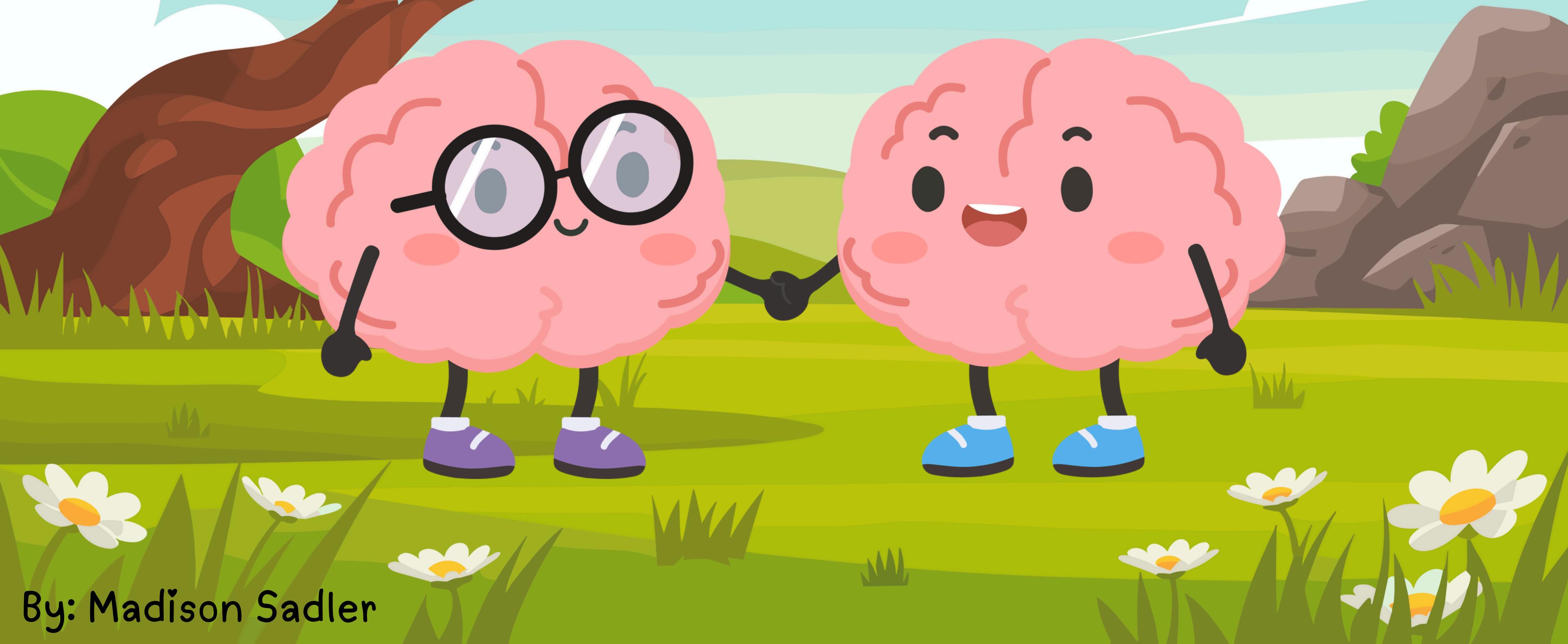
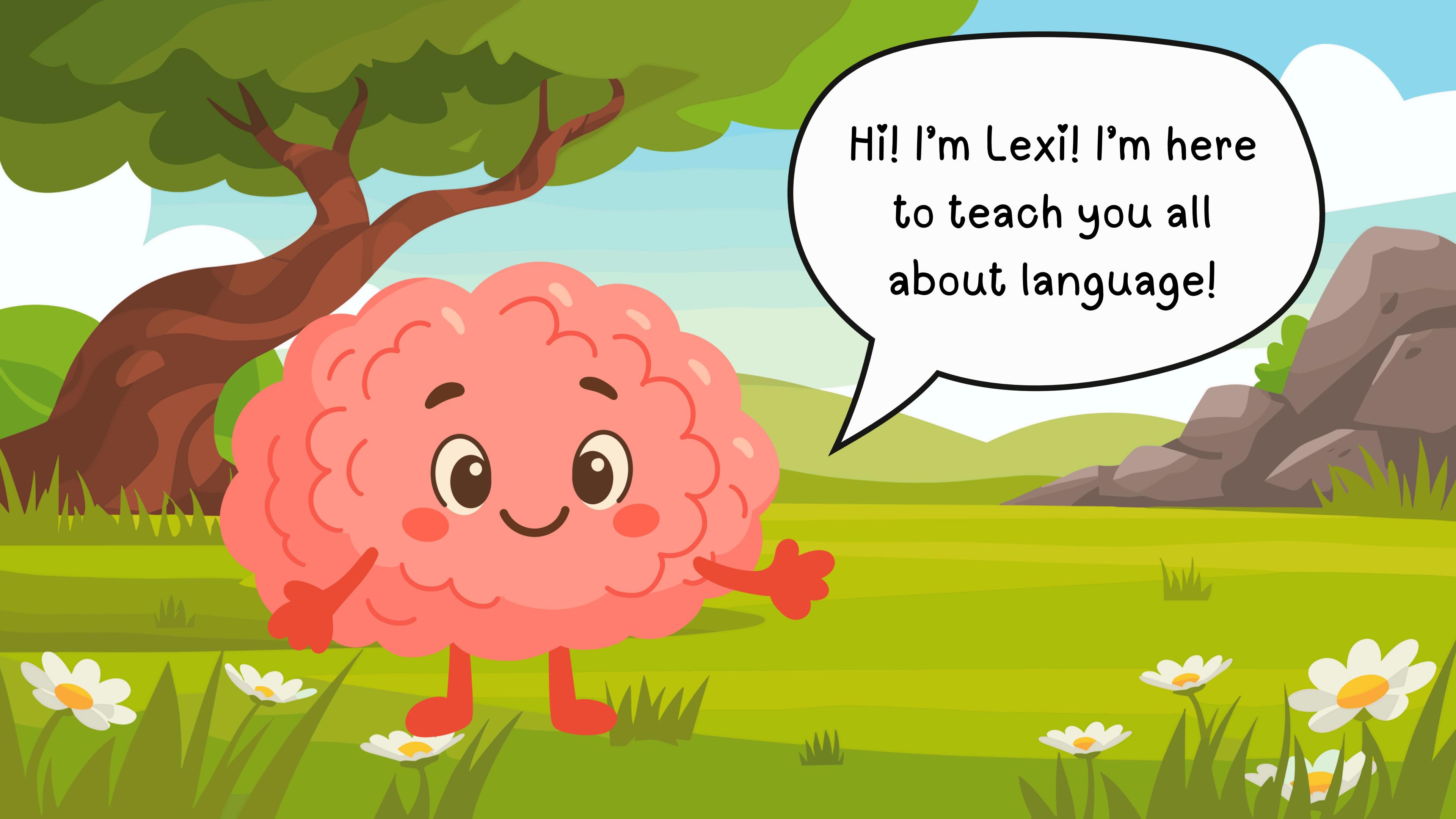


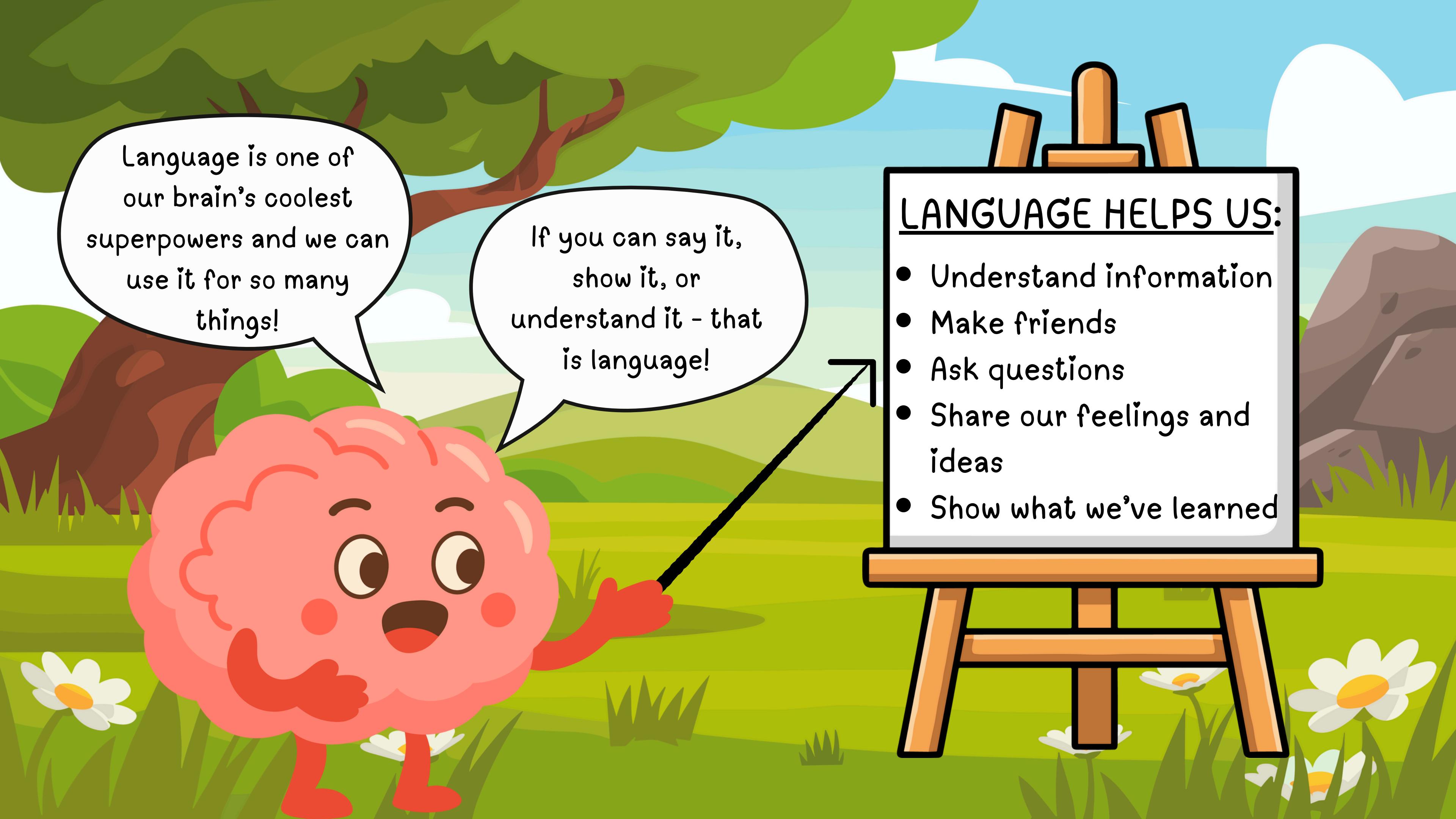
# MEET YOUR LANGUAGE BRAIN



By: Madison Sadler



Hi! I'm Lexi! I'm here  
to teach you all  
about language!



Language is one of our brain's coolest superpowers and we can use it for so many things!

If you can say it, show it, or understand it - that is language!

## LANGUAGE HELPS US:

- Understand information
- Make friends
- Ask questions
- Share our feelings and ideas
- Show what we've learned



Think of it like a conveyer belt that helps ideas travel from your brain to someone else's, and from someone else's brain back to yours! You use that conveyer belt all day every day!



You probably don't even notice all the times you use language!

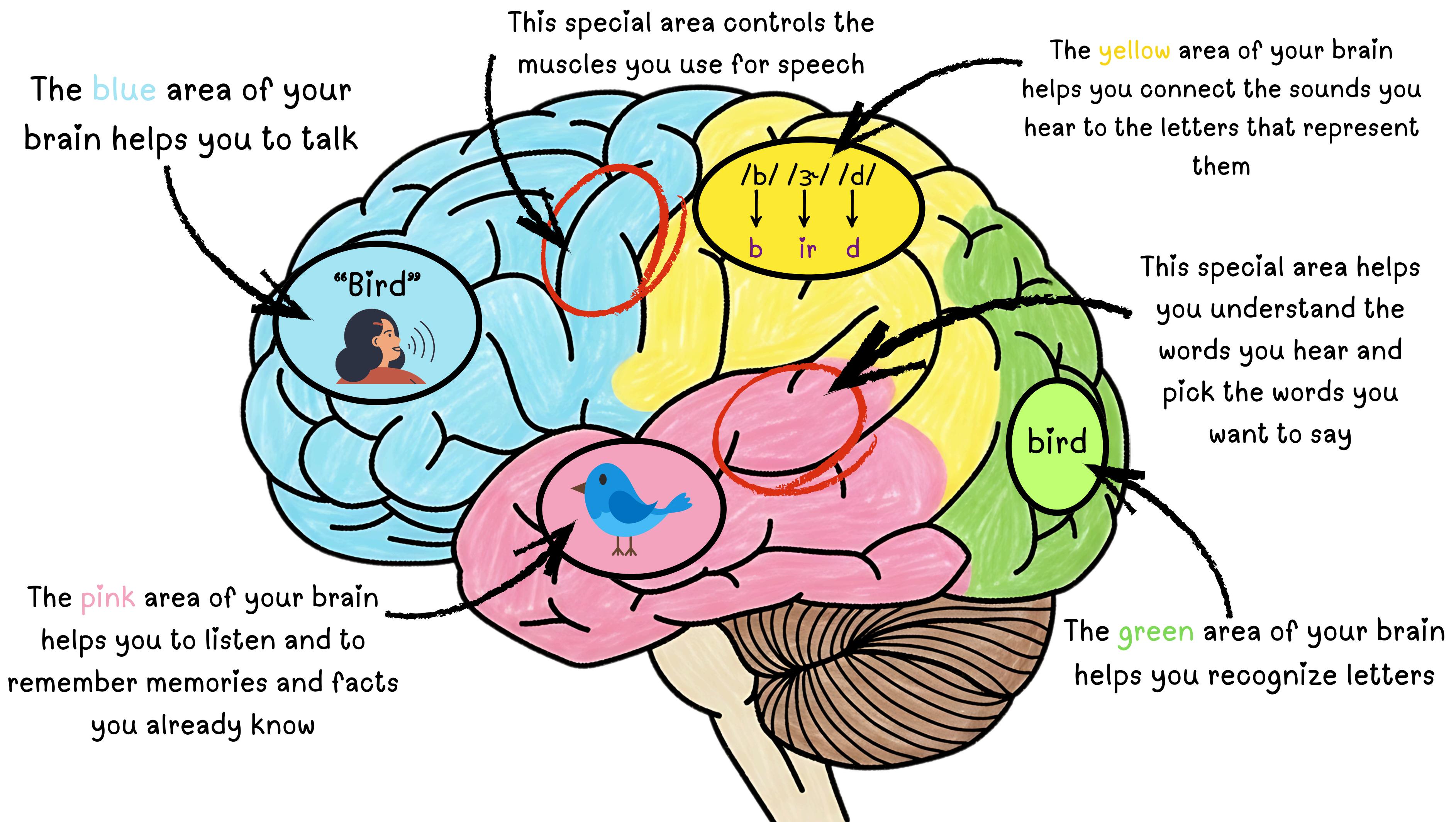
And it's way more than just talking! Check out all these ways you can use it!

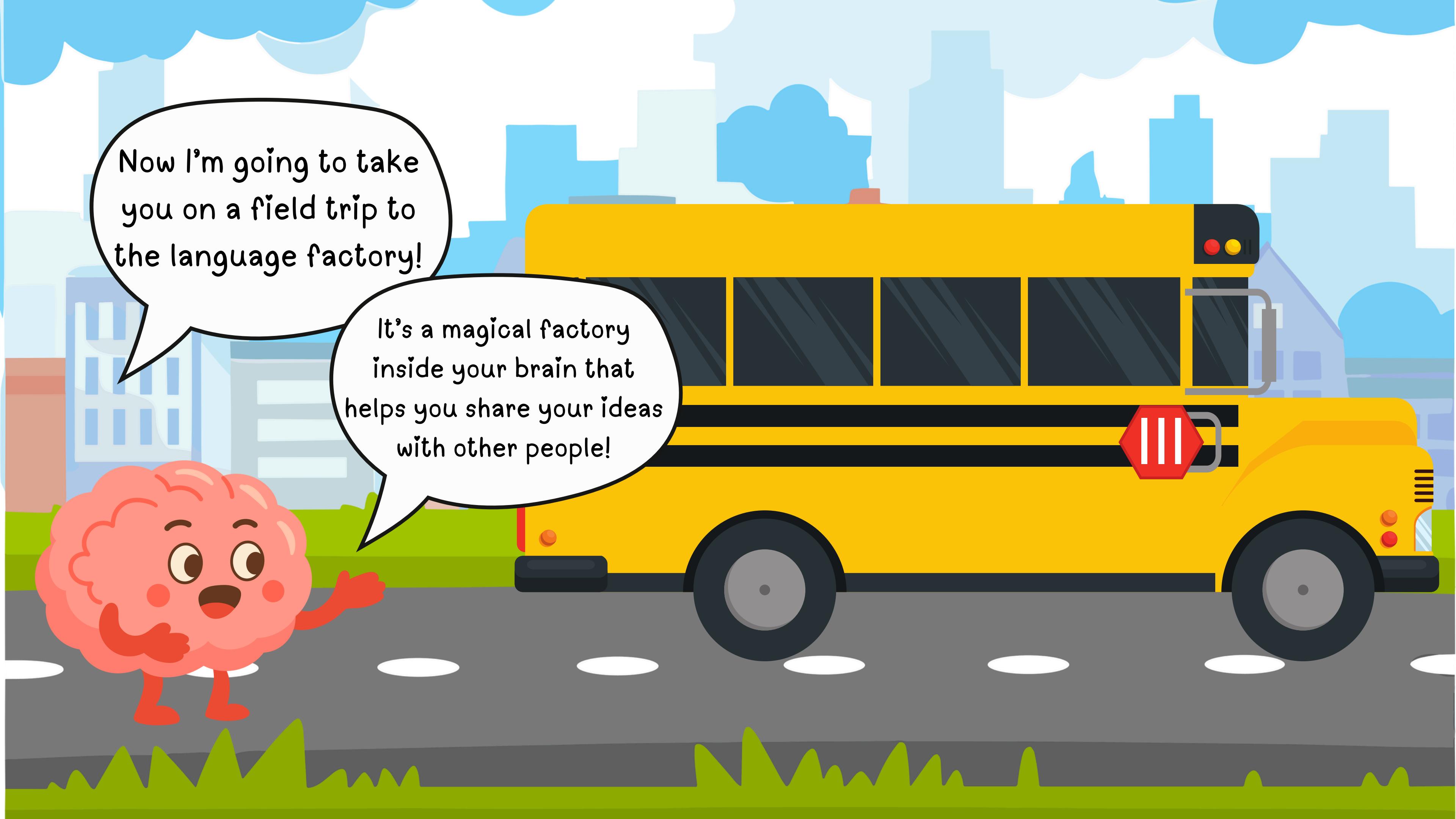
- Talking
- Listening
- Words and sentences
- Writing
- Understanding stories
- Gestures (like waving)
- Facial expressions (like smiling or frowning)
- Using a tablet/picture board



Language uses many different parts of our brain, and they all work together!

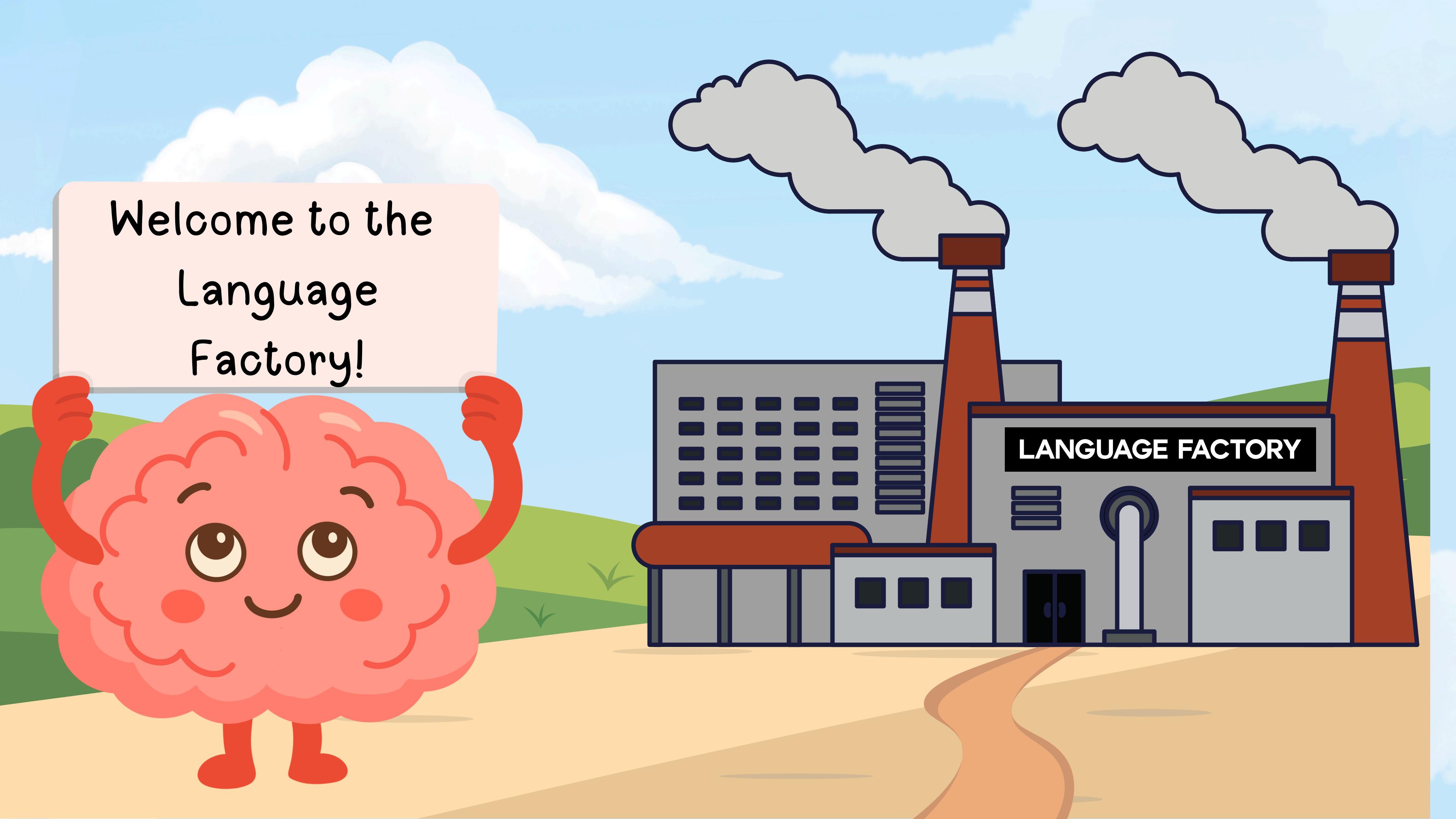
Some parts help you listen, some parts help you understand, some parts help you talk, and some parts help you find the right words!



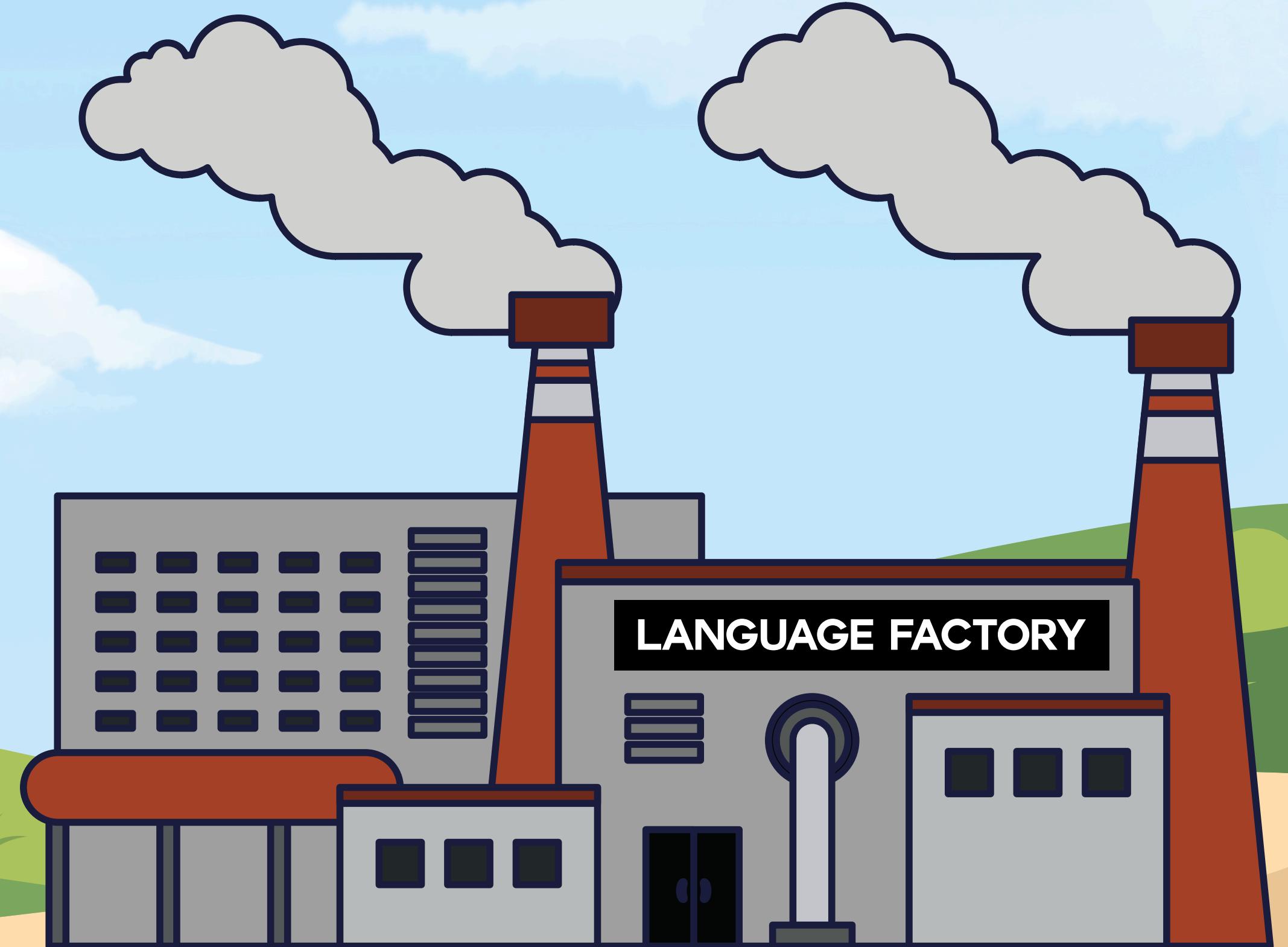


Now I'm going to take  
you on a field trip to  
the language factory!

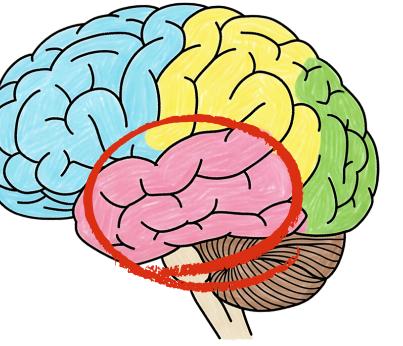
It's a magical factory  
inside your brain that  
helps you share your ideas  
with other people!



Welcome to the  
Language  
Factory!

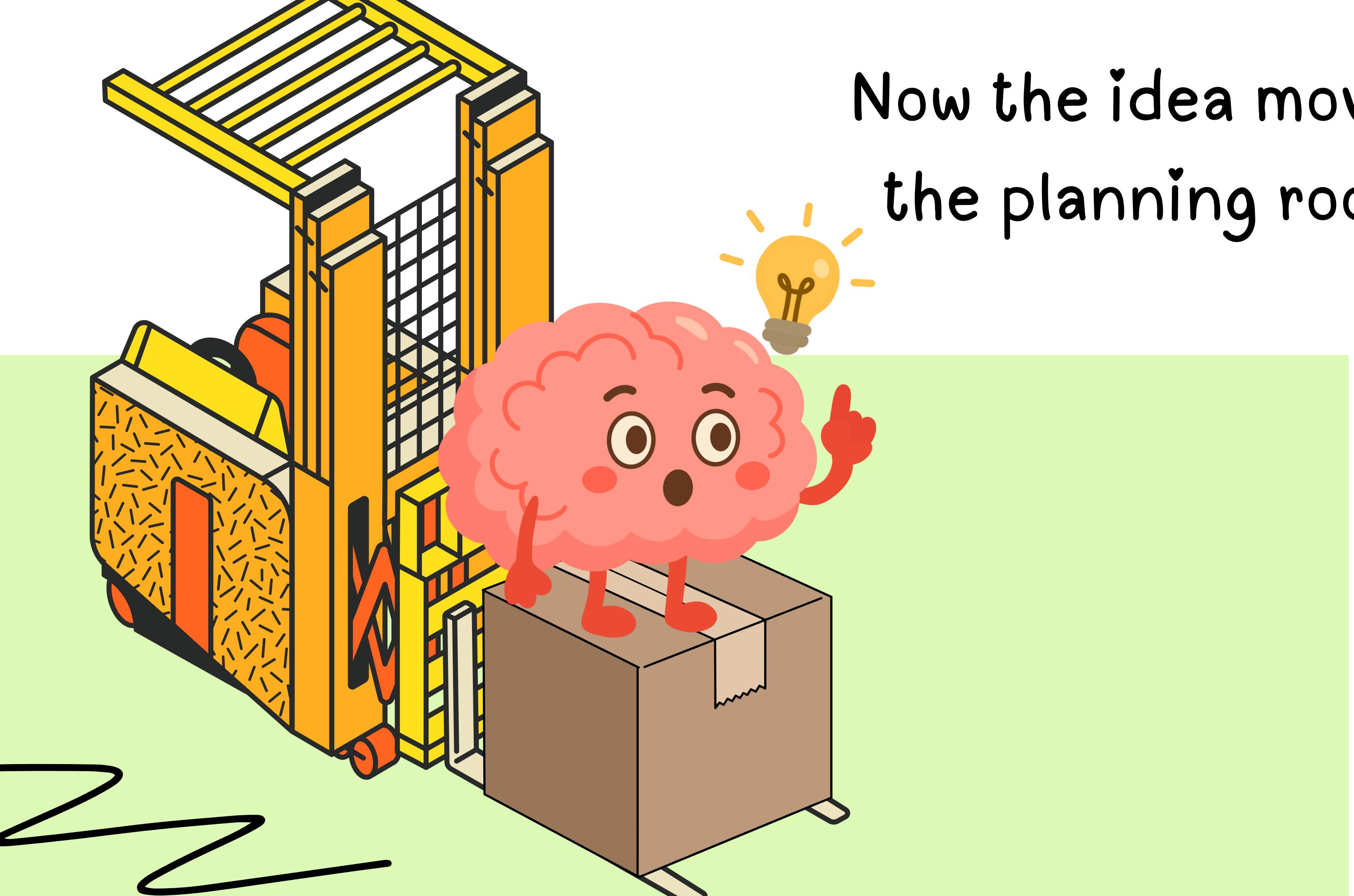


# Idea Library



This is where your ideas come from! It's like a library where your brain stores words, memories, and everything you know about the world!

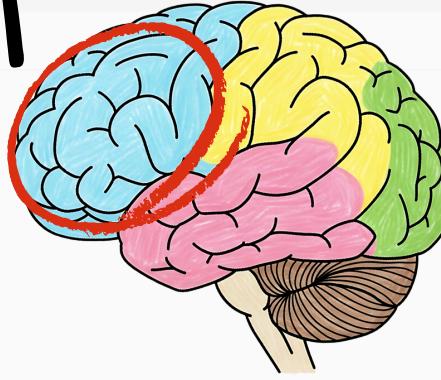




Now the idea moves to  
the planning room...

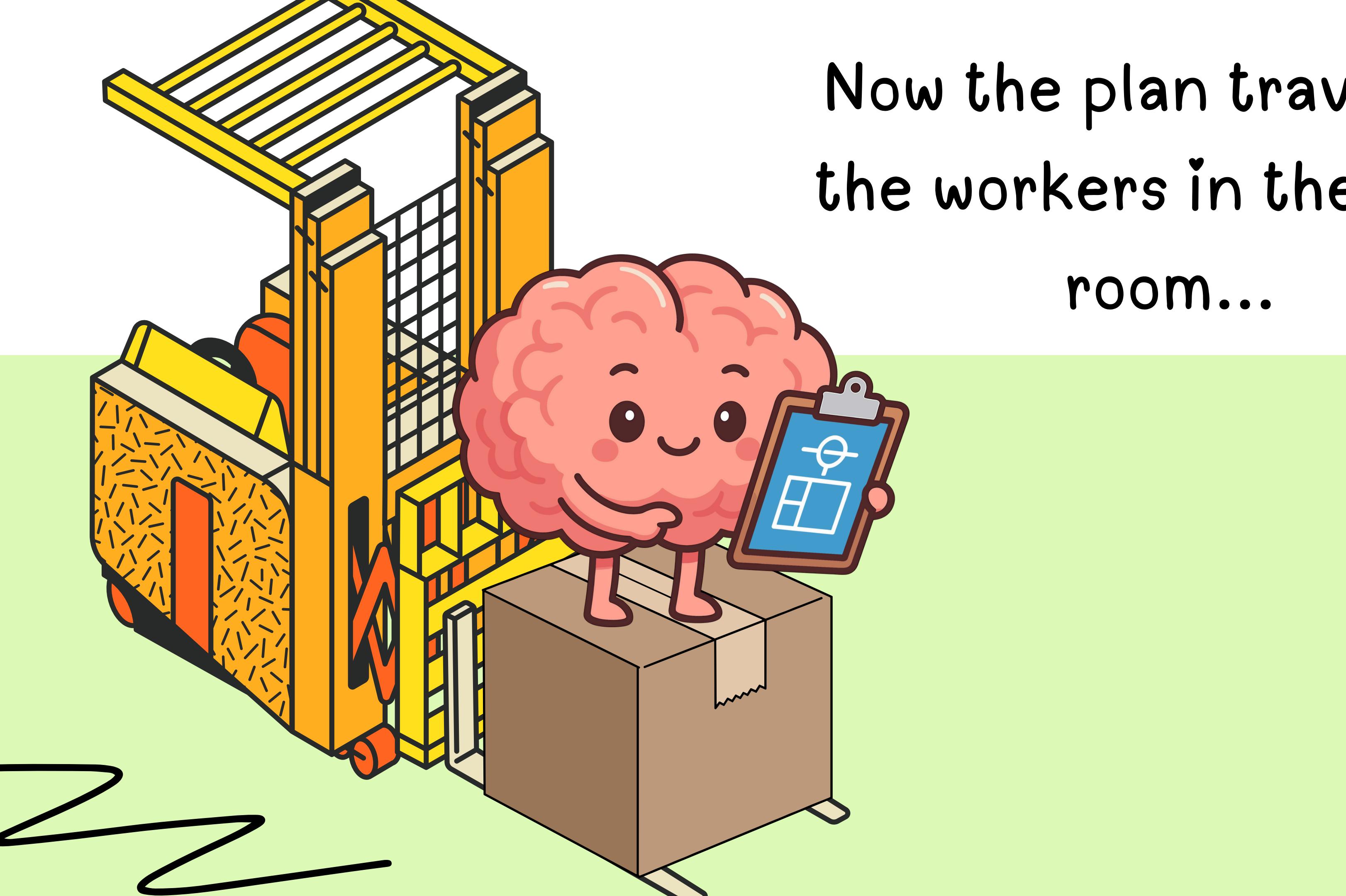


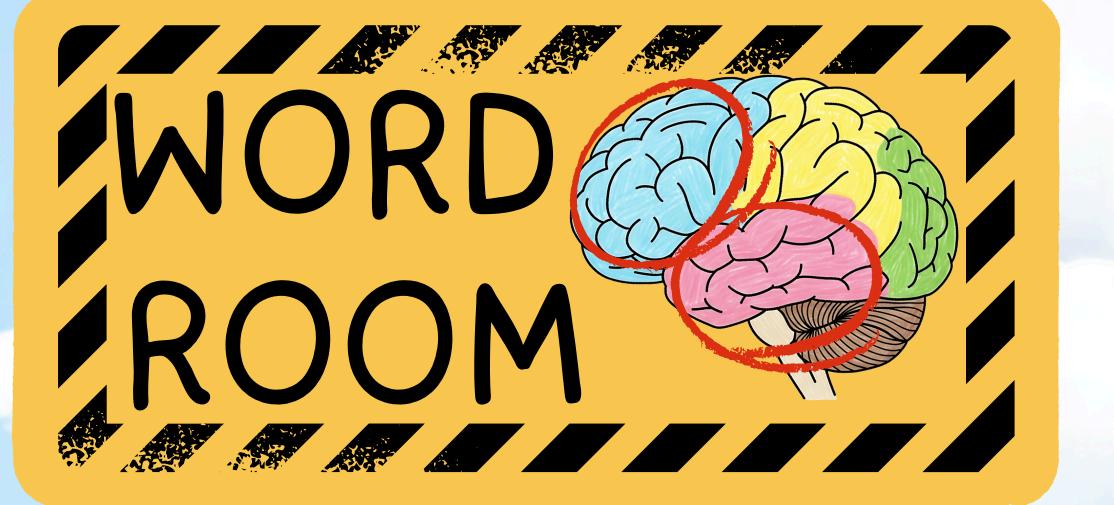
# PLANNING ROOM



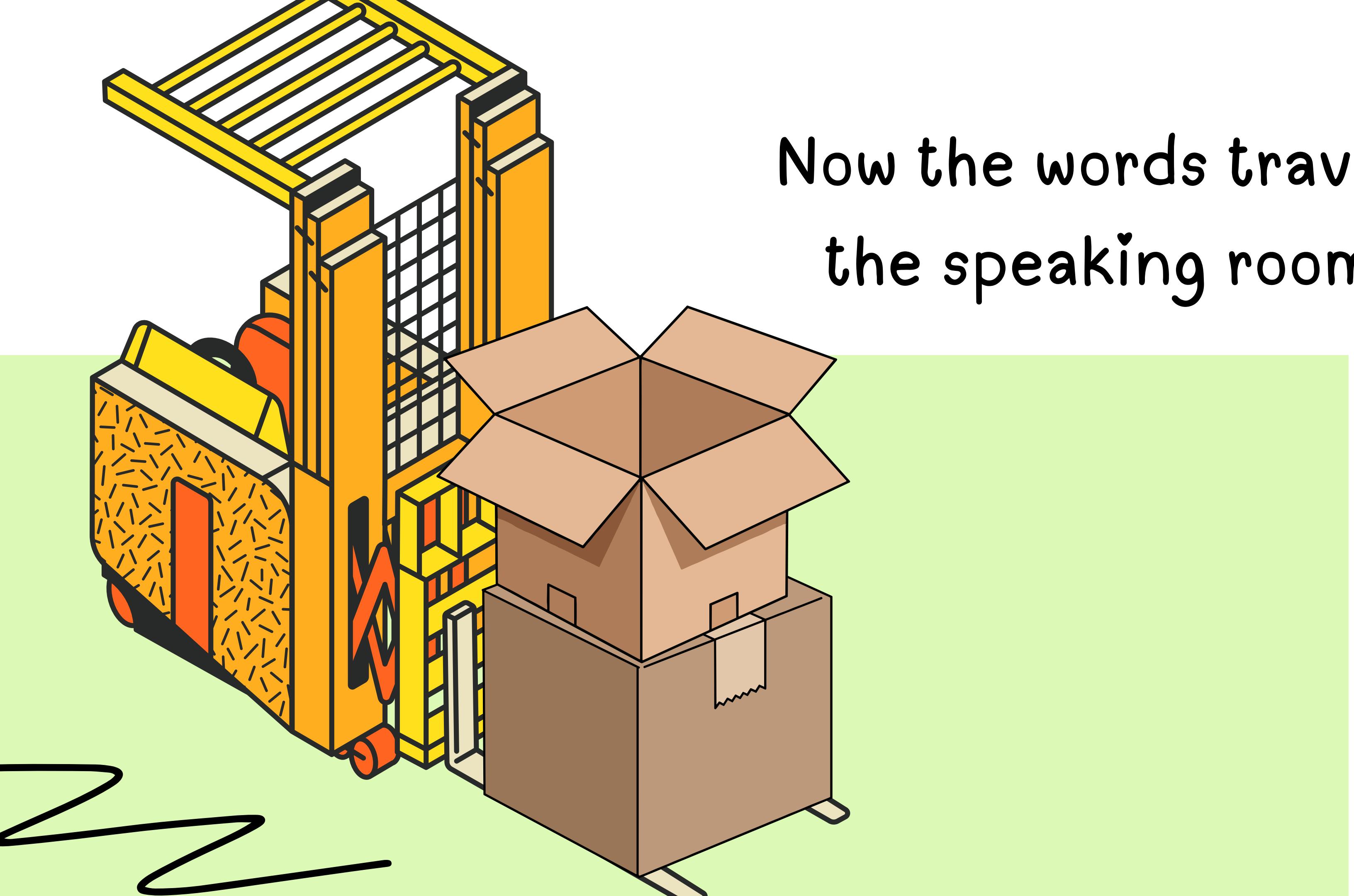
Your planning room  
helps you decide what  
to say, stay focused,  
and choose the best  
words!

Now the plan travels to  
the workers in the word  
room...



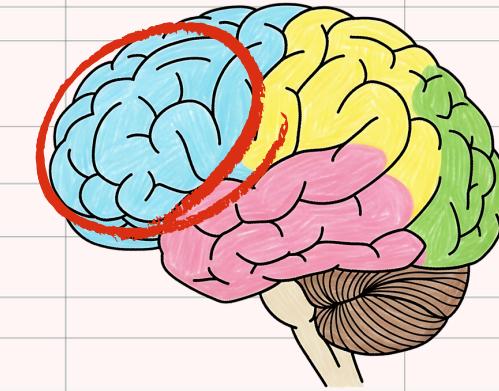


This room is like a construction site! Your brain puts words in order, and uses sounds and grammar to build a sentence



Now the words travel to  
the speaking room...

# SPEAKING ROOM



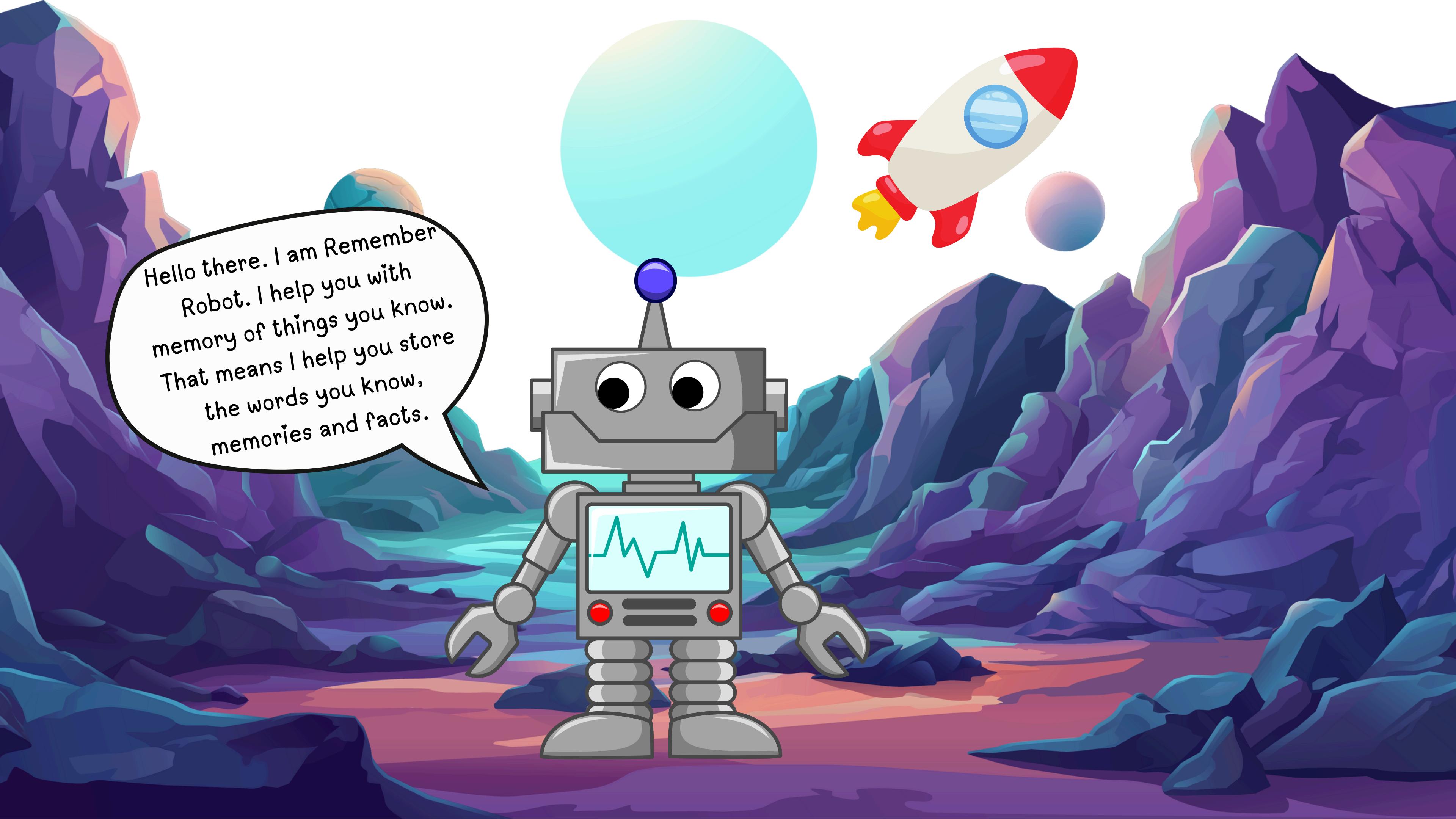


Now that we took a tour of the language factory, I'm going to introduce you to some of the workers in charge of brain skills that help with language!

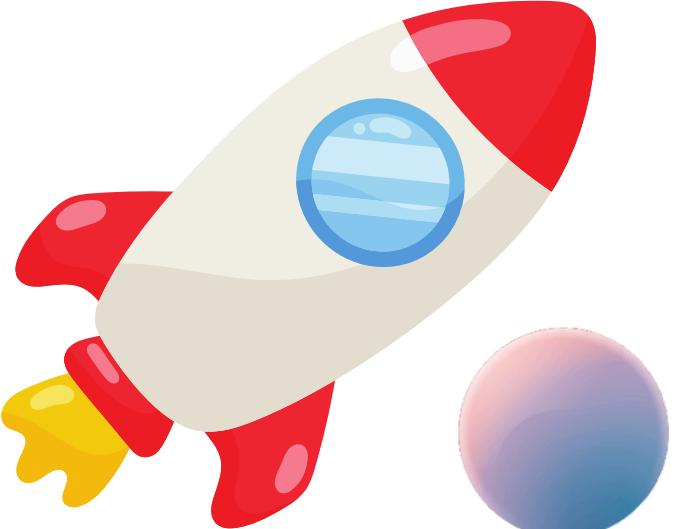
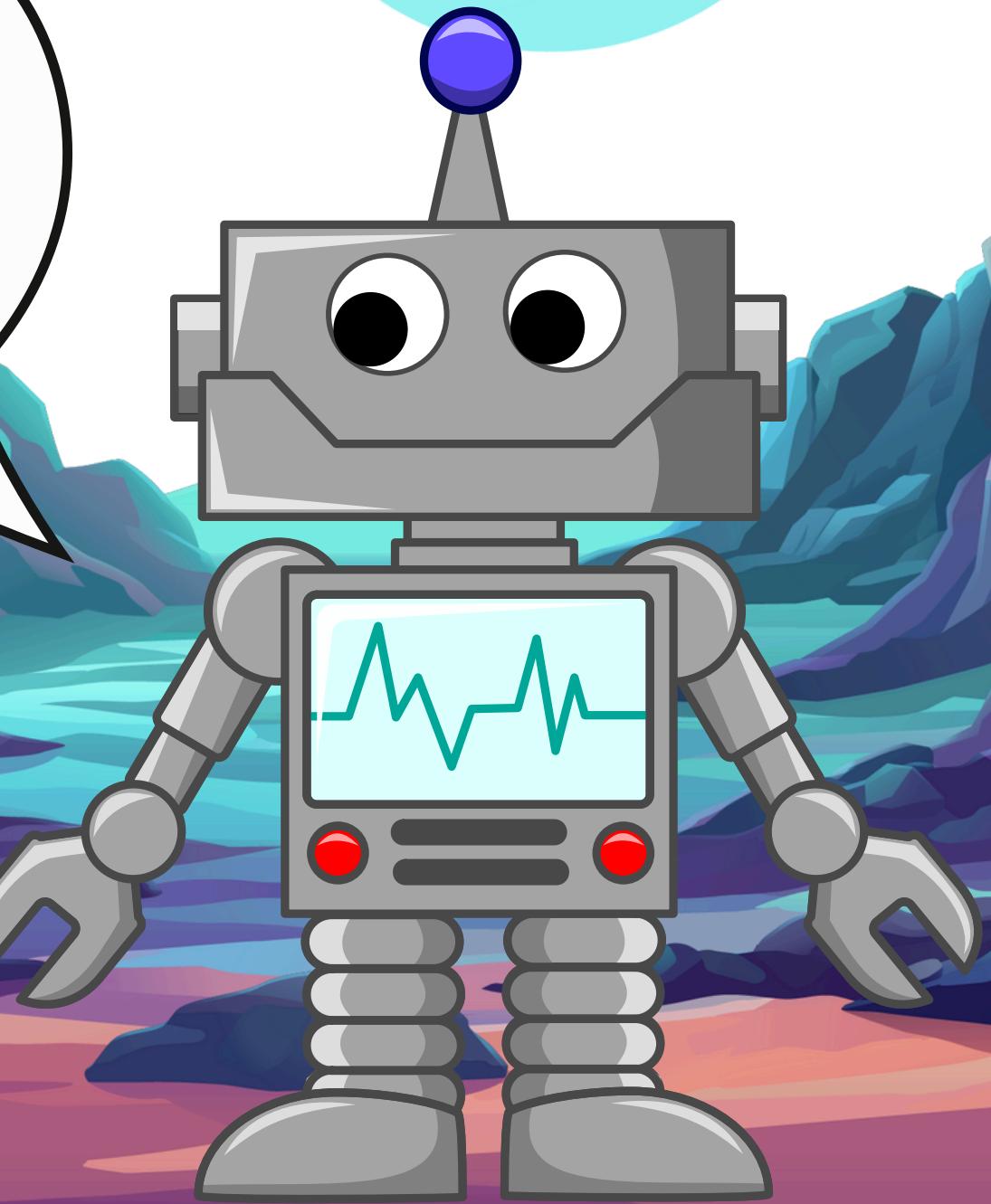


Ahoy!

I'm captain focus and I help you with something called attention! That means I help you keep your stories on track!

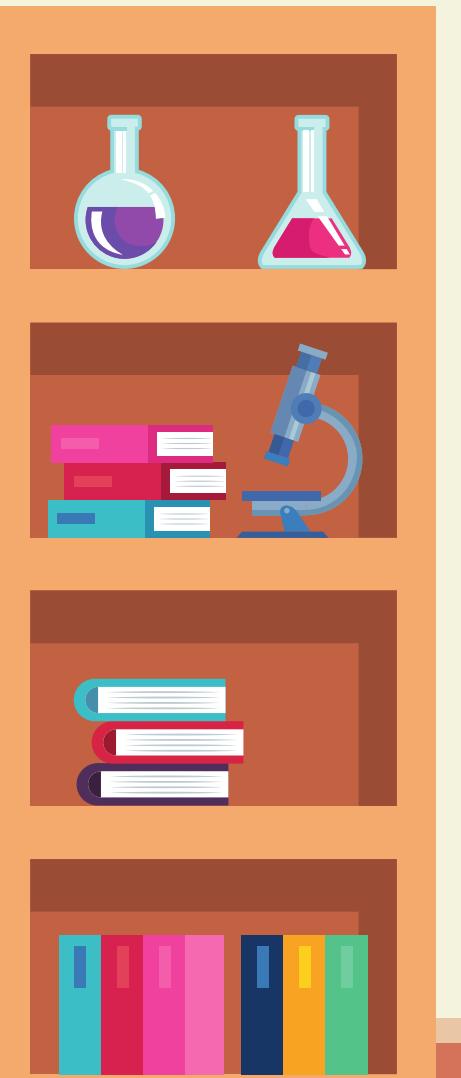


Hello there. I am Remember Robot. I help you with memory of things you know. That means I help you store the words you know, memories and facts.



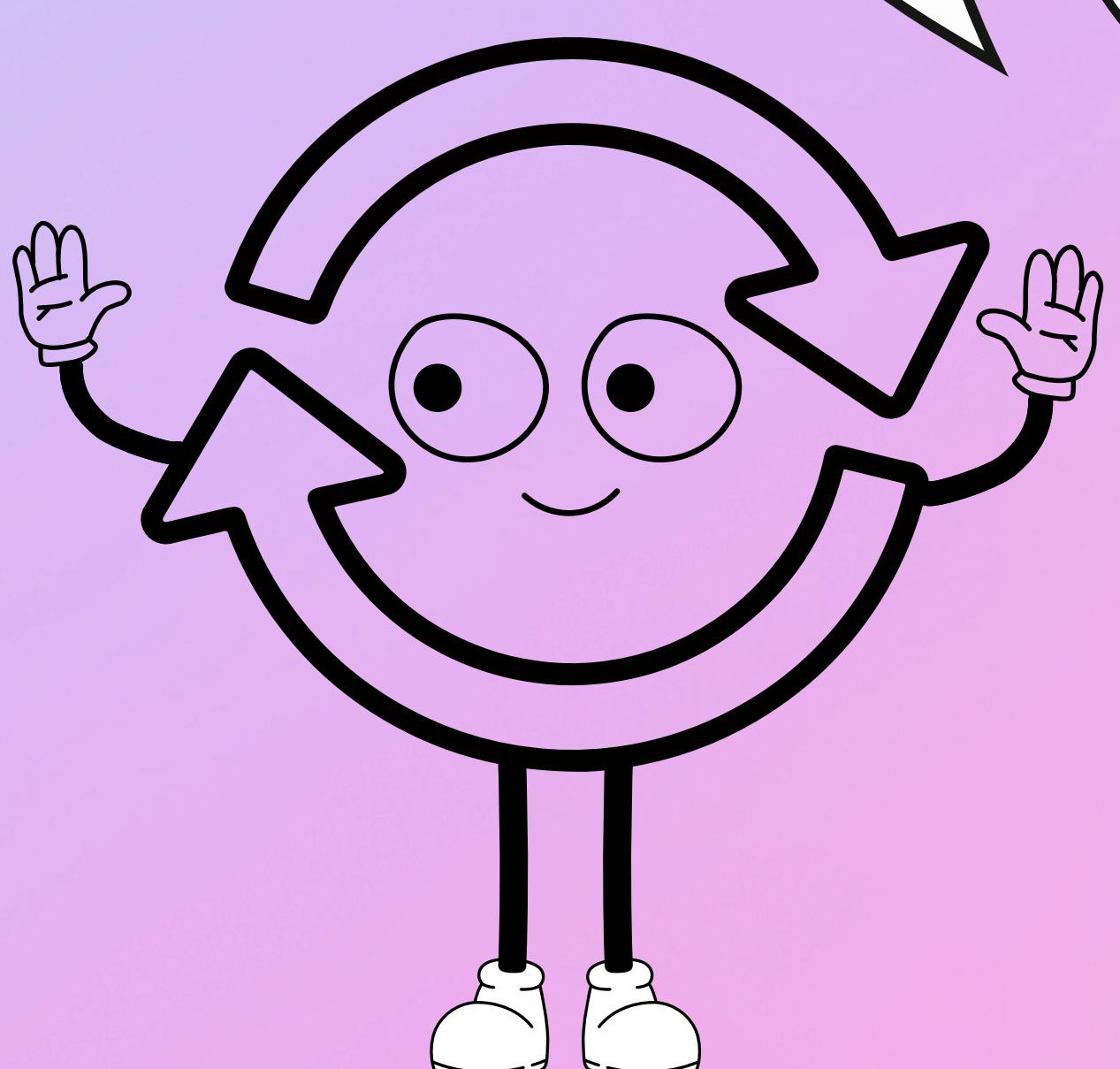


Hola! I'm Brain Backpack! I help you with working memory. That means I hold your ideas so you don't forget them while you get ready to share them!



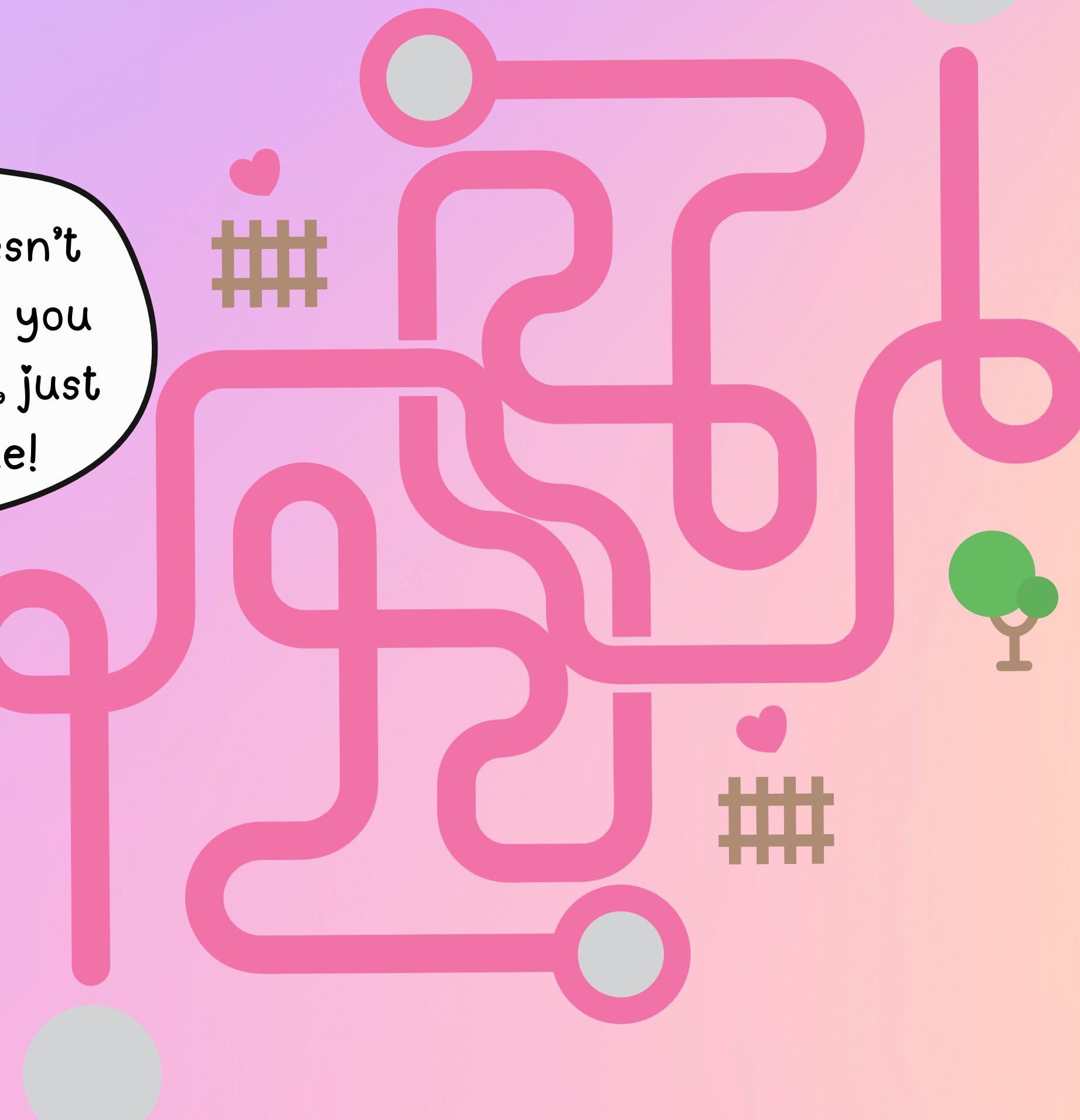


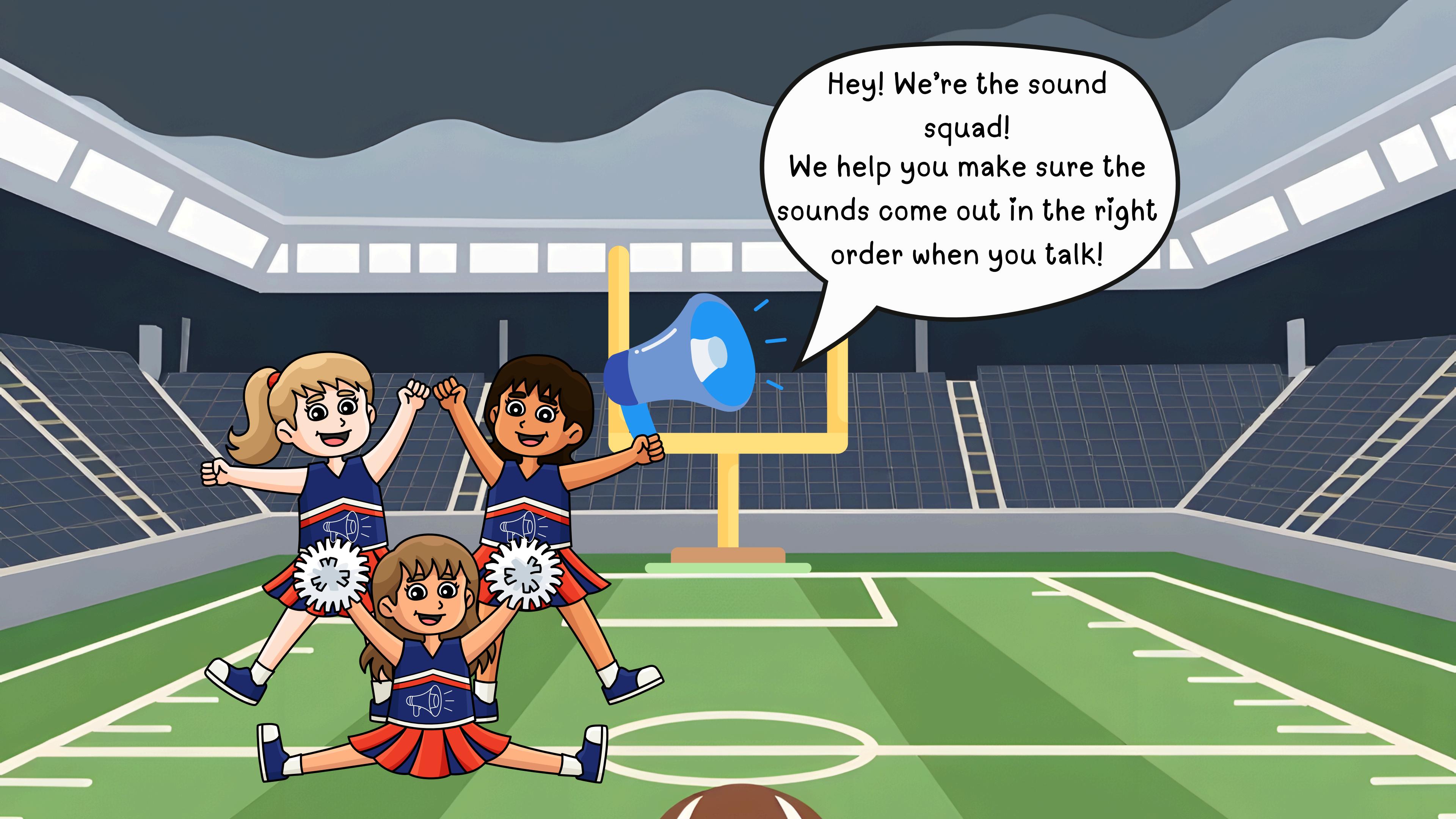
What's up! I'm Stop and Think Guard! I help you with inhibition. That means I help you wait for the right word for your sentence!



Hiya! I'm Swetcheroo!  
I help you with flexibility!  
That means I can help you  
find a different word when  
one won't come.

If one way doesn't  
work I can help you  
find a new way, just  
like in a maze!





Hey! We're the sound  
squad!

We help you make sure the  
sounds come out in the right  
order when you talk!

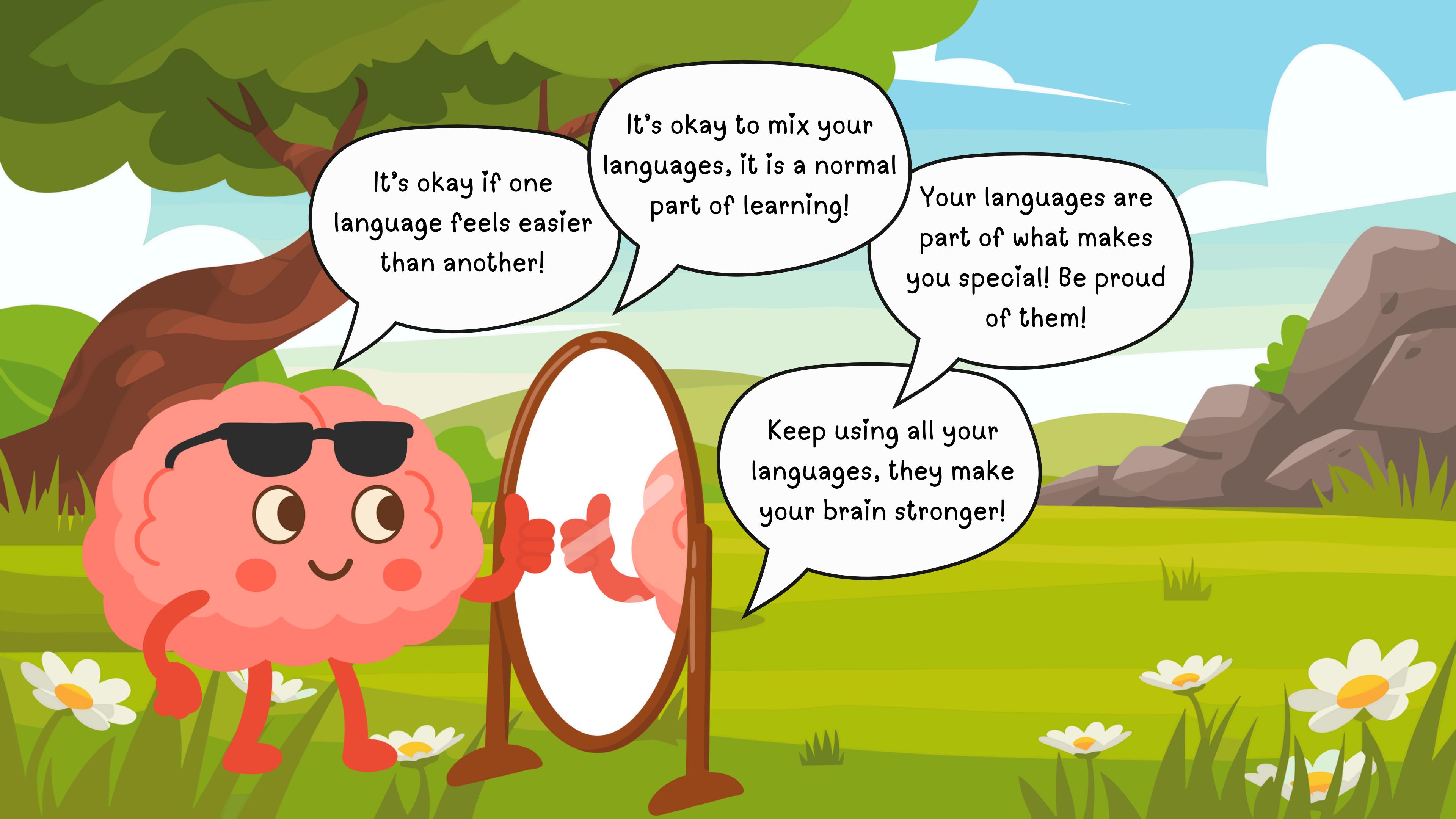


Some people know more than one language, which is called multilingualism. It's super cool!

Multilingualism means that you use more than one language, and your brain can switch between them like flicking a light switch.

Multilingual brains are strong and flexible!

Your language factory has more rooms when you know more than one language. You have different idea rooms and word rooms for each language you know, but all your languages share the same planning room and idea room!

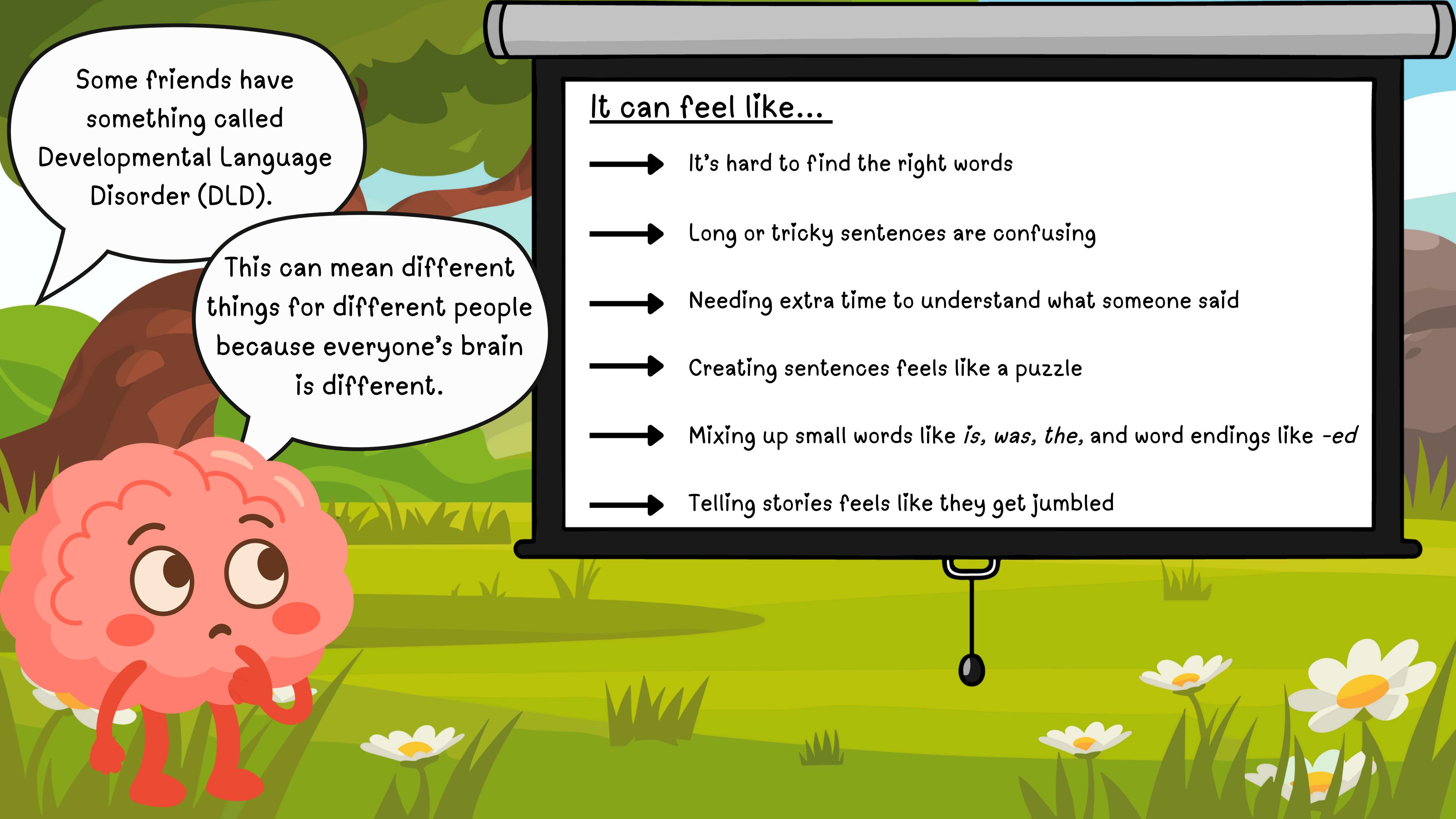


It's okay if one language feels easier than another!

It's okay to mix your languages, it is a normal part of learning!

Your languages are part of what makes you special! Be proud of them!

Keep using all your languages, they make your brain stronger!



Some friends have something called Developmental Language Disorder (DLD).

This can mean different things for different people because everyone's brain is different.

### It can feel like...

- It's hard to find the right words
- Long or tricky sentences are confusing
- Needing extra time to understand what someone said
- Creating sentences feels like a puzzle
- Mixing up small words like *is*, *was*, *the*, and word endings like *-ed*
- Telling stories feels like they get jumbled

## What DLD doesn't mean...

- It doesn't mean that you aren't smart
- It doesn't mean that you won't learn
- It is not caused by speaking more than one language
- It is not your fault

Extra time to think and answer, clear explanations, practice with new words, and visuals or gestures are all some things that can help!





Some friends have  
something called  
Dyslexia

### It can feel like...

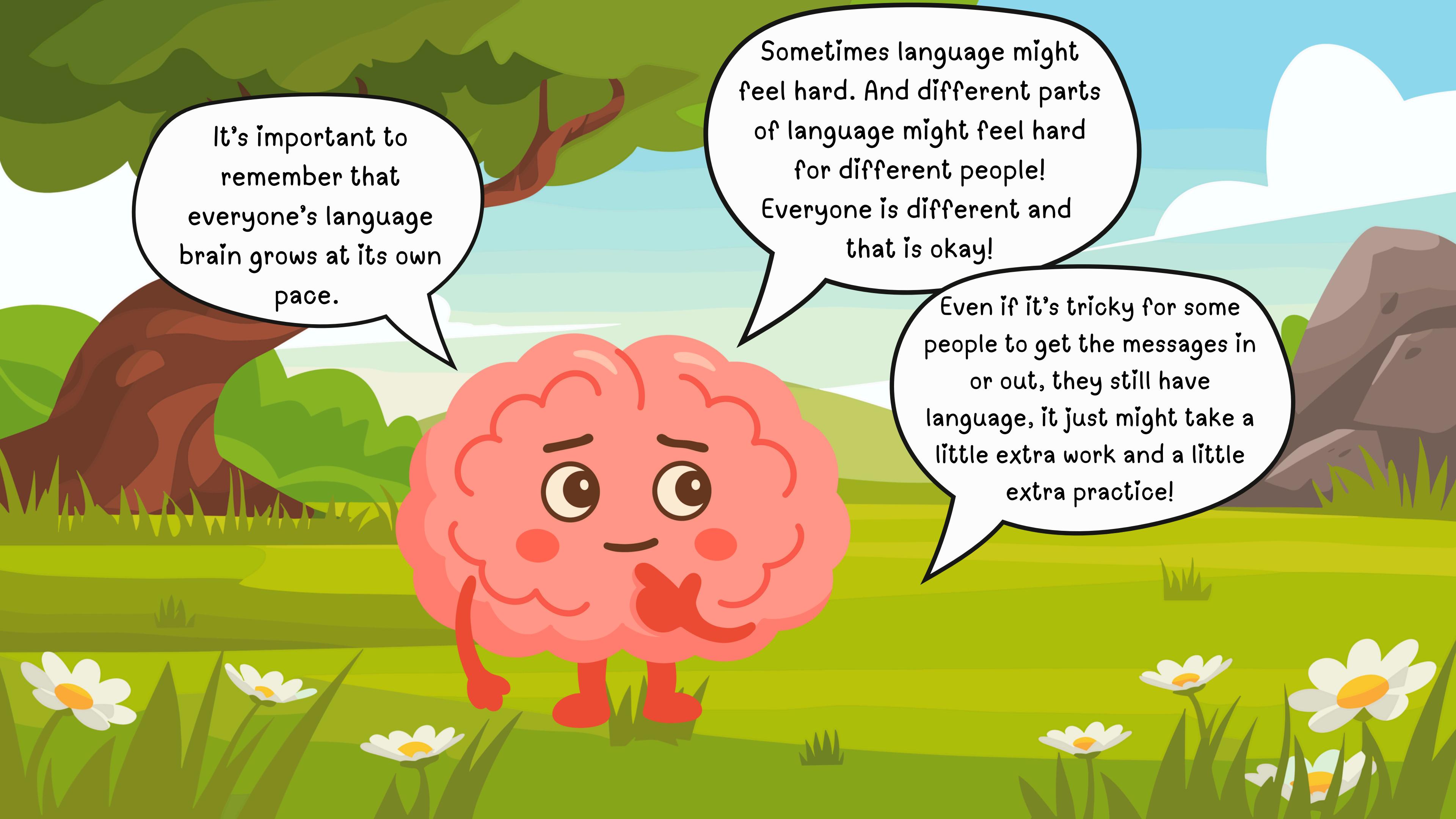
- Sounds in words are tricky to hear or pull apart
- Reading feels slow or bumpy
- Spelling feels like a guessing game
- Long words get mixed up
- Letters don't want to stick in your memory

## What Dyslexia doesn't mean...

- It doesn't mean that you aren't smart
- It doesn't mean that you can't learn to read
- It is not caused by speaking more than one language
- It is not your fault

Teaching that breaks words into sounds, lots of chances to practice, extra time, and clear steps for reading and spelling are all things that can help!

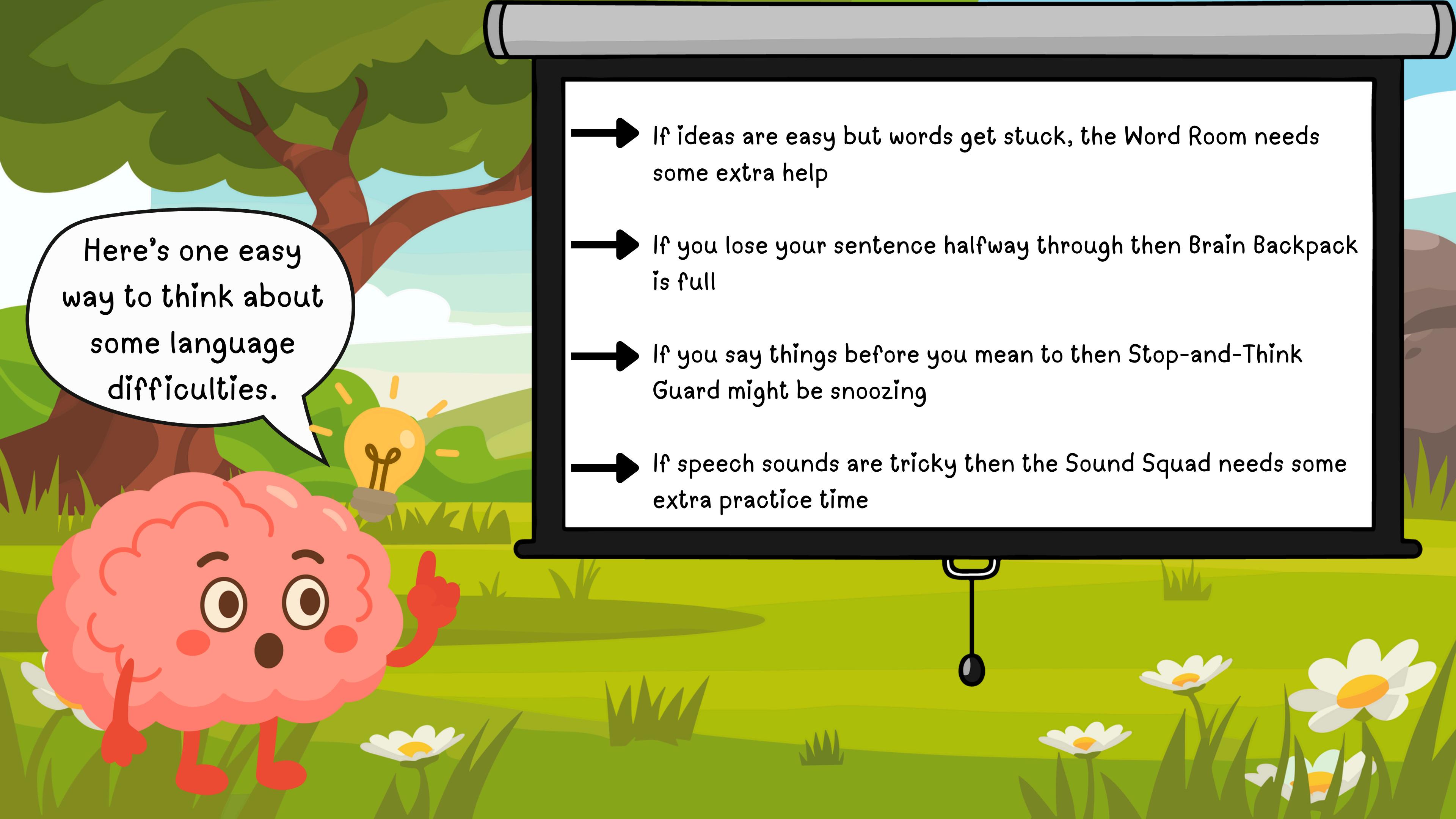




It's important to remember that everyone's language brain grows at its own pace.

Sometimes language might feel hard. And different parts of language might feel hard for different people! Everyone is different and that is okay!

Even if it's tricky for some people to get the messages in or out, they still have language, it just might take a little extra work and a little extra practice!



Here's one easy way to think about some language difficulties.

- If ideas are easy but words get stuck, the Word Room needs some extra help
- If you lose your sentence halfway through then Brain Backpack is full
- If you say things before you mean to then Stop-and-Think Guard might be snoozing
- If speech sounds are tricky then the Sound Squad needs some extra practice time



If language feels tricky for you there are people who can help!

A Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) is someone who can teach you tools to help your language brain, like word finding tricks, listening strategies, memory helpers and story telling steps

### An SLP can help:

- Add tools to your word room
- Help your planning room stay strong
- Make the stop-and-think guard faster
- Add words to your idea library
- Help the sound squad to keep talking smooth
- Help you build your confidence

# MY LANGUAGE TOOLBOX

Different tools help different brains, and that's okay!

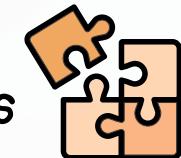
## TOOLS THAT HELP MY BRAIN

Trying a different way



Hearing things again

Breaking big ideas into small parts



Extra time



Visuals



Visuals

## WORD AND READING TOOLS

Reading with someone



Word banks



Text to speech



Sound it out strategies



Audiobooks

Sentence starters



Spell check



## TOOLS TO SHARE MY IDEAS



Pictures or symbols



My hands (signs or gestures)



Writing or drawing

My AAC or communication board



My voice



## MULTILINGUAL TOOLS

Talking in the language that feels easiest



Using all my languages

Switching languages when I need to



Learning from family and community



# MY LANGUAGE TOOLBOX

My toolbox helps my ideas shine!

## FEELINGS AND CONFIDENCE TOOLS

Everyone's brain learns in its own way



It's okay to ask for help



I don't have to be perfect



Breaks when I need them



Mistakes help us learn



## PEOPLE TOOLS



Teachers who explain things clearly

SLPs

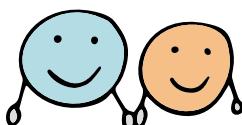


People who believe in me



Family who listen

Friends who are patient





That's the end of our  
lesson! Thanks for  
learning with me, I  
had a blast!

Continue on for printable worksheets  
and colouring pages!



Certificate of

# ACHIEVEMENT

This certificate celebrates:

I KNOW MY LANGUAGE BRAIN!



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# CIRCLE THE WAYS YOU USED LANGUAGE TODAY

Pointing

Singing

Telling someone  
something

Answering a  
question

Following  
directions

Writing

Asking a  
question

Singing

Telling a  
story

Texting/typing

Reading

Using  
picture boards

Listening to  
my teacher

Using my  
voice

Playing with  
a friend

Can you think of  
any other ways  
you used language  
today?

Waving  
hi/bye

# SHOW A TIME WHEN YOU USED LANGUAGE

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# SKILLS I'M GREAT AT:

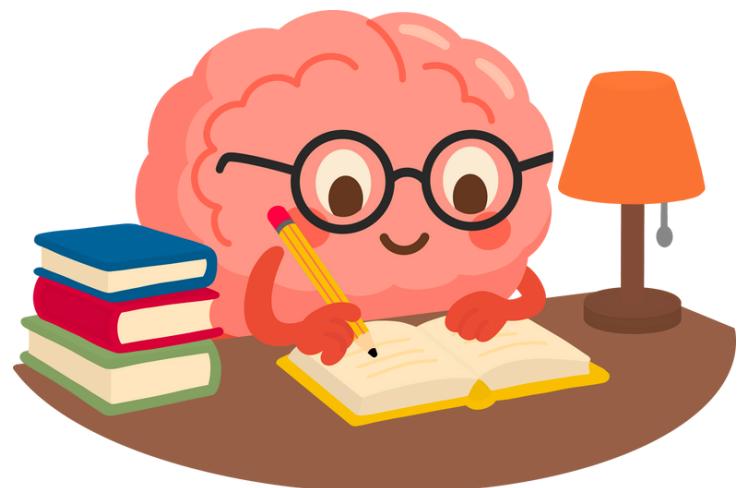


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# SKILLS I NEED TO PRACTICE:



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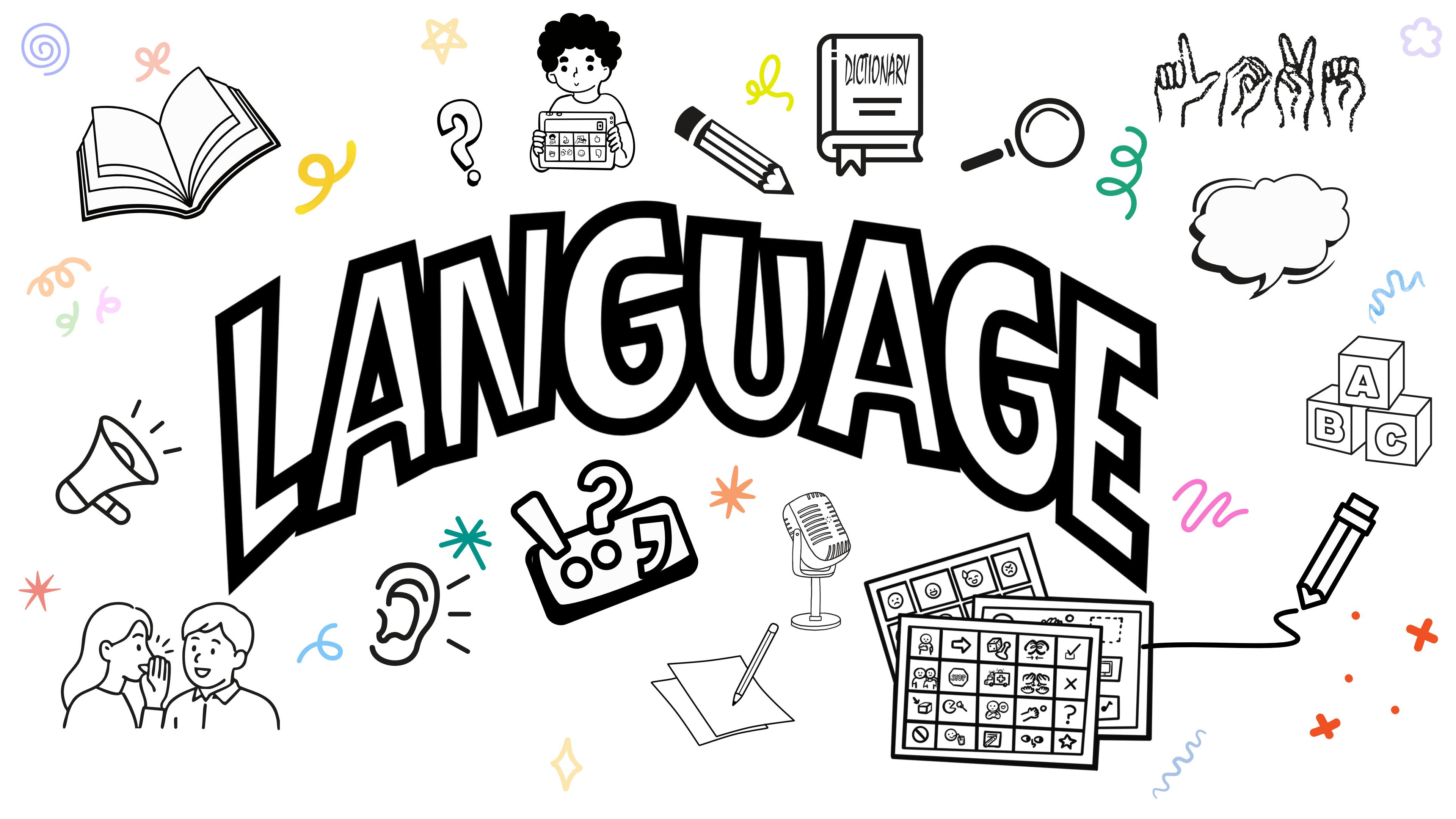
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# MY LANGUAGE GOALS:

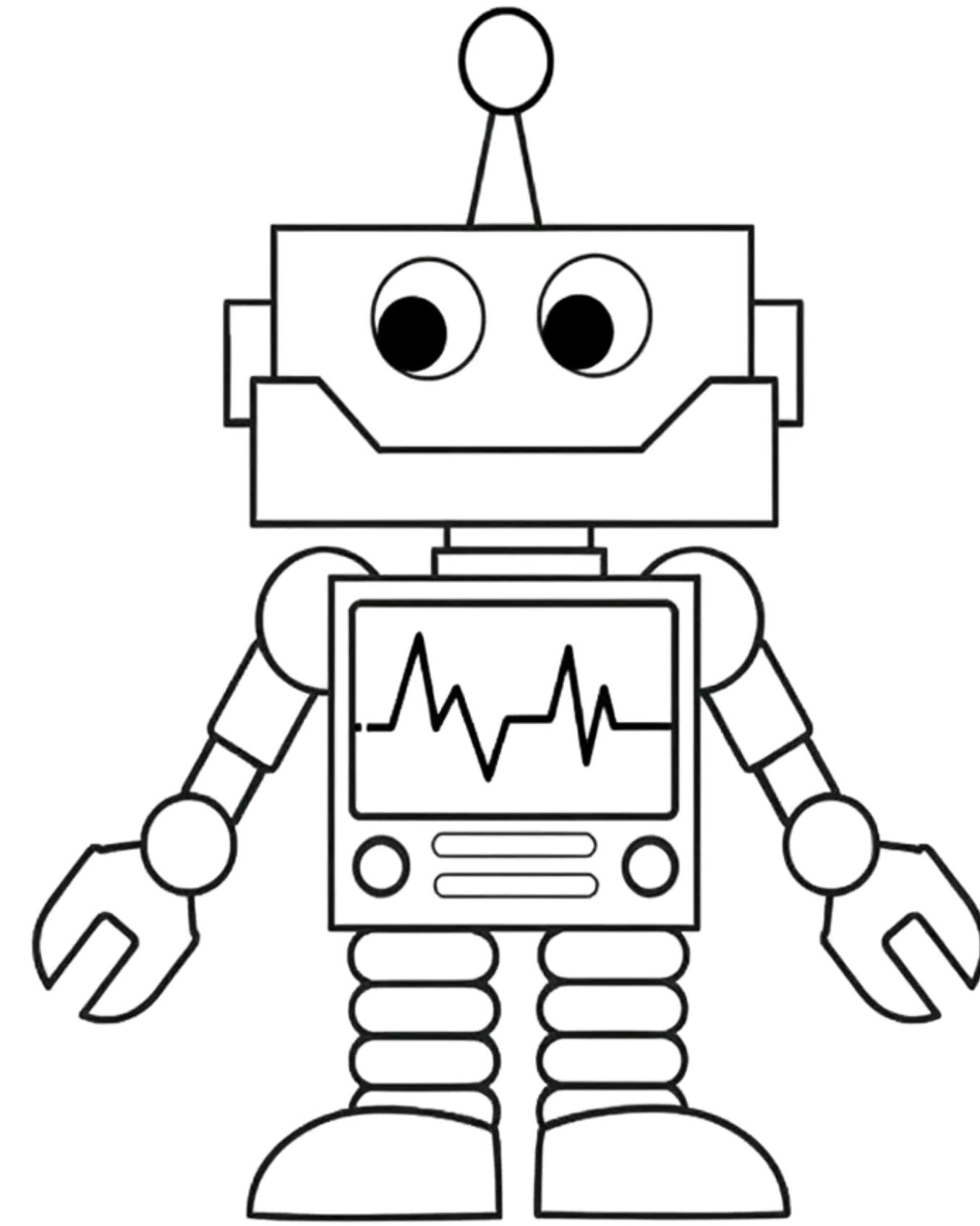
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE

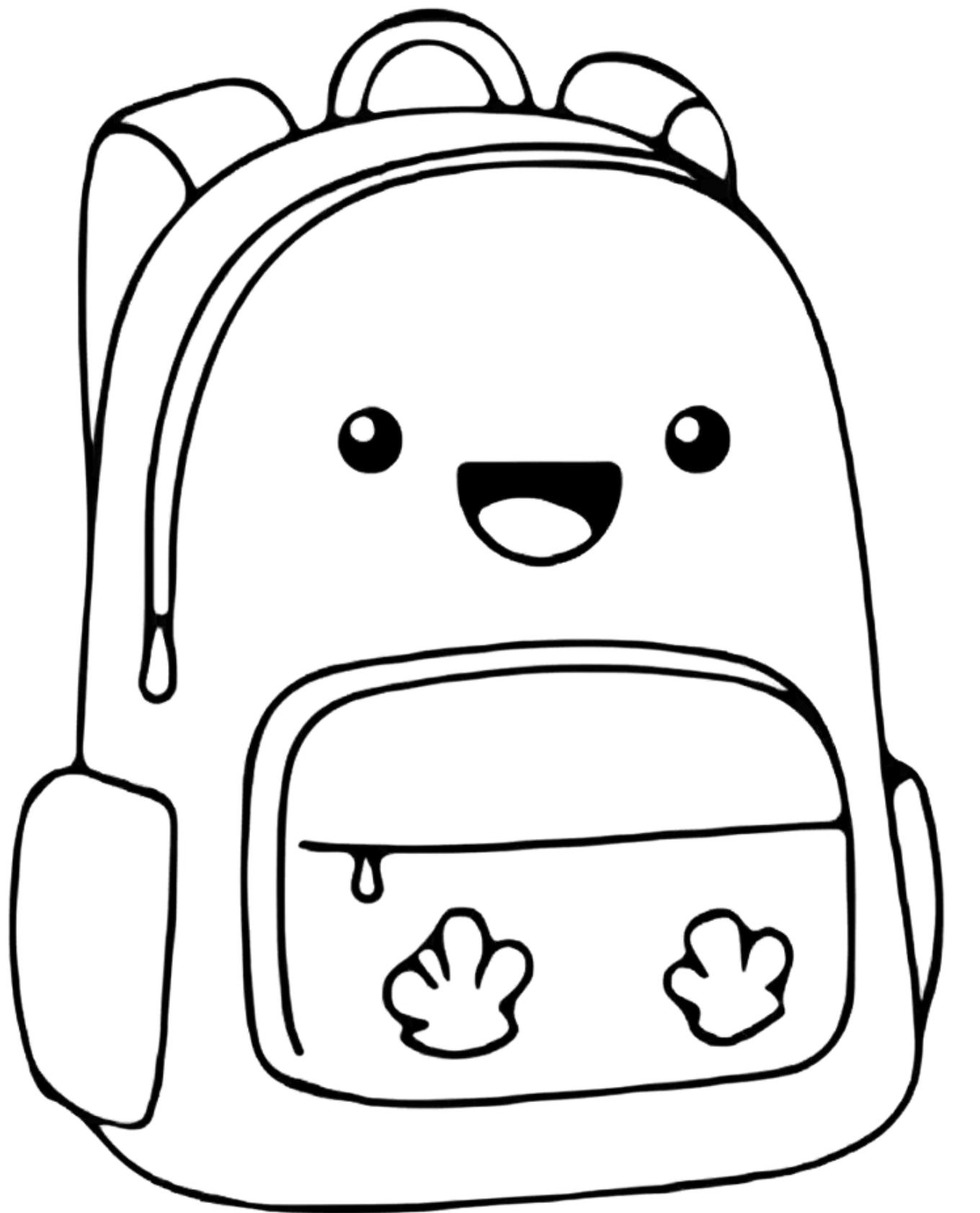




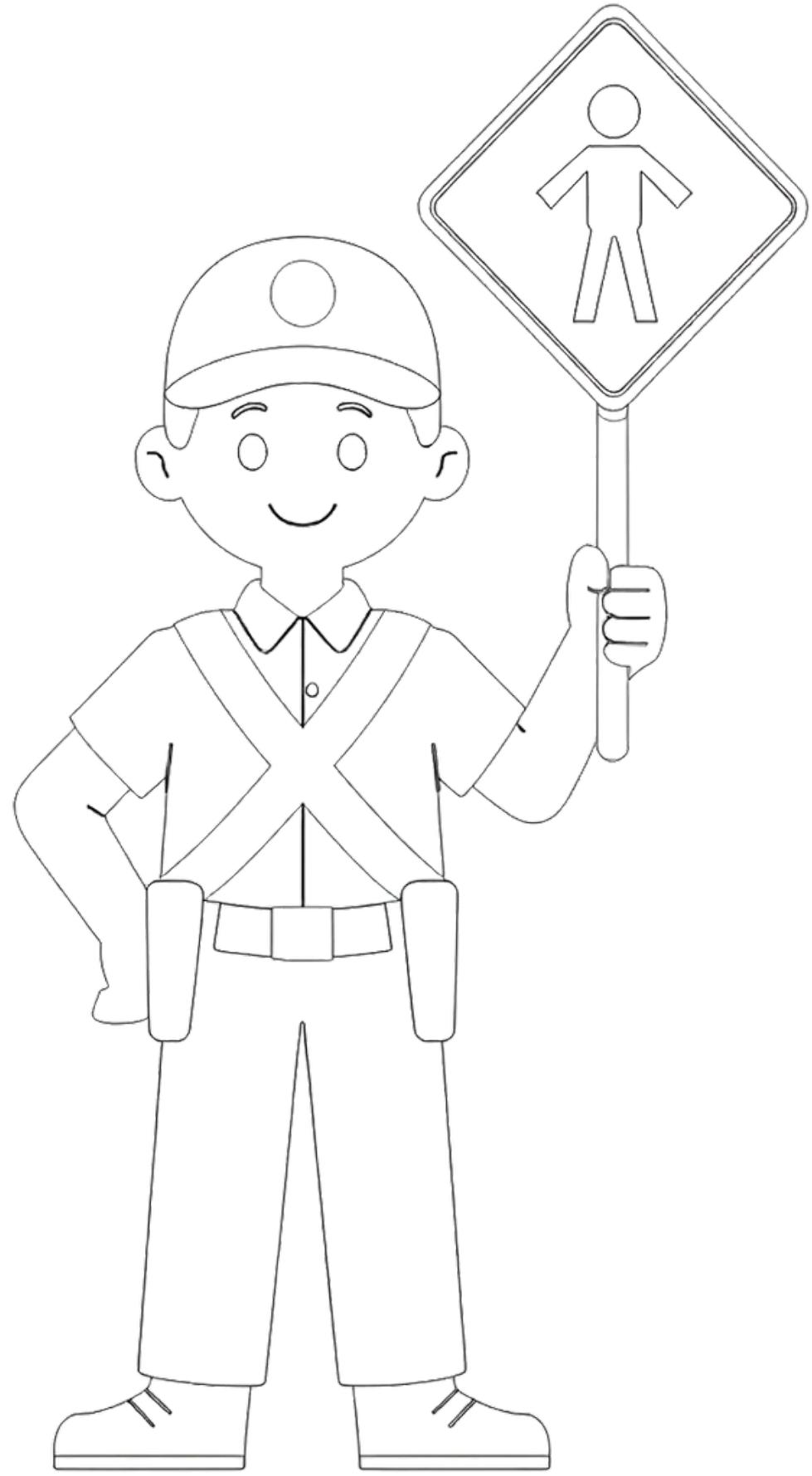
**CAPTAIN FOCUS**



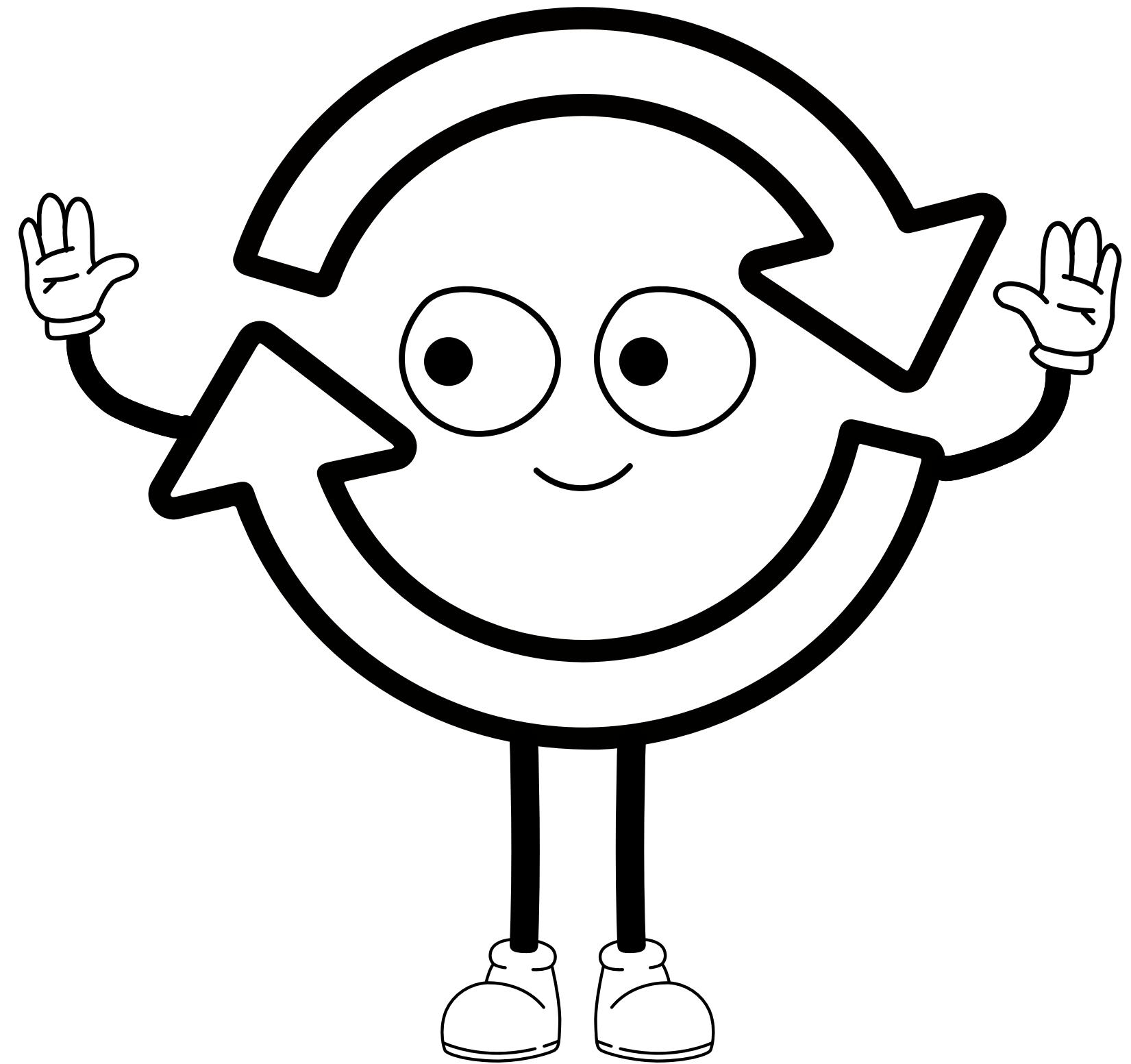
**REMEMBER ROBOT**



**BRAIN BACKPACK**



**STOP AND THINK GUARD**



**SWITCHEROO**



**SOUND SQUAD**

## References

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