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Level 4

Astronauts' brains change shape during spaceflight

5th February, 2017

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

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

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

Researchers have found that astronauts' brains change shape during spaceflight. It is the first study to look into this. Researchers looked at high-tech pictures of the brains of 26 astronauts. Twelve of them spent two weeks on the Space Shuttle, and 14 spent six months on the International Space Station. All of their brains increased and decreased in the size in different parts. The longer an astronaut spent in space, the bigger the size differences were.

The research produced interesting findings. One is that no gravity means fluids float in the body, so the brain changes position and size. The findings could help doctors to treat people with problems caused by long-term bed rest. They could also help those with 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-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. change | a. and decreased |
| 2. the first study | b. shape |
| 3. high- | c. differences were |
| 4. the brains | d. tech pictures |
| 5. on the International | e. in space |
| 6. All of their brains increased | f. of 26 astronauts |
| 7. The longer an astronaut spent | g. to look into this |
| 8. the bigger the size | h. Space Station |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The research produced | a. to treat people |
| 2. no gravity means fluids | b. position |
| 3. the brain changes | c. to Mars |
| 4. The findings could help doctors | d. brain connect |
| 5. problems caused by long- | e. interesting findings |
| 6. a build-up of | f. term bed rest |
| 7. how neurons in the | g. float in the body |
| 8. future trips | h. fluid in the brain |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

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

Researchers (1) _____ astronauts' brains change shape during spaceflight. It is the first study to (2) _____. Researchers looked at high-tech pictures of the brains of 26 astronauts. (3) _____ spent two weeks on the Space Shuttle, and 14 spent (4) _____ the International Space Station. All of their brains increased and decreased (5) _____ different parts. The longer an astronaut spent in space, the bigger the (6) _____ were.

The research produced interesting findings. One (7) _____ means (8) _____ the body, so the brain changes position and size. The findings could help doctors (9) _____ with problems (10) _____-term bed rest. They could also help those with a (11) _____ fluid in the brain, which can lead to brain 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-4.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) _____

