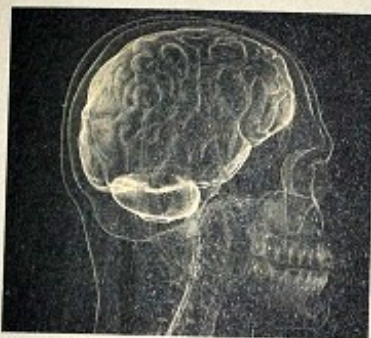


GRAU DE ADJETIVOS E ADVÉRBIOS

Your Amazing Brain

TEXT BY DOUGLAS A. RICHARDS



Your brain controls everything you do.

You carry around a three-pound mass of wrinkly material in your head that controls every single thing you will ever do. From enabling you to think, learn, create, and feel emotions to controlling every blink, breath, and heartbeat—this fantastic control center is your brain. It is a structure so amazing that a famous scientist once called it “the most complex thing we have yet discovered in our universe.”

→ **Your brain is faster and more powerful than a supercomputer.**

Your kitten is on the kitchen counter. She's about to step onto a hot stove. You have only seconds to act. Accessing the signals coming from your eyes, your brain quickly calculates when, where, and at what speed you will need to dive to intercept her. Then it orders your muscles to do so. Your timing is perfect and she's safe. No computer can come close to your brain's awesome ability to download, process, and react to the flood of information coming from your eyes, ears, and other sensory organs.

→ **Your brain generates enough electricity to power a lightbulb.**

Your brain contains about 100 billion microscopic cells called neurons—so many it would take you over 3,000 years to count them all. Whenever you dream, laugh, think, see, or move,

it's because tiny chemical and electrical signals are racing between these neurons along billions of tiny neuron highways. Believe it or not, the activity in your brain never stops. Countless messages zip around inside it every second like a supercharged pinball machine. Your neurons create and send more messages than all the phones in the entire world. And while a single neuron generates only a tiny amount of electricity, all your neurons together can generate enough electricity to power a low-wattage bulb.

→ **Neurons send information to your brain at more than 150 miles (241 kilometers) per hour.**

A bee lands on your bare foot. Sensory neurons in your skin relay this information to your spinal cord and brain at a speed of more than 150 miles (241 kilometers) per hour. Your brain then uses motor neurons to transmit the message back through your spinal cord to your foot to shake the bee off quickly. Motor neurons can relay this information at more than 200 miles (322 kilometers) per hour.

→ **When you learn, you change the structure of your brain.**

Riding a bike seems impossible at first. But soon you master it. How? As you practice, your brain sends "bike riding" messages along certain pathways of neurons over and over, forming new connections. In fact, the structure of your brain changes every time you learn, as well as whenever you have a new thought or memory.

→ **Exercise helps make you smarter.**

It is well known that any exercise that makes your heart beat faster, like running or playing basketball, is great for your body and can even help improve your mood. But scientists have recently learned that for a period of time after you've exercised, your body produces a chemical that makes your brain more receptive to learning. So if you're stuck on a homework problem, go out and play a game of soccer, then try the problem again. You just might discover that you're able to solve it.

(Disponível em: <<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Stories/SpaceScience/Brain>>. Acesso em 06/07/2009)

FAMILIARIZAÇÃO COM O TEXTO:

1 Observando a ilustração e o título, descreva o que você pode antecipar sobre o conteúdo do texto.

2 Utilizando a estratégia *skimming*, faça uma leitura rápida do texto e confirme ou descarte suas hipóteses.

3 Observe o layout do texto. A apresentação difere de outros textos vistos anteriormente? Em sua opinião, esse *layout* favorece a compreensão do texto?

4 Utilize a estratégia *scanning* para localizar as seguintes informações:

1º Parágrafo

O peso do cérebro: _____

2º Parágrafo

Os órgãos que passam informação ao cérebro: _____

3º Parágrafo

O número aproximado de neurônios no cérebro: _____

4º Parágrafo

Os neurônios podem retornar a informação para o pé à velocidade de: _____

6º Parágrafo

As atividades físicas que podem facilitar a aprendizagem: _____

5 Após ler o texto mais detalhadamente, responda as perguntas a seguir:

a No 1º. parágrafo, o autor ressalta a incrível capacidade do cérebro em controlar tudo o que fazemos. Ao concluir, como ele define o cérebro?

b No 2º. e 3º. parágrafos, para melhor ilustrar o funcionamento do cérebro, o autor compara o mesmo a três objetos de nosso conhecimento. Quais são eles?

c No 5º. parágrafo, o autor afirma que a estrutura do cérebro muda. Em que circunstância isso acontece?

● Numere as orações abaixo de acordo com a seqüência descrita no 4º. parágrafo:

- a Utilizando neurônios motores, o cérebro transmite a mensagem de volta através da medula espinhal.
- b Um inseto pousa em nosso pé.
- c O cérebro processa a informação e reage.
- d Em resposta ao comando do cérebro, o pé movimenta-se para afugentar o inseto.
- e Neurônios sensoriais passam a informação à medula espinhal e esta ao cérebro.

APRESENTAÇÃO E PRÁTICA DE ASPECTO LINGUÍSTICO COMPARATIVOS E SUPERLATIVOS

Reconhecer comparativos e superlativos permite ao leitor perceber como o autor estabelece comparações (de igualdade, superioridade ou inferioridade) entre os elementos expressos no texto.

Observe as palavras em negrito na oração que precede o 2º parágrafo do texto:

*Your brain is **faster and more powerful** than a supercomputer.*

Quando comparamos duas pessoas, objetos, ações, eventos, conceitos, etc. e dizemos que um é superior ou inferior (*less*) ao outro em relação a uma qualidade, usamos o adjetivo em sua forma comparativa. No exemplo citado, a forma comparativa do adjetivo **fast** tem o sufixo **-er** e o adjetivo **powerful** é precedido por **more**.

Agora observe a última oração do 1º. parágrafo:

*"It is a structure so amazing a famous scientist once called it "**the most complex** thing we have yet discovered in our universe."*

A construção em negrito é a forma superlativa do adjetivo **complex**. O superlativo é usado quando destacamos uma pessoa, objeto, ação, evento, conceito, etc. como superior ou inferior (*the least*) a todos os outros do mesmo grupo. No exemplo do texto, o adjetivo **complex** é precedido por **the most**.

Veja a forma comparativa e superlativa de adjetivos e advérbios, a seguir:

FORMA COMPARATIVA E SUPERLATIVA DE ADJETIVOS/ADVÉRBIOS

Adjetivos/advérbios curtos: acrescente os sufixos **-er** (comparativo) e **-est** (superlativo)

ADJETIVO/ADV.	COMPARATIVO	SUPERLATIVO
tall	taller	(the) tallest
early	earlier	(the) earliest
hot	hotter	(the) hottest

Exemplos: *Size really doesn't matter: Analysis of theoretical physicist Albert Einstein's brain revealed that it was slightly **smaller** than the average human brain.*
*The **quickest** solution to deforestation would be to simply stop cutting down trees.*

Adjetivos/advérbios longos: use **more + adj./adv.** (comparativo) e **most + adj./adv.** (superlativo)

ADJETIVO/ADV.	COMPARATIVO	SUPERLATIVO
interesting	more interesting	(the) most interesting
easily	more easily	(the) most easily

Exemplos: *Healthy lifestyles are **more influential** than genetic factors in avoiding deterioration traditionally associated with aging.*
*Learning occurs **most easily** when learners feel comfortable.*

Formas irregulares:

ADJETIVO	COMPARATIVO	SUPERLATIVO
good	better	(the) best
bad	worse	(the) worst
far	farther	(the) farthest
little	less	(the) least
much/many	more	(the) most

Exemplos: *Leading scientists warn that global warming is **worse** than predicted.*
*Vegetables and fruit are two of **the best** foods known to man.*

Construções comparativas de inferioridade são formadas com **less** (comparativo) e **least** (superlativo).

ADJETIVO	COMPARATIVO	SUPERLATIVO
colorful	less colorful	(the) least colorful
happy	less happy	(the) least happy

Exemplos: *A fund was established to support a work program to assist **less developed** countries.*
*Lethal injection is **the least cruel** of five methods employed in US*

As formas comparativas tornam-se mais enfáticas quando precedidas de **much/far**: *much bigger, far more expensive, much less satisfied*.

Exemplo:

The technology (DNA fingerprinting) is **far more specific** than earlier tests of antibodies in blood or semen.

Construções comparativas de igualdade são formadas com **as as**.

Exemplo:

She is **as tall as** his brother but not **as intelligent as** he is.

Observe a construção com dois comparativos. Nós a usamos quando queremos dizer que uma coisa depende de outra.

Exemplos:

When shall we leave? **The sooner the better**.

The longer I waited **the more impatient** I became.

Agora, identifique as formas comparativas/superlativas de adjetivos nos textos abaixo:

- Exercise helps make you smarter.

It is well known that any exercise that makes your heart beat faster, like running or playing basketball, is great for your body and can even help improve your mood. But scientists have recently learned that for a period of time after you've exercised, your body produces a chemical that makes your brain more receptive to learning.

- The world's largest river in watershed area, number of tributaries and volume of water discharged, the Amazon has only one rival as the world's longest: the Nile.

- The river's watershed includes the world's largest and wettest tropical plain.

- The canopy shelters the Earth's richest and most diverse ecosystem.

- In 2008 the performance of the economy was less satisfactory than in the previous year.

CONSOLIDAÇÃO**REFERÊNCIA PRONOMINAL E GRUPOS NOMINAIS**

1 Em todo o texto, “Your Amazing Brain”, o autor usa o pronome *you*. Observe, por exemplo, a 1ª linha:

You carry around a three-pound mass of wrinkly material in your head that controls every single thing *you* will ever do.

A quem o autor se refere? _____

2 Em sua opinião, que efeito a escolha desse pronome pode ter para o leitor?

3 A que/quem se referem as palavras em negrito nos trechos transcritos abaixo:

a Segmento extraído do texto: Your Amazing Brain

Your kitten is on the kitchen counter. **She's** about to step onto a hot stove. **You** have only seconds to act. Accessing the signals coming from your eyes, your brain quickly calculates when, where, and at what speed you will need to dive to intercept **her**. Then **it** orders your muscles to do so. Your timing is perfect and **she's** safe.

She: _____ You: _____ Her: _____
It: _____ She: _____

b Segmentos extraídos do texto “Following the Rules” (Unidade 14)

“Most people in Europe wouldn't notice a wedding ring, but in a traditional society **it** can make a real difference,” says the Lebanese-born shoe designer, **who** has traveled widely throughout the U.A.E. and Oman. “There are a different set of rules here.”

It: _____ who: _____

Dark glasses can reduce harassment, but be sure to take **them** off when you speak to people directly.

Them: _____

“Now, when I travel with my husband I often let **him** deal with people I don't want to talk to.”

Him: _____

4 Sublinhe os grupos nominais e circule seus respectivos núcleos nos trechos extraídos do texto *"Your Amazing Brain"*:

No computer can come close to your brain's awesome ability to download, process, and react to the flood of information coming from your eyes, ears, and other sensory organs.

Whenever you dream, laugh, think, see, or move, it's because tiny chemical and electrical signals are racing between these neurons along billions of tiny neuron highways. Believe it or not, the activity in your brain never stops. Countless messages zip around inside it every second like a supercharged pinball machine.