Employees report that co-workers who use marijuana show more negative work behaviors, such as:

- Daydreaming
- Leaving work without permission
- Not working to their fullest

School

Heavy users of marijuana show great difficulty in:

- Holding or refocusing their attention
- Registering, organizing, and using information

Social Life

Marijuana users can have fewer skills that:

- Help people maintain self-confidence
- Help people continue striving for goals

School

Students who smoke marijuana get lower grades than students who do not smoke. Marijuana users are less likely to graduate from high school than non-using students.

Work

Heavy users of marijuana have been shown to score lower on standardized tests that measure verbal and mathematical skills than non-users. Marijuana affects a person's ability to learn and remember while the person is under the influence. This can last for days or weeks after use of the drug.

Science in the Spotlight:

Grass-Roots Research

The National Institute on Drug Abuse is a U.S. Federal Government agency that uses science to learn more about the harmful effects of drugs. Research on marijuana provides useful information about how the drug affects school, work, and social life.

Marijuana Crossword Puzzle

Across:

2. Marijuana is used to treat nausea in patients with this disease
3. Effects of marijuana can last for at least this many hours after use
5. Marijuana affects this neurotransmitter, which is associated with feelings of pleasure
6. The uncomfortable feeling or symptoms that one experiences when abruptly stopping marijuana
7. Main active ingredient in marijuana
8. Slang for marijuana

Down:

1. Damage to this part of the brain can cause memory problems
4. Drivers who have used marijuana lack this, making them very dangerous on the road
9. The most common way marijuana is used
10. Marijuana comes from the dried flowers and leaves of this plant

Unscramble the Tiles

Directions: Put the tiles below in the correct order to reveal a hidden message.

Reveal a Hidden Message

The Memory Theif

Dr. Bob's Corner

Weeding Out the Grass

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Marijuana is used more frequently in the United States than any other illegal drug. There are many misconceptions about the drug and how it affects a person. The large number of marijuana users does not mean that the drug is harmless; far from it, in fact. Despite what people say and think, there are many science-based facts about the drug. Find out for yourself. Become an expert on the truth of marijuana use by looking up these Web sites:

- [www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov)
- [www.ncadi.samhsa.gov](http://www.ncadi.samhsa.gov)
- [www.freevibe.com*](http://www.freevibe.com)
- [www.abovetheinfluence.com*](http://www.abovetheinfluence.com)
- [www.justthinktwice.com](http://www.justthinktwice.com)

After you learn more for yourself about marijuana, watch television carefully for references to the drug. Because it is an illegal drug, TV cannot show use of the drug, but marijuana use definitely happens on various TV shows. How do they portray the drug? How does this compare to what you’ve learned about the science of marijuana?

* These sites were not developed by the Federal Government and the Federal Government does not endorse them.

Adolescents who smoke weed are 85 times more likely to use cocaine than their non-weed-smoking peers

Marijuana has been linked to poor school performance and high dropout rates

Slang names for marijuana

- Weed
- Ganja
- Hash
- Chronic
- Pot
- Herb
- Grass

Marijuana and the Effects on the Brain

The main active ingredient in marijuana is a chemical called tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). THC bind to neurons that have a receptor called the THC receptor. Certain parts of the brain have higher concentrations of THC receptors. These areas are the hippocampus, the cerebellum, and the cerebral cortex. Areas of the brain with higher levels of THC receptors are most affected by marijuana use.

The hippocampus is in charge of certain types of learning and memory. Disrupting the normal functioning of the hippocampus can lead to short-term memory loss and even long-term memory loss. Taking THC in large quantities over a long period of time can seriously affect neurons in the hippocampus, resulting in permanent damage and memory loss.

Marijuana Stats & Facts

- The active ingredient in marijuana is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).
- Smoking marijuana can result in anxiety, panic attacks, depression, and paranoia.
- Marijuana has been linked to poor school performance and high dropout rates.
- Adolescents who smoke weed are 85 times more likely to use cocaine than their non-weed-smoking peers.
- Marijuana is the most frequently used illegal drug in the United States.
- The immediate effects of marijuana are slowed reaction time, poor physical coordination, and impaired concentration.
- The amount of tar, carbon monoxide, and other cancer-causing chemicals can be greater in marijuana smoke than tobacco smoke.
- Smoking five marijuana joints a week is the equivalent of smoking a pack of cigarettes a day.

Marijuana Stats & Facts

- Road tests of drivers show that people who are high on marijuana have the same lack of coordination as people who have had too much to drink.
- Marijuana has been linked to poor school performance and high dropout rates.
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