

[Read the following text:](#)

Can You Learn To Wiggle Your Ears?

Are you born with the ability, or can you learn it?

Wiggling your ears is a neat party trick, like rolling your tongue or licking your nose. We often consider such abilities genetic; you can either do them naturally or not at all. But is this actually correct? If you wanted to, could you train yourself to wiggle your ears?

Animals such as dogs, cats, horses, and rabbits, can move their ears to focus on certain sounds. This ability is useful for avoiding predators and finding food. For instance, cats have 32 muscles in each ear. The ears and eyes often work in sync which allows them to focus more intensely on "auditory or visual stimuli."

But why can some people wiggle their ears? Research suggests that, while everyone can move their ears to some extent, some people have traits that allow them to wiggle their ears more easily than others.

There has been very little research into whether the ability to wiggle one's ears is hereditary, but one study, carried out in 1949, seems to suggest that someone is more likely to be able to move their ears if one of their parents can do it as well. The study, which assessed the ear-wiggling abilities of 174 people, found that almost three in four

(74%) people who could move their ears, had a parent who possessed the same ability.

But can you learn to wiggle your ears? Some scientists believe that, if someone is willing to put in the hours, they could learn to wiggle their ears voluntarily, just like comedy icon Mr. Bean.

Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about the text:

(1) According to the first paragraph, how can the ability to wiggle one's ears be used?

- a. It can be used to train oneself.
- b. It can be used to entertain people.
- c. It can be used for scientific studies.

(2) According to the second paragraph, what do rabbits and horses have in common?

- a. The ability to move their ears.
- b. They are the same as cats and dogs.
- c. They are predators.

(3) The number 32 in the second paragraph stands for _____.

- a. cats
- b. muscles
- c. sounds

(4) Some people have _____ that allow them to wiggle their ears more easily than others.

- a. researchers

- b. parents
- c. **characteristics**

(5) The subject of ear wiggling was not researched _____.

- a. **enough**
- b. again
- c. already

(6) 174 people _____ in the study.

- a. researched
- b. **participated**
- c. suggested

Vocabulary

(1) Circle the one word that doesn't belong to the group in each line:

- 1. tongue, ear, **man**, nose, hand
- 2. rabbit, **fur**, horse, dog, cat
- 3. shake, move, **learn**, wiggle, turn

(2) Mark TRUE or FALSE next to each sentence.

- 1. "Ability" and "skill" are synonyms. **TRUE**
- 2. "To train yourself" means "to drive a train". **FALSE**
- 3. The word "predator" refers to an animal. **TRUE**
- 4. Something that is "hereditary" is something you are born with. **TRUE**
- 5. The phrase "in sync" means "very fast". **FALSE**
- 6. "Study" and "research" are synonyms. **TRUE**
- 7. To "carry out" something means to leave it on the street. **FALSE**

Grammar

(1) Fill in the missing verbs:

- a. Danny can't _____ (to roll) his tongue.
- b. I can _____ (to do) that naturally.
- c. She _____ (to know) someone who can (to wiggle) his ears.
- d. Cats can _____ (to move) their ears easily.
- e. They can't _____ (to understand) the finding of the study.
- f. I can't _____ (to believe) what I _____ (to hear).

Answers:

- a. Danny can't roll his tongue.
- b. I can do that naturally.
- c. She knows someone who can wiggle his ears.
- d. Cats can move their ears easily.
- e. They can't understand the findings of the study.
- f. I can't believe what I hear.

(2) Use the question words in brackets to rewrite each sentence as a QUESTION:

- a. You can train yourself to wiggle your ears. (**how**)
- b. Animals such as dogs can move their ears. (**which**)
- c. This ability is useful for avoiding predators and finding food. (**what**)
- d. Cats have 32 muscles in each ear. (**how many**)
- e. The ability to wiggle one's ears is hereditary. (**what**)
- f. More than 100 people participated in the study. (**how many**)

g. Some people can wiggle their ears voluntarily. (**how**)

h. Mr. Bean is a comedy icon? (**who**)

Answers:

a. How can you train yourself to wiggle your ears?

b. Which animal can wiggle its ears?

c. What is this ability useful for?

d. How many muscles do cats have in one ear?

e. What is hereditary?

f. How many people participated in the study?

g. How can some people wiggle their ears?

h. Who is Mr. Bean?