# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville



## Level 3 – 21st May 2026

# Why 90 per cent of humans are right-handed

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**
https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

## Contents



**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

# THE ARTICLE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

Around 90 per cent of people worldwide are right-handed. Scientists have spent decades trying to find out why. Researchers from Oxford University in the UK believe they have a possible answer. Their research suggests that the answer is because of two features of human evolution. The first is walking on two legs, and the other is the large size of the human brain. When humans first started walking on two legs, their hands were free to do things. Our large brain worked out many things to do with our hands like using tools. If most people used the same hand, using tools and working with others became easier. This became useful for things like hunting and cooking.

Scientists thought the key to finding the answer was why only humans are largely right-handed. Primates (monkeys and apes) use both hands equally. The researchers compared human behaviour and brain patterns with 41 species of monkeys and apes. The research findings showed that humans have longer legs compared to their arm length. Another reason is that the left side of the brain controls the right hand. It is also responsible for motor skills and coordination. A researcher said: "By looking across many primate species, we can begin to understand which aspects of handedness are ancient and shared, and which are uniquely human."

Sources: https://www.**popsci.com**/science/human-right-handed-leg-evolution/
https://www.**sciencedaily.com**/releases/2026/05/260517211429.htm
https://www.**msn.com**/en-us/news/technology/why-is-almost-everyone-right-handed-the-answer-may-lie-in-how-we-learned-to-walk/ar-AA23iiAz

# WARM-UPS

**1. BEING RIGHT-HANDED:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about being right-handed. 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?

scientists / decades / research / evolution / hands / brain / tools / cooking / hunting
key / monkeys / apes / human behaviour / arm length / motor skills / reason / ancient

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

**3. BOTH HANDS:** Students A **strongly** believe we should all use both our hands equally well; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. HAND PARTS:** What do you know about these things? What do you want to know? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

| | What I Know | What I Want to Know |
|---|---|---|
| Palm | | |
| Fingerprints | | |
| Nails | | |
| Thumb | | |
| Index finger | | |
| Knuckles | | |

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

**6. HANDS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to do with your hands at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Cook
- Draw
- Play music
- Garden
- Text friends
- Clean
- Clap
- Wave

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | worldwide | a. | The large grey thing inside your head that controls thinking and movement. |
| 2. | decades | b. | A period of ten years. |
| 3. | possible | c. | Shows that something may be true. |
| 4. | suggests | d. | In all parts of the world. |
| 5. | evolution | e. | The activity of looking for and killing animals for food. |
| 6. | brain | f. | Something that may happen or be true. |
| 7. | hunting | g. | The slow change and development of living things over time. |

## Paragraph 2

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8. | scientists | h. | The way a person or animal acts. |
| 9. | key | i. | In the same way or amount. |
| 10. | equally | j. | A group of animals or plants that are similar. |
| 11. | behaviour | k. | People who study science. |
| 12. | coordination | l. | The most important part of something. |
| 13. | species | m. | Very, very old. |
| 14. | ancient | n. | The ability to move different parts of the body well together. |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

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

1. Exactly 90% of people in the world are right-handed. **T / F**
2. Scientists have researched right-handedness for thousands of years. **T / F**
3. One reason for right-handedness may be the fact we walk on two legs. **T / F**
4. It is possible that using the same tools made most of us right-handed. **T / F**
5. Many animal species are only right-handed. **T / F**
6. Scientists compared 41 apes with 41 monkeys. **T / F**
7. The left side of the brain controls our right hand. **T / F**
8. A researcher said monkeys cannot help us understand right-handedness. **T / F**

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **1. worldwide** | a. development |
| **2. decade** | b. points |
| **3. evolution** | c. beneficial |
| **4. started** | d. mostly |
| **5. useful** | e. globally |
| **6. key** | f. kinds |
| **7. largely** | g. began |
| **8. species** | h. 10 years |
| **9. aspects** | i. very old |
| **10. ancient** | j. answer |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Around 90 per cent of people worldwide | a. trying to find out |
| 2. Scientists have spent decades | b. coordination |
| 3. two features of human | c. are right-handed |
| 4. When humans first started | d. to finding the answer |
| 5. This became useful for things | e. of monkeys and apes |
| 6. the key | f. walking on two legs |
| 7. 41 species | g. evolution |
| 8. longer legs compared | h. to understand |
| 9. responsible for motor skills and | i. to their arm length |
| 10. we can begin | j. like hunting and cooking |

# GAP FILL

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

Around 90 per cent of people (1) _____ are right-handed. Scientists have spent (2) _____ trying to find out why. Researchers from Oxford University in the UK believe they have a possible answer. Their research (3) _____ that the answer is because of two features of human evolution. The first is walking on two (4) _____, and the other is the large size of the human brain. When humans first started walking on two legs, their hands were (5) _____ to do things. Our large brain worked out many things to do with our hands like using (6) _____. If most people used the same hand, using tools and working with (7) _____ became easier. This became useful for (8) _____ like hunting and cooking.

*suggests*

*free*

*worldwide*

*others*

*legs*

*things*

*decades*

*tools*

Scientists thought the (9) _____ to finding the answer was why only humans are largely right-handed. Primates ((10) _____ and apes) use both hands equally. The researchers compared human behaviour and brain (11) _____ with 41 species of monkeys and apes. The research findings showed that humans have longer legs (12) _____ to their arm length. Another reason is that the left side of the brain (13) _____ the right hand. It is also responsible for motor skills and (14) _____. A researcher said: "By looking across many primate species, we can begin to (15) _____ which aspects of handedness are ancient and shared, and which are uniquely (16) _____."

*compared*

*monkeys*

*coordination*

*human*

*controls*

*understand*

*key*

*patterns*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

1) Scientists have spent decades trying to _____
   a. fine doubt why
   b. fine doubt why
   c. fined out why
   d. find out why
2) Researchers from Oxford University in the UK believe they have _____
   a. a possibles answer
   b. a possibly answer
   c. a possible answer
   d. a possibility answer
3) research suggests that the answer is because of two features _____
   a. of humane evolution
   b. of human evolution
   c. of human revolution
   d. off human evolution
4) When humans first started walking on two legs, their hands were free _____
   a. to do things
   b. two do things
   c. to do thing
   d. to does things
5) If most people used the same hand, using tools and working with _____
   a. others became easily
   b. other became easier
   c. others became easier
   d. others become easier
6) Scientists thought the key to finding the answer was why only humans are _____
   a. large right-handed
   b. larger right-handed
   c. largely right-handed
   d. largest right-handed
7) Primates (monkeys and apes) use _____
   a. both hand equally
   b. both hands equals
   c. both hand equal
   d. both hands equally
8) findings showed that humans have longer legs compared to _____
   a. their army length
   b. there arm length
   c. their arms length
   d. their arm length
9) It is also responsible for motor _____
   a. skill and coordination
   b. skills and coordination
   c. skills sand coordination
   d. skill sand coordination
10) which aspects of handedness are ancient and shared, and which _____
   a. are uniquely humanly
   b. are uniquely humane
   c. are uniquely human
   d. are uniquely humans

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

Around 90 per cent of (1) _____ right-handed. Scientists have spent (2) _____ find out why. Researchers from Oxford University in the UK believe they have a possible answer. Their research (3) _____ answer is because of two features of human evolution. The first is walking on two legs, and the other is the large size of (4) _____. When humans first started walking on two legs, their hands were free to do things. Our large brain (5) _____ things to do with our hands like using tools. If most people used the same hand, using tools and working with others became easier. This became useful for things like (6) _____.

Scientists thought the (7) _____ the answer was why only humans are largely right-handed. Primates (monkeys and apes) use (8) _____. The researchers compared human behaviour and brain patterns with 41 species of monkeys and apes. The research findings showed that humans have (9) _____ to their arm length. Another reason is that the left side of the brain (10) _____ hand. It is also responsible for motor skills and coordination. A researcher said: "By looking across many primate species, we can begin to understand (11) _____ handedness are ancient and shared, and which (12) _____."

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

1. For how long have scientists been looking into right-handedness?

2. Where are the researchers from?

3. How many features of human evolution does the article mention?

4. What did our brain find our hands could do after we started walking?

5. What two useful things could we do if we used the same hand?

6. Who are largely right-handed?

7. Who uses both hands equally?

8. What are longer compared to our arm length?

9. What part of our brain controls our right hand?

10. What can we look at to understand right- and left-handedness?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

1) For how long have scientists been looking into right-handedness?
a) centuries
b) decades
c) years
d) months

2) Where are the researchers from?
a) Tokyo University
b) New York University
c) Cambridge University
d) Oxford University

3) How many features of human evolution does the article mention?
a) 2
b) 3
c) 4
d) 5

4) What did our brain find our hands could do after we started walking?
a) wave
b) wash dishes
c) use tools
d) hold a pen

5) What two useful things could we do if we used the same hand?
a) fish and shoot
b) hunt and cook
c) wave and scratch
d) write and type

6) Who are largely right-handed?
a) researchers
b) apes
c) humans
d) monkeys

7) Who uses both hands equally?
a) basketball players
b) children
c) humans
d) monkeys and apes

8) What are longer compared to our arm length?
a) our legs
b) our bones
c) our ribs
d) our spines

9) What part of our brain controls our right hand?
a) the left part
b) the top part
c) the right side
d) the front part

10) What can we look at to understand right- and left-handedness?
a) encyclopaedia
b) primates (monkeys and apes)
c) history
d) the Internet

# ROLE PLAY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

**Role A – Cook**

You think to cook is the best thing to do with your hands. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): draw, text friends or wave.

**Role B – Draw**

You think to draw is the best thing to do with your hands. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): cook, text friends or wave.

**Role C – Text Friends**

You think to text friends is the best thing to do with your hands. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): draw, cook or wave.

**Role D – Wave**

You think wave is the best thing to do with your hands. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): draw, text friends or cook.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for… the words 'right' and 'left'.

| **right** | **left** |
|---|---|
| | |

- 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:

| | |
|---|---|
| • spent<br>• possible<br>• large<br>• free<br>• tools<br>• easier | • key<br>• both<br>• 41<br>• length<br>• skills<br>• ancient |

# BEING RIGHT-HANDED SURVEY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

Write five GOOD questions about being right-handed 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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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.

# BEING RIGHT-HANDED 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 'right'?
3. Do you ever think about being right- or left-handed?
4. Would you like to be able to use both hands equally well?
5. What do you know about human evolution?
6. Are you good with your hands?
7. What things do you do most with your left hand?
8. How are smartphones changing what we use our hands for?
9. Does being left-handed have any disadvantages?
10. Should we shake hands with right and left hands?

*Why 90 per cent of humans are right-handed – 21st May 2026*
Thousands more free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

---

# BEING RIGHT-HANDED 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 'left'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are the differences between monkeys and apes?
15. Are you a left brain or a right brain person?
16. Do you have good hand-eye coordination?
17. How often do you 'give someone a hand'?
18. When was the last time you 'had your hands full'?
19. When was the last time you 'washed your hands of something'?
20. What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____



---

# 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.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

Around 90 per cent of people (1) _____ are right-handed. Scientists have spent decades trying to find (2) _____ why. Researchers from Oxford University in the UK believe they have a possible answer. Their research suggests that the answer is because of two (3) _____ of human evolution. The first is walking on two legs, and the other is the large size of the human brain. When humans first started walking on two legs, their hands were (4) _____ to do things. Our large brain worked out many things to (5) _____ with our hands like using tools. If most people used the same hand, using tools and working with others became easier. This became useful for things (6) _____ hunting and cooking.

Scientists thought the (7) _____ to finding the answer was why only humans are largely right-handed. Primates (monkeys and apes) use both hands (8) _____. The researchers compared human behaviour and brain patterns with 41 species of monkeys and apes. The research findings showed that humans have longer legs compared (9) _____ their arm length. Another reason is that the left side of the brain controls the right hand. It is also responsible (10) _____ motor skills and coordination. A researcher said: "By (11) _____ across many primate species, we can begin to understand which aspects of handedness are ancient and shared, and which (12) _____ uniquely human."

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

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | (a) | worldly | (b) | worldwide | (c) | world | (d) | worldliness |
| 2. | (a) | at | (b) | up | (c) | in | (d) | out |
| 3. | (a) | futures | (b) | features | (c) | fractures | (d) | feathers |
| 4. | (a) | without | (b) | liberty | (c) | free | (d) | safe |
| 5. | (a) | do | (b) | done | (c) | doing | (d) | doer |
| 6. | (a) | like | (b) | as | (c) | by | (d) | at |
| 7. | (a) | pitch | (b) | chain | (c) | lock | (d) | key |
| 8. | (a) | equally | (b) | equality | (c) | equal | (d) | equals |
| 9. | (a) | by | (b) | to | (c) | of | (d) | at |
| 10. | (a) | at | (b) | by | (c) | for | (d) | from |
| 11. | (a) | looks | (b) | looked | (c) | looking | (d) | look |
| 12. | (a) | being | (b) | are | (c) | be | (d) | is |

# SPELLING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

## Paragraph 1

1. 90 per cent of people lirwoedwd
2. Scientists have spent eddasec trying to find
3. the answer is because of two eustreaf
4. human otvueniol
5. the large size of the human iabrn
6. This became uulfes for things like hunting

## Paragraph 2

7. kyesomn and apes use both hands
8. 41 eipsecs
9. longer legs orpecmda to their arm length
10. epesbsrnlio for motor skills and coordination
11. we can begin to understand which cptesas
12. enquiluy human

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

( ) across many primate species, we can begin to understand which aspects

( ) answer. Their research suggests that the answer is because of two features of human evolution. The first is walking on

( ***1*** ) Around 90 per cent of people worldwide are right-handed. Scientists have spent decades trying to find

( ) behaviour and brain patterns with 41 species of monkeys and apes. The research findings showed that humans have

( ) controls the right hand. It is also responsible for motor skills and coordination. A researcher said: "By looking

( ) easier. This became useful for things like hunting and cooking.

( ) free to do things. Our large brain worked out many things to do with our hands like using

( ) handed. Primates (monkeys and apes) use both hands equally. The researchers compared human

( ) longer legs compared to their arm length. Another reason is that the left side of the brain

( ) of handedness are ancient and shared, and which are uniquely human."

( ) out why. Researchers from Oxford University in the UK believe they have a possible

( ) Scientists thought the key to finding the answer was why only humans are largely right-

( ) tools. If most people used the same hand, using tools and working with others became

( ) two legs, and the other is the large size of the human brain. When humans first started walking on two legs, their hands were

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

1. 90 Around are per cent of people right-handed worldwide .

2. Scientists decades find have out spent to trying .

3. answer because features is of The two .

4. first humans legs on started two walking When .

5. became for hunting like things This useful .

6. both equally hands like monkeys Primates use .

7. 41 Brain monkeys of patterns species with .

8. findings have humans legs longer Research showed that .

9. brain controls it left of side The the .

10. aspects begin can to understand We which .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

Around 90 per cent of people *worldly / worldwide* are right-handed. Scientists have spent decades *trying / tried* to find out why. Researchers from Oxford University in the UK believe they have a *possibly / possible* answer. Their research suggests that the answer is because of two features of human *revolution / evolution*. The first is walking *in / on* two legs, and the other is the large size of the human brain. When humans first started walking on two legs, their *hand / hands* were free to do things. Our large brain worked *out / in* many things to do with our hands like using tools. If *most / much* people used the same hand, using tools and working with others *become / became* easier. This became useful for things like hunting and *cook / cooking*.

Scientists thought the *lock / key* to finding the answer was why only humans are *large / largely* right-handed. Primates (monkeys and *ape / apes*) use both hands *equal / equally*. The researchers compared human behaviour and brain patterns with 41 *specials / species* of monkeys and apes. The research findings showed that humans have longer legs compared *to / for* their arm length. Another reason is that the left side *to / of* the brain controls the right hand. It is also responsible *of / for* motor skills and coordination. A researcher said: "By looking across many primate species, we can *beginning / begin* to understand which aspects of handedness are ancient and shared, and which are *uniquely / unique* human."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

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

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

_r__nd 90 p_r c_nt _f p__pl_ w_rldw_d_ _r_ r_ght-h_nd_d. Sc__nt_sts h_v_ sp_nt d_c_d_s try_ng t_ f_nd __t why. R_s__rch_rs fr_m _xf_rd _n_v_rs_ty _n th_ _K b_l__v_ th_y h_v_ _ p_ss_bl_ _nsw_r. Th__r r_s__rch s_gg_sts th_t th_ _nsw_r _s b_c__s_ _f tw_ f__t_r_s _f h_m_n _v_l_t__n. Th_ f_rst _s w_lk_ng _n tw_ l_gs, _nd th_ _th_r _s th_ l_rg_ s_z_ _f th_ h_m_n br__n. Wh_n h_m_ns f_rst st_rt_d w_lk_ng _n tw_ l_gs, th__r h_nds w_r_ fr__ t_ d_ th_ngs. __r l_rg_ br__n w_rk_d __t m_ny th_ngs t_ d_ w_th __r h_nds l_k_ _s_ng t__ls. _f m_st p__pl_ _s_d th_ s_m_ h_nd, _s_ng t__ls _nd w_rk_ng w_th _th_rs b_c_m_ __s__r. Th_s b_c_m_ _s_f_l f_r th_ngs l_k_ h_nt_ng _nd c__k_ng.

Sc__nt_sts th__ght th_ k_y t_ f_nd_ng th_ _nsw_r w_s why _nly h_m_ns _r_ l_rg_ly r_ght-h_nd_d. Pr_m_t_s (m_nk_ys _nd _p_s) _s_ b_th h_nds _q__lly. Th_ r_s__rch_rs c_mp_r_d h_m_n b_h_v___r _nd br__n p_tt_rns w_th 41 sp_c__s _f m_nk_ys _nd _p_s. Th_ r_s__rch f_nd_ngs sh_w_d th_t h_m_ns h_v_ l_ng_r l_gs c_mp_r_d t_ th__r _rm l_ngth. _n_th_r r__s_n _s th_t th_ l_ft s_d_ _f th_ br__n c_ntr_ls th_ r_ght h_nd. _t _s _ls_ r_sp_ns_bl_ f_r m_t_r sk_lls _nd c__rd_n_t__n. _ r_s__rch_r s__d: "By l__k_ng _cr_ss m_ny pr_m_t_ sp_c__s, w_ c_n b_g_n t_ _nd_rst_nd wh_ch _sp_cts _f h_nd_dn_ss _r_ _nc__nt _nd sh_r_d, _nd wh_ch _r_ _n_q__ly h_m_n."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

around 90 per cent of people worldwide are righthanded scientists have spent decades trying to find out why researchers from oxford university in the uk believe they have a possible answer their research suggests that the answer is because of two features of human evolution the first is walking on two legs and the other is the large size of the human brain when humans first started walking on two legs their hands were free to do things our large brain worked out many things to do with our hands like using tools if most people used the same hand using tools and working with others became easier this became useful for things like hunting and cooking

scientists thought the key to finding the answer was why only humans are largely righthanded primates monkeys and apes use both hands equally the researchers compared human behaviour and brain patterns with 41 species of monkeys and apes the research findings showed that humans have longer legs compared to their arm length another reason is that the left side of the brain controls the right hand it is also responsible for motor skills and coordination a researcher said by looking across many primate species we can begin to understand which aspects of handedness are ancient and shared and which are uniquely human

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

Around90percentofpeopleworldwideareright-handed.Scientistshav
espentdecadestryingtofindoutwhy.ResearchersfromOxfordUniversi
tyintheUKbelievetheyhaveapossibleanswer.Theirresearchsuggeststt
hattheanswerisbecauseoftwofeaturesofhumanevolution.Thefirstis
walkingontwolegs,andtheotheristhelargesizeofthehumanbrain.Wh
enhumansfirststartedwalkingontwolegs,theirhandswerefreetodothi
ngs.Ourlargebrainworkedoutmanythingstodowithourhandslikeusin
gtools.Ifmostpeopleusedthesamehand,usingtoolsandworkingwitho
thersbecameeasier.Thisbecameusefulforthingslikehuntingandcooki
ng.Scientiststhoughtthekeytofindingtheanswerwaswhyonlyhuman
sarelargelyright-handed.Primates(monkeysandapes)usebothhand
sequally.Theresearcherscomparedhumanbehaviourandbrainpatter
nswith41speciesofmonkeysandapes.Theresearchfindingsshowedth
athumanshavelongerlegscomparedtotheirarmlength.Anotherreaso
nisthattheleftsideofthebraincontrolstherighthand.Itisalsoresponsibl
eformotorskillsandcoordination.Aresearchersaid:"Bylookingacross
manyprimatespecies,wecanbegintounderstandwhichaspectsofhand
ednessareancientandshared,andwhichareuniquelyhuman."

# FREE WRITING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

Write about **being right-handed** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

# ACADEMIC WRITING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com2605/260521-being-right-handed.html

We need to know more about why so many people are right-handed. Discuss.

# 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. BEING RIGHT-HANDED:** Make a poster about being right-handed. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. BOTH HANDS:** Write a magazine article about being training all children to use both hands equally well. 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 being right-handed. 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. d 2. b 3. f 4. c 5. g 6. a 7. e
8. k 9. l 10. i 11. h 12. n 13. j 14. m

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Decades
2. Oxford University
3. Two
4. Use tools
5. Hunt and cook
6. Humans
7. Monkeys and apes
8. Our legs
9. The left part
10. Primates (monkeys and apes)

### WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Scientists have spent decades trying to find out.
2. The answer is because of two features.
3. When humans first started walking on two legs.
4. This became useful for things like hunting.
5. Primates like monkeys use both hands equally.
6. Brain patterns with 41 species of monkeys.
7. Research findings showed that humans have longer legs.
8. The left side of the brain controls it.
9. We can begin to understand which aspects.
10. Scientists have spent decades trying to find out.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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