

Do the preparation exercise first. Then, read the text about Finger science and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a – h next to the number 1 – 8.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1..... to shrink | a. the part at the end of your finger |
| 2..... to wrinkle | b. a dried plum; it is black and has many lines on its skin |
| 3..... to grip | c. to get smaller (sometimes an article of clothing can do this when you wash it) |
| 4..... treads | d. to form small lines and folds on skin or material |
| 5..... a prune | e. the lines on a tyre which help it stick to the road |
| 6..... your fingertip | f. to hold something in your hand with great force |
| 7..... your index finger | g. a small, glass ball which children play games with |
| 8..... a marble | h. the finger next to your thumb |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | When we have a bath, the tips of our fingers sometimes become covered with lines and folds. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | Wrinkled fingertips are caused by water making our skin bigger. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | The lines on wet fingers are caused by changes in blood vessels in the fingers. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Mark Changizi thinks that the lines that appear on wet fingers are connected with evolution. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | In experiments, it was discovered that people could move objects from underwater better with normal fingers. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | It is certain that wrinkled fingers are an evolutionary adaptation for wet conditions. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: gap fill

Complete the sentences with a suitable word.

1. When fingertips wrinkle, it's actually because the blood vessels in the fingers _____.
2. According to Mark Changizi, wrinkled fingers are an evolutionary adaptation that makes things easier to _____ in water.
3. Smulders said it should be easy to _____ that wrinkled fingers grip better than normal fingers.
4. Scientists are not completely sure if wrinkled fingers are an adaptation, or a side effect of something that evolved for a different _____.
5. The research suggests that wrinkled fingers may lose some _____, which is why they soon return to normal.
6. Smulders hopes that his colleagues will continue to _____ this topic.

Discussion

Do you think wrinkled fingers could be an evolutionary adaptation?

When is it an advantage to grip things in wet conditions?

Vocabulary Box

Write any new words you have learnt in this lesson.