

READING 3

A 1 Do you think you're good at recognizing faces? Rate yourself below.

- I'm better than average.
- I'm average.
- I'm below average.

2 Now, look at these six faces for 20 seconds. Try to remember them so that you will be able to identify the faces when you see them again.



3 Turn to page 175 and look at the faces. Which faces do you recognize from above? Look at the key below to see how you did.

KEY 3 correct answers: better than average
2 correct answers: average
0-1 correct answer: below average

B Some people can't recognize faces at all. You are going to read an article about this very unusual problem. The words below are from the article. Make sure you understand what they mean.

affect	cure	identify	probably	suffer
as a result	deny	insulted	recognize	therefore
(be) aware of	disorder	introduce	rely on	unfortunately
character	feature	pay attention	severe	

C Decide if the following are true or false. Check your answers on page 173.

1. Dogs can **suffer** from sunburn.
2. Chocolate is a **cure** for hiccups.
3. Over 90% of **disorders** are caused by stress.
4. Eyes are the only **feature** on our face that never stop growing.
5. A baby **recognizes** its mother's voice and smell after a week.

D Read about Bill's problem. Why do you think the article is called "Do I Know You?"

Do I Know You?

FACE BLINDNESS IS A DISORDER WHICH AFFECTS ABOUT TWO PERCENT OF PEOPLE.

Bill was on a hike with about 20 people. At the beginning of the trail* he talked to a woman in a blue jacket for half an hour. Fifteen minutes later, he began talking to a woman in a red T-shirt. When Bill introduced himself, the woman gave him a strange look. "We talked to each other just a few minutes ago," she said. Bill denied ever seeing her before. "I didn't talk to anyone in a red T-shirt," he said. The woman explained it had gotten warm and she had taken off her jacket.

The woman probably felt insulted. After all, how bad can a person's memory be? What she didn't know was that Bill suffers from face blindness, a disorder called prosopagnosia, which affects about two percent of people.

When sufferers of this problem look at a face, they see the eyes, the nose and the mouth just fine. But they are unable to remember all the features. Therefore when they see a face for the second, third or fiftieth time, they simply do not recognize it. Even if they pay attention to the face, it's like seeing it for the first time. When people have severe prosopagnosia, they don't even recognize their own face when they look in the mirror. They might as well be looking at a stranger.

Can you imagine not recognizing the faces of the people around you? It would be almost impossible to get through the school day if your classmates looked like strangers every day. How would your friends feel if you had to ask their names each time you met? Would you want to go to the movies if you couldn't remember who the characters were?

Unfortunately, there is no cure for the disorder. As a result, those suffering from face blindness have to rely on other ways to identify people they know. For example, they try to remember what everyone around them is wearing. Or, they recognize people by voice, touch or smell. Therefore, it helps if others are more aware of their problem and understand their difficulties.



* trail מסלול, דרך / مسار, طريق