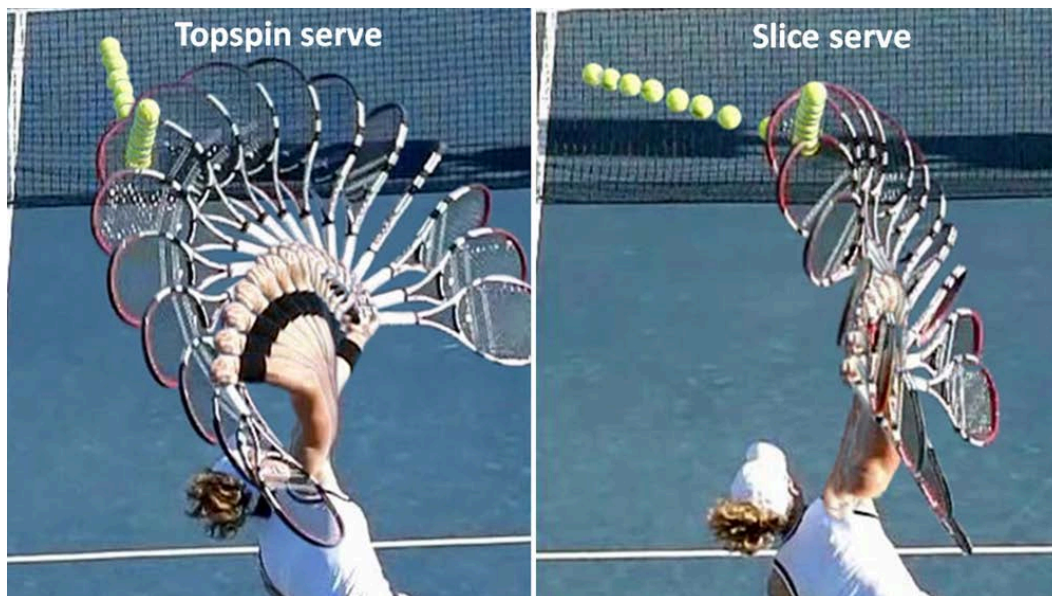




The Brain with David Eagleman
Episode 3: Who's in Control?

- 1) I wrote in my book *Incognito* that you can always win a tennis game with one simple trick: ask your opponent to explain how he/she serves so well. Why does this work? What is the consequence of the question?



- 2) Try this: stand in front of a dry erase board and pick up two markers. Now sign your name with your right hand at the same time that you sign it backward (mirror reversed) with your left hand. Can you do this better

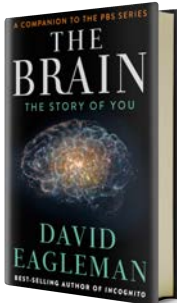
when you're thinking about the task or not thinking about it? You should definitely be able to do this in one condition, but which one? And why?

- 3) One Buddhist view describes consciousness as the brain's way of holding up a mirror to itself. Discuss what this might mean, and whether you agree with this description.

- 4) In the analogy for consciousness presented in the episode, when does the CEO's phone ring? How is this analogous to what happens in a large corporation?

- 5) Do you think the dreaming state is a form of consciousness or unconsciousness?

- 6) What should the legal system do about cases of homicidal somnambulism – that is, killing while sleep-walking? One must sometimes worry about such a plea being a false excuse, but if we only consider those cases in which the claim is provably correct, what should be done?



More depth on the issues in this episode can be found in the companion book, [*The Brain: The Story of You*](#)