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| **The Mozart Effect**  Listening to Mozart boosts your brainpower. That is the theory behind a certain CD called "Music for the Mozart Effect Vol. 1-Strengthen the Mind". It is a collection of music done by Mozart which is supposed to enhance your brainpower and increase your memory.  About six years ago, researchers reported that people scored better on a standard IQ test after listening to Mozart, calling it the "Mozart Effect". Rats raised on Mozart run through mazes faster and more accurately. People with Alzheimer�s disease function more normally if they listen to Mozart and the music can even reduce the severity of epileptic seizures.  Gordon Shaw, a neurobiologist at the University of California at Irvine simulated the brain activity. The way nerve cells were connected to one another predisposed groups of cells to adopt certain specific firing patterns and rhythms. These natural patterns, he believes, from the basic grammar of mental activity. In 1988, Shaw and his student Xiaodan Leng decided to turn the output of their simulations into sounds instead of a conventional printout. To their surprise, the rhythmic patterns sounded like baroque, new age, or eastern music. (Klierwer)  Shaw and his colleague Frances Rauscher, a psychologist at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, decide to test how Mozart�s music effect students� abilities on a standard IQ test. They tested to see whether them music could temporarily boost people�s ability to visualize shapes. This ability forms the basis of many complex thinking skills that involve turning an object over in your mind, including much of mathematics.  In 1995, Shaw and Rauscher asked 79 college students to work out what a paper would look like if folded and cut into a paper doily. After taking the test, one group of students sat in silence for ten minutes. Another group listened to a Mozart piano sonata, while a third group heard either an audiotaped story or repetitive music. They all took the test again. The Mozart group correctly predicted 62% more shapes on the second test, while the "silent" group improved by 14% and the third group by 11%. (Klierwer) This experiment shows the substantial improvement by the Mozart group over the other two groups subjected to either nothing or non-Mozart music.  Psychologist Christopher Chabris at Harvard University, after looking at results from 16 different Mozart Effect studies, concluded that the real reason some people do better is what psychologists call "enjoyment arousal" which is when music improves people�s moods, so they perform better.  Lois Hetland of the Harvard Graduate School of Education found that Mozart listeners outperformed other groups more often than could be explained by chance. She states that Mozart may give a bigger boost to some people than to others, depending on their sex, musical tastes and training, spatial ability and cultural background.  ([NEXT](http://docs.google.com/intro2.html))  [[Home](http://docs.google.com/home.html)][[Introduction](http://docs.google.com/introduction.html)][[Hypothesis](http://docs.google.com/hypothesis.html)][[Procedure](http://docs.google.com/procedure.html)][[Data](http://docs.google.com/data.html)][[Conclusions](http://docs.google.com/conclusions.html)][[Bilio/Links](http://docs.google.com/biblio.html)]  [[2001 Projects](http://docs.google.com/index.html)][[2000 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP2000/index.html)][[1999 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP99/index.html)][[1998 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP98/index.html)] |