

Understanding explanations (teacher-student interaction)

Prof. Kindt is trying to answer Natsumi and Ayana's (wearing the GoPro camcorder) questions about happiness. Listen and fill in the blanks with their useful expressions. Then we'll add alternatives ① and improvements ②

1. Natsumi How about, "Human beings are not worthy of being happy?" <checks her dictionary> Hm?
2. Ayana <laughs>
3. Natsumi "Human beings are not worthy of being happy." I don't...
4. Ayana I can't understand. <laughs>
5. Natsumi ...understand. So I didn't check that one ①. <looks at book>
6. Ayana ① You are unsure.
7. Natsumi <raises hand> Prof. Kindt.
8. Ayana <raises hand> <points> We can't understand the meaning of "Human beings are not worthy of being happy."
9. PK Yeah, that question is maybe about someone that believes in heaven...
10. Ayana Mm.
11. PK ...um, and thinking that life on earth is like a test, something that we have to work hard at to get to heaven, and that person might say that, you know, our purpose as humans is not to be happy, it's to work hard and, and make it to heaven.
12. Ayana Mm. Okay, I see. ②
13. PK So, then they'll say, "human beings are not worthy," that they haven't earned happiness. They haven't worked to become happy. They'll be happy if they go to heaven.
14. Ayana Ah.
15. Natsumi <turns to Ayana> I'm sorry, could you explain that again? ②
16. PK <gives more explanation> Do you know... "Worthy" means you've earned something. For example, um, your TOEFL score needs to be 450 or higher to graduate...
17. Ayana Mm. uh-huh. / Go on. ②
18. PK ...so if you have a higher TOEFL score than 450, you're "worthy" to graduate. You've earned your graduation right...
19. Ayana Mm. Okay, I see. / Ah, I get it now. ②
20. PK ...though some people believe human beings don't have a right to be happy.
21. Ayana Really?
22. PK They have to suffer.
23. Ayana Ha ha.
24. PK And be miserable. And because of those bad experiences you become able to enter heaven, "worthy" to enter heaven...

25. Ayana Mm. Okay, so you're saying people won't be happy
until they go to heaven? (A)
26. PK So... That's just somebody's opinion that "human beings aren't worthy of being happy." I think, my opinion is, life *is* to be happy.
27. Ayana Oh.
28. PK We're living so that we can enjoy our lives, I think. But that's just another personal opinion.
29. Ayana Mm. So, two different opinions. / So, you don't agree. (A)
30. PK Does that make sense ?
31. Ayana Mm. Thank you.