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Level 5 – 20th December, 2021

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211220-rocket-science-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211220-rocket-science-5.html>

We have the impression that rocket scientists and brain surgeons are super-brainy. New research suggests the general public is actually just as smart as those high-flyers.

Researchers assessed 329 aerospace engineers and 72 neurosurgeons on six different areas of cognition. The researchers compared their data with those from 18,257 respondents who previously took the tests. The researchers said: "Only two differences were significant: the neurosurgeons' problem-solving speed was quicker and their memory recall speed was slower."

The research questions the use of phrases such as "this isn't rocket science" or "that isn't brain surgery". These suggest something is actually quite easy to understand. The researchers said when we require rapid problem solving, "it might be more correct to use 'It's not brain surgery', but in situations where rapid information recall is needed this phrase should be avoided". This gives hope to all of us who want exciting careers with "genius-level" requirements. However, this could lead to an excess of brain surgeons and rocket designers.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-59647067>
<https://www.iflscience.com/editors-blog/rocket-scientists-and-brain-surgeons-are-no-smarter-than-you-study-finds/>
<https://www.sciencealert.com/researchers-pit-rocket-scientists-and-brain-surgeons-against-each-other-in-a-battle-of-wits>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211220-rocket-science-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. brain surgeons | a. were significant |
| 2. ordinary people are | b. of cognition |
| 3. aerospace | c. just as smart |
| 4. six areas | d. speed was slower |
| 5. They compared their data | e. are super-brainy |
| 6. Only two differences | f. solving speed |
| 7. the neurosurgeons' problem- | g. with those |
| 8. their memory recall | h. engineers |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. the use of phrases such as | a. careers |
| 2. something is easy | b. hope |
| 3. when we need rapid | c. to understand |
| 4. when rapid information recall | d. designers |
| 5. The research gives | e. is needed |
| 6. those who want exciting | f. of brain surgeons |
| 7. this could lead to millions | g. "this isn't rocket science" |
| 8. rocket | h. problem solving |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211220-rocket-science-5.html>

We have (1) _____ rocket scientists and brain surgeons are super-brainy. (2) _____ the general public is actually (3) _____ as those high-flyers. Researchers assessed 329 aerospace engineers and 72 neurosurgeons on six different (4) _____. The researchers compared their data with those from 18,257 respondents (5) _____ the tests. The researchers said: "Only two differences were significant: the neurosurgeons' problem-solving speed was quicker and (6) _____ speed was slower."

The research questions the (7) _____ such as "this isn't rocket science" or "that isn't brain surgery". These suggest something (8) _____ easy to understand. The researchers said when (9) _____ problem solving, "it might be more correct to use 'It's not brain surgery', but in situations where rapid information (10) _____ this phrase should be avoided". This gives hope to (11) _____ who want exciting careers with "genius-level" requirements. However, this could lead (12) _____ of brain surgeons and rocket designers.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211220-rocket-science-5.html>

We have the impression that rocket scientists and brain surgeons are super-brainy. New research suggests the general public is actually just as smart as those high-flyers. Researchers assessed 329 aerospace engineers and 72 neurosurgeons on six different areas of cognition. The researchers compared their data with those from 18,257 respondents who previously took the tests. The researchers said: "Only two differences were significant: the neurosurgeons' problem-solving speed was quicker and their memory recall speed was slower." The research questions the use of phrases such as "this isn't rocket science" or "that isn't brain surgery". This suggests something is actually quite easy to understand. The researchers said when we require rapid problem solving, "it might be more correct to use 'It's not brain surgery', but in situations where rapid information recall is needed this phrase should be avoided". This gives hope to all of us who want exciting careers with "genius-level" requirements. However, this could lead to an excess of brain surgeons and rocket designers.

ROCKET SCIENCE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211220-rocket-science-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about rocket science 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) _____

