

Reading Passage: Students read, then summarize the article for the group. Tell what you think the underlined words and phrases mean.

One of the most basic things our bodies do is make new cells. It's what allows tissues to grow and heal, and allows our bodies to continually rejuvenate themselves.

When it comes to cellular replenishment, one of the places researchers are most interested in is the brain. The formation of new brain cells is of critical interest to researchers studying everything from brain injuries to aging to mental illnesses like depression.

But researchers might be experiencing a bit of whiplash right now. Two papers, published just under a month apart, stand at odds with each other. One, led by researchers from the University of California, San Francisco, and published in *Nature* in early March, suggests that the hippocampus, a brain region important in the formation of memories, learning and emotional regulation, stops making new neurons after childhood, something that contradicts most previous research. The second, from Columbia University researchers out today in *Cell Stem Cell*, and using a very similar method, says that's not true at all — the hippocampus does in fact make new cells throughout our lifespan.

It's enough to tangle your neurons. But, it's really a reminder that science is driven by debate and disagreement. It takes time and effort to arrive at a true consensus, and researchers can't answer questions as we might wish.

Match the vocabulary words with the synonym

rejuvenate	crucial
replenish	sudden forward then backward jerk
whiplash	twist together in a confused mess
critical	refill
regulation	refresh
formation	control
contradict	agreement
tangle	be in conflict with
consensus	creatioin

Here are some fun English words you may not know the meaning of:

1-flabbergasted - astounded

I was flabbergasted when John asked me out. He is the most handsome and articulate guy in the whole office. What does he see in someone like me?

Do you think the woman who said she was flabbergasted is very confident? Why?

2-cattywampus - crooked or askew

I could tell someone had been going through my house looking for valuables, because the pictures were all cattywampus, the furniture was out of place and several drawers had been left open.

What does she mean when she says the furniture was “out of place”?

3-catty-corner or catty-cornered — diagonally (Note: different regions of the U.S. use cater-corner or catty-cornered) Ask your teacher which term they use.

The bus stop is catty-cornered from our building.

4-discombobulated - frustrated or confused

When my guests showed up a day early, I was really discombobulated. I had not had time to clean the house or prepare food.

Would it discombobulate you if your guests showed up early? Has this ever happened to you?

5-unscrupulous - dishonest

The unscrupulous insurance salesman did not tell Mother that she wouldn't be covered for cancer or heart disease, the two most common ailments for aging women.

Do you worry about unscrupulous people taking advantage of your elderly relatives? Has this ever happened to someone you know?

6-imbecile - idiotic

Only an imbecile would leave their car unlocked with the key in the ignition, then be surprised when it was stolen.

7-tethered - to tie up (usually an animal) so as to restrict its movement.

They tethered their horses than crawled silently up to the top of the hill to see if the posse was chasing them.

Do you like cowboy movies? Did you watch American cowboy films when you were growing up? Does your country have cowboys?

8-knick-knacks - small decorative items that have no real purpose

My grandmother loves to collect gewgaws and knick-knacks. Her house is full of oddities she has collected over the years. She is somewhat eccentric.

Do you have many knick-knacks in your house? Do you like to collect small, decorative objects?

9- dust-bunnies - small balls of dust that form in corners or under furniture

I thought the maid was doing a good job cleaning my house until I looked under the bed and noticed lots of dust-bunnies.

Do you vacuum under your beds and furniture regularly? Are you a neat freak? Do you keep your house as clean as your mother did?

10-panacea - a remedy for all difficulties or diseases

Unfortunately, despite the pharmaceutical companies hopes, the new drug did not prove a panacea for various types of cancer.

Do pharmaceutical companies advertise their prescription drugs on TV in your country? Do you think this might be a bad idea?

