

THE SCIENCE OF LAUGHTER**Fill in the correct words from the list below**

Something funny happened when a middle aged woman was taken to a hospital on Monday. It helped a group of scientists to discover why people laugh. It seems that different types of laughing are “all is well” signals which tell others when a **1** _____ or confusing situation is safe.



The woman arrived at an Indian hospital with a head **2** _____ which appeared to give her straight reaction to pain. Every time a doctor stuck a pin in her hand, she laughed uncontrollably.

According to Dr. Ramachandran, neuroscientist at the University of California at San Diego, the region of her **3** _____ involved in sending messages about pain has been **4** _____. Part of it was saying “Look, That hurts” while the other part was saying “There’s no problem!” As a result the brain sent out an OK signal and she started laughing. There’s no other **5** _____ that makes sense.

Why we laugh is one of the great mysteries of human **6** _____. But Dr. Ramachandran believes he has found the answer. “Laughter is just an expression of surprise; it is also **7** _____ connected to feelings of relief,” he told members of a conference in Los Angeles.

He **8** _____ that laughter was a form of communication which helped our **9** _____ save energy and resources. If, for instance, **10** _____ hunters were surprised by a sound in the bushes, their immediate instinct would be fear. Adrenalin levels would go up fast and they would prepare to fight or run away. But if the sound turned out to be a rabbit and not a danger, the natural **11** _____ would be to laugh – sending out a signal to the whole group that they could relax.

- 1** **threatening – damaging – bullying – humorous**
- 2** **disease – pain - injury – cure**
- 3** **mind – head – intellect – brain**
- 4** **divided - disconnected – linked – cut off**
- 5** **method – theory – science – guess**
- 6** **behavior – society – actions – manners**
- 7** **absolutely – generally – finally – strongly**
- 8** **quarreled – argued – responded – ignored**
- 9** **predecessors – successor – ancestors – heirs**
- 10** **ancient – antique – prehistoric – medieval**
- 11** **surprise - action - reaction - achievement**

Something funny happened when a middle aged woman was taken to a hospital on Monday. It helped a group of scientists to discover why people laugh. It seems that different types of laughing are “all is well” signals which tell others when a **threatening** or confusing situation is safe.

The woman arrived at an Indian hospital with a head **injury** which appeared to give her straight reaction to pain. Every time a doctor stuck a pin in her hand, she laughed uncontrollably.

According to Dr. Ramachandran, neuroscientist at the University of California at San Diego, the region of her **brain** involved in sending messages about pain has been **disconnected**. Part of it was saying “Look, That hurts” while the other part was saying “There’s no problem!” As a result the brain sent out an OK signal and she started laughing. There’s no other **theory** that makes sense.

Why we laugh is one of the great mysteries of human **behavior**. But Dr. Ramachandran believes he has found the answer. “Laughter is just an expression of surprise; it is also **strongly** connected to feelings of relief, “he told members of a conference in Los Angeles.

He **argued** that laughter was a form of communication which helped our **ancestors** save energy and resources. If, for instance, **prehistoric** hunters were surprised by a sound in the bushes, their immediate instinct would be fear. Adrenalin levels would go up fast and they would prepare to fight or run away. But if the sound turned out to be a rabbit and not a danger, the natural **reaction** would be to laugh – sending out a signal to the whole group that they could relax.