

READING EXERCISE 2

Line

You can usually tell when your friends are happy or angry by the looks on their faces or by **their** actions. This is useful because reading their emotional expressions helps you to know how to respond to them. Emotions have evolved to help us respond to important situations and to convey our intentions to others. But does raising the eyebrows and rounding the mouth say the same thing in Minneapolis as it does in Madagascar? Much research on emotional expressions has centered on such questions.

According to Paul Ekman, the leading researcher in this area, people speak and understand substantially the same “facial language”. Studies by Ekman’s group have demonstrated that humans share a set of universal emotional expressions that testify to the common biological heritage of the human species. Smiles, for example, signal happiness and frowns indicate sadness on the faces of people in such far- flung places as Argentina, Japan, Spain, Hungary, Poland, Sumatra, the United States, Vietnam, the jungles of New Guinea, and the Eskimo villages north of Artic Circle. Ekman and his colleagues claim that people everywhere can recognize at least seven basic emotions: sadness, fear, anger, disgust, contempt, happiness, and surprise. There are, however, huge differences across cultures in both the context and intensity of emotional displays – the so-called display rules. In many Asian cultures, for example, children are taught to control emotional responses – especially negative ones- while many American children are encouraged to express their feelings more openly. Regardless of culture, however, emotions usually show themselves, to some degree, in people’s behavior. From their first days of life, babies produce facial expressions that communicate their feelings.

The ability to read facial expressions develops early, too. Very young children pay close attention to facial expressions, and by age five, they nearly equal adults in their skill at reading emotions on people’s faces. **This evidence** all points to a biological underpinning for our abilities to express and interpret a basic set of human emotions. Moreover, as Charles Darwin pointed out over a

30 century ago, some emotional expressions seem to appear across species boundaries. Cross - cultural psychologists tell us that certain emotional responses carry different meanings in different cultures. For example, what emotion do you suppose might be conveyed by sticking out your tongue? For
35 Americans, this might indicate disgust, while in China it can signify surprise. Likewise, a **grin** on an American face may indicate joy, while on a Japanese face it may just as easily mean embarrassment. Clearly, culture influences emotional expressions.

1. The word **"their"** in line 2 refers to _____.
A. faces
B. actions
C. expressions
D. friends
2. What are the biggest differences?
A. how long negative emotions are displayed
B. how often positive emotions are shown
C. how intensive emotions are expressed
D. how emotional responses are controlled
3. What are Asian children encouraged to do?
A. express their feelings more openly
B. control their emotions
C. conceal their feelings
D. read facial expressions
4. It can be concluded that smiles and frowns _____.
A. are universal expressions across cultures
B. are different in various cultures
C. are not popular everywhere
D. have the same meanings in different cultures
5. It can be inferred from the phrase **"this evidence"** in line 27 that _____.
A. children are good at recognizing others' emotions
B. humans can express emotions

- C. children can control their feelings
D. human can show facial expressions
6. Many studies on emotional expressions try to answer the question whether _____.
A. raising the eyebrows has similar meaning to rounding the mouth.
B. different cultures have similar emotional expressions.
C. eyebrow raising means the same in Minneapolis.
D. rounding the mouth has the same meaning in Madagascar.
7. Young children _____.
A. can learn to read others' emotions
B. can control their emotions
C. are sensitive towards others' emotions
D. take time to control their facial expressions
8. According to the passage, how can we respond to others?
A. by observing their looks
B. by watching their actions
C. by observing their emotional expressions
D. by looking at their faces
9. What can be the best title for the passage?
A. A research on emotional expressions
B. Ways to control emotional expressions
C. Cultural universals in emotional expressions
D. Human habit of displaying emotions
10. The word "**grin**" in line 36 could be closet in meaning to _____.
A. surprise
B. happiness
C. sadness
D. smile