



Reading for fluency - answers



Psychology: the science of the mind

Psychology is the science of the mind. The human mind is the most complex machine on Earth. It is the source of all thought and behaviour.

How do **psychologists** study the mind?

How can we study something as complex and mysterious as the mind? We cannot see someone thinking. Nor can we observe their emotions, or memories, or perceptions and dreams. So how do psychologists go about studying the mind?

Psychologists adopt a similar approach to scientists in other fields. Nuclear physicists interested in the structure of atoms cannot observe protons, electrons and neutrons directly. Instead, they predict how these elements should behave and devise experiments to confirm or refute their expectations.

Human behaviour: the raw data of **psychology**

In a similar way, psychologists use human behaviour as a clue to the workings of the mind. Although we cannot observe the mind directly, everything we do, think, feel and say is determined by the functioning of the mind. So psychologists take human behaviour as the raw data for testing their theories about how the mind works.

(Adapted from the BBC website.)

Here are a few words in the passage above that might have been difficult to read:

Word	Meaning	pronunciation	origin
psychology	the science of the mind	sie-kol-oj-ee	from Greek for 'spirit' or 'soul' + Greek for 'study of'
psychologists	specialists in psychology	sie-kol-oj-ists	From Greek for 'spirit' or 'soul' + Greek for 'study of'
mysterious	involving mystery; puzzling	mis-teer-ee-us	from Greek for 'secret rite or doctrine'
scientists	experts in science	sie-ent-ists	from Latin for 'knowledge'
physicists	scientists who specialise in physics	fi-si-sists	from Greek for 'nature'