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Level 5

Astronauts' brains change shape during spaceflight

5th February, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170205-brains-5.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 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170205-brains-5.html>

Researchers from the University of Michigan have found that astronauts' brains change shape during spaceflight. It is the first study to look into how the brain changes in space. Researchers looked at high-tech MRI pictures of the brains of 26 astronauts who spent time in space. Twelve of the astronauts spent two weeks on the Space Shuttle, and 14 spent six months on the International Space Station. All of them experienced increases and decreases in the size of different parts of the brain. The longer an astronaut spent in space, the bigger the size differences were.

The research produced some interesting findings. One was that no gravity means fluids do not drop in the body, so there is a shift in the brain's position inside the skull. The brain becomes either more squashed or bigger. The findings could help doctors to treat problems that affect the brain's function. They could treat people with problems caused by long-term bed rest. They could also help those who have a build-up of fluid in the brain, which can lead to brain damage. We will understand more about how neurons in the brain connect. The findings will also help future trips to Mars.

Sources: <http://www.futurity.org/astronauts-brains-space-1348942/>
<http://www.nature.com/articles/s41526-016-0001-9>
<https://www.inverse.com/article/27330-astronaut-brain-change-shape-space>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170205-brains-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. change | a. of the brain |
| 2. the first study to look | b. pictures |
| 3. high-tech MRI | c. differences were |
| 4. the brains | d. shape |
| 5. increases and | e. in space |
| 6. different parts | f. of 26 astronauts |
| 7. The longer an astronaut spent | g. into how |
| 8. the bigger the size | h. decreases in the size |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The research produced some | a. fluid in the brain |
| 2. fluids do not drop | b. brain's position |
| 3. there is a shift in the | c. or bigger |
| 4. inside the | d. function |
| 5. either more squashed | e. connect |
| 6. affect the brain's | f. interesting findings |
| 7. a build-up of | g. skull |
| 8. how neurons in the brain | h. in the body |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170205-brains-5.html>

Researchers from the University of Michigan (1) _____ astronauts' brains change shape during spaceflight. It (2) _____ to look into how the brain changes in space. Researchers (3) _____-tech MRI pictures of the brains of 26 astronauts who spent time in space. Twelve of the astronauts spent two weeks on the Space Shuttle, and 14 (4) _____ on the International Space Station. (5) _____ experienced increases and decreases in the size of different parts of the brain. The longer an astronaut spent in space, the (6) _____ differences were.

The research (7) _____ interesting findings. One was that no gravity (8) _____ not drop in the body, so there is a shift in the brain's position (9) _____. The brain becomes either more squashed or bigger. The findings could help doctors to treat problems that affect the brain's function. They could (10) _____ problems caused by long-term bed rest. They could also help those who have a build-up of fluid in the brain, which can (11) _____ damage. We will understand more about (12) _____ the brain connect. The findings will also help future trips to Mars.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170205-brains-5.html>

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BRAINS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170205-brains-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about brains 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) _____

