

Reading Explorer 5 Unit 7A Reading Skill

Instructions: Read the passage. Highlight the verbs in the passive voice.

Although exquisitely detailed images of the brain are being created by brain scanners, some people argue that these images do not provide a full understanding of the mind. Brain scanners can show what neurons are involved with a particular disorder, but they cannot show a person's subjective experience. For example, imagine that two people eat the same spicy food. The same taste buds are activated, and very similar neural activity can be seen in the brain. The physical experience may be the same, but the subjective mental experience may be different: one person enjoys the spicy food while the other person hates it. Why? Some people believe that our experience includes not only physical properties that can be depicted by brain scanners, but also non-physical properties called qualia that cannot be captured by machines. The existence of qualia would explain why some people experience a food as delicious, while others experience it as ordinary or as awful. Qualia would also explain why a person could experience a food as bad and later experience the same food as tasty.