

Taking science to the bar 把科學帶到酒吧

Vocabulary: Science

Are bars places just to meet friends and chat casually about **mundane** things? Not anymore. Scientists have been organizing **periodic** lectures and experiments in bars in several cities in nine countries. In May, hundreds of them took part in a festival called **Pint** of Science.

British **neuroscience** researcher Michael Motskin started the festival with a colleague three years ago in the UK.

But you don't have to be an **egghead** to follow a discussion. Motskin says: "We ask top scientists to present their **scientific discoveries** in a **down-to-earth** setting over a drink or two. We want to give everyone a chance **to pick the brains** of the UK's most brilliant **academics**, away from the **stuffy** laboratory or lecture theatre."

And what do they discuss? Topics range from **dark matter** to **climate change**. The science in films such as Star Wars, Star Trek and Interstellar has also proved popular. And a young **physicist** even demonstrated how a model of the universe can be built from plastic Lego bricks. An audience with a taste for a more practical experience might enjoy the lecture given in a pub in Soho, central London. It was about the effects of beer on the human body.

One might argue that a bit of alcohol helps people relax, freeing their imaginations so that they are better able to contemplate the wonders of the universe. That would make the pub the ideal venue for science - and a handy place to be if you make a big discovery and want to celebrate. Back in the 1950s, scientists James Watson and Francis Crick announced their discovery over a pint at The Eagle pub in Cambridge. And what did they discover? Well, just a little thing called the **double helix structure of DNA**. It eventually won them a Nobel Prize. Champagne please!

Find the answers from the given text

1. When did the Pint of Science festival start?
2. What does the Pint of Science's co-founder want to give ordinary people?
3. Who talked about plastic bricks?
4. Why does the writer describe the lecture about the effects of beer on the body as 'a practical experience'?
5. Which word in the text means 'convenient'?

Choose the correct answer

1. Jennifer knows a lot about Medieval History. She's _____.

a neuroscientist	a physicist	an egghead	a pub owner
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2. Mary only talks about her house, her boyfriend, her new haircut. I'm a bit tired of her _____ conversation!

ideal	mundane	periodic	handy
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3. I know everything about London festivals. You can pick _____ brains whenever you like.

some	your	my	up
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4. The lecture was sold out. I should have bought a ticket earlier, but I had no idea it would be so _____.

scientific	handy	popular	mundane
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5. I admire science fiction writers. They have a lot of _____.

practical experience	scientific discoveries	taste	imagination
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Vocabulary

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- **mundane** 平凡無趣的
→補充
- **pint** （容量單位）品脫
→補充
- **periodic** 定期的
→補充
- **neuroscience** 神經系統科學，神經病學
→補充

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- **egghead** 受過高等教育的人，有知識的人
→補充
- **scientific discovery** 科學發現
→補充
- **down-to-earth** 求實的，腳踏實地的，友好的
→補充
- **to pick the brains** 討教，聽取別人的高見
→補充
- **academic** 學術的
→補充
- **stuffy** 悶熱不透氣的
→補充
- **dark matter** 暗物質
→補充
- **climate change** 氣候變化
→補充
- **physicist** 物理學家
→補充

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- double helix structure 雙股螺旋結構

→補充

- DNA 去氧核糖核酸

→補充