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Level 6 – 20th December, 2021

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

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Most of us have the impression that rocket scientists and brain surgeons are super-brainy. Scientists have conducted research that suggests members of the general public are actually just as smart as those high-flyers. Researchers from University College London asked 329 aerospace engineers and 72 neurosurgeons to complete tests designed to assess six different areas of cognition. The researchers compared their data with those from 18,257 respondents who had previously taken 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 validity of using English phrases such as "this isn't rocket science" or "that isn't brain surgery". We use these expressions to suggest something is actually quite easy to understand. Are aeronautics and neuroscience so mindboggling? The researchers shed some light on this. They said: "In situations that do not 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 that we can embark on careers we once disregarded because of "genius-level" requirements. However, this could lead to a glut 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>

WARM-UPS

1. ROCKET SCIENCE: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about rocket science. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

rocket / scientist / brain surgeon / research / the general public / cognition / memory validity / English phrases / mindboggling / problems / information / career / genius

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. BRAIN SURGEONS: Students A **strongly** believe brain surgeons are more important than rocket scientists; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. HIGH-FLYING JOBS: What do you think of these occupations? What are the good and bad things about them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

| | What You Think | Good Things | Bad Things |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| Rocket scientist | | | |
| Brain surgeon | | | |
| Hollywood actor | | | |
| Lawyer | | | |
| Army general | | | |
| CEO | | | |

5. GENIUS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "genius". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. ATTRIBUTES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best attributes at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- intelligence
- sense of humour
- humility
- kindness
- perseverance
- loyalty
- generosity
- selflessness

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. impression | a. A person who is or has the potential to be very successful, especially academically or in business. |
| 2. surgeon | b. The mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses. |
| 3. brainy | c. An idea, feeling, or opinion about something or someone. |
| 4. high-flyer | d. The action of remembering something learned or experienced. |
| 5. cognition | e. A doctor who treats injuries or disorders of the body by cutting into it. |
| 6. respondents | f. Having or showing higher intelligence. |
| 7. recall | g. People who reply to something, especially information for a questionnaire. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8. validity | h. An excessive supply of something. |
| 9. aeronautics | i. The quality of being logically or factually reliable. |
| 10. mindboggling | j. The science or practice of building or flying aircraft. |
| 11. shed light on | k. Begin a course of action. |
| 12. embark on | l. Help to explain something by giving further information about it. |
| 13. disregarded | m. Overwhelming; too great to fully understand. |
| 14. glut | n. Paid no attention to; ignored. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The article says everyone thinks rocket scientists are brainy. **T / F**
2. Researchers tested the cognition of 72 rocket scientists. **T / F**
3. Researchers' found only two major differences in their data. **T / F**
4. Neurosurgeons could recall memories quicker than average people. **T / F**
5. The researchers said we should never use certain English phrases. **T / F**
6. The researchers used a torch to shine light on a question. **T / F**
7. The article suggests we could all do the careers we wanted. **T / F**
8. The article joked that we could have too many brain surgeons. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. impression | a. evaluate |
| 2. conducted | b. phrases |
| 3. assess | c. steered clear of |
| 4. cognition | d. notable |
| 5. significant | e. carried out |
| 6. validity | f. cast |
| 7. expressions | g. thinking |
| 8. shed | h. excess |
| 9. avoided | i. sense |
| 10. glut | j. logic |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. brain surgeons are super- | a. flyers |
| 2. members of the general | b. once disregarded |
| 3. just as smart as those high- | c. speed |
| 4. tests designed to assess six different | d. of using English phrases |
| 5. their memory recall | e. light on this |
| 6. The research questions the validity | f. brainy |
| 7. something is actually quite easy | g. of brain surgeons |
| 8. The researchers shed some | h. areas of cognition |
| 9. embark on careers we | i. public |
| 10. this could lead to a glut | j. to understand |

GAP FILL

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

Most of us have the (1) _____ that rocket scientists and brain surgeons are super-(2) _____. Scientists have conducted research that suggests members of the general public are actually just as smart as those high-(3) _____. Researchers from University College London asked 329 (4) _____ engineers and 72 neurosurgeons to complete tests designed to assess six different areas of (5) _____. The researchers compared their data with those from 18,257 (6) _____ who had previously taken the tests. The researchers said: "Only two differences were (7) _____: the neurosurgeons' problem-solving speed was quicker and their memory (8) _____ speed was slower."

flyers

cognition

impression

recall

aerospace

significant

brainy

respondents

The research questions the (9) _____ of using English phrases such as "this isn't rocket science" or "that isn't brain surgery". We use these (10) _____ to suggest something is actually quite easy to understand. Are aeronautics and neuroscience so (11) _____? The researchers shed some light on this. They said: "In situations that do not require (12) _____ problem solving, it might be more correct to use 'It's not brain surgery', but in situations where rapid information (13) _____ is needed this phrase should be (14) _____." This gives hope to all of us that we can embark on careers we once disregarded because of "(15) _____ -level" requirements. However, this could lead to a (16) _____ of brain surgeons and rocket designers.

rapid

validity

glut

recall

mindboggling

genius

expressions

avoided

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Most of us have the impression that rocket scientists and brain surgeons _____
 - a. are super-barmy
 - b. are super-grainy
 - c. are super-bonny
 - d. are super-brainy
- 2) Scientists have conducted research that suggests members of _____
 - a. the general public
 - b. the generally public
 - c. the general publicly
 - d. the generally publicly
- 3) 72 neurosurgeons to complete tests designed to assess six different _____
 - a. areas of cognitive
 - b. areas of cog ignition
 - c. areas of cognition
 - d. areas of cog nation
- 4) The researchers compared their data with those _____
 - a. from 18,257 respondents
 - b. from 18,257 despondence
 - c. from 18,257 resplendent
 - d. from 18,257 despondency
- 5) the neurosurgeons' problem-solving speed was quicker and their _____
 - a. memory reek call speed
 - b. memory reek all speed
 - c. memory recall speed
 - d. memory wreck all speed
- 6) The research questions the validity of _____
 - a. using English phrase is
 - b. using English phrases
 - c. using English phases
 - d. using English phase is
- 7) Are aeronautics and neuroscience so mindboggling? The researchers _____ on this
 - a. shed same light
 - b. shred some light
 - c. shred same light
 - d. shed some light
- 8) but in situations where rapid information recall is needed this phrase _____
 - a. should be avoided
 - b. should be evaded
 - c. should be avoidance
 - d. should be abeyance
- 9) This gives hope to all of us that we can embark on careers _____
 - a. we once this regarded
 - b. we once disk regarded
 - c. we once disregarded
 - d. we once dish regarded
- 10) However, this could lead to a _____ surgeons
 - a. guilt of brain
 - b. glut of brain
 - c. glue of brain
 - d. gluts of brain

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Most of us have (1) _____ rocket scientists and brain surgeons are super-brainy. Scientists (2) _____ that suggests members of the general public are actually (3) _____ as those high-flyers. Researchers from University College London asked 329 aerospace engineers and 72 neurosurgeons to complete tests designed to assess six different (4) _____. The researchers compared their data with those from 18,257 respondents who (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 (7) _____ using English phrases such as "this isn't rocket science" or "that isn't brain surgery". We use these expressions to suggest something is (8) _____ to understand. Are aeronautics and neuroscience so mindboggling? The researchers (9) _____ on this. They said: "In situations that do not require rapid problem solving, it might be more correct to use 'It's not brain surgery', (10) _____ where rapid information recall is needed (11) _____ be avoided." This gives hope to all of us that we can embark on careers we once disregarded because of "genius-level" requirements. However, this could lead (12) _____ of brain surgeons and rocket designers.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What is most people's impression of rocket scientists?
2. How many neurosurgeons took part in the researchers' tests?
3. How many areas of cognition were tested?
4. What had over 18,000 respondents previously done?
5. Whose memory recall speed was slower?
6. What does the article say the research questions the validity of?
7. What did the researchers shed light on?
8. What phrase should we avoid where rapid information recall is required?
9. What does the article say the research gives to career seekers?
10. What could there be a glut of in future?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What is most people's impression of rocket scientists?
 - a) they go to space
 - b) they are dull
 - c) they are super-brainy
 - d) they love science fiction
- 2) How many neurosurgeons took part in the researchers' tests?
 - a) 72
 - b) 88
 - c) 18,257
 - d) 329
- 3) How many areas of cognition were tested?
 - a) five
 - b) six
 - c) four
 - d) seven
- 4) What had over 18,000 respondents previously done?
 - a) been brainy
 - b) been neurosurgeons
 - c) been rocket scientists
 - d) the tests
- 5) Whose memory recall speed was slower?
 - a) the general public
 - b) rocket scientists
 - c) neurosurgeons
 - d) researchers
- 6) What does the article say the research questions the validity of?
 - a) tests
 - b) some English phrases
 - c) neurosurgeons
 - d) rocket scientists
- 7) What did the researchers shed light on?
 - a) space
 - b) dark
 - c) a cabin
 - d) whether aeronautics and neuroscience are mindboggling
- 8) What phrase should we avoid where rapid information recall is required?
 - a) Oh my God
 - b) It's not brain surgery
 - c) It's on the tip of my tongue
 - d) This isn't rocket science
- 9) What does the article say the research gives to career seekers?
 - a) jobs
 - b) hope
 - c) better salaries
 - d) information
- 10) What could there be a glut of in future?
 - a) brain surgeons and rocket designers
 - b) researchers
 - c) phrases
 - d) geniuses

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Intelligence

You think intelligence is the most important attribute in a person. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their attributes. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): a sense of humour, loyalty or generosity.

Role B – Sense of Humour

You think a sense of humour is the most important attribute in a person. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their attributes. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): intelligence, loyalty or generosity.

Role C – Loyalty

You think loyalty is the most important attribute in a person. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their attributes. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): a sense of humour, intelligence or generosity.

Role D – Generosity

You think generosity is the most important attribute in a person. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their attributes. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): a sense of humour, loyalty or intelligence.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, synonyms... for the words 'rocket' and 'science'.

| rocket | science |
|--------|---------|
| | |

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• impression• general• 329• six• data• slower | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• phrases• actually• shed• correct• hope• glut |
|--|---|

ROCKET SCIENCE SURVEY

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

ROCKET SCIENCE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'rocket'?
3. How intelligent are you?
4. How can we increase our intelligence?
5. Do you think rocket scientists are super-brainy?
6. How do people become rocket scientists?
7. Would you rather be a rocket scientist or brain surgeon?
8. What are your problem solving abilities like?
9. How is your memory?
10. What would change in life if you were more intelligent?

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ROCKET SCIENCE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'science'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Who is the most intelligent person you know?
15. Do you find it difficult to remember English phrases?
16. What career would you love to embark on?
17. How do people become brain surgeons?
18. What makes one person more intelligent than another?
19. Do you think we are all of similar intelligence?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Most of us have the impression that rocket scientists and brain surgeons are super-(1) _____. Scientists have conducted research that suggests members of the general public are actually just as smart as those high-(2) _____. Researchers from University College London asked 329 aerospace engineers and 72 neurosurgeons to complete tests designed to (3) _____ six different areas of cognition. The researchers compared their data with (4) _____ from 18,257 respondents who had (5) _____ taken the tests. The researchers said: "Only two differences were significant: the neurosurgeons' problem-solving speed was quicker and their memory (6) _____ speed was slower."

The research questions the (7) _____ of using English phrases such as "this isn't rocket science" or "that isn't brain surgery". We use these expressions to suggest something is (8) _____ quite easy to understand. Are aeronautics and neuroscience so mindboggling? The researchers (9) _____ some light on this. They said: "In situations that do not require rapid problem solving, it might be more correct to use 'It's not brain surgery', but (10) _____ situations where rapid information recall is needed this phrase should (11) _____ avoided." This gives hope to all of us that we can embark on careers we once disregarded because of "genius-level" requirements. However, this could lead to a (12) _____ of brain surgeons and rocket designers.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) brainless | (b) brainwave | (c) brainy | (d) brains |
| 2. | (a) flyers | (b) rowers | (c) pilots | (d) sailors |
| 3. | (a) assess | (b) recess | (c) abscess | (d) abyss |
| 4. | (a) those | (b) them | (c) these | (d) that's |
| 5. | (a) imperviously | (b) previously | (c) prior | (d) past |
| 6. | (a) bell | (b) remember | (c) size | (d) recall |
| 7. | (a) prize | (b) legality | (c) validity | (d) obscurity |
| 8. | (a) actively | (b) actual | (c) actuary | (d) actually |
| 9. | (a) shed | (b) shack | (c) cabin | (d) hut |
| 10. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) at | (d) of |
| 11. | (a) done | (b) be | (c) have | (d) get |
| 12. | (a) jut | (b) lute | (c) glut | (d) mute |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. Most of us have the reopsniims that...
2. brain gsrusnoe
3. 329 cpreaesao engineers
4. six different areas of oionitngc
5. from 18,257 nsndeeropst
6. two differences were agnisciftin

Paragraph 2

7. The research questions the vitlaidy
8. We use these expironesss
9. so diggloinnbgm
10. this phrase should be aviedod
11. careers we once deigeddarrs
12. "genius-level" tqeinemruers

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () problem-solving speed was quicker and their memory recall speed was slower."
- () should be avoided." This gives hope to all of us that we can embark on careers we once
- () as smart as those high-flyers. Researchers from University College London asked 329 aerospace
- () use 'It's not brain surgery', but in situations where rapid information recall is needed this phrase
- () brainy. Scientists have conducted research that suggests members of the general public are actually just
- () light on this. They said: "In situations that do not require rapid problem solving, it might be more correct to
- () The research questions the validity of using English phrases such as "this isn't rocket science"
- () disregarded because of "genius-level" requirements. However, this could lead to a glut of brain surgeons and rocket designers.
- () taken the tests. The researchers said: "Only two differences were significant: the neurosurgeons'
- () engineers and 72 neurosurgeons to complete tests designed to assess six different areas of
- (**1**) Most of us have the impression that rocket scientists and brain surgeons are super-
- () or "that isn't brain surgery". We use these expressions to suggest something is actually quite
- () cognition. The researchers compared their data with those from 18,257 respondents who had previously
- () easy to understand. Are aeronautics and neuroscience so mindboggling? The researchers shed some

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. super scientists brain and surgeons brainy . are Rocket
2. as are high-flyers . They smart as just those
3. designed areas different to assess cognition . Tests of
4. their The with those . researchers data compared
5. was speed problem solving neurosurgeons' The quicker .
6. using Research English the validity of questions phrases .
7. suggest expressions to something . these We use
8. information recall situations In needed . where is rapid
9. We once careers on can embark disregarded . we
10. to This of could lead glut surgeons . a

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Most of us have the *compression / impression* that rocket scientists and brain surgeons are super-brainy. Scientists have *contracted / conducted* research that suggests members of the *general / generally* public are actually just as smart as *them / those* high-flyers. Researchers from University College London asked 329 aerospace engineers and 72 neurosurgeons to *complete / compete* tests designed to assess six different areas of *cognitive / cognition*. The researchers compared their data *of / with* those from 18,257 respondents who *has / had* previously taken the tests. The researchers said: "Only two differences were *significance / significant*: the neurosurgeons' problem-solving speed was quicker and their memory recall speed *is / was* slower."

The research questions the *validity / valid* of using English phrases such as "this isn't rocket science" *nor / or* "that isn't brain surgery". We use these expressions *to / for* suggest something is actually quite *easily / easy* to understand. Are aeronautics and neuroscience *so / real* mindboggling? The researchers shed some light on this. They said: "*In / On* situations that do not require rapid problem solving, it might be more correct *for / to* use 'It's not brain surgery', but in situations where rapid information recall is needed this phrase should *be / have* avoided." This gives hope to all of us that we can embark *on / to* careers we once disregarded because of "genius-level" requirements. However, this could lead to a glut *on / of* brain surgeons and rocket designers.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Most of us have thought rocket scientists and brain surgeons are super-brainy. Scientists have conducted research that suggests members of the general public are actually just as smart as these high-flyers. Researchers from *Nature* magazine and *The Lancet* asked 329 researchers and 72 neurosurgeons to complete tests designed to assess six different areas of cognition. The researchers compared their data with those from 18,257 respondents who had previously taken the tests. The researchers said: "Only two differences were significant: the neurosurgeons' prebiom-solving speed was quicker and their memory recall speed was slower."

The research questions the validity of saying 'English phrases such as "this isn't rocket science" or "that isn't brain surgery". We use these expressions to suggest something is actually quite easy to understand. Are our instincts and our science smart enough? The researchers should smile at this. They said: "In situations that don't require rapid prebiom solving, it might be more correct to say 'it's not brain surgery', but in situations where rapid information recall is needed this phrase should be avoided." These views help to fill us that we can embark on careers without necessarily being "genius-level" requirements. However, this could lead to a glut of brain surgeons and rocket designers.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

most of us have the impression that rocket scientists and brain surgeons are superbrainless scientists have conducted research that suggests members of the general public are actually just as smart as those highflyers researchers from university college london asked 329 aerospace engineers and 72 neurosurgeons to complete tests designed to assess six different areas of cognition the researchers compared their data with those from 18257 respondents who had previously taken the tests the researchers said only two differences were significant the neurosurgeons problemsolving speed was quicker and their memory recall speed was slower

the research questions the validity of using english phrases such as this isnt rocket science or that isnt brain surgery we use these expressions to suggest something is actually quite easy to understand are aeronautics and neuroscience so mindboggling the researchers shed some light on this they said in situations that do not require rapid problem solving it might be more correct to use its not brain surgery but in situations where rapid information recall is needed this phrase should be avoided this gives hope to all of us that we can embark on careers we once disregarded because of geniuslevel requirements however this could lead to a glut of brain surgeons and rocket designers

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Most of us have the impression that rocket scientists and brain surgeons are super-brainy. Scientists have conducted research that suggests members of the general public are actually just as smart as those high-flyers. Researchers from University College London asked 329 aerospace engineers and 72 neurosurgeons to complete tests designed to assess six different areas of cognition. The researchers compared their data with those from 18,257 respondents who had previously taken 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 validity of using English phrases such as "this isn't rocket science" or "that isn't brain surgery". We use these expressions to suggest something is actually quite easy to understand. Are aeronautics and neurosciences so mind-boggling? The researchers shed some light on this. They said: "In situations that do not 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 that we can embark on careers we once disregarded because of "genius-level" requirements. However, this could lead to a glut of brain surgeons and rocket designers.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. ROCKET SCIENCE: Make a poster about rocket science. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. INTELLIGENCE: Write a magazine article about governments focusing on efforts to get us to use our intelligence in a better way. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on rocket science. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. e 3. f 4. a 5. b 6. g 7. d
8. i 9. j 10. m 11. l 12. k 13. n 14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 F 3 T 4 F 5 F 6 F 7 T 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. i | 2. e | 3. a | 4. g | 5. d |
| 6. j | 7. b | 8. f | 9. c | 10. h |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. They are super-brainy
2. 72
3. Six
4. The test
5. Neurosurgeons
6. Some English phrases
7. Whether aeronautics and neuroscience are mindboggling
8. It's not brain surgery
9. Hope
10. Brain surgeons and rocket designers

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Rocket scientists and brain surgeons are super brainy.
2. They are just as smart as those high-flyers.
3. Tests designed to assess different areas of cognition.
4. The researchers compared their data with those.
5. The neurosurgeons' problem solving speed was quicker.
6. Research questions the validity of using English phrases.
7. We use these expressions to suggest something.
8. In situations where rapid information recall is needed.
9. We can embark on careers we once disregarded.
10. This could lead to a glut of surgeons.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. b 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)