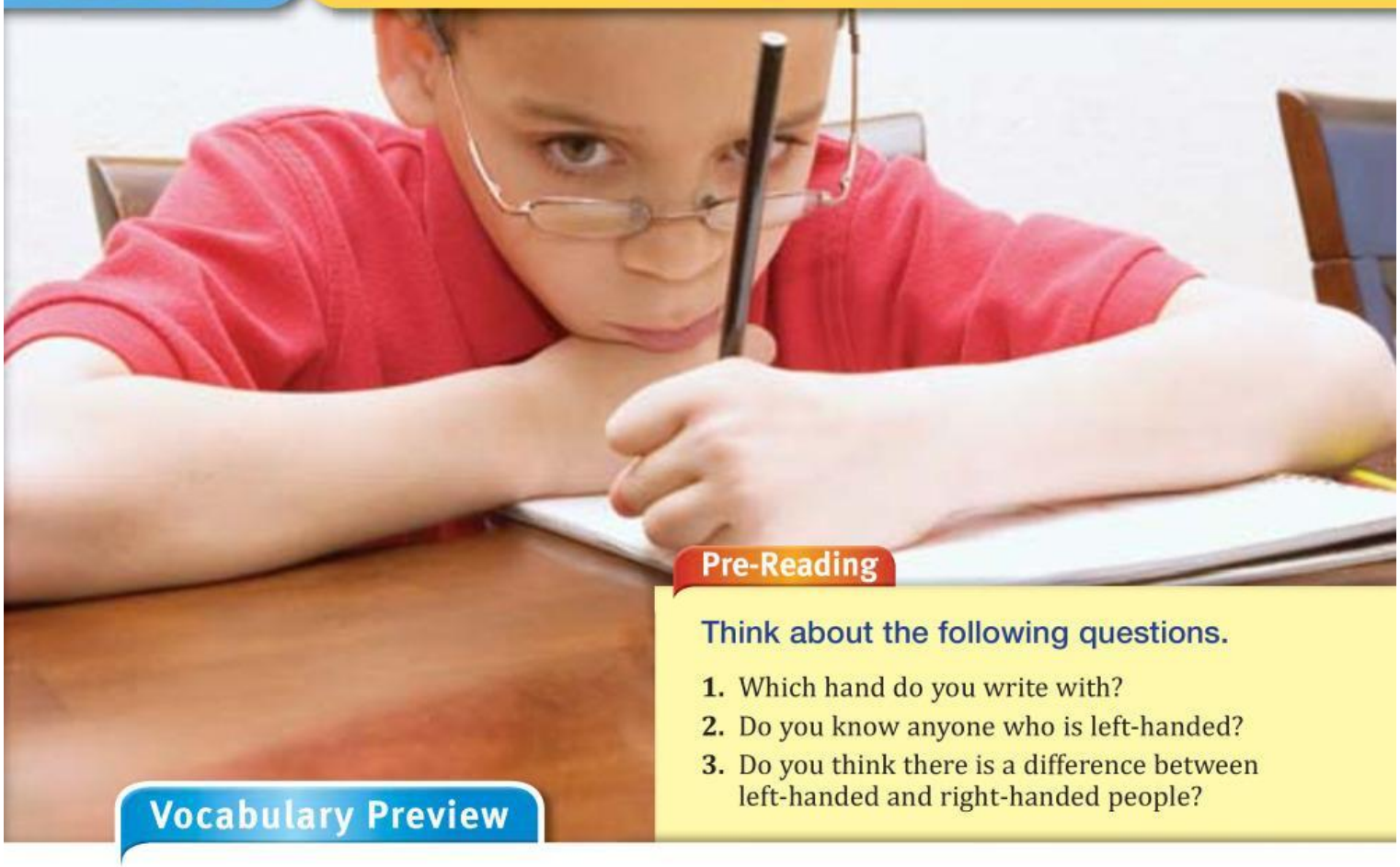
17 Rights of Lefties



Pre-Reading

Think about the following questions.

1. Which hand do you write with?
2. Do you know anyone who is left-handed?
3. Do you think there is a difference between left-handed and right-handed people?

Vocabulary Preview

Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word or phrase.

a. awareness; the power of observation	d. about
b. helps make	e. avoided; didn't take care of
c. made do (something)	f. annoyance; stress

1. ___ Because he <u>neglected</u> his studies, he failed all his exams.
2. ___ His parents <u>forced</u> him to break up with his girlfriend.
3. ___ Studying English causes me a lot of <u>frustration</u>.
4. ___ Having good <u>perception</u> is important for doctors and detectives.
5. ___ There are <u>approximately</u> 80 million people living in Germany.
6. ___ Regular exercise <u>contributes to</u> a healthier life.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Rights of Lefties



What do Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci, Julius Caesar, and Napoleon have in common? They were all left-handed! Beginning early in history, **southpaws** were feared, neglected, and punished because use of the left hand was considered evil. In fact, the Latin word for "left" is "**sinister**." Due to this **prejudice** against the left, left-handed people were forced to **switch** hands. This change caused many problems for lefties in school, which resulted in frustration, bad behavior, and high **drop-out** rates. Maybe that is why lefties were **stereotyped** as unintelligent, an idea that could not be further from the truth.

Researchers studying the brain have found differences in the left side and right side of the brain. Researchers believe that people who use more of the left side of their brain tend to be more intelligent. They also tend to use language better and solve problems faster. However, one study also showed that left-brain people tend to have worse memories.

So, which side of the brain do lefties use? Actually, both. Right-handed people use the left side of the brain more, whereas left-handed people use both sides of the brain almost **equally**. The part connecting the two halves of the brain is usually larger in left-handed people. Therefore, information can pass more efficiently from one side of the brain to the other. The left **hemisphere** of the brain controls speech, language, writing, **logic**, mathematics, and science. The right hemisphere controls music, art, creativity, perception, and emotion. Since lefties use both sides, they are often both creative and scientific.

Approximately ten percent of the world is left-handed, and the ratio of left-handed males to left-handed females is two to one. Thankfully, parents and teachers no longer treat left-handedness as a problem to be cured. It may actually contribute to a child's excellence! If allowed to learn and develop in their own way, lefties will **excel** in school. Perhaps one of these lefties might turn out to be the next Einstein or da Vinci.



Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds 342 words

2 *southpaw*: a left-handed person
4 *sinister*: evil and suspicious
4 *prejudice*: a bad feeling about, for no good reason
5 *switch*: to change
7 *drop-out*: quitting school
7 *stereotyped*: believed to be a certain way, for no good reason
16 *equally*: the same
19 *hemisphere*: half of a spherical structure or organ
20 *logic*: a scientific way of thinking
28 *excel*: to do very well

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Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of the reading?

a. There are more right-handed people than left-handed people.
b. Left-handed people are good at music.
c. Left-handed people have larger brains.
d. Left-handed people are more gifted than once thought.

2. For every 100 left-handed males, about how many left-handed females are there?

a. 100
b. 50
c. 200
d. 75

3. Which statement is true according to the reading?

a. Right-handed people use the left side of their brain more.
b. Right-handed people use both sides of their brain evenly.
c. Right-handed people use the right side of their brain more.
d. Left-handed people use the left side of their brain more.

4. Which of the following is NOT a result of forcing a child to change their handedness?

a. Quitting school
b. Getting angry
c. Better handwriting
d. Doing bad things in class

5. According to the reading, right-handed people would be better at _____.

a. composing a symphony
b. teaching children
c. developing a cure for cancer
d. helping people with emotional problems

Idiomatic Expressions

Find these idioms in the reading.

- **have (something) in common** [to share the same characteristics; to have as similarities]
  What do apples and pears have in common? They are both fruit.
- **result in** [to lead to; to end in a certain way]
  Mary's poor study skills resulted in her failing the class.
- **turn out** [to finally become]
  It turns out that Bob went to law school and is now a lawyer.

Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

1. Andrea and Jennifer both _____ the love of the outdoors _____.

2. Did his first movie _____ to be a hit?

3. Lack of clean water _____ disease.

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Summary

Scan the passage and complete the notes with the correct information.

males for every	**passes more efficiently**	**the left hemisphere**
the part connecting	**the right hemisphere**	**use both hemispheres**

I. The brain

A. The left hemisphere: language, logic, math, science

B. 1 _____: music, art, creativity, emotion

II. Right-handed and left-handed people

A. Right-handed people use 2 _____ more

i. Have worse memories

B. Left-handed people 3 _____

i. 4 _____ the two halves of the brain is larger

→ Information 5 _____ from one side to the other

ii. Ten percent of the population is left-handed

iii. There are two left-handed 6 _____ one left-handed female



Listening

On the Other Hand

Track 34

Listen to the dialog and complete each sentence.

1. The Greeks were the first people to believe that being left-handed was _____.

2. The Greek word for "left" means "_____."

3. An English word that comes from this Greek word is "_____."

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Discussion

Discuss the following questions.

1. Is right-handedness considered better in your country? Why or why not?
2. Were children encouraged to be right-handed in your country in the past? How was this done?
3. Is your personality more similar to a right-handed type or left-handed type? Do you write with this hand?

Grammar

Compound Adjectives with Hyphen

A compound adjective is made up of two or more words that are linked together with a hyphen.

Due to this prejudice against the left, (left handed / left-handed) people were forced to switch hands.
This change caused many problems for lefties in school, which resulted in frustration, bad behavior, and high (drop-out / drop out) rates.

Writing

Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

My Right Hand

(1) Which hand do you usually use to do things? **(2)** What are the characteristics of a person who uses that hand? **(3)** Are you similar to that kind of person? **(4)** Why or why not?

Example

I usually use my right hand to do things. A right-handed person tends to be logical and scientific. I am similar to a right-handed person. I am good at science and math. Also, I am not very creative.

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Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

1. We have finished _____ half of the report.
a. actually b. approximately c. thankfully d. particularly

2. Teachers and parents should _____ children to use their left hands.
a. allow b. switch c. cause d. protect

3. I use both hands _____.
a. equally b. thankfully c. unfortunately d. specifically

4. There's no reason to _____ me to do it now. I'll do it on my own later.
a. punish b. control c. force d. stereotype

5. Are you tired of doing the dishes? Let's _____!
a. switch b. deal c. turn out d. consider

6. He thinks that rich people can't be trusted. He has a _____ against them.
a. stereotype b. prejudice c. problem d. image

7. The teacher _____ the "C" students in class. He spends all his time with the "A" students.
a. neglects b. punishes c. attends d. influences

B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

8. This math problem is very _____.
a. frustration b. frustrate c. frustrating

9. His lack of _____ made it difficult for him to do his job.
a. perception b. perceived c. perceive

10. Thank you for your _____ to the project.
a. contribute b. contribution c. contributing

LIVEWORKSHEETS