

CPC № 15

The brain is the most complex organ in the human body. This three-pound organ is the seat of intelligence, interpreter of the senses, initiator of body movement, and controller of behavior. Lying in its bony shell and washed by protective fluid, the brain is the source of all the qualities that define our humanity. It produces our every thought, action, memory, feeling, and experience of the world. This jelly-like mass of **tissue**, weighing in at around 1.4 kilograms, contains a **staggering** one hundred billion nerve cells, or neurons.

The complexity of the connectivity between these cells is **mind-boggling**. Each neuron can make contact with thousands or even tens of thousands of others, **via** tiny structures called synapses. Our brains form a million new connections for every second of our lives. The pattern and strength of the connections are constantly changing and no two brains are alike.

It is in these changing connections that memories are stored, habits learned and personalities shaped, by **reinforcing** certain patterns of brain activity and losing others. Together, this complex network of cells gives rise to every aspect of our shared humanity. We could not breathe, play, love, or remember without the brain.

1. Match the words (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

1. Tissue
2. Staggering
3. mind-boggling
4. via
5. to reinforce

- A. a group of related cells that forms larger parts of animals and plants
- B. to make something stronger
- C. extremely surprising and difficult to understand or imagine
- D. shocking because of being extremely large
- E. by way of, or by use of

Solution:

Word	Definition
Tissue	A group of related cells that forms larger parts of animals and plants
Staggering	Shocking because of being extremely large
Mind-boggling	Extremely surprising and difficult to understand or imagine
Via	By way of, or by use of
To reinforce	To make something stronger