

Activity 1

Discuss with your partner what unusual characteristic the following people have in common.

Bill Clinton (former President of the USA)
Larry Bird (former basketball player)

Paul McCartney (founder member of the Beatles)
Leonardo da Vinci (artist and scientist)

Activity 2

Read the questions below and use them to begin a conversation with your partner.

1. How many left-handed people do you know? Are you right-handed or left-handed?
2. Have you ever tried to use your other hand for an extended period of time (e.g. after injuring your preferred hand?) What was it like? Did you become ambidextrous?
3. What objects can you think of that are designed with solely right-handed users in mind? (e.g. scissors, pens with writing on the side, the computer mouse, etc).
4. To what extent are left-handed people placed at a disadvantage in today's world?
5. In what ways might a left-handed person 'have the upper hand'? (e.g. in certain sports).
6. In some countries left-handed children used to be forced to use their right hand instead. What effect do you think this might have had on people? Do you know anyone who experienced this? Is this custom still in practice in your country today?
7. In Italy it is considered unlucky to pour wine with your left hand. What superstitions and customs are there in your country relating to the use of the left hand?

Activity 3

Read the sentences below and decide with your partner what the word 'left' means in each case.

1. He left work early yesterday.
2. Turn left at the traffic lights.
3. Are there any biscuits left?
4. She belongs to a left wing party.

Activity 4

Read the following statements and decide with your partner if they are true or false.

1. As few as one in ten people are completely left-handed.
2. The left hand contains fewer bones than the right hand.
3. According to some surveys, left-handed people don't live as long as right-handed people.
4. In the United States left-handed people are called 'southpaws'.
5. The left hand works harder than the right when touch-typing.
6. The United Kingdom is the only place in the world where people drive on the left.
7. According to some surveys, left-handed people are better at maths than right-handed people.
8. Queen Elizabeth II is left-handed.
9. There are more left-handed men than women.
10. Left-handed people all have the same blood type.

On the Other Hand

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Activity 5

Go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Homework' icon. Use the information you find there to answer the questions below.

1. Why do people use their right hand to shake hands?
2. What is the English word (of French origin) which means 'unsophisticated and awkward'.
3. Which ancient civilization thought that being left-handed was a sign of good luck?
4. What is the answer to the Quick Quiz?

Activity 6

To what extent are left-handed people disadvantaged in the world today?

If you would like to express your opinion on this subject go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Discussion' icon to take part in the forum discussion there.

N.B. Netiquette! PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE TO INDICATE THE OPINIONS IN YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE TO DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO READ!

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