

**English in Mind Second edition**Level 5 Unit 14  
Worksheet**Scientists able to read people's minds**THE  INDEPENDENT**Lead-in****1 Close your eyes. Imagine yourself in a beautiful place.**

Where are you?

What are you doing?

Who are you with?

**Work with a partner. Each of you should try to guess where the other went in their head? Tell your partner what you imagined.****Now consider the following:**

- Is it ever possible to know for sure what someone else is thinking?
- Do you think there will ever be a machine that can read your private thoughts?

**Reading comprehension (1): reading for gist****2 Read through the article quickly. Choose the best subtitle from the options below.**

- 1 Brain scanner translates thoughts of participants in maze experiment.
- 2 Brain machine can read your secret thoughts.
- 3 'Thought machines' will never be possible, say scientists.

**Reading comprehension (2): reading for detail****3 Choose words from the box to complete the summary of the article. There are more words than you will need.**

|              |                  |                           |              |        |             |         |        |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------|-------------|---------|--------|
| taxi scanner | Alzheimer's maze | ethical thoughts memories | mind-reading | future | hippocampus | virtual | neuron |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------|-------------|---------|--------|

The experiment involved participants visualising where they were in a (1) maze. Electrical activity was detected in an area of the brain called the (2) \_\_\_\_\_, which is involved in navigation, as well as the formation and recall of (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and our ability to imagine the (4) \_\_\_\_\_. This brain area is known to be enlarged in London (5) \_\_\_\_\_ drivers. Such studies may help to understand memory loss in neurological diseases such as (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Professor Maguire believes that, although the prospect of developing a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ machine is still some years away, we should begin discussing the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ questions it raises now.

## English in Mind Second edition

Level 5 Unit 14

## Worksheet

## Scientists able to read people's minds

THE INDEPENDENT

## Vocabulary (1): words in context

4 The following words and phrases have been highlighted in italics in the text. Find them and match them to their meanings.

- |                       |   |                                             |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------------------|
| 1 <i>prospect</i>     | } | a only, not involving anything else         |
| 2 <i>underpins</i>    |   | b gradually rubbed away                     |
| 3 <i>solely</i>       |   | c relax, not worry                          |
| 4 <i>eroded</i>       |   | d relating to the scientific study of crime |
| 5 <i>the stuff of</i> |   | e gives essential support to                |
| 6 <i>rest easy</i>    |   | f possible future event                     |
| 7 <i>infiltration</i> |   | g secret penetration                        |
| 8 <i>forensic</i>     |   | h subject matter for                        |

## Vocabulary (2): word formation

5 The article contains a number of compound nouns. Match the following and then find them in the text to check your answers.

- |           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| 1 brain   | driver   |
| 2 thought | fiction  |
| 3 nerve   | activity |
| 4 science | scanner  |
| 5 taxi    | science  |
| 6 mind    | cells    |
| 7 neuro   | machine  |
| 8 brain   | reading  |

Most are printed as separate words. Which one is hyphenated? Which forms a single word? Practise saying them out loud. Where does the stress fall? Ask your teacher to explain the 'rules'.

## English in Mind Second edition

Level 5 Unit 14

## Worksheet

## Scientists able to read people's minds

THE INDEPENDENT

**6 Find adjectives to match these nouns in the text. They all end in '-al'.**

| Noun          | Adjective                    |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| 1 electricity | 1 <i>electrical</i> (para 1) |
| 2 neuron      | 2 _____ (para 3)             |
| 3 ethics      | 3 _____ (para 5)             |
| 4 function    | 4 _____ (para 6)             |
| 5 hippocampus | 5 _____ (para 6)             |
| 6 space       | 6 _____ (paras 9, 12, 13)    |
| 7 neurology   | 7 _____ (para 10)            |
| 8 society     | 8 _____ (para 15)            |

Which ones are connected with science? Do you know any more scientific adjectives ending in -al?

## Grammar: time phrases

**7 A number of expressions are used in the article to talk about future points in time. Find them in the text and place them on the timeline below, according to their approximate distance from the present moment.**

- 1 a step closer (para 1)
- 2 one day (para 4)
- 3 a distant prospect (para 4)
- 4 a long way from (paras 5, 13)
- 5 in the near future (para 5)

1

NOW ----/-----&gt;

(The Future)

**8 Work with another student. Use the phrases in the sentences below to make statements about your own future. Read them out to your partner.**

- 1 'One day, I hope \_\_\_\_\_,'
- 2 '\_\_\_\_\_ is a distant prospect for me.'
- 3 '\_\_\_\_\_ will bring me a step closer to realising my dreams.'
- 4 'I'm still a long way from \_\_\_\_\_,'
- 5 'In the near future I plan to \_\_\_\_\_,'

**English in Mind Second edition**

Level 5 Unit 14

**Worksheet****Scientists able to read people's minds****THE**  **INDEPENDENT****Discussion**

**9 Professor Maguire urges us to consider the ethical problems raised by the prospect of a mind-reading machine. Discuss the following questions in pairs or small groups.**

- 1** What kinds of positive uses could such machines be put to?
- 2** Could they also be used in negative or harmful ways? If so, will it be possible to prevent their use?
- 3** Do you think the advance of science can be controlled?

Lesson Plan and Worksheet author: Merryn Grimley

Editor: Jacqueline French