

Humour and Laughter Trivia Quiz

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

involuntary	induced	fits	emitted	score
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Apes, rats and dolphins can vocalizations that sound similar to human laughter? It may sound strange, but several scientists have elicited “tickle-1) _____ vocalizations” from primates [ˈpraɪmeɪts]. Penny Paterson, president of the Gorilla Foundation says that Koko, the gorilla famous for her sign language abilities, even had a special “ho, ho,” for visitors she liked. And rats apparently have very ticklish necks. When Bowling Green State University scientist Jaak Panksepp and his graduate students tickled baby rats’ napes, the rodents 2) _____ high-frequency chirps that Panksepp interpreted as laughter. As for dolphins, through the study, it was determined that they can emit sounds and vocalizations that fit within the concept of laughter. Dolphins generally emit these sounds to announce that their mood is playful and they have no intention to hurt or fight with others.

Funny people are more intelligent. Researchers in Australia recently discovered that funny people, particularly those who enjoy dark humour, have higher IQs than their less funny peers. They argue that it takes both cognitive and emotional ability to process and produce humour. Their analysis shows that funny people have higher verbal and non-verbal intelligence, and they 3) _____ lower in mood disturbance and aggressiveness. Not only are funny people smart, they’re nice to be around. In studies of attractiveness, both men and women rate funny people as more attractive, and cite having a good sense of humour as being one of the most important in a long-term partner.

Laughing for no reason may be associated with some diseases. Sometimes, laughter is a medical symptom that deserves attention. Here’s an example: in 2007, a 3-year-old girl in New York began having seizures that were quite unusual – she grimaced and laughed during her episodes. Doctors discovered that she had a rare form of epilepsy that was causing 4) _____ laughter, and they performed surgery to remove a benign tumour that was growing in the girl’s brain. The operation cured her of her laughing 5) _____. Laughing by yourself for no reason may also be a sign of some mental conditions, such as mania and schizophrenia. But, of course, not everyone laughing uncontrollably is mentally ill.

