

Are you a “lefty” or a “righty”?

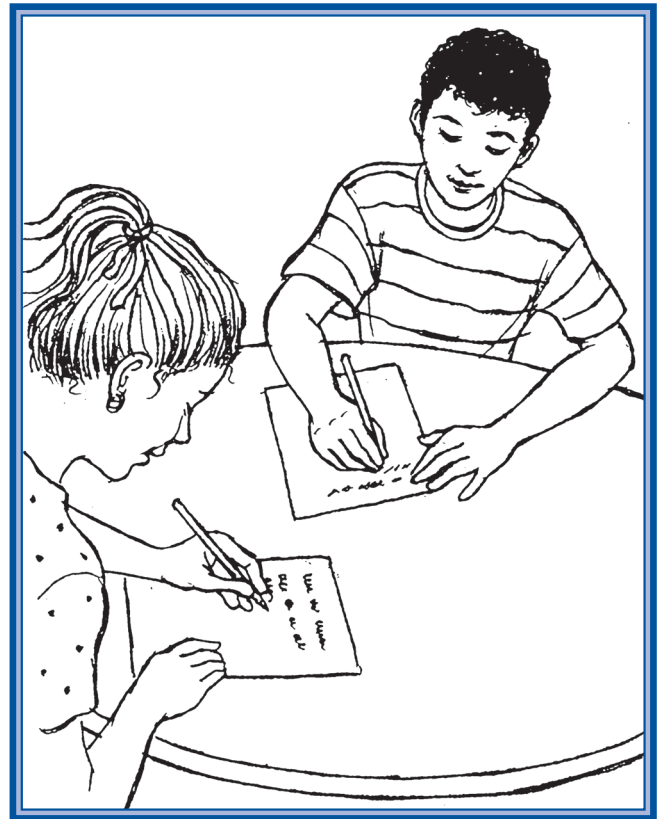
1 Get a piece of paper and a pencil. Write down your name. If you are like 90% of Americans, you hold the pencil in your right hand. The other 10%, left-handers, know how difficult living in a right-handed world can be. Almost everything, from scissors to guitars to TV remote controls, is made for right-handers.

2 The hand you are most likely to use is called your dominant hand. You have probably been aware of this since you were very young. But you may not know that you also have a foot, eye, and side of your brain that are dominant.

3 Finding out if you are left-footed or right-footed is easy. Just pretend to kick a ball. There’s a test for the eyes, too. Hold one arm straight out from the middle of your body. Point your index finger so it blocks something in the distance. Look at the finger with both eyes open. Then close one eye at a time. If, for example, your finger seems to stay in the same place when you look at it with only your left eye, you are left-eyed.

4 Finding which side of your brain is dominant is a little harder. It depends on how you hold your pencil. Is your hand straight, with the pencil pointing away from you? Or is it hooked, with the pencil pointing toward you? Straight right-handers and hooked left-handers are left-brained. Straight left-handers and hooked right-handers have a dominant right brain.

5 Here’s one more experiment with right and left. This one is just for fun, though. On a picture of your face, put the edge of an unframed mirror along the nose. What do you notice when you look at the picture from the right and then from the left?



Circle the correct answer for questions 1–5.

Write your answer to question 6 on a separate piece of paper.



1. About _____ of Americans are left-handed.
A 40%
B 30%
C 20%
D 10%
2. Which word in paragraph 3 means “something used to show what other things are like”?
A example
B middle
C finger
D index
3. Which paragraph tells why life is difficult for left-handed people?
A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4
4. In the eye test described in the article, if your finger stays the same when you look at it only with your right eye, you are _____.
A left-eyed
B right-eyed
C nearsighted
D right-handed
5. *Remote* can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 1.
A out of the way
B small in degree
C operated from a distance
D far removed in space or time

6. Read the last paragraph of the article again. What do you think you'd see? Why? Try the experiment and describe what happens.