

## **Left-handed DNA found** 科学家发现“左撇子基因”

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科学家们发现了第一个与左撇子有关的基因指令。这些指令似乎还与大脑的结构和功能密切相连，尤其是与语言有关的区域。

Around one in ten of us is **left-handed** - but why? A team at the University of Oxford analysed 400,000 people's DNA. They then compared **lefties** and **righties** in a giant game of **genetic spot-the-difference**.

每十个人中就有一人是左撇子，但这是为什么呢？牛津大学的一个研究小组分析了40万人的DNA（脱氧核糖核酸）。然后，他们通过一个基因“找不同”游戏对左撇子和习惯用右手的人进行了比较。

They found four genetic **instructions** that influenced left-handedness. These seem to work by altering how the brain develops. They're involved in building the **intricate "scaffolding"**, known as the **cytoskeleton** that organises the inside of our body's cells and **culminate in** a brain that is **wired** differently in left-handed people. Scans showed regions of the brain involved in language were better connected and more **coordinated** as a result.

他们发现了影响左撇子的四种基因指令。这些指令似乎是通过改变大脑的发育来起作用的。指令参与构建复杂的“脚手架”，即细胞骨架，它组织我们体内的细胞，最终形成一个构造有别于惯用右手的人的左撇子大脑。扫描结果显示，左撇子的大脑中与语言有关的区域连接得更好，也更协调。

The researchers speculate the findings may give left-handed people greater **verbal skills**. The study also showed slightly higher risks of **schizophrenia** and slightly lower risks of **Parkinson's disease** in left-handed people.

研究人员推测，这些发现可能证实左撇子拥有更强的语言能力。此项研究还显示，左撇子患精神分裂症的风险略高，患帕金森病的风险略低。

## 1. 词汇表

<b>left-handed</b>	惯用左手的
<b>lefties</b>	惯用左手的人
<b>righties</b>	惯用右手的人
<b>genetic</b>	基因的，遗传信息的
<b>spot-the-difference</b>	找不同
<b>instructions</b>	（基因）指令
<b>intricate</b>	错综复杂的
<b>scaffolding</b>	脚手架（这里指细胞组建）
<b>cytoskeleton</b>	细胞骨架
<b>culminate in</b>	以……告终
<b>wired</b>	（大脑的）构造
<b>coordinated</b>	协调的
<b>verbal skills</b>	言语技能

<b>schizophrenia</b>	精神分裂症
<b>Parkinson's disease</b>	帕金森病

**2. 阅读理解：**请在读完上文后，回答下列问题。（答案见下页）

1. True or false? *In every ten people, around two are left-handed.*
2. How did the researchers conduct the study?
3. Based on the scans, which regions of a left-handed person's brain were better connected and more coordinated?
4. Which word in the text means 'slightly changing or modifying'?

### 3. 答案

1. True or false? *In every ten people, around two are left-handed.*

**False. According to the text, in every ten people, around one is left-handed.**

2. How did the researchers conduct the study?

**They conducted the study by analysing 400,000 people's DNA and then comparing lefties and righties in a giant game of genetic spot-the-difference.**

3. Based on the scans, which regions of a left-handed person's brain were better connected and more coordinated?

**The regions involved in language were better connected and more coordinated, according to the scans.**

4. Which word in the text means 'slightly changing or modifying'?

**Altering. ('These seem to work by altering how the brain develops.')**