’s book

10. The speaker is apologetic because _________________.
    a. she doesn’t know very much about John Lennon  
    b. she gets upset when she thinks about John Lennon  
    c. John Lennon is an obvious choice of hero

11. The speaker likes _________________.
    a. all the Beatles’ songs and  
    b. all of the Beatles’ music,  
    c. only the Beatles songs
Listening skills practice: My hero - exercises

12. It's amazing that Imagine _________________.
   a. is still so well loved today  
   b. really changed the way things were  
   c. contained so many important themes

Which of the heroes described in the listening were you most interested in?

Why?
Do you have a hero of your own?
Tell us about them!

Vocabulary Box  Write any new words you have learnt in this lesson.