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Level 2 – 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-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200221-brain-size-2.html>

A study published in the journal "Lancet Psychiatry" found that antisocial people could have smaller areas of the brain. It said criminals' brains had a different structure to the brains of people who followed the law. Researchers looked at records of 672 people between the ages of seven and 26. At the age of 45, the researchers scanned the people's brains. Eighty of them had a history of antisocial behaviour from their early teens. The areas of their brain that were linked to emotions, motivation and behaviour control were smaller in the long-term criminals.

A co-author of the research said it could help doctors understand long-term antisocial behaviour. She said antisocial people may behave badly because of their brain structure. She said: "They are operating under some disability at the level of the brain." She added that we needed to care for these people in a kinder way. The lead author said: "Differences in brain structure might make it difficult for people to develop social skills. This may prevent them from engaging in antisocial behaviour. These people could benefit from more support throughout their lives."

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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A study published in the | a. linked to emotions |
| 2. people who followed | b. people's brains |
| 3. At the age | c. journal |
| 4. the researchers scanned the | d. of 45 |
| 5. a history of antisocial | e. term criminals |
| 6. from their early | f. the law |
| 7. areas of their brain that were | g. teens |
| 8. long- | h. behaviour |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. it could help doctors | a. more support |
| 2. antisocial people may behave | b. disability |
| 3. They are operating under some | c. skills |
| 4. might make it difficult | d. lives |
| 5. develop social | e. understand |
| 6. engaging in | f. for people |
| 7. These people could benefit from | g. badly |
| 8. throughout their | h. antisocial behaviour |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200221-brain-size-2.html>

A study published (1) _____ "Lancet Psychiatry" found that antisocial people could have (2) _____ the brain. It said criminals' brains had a different structure to the brains of people who (3) _____. Researchers looked at records of 672 people between the ages of seven and 26. At the age of 45, the researchers (4) _____ brains. Eighty of them had (5) _____ antisocial behaviour from their early teens. The areas of their brain that were linked to emotions, motivation and behaviour (6) _____ in the long-term criminals.

A co-author of the research said it (7) _____ understand long-term antisocial behaviour. She said antisocial people (8) _____ because of their brain structure. She said: "They are operating under some disability (9) _____ of the brain." She added that we needed to care for these people in (10) _____. The lead author said: "Differences in brain structure might make it difficult for people to (11) _____. This may prevent them from engaging in antisocial behaviour. These people could benefit from more (12) _____ lives."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200221-brain-size-2.html>

A study published in the journal "Lancet Psychiatry" found that antisocial people could have smaller areas of the brain. It said criminals' brains had a different structure to the brains of people who followed the law. Researchers looked at records of 672 people between the ages of seven and 26. At the age of 45, the researchers scanned the people's brains. Eighty of them had a history of antisocial behaviour from their early teens. The areas of their brain that were linked to emotions, motivation and behaviour control were smaller in the long-term criminals. A co-author of the research said it could help doctors understand long-term antisocial behaviour. She said antisocial people may behave badly because of their brain structure. She said: "They are operating under some disability at the level of the brain." She added that we needed to care for these people in a kinder way. The lead author said: "Differences in brain structure might make it difficult for people to develop social skills. This may prevent them from engaging in antisocial behaviour. These people could benefit from more support throughout their lives."

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) _____

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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) _____

