

## Fun brain facts

- The average human brain weighs about 1.25kg or 3lbs.
- The brain feels a bit like firm jelly or tofu.
- Each brain contains nearly 100 billion neurons (a one followed by 11 zeroes).
- The most precise estimate is 86-billion neurons (nearly half as many as stars in the milky-way, which is estimated to be 200-400 billion).<sup>1</sup>
- Each neuron has tens of thousands of connections with other neurons, so there are trillions of connections (synapses) in total.
- All the neurons in a single human brain generate enough electricity to power a lightbulb when you are awake (12-25 Watts).
- No computer can come close to the brain's ability. In fact, neurons create and send more messages than all the phones in the entire world.
- Your brain controls everything you do.
- Your brain is about 75% water.
- The fastest signals travel through your neurons at about 250mph (400 kph), which is faster than Formula 1 race cars (~240mph).
- Every minute, 750-1000 millilitres of blood flow through the brain, enough to fill a bottle of water.
- Your brain triples in size in the first year of life, and then shrinks from middle age.
- Your brain is only 2% of your weight but requires 20% of your total energy, oxygen, and blood.
- The right side of your brain controls muscles on the left side of your body and vice versa.
- The brain produces half a cup (over 100 millilitres) of fluid (CSF Cerebrospinal fluid) every day.
- The brain's memory capacity is far more powerful than any existing computer, even the fastest super-computers.
- The brain is not hard-wired or static, it's very plastic and changes all the time.

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://www.nature.com/scitable/blog/brain-metrics/are\\_there\\_really\\_as\\_many/](https://www.nature.com/scitable/blog/brain-metrics/are_there_really_as_many/)