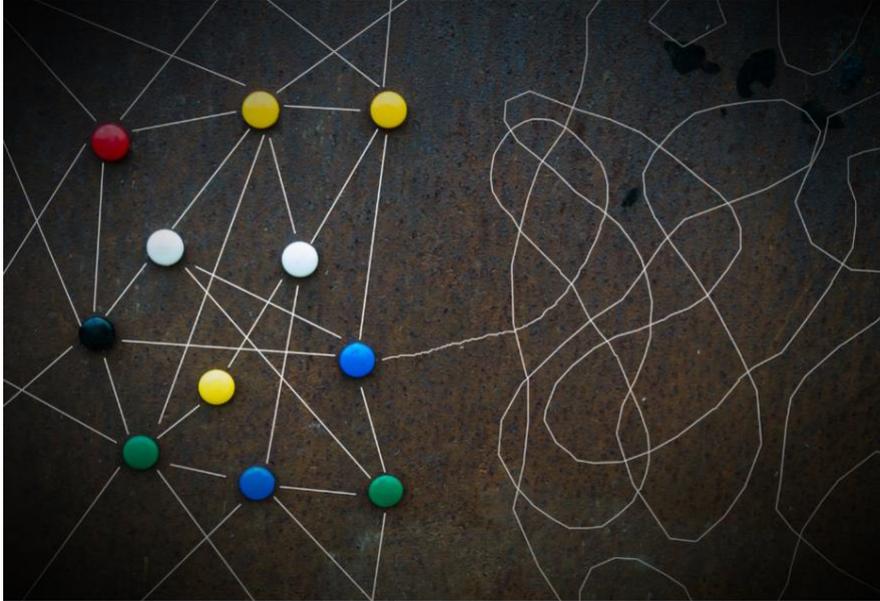




## Connecting the Dots – a theory by Steve Jobs

*Written by Vicky Oettle*



*“Again, you can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backward. So, you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something — your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life.” Steve Jobs*

In 2005 STEVE JOBS gave the COMMENCEMENT speech at STANFORD University where he spoke about three lessons he had learnt in life. The first one was about CONNECTING the dots; the second lesson was about love and loss and the third lesson was about death. But for today we are going to look at the THEORY of connecting the dots in our life.

Spell: LESSONS

DEATH

LIFE

Who gave the commencement speech? STEVE JOBS

Question Type Key

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Where did Steve Jobs give the speech? STANFORD UNIVERSITY

What type of speech did Steve Jobs give? COMMENCEMENT

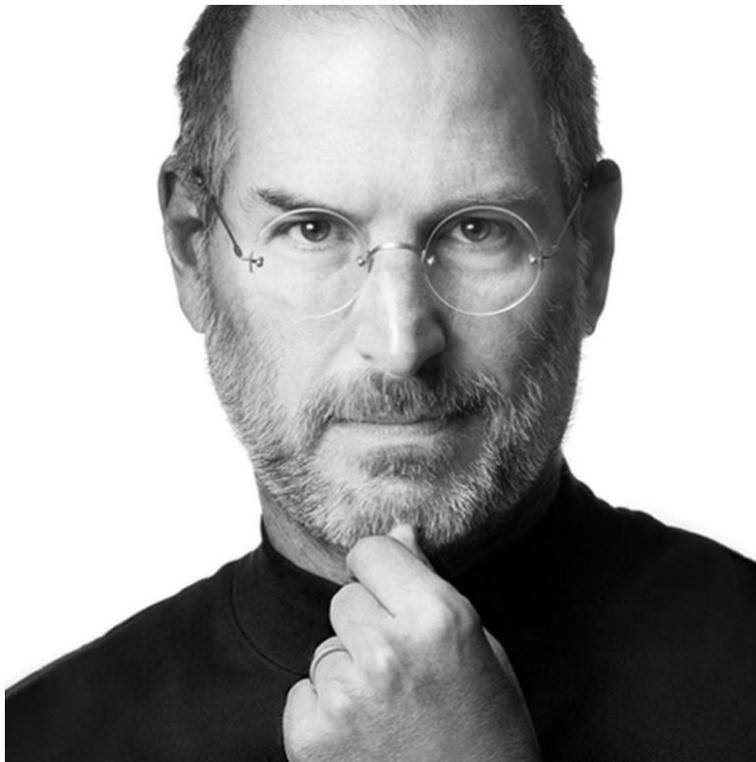
Give a synonym for the word commencement. BEGINNING / INAUGURATION / OPENING / START

What was the first lesson Steve Jobs spoke of? CONNECTING THE DOTS

Name one of the lessons Steve Jobs spoke of. CONNECTING THE DOTS / LOVE AND LOSS / DEATH

Who would you like to listen to giving a commencement speech?

The founder of APPLE, PIXAR and a lesser-known company called NEXT, Steve Jobs was also fired from Apple – only to later on make it one of the most SUCCESSFUL companies ever. Born to an unwed GRADUATE and adopted by a mom who did not make it to college and a dad who was a college DROPOUT, Steve Jobs was able to look back at his life and connect the dots. And if it wasn't for one dot, he would never have been able to connect to the next dot.



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Describe what you think an A Ha moment might feel like.

What is the name of the small coastal town the writer went to? PORT ELIZABETH

Name a coastal town in your own country.

What did the writer do at the special needs centre? VOLUNTEERING

Name one of the situations the writer mentions which is now considered a dot.

UNIVERSITY ON A WHIM / MET HUSBAND / GONE TO PORT ELIZABETH /  
VOLUNTEERED AT A SPECIAL NEEDS CENTRE

What would the writer not be doing if it weren't for all the dots? WRITING THIS  
LESSON

There are COUNTLESS stories like this out there, and I am quite sure that you could add to them yourself. But let's hear about some of the great SCIENTISTS and minds of the world – they too were able to connect the dots, in ways people thought were IMPOSSIBLE. They were INNOVATIVE and imaginative, they looked at seemingly unconnected concepts and made them connect in a way that changed how we think about these concepts.

Spell: STORIES                      THOUGHT                      UNCONNECTED

There are \_\_\_\_\_ stories like this out there. COUNTLESS

Who are we going to hear about? GREAT SCIENTISTS / MINDS

People thought their connections were \_\_\_\_\_. IMPOSSIBLE

Give a synonym for the word innovative. GROUNDBREAKING / STATE OF THE ART  
/ INVENTIVE / PIONEERING / NEW / ADVANCED

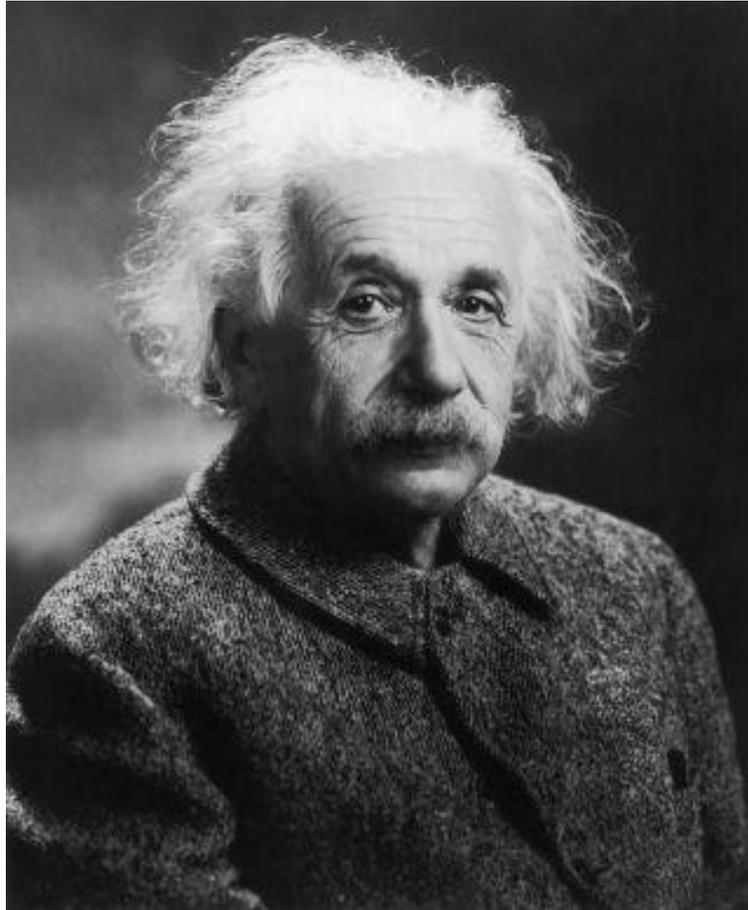
They changed how we think about these \_\_\_\_\_. CONCEPTS

What do you think is a modern innovative concept?

Let's start with the famous ALBERT EINSTEIN. He dropped out of school, failed the exam to get into the POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE in ZURICH, and had a teacher who told him he would amount to nothing. But he went on to teach himself CALCULUS, was fascinated by PHYSICS, and even though he failed the entrance



exam, he was still allowed to enroll in the Polytechnic Institute, because of his impressive math skills. Had Einstein been pushed through TRADITIONAL schooling; would we have the theory of relativity today?



Spell: FAMOUS

TEACHER

IMPRESSIVE

Which famous scientist are we talking about? ALBERT EINSTEIN

What was the name of the institute that he failed the entrance exam for?  
POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Where is the Polytechnic Institute? ZURICH

In which country will you find Zurich? SWITZERLAND

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What did Einstein teach himself? CALCULUS

What was Einstein fascinated by? PHYSICS

Why was Einstein allowed to enroll in the institute? HE ENROLLED BECAUSE OF HIS IMPRESSIVE MATHS SKILLS

Traditional schooling did not seem to help Einstein when he was at school, how could schools today better support learners who learn differently?

LEONARDO DA VINCI is another such incredible individual who defined innovation as connecting the unconnected. From da Vinci we still today have the most ACCURATE drawings of human ANATOMY, the VITRUVIAN man is still considered one of the most accurate DEPICTIONS of human anatomy. But he is not just known for his precise drawing, he was also able to bring different PERSPECTIVES together – this alone created wonderful connections.





Spell: INCREDIBLE DRAWINGS TOGETHER

Who did we hear about now? LEONARDO DA VINCI

Question Type Key

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What is the name of the accurate human anatomy drawing by da Vinci? THE VITRUVIAN MAN

How did da Vinci define innovation? CONNECTING THE UNCONNECTED

Name another famous art piece by da Vinci. THE MONA LISA / THE LAST SUPPER / ADORATION OF THE MAGI / MARY MAGDALENE / FLORA

Name one thing da Vinci is well known for that was mentioned in the text. ACCURATE ANATOMY DRAWINGS / BRINGING TOGETHER DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

What was da Vinci able to bring together? DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

Thinking about more modern-day people, RICHARD BRANSON has also always been able to connect the dots. For Branson it wasn't about creating new, but rather about using what you have and connecting those FRAGMENTS to create something. Innovation is again at the heart of connecting the dots and TRUSTING yourself to do that.

Who are we talking about now? RICHARD BRANSON

What did Richard Branson believe? USING WHAT YOU HAVE TO CREATE SOMETHING NEW

Which word used in the text means pieces or bits? FRAGMENTS

Who should you trust? YOURSELF

But, connecting the dots is not just about being innovative, it's not just about developing theories of relativity, it is also about SELF-REFLECTION. Life often leads us to question ourselves about the meaning of life. It is often while we are discovering the MYSTERIES of life, when we question what we are doing and why that we begin to start making sense of our life. So, trust yourself, and trust that your dots will somehow and somewhere connect.

Spell: DEVELOPING                      QUESTION                      DISCOVERING

Connecting the dots is also about \_\_\_\_\_. SELF REFLECTION

Question Type Key

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What does life often lead us to question? MEANING OF LIFE

It is often while we are discovering the \_\_\_\_\_ of life. MYSTERIES

When do we start making sense of life? WHEN WE QUESTION WHAT WE ARE DOING AND WHY

Creative Writing:

Connecting the dots has often helped people become creative and write creatively. Look around you and decide on two seemingly unconnected items, find a way to connect these items and describe the connection.

VAKT:

Dot to Dot Activity on next page

String Art Activity – on I-ASC blog (insert link)

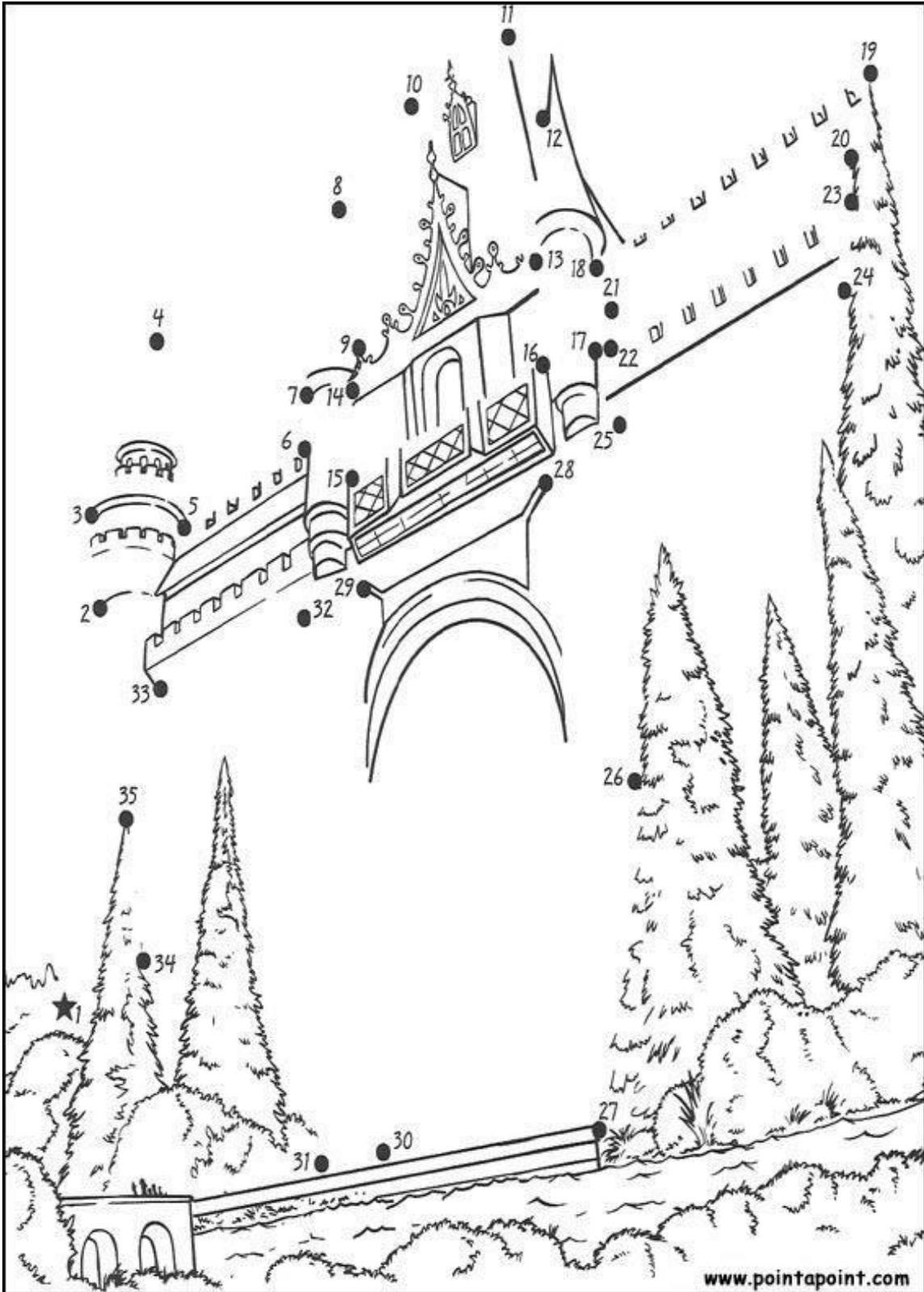
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<https://ditch-the-day-job.com/how-do-you-connect-the-dots-in-life-steve-jobs-speech/>

*Ideas Magazine, South Africa, January 2021*



Vicky is a practitioner in training in South Africa, and currently, works for Autism South Africa, but will soon be joining the ranks of The Sisu Hub. She is happily married to a husband who helps her write lessons, and in her spare time, she is kept occupied by her cats, crafts and guide dog puppy in training. Check out her blog [Purposeful Motor String Art](#)

*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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