

5.3 Vocabulary and skills development

GOALS ■ Understand linkers ■ Understand phrasal verbs with *out* and *up*

Reading understanding linkers

1a How much do you know about the brain? With a partner, decide which of the activities below are normally performed by the left side of the brain and which by the right. Write *L* or *R*.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 thinking logically | 5 controlling the right half of your body |
| 2 spelling | 6 recognizing objects |
| 3 understanding jokes | 7 appreciating the melody of music |
| 4 hearing the rhythm of music | |

b 5.4))) Listen and check your answers.

2 Read the article. Which sentence, a, b or c, best describes the purpose of the article?

- a To help you discover whether you are right or left-brained.
 b To explain the truth behind a common myth.
 c To give advice on how to develop your right-brain skills.

3 Read the information in the Unlock the code box on linkers.

UNLOCK THE CODE understanding linkers

Linkers are used by writers and speakers to help show the connection between what has been said and what is going to be said. Use them to help you predict what comes next in a text.

Linkers have different functions, e.g.

- Making things clearer: *that is to say ...* or *to put it another way ...*
- Giving examples: *for example, ..., e.g. ..., thus ...*
- Showing cause or reason: *because of ..., owing to ..., since ...*

4 Complete the table with the highlighted linkers in the article.

Making things clearer	
Giving examples	
Showing a cause or reason	

Right brain, left brain?

'Is your desk organized?' 'Do you turn your head to the right when asked a question?' 'Are you good at word puzzles?' These questions are designed to help you work out whether you are right-brained or left-brained – **5 in other words**, whether you are creative and thoughtful (right) or logical and analytical (left). Google 'right brain, left brain', and hundreds of online quizzes containing this kind of question will pop up.

It's a shame, then, that it's all a load of nonsense.

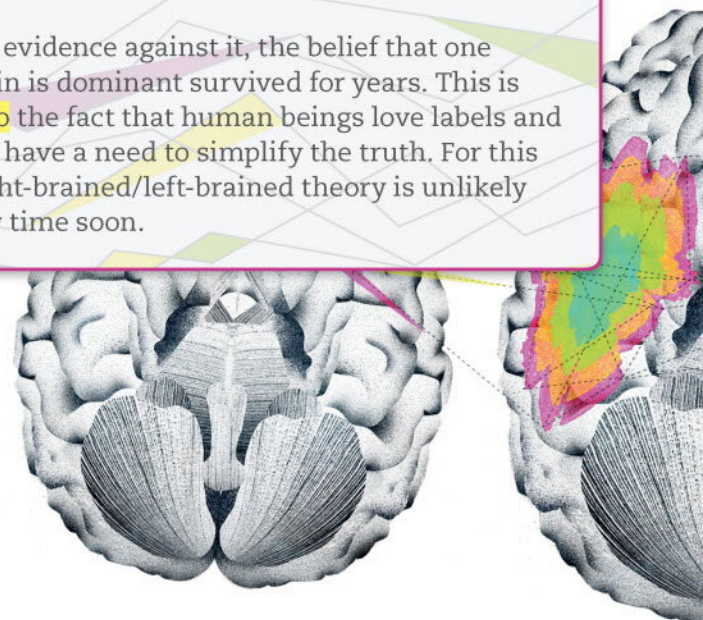
10 Recent research carried out at the University of Utah shows no evidence that one side of the brain dominates the other, **i.e.** that a person can be left-brained or right-brained. In fact, neuroscientists never accepted this idea in the first place.

15 So why is this theory so common? It all started in the 1960s when Nobel Prize winner Roger Sperry discovered that different halves of the brain controlled different activities. However, the media and popular psychologists decided to take Sperry's findings a step further. They **20** came up with the idea that some people use the right side of their brain more while others use the left side more. This resulted in numerous self-help books, management training courses and apps promising to help convert people from left-brained to right-brained thinkers.

25 Here's the truth: you use both parts of your brain all the time. Take language skills, **for instance**. While the left side deals with linguistic processes, **such as** understanding the meaning of words and sentences, the right side understands intonation and recognizes different voices.

30 Likewise, with mathematical ability, your left side helps you count whereas the right side enables you to estimate numbers.

Despite all the evidence against it, the belief that one part of the brain is dominant survived for years. This is **35 probably due to** the fact that human beings love labels and categories. We have a need to simplify the truth. For this reason, the right-brained/left-brained theory is unlikely to go away any time soon.



- 5 Read the whole article in exercise 4 and answer the questions with a partner.
- 1 According to popular psychology, what do *right-brained* and *left-brained* mean?
 - 2 Why does the writer say that the right-brained/left-brained theory is 'a load of nonsense'?
 - 3 How do the left and right brain work together to help us
 - a) understand language and b) do maths?
 - 4 What is the writer's prediction for the future of the right-brained/left-brained theory? Why?

Vocabulary & Speaking phrasal verbs with *out* and *up*

- 6 With a partner, find these phrasal verbs in the article in exercise 4 and try to guess their meaning.
- work out (line 4)
 - carry out (line 10)
 - pop up (line 8)
 - come up with (line 20)
- 7 Read about phrasal verbs with *out* and *up*. Match the verbs in exercise 6 to the meanings in the Vocabulary focus box.

VOCABULARY FOCUS phrasal verbs with *out* and *up*

Some particles, e.g. *on*, *out*, *up*, can express a particular meaning when they are used in a phrasal verb.

- *up* can mean
 - 1 begin to happen and/or appear (sometimes unexpectedly), e.g. *set up*, *take up*.
 - 2 create and construct something, e.g. *dream up*, *think up*.
- *out* can mean
 - 1 search for something, such as information or the answer to a difficult problem, then find it or discover/prove something, e.g. *find out*, *figure out*.
 - 2 finish doing, disappear, use completely, e.g. *die out*, *phase out*.

- 8a Match the sentence halves.

- 1 Something urgent has **come up**
 - 2 You don't need to book the restaurant
 - 3 She said she missed the meeting because she was ill, but
 - 4 He got top marks in his exam, but
 - 5 Someone from the IT department **sorted out** my computer problems,
 - 6 I **ran out of** time in the exam
- a and it's been working fine since then.
 - b and couldn't finish my essay.
 - c it **turned out** he had cheated.
 - d I think she was **making it up**.
 - e – you can just **turn up**.
 - f so I'm afraid I have to rush off.

- b With a partner, try to guess the meaning of the phrasal verbs in bold from the context in exercise 8a. Then match them to the meanings in the Vocabulary focus box.

- 9a **TASK** Complete the questions with a phrasal verb from exercises 6 and 8a.

- 1 Are you good at _____ stories?
- 2 Do you tend to use a calculator or do you _____ maths problems in your head?
- 3 Have you ever _____ petrol?
- 4 Have you ever bought something which _____ to be a waste of money?
- 5 Do you mind if friends _____ at your home without calling first?

- b Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

▶ VOX POPS VIDEO 5

