

“Reading Series 2 - Number Sense” @ <http://www.youtube.com/ESL4free>

The author refers to “the blink of an eye” because guessing amounts..

- A. requires excellent eyesight.
- B. is common to animals and young humans.
- C. is done very quickly.
- D. is a skill humans are born with.

Reading Text - Number Sense:

Humans have a natural, intuitive grasp of numbers that varies from one person to the next and is closely linked to advanced math skills. In experiments with teenagers, scientists discovered that children whose "approximate number system" was highly developed also excelled in school-taught mathematics from an early age. This ability to roughly estimate quantities in the blink of an eye and without any training has been found in monkeys, rodents and four-month-old infants. Number sense is vitally important for all kinds of animals in such activities as maximising the search for food, finding a seat on the bus and recognising the difference between a mating call and an alarm call in a particular species of bird by the number of warbles. Previous research has shown that an innate sense of numbers is entirely controlled by a non-verbal region of the brain called the intraparietal sulcus.

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SOME WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS IN THE TEXT

Excelled: were extremely good at.
Innate: an ability that someone is born with.

Intuitive: based on feelings rather than facts.
Mating call: the sound of an animal looking for another to make love.