

01. The sentences and phrases below were taken from the text “**Bringing Up a Better Baby.**”
Read the text and number the sentences according to the spaces where they belong. Number one has already been done for you.

- () learns better than every adult
- () he's happy, he says, as long as parents are convinced
- (**1**) the famous American pediatrician
- () What does Dr. Benjamin Spock think
- () by an American called Glenn Doman
- () Show the cards to your infant five or six times a day, simultaneously reciting the word written on each one

BRINGING UP A BETTER BABY (AND GOODBYE DR. SPOCK)

Dr. Benjamin Spock, 1, reassured several generations of anxious parents in his best selling *Baby and Child Care*. He wrote ‘Your baby is born to be a reasonable friendly human being’. Today’s parents are not sure this is enough. There is a growing number of American professional parents with obsessive ambitions for their children. They are dedicating their lives to creating brilliant children. The Age of Spock is over! Why have a merely ‘normal’ baby when you can have an improved model, a Better Baby? In the world of baby care, common sense has given way to competition and connoisseurship.

The Better Baby Institute

This was founded 2. Four to six times a year the Institute opens its doors to a group of about eighty parents who have paid \$490 each for a seven-day seminar entitled ‘How to multiply your baby’s intelligence’. After studying children for over forty years, Doman has developed an apparently brilliant, internally consistent, and completely idiosyncratic brand of science that commingles developmental psychology, neurology and anthropology. He introduces the parents to his ‘89 Cardinal Facts for Making Any Baby into a Superb Human Being’.

Cardinal Fact No.6: ‘Our individual genetic potential is that of Leonardo da Vinci, Mozart, Michelangelo, Edison and Einstein.’

Doman claims that up until the age of six, when brain growth slows, a child’s intellectual and physical abilities will increase in direct proportion to stimulation. Thus any child, given the proper stimuli, can become the next Leonardo.

Cardinal Fact No. 26: ‘Tiny kids would rather learn than eat.’

Doman claims that they’d rather learn Greek than baby talk, since higher orders of complexity offer more stimulation. He makes the average adult seem like a tree sloth in comparison with a two-year-old. ‘Every kid,’ he asserts, ‘3’. Parents at the Better Baby Institute learn to regard their mewling puking infants not so much with respect as awe.

So the question is now one of technique. How can parents create the kind of brain growth that leads to expertise in reading, math, gymnastics, and the like? Say you want to teach your six-month-old how to read. Write down a series of short, familiar words in large, clear letters on flashcards. 4. With his extraordinary retentive powers he’ll soon be learning hundreds of words, then phrases. The idea is to try to treat the baby’s mind as a sponge. By the age of

three, Doman guarantees, your child will be entertaining himself and amazing your friends by reading 'everything in sight'. In like manner he can learn to perform staggering mathematical stunts, or to distinguish and thoughtfully analyze the works of the Great Masters or the classical composers.

Doman declines to prove his claims to the scientific community; ____ **5** _____. These Professional Mothers (it is usually the mother) turn out to be paragons. Attractive young Mrs. DiBattista printed up 9,000 flashcards for five-year-old Michael. Stout, solemn Mrs. Pereira patiently explained that she 'took time off' from her all-day routine of teaching eleven-year-old Josh to devote several weeks exclusively to making Josh's French and Spanish flashcards for the coming year. Wasn't Josh lonely? 'No', his proud mother replied. He was 'socially excellent'.

____ **6** ____ of the better baby phenomenon? Like most octogenarians he thinks the world has gone to hell; he argues that competitive pressures are causing a very negative psychic effect on most Americans, especially young people, and blames 'excessive competitiveness' for the extraordinary rise in teenage suicide over the last twenty years. Efforts to improve infants' cognitive abilities only prove to him that the scramble for success has finally invaded the cradle.

(Adapted from an article in *Harper's and Queen*, March 1986)

02. Join the sentences using relative pronouns.

Example: I) Dr. Benjamin Spock reassured several generations of anxious parents in his best selling *Baby and Child Care*.

II) He is a famous American pediatrician.



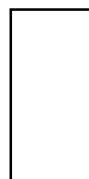
Dr. Benjamin Spock, **who** is a famous American pediatrician, reassured several generations of anxious parents in his best selling *Baby and Child Care*.

(A) Glenn Doman founded *The Better Baby Institute*.

The *Institute's* main goal is to multiply babies' intelligence.

(B) Most American parents don't want only normal children.

These parents reject Dr. Spock's suggestions.



- (C) Doman declines to prove his claims to the scientific community.
The scientific community do not confirm Doman's claims.

- (D) Doman founded *The Better Baby Institute* in the United States.
There is a lot of competition in the United States.

- (E) In the past, Dr. Spock was much more considered by most American parents.
Dr. Spock used to sell a lot of books.

03. Considering the content of the text, write appropriate questions for the following answers.

Example: Around the age of six.

⇒ When does the brain growth start to slow?

- (A) _____?

Glenn Doman did.

- (B) _____?

Because, in his opinion, excessive competitiveness may rise teenage suicide.

- (C) _____?

His theory is that the child's mind is like a sponge.

- (D) _____?

The seminars are offered 4 to 6 times a year.

- (E) _____?

No, he doesn't. Like most octagenarians he thinks the world has gone to hell.



04. Write the words into the correct order to form sentences.

(A) development / increase / that / Doman / can / intellectual / over-stimulation / believes / child's

(B) professional / usually / a lot of / mothers / children / spend / stimulating / their / time

(C) by / Doman's / none / is / of / claims / confirmed / scientists

(D) for / states / has / that / the / cradle / struggle / success / invaded / the / Dr. Spock

(E) society standards of success / very anxious to / their / according to / bring / parents / are / children

05. Fill in with one of the following logical connectors. Use each word only once:

although / however / in order to / therefore / in spite of

The society has achieved a complex competition level that makes parents want to make their babies into super human beings. (a) _____, they should take into account that this pressure for success may bring about stressful experiences to children and (b) _____ do them more harm than good. (c) _____ evidences, parents still prefer to submit their children to these pressures (d) _____ make them fit into a society whose model for success is competition. (e) _____ it is the parents who have the capacity to judge what is best for their children, scientists give themselves the right to express their opinion and help parents think about the question.

06. Replace the underlined words by appropriate **pronouns**.

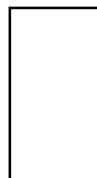
(A) “Dr. Benjamin Spock reassured several generations of anxious parents...”

(B) “Four to six times a year the Institute opens its doors...”

(C) “He introduces the parents to his *89 Cardinal Facts*...”

(D) “... Josh’s French and Spanish flashcards...”

(E) “Efforts to improve infants’ cognitive abilities only prove to him that the scramble for success has finally invaded the cradle.”



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