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LUCETE.ACADEMY

LUCETE READING E7-2

UNIT 3. The Brain's Copycat Cells

The Brain's Copycat Cells

Let's Check!

1. What are the keywords?
2. What is the main idea of the text?



READING SECTION:

The Brain's Copycat Cells

Have you ever **wondered** why you smile when you see someone else smile? Or feel sad when a friend cries? This is because of special cells in your brain which are called mirror neurons.

In the 1990s, scientists discovered mirror **neurons** while studying monkeys. These neurons "mirror" the **behavior** of others. If a monkey sees another monkey picking up a banana, the same cells in its brain light up as if it were picking up the banana itself!

Humans have mirror neurons too, and they are quite powerful. They help us understand and mimic actions, emotions, and even **intentions**. This explains why we yawn when we see someone else yawn. Mirror neurons could be the reason behind **empathy**-the ability to understand someone's feelings as if they were our own.

But the power of mirror neurons doesn't stop there. They also help us learn languages and understand stories better. So the next time you find yourself **automatically** laughing at a comedy or feeling tense during an exciting movie, you can thank your mirror neurons for making the experience more fun! Isn't the human brain amazing?

6 vocabulary key words: wondered, neurons, behavior, intentions, empathy, automatically

The Brain's Copycat Cells

Let's Check!

1. What is the summary?



The Brain's Copycat Cells

Let's Think!

1. Beginning of the Passage:

Question: Have you ever caught yourself copying someone's actions without realizing?

Answer: Once, I saw someone _____ and I found myself _____ too.

1. Middle of the Passage (First Half):

Question: Should we always trust our mirror neurons, especially when it comes to understanding another person's emotions?

Answer: In my opinion, we should/shouldn't always trust our mirror neurons. For instance, _____.

1. Middle of the Passage (Second Half):

Question: Why do you think humans feel a strong urge to yawn when they see someone else do it? Can you think of another action that has the same effect?

Answer: I think humans feel the urge to yawn because _____. Another action that might have the same effect is _____.

1. End of the Passage (First Half):

Question: Think of a time when you felt really connected to a character in a movie or book. How did the story make you feel?

Answer: When I watched/read _____ I felt really connected to the character because _____. The story made me feel _____.

1. End of the Passage (Second Half):

Question: Given the power of mirror neurons, do you think our reactions to media (like movies or books) are real, personal reactions or just a result of our brain's mirroring capability?

Answer: I feel that our reactions to media are _____ This is because _____

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Wrap Up!

1. Why might you smile when someone else does?
1. How do you think mirror neurons assist us in learning languages or understanding stories?
1. Do you believe understanding mirror neurons can help us become better communicators? Why or why not?

DEBATE TITLE: Webby's Great Adventure

- **Topic:** Even the smallest individuals can make a big difference when they work together with determination and courage
- **Discussion question:**
 1. Characters and Personality Traits: Think about the characters in the story, such as Webby, Fergus, and Webby's friends. Write a sentence about each character describing their personality traits.
 2. Webby's Motivation: What motivated Webby to create the massive web? Write a few sentences about why Webby decided to take action and what he hoped to achieve.
 3. The Celebration: Imagine you were at the celebration held in Webby's honor. What would you have said to Webby if you had spoken to him?