

**Brain**

It's amazing just how many medical myths there are **(1) to choose / to be chosen** from, but one part of the body seems to attract more than its fair **(2) share / arrangement**, and that's the brain. One of my favourite brain myths is the idea that we only use 10% of it. It's an **(3) upsetting / appealing** idea because it suggests the possibility that we could become so much more intelligent, successful or creative, **(4) if only / so that** you could **(5) "harness"** that wasted 90%. This might inspire us to try harder, but unfortunately that doesn't mean there is any truth in it.

5. "**harness**" is closest in meaning to ----.

- A) scrutinize                      B) attach  
C) exploit                          D) denounce  
E) exceed

6. Which of the following is true according to the text?

- A) It is possible to use the wasted 90%.  
B) There is no such thing as wasted 90%.  
C) We can become more imaginative by using more of our brains.  
D) It is unlikely for us to be motivated to work harder unless we are inspired by a possibility to use more of our brains.  
E) The author of the text is an avid supporter of the idea that we only use 10% of our brains.

One of my favourite brain myths is the idea that we only use 10% of it. First of all, it is important **(7) to be asked / to ask** the question – 10% of what? If it is 10% of the regions of the brain to which people are referring, this is the easiest idea to **(8) “quash.”** Using a technique called functional magnetic resonance imaging, neuroscientists can place a person inside a scanner and see which parts of the brain are activated **(9) given that / when** they do or think about something. A simple action like clenching and unclenching your hand or saying a few words requires activity **(10) in / of** far more than a tenth of the brain. Even when you think you are doing nothing your brain is doing rather a lot – **(11) whether / either** it is controlling functions like breathing and heart rate, or recalling the items on your to-do list.

8. “quash” is closest in meaning to ----.

- A) inspect
- B) overwhelm
- C) deploy
- D) condemn
- E) surpass

But maybe the 10% refers to number of brain cells. Again this doesn't work. When any nerve cells are (12) "going spare" they (13.a) either / whether degenerate and die off or they are colonised by other areas nearby. We simply don't let our brain cells (13.b) loiter. (14) They are too valuable for that. In fact, our brains are a huge (15) ---- on our resources. Keeping brain tissue alive consumes 20% of the oxygen we breathe, according to cognitive neuroscientists.

12. "going spare" is closest in meaning to ----.

- A) to be used
- B) to be left aside

13. "loiter" is closest in meaning to ----.

- A) work hard individually
- B) hang around idly

14. Which of the following is true according to the underlined sentence?

- A) It is impossible for us to let any single brain cell roam freely.
- B) There are such valuable brain cells that they cannot be spared unlike certain brain cells.
- C) The value of a brain cell depends on the functions it performs.
- D) It is unlikely for us to control our brain cells as they degenerate and die off or they are colonised by other areas nearby
- E) The writer probably thinks that the value of brain cells is hyperbolic.

15. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) relief
- B) reliance
- C) arrangement
- D) drain
- E) beat

It is true that nature can sometimes involve some strange designs, but to evolve **(16) to have / having** a brain ten times the size we needed would seem very odd, when its large dimensions are so costly to our survival, leading on occasion to obstructed labour, – also known as labour dystocia, which occurs when the baby does not exit the pelvis during childbirth due to being physically blocked– and the death of a mother during childbirth if no help is available. Yet many people do **(17) cling on** to the idea that we only use 10% of our brains. The idea is **(18) ----** prevalent ---- when the University College London neuroscientist Sophie Scott was **(19) on /at** a first aid course, the tutor assured the class that head injuries are not very serious because of the 10% “fact”. He was not only wrong about the 10%, but he was also wrong about the impact **(20) on / of** brain damage. Even a small injury can have huge effects on a person’s capabilities. The first aid tutor probably wasn’t **(21) ----** instructing a professor of neuroscience on the course, but Scott put him right.

17. “cling on” is closest in meaning to ----.

- A) stick to      B) turn down      C) rest on

18.

- A) so / that      B) such that

21. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) taking up      B) pulling over

- C) allowing for      D) referring to

- E) bargaining on

22. Which of the following is true according to the text?

A) Labour dystocia is a phenomenon that occurs more often than not.

B) Obstructed labour does not literally refer to an obstruction.

C) The death of a mother during childbirth has nothing to do with the brain and thus skull size.

D) That the brain has not evolved in time to have a bigger size is a sort of blessing for our survival.

E) The writer thinks that the size of the brain is the epitome of nature’s strange designs.

1. Three-quarters of the companies in the country have no female senior executives ---- women accounting for, of all seats reserved for management, less than a tenth.

- A) for
- B) with
- C) out
- D) from
- E) by

2. When it comes to education, ---- health and safety should be the number one priority during the pandemic is one thing, that any decision to close schools should not be taken without due consideration is completely another.

- A) while
- B) because
- C) if
- D) as
- E) when

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3. A report released the other day based on a review of three decades of research concluded that studies claiming a deterrent effect of capital punishment on murder rates are ---- flawed.

- A) fundamentally
- B) deliberately
- C) initially
- D) predominantly
- E) occasionally

4. Polio, whooping cough and diphtheria were once endemic in wealthier countries, ---- any town and claiming thousands of lives until these conditions have been eradicated thanks largely to vaccines and treatments.

- A) plagued
- B) having plagued
- C) to be plaguing
- D) plaguing
- E) to have plagued

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5. What makes legal limits outdated and inadequate to ---- the protection of workers' health is that the permissible exposure limits have not been updated by official bodies for a long while.

- A) penetrate
- B) ensure
- C) require
- D) exhaust
- E) foresee

6. From the 1220s on, German masters ---- in the sculptural workshops of the French cathedrals ---- the new style to their homeland, although German architecture at that time was predominantly Romanesque with little room for variety and innovation.

- A) to have trained / had transplanted
- B) to be trained / transplant
- C) trained / have transplanted
- D) having been trained / transplanted
- E) training / were transplanting

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7. The Leaning Tower of Pisa seems ---- undoubtedly the most magnificent piece of architecture in Italy, but the lean only became apparent once three of the tower's eight stories had been built, leaving no chance ---- what had been done.

- A) being / to be reversed
- B) to have been / reverse
- C) to be / to reverse
- D) having been / having reversed
- E) been / reversed

8. For information that can't be obtained from customers easily ---- direct questioning or observations, social media management software will provide assistance ---- no time.

- A) from / on
- B) through / for
- C) to / by
- D) with / over
- E) by / in



9. Poets and writers of the Romantic era went beyond simply telling about things and ---- gave the narration readers need to feel the objects and surroundings.

- A) instead
- B) thus
- C) still
- D) otherwise
- E) similarly

10. With the pandemic impacting areas of the country and communities ----, not everyone is eager to get back to business as usual and many prefer to remain on leave almost for good.

- A) thoroughly
- B) unevenly
- C) hazily
- D) utterly
- E) eventually

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