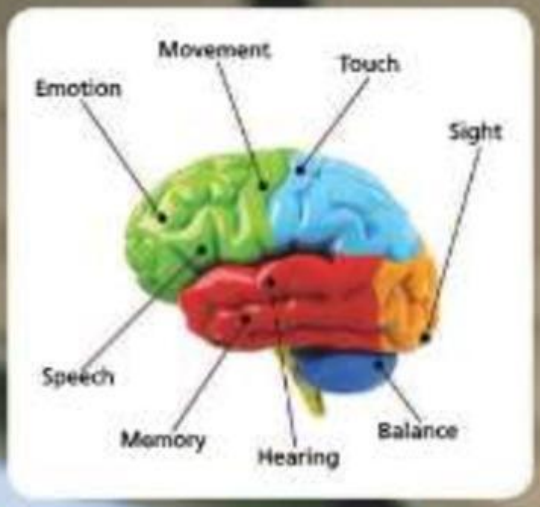
3B



For most activities, we use several functions, or abilities, controlled by different parts of our brain.

BEFORE YOU READ

DISCUSSION **A.** Discuss the following questions with a partner.

1. Look at the brain diagram and the caption above. Which function(s) do you use when you sing? Play an instrument? Listen to music?
2. In what ways do you think music and language are similar?

PREDICTING **B.** Look at the reading title. What do you think *boost* means?

a. a change for the better
b. a problem
c. a system

Check your answer as you read the passage.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A MUSICAL BOOST

A Is there a **connection** between music and language? According to recent studies, the answer is yes: Music boosts **certain** language abilities in the brain. Here are two examples.

Music and Hearing

B A study from Northwestern University shows that playing a musical instrument can **improve** a person's hearing ability. As a part of the study, two groups of people listened to a person talking in a noisy room. The people in the first group were musicians, while those in the second group had no musical training. The musicians were able to hear the talking person more clearly.

C Musicians hear better, says study leader Nina Kraus, because they learn to pay attention to certain sounds. Think about violinists in an orchestra. When the violinists play with the group, they hear their own instrument and many others, too. But the violinists must listen closely to what they are playing, and **ignore** the other sounds. In this way, musicians are able to **concentrate** on certain sounds, even in a room with lots of noise.

Music and Speech

D Gottfried Schlaug, a doctor at Harvard Medical School, works with stroke[1] patients. Because of their illness, these people cannot say their names, addresses, or other information **normally**. However, they can still sing. Dr. Schlaug was surprised to find that singing words helped his patients to eventually speak. Why does this work? Schlaug isn't sure. Music seems to activate[2] different parts of the brain, including the **damaged** parts. This somehow helps patients use those parts of the brain again.

Understanding the Results

E Music improves concentration, memory, listening **skills**, and our **overall** language abilities. It can even help sick people get better. Playing an instrument or singing, says Nina Kraus, can help us do better in school and keep our brains **sharp** as we get older. Music, therefore, is not only enjoyable; it's also good for us in many other ways.

1 A **stroke** is an illness of the brain. It can make a person unable to move one side of their body.
2 If you **activate** something, you make it start working.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING COMPREHENSION

A. Choose the best answer for each question.

GIST **1.** What could be another title for the "Music and Hearing" section?

a. Trained to Listen
b. How to Be a Musician
c. Playing in an Orchestra

DETAIL **2.** What two groups did Nina Kraus study?

a. noisy people and quiet people
b. musicians and nonmusicians
c. violinists and other musicians

REFERENCE **3.** What does *they* refer to in paragraph C, line 3?

a. orchestra musicians
b. instruments
c. violinists

Studies have suggested that playing classical music to babies may make them smarter.

DETAIL **4.** What is true about Nina Kraus and Gottfried Schlaug?

a. They both work at Harvard Medical School.
b. They both play an instrument in an orchestra.
c. They are both interested in how music and the brain are connected.

DETAIL **5.** How does Gottfried Schlaug help stroke patients speak?

a. by playing music for them
b. by getting them to sing words
c. by teaching them to play instruments

EVALUATING STATEMENTS **B. Are the following statements true or false according to the reading passage, or is the information not given? Circle T (true), F (false), or NG (not given).**

1. In the Northwestern University study, the nonmusicians could hear better.	T	F	NG
2. Nina Kraus can play the violin very well.	T	F	NG
3. People who speak well can learn to play an instrument quickly.	T	F	NG
4. Gottfried Schlaug isn't sure why music helps stroke patients.	T	F	NG
5. Studies show that listening to music helps people sleep better.	T	F	NG
6. Nina Kraus believes that singing lessons can help students get better grades in school.	T	F	NG

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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