

## Human Mind

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The human mind biology. Why are our brains more advanced than other species, clarify why we use more of it. How much of our brain is used? How do we perceive light and sound? Is it possible that our brains are evolving as we speak? If so, are psychics simply humans with more advanced brains? Can others have a "6<sup>th</sup> sense" if their brains are more advanced? Is this even possible or science fiction?

In reality, humans use 100% of their brain matter. All areas of the brain contain axon interactions. If parts are damaged, there have been countless cases of other areas of the brain making up for the lost or damaged sections. This may be due to a phenomenon called "redundancy". This is a concept, which states there are several central pathways of neurons. One may be damaged while another can cover it and the brain function is maintained. <sup>1</sup>

Vision and hearing on a very basic level work like this in these simple terms. A physical stimulus occurs, our eyes and ears take that stimulus. Eyes and ears then convert the stimulus to nerve impulses and transmits it to neurons that send the signals to the brain where they are translated. After translation, we react to the stimulus.

The subject of "advanced brain function" is a fuzzy subject. It is basically a matter of opinion. Is the term advancement mean evolution/natural selection? If this is the case, then yes, humans and chimpanzees accumulate many more changes in gene sequence than monkeys. In turn, monkeys accumulate many more changes over mice. This may be a way to classify "advance" function. <sup>2</sup> This evolutionary process is ongoing. Gene mutations occur continuously, therefore human brains are evolving at the present time.

If a sixth sense, or heightened intuition really exists, can it be explained in evolutionary and physiological terms? <sup>3</sup> Some scientists believe so.

There are several possible explanations for why such "intuitive hunches" sometimes play out. One is that on a subconscious level, we are always thinking and coming to conclusions, but that these register only as hunches to our conscious mind. Another is that we pick up telling cues from body language, subliminal sounds or peripheral vision without being consciously aware of doing so. A third is that for each amazing coincidence we remember, we forget all the times we had a hunch and it didn't pan out. A fourth possibility is that we modify our memories for our own convenience, creating a connection where it may not have existed. And so on. These sorts of prosaic explanations probably account for many intuitive hunches. <sup>3</sup>

In an evolutionary sense, (I am drawing on a lecture from my Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy Class at SUNY ESF), the trait of intuition can exist in humans. If our early ancestors such as Cro-Magnon and Neanderthal man had an advantageous trait where they developed a sense of danger or intuition, it prolonged their life and those who expressed the trait (gene) survived to pass on their trait more often than those individuals that did not have a sense of danger. Perhaps this can also explain "sensitive" people who claim to encounter paranormal situations.

Is it possible to have these senses? I believe we can. We are unable to explain countless traits of other species, why not a trait that could exist in humans? No one really knows how animals migrate, they only have theories.

1. B.L. Beyerstein, Whence Cometh the Myth that We Only Use 10% of Our Brains? in *Mind Myths. Exploring Popular Assumptions about the Mind and Brain* edited by S. Della Sala, Chichester: John Wiley and Sons, pages 3-24, 1999.

2. [http://www.scienceagogo.com/news/20070001205944data\\_trunc\\_sys.shtml](http://www.scienceagogo.com/news/20070001205944data_trunc_sys.shtml)

3. <http://www.psychologytoday.com/article/index.php?term=20000701-000034&page=2>