

Yawn if you care

By Fiona Macrae

- 1 WHEN your friend stifles a yawn as you chat, don't be offended. Instead, take it as a compliment. For yawning, far from being a sign of boredom, may signal empathy. Scientists believe that contagious yawning – yawning after someone else does – is a sign of being 7 the first person's thoughts and feelings.
- 2 This is the theory of Italian researchers who observed more than 100 men and women from four continents as they went to work, ate in restaurants and sat in waiting rooms. When one of the volunteers yawned, the researchers noted whether anyone within a 10ft radius 'caught' the yawn – that is, yawned within the next three minutes.
- 3 Their results showed that race and gender had no effect on whether the uncontrollable urge to yawn was passed on. But how well the two people knew each other did. A reciprocal yawn was most likely to occur among family members, then friends, then acquaintances. The phenomenon was 8 among strangers. The University of Pisa team concluded that contagious yawning is driven by how emotionally close we are to someone and so how likely we are to empathise with them.
- 4 The researchers claim there are other reasons to link yawning with empathy. For instance, we start to 'catch' yawns from the age of four or five, around the time when we develop the ability to 9 each other's emotions properly. Studies also show that those susceptible to contagious yawning are better at inferring what others are thinking from their faces.



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Tekst 4

- 1p 7 Kies bij 7 in alinea 1 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
- A fed up with
 - B indifferent to
 - C interested in
 - D tired out by
- 1p 8 Kies bij 8 in alinea 3 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
- A least common
 - B most likely
 - C often criticised
 - D rather widespread
- 1p 9 Kies bij 9 in alinea 4 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
- A correct
 - B identify
 - C ignore
 - D manipulate

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.