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

Work

Heavy users of marijuana have been shown to score lower on standardized tests that measure verbal and mathematical skills than non-users. Marijuana use affects many different aspects of working, including:

- Being late or absent for work
- Having accidents on the job
- Having to leave work

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.

For example:

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.

Marijuana use affects many different aspects of working, including:

- Being late or absent for work
- Having accidents on the job
- Having to leave work

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 dried flowers and leaves of this plant

Marijuana Crossword Puzzle

Reveal a hidden message.

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

Unscramble the Tiles

Reveal a hidden message.

The Memory Thief

The uncomfortable feeling or symptoms that one experiences when abruptly stopping marijuana

Science in the Spotlight:
MarijuanaStats & Facts

The active ingredient in marijuana is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

Marijuana and the Effects on the Brain

The brain active ingredient in marijuana is a chemical called tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). THC binds 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 permanent memory loss. Taking THC in large quantities over a long period of time can severely affect neurons in the hippocampus, resulting in permanent damage and memory loss.

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
- www.ncadi.samhsa.gov
- www.abovetheinfluence.com
- 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?

Marijuana and the Brain

The above pictures are Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT) images, a type of brain imaging that allows doctors and scientists to look into the brain of a living person to see how it is working. The holes in the pictures are not actually holes in the brain. They show areas of the brain that should be working but aren’t. The SPECT image of the marijuana abuser shows much less activity.

Slang names for marijuana

WEED
GANJA
HASH
POT
HERB
GRASS

Marijuana Crossword Puzzle Answers:
1. hippocampus; 2. cancer; 3. four; 4. coordination; 5. dopamine; 6. withdrawal; 7. THC; 8. pot; 9. smoked; 10. cannabis

Scramble Answer: THC is the active chemical in marijuana.