



VAKTivity note to CRPs: there are two short Youtube videos to cue up for this lesson.

1. Search Parisa Khosravi TEDx Big Sky The Power of The Power of Finding Your Voice from 13:08 -15:22
2. Search Thom Thumb TEDx Sydney Beatboxing from 0:17-2:10

If you haven't heard the news, there's a BUZZ in the SPELLERVERSE about an upcoming event called SpellX. The name itself is INTRIGUING, because it sounds both familiar and MYSTERIOUS, especially with that "X" at the end! Since we want everyone to know about it, this lesson will DISPEL (or get rid of) any mystery surrounding SpellX and explain why it might sound familiar. Plus, not only is this a lesson about SpellX, but it's also your INVITATION to present and attend!

Spell BUZZ EVENT LESSON

What mystery will we dispel? SpellX

The name is intriguing because it is so what? MYSTERIOUS

Aside from this being a lesson, what else is it for you? *It's also your...what?* _____

INVITATION

What does dispel mean? GET RID OF, ELIMINATE

What's one word that starts with the letter X?

SpellX is an annual event being organized by the team at **I-ASC** [pronounced "I ask"], in collaboration with its Nonspeaking Leadership and the Spellers & Allies Network. If you don't already know, I-ASC is an ACRONYM (a short form made of the first letters of each word) for the International Association for Spelling as Communication. Producing a big Speller event is an ideal way for I-ASC to press forward in its MISSION "to advance communication access for nonspeaking individuals globally through training, education, advocacy and research". What better way than to show the world a variety of things on the minds of nonspeakers AND let us all hang out together at the same time?

Question Type Key

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Spell ALLIES GLOBAL

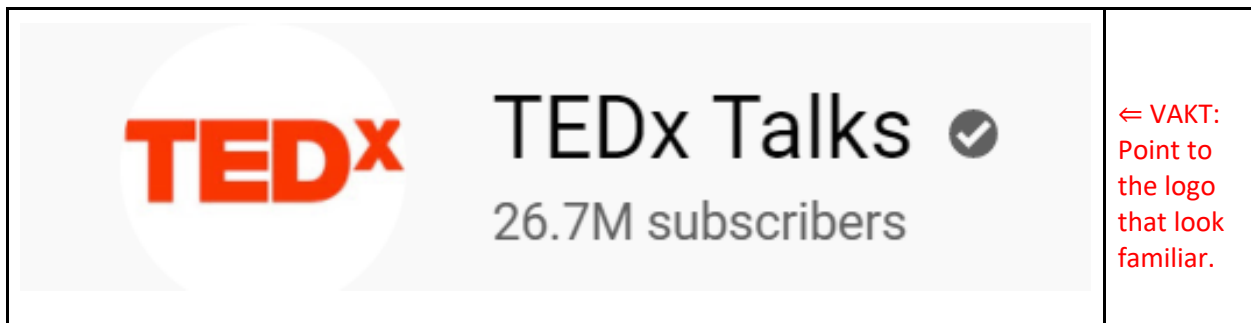
Name one of the collaborators I mentioned that is organizing SPELLX I-ASC/ NONSPEAKING LEADERSHIP/ SPELLERS AND ALLIES

I-ASC is the *what* for the International Association for Spelling as Communication? ACRONYM Advancing communication access for nonspeakers globally is I-ASC's *what*? MISSION

Name one way through which I-ASC advances communication access for nonspeaking individuals? TRAINING/ EDUCATION/ ADVOCACY/ RESEARCH

Since you're invited, let's go over the event details.

What is it? Think of SpellX as a TEDx style event, live-streamed for an international audience and featuring original, pre-recorded presentations by nonspeaking, minimally speaking and unreliably speaking multimodal AAC users from around the world. If you aren't familiar with TED talks, here's a brief history lesson:



(Image from youtube TEDx Channel)

In 1984, a group of thought leaders (people with innovative and creative minds) were featured at a conference to share some of their best original ideas with respect to TECHNOLOGY, Entertainment and Design (the three things make up the acronym "T.E.D."). It was a hit and, by 1990, TED events started being produced ANNUALLY under the slogan "ideas worth spreading". TED events are held around the world throughout the year. The TED organization also grants licenses to host local community events called TEDx events. Over the years, the "talks" expanded to other modes of expression, and the topics covered branched out to areas of the Arts, Culture, Science and Social Justice. Really, anything goes at TEDx however, as a general rule, presenters refrain from promoting any commercial, religious, or political AGENDA. SpellX will be similar to TEDx, but dare we say, better!

Spell ENTERTAINMENT AGENDA

Give me one of the words that makes up the TED acronym? TECHNOLOGY/ ENTERTAINMENT/ DESIGN

Which word from the TED acronym starts on the 3rd stencil (S-Z)? TECHNOLOGY

What is the slogan for TED Talks? IDEAS WORTH SPREADING

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What was the first year of the annual TED conference? 1990
Then how many years has the annual main TED conference been going on? 2020-1990=30
Name one type of agenda presenters refrain from promoting? COMMERCIAL, RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL
What does annually mean? EVERY YEAR

No matter what innovation or message presenters are sharing, it is usually done through creative storytelling. I'll give you some examples. The first one hits close to home. In 2018, PARISA KHOSRAVI presented a moving Tedx talk about her dear son PAYAM's journey in life before and after the discovery of spelling out his thoughts on a letterboard.

VAKT: Let's watch a [couple minutes of Parisa's TEDx Talk](#).

[Note to CRP: Google/Youtube search: Parisa Khosravi TEDx Talks the Power of The Finding your Voice, and play from 13:08 -16:05]

Not only is Parisa a great presenter, but a year after this video went viral, Payam represented nonspeakers at the United Nations World Autism Awareness Day!

Spell YOUTUBE PRESENTER

Who's TedX presentation are we talking about? PARISA KHOSRAVI

Who is Parissa's son? PAYAM

What year did Parissa give this talk? 2018

What is her talk about? LIFE BEFORE AND AFTER SPELLING

What does it mean if something goes viral?

What are your thoughts on this clip?

Where did Payam present? UNITED NATIONS WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Parisa's presented classic storytelling via spoken narration, however not everyone needs to speak to pull off creative storytelling. Our next video shows the presenter TOM THUMB sharing his story through BEATBOXING (a form of vocal percussion/drumming using one's mouth). Watch this!

VAKT [TEDx [Tom Thum Beatbox Brilliance Sydney \(0:17 to 2:10\)](#)]

Now that's some "next level" motor planning, even for those without motor differences! He must have been practicing for years and years because as you know, beatboxing is NOT typical of people that speak!

Spell BRILLIANCE NARRATION

What is the name of this presenter? TOM THUMB

What is Tom doing? BEATBOXING

What is beatboxing? A FORM OF VOCAL PRECUSSION/DRUMMING USING ONE'S MOUTH

Where did Tom present? SYDNEY

What did you think of Tom Thum's beatboxing?

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What will be presented at SpellX? The theme for SpellX 2020 is SPELLER PRIDE and its tagline, or slogan is “Words Worth a Listen”. Like the TEDx events, the goal of any SpellX presentation is to spark conversation. Presenters at SpellX have up to 8 minutes each to share anything they are proud to share about themselves, their ideas, and their gifts. This might look like the classic TEDx talk like Parisa’s, or it can take the form of poetry, song, stand up comedy, showcasing a talent, or who knows what else? There is no limit to creativity when it comes to topics or GENRE in conveying messages at SpellX. Presenters messages may be conveyed using audio-visual supports, slides, animations, AAC devices, natural voices and of course, spelling and typing. Presentations should be video-recorded and submitted well in advance, to ensure no one gets nervous that day and everyone can enjoy the event.

Spell GENRE TALENT

What is the theme of SpellX 2020? SPELLER PRIDE

What is the other word I used for slogan? TAG LINE

The goal of a presentation at SpellX is to do what? SPARK CONVERSATION

What is the maximum number of minutes a presentation can last? 8

Asides from a talk, name one type of presentation I just mentioned? STANDUP COMEDY, POETRY, SONG, SHOWCASING A TALENT

Name a stand-up comedian.

What’s one way a message can be conveyed in a presentation? SLIDES, AUDIO-VISUAL SUPPORTS, AAC SPEECH DEVICE, SPEAK, SPELL, ANIMATION

What is the slogan of SpellX? WORDS WORTH A LISTEN

How should presentations be submitted? VIDEO/ VIDEO-RECORDED/ TAPED

Name a type of presentation you would hope to see at SpellX.

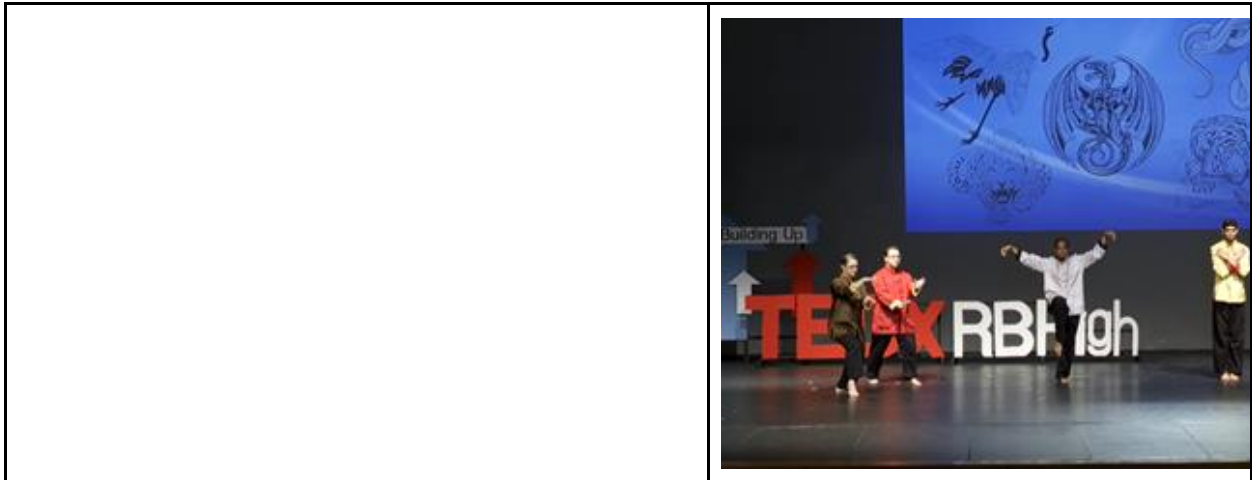


Photos from YouTube.com TEDx Talks Channel

They’re not just talks:
This team at USSD 4s Ranch Karate presented through martial arts the beauty of the Five Animals with the fighting spirit of Shaolin, at TEDx RBHigh.

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Where is it? SpellIX is anywhere and everywhere! There will be up to six SPELLX “virtual SALONS” operating throughout the evening, representing different time zones: East Coast North America, West Coast North America, South America, Africa, the SOUTH PACIFIC, and one for the UK and Europe together. Each salon will produce its own session for a similar time zone. Because SpellIX will always be a VIRTUAL event, you can participate or watch from your own home or with your own peeps, wherever you live. A person can only present in the salon where they live but they can relax and enjoy presentations in as many salons as they are available to watch!

Spell VIRTUAL Spell SALON

What different things are the six salons representing? TIME ZONES

Up to how many salons will there be at SpellIX? 6

How many salons can a person present in? 1

Give me the name of the area of one of the salons? EAST COAST NORTH AMERICA / WEST COAST NORTH AMERICA/ SOUTH AMERICA/ THE UK AND EUROPE/ AFRICA/ SOUTH PACIFIC

I mentioned the UK. What does that stand for? UNITED KINGDOM

Name a country in Africa.

Aside from your own salon region, which other virtual salon would you be interested in watching at SpellIX?

When is it? This INAUGURAL event takes place on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020. Inaugural means it will be the first event of its kind. The plan is that there will be a SpellIX every year. November 7 is a Saturday night. Planning an event on a Saturday night usually means it’s a pretty big deal! Everyone is welcome.

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Because this is a salon-style event, it will start at 6 o'clock, no matter where in the world you live. Your friends at I-ASC will provide the exact times of the various salons outside your own region on their website.

Spell SATURDAY WELCOME

On what date will this event going to be held? NOVEMBER 7, 2020

What word did I use to indicate it's the first event of its kind? INAUGURAL

What does inaugural mean? First/First of its kind/first one/first of many...

After the inaugural event, when can we expect the second SpellX to take place? NEXT YEAR / 2021

What night of the week is this? SATURDAY

What time does the event start in each salon? 6 o'clock

How do I sign up to present? First, think about what you want to do. You will need to submit a general proposal to I-ASC by the deadline **SEPTEMBER 25** to let them know what your presentation will be, and how you intend to share it. When you have a general idea of what you'd like to do, go to <https://i-asc.org/spellx/>, click the "Apply Now!" button at the bottom of the page and complete the Presentation Registration Form.

Presentations will be selected on a competitive basis with consideration given to showcasing a rich diversity of spellers, skills, and content. Selected presenters will be notified by September 30 and will then have roughly one month to prepare and record their presentations, which must be submitted to I-ASC by no later than OCTOBER 23. The primary goal is to spark conversation, connection and community, and let your Speller Pride stand out!

SPELL DIVERSITY COMPETITIVE

What is the deadline for submitting a proposal to present at SpellX? SEPTEMBER 25

What button on the website gets clicked to submit a proposal? APPLY NOW

By what date do recorded presentations need to be submitted to I-ASC? OCTOBER 23

The primary goal is to spark what? Name one of the things I mentioned. COMMUNITY/ CONVERSATION/ CONNECTION

If you were to submit a proposal to present at the event, what type of presentation do you think you'd like to try?

RSVP: Whether you are a presenter or not, audience members must register online for "tickets" to access the link for SpellX on November 7. When the event registration is announced on social media, go to the Event page on www.i-asc.org and find the SpellX link to register. After you register, you will get an email with links to the Salons. This is how all audience members can access the Salons.

Fun fact: Did you know RSVP stands for "REPONDEZ S'IL VOUS PLAIT" (pronounced "re-pon-day see voo play"). That's French, and it just means the hosts would like to know in advance if

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you're coming, and how many GUESTS you're bringing. An RSVP also gives you information on how to get a hold of the host.

Spell RSVP GUESTS

What word does the V in RSVP stand for? VOUS

What's a word that rhymes with vous ("voo")? Blue, too, do,.....etc.

What other type of event invitation typically indicates an RSVP?

What do SpellX audience register online for? TICKETS/ ACCESS LINK

An RSVP tells the hosts if you're coming and how many *what?* you are bringing.

Name another language. Do you understand that language?

How much does it cost? To keep the event as barrier-free as possible, tickets are free. To make this happen, corporate SPONSORS will pay for the costs of running the event in exchange for some advertising for their businesses. Having outside sponsors is also beneficial because they may help us spread awareness about spelling as communication to audiences that aren't aware of our community. It's a WIN-WIN situation! During the event, audience members will have opportunities to MAKE A PLEDGE (which is a promise to pay money later), in any amount, as a donation to I-ASC's SCHOLARSHIP fund for S2C Practitioner training. This is important because there aren't enough skilled professionals available to teach all the nonspeakers in the world. Assisting more practitioners to be trained, having Sponsors that can spread awareness into the larger community, and providing a platform to share Speller Pride are three ways this event will help I-ASC with its mission! I can't think of a better way to spend a Saturday night.

How much do tickets to I-ASC cost? NOTHING/ FREE

Who will pay the costs of running the event? SPONSORS

What will the sponsors get in exchange? ADVERTISING

Briefly describe what a "win-win" situation means?

What is a promise to provide money later called? PLEDGE

The pledges become donations directed to what type of fund? SCHOLARSHIP FUND/ SCHOLARSHIP FOR S2C PRACTITIONER TRAINING, etc.

Name one of the ways this event will help I-ASC in its mission. MORE PRACTITIONERS TO BE TRAINED/ PROVIDING A PLATFORM TO SHARE SPELLER PRIDE/ HAVING SPONSORS THAT CAN SPREAD THE NEWS ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

In a sentence or two, what to you is the most important way SpellX will further our mission?

Creative writing options:

·Go ahead and write, or just brainstorm your ideas for, a talk, song, poem, comedy show or other short presentation.

What's another good way I-ASC can help the community with its fundraising in the future?



Disability rights activist and one of the author's favorite TED presenters, Judith Heumann, at TEDx Midatlantic, October 2016.. Photo from TED.com



Lesson by Giorgena Sarantopoulos. Giorgena is a member of I-ASC's Leadership Cadre and operates her S2C Practice, Good Point Communication, in Toronto, Canada. One of her favorite TEDx presentations is "Our fight for disability rights — and why we're not done yet", by Judith Heumann.

The mission of I-ASC is to advance communication access for nonspeaking individuals globally through [training](#), [education](#), [advocacy](#) and [research](#). I-ASC supports all forms of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) with a focus on methods of spelling and typing. I-ASC currently offers [Practitioner training in Spelling to Communicate \(S2C\)](#) with the hope that other methods of AAC using spelling or typing will join our association

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