



## **Breaking News: Not Even Billionaires Can Cheat Death!**

### **Russell Brand**

Russell Brand is an English comedian and actor. He is known for his very flamboyant style and manner. He is from the country of Essex, and speaks with an Essex accent, which is similar to a London accent. In terms of his language, he speaks very eloquently, and therefore he is an excellent example of someone who speaks with a strong regional accent along with very advanced vocabulary.

Watch the video in the link below, and answer the questions with as much information as possible:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAwrFmC8rlk>

1. **(00:00-00:28)** What 3 examples does Russell give regarding the "huge industry" for prolonging life?
2. **(00:00-00:28)** What are the exact words that Russell uses in the first 28 seconds of the video? Feel free to repeat the video a few times to make not of exactly what he says.
3. **(01:20-01:38)** What does he say about myths?
4. **(02:15-02:46)** What information can we take from the study that he covers in the video?
5. **(02:46-03:01)** What could a person (potentially erroneously) spend all of their life doing? (He lists 6 things here)
6. **(03:01-03:16)** What is the point of spirituality according to Russell Brand?
7. **(03:01-03:16)** What 2 examples does Russell give to illustrate how our whole culture is set up to be in denial of death?



## Answers

- (00:00-00:28)** What 3 examples does Russell give regarding the "huge industry" for prolonging life?  
The cosmetic industry, the cryogenic industry or much more bizarre DNA altering techniques.  
[notice how when he says 'cosmetic', he doesn't voice the 't' sound. See the next page for more information]
- (00:00-00:28)** What are the exact words that Russell uses in the first 28 seconds of the video? Feel free to repeat the video a few times to make note of exactly what he says.  
[see the next page for the transcript and accent guide]
- (01:20-01:38)** What does he say about myths?  
Myths can be 'truer than truth'. The mythology of the warrior; the mythology of love; the mythology of the trickster, of the shadow. Myths contain great truths.
- (02:15-02:46)** What information can we take from the study that he covers in the video?  
There is ultimately nothing you can do to prevent the biological realities of life reaching its natural conclusion, i.e. death. Take time to think about what your values are.
- (02:46-03:01)** What could a person (potentially erroneously) spend all of their life doing?  
Eating vitamins, doing yoga, exercising, looking after your hair and trying to look nice, making sure the log pile never diminishes.
- (03:01-03:16)** What is the point of spirituality according to Russell Brand?  
Coming to terms with the reality that we're going to die.
- (03:01-03:16)** What 2 examples does Russell give to illustrate how our whole culture is set up to be in denial of death?  
The worship of youth; the celebration of apparently eternal ideas.  
[with the word 'eternal' here, you may notice that he changes the 'l' sound to a 'w' sound. There is a guide to this on the next page]



## Answer to Question 2 and Guide to Some Features of an Essex Accent

### Transcript of the video (00:22-00:28)

**Key - Some differences between the Essex accent and Standard English:**

<b>Blue text</b>	<b>'l' replaced by a 'ww' sound</b> In many southern and central UK accents, an 'l' is replaced by a 'w' when it is followed by a consonant sound. This can be heard also in formal English and professional settings.
<b>Green text</b>	<b>'th' replaced by a 'f' or 'v' sound</b> In accents across the UK the 'th' sound is replaced with an 'f' or 'v'.
<b>Red full stop</b>	<b>'t' replaced by a 'glottal stop'</b> This occurs in many southern and central accents of the UK. When a 't' is at the end of a word or followed by a consonant, it sounds like it is simply deleted. However, it is replaced by a hard stop in the middle of the word called a 'glottal stop'. This causes a lot of difficulties for listeners to understand. This can be heard also in formal English and in professional settings.
Small text	'filler' words such as 'are / to / a / can / of / for / from' are reduced to very quick sounds which are hard to hear. Each of these words contains some form of 'schwa' sound, which is a kind of lazy 'uh' sound. This occurs in all accents, including US accents. This lazy 'uh' sound is in fact the most common vowel sound in both British and American English. It is used also in formal and professional settings, and it is in fact essential to maintain the natural rhythm of the English language. You can see it a lot in the text below.
Grey text	The real transcript of the video

This just in, you <sup>e</sup> going <sup>te</sup> die, and I am going <sup>te</sup> die, oh no, we're **aww** gonna die, a  
This just in, you are going to die, and I am going to die, oh no, we're all going to die, a

new stady has **reveawd** that there's only so much you <sup>cn</sup> do <sup>te</sup> prevent yourse**wf** <sup>frm</sup>  
new study has revealed that there's only so much you can do to prevent yourself from

dying. Now this is **somewfing** <sup>tht</sup> we've kind <sup>ev</sup> known <sup>fer</sup> <sup>e</sup> long whi**ww**, nonetheless  
dying. Now this is something that we've kind of known for a long while, nonetheless

there's <sup>e</sup> huge industry in prolonging life **whewer** tha.<sup>s</sup> the cosme.<sup>ic</sup> industry or  
There's a huge industry in prolonging life, whether that's the cosmetic industry or

cryogenic industry or these much more bizarre DNA you <sup>cn</sup> do this why don'. you have  
cryogenic industry or these much more bizarre DNA you can do this why don't you have

<sup>e</sup> li.**w** bi. <sup>e</sup> this <sup>e</sup> li.**w** bi. <sup>e</sup> tha. <sup>e</sup> table. <sup>fe</sup> this  
a little bit of this a little bit of that a tablet for this

This section is extremely challenging because you have many 't' replaced by stops followed by 'l's replaced by 'w's, as well as small filler words all in very quick succession