

# INTRODUCTION



*Welcome and  
Thank You!*

Thank you for downloading my worksheet on the Dunning-Kruger effect!

The worksheet contained is designed to help students gain both an understanding of the bias itself, as well as some ways to overcome it.

The sheet begins by using Harvard's Project Zero's thinking routine 'Take Note', which students use to consider the important concepts. From there, they move on to simple recall questions, then questions that require them to apply their new understanding creatively.

Please feel free to distribute copies of the worksheets among your students as needed either digitally or in print.

If you use this resource in your classroom, I'd love to hear how it goes! Any feedback that helps me improve the product is appreciated so don't hesitate to reach out to me at:

**Instagram:** @thesciencelens

**YouTube:** @thesciencelens

**Gmail:** thesciencelens@gmail.com

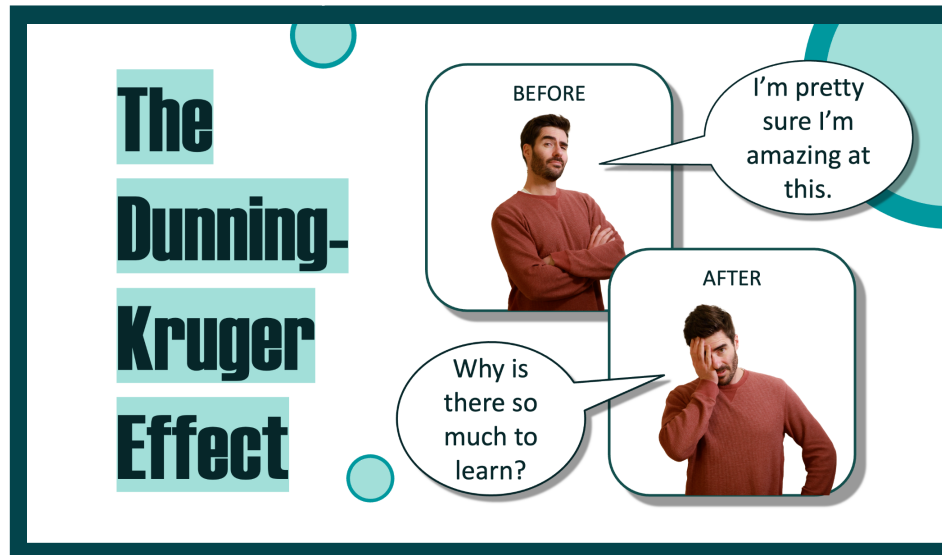
All the best!

Luke

# THE DUNNING-KRUGER EFFECT



This worksheet accompanies the YouTube video linked [here](#).



As you watch the video above, think about the questions below. You can pause the video to write down your answers or wait until the video has finished.

1. What is your biggest takeaway from the video?

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2. Is there anything you found difficult to understand?

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# THE DUNNING-KRUGER EFFECT

3. What questions would you like to discuss with your classmates or teacher?

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4. What is something that you found interesting?

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Discuss your answers to the first four questions as a group or with a partner.

5. In your own words, give a definition of the Dunning-Kruger effect.

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6. In the original study by David Dunning and Dustin Kruger:

- a. Students who were confident about how they would perform on the test performed **(the best/the worst)**.
- b. Students who were less confident about how they would perform on the test performed **(the best/the worst)**.

# THE DUNNING-KRUGER EFFECT

7. Studies have shown that around 80% of drivers consider themselves as 'above average' with regards to their driving skills. Of course, it's mathematically impossible for most people to be above average at something. Use the Dunning-Kruger effect to explain why so many people have this level of confidence in their driving ability.

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8. Sometimes when coming out of an exam students will talk to each other about how they went. If you're not confident that you did well, talking to people that *are* confident can make you feel anxious. How could you use your understanding of the Dunning-Kruger effect to make yourself feel better?

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9. How good is your vocabulary? In the space below, rate yourself as below average, average, or above average for your age group.

Below average

Average

Above average

Use [this link](#) to take Merriam-Webster's vocabulary quiz. Once you've finished the quiz, you will see a link underneath your score that says 'View Scores' where you can compare yourself to people of similar ages to you. Did you experience the Dunning-Kruger effect when predicting how well you would go?

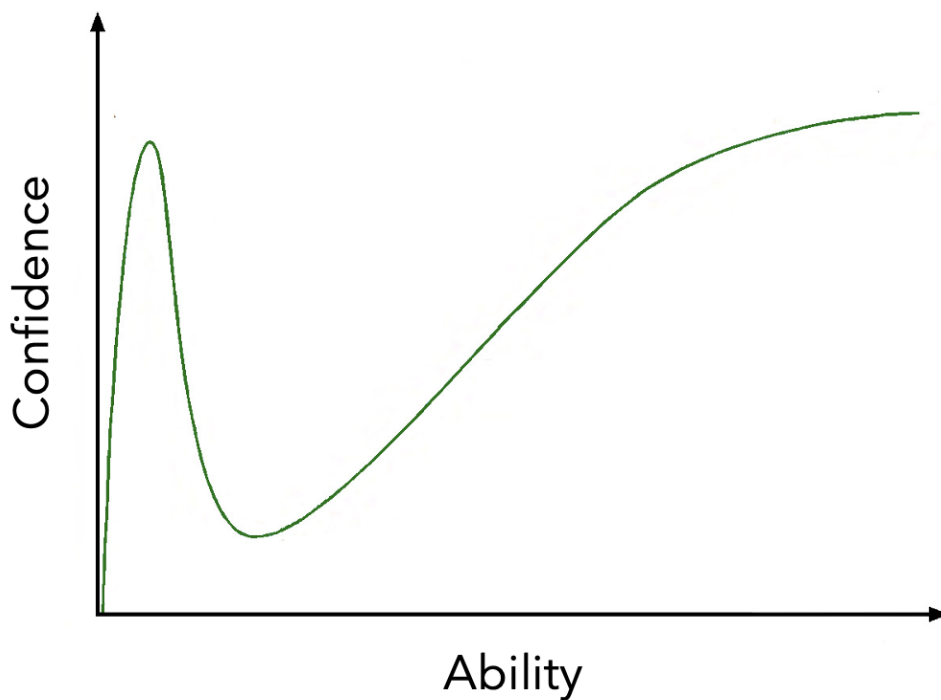
**Optional class activity** – collect data from everyone in your class. How many predicted that they have an above average vocabulary but actually have an average or below average vocabulary?

# THE DUNNING-KRUGER EFFECT

10. Two friends, Ana and Emilio, have decided to learn Italian. They both sign up for an online course and begin learning separately at home. Two weeks later, they're having coffee together and talking about their progress. Ana doesn't think that she's doing very well because she's only learned some common phrases and how to conjugate a handful of verbs. Emilio, on the other hand, says that he's crushing it. He's learned about a dozen words.

Label the graph below to show:

- a. Where both Ana and Emilio would be before they started learning Italian.
- b. Where Emilio is after learning Italian for two weeks.
- c. Where Ana is after learning Italian for two weeks.
- d. Where a native Italian speaker would be.



# THE DUNNING-KRUGER EFFECT

11. Imagine that you decided to take up photography as a hobby. You buy a camera and start an Instagram account, and you think that you're taking some really good photos, but nobody is liking or commenting on them.

a. What should you do at this point to make sure that you're not experiencing the Dunning-Kruger effect?

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b. What do you think you will need to do to prepare yourself emotionally for this process?

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12. Go online to find an example of someone speaking or writing about a topic that they don't have a qualification in. This is common on social media platforms.

a. What is the topic that they are discussing?

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b. What would be a better place to go to find reliable information on this topic?

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# SUGGESTED ANSWERS

5. The Dunning Kruger effect is when people's confidence does not match their abilities. People with a little knowledge about a topic or skill tend to greatly overestimate their abilities, whereas people with more knowledge are more humble.

6.

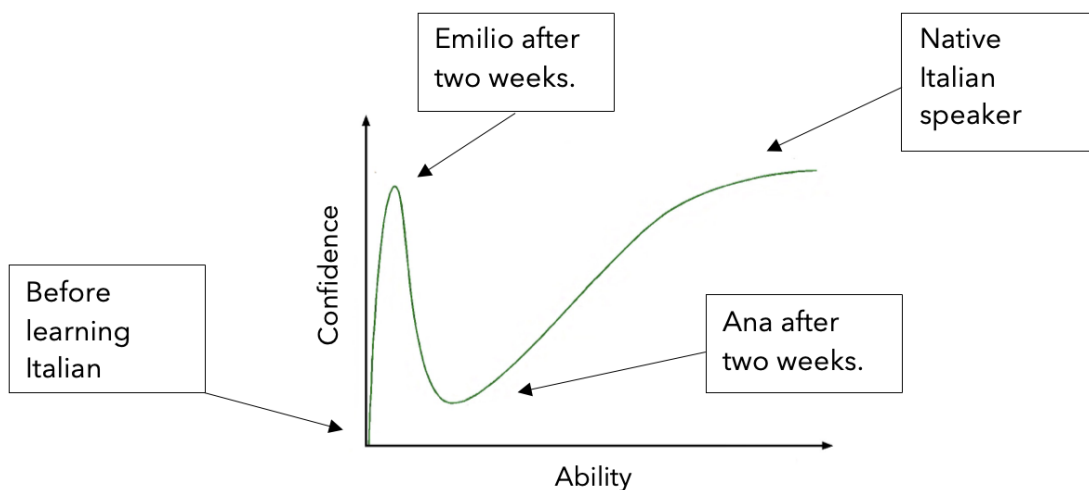
a. Students who were confident about how they would perform on the test performed **the worst**.

b. Students who were less confident about how they would perform on the test performed **the best**.

7. All drivers have some knowledge of how to drive, so they overestimate their abilities. But people don't usually get feedback on their driving after they have their licenses, so they often aren't aware when they're doing something wrong. As well as this, situations in which a driver's skill are really tested are relatively rare (such as having to avoid an accident), so people don't know how they would perform in these situations, but they assume that they would do the right thing.

8. Remember that if a person is very confident when they come out of an exam, it's more likely that they have done badly. If you are unsure about how you went, it's more likely that you did well.

10.



11.

a. Ask for feedback from a photographer that is very skilled.

b. Know that it might hurt your ego to learn that you're not as good as you thought you were, but that it will ultimately benefit you in the long run.

# CREDITS

I would like to say a big thank you to these creators whose work helped me make this resource:

The Decision Lab - <https://thedecisionlab.com/biases/dunning-kruger-effect>

The original paper from David Dunning and Justin Kruger -  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10626367/>