Scientists have discovered that addictions may be hereditary. A team from Britain’s University of Cambridge found that siblings of drug addicts share the same brain abnormalities as their drug-using brothers and sisters. The research team said these abnormal brain structures are linked to poor self-control and drug dependence. The researchers suggest that addiction is in some ways a “disorder of the brain”. This may provide important new ways into helping people with problems of self-control when it comes to addictions. The study sought to find out if drugs changed the “wiring” of the brain or whether the brains of drug addicts were wired differently from birth.

Lead researcher Dr Karen Ersche told the BBC: “It has long been known that not everyone who takes drugs becomes addicted.” She continued: “It shows that drug addiction is not a choice of lifestyle, it is a disorder of the brain and we need to recognise this. These brothers and sisters who don’t have addiction problems, what they can tell us is how they overcome these problems, how they manage self-control in their daily life.” Dr Ersche and her colleagues studied 50 pairs of siblings — one with a history of drug addiction and one with no experience of taking drugs. She compared these with 50 healthy people. She concluded: “We need to find out how these non-addicted siblings were able to resist using drugs.”

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).
   a. Scientists say that many addictions may be hereditary.  
      T / F
   b. Drug addicts can have the same brain abnormalities as their siblings.  
      T / F
   c. Abnormal brain structures usually results in better self-control.  
      T / F
   d. The study may be able to help people control themselves better.  
      T / F
   e. Everyone who takes drugs becomes addicted in some way.  
      T / F
   f. A researcher said addiction is a brain disorder and not a choice.  
      T / F
   g. The researcher said one in fifty of us are drug addicts.  
      T / F
   h. The doctor knows why some siblings of drug addicts are not addicts.  
      T / F
2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

1. discovered  
   a. get over  
2. siblings  
   b. give  
3. linked  
   c. tried  
4. provide  
   d. decision  
5. sought  
   e. brothers and sisters  
6. lead  
   f. stay away from  
7. choice  
   g. found out  
8. overcome  
   h. head  
9. colleagues  
   i. connected  
10. resist  
    j. co-workers  

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

1. Scientists have discovered that addictions  
   a. self-control  
2. the same brain  
   b. these problems  
3. linked to poor  
   c. becomes addicted  
4. find out if drugs changed the  
   d. may be hereditary  
5. wired differently  
   e. drugs  
6. not everyone who takes drugs  
   f. abnormalities  
7. drug addiction is not a choice  
   g. from birth  
8. how they overcome  
   h. of drug addiction  
9. one with a history  
   i. “wiring” of the brain  
10. resist using  
    j. of lifestyle