B2	Daniel Tammet – An Autistic Savant	LIU009

Choose the correct word for each blank.

Daniel Tammet
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Daniel Tammet grew up in a large family in East London. At the age of four he started to have some very **(1)** _____ seizures that may have changed his brain. Scientists claim that there are **(2)** _____ in which young people, who suffer some kind of brain **(3)** _____, suddenly emerge with special abilities.

About 10% of all autists are savants, people with special talents. Normally such people cannot tell you how they do something, but Daniel is **(4)** _____.

In 2002, a British TV team visited Daniel Tammet in order to test his **(5)** _____ to calculate large numbers. The examiners were stunned by the results. Daniel was even able to outdo the computer. He can cite numbers by **(6)** _____ shapes on the table with his fingers. In addition, Daniel can speak 11 languages **(7)** _____ and claims that he can learn any foreign language within a week.

In March 2004, another experiment was **(8)** _____ out in front of a live audience. Daniel Tammet stated that he could recite 22 500 decimal places of the constant pi, an infinite number with no certain pattern. He completed this **(9)** _____ successfully in over five hours.

In another test Daniel was given a week to learn a totally new language, Icelandic, and then chat with presenters on live television. **(10)** _____ to locals, Icelandic is difficult to learn and nearly impossible to speak because of many funny sounds. It normally takes some time to **(11)** _____ to the sounds of a new language. But as time went on, even Daniel's teacher was amazed at the progress her pupil was making. When appearing on TV, experts were **(12)** _____ to see Daniel speaking the language so confidently.

Experts on autistic savants agree that there are probably only a few dozen people around the world who have the same abilities as Daniel. Scientists are excited to study Daniel and his extraordinary **(13)** _____ because it gives them the chance to get a glimpse of the human brain in a way they have never seen before. It may even be the start to **(14)** _____ a new kind of intelligence.

In 2008 Daniel wrote **(15)** _____ called Born on a Blue Day, which deals with his personality and talents. Since then he has written other books and appeared on numerous TV and radio shows in the US and the UK.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1	strict	difficult	severe	hard
2	cases	affairs	experiences	forms
3	danger	harm	damage	loss
4	a segregation	a rejection	a compromise	an exception
5	cleverness	ability	power	strength
6	drawing	painting	colouring	printing
7	easily	smoothly	basically	fluently
8	taken	carried	moved	conducted
9	brief	mission	task	work
10	Referring	According	Allowing	Agreeing
11	correct	alter	change	adjust
12	dazed	stunned	upset	shocked
13	talents	geniuses	awards	grants
14	searching	travelling	exploring	inventing
15	an autobiography	a biography	a novel	a fiction

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LIVEWORKSHEETS