



# Section 1

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376 words

1 1 Imagine this situation. You pass a group of people. The people are talking to each other. You cannot hear what they are saying. But suddenly they start laughing. What would you think? Would you think that they were laughing at something funny that one of them said? Or — be honest with yourself — would you think that they were laughing at you? Yes, you.

2 Being laughed at is a common fear. But a major study published in 2009 found that this fear is not the same around the world. (1) It differs from culture to culture.

3 People in Finland were the least likely to believe that people laughing in their presence were making fun of them. Less than ten percent of Finns\* in the study said they would think that way, compared to eighty percent of people in Thailand.

4 Some people in the study said that they felt unsure\* of themselves in social situations but hid their feelings of insecurity\*. Others said they avoided social situations where they had been laughed at before.

5 The study found that people in Turkmenistan\* and Cambodia were more likely to be in the first group. They would hide their feelings of insecurity if they were around other people's laughter. But people in Iraq, Egypt and Jordan\* were more likely to try to avoid such situations if they felt they had been laughed at before.

6 Shy people often avoid situations that would force them into close contact with other people. They worry that something they say or do will make other people laugh at them. But some people worry much more than others. They may have a disorder called (2) gelotophobia. Gelos is a Greek word. It means laughter. Phobia means fear. This fear of laughter can be truly sad for those who live with it. It can affect how they lead their lives.

7 In (3) the study, a team from the University of Zurich\* led more than ninety researchers from around the world. They wanted to understand the difference between normal shyness and true gelotophobia. Another purpose of the study was to compare the levels of fear of being laughed at in different cultures. The researchers surveyed more than twenty-two thousand people in forty-two different languages. The findings appeared in the scientific journal *Humor*.

\* Finn: フィンランド人    unsure: 不安な    insecurity: 不安

Turkmenistan: トルクメニスタン (中央アジアの国)    Jordan: ヨルダン (西アジアの国)

Zurich: チューリッヒ (スイスの都市)

左の英文を読んで、次の問い合わせに答えなさい。

段落ごとの音声

全文の音声



目標解答時間 15 分

1 下線部 (1) に関して、本文の内容と一致しないものを 1 つ選びなさい。

- ① Finns were the least likely to feel the fear of being laughed at.
- ② 80% of people in Thailand did not care about being laughed at.
- ③ Many people in Cambodia felt insecure in social situations but pretended they were not.
- ④ People in Iraq tend to avoid social situations where they were laughed at. ( )

2 下線部 (2) とは具体的にどのようなものか、10 字程度の日本語で答えなさい。

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3 下線部 (3) の目的は何か、本文で述べられているものを 2 つ選びなさい。

- ① To understand the causes of gelotophobia.
- ② To know how gelotophobia affects people's lives.
- ③ To understand the difference between normal shyness and gelotophobia.
- ④ To learn how to avoid situations where people may be laughed at.
- ⑤ To compare the levels of fear of being laughed at in different cultures. ( )

4 本文の内容に一致するものには○を、一致しないものには×をつけなさい。

- ① All people feel the fear of being laughed at in the same way.
- ② Some people hide their feelings of insecurity when they feel they are laughed at.
- ③ Shy people try to stay away from social situations for fear that they might be laughed at.
- ④ The fear of laughter may be so serious that it can affect some people's lives. ( )

5 この問題文に対する最も適切なタイトルを選びなさい。

- ① Some People Worry Much More Than Others
- ② Worried That People Are Laughing at You?
- ③ Being Laughed at Is a Trivial Matter
- ④ Is 'Gelotophobia' a Laughing Matter? ( )