

GRAMMAR 036

Phrasal verbs

Separable

The scientists **talked over** the problem.
The scientists **talked** the problem **over**.
The scientists **talked it over**.
They **worked out** a solution.
They **worked** a solution **out**.
They **worked it out**.

Inseparable

The scientists **talked about** the problem.
The scientists **talked about it**.
The scientists **looked into** the evidence.
The scientists **looked into it**.

1 Read and complete the sentences. Make any necessary changes.

apply to

calm down

cheer up

count on

hold back

look at

turn out

work out

Humans love to laugh. In fact, even hearing other people laugh can cheer us up or make us smile. But sometimes, even when it isn't appropriate, we just can't help ourselves and we start laughing, too! Who hasn't seen people trying hard to stop giggling and to calm themselves down in a place where they should be quiet?

Yawning is another common contagious behaviour. When you see someone who's yawning, you usually want to yawn, too. Can you resist that yawn urge? Probably not. It's very hard to resist the urge!

Did you know that even animals yawn? It turns out that chimpanzees, dogs, lions and other animals yawn when an animal in their group yawns.

Why are these behaviours so contagious? Scientists think they have found the answer to. They believe the same reason explains both behaviours. They are old, basic ways to show a social connection with others in your group.



3 LEARN NEW WORDS Do you think gorillas and wolves can yawn contagiously? Listen. Then listen and repeat. [037 038](#)



a **troop** of gorillas



a **flock** of birds



a **herd** of elephants



a **swarm** of ants



a **pack** of wolves



a **school** of fish

2 LEARN NEW WORDS Find these words in the reading. What do you think they mean? Use the context to help you. Then listen and repeat. [040](#)

flash mob influence intention join stand out

3 WHILE YOU READ Notice definitions and examples in the text. [041](#)

Humans in Groups

You and all humans belong to many kinds of groups. In some, membership is involuntary – that is, you were not part of the decision to belong. For example, if you were born in Peru, you are a member of the group Peruvians. Other examples of involuntary group membership include left-handed people or brown-eyed people.

Most of the time, though, you and the rest of us want to join, or become members of, certain groups. Why? Joining the technology club, the school choir, or a volunteer group that visits people in hospital reflects your interests and becomes part of your social identity. You become an accepted member of the chosen in-group. At the same time, you remain different from the out-group, those people who are not in the group. This reflects the human desire to belong, but also the desire to stand out, or be seen as different.

Most groups we join have the intention of lasting over time. They work to influence others in some way. But sometimes emergent groups form without goals or structure. The members of emergent groups don't know each other, but come together suddenly to respond to an event. For instance, a group of people might see a car accident and immediately come together to help the victims.

Not all short-lived groups deal with accidents or disasters. A flash mob, which is a group of people who suddenly assemble to perform in public, only comes together for a short time and then disappears. The goal of a flash mob is to do something surprising and entertaining in public, such as having a pillow fight or dancing in the street.

Whether we're fighting with pillows or helping people, humans are social beings who come together in groups.