

I. 下記の空欄 (1) ~ (20) に入れるのに最もふさわしい語または句を、それぞれ与えられた選択肢から選び、解答欄に記号で記しなさい。

If you hold a pen in your “wrong” hand, writing (1) uncomfortable and difficult. But keep doing it and you (2) get better at it—you learn. This is because (3) between neurons in your brain get stronger, and your brain grows.

In our (4) years our brains grow very fast (5) we learn language, writing, numbers, music and how to coordinate movement. By (6) time we are teenagers, each neuron in our brain (7) to tens of thousands of other neurons, and (8) time we have a new thought or memory, our brains (9) new connections. Just as muscles get stronger by using (10), the brain develops when it is stimulated. Without stimulation, it (11) dies.

A healthy brain does not lose huge (12) of brain cells as it ages. It (13) to rewire itself and grow new neurons. However, brain diseases are very (14) in old age, and so we associate ageing (15) diseases such as Alzheimer’s disease.

Even though these diseases occur frequently in (16) elderly, it is a mistake to think that old age automatically (17) mental decline. When elderly people who do not have Alzheimer’s disease (18) age-related losses of memory and motor skills, it is often (19) because of ageing, but because of inactivity and lack of (20) stimulation.

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|----|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | A. becomes | B. changes | C. senses | D. starts |
| 2. | A. feel to | B. need | C. notice to | D. will |
| 3. | A. connections | B. relations | C. spaces | D. tendencies |
| 4. | A. baby | B. beginning | C. early | D. young |
| 5. | A. as | B. but | C. despite | D. during |
| 6. | A. a | B. some | C. the | D. this |
| 7. | A. has connected | | B. may not be connected | |
| | C. should be connecting | | D. will have be connecting | |
| 8. | A. all the | B. every | C. in each | D. next |
| 9. | A. cut | B. make | C. refresh | D. tie |

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|-----|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 10. | A. it | B. neurons | C. practice | D. them |
| 11. | A. badly | B. briefly | C. gradually | D. hardly |
| 12. | A. amount | B. area | C. numbers | D. parts |
| 13. | A. aims | B. ceases | C. continues | D. starts |
| 14. | A. common | B. occasional | C. rare | D. usual |
| 15. | A. like | B. of | C. to | D. with |
| 16. | A. an | B. someone | C. the | D. those |
| 17. | A. disadvantages | B. equals | C. rivals | D. translates |
| 18. | A. combine | B. find | C. insist | D. suffer |
| 19. | A. just | B. merely | C. not | D. only |
| 20. | A. emotional | B. medical | C. mental | D. physical |