

# Plants Can Make Intelligent Decisions, Researchers Say

## VOCABULARY WORDS

1. capable /'keɪ.pə.bəl/ (adjective) able to do things effectively and skilfully, and to achieve results  
Example: We need to get an assistant who's capable and efficient.
2. differ /'dɪf.ə/ (verb) to be not like something or someone else, either physically or in another way:  
Example: His views differ considerably from those of his parents.
3. raise a question / phrasal/ bring up an issue for discussion, mention a subject for debate.  
Example: This raises the question of how gorillas are able to locate a sufficiency of ripe fruits each day.
4. fancy /'fæɪ.si/ (adjective) decorative or complicated:  
Example: The decorations were a little too fancy for my tastes.
5. complex /'kɒm.pleks/ (adjective) involving a lot of different but related parts  
Example: The company has a complex organizational structure.



Plants are smarter than we think. Researchers say they are **capable** of making intelligent decisions. They say the humble pea plant can make decisions about how best to survive, even though it does not have a brain.

Researchers from Oxford University grew several pea plants that had their roots in two different pots, each containing **differing** amounts of nutrients. One pot always had the same amount, while the other pot varied between a lot and a little. The plants were very consistent. Their roots almost always went to the pot with the most nutrients.

The research paper will be published in the 'Current Biology' journal. A researcher said it, "**raises a question**, not about plants, but about animals and humans". He thought the pea plant might be more efficient when making decisions than humans.

He said: "We have a very **fancy** brain, but maybe most of the time we're not using it." He said pea plants do not have human-like intelligence, but they show

**complex** behavior to take advantage of their environment. It would be interesting to see how our lives would be different if we made decisions like the pea plant.

### **DISCUSSION**

1. What's the best decision you've ever made?
2. What's the worst decision you've ever made?
3. Why do some people talk to plants?
4. What kind of intelligence do you think plants have?
5. In what ways are plants more intelligent than humans?