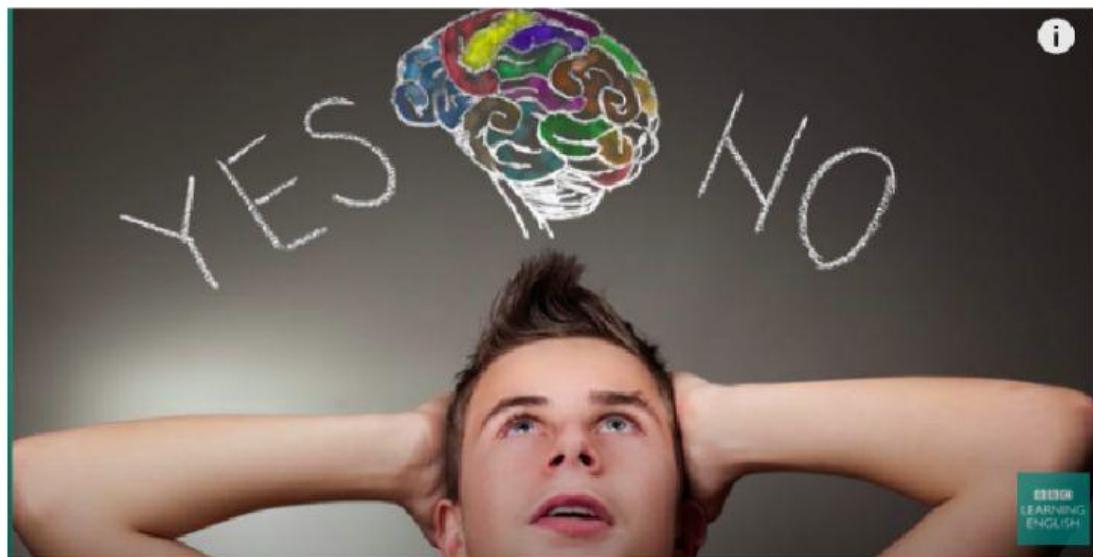


# The teenage brain

Listen to the dialogue between Neal and Rob and complete the audio-transcript.



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N: What do you \_\_\_\_\_ of your teenage years?

R: oh, I was a \_\_\_\_\_. I was \_\_\_\_\_ to my parents, I always \_\_\_\_\_ late, never did my homework, \_\_\_\_\_ with the wrong people and made \_\_\_\_\_ bad decisions.

How about you Neal ?

N: Well, much the same \_\_\_\_\_. People always said that about teenagers \_\_\_\_\_?

They go through a period when they're out of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ badly. But apparently is not their \_\_\_\_\_. At least not directly.

R: So, whose fault is it?

N: Our \_\_\_\_\_ apparently. Teenagers brains are still \_\_\_\_\_ in areas that control \_\_\_\_\_. Which could \_\_\_\_\_ that you can't \_\_\_\_\_ them for \_\_\_\_\_ the way they \_\_\_\_\_. Before we \_\_\_\_\_ more let's have our question, there are always been teenagers but when was the word teenager first \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ age group? Was it ...

- a. the 1920s
- b. the 2030s
- c. the 2950s

Any ideas are up?

R: Well I think, it \_\_\_\_\_ the time of rock and roll. So would it made the 1050s, that's my \_\_\_\_\_.

N: I'll have the \_\_\_\_\_ later in the program. Sara Jane Blakemore from university college London \_\_\_\_\_ in the workings of the brain \_\_\_\_\_ the teen age brain. Recently she was a guest on the \_\_\_\_\_ radio program "The Life Scientific". She \_\_\_\_\_ that the understanding of the brain is \_\_\_\_\_ developing \_\_\_\_\_ the teenage years is \_\_\_\_\_ new.

When did she say the first \_\_\_\_\_ came out ?

S: The first research showing that the human brain undergoes this very \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ development throughout \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_. The first papers were \_\_\_\_\_ during the late \_\_\_\_\_. Before that and for example when I was at university the \_\_\_\_\_ on the text books – the vast majority of brain development goes on \_\_\_\_\_ the first years of \_\_\_\_\_ and nothing \_\_\_\_\_ changes after mid-\_\_\_\_\_. That dogma is completely \_\_\_\_\_.

N: So, when did the research into the teenage brain \_\_\_\_\_ ?

R: \_\_\_\_\_ it wasn't until the late 1990s. This is when she said the first papers were \_\_\_\_\_.

N: Papers in this \_\_\_\_\_ means the result of \_\_\_\_\_ research \_\_\_\_\_ are published and she didn't actually talked about teenagers \_\_\_\_\_ ?

R: No, that's right. She talked about the period of \_\_\_\_\_. This name "adolescence" is the period when \_\_\_\_\_ is developing from a \_\_\_\_\_ into an \_\_\_\_\_ but it more or less is the same as the teenage years.

R: What I found \_\_\_\_\_ is that before the \_\_\_\_\_ people's believed something different about the way our brain develops:

N: Yes, professor Blackmore said that the dogma has been that our brain has mostly \_\_\_\_\_ developed in \_\_\_\_\_ childhood. Long before adolescence. "Dogma" is a word used to describe a \_\_\_\_\_ belief that people are \_\_\_\_\_ to accept as true. So our brains are still developing much later than it was \_\_\_\_\_ thought.

N: What does this tell us about teenage behavior? Of particular interest is an important part of the brain called the Pre Frontal Cortex. Here is professor Blakemore again. What excuse can se give to teenagers who don't get their homework done in time ?

S: The Pre Frontal Cortex is the part of the brain just \_\_\_\_\_ the forehead and it's involved in a high \_\_\_\_\_ cognitive tasks such as decision \_\_\_\_\_, planning. We know that this reach is undergoing very very much during the adolescence and so in \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ we place on teenagers, to for example plan their homework may be too much given that we know that the \_\_\_\_\_ of the brain that \_\_\_\_\_ involve in planning is not \_\_\_\_\_ yet.

N: So The Pre Frontal Cortex is important in \_\_\_\_\_ tasks. What are those Rob ?

R: A cognitive task is one that requires thinking and \_\_\_\_\_ such as making \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. It doesn't happen \_\_\_\_\_ you have to think about it. So in the adolescence years this part of the brain it is not \_\_\_\_\_ developed. Now the adjective form here the noun we had earlier "adolescence".

N: So now this gives a good excuse for not doing your \_\_\_\_\_.

R: I wish I'd know that. I used to say that I left the homework on the bus or that the dog had \_\_\_\_\_ it.

R: Now I can say, sorry sir my brain isn't develop enough for the cognitive task of \_\_\_\_\_ my homework.

N: Yes, I'm sure that would work. Before we wrap up Time to get the answer to this week's question. I asked –"when was the word teenager first used to refer to the 13 to 19 age group. Was it . . .

- a. The 1920s
- b. The 1030s
- c. The 1950s

So you said C. the 1950s; and the answer is actually \_\_\_\_\_. Now a quick review . . .