

The Handshake



A handshake is a common way of greeting people in many countries around the world. It is a simple act, but it has a lot of meaning. Usually, when people meet, they shake hands as a sign of respect or friendship. In most cases, people shake hands when they are introduced to each other, or before starting a meeting, an event, or even a formal agreement.

To shake hands, two people extend their right hands towards each other. Then, they grip each other's hand firmly and shake it up and down once or twice. It is important to make the handshake comfortable, neither too strong nor too weak. A handshake should last only for a few seconds, about 2-3 seconds, and it should be done with a smile and eye contact.

In many cultures, a handshake is seen as a sign of trust and mutual respect. When you shake hands with someone, you show that you are friendly and open. It can also mean that you agree on something or that you are ready to work together. Sometimes, business people use a handshake to start a deal or a partnership.

However, handshakes are not used in every culture in the same way. In some countries, people bow, kiss each other on the cheek, or hug instead of shaking hands. It is important to understand local customs and traditions before greeting someone, especially in a foreign country.

In recent years, handshakes have become less common in some places, especially during times when people want to avoid physical contact, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of shaking hands, people sometimes use a wave or an elbow bump as a way to greet others.

A handshake is a simple but important part of social life. It helps people connect, build trust, and shows respect for one another.

Part A - Read the sentences below and decide if each one is TRUE or FALSE based on the text.

Statements	True	False
1. A handshake is a common way of greeting people in Asia.		X
2. People usually shake hands with their left hand.		X
3. A handshake should last for about 2-3 seconds.	X	
4. In many cultures, a handshake shows trust and openness.	X	
5. Handshakes are used in every culture but in different ways.	X	
6. During the COVID-19 pandemic, nobody stopped shaking hands.		X
7. Shaking hands is the only way to greet people.		X
8. A handshake is important in social life	X	

Part B - Choose the correct answer for each sentence.

- To shake hands, two people extend their _____ hands towards each other.
 - right
 - left
 - both
- A handshake should be _____ , neither too strong nor too weak.
 - aggressive
 - long
 - firm
- In many cultures, a handshake is seen as a sign of _____.
 - hesitation
 - trust
 - confusion
- Business people often use a handshake to start a _____.
 - friendship
 - deal
 - conversation
- In some countries, people _____ instead of shaking hands.
 - clap
 - bow
 - snap
- A handshake is a simple but _____ part of social life.
 - insignificant
 - irrelevant
 - important

Computers and the Human Brain

Computers and the human brain have shared many similarities and differences over the years. Both are powerful tools for processing information, but they have developed in very different ways.

The human brain has always been a natural organ. It helps us think, feel, and remember. It is made of billions of cells called neurons, which have sent signals to each other since humans first evolved. These signals allow us to learn, remember, and even feel emotions. Our brain is also very flexible. Over time, it has adapted to new experiences and environments and can make decisions based on past experiences. This ability to learn and adapt is what sets humans apart in their interactions with the world, enabling creativity, problem-solving, and empathy.

On the other hand, a computer is a machine built by humans. Computers were first created in the 20th century, and since then, they have evolved quickly. They are built with circuits and electrical components, and they work with data in a structured, logical way, following specific instructions to solve problems. While computers can complete tasks like math calculations much faster than humans, they do not have emotions or personal experiences. They follow programs created by people and cannot "think" on their own like the human brain has done over millions of years.

Even though computers are faster than the human brain at many things, they have not become as creative or adaptable. For example, a computer has not yet been able to write a song or paint a picture by itself. It can help an artist or musician, but it cannot create or understand art in the same way humans have. This creativity is deeply rooted in human emotions and subjective experiences, which computers lack entirely.

Modern technology has developed quickly, and scientists have worked to create computers that are more like human brains. This area of research, called artificial intelligence (AI), has helped computers learn from data and make decisions, but computers still cannot replace the unique qualities of the human brain, such as creativity, emotional understanding, and the ability to connect deeply with others. These traits remain essential aspects of what makes us human.

Part A - For each sentence, choose the option that completes it correctly.

1. The human brain _____.
a) to learn and feel emotions
b) has emotions and can learn from experience
c) quickly with data processing
2. Scientists _____ to make computers similar to the human brain.
a) are learning how
b) emotions and memories
c) are developing artificial intelligence
3. Computers can complete _____.
a) tasks like math calculations very quickly
b) quickly than humans
c) a song or paint
4. Although computers are very fast, _____.
a) they do not have personal experiences
b) scientists are using AI technology
c) humans can think faster
5. The human brain sends signals _____.
a) to solve math problems
b) has creativity and emotion
c) to help us learn and remember
6. Artificial intelligence (AI) allows computers _____.
a) with specific instructions
b) to learn from data and make decisions
c) solve problems faster than humans

Part B - Choose the correct word to fill each gap

Choose the correct word to fill each gap.

1. Computers are ____ faster than the human brain at calculations.
a) many
b) much
c) more
d) some
2. The human brain is different ____ a computer because it has emotions.
a) from
b) with
c) for
d) to
3. Scientists have worked ____ many years to develop artificial intelligence.
a) since
b) for
c) in
d) during
4. Computers do not have personal experiences, ____ they can complete many tasks quickly.
a) unless
b) but
c) although
d) because
5. ____ of the most important functions of the brain is its ability to adapt.
a) Every
b) One
c) Some
d) All

LISTENING TESTS

Listening test 1: Talking About Life in Moscow

Choose the correct answer

1. Why is James going to Moscow?	○ For a holiday ○ To study ○ For work
2. How long will James stay in Moscow?	○ Six months ○ Three months ○ One year
3. What can James do with the Russian he knows?	○ Write long letters ○ Buy things, order food, and greet people ○ Have long conversations.
4. When was the Moscow underground built?	○ In 1953 ○ In 1925 ○ In 1935
5. Why does Anna think the Moscow underground is a good way to travel?	○ It's beautiful and fast ○ It's cheap and slow ○ It's new and modern
6. What does Anna say about the buses in Moscow?	○ They are faster than the underground ○ They are good for places the metro doesn't reach ○ They are not a good option for travel
7. How does James feel about going to Moscow?	○ Excited but a bit nervous ○ Confident and ready ○ Not interested in the trip

Listening test 2: My holiday experiences

Choose the correct answer

1. How many times has the speaker traveled to Hawaii?	• About 3 times • About 6 or 7 times • About 10 times
2. What does the speaker think about Hawaii?	• It is boring • It is too crowded • It is one of his favourite places
3. What types of places does the speaker prefer to visit?	• Countryside and mountains • Beaches • Cities
4. Where did the speaker recently take a road trip?	• Spain • Italy • The U.S.
5. What was the speaker's experience with backpacking?	• He loved it • It was very easy • It was his first time
6. What does the speaker recommend doing in Tuscany?	• Take a train to the cities • Take the bus to the cities • Rent a car

Listening test 3: A long way home

Part 1 - Cross TRUE or FALSE for each sentence.

	True	False
1. Saroo became separated from his birth family when he was five years old	x	
2. He has never been happy with his new family		x
3. He has adopted a child		x
4. He saw his old house when he was looking at a paper map		x
5. His birth mother has moved from the home where he lived	x	
6. He has made any more trips to Bangladesh	x	

Part 2 - Choose the correct answer

- What happened to Saroo when he was five years old?**
 - He was adopted by an Australian family.
 - He accidentally boarded a train and got lost.
 - He moved to a new home with his birth family.
- How did Saroo feel when he got separated from his family?**
 - Scared and alone.
 - Excited and curious.
 - Angry and frustrated.
- Who adopted Saroo after he got lost?**
 - A family in Australia.
 - A family in India.
 - His relatives from his birth neighborhood.
- What is Saroo focused on now?**
 - Starting a family of his own.
 - Finding a new job in India.
 - Helping others who have been separated from their families.
- Why did Saroo describe finding his old neighborhood as emotional?**
 - He didn't expect to recognize anything after so many years.
 - It reminded him of the family he had lost.
 - It was the first time he used Google Earth.
- What message does Saroo want people to take from his story?**
 - It is important to adopt children in need.
 - Never give up on your dreams or the search for loved ones.
 - Always use technology to solve problems.