

Lesson description

The topic of this lesson is the brain and its influence on how you think and act. You will:

- interview your partner and decide if they are a right or left-sided thinker
- focus on vocabulary to describe your character
- focus on phrases to talk about results
- practise identifying and using weak forms.

Aim

Presenting your findings

Pronunciation

- unstressed words

Language

- phrases for discussing results
- adjectives to describe character

Main task

The task is for the learners to quiz their partner to find out whether they are right or left brained. Then they present their findings to a small group.

Materials

Handout

IWB

Audio U037CEA-1.mp3, U037CEA-2.mp3

Photocopiable - Cut ups

Self-study activities

(available on platform)

Vocabulary

Vocabulary

Vocabulary

Vocabulary

Handout activity number:

Listening, 2

Vocabulary, 3

Language, 4, part 1

Language, 4, part 2

Suggested running order

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Lead-in – speaking – right- or left-brained | Handout |
| 2 | Listening – drawing and sides of the brain | Handout/U037CEA-1.mp3 |
| 3 | Vocabulary – listening items | Handout |
| 4 | Language – signposting language | Handout/U037CEA-1.mp3 |
| 5 | Pronunciation – unstressed words | Handout/U037CEA-2.mp3/Cut ups |
| 6 | Main task – sharing and discussing results from quiz | Handout |
| 7 | Feedback | IWB |

Answers

Listening

What was the speaker asked to do?
copy a famous drawing by Picasso upside down

What was the purpose of the activity?
to disengage the left side of the brain, and focus on using the right one

What did the speaker think of the activity?
surprised that it wasn't very difficult; it was very interesting

Vocabulary

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. concept | c. idea or notion |
| 2. endeavour | f. attempt or effort |
| 3. a peek | a. a quick look |
| 4. initially | b. to begin with |
| 5. to take over | d. to take control |
| 6. to disengage | e. to release or to free |

Language

- 1 I'd like to show you...
- 3 One thing that surprised me was...
- 4 I was particularly (pleased with/surprised by)
- 5 It just goes to show that
- 6 I found the whole exercise very interesting
- 2 The idea was to...

1. I found the whole process very interesting and will definitely try to do it more in the future.
2. I'd like to show you the results of a test I did.
3. It just goes to show that a healthy body means a healthy mind.
4. The idea was to show how exercise relates to memory.
5. I was particularly surprised / pleased by how much more I could remember after exercising.
6. One thing that surprised me was how even a little exercise could improve memory.

Pronunciation

It means you produce more of a stored concept of the object
I hadn't tried anything like this before, and it was initially quite difficult to do
I was particularly pleased with the face, as I usually find faces extremely hard to draw

Are you a right or left-sided thinker?

Use the cut ups to extend the pronunciation focus if necessary.

- a) The test went on for about two hours and by the end we were all really tired.
- b) I managed to answer most of the questions, but there were a couple that I was unsure about.
- c) It's hard to say precisely whether you are a left or right sided thinker.
- d) At the moment we don't have a clear answer, so we need to do more research into how the brain reacts in different situations.

Speaking – Set up

- a) *Ss take it in turns to interview each other noting down answers.*
- b) *Ss then decide whether they think their partner is a left / right sided thinker.*
- c) *Regroup Ss into small groups. Ss report to new partners about findings.*

OR

- a) *Give Ss each one –two questions to survey the class with.*
- b) *Put Ss into small groups of four making sure every S has results from a different question.*
- c) *Ss present results.*

Quiz Answers

- 1 Background music = left side of the brain
- 2 Empathize = right side of the brain
- 3 Punctual = left side of the brain
- 4 Face = right side of the brain
- 5 Gestures = right side of the brain
- 6 Logic = left side of the brain
- 7 Neat = left side of the brain
- 8 Map = right side of the brain

Audio scripts

Audio 1

I'd like to show you the drawing I had to do on the first day of my drawing course.

The idea was to disengage the left side of the brain, and focus on using the right one. The left side of the brain is the analytical one, the bit that recognises logic and fact. When it takes over when you're drawing, it tells you that you are drawing a chair and then you draw what your brain tells you a chair looks like, and not what the chair that is actually in front of you looks like. It means you produce more of a stored concept of the object rather than an accurate reproduction.

The right side is more creative and is supposed to be more connected with emotions.

In this exercise, we had to copy a famous drawing by Picasso upside down. According to the experts, this meant that the left brain couldn't recognise any shapes, so the right brain could more easily dominate.

I hadn't tried anything like this before, and it was initially quite difficult to do as I kept wanting to twist my neck to sneak a peek at the picture the right way up. One thing that surprised me about the exercise was how it wasn't actually that difficult. I expected it to be impossible, but once I'd stopped thinking 'oh that is his hand' and just saw a series of lines and shapes, it became easier to reproduce the image.

I was particularly pleased with the face, as I usually find faces extremely hard to draw. It just goes to show that once you stop *thinking* you are drawing a face, it becomes a lot easier.

So overall, I found the whole exercise very interesting and it's definitely something to bear in mind for my future artistic endeavours.

Audio 2

1. It means you produce more of a stored concept of the object
2. I hadn't tried anything like this before, and it was initially quite difficult to do
3. I was particularly pleased with the face, as I usually find faces extremely hard to draw