

Intermediate 1
Unit 7 Reading
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I am Your Brain

I am not just a part of you; I am your personality, your reactions, your mental capacity. I govern your moods, tell you when you are sick or hungry. In fact, I control you completely. Even when you are asleep, I continue to handle traffic that the world's telephone system wouldn't be able to manage.

personality = the type of person you are, shown by the way you behave, feel, and think

reactions = someone's ability to act quickly when something happens

capacity = someone's ability to do a particular thing

mental capacity = what a person's mind can do

govern = control

mood = feeling

asleep ≠ awake

handle = manage; deal with

If something potentially dangerous happens to you, I instantly shift gears. If you slip on ice, I signal your arms to break your fall. Finally, if you fall down, I let you know you are hurt. The event is kept in my memory to warn you to walk carefully on ice in the future.

potentially = possibly

instantly = immediately, quickly

shift gears = change the mode of action

slip _(verb) = slide accidentally ⇒ *I slipped over ice.*

event = happening, incident

In a thousand ways I baby you. In return, I am very demanding. Although I represent only two percent of your body weight, I require twenty percent of the oxygen you use and a fifth of the blood your heart pumps. I am completely dependent on a constant supply. Let there be a temporary shortage, and you faint. Let the supply be cut off for a few minutes, and I'll be badly hurt — paralysis or death may occur. I also demand a steady supply of food — glucose.

baby _(verb) = protect sb carefully; look after; take care of

in return = in exchange

demanding = expecting a lot

although = though = even though

represent = stand for

require = need

a fifth = $1/5$ = **twenty percent** = 20%

be dependent on sb/sth = depend on sb/sth

be dependent on sb/sth ≠ be independent of sb/sth

constant = nonstop

supply ≠ demand

supply = provision = what has been provided

demand (n.) = need = what is needed

Let there be = If there is

temporary ≠ permanent

shortage = not having enough of something

faint = black out = become unconscious

cut off = stop

be cut off = be stopped

let the supply be cut off = if the supply is cut off

paralysis = inability to move your body or a part of your body

occur = happen, take place

demand (v.) = need, require

steady = constant = nonstop

glucose noun [U] /'glu:.koʊs/ = a type of sugar that is found in plants, especially fruit, and supplies an important part of the energy that animals need

I have distinct right and left hemispheres. My left half controls much of the activity on the right side of your body; my other hemisphere takes care of the left. With right-handed people, the left hemisphere is dominant. With lefties the reverse is true. Recent studies suggest that my left side controls your ability to talk, write and do mathematics. My right side is basically mute but can do other things such as making special judgments.

distinct = clearly different

sphere = a geometric shape which looks like a ball

hemisphere = half of a sphere

dominant = in charge

the reverse = the opposite

basically = fundamentally

mute = silent

Despite my great strength, there are many dangers that may threaten me. Tumors can cause a variety of disasters. But fortunately, tumor removal, when possible, is now completely safe. Stroke is another problem that might occur if for any reason I don't get enough food and a part of me is damaged or destroyed. Recovery from stroke depends on which part and how much of me has been destroyed. A third enemy is brain injury. Although your skull provides me with protection, I can still be injured by blows, accidents, and falls. I respond in many ways. For example, a blow may make me swell like a hurt finger. But because I am in a bony prison, I have no room to swell, and pressure develops. This can be very dangerous and might lead to death.

despite = in spite of

strength = power

threat (n.) = menace = what threatens somebody or something

threaten (v.) = to be likely to cause harm or damage to something or someone

tumor = abnormal growth of cells

disaster = complete failure

stroke = a sudden disabling attack or loss of consciousness caused by an interruption in the flow of blood to the brain

occur = happen

recovery = getting better and returning to the normal conditions

skull = the bone which protects our brain

provide sb/sth with protection = protect

protection = the act of protecting or state of being protected

blow = a hard hit with a hand or a weapon

swell = become bigger

bony prison ⇨ the skull

room = space

roomy = having enough space

lead to = result in; cause

Dangers Threatening Our Brain:

- Tumors
- Stroke
- Brain Injury

Nevertheless, I can continue to serve you well if I am taken care of properly. My powers, as you noticed, are mighty, and my story is by no means over. If my accomplishments seem large — speech, memory, reasoning and all the other wonders — they may be nothing compared to what lies ahead. For men a few hundred thousand years in the future, I may seem quite as primitive as the Neanderthal man's brain seems today.

nevertheless = however = but

Passive: if I am **taken care of** properly

Active: if you **take care of** me properly

properly = in a suitable manner

mighty = powerful, strong

Proverb:

- *The pen is mightier than the sword.*

by no means = not at all

over = finished

accomplishment = achievement

reasoning = thinking

wonder (n.) = something which is surprising

lie = be located; be somewhere

ahead = in front of us

primitive = simple

The brain will evolve in the future and it will become more powerful and more capable than what it is today.

evolve = improve

evolution = improvement

Main Ideas:

Our brain controls all of the activities of our mind and our body.

Our brain reacts to the dangers and keeps the memory of dangerous situations to warn us in the future.

Despite its low weight, our brain needs one fifth of the oxygen and glucose in our blood.

If our brain does not receive glucose or oxygen for a short time, we may faint. If it doesn't receive oxygen or glucose for a few more minutes, we may get paralyzed or die.

The brain has two distinct hemispheres with different functions.

The right hemisphere of the brain controls the left side of our body and vice versa.

Three dangers threaten our brain: tumors, strokes, and brain injuries.

Our brain will evolve in the future and will become more powerful.

Full Text:

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Nevertheless, I can continue to serve you well if I am taken care of properly. My powers, as you noticed, are mighty, and my story is by no means over. If my accomplishments seem large — speech, memory, reasoning and all the other wonders — they may be nothing compared to what lies ahead. For men a few hundred thousand years in the future, I may seem quite as primitive as the Neanderthal man's brain seems today.

Sample Summary:

Your brain controls your personality, reactions, and mental abilities. It manages your moods and tells you when you're sick or hungry. Even while you sleep, it handles complex tasks. If you slip on ice, it quickly signals your arms to break your fall and remembers this to warn you later. Though it's only 2% of your body weight, it needs 20% of your oxygen and blood. Without a constant supply, you could faint or worse. Glucose is its main fuel. The brain has two sides: the left controls the right side of your body and handles tasks like talking and math, while the right side controls the left and manages other functions. Dangers to the brain include tumors, strokes, and injuries. Despite these risks, the brain is very powerful and its abilities are amazing. In the future, our brains might seem as primitive as those of Neanderthals do to us now.

Source:

[Intermediate 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://intermediate1(anglophone.ir))