

NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

Being nice may be in our genes

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120411-being_nice.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

11th April, 2012

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120411-being_nice.html

A new study shows that being nice may be in our DNA. The study is from the University of Buffalo in the USA. Researchers there say they think they have found the genes for the "love hormone" oxytocin. The scientists believe people who have more oxytocin are nicer and more generous. Head researcher Dr Michel Poulin said oxytocin can help you to stop thinking that the world is a bad place. He added the chemical can also make you want to help other people.

The research team said the "love gene" on its own does not make someone nice. They stressed that a nice family and good friends are also important. Dr Poulin wrote: "We aren't saying we've found the niceness gene, but we have found a gene that [helps]." He added: "So if one of your neighbors seems a really generous, caring...kind of person, while another seems more selfish, tight-fisted and not as interested in [helping others], their DNA may help explain why one of them is nicer than the other."

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120411-being_nice.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. in our | a. University of Buffalo |
| 2. The study is from the | b. generous |
| 3. the genes for the | c. help other people |
| 4. nicer and more | d. "love hormone" |
| 5. thinking that the world | e. DNA |
| 6. make you want to | f. is a bad place |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The research | a. the niceness gene |
| 2. good friends are | b. them is nicer |
| 3. We aren't saying we've found | c. team |
| 4. we have found a gene | d. also important |
| 5. a really generous, caring kind | e. that helps |
| 6. explain why one of | f. of person |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120411-being_nice.html

A _____ that being nice may be in our DNA. The study is from the University of Buffalo in the USA. Researchers there say they think they have _____ for the "love hormone" oxytocin. The scientists _____ who have more oxytocin are nicer and _____.

Head researcher Dr Michel Poulin said oxytocin can help you to _____ the world is a bad place. He added the chemical can also _____ help other people.

The research team said the "love gene" _____ not make someone nice. They stressed that a nice family and good friends _____. Dr Poulin wrote: "We aren't saying we've found _____, but we have found a gene that [helps]." He added: "So if one of your neighbors seems _____, caring...kind of person, while another seems more selfish, _____ not as interested in [helping others], their DNA may _____ one of them is nicer than the other."

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120411-being_nice.html

A new study (1) _____ that being nice may be in our DNA. The study is from the University of Buffalo in the USA. Researchers there say they (2) _____ they have found the genes (3) _____ the "love hormone" oxytocin. The scientists believe people who have more oxytocin are nicer and more (4) _____. Head researcher Dr Michel Poulin said oxytocin can help you to stop thinking that the world is a (5) _____ place. He added the chemical can also make you want to help (6) _____ people.

The research team said the "love gene" on its (7) _____ does not make someone nice. They stressed that a nice family and good friends are (8) _____ important. Dr Poulin wrote: "We aren't (9) _____ we've found the niceness gene, but we have found a gene that [helps]." He added: "So if one of your neighbors (10) _____ a really generous, caring...kind of person, while another seems more selfish, (11) _____-fisted and not as interested in [helping others], their DNA may help (12) _____ why one of them is nicer than the other."

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) showing | (b) shows | (c) showers |
| 2. | (a) thinking | (b) think | (c) thought |
| 3. | (a) for | (b) by | (c) at |
| 4. | (a) general | (b) generous | (c) generation |
| 5. | (a) bad | (b) bald | (c) bid |
| 6. | (a) another | (b) others | (c) other |
| 7. | (a) own | (b) self | (c) alone |
| 8. | (a) as well | (b) further | (c) also |
| 9. | (a) speaking | (b) saying | (c) talking |
| 10. | (a) seems | (b) lives | (c) nice |
| 11. | (a) loose | (b) fist | (c) tight |
| 12. | (a) discuss | (b) share | (c) explain |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120411-being_nice.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. A new tsudy
2. they think they have oufnd the genes
3. The scientists evielbe people
4. nicer and more eosreugn
5. head earecrsrhe
6. He added the ahccimle

Paragraph 2

7. They tssersed that a ...
8. good friends are also mponirtta
9. one of your rhgosenbi
10. cngira...kind of person
11. another seems more lisfehs
12. their DNA may help lxepain why

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120411-being_nice.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () chemical can also make you want to help other people.
- (**1**) A new study shows that being nice may be in our DNA. The study is from the University of
- () help you to stop thinking that the world is a bad place. He added the
- () nice. They stressed that a nice family and good friends are also important. Dr Poulin wrote: "We aren't
- () of your neighbors seems a really generous, caring...kind of person, while
- () hormone" oxytocin. The scientists believe people who have more oxytocin are nicer and
- () saying we've found the niceness gene, but we have found a gene that [helps]." He added: "So if one
- () Buffalo in the USA. Researchers there say they think they have found the genes for the "love
- () another seems more selfish, tight-fisted and not as interested in [helping
- () more generous. Head researcher Dr Michel Poulin said oxytocin can
- () others], their DNA may help explain why one of them is nicer than the other."
- () The research team said the "love gene" on its own does not make someone

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. DNA our in be may nice Being.

2. have found the genes for the "love. They hormone"

3. who People nicer are oxytocin more have.

4. world bad Stop the a that is place thinking.

5. you Make people other help to want.

6. A and are family friends important nice good also.

7. niceness saying gene we've found We the aren't.

8. A kind really of generous person , caring.

9. in others Not interested helping as.

10. than of nicer other one is the Why them.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

WRITING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120411-being_nice.html

Write about being nice for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. BEING NICE: Search the Internet and find more information about the being nice gene. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about being nice. Include an imaginary interview with someone who wants to be nice. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a "being nice" expert. Ask him/her three questions about being nice. Give him/her three of your opinions on how to be a nicer person. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.