
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

How reading shapes your brain



Listen to the full episode here: <https://bbc.in/4txDNKv>

1. Look at the cover image and title of the episode. What do you think this episode is about? What do you know about this topic already? What vocabulary do you associate with this topic?

2. Now listen to the first two minutes of the episode.

- What do the presenters say the episode is about?
- What is this week's question? What do you think the answer is?

3. Now listen to the whole episode. As you listen, write down the six items of vocabulary. What do they mean?

a) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

b) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

c) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

d) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

e) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

f) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

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4. What did you learn that was surprising or new in this episode?

5. Answer the quiz questions. Listen again or use the transcript to help you.

1. Which of the following is an English translation of a novel by Marcel Proust?
 - a) Chronicle of a Death Foretold
 - b) The Magic Mountain
 - c) Remembrance of Things Past
2. What word is used to refer to things that come from nature, or without any special training?
 - a) natural
 - b) natured
 - c) naturing
3. "This company really cares about its customers. We have created a team that is _____ to responding to customer problems."
 - a) deviated
 - b) dedicated
 - c) degraded
4. "There weren't enough sports staff to referee the school football matches, so the headmistress had to _____ some other teachers to help."
 - a) co-work
 - b) co-opt
 - c) co-operate
5. Which word is similar in meaning to 'intricate'?
 - a) detailed
 - b) untrustworthy
 - c) open
6. What is a circuit?
 - a) a small snack often eaten with a hot drink
 - b) a place where books are stored
 - c) a system of connections

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6. Write your own sentences using the vocabulary.

7. Answer the following questions.

- What are three things you have learnt from this episode?
- How does this topic make you feel?
- Give three examples relevant to your life using the vocabulary.

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Answers

3.

- a. natural – coming from nature; developed without special training
- b. dedicated – designed and used for one particular purpose
- c. co-opt – involve someone or something, sometimes against their will
- d. circuit – a system of connections
- e. inevitably – in a way that cannot be stopped or avoided
- f. intricate – having lots of detail

5. 1c, 2a, 3b, 4b, 5a, 6c

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Teacher's notes

This worksheet is standardised so that you can amend and use it as appropriate with your classes.

Some topics may be difficult for learners, especially those which could be upsetting or cause offence. Please be mindful of this when using this worksheet and adapt it as necessary.

Extension activities

- Role-play an interview with an 'interviewer' and an 'expert' on this topic.
- Write a short story or article using the vocabulary from this episode.
- Read original articles on this topic.
- For homework: If it is available in your country, download and listen to the original podcast these extracts were taken from.