

Read the text and choose the correct word for each space. For each question circle A, B, C or D.

## WHY PEOPLE LAUGH



Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> will be World Laughter Day. Dr Madan Kataria, who introduced this annual event, says we need more laughter in our lives to combat the global rise of stress and loneliness. But surely that strange sound that we make periodically can't be the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to such problems.

If an alien were to land on our planet and (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a stroll among a crowd of earthlings, it would hear a lot of 'ha-ha' noises. It might wonder what (3) \_\_\_\_\_ this strange habit served. If we ask ourselves what (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a good laugh, the obvious answer is that it is a response to something funny. But one scientist, Robert Provine, says humour has surprisingly little to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ with that. Instead, it lies at the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of such issues as the perception of self and the evolution of language and social behaviour.

Provine realized that you cannot capture (7) \_\_\_\_\_ laughter in the lab because as soon as you (8) \_\_\_\_\_ it under scrutiny, it vanishes. So, instead, he gathered data by hanging around groups of people, noting when they laughed.

He collected 1,200 laugh episodes – an episode being (9) \_\_\_\_\_ as the comment immediately preceding the laughter and the laughter itself. His analysis of this data (10) \_\_\_\_\_ some important facts about laughter. "It's a message we send to other people – it (11) \_\_\_\_\_ disappears when we're by ourselves," he says. "And it's not a choice. Ask someone to laugh and they'll either try to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ a laugh or say they can't do it on command."

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|-----|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1.  | A) way        | B) answer       | C) end          | D) response  |
| 2.  | A) make       | B) get          | C) walk         | D) take      |
| 3.  | A) reason     | B) purpose      | C) idea         | D) meaning   |
| 4.  | A) results    | B) leads        | C) prompts      | D) concludes |
| 5.  | A) go         | B) bring        | C) do           | D) set       |
| 6.  | A) root       | B) stem         | C) head         | D) back      |
| 7.  | A) complete   | B) authentic    | C) contemporary | D) current   |
| 8.  | A) place      | B) lay          | C) stand        | D) keep      |
| 9.  | A) defended   | B) decided      | C) defined      | D) depicted  |
| 10. | A) revealed   | B) investigated | C) displayed    | D) declared  |
| 11. | A) absolutely | B) constantly   | C) undoubtedly  | D) virtually |
| 12. | A) offer      | B) pretend      | C) fake         | D) imagine   |

Source: Cambridge English Advanced Trainer