

Left-Brained Vs. Right-Brained

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you prefer writing or drawing?
2. Are you logical or intuitive?
3. Which subject do you prefer, music or math?
4. Do you think you are left-brained or right-brained? Why?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can. Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| ___ 1. specialize | a) doing a few different things at the same time |
| ___ 2. logic | b) to be very good at something |
| ___ 3. analyze | c) an inner feeling that tells you the right thing to do |
| ___ 4. routine | d) to examine the parts or details closely |
| ___ 5. risk-taker | e) the strongest |
| ___ 6. intuition | f) reasoning that is based on step-by-step thinking |
| ___ 7. dominant | g) not simple, having many parts |
| ___ 8. multitasking | h) a brain scientist |
| ___ 9. neurologist | i) something you do on a regular basis |
| ___ 10. complicated | j) a person who is not afraid of the unknown and tries new things often |



Reading

LEFT-BRAINED VS. RIGHT-BRAINED

Which is your dominant side?

1. The brain is divided into left and right sides. Many people believe that humans show a dominance on one side of the brain. This is called being left- or right-brained.
2. According to the theory of left or right brain dominance, the left side of the brain **specializes in logic**, words, and math. It works with details first. After **analyzing** the details, it looks at the whole. The left side seems to be more involved in **routines** and the organization of information. Does this sound like you?
3. The right side of the brain is associated with emotions and creativity. Dreamers and **risk-takers** are often called right-brained. According to the theory, a right-brained person is more likely to follow his or her **intuition** rather than a map or an instruction manual. If your right side is more **dominant**, you may enjoy working on many projects at once. Are you good at **multitasking**?
4. Brain dominance theory is based on research from the 1960s. **Neurologists** today say that the brain is much more **complicated** than this. Some say that left or right brain dominance is a myth and that the brain can only function as a whole. Is it human nature to want to fit into a certain category?

“My brain has two sides, the right side and the left side. The right side has nothing left and the left has nothing right.”

—Author unknown

Comprehension

Use the information from the reading to place each profession under the correct heading.

Professions:

- painter
- mathematician
- travel photographer
- computer programmer
- office assistant
- circus performer
- police officer
- yoga instructor

Left-Brained	Right-Brained

Vocabulary Review

A. Word Forms

Are the following words *nouns*, *adjectives*, or *verbs*? Write an alternative word based on the same root word. Then write its word form.

#	Word	Word Form	Alternative Word	New Word Form
Ex	neurology	<i>noun</i>	<i>neurologist</i>	<i>noun</i>
1	analysis			
2	specialty			
3	logical			
4	complicate			
5	dominance			

Vocabulary Review cont.

B. Odd One Out

Choose the word or phrase that does NOT belong in the group.

- | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. a) science | 2. a) dominant | 3. a) intuition | 4. a) routine | 5. a) study |
| b) reason | b) strong | b) feeling | b) complicated | b) examine |
| c) logic | c) main | c) dominant | c) difficult | c) analyze |
| d) risk | d) myth | d) hunch | d) complex | d) complicate |

Discussion

1. Do you believe that all humans have a dominant side of the brain?
2. Is the current world designed for left-brained or right-brained thinkers?
3. Would you want to be a neurologist? Why or why not?
4. Is multitasking an efficient way to get things done?

Web Activity

1. Predict whether or not you would be considered left-brained or right-brained.
2. Search for a left- and right-brained quiz online. Take the quiz. Are you left-brained or right-brained?
3. Look up any words from the quiz that you do not know. Summarize the findings in a blog post or email to a friend. Share the link to the quiz with your friend.

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

LEFT-BRAINED VS. RIGHT-BRAINED

Which is your dominant side?

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2. According to the theory of left or right brain dominance, the left side of the brain specializes in _____ , words, and math. It works with details first. After _____ the details, it looks at the whole. The left side seems to be more involved in routines and the organization of information. Does this sound like you?
3. The right side of the brain is associated with emotions and creativity. Dreamers and _____ are often called right-brained. According to the theory, a right-brained person is more likely to follow his or her _____ rather than a map or an instruction manual. If your right side is more dominant, you may enjoy working on many projects at once. Are you good at _____ ?
4. Brain dominance theory is based on research from the 1960s. _____ today say that the brain is much more _____ than this. Some say that left or right brain dominance is a myth and that the brain can only function as a whole. Is it human nature to want to fit into a certain category?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students read about the theory of left-brained and right-brained dominance. They discuss the theory and think about their own dominant side.

TEACHING TIPS:

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

LEVEL: Int – High Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: discussion, left-brained, right-brained, brain, thinking, creativity, logic

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

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

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

Left-Brained:

- mathematician
- office assistant
- computer programmer
- police officer

Right-Brained:

- painter
- travel photographer
- circus performer
- yoga instructor

Vocabulary Review

A. WORD FORMS

Additional words may vary.

1. analysis (noun) / analyze (verb) / analyst (noun)
2. specialty (noun) / special (adjective) / specialize (verb)
3. logical (adjective) / logic (noun) / logically (adverb)
4. complicate (verb) / complicated (adjective) / complication (noun)
5. dominance (noun) / dominant (adjective) / dominate (verb)

B. ODD ONE OUT

1. d 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. d

Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Web Activity

Optional task.

Listening

1. dominance, right-brained
2. logic, analyzing
3. risk-takers, intuition, multitasking
4. Neurologists, complicated