



## Why is it that seemingly intelligent people sometimes do stupid things?

This LWS is tailored mostly around an episode of the Australian podcast All In The Mind.

### 1. Listen and repeat trying to imitate the pronunciation and intonation as close as possible.

\_\_\_\_\_ Why is it that seemingly intelligent people sometimes hold strange beliefs?

\_\_\_\_\_ In the English countryside of West Yorkshire, two girls would take a series of incredible photographs that would capture the world's imagination, leading many to believe in the existence of fairies.

\_\_\_\_\_ The photographs made their way into the hands of Edward Gardner, a prominent advocate of the supernatural.

\_\_\_\_\_ Gardner took a special interest in the story, and quickly sent the images to photographic expert Harold Snelling, who proclaimed the photographs to be authentic.

\_\_\_\_\_ The mysterious images soon came to the attention of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes mysteries.

\_\_\_\_\_ Upon examining the figures, Sir Arthur was convinced that supernatural fairies existed.

\_\_\_\_\_ One image showed Frances glancing at a leaping fairy. Another had Elsie staring at a fairy that was offering her a flower. The final photograph depicted a group of fairies prancing in the grass.

\_\_\_\_\_ Upon hearing this news, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was elated. His article in the December 1920 edition of the *Strand* magazine which featured the girls' photographs sold out within days as the story of the Cottingley fairies quickly spread around the world.

### Lynne Malcolm, the host



## 2. Read, drag and drop each adjective into its place. Listen and check

unusual

logical

smart

unwise

surprising

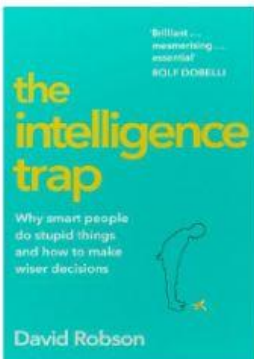
stupid

famous

deductive

**Lynne Malcolm:** One \_\_\_\_\_ believer in the existence of the fairies was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a medical physician and author best known for his detective fiction with Sherlock Holmes. This \_\_\_\_\_ character represents the epitome of \_\_\_\_\_ thinking and \_\_\_\_\_ reasoning. So what makes \_\_\_\_\_ people like Arthur Conan Doyle hold \_\_\_\_\_ beliefs? And I'm sure you can think of many instances where intelligent people do \_\_\_\_\_ things and make \_\_\_\_\_ decisions.

This prompted science journalist David Robson to investigate why.



## 3. Listen and fill the gaps with nouns \_\_\_\_\_

**Lynne Malcolm:** David Robson is author of *The Intelligence Trap: Why smart people do stupid things and how to make wiser decisions*. He explains to me what he means by the Intelligence Trap.

**David Robson** The intelligence trap has various forms, but maybe the best way for us to think about it is to compare the brain to a kind of car or \_\_\_\_\_, and in that kind of analogy intelligence and education would be a bit like the \_\_\_\_\_ of the car, and obviously a faster engine can get you places a lot more quickly, but you also need the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to make sure that you are on \_\_\_\_\_; you need a good \_\_\_\_\_, you need good \_\_\_\_\_, you need good \_\_\_\_\_. And in the same way I feel that some very intelligent people, they have a vast \_\_\_\_\_ of brain power, but they also need checks and balances to make sure they apply that brain power correctly, otherwise their \_\_\_\_\_ might actually make them even more wrong than people who have less brain power. And there are various reasons why that could be.

## 4. First, join the chunks and then fill the gaps with them \_\_\_\_\_

astrology is

of harm

genetic

more useful

a prominent

abductions

a huge amount

chain reaction

they're very

applied

if wrongly

public

polymerase

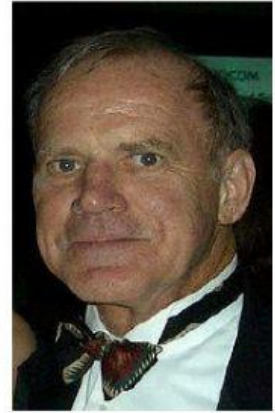
testing

alien

AIDS denialist

**Lynne Malcolm:** David Robson gives the example of an individual who he says fell into the intelligence trap. US scientist Kary Mullis shared the 1993 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Michael Smith.

**Kary Mullis**



**David Robson** That's right, so he was a really brilliant biologist and chemist. He discovered the \_\_\_\_\_ which is now used in all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_, so there's no doubting that he was an incredibly intelligent and creative man, but he has some very strange views which he has described in his own autobiography. You know, these aren't secret, \_\_\_\_\_.

He believes that \_\_\_\_\_ than psychology or sociology to predict someone's path in life. He believes in UFOs and \_\_\_\_\_. But really most troublingly he was also quite \_\_\_\_\_, he completely denied the link between the HIV virus and AIDS, which I think is very problematic. Obviously it could cause \_\_\_\_\_. And it just seemed to me to really capture this idea that maybe a brilliant mind, \_\_\_\_\_, could actually be quite dangerous.

When The New York Times asked Frampton what made him think that Milani was interested, he replied, *'Well, I have been accused of having a huge ego.'*

**5. David Robson gives another example; he talks about the prominent physicist Paul Frampton. Watch the video and do the multiple choice activity.**

1. The mystery involving the \_\_\_\_\_ American college professor, the South American gangsters, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the beautiful bikini model \_\_\_\_\_.

acclaimed/ drug dealer/ it is quite yuan

esteemed/ drug deal/ it is quite yarn

esteemed/ drug deal/ it is quite yawn

2. He's an \_\_\_\_\_ Oxford educated scientist actually who's saying that he just wanted to find love but he apparently \_\_\_\_\_ when he boarded a plane for Bolivia believing that he was \_\_\_\_\_ with a famous bikini model.

acclaimed/ left his brains at home/ about to rendezvous

acclaimed/ left his vain at home/ about to rendezvous

disclaimed/ left his brains at home/ about to revenue

3. You're looking at the \_\_\_\_\_ model who's \_\_\_\_\_ would land this University of North Carolina professor in a South American jail \_\_\_\_\_.

illustrious/ flue/ convicted on drug smuggling barges

illustrious/ allure/ convicted on drug dealing charges

illustrious/ allure/ convicted on drug smuggling charges

illustrious/ allure/ convinced on drug smuggling charges

4. Denis Milano\* is the winner of the 2007 Miss Bikini World Competition. She's also someone Argentinean prosecutors say scam artist used images of \_\_\_\_\_ Paul Frampton in something called \_\_\_\_\_ where professor \_\_\_\_\_ thinking he'd meet the beautiful model and boarded a plane for Bolivia. Milano never \_\_\_\_\_. Instead, Frampton says, he was met by a man who gave him a suitcase telling him to take it to Milano in Argentina. Once there, he tried to board a plane home to North Carolina with the same bag in which police found four pounds of cocaine.

\*in most articles it's Milani

to snare/ a honey trap/ was duped into/ popped up

to snore/ a honey trap/ was lured into/ turned up

to snare/ a honey trap/ was duped into/ showed up

to share/ a honey trap/ was duped into/ showed up

5. He has a high IQ, well-known, \_\_\_\_\_ with the field of physics and other scientific areas, but when it comes to \_\_\_\_\_, he \_\_\_\_\_. An Argentinean Court sentenced him this week to serve four years and eight months after prosecutors revealed text messages they say Frampton sent intended for the model saying "I'm worried about \_\_\_\_\_."

distinguished/ common knowledge/ scored a zero/ sniffer dogs

distinguished/ common sense/ cost a zero/ sleuth dogs

distinguished/ common sense/ scored a zero/ sniffer dogs

extinguished/ common sense/ scored a zero/ sniffer dogs

6. The University has since \_\_\_\_\_ – a move that prompted more than sixty of Frampton’s colleagues at Carolina to sign this letter of protest saying “As more information about his case becomes available, it becomes more and more obvious that Paul was \_\_\_\_\_, although \_\_\_\_\_, victim of a scam.”

increased his salary/ the inventive/ very gullible

cut off his salary/ the innocent/ very trustful

cut off his salary/ the innocent/ very gullible

put off his salary/ the guilty/ very conspicuous

7. From prison, Frampton said it does seem unfair that an innocent scam victim is treated as a professional \_\_\_\_\_.”

But the court in Argentina ruled otherwise. \_\_\_\_\_, as we all know, \_\_\_\_\_.

drug smuggler/ Ignorance of the fool / is no excuse

drug bragger/ Ignorance of the law / is no excuse

drug smuggler/ Ignorance of the law/ is no excuse

Frampton’s lawyer in Argentina had no comment on the conviction saying that she wants to see the official ruling first.

But apparently Frampton has done it before. The Telegraph of London says he met a Chinese woman online, flew there to marry her but [...] when he showed up apparently in China, she took one look at him and sadly said no more nuptials.

**8. How do you think these pictures relate to the transcript from Task 7? Type in above each picture a matching word or a collocation:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (1w)



\_\_\_\_\_ (5wds)



a \_\_\_\_\_ (2wds)



\_\_\_\_\_ (2wds)



\_\_\_\_\_ (3 wds)



a \_\_\_\_\_ (2 wds)



\_\_\_\_\_ (4wds)



\_\_\_\_\_ (1wd)



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