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Level 4 – 20th December, 2021

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211220-rocket-science-4.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 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

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

We think that rocket scientists and brain surgeons are super-brainy. New research suggests ordinary people are just as smart. Researchers tested 329 aerospace engineers and 72 neurosurgeons on six areas of cognition. They compared their data with those from 18,257 "normal" people. 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 easy to understand. The researchers said using 'It's not brain surgery' is OK when we need rapid problem solving, but not when rapid information recall is needed. The research gives hope to those who want exciting careers. However, this could lead to millions 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-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

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

PARAGRAPH TWO:

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

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

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

We (1) _____ rocket scientists and brain surgeons (2) _____. New research suggests ordinary people are just as smart. Researchers tested 329 aerospace engineers and 72 neurosurgeons (3) _____ of cognition. They compared (4) _____ those from 18,257 "normal" people. The researchers said: "(5) _____ were significant: the neurosurgeons' problem-solving speed was quicker and their (6) _____ was slower."

The research questions the (7) _____ such as "this isn't rocket science" or "that isn't brain surgery". These (8) _____ easy to understand. The researchers said using 'It's not brain surgery' is OK when (9) _____ problem solving, but (10) _____ information recall is needed. The research gives hope to those (11) _____ careers. However, this could lead (12) _____ brain surgeons and rocket designers.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

We think that rocket scientists and brain surgeons are super-brainy. New research suggests ordinary people are just as smart. Researchers tested 329 aerospace engineers and 72 neurosurgeons on six areas of cognition. They compared their data with those from 18,257 "normal" people. 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 easy to understand. The researchers said using 'It's not brain surgery' is OK when we need rapid problem solving, but not when rapid information recall is needed. The research gives hope to those who want exciting careers. However, this could lead to millions 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) _____

