

The Brain Team

How do you remember the way to school? Where do your ideas come from? What tells your legs where to walk? Your brain controls all these things. It might look like a soft gray sponge¹, but your brain is the boss of your body. Although the brain is one organ², it has many parts. These parts work together like a team. Read about five major members of the brain team.

cerebrum

The most significant player on the team is the **cerebrum**. The cerebrum is the thinking part of the brain. It helps you with a variety of activities, for instance, doing your homework or playing computer games. The cerebrum is the largest part of the brain. It is divided into two halves – your left brain and right brain. The left side of the brain helps you with math, logic and speech. The right side helps you with your imagination and creativity. You use your right brain when you think about things like music, art, colors and shapes.



hippocampus

The **hippocampus** has a very important job. It is the part of the brain that helps you remember. Everyone has two kinds of memory: short term and long term. Short-term memory is information your brain has just received, such as what you ate for breakfast. Long-term memory is information from your past, for example, what you got for your fifth birthday. The job of the hippocampus is to move your short-term memories into your long-term memory.

brain stem

The **brain stem** is also very important. It connects your brain to your spinal cord³. It is the "secretary" of your body. It controls functions that keep you alive including breathing, digesting⁴ food, and circulating⁵ blood. The brain stem also controls all the muscles that work without you having to think about it.

hypothalamus

The part of the brain that controls your body temperature is the **hypothalamus**. It knows your body should have a temperature of about 37 degrees. This part of your brain sends messages to your body telling you when to sweat⁶ or shiver⁷. When you are hot, it cools your body by making you sweat. When you are cold it heats you by making you shiver.



cerebellum

Another major player is the **cerebellum**. This part of your brain controls your movement and coordination (how your muscles work together). It helps you stand, walk and run. It is much smaller than the cerebrum (1/8 its size) but it is very important. Without it, you can't move.

All these parts of your brain are always busy, even when you are asleep. The brain is also responsible for your feelings and how tall you will grow. The brain might look like a big gray sponge, but it is faster than a computer. It is also the busiest organ in your body.

Get the Facts

E 1 Give at least one example from the article of:

1. something you use the cerebrum for
2. a function that the brain stem controls
3. long-term memory
4. short-term memory

2 Which part of the brain is described in each sentence?

1. It is your private thermostat.
2. It helps you do your schoolwork.
3. It controls your breathing.
4. It is responsible for your memory.
5. It helps you run and jump.

3 Complete the sentences in your notebook.

1. The ... side of the brain is responsible for creative activities.
2. The cerebrum is ... than the cerebellum.
3. The brain stem connects your ... and ...
4. The hypothalamus makes you sweat when ...
5. When you first learn something, it goes into your ... memory.

Further Understanding

F 1 Which part of the brain is used in each of these situations?

1. Grandma is talking about her childhood.
2. Haya is doing a crossword puzzle.
3. Gal is jogging in the park.
4. I feel nervous when I go to school.
5. Lanya just finished eating.

¹sponge إسفنج / إسفونج

²organ عضو / عضية

³spinal cord الحبل الشوكي / الحبل الشوكي

⁴digesting هضم / هضم

⁵circulating تدوير / تدوير

⁶sweat عرق / عرق

⁷shiver ترتجف / ترتجف

