

## Big ears: they really do grow as we age

By Stephen Moss  
The Guardian  
July 2013

lexical words with different pronunciation  
lexical words with reduced syllables to /ə/  
grammatical words with strong and weak forms

MP-turned-pundit Matthew Parris is fretting about a very big subject – his ears. In his column in the Times this week, he said that as he has got older his ears have got larger. "They started quite big and now it's becoming embarrassing," he complained. "Are there any pills you can take to shrink them? Never mind penis enlargement. I'm looking for ear reduction."

Parris may not realise it, but he was writing on the 20th anniversary of one of the first scientific studies of ear size. Anecdotaly, it had always been felt that old blokes tended to have bigger ears than everyone else. In July 1993, James Heathcote, a GP in Bromley, and a group of his colleagues set out to test the observation. They measured the ears of a randomly selected group of 206 of their patients over the age of 30, and calculated that ears increased by an average of 0.22mm per year – a centimetre (or just under half an inch) over 50 years.

Several reasons have been adduced for the growth. Ears (and indeed noses) sag with age, thanks both to a loss of elasticity in the skin and to the effects of gravity. Earlobes droop, a phenomenon that can be accentuated by heavy earrings. More controversially, it has been suggested that because, unlike bone, cartilage continues to grow and ears are made of cartilage, that may also account for the phenomenon. But the evidence is sketchy, and some researchers argue that cartilage is only being replaced and does not account for the growth in ear size.

The good news for Parris is that plastic surgery can halt much of the drooping, and "lobe jobs" are increasingly common – a snip at a couple of grand. At the moment, it is mainly women who are having it done, to reverse the effects of a lifetime of dangly earrings, but men are sure to follow. Over to you, Matthew. Ear today, gone tomorrow.

do vs. make  
= robiť

## Real loneliness can **do** serious damage

By Aditya Chakraborty  
The Guardian  
December 2009

(u)robiť, dokončiť, uspieť,  
postačovať, (od)sedieť (si)  
v base, pomocné sloveso atď.

sezónny, týkajúci sa  
roč. obdobia

nad, viac ako (over 55)  
na (put a cloth o. the table)  
cez (bridge o. the river)  
za (over the river)

minúť, stráviť

Half a million pensioners will **spend** Christmas Day alone, while nearly three in five people

vidieť, navštíviť

viac, ešte (three  
more)

preposition  
**over** 55

will be wishing they could **see more** of their family. This isn't just a **seasonal** or British

niektorý, žiadny, každý nablízku, okolo, približne

♀♂

ľudia, národ

phenomenon. At **any** given time, **around** one in five **Americans** – 60 million **people** – **feel** so

isolated that it **makes** them seriously unhappy.

urobiť  
donútiť  
zarobiť  
stihnúť, etc.

preč, od-  
put away – odpratať  
look away – odvrátiť zrak  
boil away odpariť sa

cítiť  
myslieť si – this is, I feel, a mistake  
mať názor – I feel strongly about it  
siahať na

povedať, uznať – I'll say  
this for sb., ukázať – the  
clock says 3 o'clock

minulý, posledný

prísť, pokročiť – c. a long  
way, predávať sa – c. cheap

That **last** statistic **comes** from a new book called Loneliness, co-written by John Cacioppo, a

♀♂

bolest', otrava

pocit, bolest', hryzenie

**neuroscientist**. He **says** social **pain** is akin to physical pain. That occasional **pang** of isolation – the

zvlášť,  
nepárny,  
občasný

večer, noc

♀♂

**odd** Saturday **night** when none of your **friends** are around – is no more than a prompt to socialise, in

cesta, spôsob

horiaci, páliaci

popud, ostroha

ruka, hand/arm

panvica, kastról

pravidelný  
bežný  
obyčajný

the same **way** that **burning** skin is a **spur** to **get** your **hand away** from that frying **pan**. It's **regular**

dostať, doniesť, pochopiť, etc.

napätie, prizvuk

vysoký, nafetovaný,  
silný (vieter)

chronic loneliness that does the serious **damage**: increased **stress** levels, **higher** blood pressure,

škoda: damage,  
shame/pity

♀♂

o, vôkol, približne

disrupted sleep – all the way to accelerated dementia. Many **pensioners** who complain **about** not

seeing enough of their loved ones might end up in this category.

mať, pomocné sloveso,  
musieť – have to,  
hovoriť sa – rumour has it,  
dať si – have a drink, shower

navzájom,  
each other/one another

Loneliness is contagious, **even between** people who don't **have** direct contact with **each**

medzi, between/among

dokonca, ešte – e.  
more, hoci – e. though

♀♂

viest', vykonať, dirigovať

nájsť, zistiť

♀♂

**other**. A study of nearly 5,000 Massachusetts **residents** **conducted over** 10 years **found** that a **friend**

of a lonely person was 52% more likely to **develop** feelings of social rejection.

vyvinúť (sa)  
vyvolať (fotografiu)

po  
počas  
viac, ako  
nad

***Buzz-ing* flies more *like-ly* to wake men than *cry-ing* babies.**

*The Telegraph*  
November 2009

phonetic  
morphological  
semantic

Men are more likely to be **woken up** by the sound of a buzzing fly or **howl-ing** wind than by a crying baby, new **re-search** shows.

**How-ever** for **wo-men**, whether or not they are mothers, there is no other noise more likely to **stop** them sleeping than that of a **wail-ing in-fant**, **a-ccord-ing** to **scienti-fic** tests **measuring** brain **act-iv-ity**. The **re-sults** of the **study** into which sounds most **dis-rupt** the usual **patterns** of activity in the brain **sug-gest** a **mark-ed dif-fer-ence** in the sexes. For men, the sound that most stops them sleeping is a **car alarm going off** **near-by**, followed by the howling of the wind and the buzzing of a fly.

29 **per cent** of all adults suffer a **dis-turb-ed** night's sleep **be-tween** five and seven nights a week and a **further** 27 per cent are woken up once or twice a week. Asked what **keeps** them **a-wake**, 54 per cent of women said it was their partner's **snor-ing** and one in ten said they were kept awake by **flat-mates** or others **having** sexual **inter-course**. One in three (33 per cent) of both men and women **have** moved to a spare room **just** to **get** some sleep. Other sounds which disturb both men and women are that of **drunk-en row-di-ness**, often from a nearby pub at **clos-ing** time or **late** night **re-vell-ers out-side** their home.

There is **no-thing** more likely to **leave** you feeling **drain-ed** and **de-press-ed** than disturbed sleep, **especial-ly** when this happens **over** several nights. While some sounds, for instance your partner **coughing** or snoring **be-side** you, disturb men and women **equal-ly**, other noises such as a howling wind cause men to be more disturbed than women. Women are more likely to be disturbed by a crying baby. These **differ-ing sensitiv-ities** may **re-present** **evolution-ary** differences that **make** women sensitive to sounds **a-ssociated** with a **potenti-al** threat to their children **while** men are **more finely tuned** to **dis-turb-ances** **posing** a **poss-ible** threat to the whole family.

**Exercise 1.** Divide these words into morphemes. Distinguish between derivational and inflectional morphemes.

R=root, D=derivational morpheme, I=inflectional morpheme

- (a) in-alien-able DRD  
 (b) multi-cultur-al-ism DRDD  
 (c) (re-generat)-ing DRI (Latin *re-generatus*: again + produce)  
 (d) un-(com-plet)-ed DDRD (Latin *com-plere*: intensive prefix + to fill) – to fill up  
 (e) dis-abiliti-es DRI (Latin *habilitas*: apt)  
 (f) (re-presentat)-ion-al DRDD (Latin *re-praesentare*: again + to place before/show)  
 (g) hippo-potamus RR (Greek *hippos* + *potamos*: horse + river)  
 (h) like-li-er RDI  
 (i) up-and-com-ing RRRD  
 (j) (im-pulse)-s DRI (Latin *im-pulsus*: into + to push/drive)

- (a) re-ceive, re-decor/ate, re-gret, re-direct, re-cord, re-cover, re-fill, re-pair, re-do, re-turn  
 (b) dis-arm, dis-favour, dis-charge, dis-close, dis-cover, dis-order, dis-pose, dis-con/nect  
 (c) de-capit-ate, de-cide, de-code, de-(con-struct), de-fend, de-forest, de-molish, de-hydr/ate  
 (d) morn-ing, open-ing, ceil-ing, build-ing, feel-ing  
 (e) stat-ion, ex/cept-ion, re/bell-ion, simulat-ion, ad/opt-ion  
 (f) un-certain, un-til, un-couth, un-fair, un-luck-y  
 (g) cult-ure, fail-ure, signat-ure, depart-ure, pict-ure, pleas-ure

Old French: ure, Latin: -ura