

The Internet is one of the only things humans have made but don't fully understand. It is full of millions of websites that help us learn more about the world around us, as well as another million of websites that either misinform us or are completely useless. Google helps search up millions of useful facts at the click of a button. How can something so useful be negatively affecting our intelligence? 3 examples of how Google is making us stupid is of how easy it is now to find information, depending on externally saved information, and how distracting Google actually is.

Sure, Google helps us find information whenever we need it. How much of that information is actually reliable? The majority of people who use the internet are most likely too lazy to get up and go to the library and search through books for the information they need. The harder it is to find something, the more likely it will get stuck in our brain and we will actually remember it later on. According to "The Shallows : What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains." written by Nicholas Carr, it states, "What really makes us intelligent isn't our ability to find lots of information quickly. It's our ability to think deeply about that information." With information being so easy to find, we are just cramming random facts into our head that we will most likely forget the very next day. Now with this information being so easily accessed and as equally modifiable, we are learning potentially wrong facts.

The brain is the world's strongest, fastest, and most efficient supercomputer. It is not synthetic, so it has to be exercised properly in order to function as it was intended to. We depend on it for absolutely everything we do. Once we stop using it and depend on synthetic machines, our brain slows down and slowly but surely weakens, just like any other muscle. What could possibly causing us to stop using our brain? That answer is Google. We no longer save information in our portable supercomputer, but rather just search up on Google whenever we need information. According to an infographic by onlinecolleges.net, it shows "When the information is saved externally, we usually don't memorize it, but rather remember the place where where we can find it. On the other hand, it says "The next time the same information isn't available. we're more likely to remember it since we took the time to enhance the information in our mind." We know where to find the information, but we don't know what that information actually is. In certain situations, this could prove absolutely disastrous. What if you are kidnapped and are allowed to call one phone number that isn't 911? We would be so used to having all the numbers we need on our phone, computer, or just searching it up on Google, we would forget all

of the numbers that are important to us. What is truly better, having information stuck in your infinite memory supercomputer, or having to search up on Google every time we needed to learn something?

The average attention span is, according to "Google Effect: Is technology Making Us Stupid?" it says "A Microsoft study found that the average attention span fell from 12 seconds in 2000 to 8 seconds today." Attention span is getting shorter by the second (see what I did there) and doesn't seem like it's going to be stopping any time (double pun) soon. Google is distracting us with thousands of ads nobody cares about. According to "The Shallows : What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains" by Nicholas Carr, "The faster we zip across the web, clicking links and skimming words and pictures, the more ads Google is able to show us and the more money it makes." With these ads, they are distracting us and making money in the process. Good for them, but not us. This makes us think superficially, and once again, negatively affecting our intelligence.

Everybody loves Google. Most of us couldn't possibly live without it. Obviously, it is extremely useful to have around. Google doesn't make us any smarter, everything on it can be found in books. Why rely on it so much as it is constantly distracting us? It does the exact same thing as books and it doesn't save any space. It takes up just as much space as a library. A company like Google needs to have absolutely massive data farms in order to save all the websites available on the internet. Books don't have ads and are just, if not more, as effective as Google.