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**Level 0 – 21st February, 2020**

## **Criminals have smaller brain size, says study**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200221-brain-size-0.html>

### **Contents**

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

**Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200221-brain-size-0.html>

Antisocial people could have smaller areas of the brain. Criminals' brains are different from the brains of non-criminals. Researchers looked at 672 people aged seven to 26. At the age of 45, the researchers scanned their brains. Eighty of them were antisocial from their early teens. Areas of their brain were smaller.

The research could help doctors understand antisocial behaviour. People may behave badly because of their brain size. A researcher said it was a kind of disability and we needed to be kinder to these people. Another researcher said doctors could help to stop antisocial behaviour. She said these people needed more support.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/feb/17/long-term-offenders-have-different-brain-structure-study-says>  
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-02-life-course-persistent-antisocial-behaviour-differences-brain.html>  
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(20\)30002-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(20)30002-X/fulltext)

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200221-brain-size-0.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. have smaller areas           | a. of 45         |
| 2. different from the brains of | b. teens         |
| 3. people aged seven            | c. non-criminals |
| 4. At the age                   | d. antisocial    |
| 5. researchers scanned their    | e. were smaller  |
| 6. Eighty of them were          | f. to 26         |
| 7. from their early             | g. brains        |
| 8. Areas of their brain         | h. of the brain  |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The research could help doctors | a. doctors could   |
| 2. People may behave               | b. understand      |
| 3. because of their brain          | c. support         |
| 4. it was a kind                   | d. badly           |
| 5. we needed to be kinder          | e. size            |
| 6. Another researcher said         | f. behaviour       |
| 7. help to stop antisocial         | g. to these people |
| 8. these people needed more        | h. of disability   |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200221-brain-size-0.html>

Antisocial people (1) \_\_\_\_\_ areas of the brain.

Criminals' (2) \_\_\_\_\_ from the brains of non-

criminals. Researchers (3) \_\_\_\_\_ people aged

(4) \_\_\_\_\_. At the age of 45, the researchers

scanned their brains. (5) \_\_\_\_\_ were antisocial

from their early teens. Areas of (6) \_\_\_\_\_ smaller.

The research (7) \_\_\_\_\_ understand antisocial

behaviour. People (8) \_\_\_\_\_ because of their

brain size. A researcher said it was (9) \_\_\_\_\_

disability and we needed (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to these

people. Another researcher said doctors could

(11) \_\_\_\_\_ antisocial behaviour. She said these

people (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200221-brain-size-0.html>

Antisocial people could have smaller areas of the brain. Criminals' brains are different from the brains of non-criminals. Researchers looked at 672 people aged seven to 26. At the age of 45, the researchers scanned their brains. Eighty of them were antisocial from their early teens. Areas of their brain were smaller. This research could help doctors understand antisocial behaviour. People may behave badly because of their brain size. A researcher said it was a kind of disability and we needed to be kind to these people. Another researcher said doctors could help to stop antisocial behaviour. She said these people needed more support.

# BRAIN SIZE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200221-brain-size-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about brain size in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

*Criminals have smaller brain size, says study – 21st February, 2020*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200221-brain-size-0.html>

Write about **brain size** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.

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