## Learning in the age of the goldfish

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| **devolving** | **rewiring** | **agility** | **plasticity** | **notoriously** | **stretch** | **tabs** |

1._____ forgetful goldfish have an attention span of about 9 seconds. That's not surprising, right? How big could their brains be? Amazingly though, a recent study by Microsoft Corp. now shows that the human race's attention span is even worse than that of a goldfish, performing at around 8 seconds. This is down from a previous of 12 seconds which means our attention spans are getting collectively shorter.

Many have questioned what the decline of the attention span means. Are we getting dumb? Is the human race 2._____ thanks to mobile phones and the Internet? But that's not really the case. We're just thinking differently.

«*We're seeing a* 3._____ *of the human brain*» — Danah Boyd, Microsoft Research

With the decline of attention has come the rise of multitasking. 74 % of millennials use their mobile phone while watching TV. When Mozilla released statistics on Firefox in 2010, they revealed that the average user had four tabs open at a time. It wouldn't be a 4. _____ to assume that that number has risen in the last 12 years. In a time of hyperconnection and an overload in stimuli, we're learning to switch our attention rapidly from stimulus to stimulus. «The amazing 5._____ of the brain is nowhere as evident as in the rapid adaptation humans are making in response to our unprecedented access to electronic information» — Susan Price, TedX organiser. It may be that long-form attention is decreasing simply because we don't need it anymore. «Digital 6._____ is now a basic skill for everyone» — Susan Crawford, Harvard University. The fall of the human attention span isn't a decline in the way we learn. It's a revolution.

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