

高三英语第十三期 • 语法填空自测

限时：8 分钟

Section A

Directions: After reading the passages below, fill in the blanks to make the passages coherent and grammatically correct. For the blanks with a given word, fill in each blank with the proper form of the given word; for the other blanks, use one word that best fits each blank.

For the first time, scientists have found evidence of specific and long-lasting changes in the brains of pregnant women. The changes were measured in brain areas that are responsible for social cognition and the ability to understand the thoughts and intentions of others, __1__ (suggest) that they may intensify maternal bonding with a newborn.

The neuroimaging study, conducted in Spain, was prospective, looking at the brains of 25 first-time mothers before and after pregnancy, and again two years __2__ the women gave birth. The researchers compared the brain images of these new mothers with __3__ of 19 first-time fathers, as well as 17 men and 20 women __4__ children. The pattern of structural changes the researchers observed in the new mothers were so distinct __5__ it was possible to identify the mothers just from their brain scans. Those changes endured for at least two years, except for a partial return to its previous state in the hippocampus, __6__ brain structure heavily involved with memory.

The MRI study showed changes in gray matter, the outer layer of the brain that contains the cell bodies of neurons. The gray matter in certain areas shrunk in size after pregnancy, a phenomenon known as “gray matter pruning.” A similar shrinkage __7__ (see) in early childhood and during adolescence. The gray matter contains many interconnections among neurons, and during pruning, __8__ (important) connections are strengthened and the others are left to wither. __9__ indicating a loss of ability, pruning is generally taken to mean that a brain region has become more specialized.

The researchers also found __10__ some women had more gray matter pruning than others, and those with the most pruning seemed to bond best with their babies. “The gray matter volume changes of pregnancy significantly predicted the quality of mother-to-infant attachment and the absence of hostility toward their newborns in the postpartum period,” the authors wrote in a study published Monday in Nature Neuroscience.

答案由高三英语第十四期提供（每周一期）

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