

**INTRODUCTION - SECTION 2**  
**WHAT DOES THE ALPHABETICAL**  
**BRAIN™ SYMBOL MEAN?**

**February 9, 2020**

The **Alphabetical Brain™ Symbol** represents the unique relationship between your brain and the 26 letters of the American English alphabet. The symbol stands for the importance of understanding the relationship between your brain's physical structures and your mind's mental functions in a new linguistic context. It explains what causes your conscious self-awareness.

The three-pounds of brain tissue in your skull is the most complex organic matter in the universe! And the 26 letters of the alphabet enable you to create complex meaningful thoughts to control your complex unique emotions in all kinds of situations in which you are involved.

Then you will be able to assert your ability to make wise decisions with your malleable brainpower (mental force). This process of mental growth and self-empowerment can change on a daily basis as you improve your life throughout your life.

**LANGUAGE SKILLS AND**  
**CONSCIOUS SELF-AWARENESS**

The alphabetical way of organizing information is the primary way that human beings invented throughout history to provide the maximum brainpower needed to manage complex civilized thoughts and feelings. The profound role that the alphabet and language skills have played in human history is described below.

It is important to realize and remember that because of our stable alphabet and ever-changing vocabulary, our ability to communicate is extremely versatile and very adaptive, just like human beings!

The ten books in the following information box describe the tremendous influence that the human invention of the alphabet has had on human culture and human consciousness. Expert professional linguists and modern historians all agree that our alphabet and expansive global language communication process are humanity's greatest invention.

The fact that just **26 alphabetical letters** became so adaptable that they could become the hundreds of "**sound bits**" that are necessary for our contemporary democratic empire is truly astonishing. They have represented a virtually unlimited number of ideas in hundreds of different languages throughout the world over thousands of years: but history did not have the scientific brain vocabulary that we have today!

Notice the publication data for the following *ten books* in the information box, including the *first five books* which have detailed outlines and descriptions. How many of these books did you read when they were first published or have read since then?

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Book 1:

**ALPHA BETA:**

How 26 Letters Shaped  
the Western World

by John Man.

Barnes & Noble Books,

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Book 2:

**HOW LANGUAGE BEGAN:**

The Story of Humanity's  
Greatest Invention

by Daniel L. Everett.

Liveright/W.W. Norton, 2017

(i-xviii, 330 pages)

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**Book 3:**  
**LANGUAGE:**  
The Cultural Tool  
by Daniel Leonard Everett.  
Pantheon Books, 2012 (351 pages)

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Book 4:  
**LETTER PERFECT:**  
the Marvelous History of  
Our Alphabet from A to Z  
by David Sacks.  
Broadway Books,  
2004 (416 pages)

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Book 5:  
**THE LETTER AND THE COSMOS:**  
How the Alphabet has Shaped  
the Western View of the World  
by Laurence de Looze.  
University of Toronto Press,  
2016 (218 pages)

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Book 6:  
**THE TALKING APE:**  
How Language Evolved  
by Robbins Burling.  
Oxford, 2005  
(i-ix, 286 pages)

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Book 7:  
**THE TALKING BABY:**  
Helping Your Child Discover Language  
by Margaret MacLagan and Anne  
Buckley. Finch, 2016  
(i-viii, 183 pages)

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Book 8:  
**THE ORIGIN OF LANGUAGE:**  
Tracing the Evolution  
of the Mother Tongue  
by Merritt Ruthlen.  
John Wiley & Sons,  
1994 (i-xi, 239 pages)

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Book 9:  
**ADAM'S TONGUE:**  
How Humans Made Language,  
How Language Made Humans  
by Derek Bickerton.  
Hill and Wang/Farrar, Straus  
and Giroux, 2009 (237 pages)

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**Book 10:**  
**THE STORY OF WRITING:**  
Alphabets, Hieroglyphs & Pictograms  
by Andrew Robinson.  
Thames & Hudson, 2007 2nd ed,  
1995 (235 pages)

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A robust *alphabet* was required to develop the sounds and characters to symbolize the civilized thoughts and feelings of millions of diverse peoples and languages during the *past 5,200 years*. The alphabet has enabled human beings to create vast empires and to make significant discoveries and inventions all around the world.

The biggest takeaway fact is that our *language with its specific alphabet* is the greatest invention in human

history. The cumulative positive impact of our language benefits everybody alive today --- and it will continue to change and benefit all future generations!

The ten books cited above trace the fascinating facts that explain how human progress has depended upon the use of alphabets for thinking and languages for communicating in the ancient world during the *past 5,200 years*. That is when the Ancient Mesopotamians and Ancient Egyptians started using cuneiform symbols to denote numbers for trade and alphabetical symbols for communicating government rules for behavior and religious ritual spells.

As written language has grown in its complexity and intricacy, especially since the *15th and 16th centuries of the Renaissance* and the *17th and 18th centuries of the Enlightenment*, written languages have been major factors in the development of the modern world for the *past 550 years*. This process of innovation and progress was accelerated by the invention and proliferation of the **Gutenberg** printing press.

After the *moveable printing press* was invented and perfected from the *middle of the 15th century onward*, new social and technical ideas were created by larger numbers of people faster than ever before in history. The mathematical term "**exponential**" is now widely used to describe the high speed of the creation of new knowledge and the revolutionary impacts it has had on economies and technologies globally.

Within the context of the history of alphabets and the realization that language is essential for any kind of complex human conscious self-awareness, you will learn how your own "**sense of self**" depends upon how well you communicate with other people.

The quality of your socialization with real people or the way you think about imaginary people --- through reading books (literature) or seeing pictures and hearing words projected on screens of phones or tablets or computers from the internet or in theaters --- continuously makes a big impact on your definition of your own "**self.**"

The new knowledge expressed in our written language, which your brain needs for a well-rounded complete adult education in our global digital society, deals with stories remembered about the past and stories imagined about possible future experiences. But knowing that your ability to mentally focus on the immediate present is your best way to stay emotionally grounded in reality.

The new brain knowledge presented on this website includes the detailed story about the interactive neuronal connections among the dozens of major organs and hundreds of smaller organs of your brain. The new stuff emphasizes the way the tens of thousands of words in your personal vocabulary, and the hundreds of thousand words in the American English language, can influence your behavior through the one thousand trillion synaptic switches or junctions of the communication process of your 100-200 hundred billions of neurons.

You can use these *synaptic connections* to expand your self-awareness and shape your self-identity out of your knowledge of the tens of thousands of words in our English language and your many interpersonal relationships, whether intimate or otherwise.

Remember the extremely important fact that all adults experience as they grow up. New babies have no capacity for verbal language except for crying and body language in the beginning. Also, remember that older children enthusiastically seek to name things with words and to follow rules of behavior as they develop their vocabularies and intelligence and personalities.

Babies and children naturally improve their capacity to express themselves as their brains and vocabularies increase in size. This fantastic fact can be observed on a daily basis if you watch babies and children develop their own unique personalities. Their vocabularies increase as they get older.

The developmental stages of the language acquisition of babies and the achievement of their grammatical milestones are phenomenal up to age five and even beyond. However, too often we take the growth of the self-awareness of children for granted since it is such a slow persistent process of brain development over many years.

The relevance of the **Alphabetical Brain™** **Vocabulary** model for understanding the brain/mind connection is obvious when you realize that language is essential for human conscious self-awareness and a human body is essential for a person's adaptable self-identity.

This modern scientific way of thinking about the importance of language development assumes that the sum total of *real meaning* (literal) and *imaginary meaning* (metaphorical) is greater with the 15 brain ideas in your mind than with a knowledge of only a few names of disparate parts of your brain.

The customary way of speaking about the word "**brain**" is that it is the name for a very small part (only three pounds) of a human body located in the skull that controls your whole body. However, there is usually never any knowledge conveyed about how the brain actually works. This is a mindless inadequate way of thinking about the human brain and it shows a vast ignorance of modern science and reality.

In fact, the more names and definitions that you have for the many physical structures of your brain and the many mental functions of your mind, the more your mental force (brainpower) will be able to influence the quality of your decisions and the meaning of your life.

Think about how your "**personal vocabulary**" is your special *super-power*. Imagine that it can transform your self-awareness and self-identity any time you choose to use your willpower and creative imagination to improve your ability to reason.

This aspect of developing and expanding your own conscious self-awareness and that of your children should be obvious. However, language skills are often taken for granted and usually people fail to develop them further after their formal academic education. That is why critical thinking skills and critical reading strategies are emphasized on this website.

For example, the book, **COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE OF LANGUAGE**, whose bibliographic facts are in the following information box, provides ample evidence of the positive impact that language can have on the behavior of both young and old alike:

**COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE  
OF LANGUAGE**

by David Kemmerer.

Psychology Press/Taylor and French,  
2015 (599 pages)

However, in order to integrate the new brain knowledge into your own long-term memory system and to use it with your working memory system to transform your self-identity, you will need to focus on the 15 brain ideas presented on this website until they are completely learned.



You can memorize them until they become part of your unconscious habitual behavior. Then the ideas will be ready whenever you need them to augment your ***willpower*** and ***creativity***. You will be able to purposefully use your "**free will**" to optimize your intelligence and imagination to solve your problems and achieve your goals.

To conclude, this website explains how you can optimize your brain functions to reason more logically in order to achieve your goals based upon your optimistic altruistic ethical humanistic values.

The separate interactive separate "**sensory**" and "**motor**" neuronal connections within your brain's dozens of major organs and between your brain and nervous system can be understood ***only*** when you have learned the accurate scientific words necessary to describe your brain's structures and mind's functions.

The context of this new modern evidence-based reality can give you the ability to think and feel and predict the most probable outcomes of your present actions and future planning. Within this context, you can use your ***willpower*** to succeed, instead of accepting the fanciful religious and philosophical metaphorical illusions of the dismal dark past.

***What your mind can conceive, you can achieve!***

**WHY THIS MATTERS: The Alphabetical Brain™**  
**Symbol** represents the interactive connections among your brain's physical structures that cause your mind's mental functions. It symbolizes the importance of the 26 letters of the English language alphabet to human consciousness.

The symbol shows the English language alphabet curved around the top of an image of the Left Hemisphere of a human brain, which is the location of the language module in most people.

**RECOMMENDATION:** You may print this pdf version and read it and edit it by adding or deleting ideas. Then, you can read your edited version of these ideas according to a *reinforcement schedule*, such as a few hours later and a few days later and then several times in the next week or two. This strategy can help you take advantage of the power of the *spaced-repetition method of memorization*.

Such deep introspection can *change your adaptive self-identity* and *increase your self-esteem*: your feelings about your own value.