

# KISSING

- 1 Kissing – in the amorous, lip-locking sense – is not practised in all cultures, so the urge to pucker up cannot be in our genes. Still, you have to wonder why so many of us do it and why it feels so darn good. There is no shortage of speculation.
- 2 One idea is that our first experience of comfort, security and love comes from the mouth sensations associated with breastfeeding. Added to this, our ancestors probably weaned their babies by mouth-to-mouth feeding of chewed food, as chimpanzees and some mothers do today, reinforcing the connection between sharing spit and joy.
- 3 When it comes to the physical aspect of kissing we are on firmer ground. Our lips are among the most sensitive parts of our bodies, packed with sensory neurons linked to the brain's pleasure centres. Kissing has been shown to reduce levels of the stress hormone cortisol and increase the bonding or 'love' hormone, oxytocin.
- 4 The way we assess our biological compatibility with potential partners may even have a link with kissing. In recent years it has become apparent that we are most attracted to the smell of sweat from people whose immune system is most dissimilar from our own – with whom we are likely to produce the healthiest children. And of course kissing lets us get up close and personal enough to sniff that out.

*New Scientist, 2009*

## Tekst 2 Kissing

---

- 1p 2 “There is no shortage of speculation.” (paragraph 1)
- Which of the following quotes describes ‘fact’ instead of ‘speculation’?
- A “One idea ... with breastfeeding.” (paragraph 2)
  - B “our ancestors ... chewed food” (paragraph 2)
  - C “Kissing has ... hormone, oxytocin.” (paragraph 3)
  - D “The way ... with kissing.” (paragraph 4)

---

### Bronvermelding

*Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.*