

El alumno deberá escoger una de las dos opciones, A o B, y responder **en inglés a todas las preguntas** que se formulan en la opción elegida, sin mezclar preguntas de una y otra.

The Truth About Laughter

Last year, Dr. Robert Provine conducted research in shopping centres in the USA to find out when and why people laugh. He found out that most laughter did not occur after jokes but in response to simple statements, such as “It was nice to meet you, too”. This suggests that laughter is not just a response to humour, but has got other, less obvious functions.

Sometimes we laugh to mask fear (think of a roller-coaster ride at an amusement park) or express relief, especially after a stressful experience. Often, laughter helps us to bond with other people —we rarely laugh out loud if we are alone. In many situations, laughter has got a positive social function, reinforcing social relationships within a group. However, laughter may sometimes have the opposite effect —if you laugh at people, they will probably feel excluded from the group. And sometimes laughter is about power: a boss may laugh in order to control the emotional mood of surrounding individuals.

A good laugh also has a physical effect. It obviously involves facial muscles, but it may also involve arms, legs and torso, and so uses up calories. Laughing also affects our breathing, relaxing arteries and lowering blood pressure. It even increases the amount of immune response cells in the blood and increases blood flow to the brain, prompting a feel-good response. So perhaps laughter really is the best medicine!

1. Answer the following questions, providing evidence from the text (0.5 points each)

- Does the author affirm that people normally laugh in the company of other people?
- According to the text, can laughter have any negative effects?
- Does the writer say laughter involves facial muscles only?
- According to the text, do people sometimes laugh when they are frightened?

2. Imagine that your friend Jim is very sad because he hasn't been selected to play in his favourite football team. Write a text of 30-60 words in which you recommend him to do something that will make him happy. You can write your text in the form of a dialogue if you like. (1.5 points)

3. Do the following (0.5 points each)

- Rewrite the following sentence in the active voice. **Do not omit any part of it.**
That joke has surely been heard by all the students in the school.
- Ask a question for which the underlined words are the answer.
Dr. Provine conducted research to find out when and why people laugh.
- Rewrite the following sentence as a third-type (impossible) conditional.
We rarely laugh out loud if we are alone.

4. Find a word or phrase in the text which means the same as the following (0.5 points each)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. happen | b. evident, easy to see or understand |
| c. communicate | d. strengthening and giving support |

5. Write about one of the following topics in at least 100 words. (3 points)

- Write a story beginning with the following sentence: “Something terribly funny happened to me the other day”. Remember that **these 9 words cannot be counted in the 100 words you must write.**
- Write a blog entry reflecting on the topic “Laughing with my friends is the best medicine for me”.