**The benefits of a bilingual brain**

You are going to watch a video authored byMia Nacamulli:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMmOLN5zBLY>

Before viewing, study the following words and expressions in the order they appear in the video:

**Across the board** – affecting all classes or categories

**Acquire** (v.) gain by efforts, learn

**Process** (v.) examine and analyze

**Compound** (adj.)– used in a combination

**Simultaneously** (adv.) – at the same time

**Coordinate** (adj.) equal in quality or significance

**Subordinate** (adj.) inferior, being of lower class or quality

**Proficient** (adj.) well advanced in some branch of knowledge

**Hemisphere** (n.) half of a spherical or roughly spherical body

**Lateralization** (n.) localization of function or activity on one side of the body in preference to the other

**Plasticity** (n.) the capacity for continuous alteration of the neural pathways and synapses of

the living brain and nervous system in response to experience or injury

**Holistic** (adj.) related to complete systems rather than with the analysis or treatment of the

parts

**Bias** (n.) a strong feeling in favor of or against one group of people, or one side of an

argument

**Neuron** (n.) a cell, a fundamental functional unit of nervous tissue

**Synapse** (n.) a connection between two nerve cells

**Onset** (n.) a beginning

**Handicap** (n.) a disadvantage that makes achievement unusually difficult

**Flawed** (adj.) having a defect or imperfection

**Dorsolateral** (adj.) relating to, or involving both the back and the sides

**Cortex** (n.) the outer part of an organ or body part

**Make a leap** jump, make dramatic progress

**Do oneself a favor** make things easier for oneself (by doing something).

Answer the following questions based on the video:

1. Which skills are measured when language proficiency is assessed?
2. Complete the following sentences:

A compound bilingual is s/he who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A coordinate bilingual is s/he who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A subordinate bilingual is s/he who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Which of them is unlikely to achieve balanced bilingualism?
2. What do neuro-linguists study?
3. What technology has improved the researchers’ understanding of bilingual brains?
4. What is the critical period hypothesis?
5. In what way do child second-language learners differ from adult learners?
6. Are you bilingual or multilingual? What type of bi/multilingualism do you belong to? Please explain.
7. Why was child bilingualism considered a handicap for a long time?
8. List all the advantages of bilingualism mentioned in the video. Are there any others you can think of?