


MEANING FROM
CONTEXT

A  3.20 Read and listen to the conversation. Notice each word in **blue** and think about its meaning.

Max: Hey, Rika. What's wrong?

Rika: Nothing. I'm just reading the paper.

Max: Well, you're frowning as you read. Facial example, frowning signals sadness or fear.

Rika: But doesn't that change depending on a person's culture? I'm Indonesian and you're Canadian. We probably just make different facial expressions.

Max: Actually, culture doesn't matter. Back in the 19th century, Charles Darwin found that all people typically make the same facial expressions. He reasoned that these expressions must be a **universal** human characteristic.

Rika: Really? Has anybody else looked into this, or was it just Darwin?

Max: Well, in the 1960s, a psychologist named Paul Ekman confirmed Darwin's theory. He conducted an experiment. He showed photos of facial expressions to people of many different cultures. The **results** showed that people across all cultures recognize—and make—the same facial expressions for the same emotions.

Rika: So culture doesn't matter then, right?

Max: Well, for *some* facial expressions. Neither Darwin nor Ekman could **prove** that all facial expressions are universal. And Ekman also wondered whether there are things that universally **trigger** certain emotions.

Rika: So, you mean to say that what impacts our emotions is the same for everyone?

Max: Well, yes and no. Certain things are universal. For example, everyone gets scared whenever there's a sudden, unexpected movement in their field of vision.

Rika: That **makes sense**. A sudden movement might signal danger, and there's a **strong** reaction for humans to **respond** to danger. We do it **instinctively**.

Max: Right, but not everything triggers the same emotion in different people. For example, one person might associate the smell of the sea with something enjoyable, like a vacation.

Rika: But for someone who has gotten seasick or been stung by a jellyfish, the ocean isn't so pleasant. So the smell might cause negative emotions.

Max: Exactly! Our reaction is influenced by our experience and, often, our **emotions**.

always show your emotions. For



B Discuss the questions with a partner.

1. Are you surprised that facial expressions are the same across cultures? Why or why not?
2. Which emotions do you feel are easiest to recognize? Which are most difficult? Explain.