

UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)
Daily English Practice

Week 6

#30 Our brains process irony in emojis, words in the same way

Skills/ Objectives: Reading and Speaking

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

1. Do you add emojis in your text messages in WhatsApp, WeChat and other social networking sites? Why?

Vocabulary

1. Interpretation (noun): an explanation of what something means
2. Literal (adjective): original and basic meaning of a word
3. Ubiquitous (adjective): everywhere, very common
4. Irony (noun): the use of words to express the opposite of what the words actually mean
5. Sarcasm (noun): the activity of saying or writing the opposite of what you mean to criticize somebody or something in a humorous way

PART 2: Article

This article explores how human brains process emojis and words.

Our brains process irony in emojis, words in the same way *(click the link read the article)*

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-09-brains-irony-emojis-words.html>

(Source: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

PART 3: Let's discuss!

1. What have you learnt from the article about communication in the forms of emojis and words?
2. How does the use of emoji help you express your meanings in texting?

PART 4: Speaking

Many Chinese learners of English may find /r/ sound difficult to pronounce. Learn how to pronounce the consonant here. Also learn the difference between /r/ and /l/:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/pronunciation/otherconst6>

PART 5: Learn further

1. A strong wink between verbal and emoji-based irony: How the brain processes ironic emojis during language comprehension

The research study explores how human brains process ironic emojis during language comprehension.

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0201727>

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