

GAPPED TEXT: PRACTICE 15

For centuries, psychologists have been intrigued by the emotion “anger”. (1) _____. People usually think of anger as a negative emotion, but some of the traits reflect positive emotions. A new study led by Henk Aarts of Utrecht University in the Netherlands reveals that associating an object with anger actually motivates people to desire the object. Such behaviours are typically associated with positive emotions.

(2) _____. Positive emotions generally motivate people to target something. “People are motivated to do some or obtain a certain object in the world because it’s rewarding for them. Usually this means that the object is positive and makes you happy,” says Aarts. His research team wanted to explore whether there is also a correlation between anger as a negative emotion and the desire to get your hands on something.

In the first experiment, each participant watched a computer screen while images of common objects, like a mobile phone or a pen, appeared on the screen. Immediately before each object appeared, the screen flashed either a neutral face, an anger face, or a fearful face. (3) _____. At the end of the experiment, the participants indicated how much they wanted each object. In a second experiment, the participants had to squeeze a handgrip to get the desired object - (4) _____.

Findings from the experiments confirm that people put more effort in action to obtain objects associated with anger faces, but not fearful ones. “This makes sense if you think about the evolution of human motivation”, says Aarts. For example, if there is limited food in the environment, people that associate food with anger and turn anger into an attack response to get the food, are more likely to survive. “if the food does not make you angry or doesn’t produce aggression in your system, you may starve and lose the battle”, explains Aarts. “When you ask people why they work harder to get it that say, (5) _____” adds Aarts. That demonstrates how little we know about our own motivation, he says.

A. Those who squeezed harder were more likely to win it.
B. Anger is an emotion that expresses our dissatisfaction.
C. Anger is a common yet unusual emotion.
D. It’s just because I like it.
E. This subliminal image tied an emotion to each object.
F. This experiment is aimed to prove the importance of anger management
G. Anger activates an area on the left side of the brain that is associated with many positive emotions.