

Pain Research

B2 Reading, Vocabulary & Grammar Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part 1: New Words & Phrasal Verbs

Read the words and their meanings.

Word / Phrasal Verb	Meaning
embedded	firmly and deeply fixed within something
pinpointed	identified something exactly and precisely
painstaking	done with great care and thoroughness
calibrated	carefully adjusted to be precise or accurate
fall short	to fail to reach a required standard or expectation
home in on	to focus attention on something with increasing precision
stumble upon	to discover something by chance, without looking for it
scale up	to increase the size or extent of something
get carried away	to become too excited or enthusiastic and lose good judgment
write off	to dismiss something as a failure or not worth further consideration

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Part 2: Reading

This text uses the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd conditionals. Read the text.

Chronic pain remains one of medicine's most stubborn challenges, and conventional treatments often fall short for patients whose pain has become deeply embedded in the brain's own circuitry. If existing therapies worked reliably for everyone, deep brain stimulation wouldn't be attracting so much research attention right now.

Scientists at Stanford have recently rolled out a more personalized approach to this problem. Rather than relying on a one-size-fits-all method, researchers set out to map each patient's unique pain signature before intervening. If doctors hadn't taken this individualized route, the treatment might never have produced such striking results.

The process itself is painstaking. Electrodes are temporarily implanted, and over several days, clinicians work through dozens of possible target sites, homing in on the exact region driving each patient's pain. If they stumbled upon the wrong spot, the stimulation would do little to ease the discomfort — precision is everything.

Three patients took part in the initial trial, all of whom had lived with severe, treatment-resistant pain for years. Once the right targets had been pinpointed, doctors switched on carefully calibrated electrical pulses. The patients reported a significant drop in pain almost immediately, and researchers say the approach could eventually be scaled up to help far more people.

Still, experts caution against getting carried away. If this method turns out to work as well in larger trials, it could reshape how chronic pain is treated altogether. But if researchers rush the process without gathering enough evidence, the treatment risks being written off before it has a fair chance to prove itself.

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Part 3: Vocabulary Practice — Match the word to the meaning

Write the correct letter in the blank.

Word		Meaning
1. embedded	___	A. to focus attention on something with increasing precision
2. pinpointed	___	B. to fail to reach a required standard or expectation
3. painstaking	___	C. to discover something by chance, without looking for it
4. calibrated	___	D. carefully adjusted to be precise or accurate
5. fall short	___	E. to become too excited or enthusiastic and lose good judgment
6. home in on	___	F. done with great care and thoroughness
7. stumble upon	___	G. to increase the size or extent of something
8. scale up	___	H. to dismiss something as a failure or not worth further consideration
9. get carried away	___	I. identified something exactly and precisely
10. write off	___	J. firmly and deeply fixed within something

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Part 4: Synonyms (same meaning)

Circle the option with the same meaning.

1. Which option means the same as "embedded"?

☐ A) loose

☐ B) fixed

☐ C) visible

2. Which option means the same as "painstaking"?

☐ A) thorough

☐ B) quick

☐ C) careless

3. Which option means the same as "calibrated"?

☐ A) precise

☐ B) random

☐ C) broken

4. Which option means the same as "pinpointed"?

☐ A) ignored

☐ B) guessed

☐ C) identified exactly

5. Which option means the same as "fall short"?

☐ A) succeed

☐ B) fail to meet

☐ C) exceed

Part 5: Antonyms (opposite meaning)

Circle the word with the opposite meaning.

1. Which word means the opposite of "embedded"?

☐ A) fixed

☐ B) loose

☐ C) deep

2. Which word means the opposite of "painstaking"?

☐ A) careless

☐ B) thorough

☐ C) detailed

3. Which word means the opposite of "calibrated"?

☐ A) precise

☐ B) accurate

☐ C) random

4. Which word means the opposite of "scale up"?

☐ A) increase

☐ B) reduce

☐ C) expand

5. Which word means the opposite of "fall short"?

☐ A) fail

☐ B) miss

☐ C) succeed

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Part 6: Grammar — Which conditional is used?

Read each sentence from the text. Circle 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Conditional.

1. "If this method turns out to work as well in larger trials, it could reshape how chronic pain is treated."

☐ A) 2nd Conditional

☐ B) 1st Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

2. "If researchers rush the process without gathering enough evidence, the treatment risks being written off."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 3rd Conditional

☐ C) 2nd Conditional

3. "If existing therapies worked reliably for everyone, deep brain stimulation wouldn't be attracting so much research attention."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 3rd Conditional

☐ C) 2nd Conditional

4. "If they stumbled upon the wrong spot, the stimulation would do little to ease the discomfort."

☐ A) 2nd Conditional

☐ B) 1st Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

5. "If doctors hadn't taken this individualized route, the treatment might never have produced such striking results."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

6. "If researchers had rushed the process, the treatment would have been written off immediately."

☐ A) 2nd Conditional

☐ B) 3rd Conditional

☐ C) 1st Conditional

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Part 7: Grammar — Choose the correct verb form

1. If this method ____ to work well in larger trials, it could reshape treatment.

☐ A) turn

☐ B) turned

☐ C) turns

2. If researchers ____ the process, the treatment risks being written off.

☐ A) rush

☐ B) rushed

☐ C) had rushed

3. If existing therapies ____ reliably, DBS wouldn't attract so much attention.

☐ A) work

☐ B) worked

☐ C) had worked

4. If they ____ upon the wrong spot, the stimulation would do little.

☐ A) stumble

☐ B) had stumbled

☐ C) stumbled

5. If doctors ____ this individualized route, the treatment might never have worked.

☐ A) hadn't taken

☐ B) don't take

☐ C) didn't take

6. If researchers ____ the process, the treatment would have been written off immediately.

☐ A) rush

☐ B) had rushed

☐ C) rushed

7. If the results ____ consistent, more hospitals will adopt the method.

☐ A) stayed

☐ B) had stayed

☐ C) stay

8. If clinicians ____ more time, they could refine the technique further.

☐ A) had

☐ B) have

☐ C) had had

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Part 8: Grammar — Change the conditional

1. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If the trial succeeds, doctors will expand the study."

- ☐ A) If the trial succeeded, doctors will expand the study.
- ☐ B) If the trial succeeded, doctors would expand the study.
- ☐ C) If the trial succeeds, doctors would expand the study.

2. Change to 3rd Conditional: "If clinicians rush the process, the treatment fails."

- ☐ A) If clinicians rushed the process, the treatment would fail.
- ☐ B) If clinicians rush the process, the treatment will fail.
- ☐ C) If clinicians had rushed the process, the treatment would have failed.

3. Change to 1st Conditional: "If doctors had taken more time, the results would have been clearer."

- ☐ A) If doctors take more time, the results will be clearer.
- ☐ B) If doctors took more time, the results will be clearer.
- ☐ C) If doctors take more time, the results would be clearer.

4. Change to 3rd Conditional: "If researchers stumble upon a better method, they publish immediately."

- ☐ A) If researchers stumbled upon a better method, they would publish immediately.
- ☐ B) If researchers had stumbled upon a better method, they would have published immediately.
- ☐ C) If researchers stumble upon a better method, they will publish immediately.

5. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If the treatment scales up successfully, it will help thousands more patients."

- ☐ A) If the treatment had scaled up successfully, it would have helped thousands more patients.
- ☐ B) If the treatment scales up successfully, it will help thousands more patients.
- ☐ C) If the treatment scaled up successfully, it would help thousands more patients.

Part 9: Word Scramble

These sentences are long and complex. Put the words in the correct order. Write the full sentence.

1. remains / Chronic / pain / one / of / medicine's / most / stubborn / challenges, / and / conventional / treatments / often / fall / short / for / patients.

Your sentence: _____

2. set / Researchers / out / to / map / each / patient's / unique / pain / signature / before / intervening.

Your sentence: _____

3. work / Clinicians / through / dozens / of / possible / target / sites, / homing / in / on / the / exact / region / driving / each / patient's / pain.

Your sentence: _____

4. took / Three / patients / part / in / the / initial / trial, / all / of / whom / had / lived / with / severe, / treatment-resistant / pain / for / years.

Your sentence: _____

5. caution / Experts / against / getting / carried / away, / since / the / treatment / could / still / be / written / off / if / evidence / remains / limited.

Your sentence: _____

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Part 10: Dialogue — Complete the conversation

Priya and Dan discuss the new pain research. Circle the best word or phrase for each blank.

Priya: Have you seen this new pain research from Stanford?

Dan: Yes! Apparently conventional treatments often ____ (1) ____ for patients with deeply embedded pain.

Priya: If doctors ____ (2) ____ this individualized approach, the treatment might never have worked so well.

Dan: True. Clinicians really had to ____ (3) ____ the exact brain region causing the pain.

Priya: I read they sometimes ____ (4) ____ the right spot completely by accident early in testing.

Dan: If the results ____ (5) ____ consistent, they'll expand the trial to more patients.

Priya: I hope they don't ____ (6) ____ and rush the process too fast.

Dan: Agreed. If they rushed it, the whole approach could be ____ (7) ____ before it's properly tested.

Priya: Let's hope they can eventually ____ (8) ____ it to help many more people.

1. Blank 1

☐ A) work well

☐ B) succeed

☐ C) fall short

2. Blank 2

☐ A) hadn't taken

☐ B) didn't take

☐ C) don't take

3. Blank 3

☐ A) write off

☐ B) home in on

☐ C) scale up

4. Blank 4

- ☐ A) written off
- ☐ B) scaled up
- ☐ C) stumbled upon

5. Blank 5

- ☐ A) stay
- ☐ B) stayed
- ☐ C) had stayed

6. Blank 6

- ☐ A) fall short
- ☐ B) get carried away
- ☐ C) home in on

7. Blank 7

- ☐ A) scaled up
- ☐ B) stumbled upon
- ☐ C) written off

8. Blank 8

- ☐ A) scale up
- ☐ B) fall short
- ☐ C) home in on

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Answer Key

Part 3: Vocabulary Matching

1. embedded → J
2. pinpointed → I
3. painstaking → F
4. calibrated → D
5. fall short → B
6. home in on → A
7. stumble upon → C
8. scale up → G
9. get carried away → E
10. write off → H

Part 4: Synonyms

1. Which option means the same as "embedded"?

☐ A) loose

☒ B) fixed ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) visible

2. Which option means the same as "painstaking"?

☒ A) thorough ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) quick

☐ C) careless

3. Which option means the same as "calibrated"?

☒ A) precise ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) random

☐ C) broken

4. Which option means the same as "pinpointed"?

☐ A) ignored

☐ B) guessed

☒ C) identified exactly ✓ CORRECT

5. Which option means the same as "fall short"?

☐ A) succeed

☒ B) fail to meet ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) exceed

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Answer Key

Part 5: Antonyms

1. Which word means the opposite of "embedded"?

☐ A) fixed

☒ B) loose ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) deep

2. Which word means the opposite of "painstaking"?

☒ A) careless ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) thorough

☐ C) detailed

3. Which word means the opposite of "calibrated"?

☐ A) precise

☐ B) accurate

☒ C) random ✓ CORRECT

4. Which word means the opposite of "scale up"?

☐ A) increase

☒ B) reduce ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) expand

5. Which word means the opposite of "fall short"?

☐ A) fail

☐ B) miss

☒ C) succeed ✓ CORRECT

Part 6: Which Conditional is Used?

1. "If this method turns out to work as well in larger trials, it could reshape how chronic pain is treated."

☐ A) 2nd Conditional

☒ B) 1st Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

2. "If researchers rush the process without gathering enough evidence, the treatment risks being written off."

☒ A) 1st Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) 3rd Conditional

☐ C) 2nd Conditional

3. "If existing therapies worked reliably for everyone, deep brain stimulation wouldn't be attracting so much research attention."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 3rd Conditional

☒ C) 2nd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

4. "If they stumbled upon the wrong spot, the stimulation would do little to ease the discomfort."

☒ A) 2nd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) 1st Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

5. "If doctors hadn't taken this individualized route, the treatment might never have produced such striking results."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☒ C) 3rd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

6. "If researchers had rushed the process, the treatment would have been written off immediately."

☐ A) 2nd Conditional

☒ B) 3rd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) 1st Conditional

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Part 7: Correct Verb Form

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☐ A) turn

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1. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If the trial succeeds, doctors will expand the study."

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☐ B) If clinicians rush the process, the treatment will fail.

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☐ B) If the treatment scales up successfully, it will help thousands more patients.

☒ C) If the treatment scaled up successfully, it would help thousands more patients. ✓ CORRECT

Part 9: Word Scramble

1. remains / Chronic / pain / one / of / medicine's / most / stubborn / challenges, / and / conventional / treatments / often / fall / short / for / patients.

✓ Chronic pain remains one of medicine's most stubborn challenges, and conventional treatments often fall short for patients.

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✓ Researchers set out to map each patient's unique pain signature before intervening.

3. work / Clinicians / through / dozens / of / possible / target / sites, / homing / in / on / the / exact / region / driving / each / patient's / pain.

✓ Clinicians work through dozens of possible target sites, homing in on the exact region driving each patient's pain.

4. took / Three / patients / part / in / the / initial / trial, / all / of / whom / had / lived / with / severe, / treatment-resistant / pain / for / years.

✓ Three patients took part in the initial trial, all of whom had lived with severe, treatment-resistant pain for years.

5. caution / Experts / against / getting / carried / away, / since / the / treatment / could / still / be / written / off / if / evidence / remains / limited.

✓ Experts caution against getting carried away, since the treatment could still be written off if evidence remains limited.

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Answer Key

Part 10: Dialogue

1. Blank 1

☐ A) work well

☐ B) succeed

☒ C) fall short ✓ CORRECT

2. Blank 2

☒ A) hadn't taken ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) didn't take

☐ C) don't take

3. Blank 3

☐ A) write off

☒ B) home in on ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) scale up

4. Blank 4

☐ A) written off

☐ B) scaled up

☒ C) stumbled upon ✓ CORRECT

5. Blank 5

☒ A) stay ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) stayed

☐ C) had stayed

6. Blank 6

☐ A) fall short

☒ B) get carried away ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) home in on

7. Blank 7

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☐ B) stumbled upon

☒ C) written off ✓ CORRECT

8. Blank 8

☒ A) scale up ✓ CORRECT

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