

Blog post - Reasons to use TED Talks, Daniel Barber, Teaching resource

Rana el Kaliouby

This app knows how you feel – from the look on your face

Link to talk [here](#).

1 Look at the emoticons. Then discuss the questions in groups.

a) :-) b) B^D c) :o(d) >:| e) :’-(f) :-O g) >:P h) ;o) i) \o/ j) (-_;) k) (= _=) l) ^_(\ツ)_/’

- 1 What different emotions do these emoticons express?
- 2 Do you use emoticons, or are *emojis*, e.g. 😊, always used these days?
- 3 Where do you use emoticons and emojis? e.g. email
- 4 Is it sometimes difficult to find the right character for how you are feeling? Why?
- 5 If you only had 3 characters, which would you choose? Why?
- 6 Which of these ‘rules’ about emoticons do you agree with?
 - Emoticons, e.g. :) are old-fashioned. Use emojis, e.g. 😊
 - You must give your emoticons noses.
 - Don’t invent your own emoticons. People won’t understand them.
 - Don’t use any emoticons. Express your emotions in words, e.g. That’s great!
- 7 What other rules do you know?
- 8 What other ways can you express your feelings online?

2 Work in pairs. When was the last time you ...

- ... cried watching something online
- ... laughed online
- ... found it hard to tell someone online that you were angry

3 Watch the first part of the talk (0.00 – 2.29). Why does Rana say it is important that computers recognize our emotion? Use these words to help you answer.

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4 Watch the second part of the talk (2.29 – 4.29). How does the software learn to recognize emotions? Use these words to help you answer.

facial muscle movement 'action unit' combine read facial expressions hard
tell the difference between algorithms common characteristics

5 Watch the third part of the talk (4.29 – 7.11), then write down the emotions that Cloe makes.

6 Work in small group. How could this technology be used? Make a list of ideas. Use these words to help you think.

- advertising
- around the house
- business
- entertainment
- online communication, e.g. email
- people with disabilities
- shopping and retail

7 Watch the rest of the talk. Then work in pairs. Tell your partner one reason for using the technology that you hadn't discussed in Exercise 6.

8 Work in pairs. Read these questions about the technology. Which would you like to ask Rana? How do you think she would respond?

- Before when we could only communicate by letter or phone we didn't feel a need to communicate emotions. Why do you think we need it now?
- These days we can communicate easily with video so we don't need the computer to read faces for us. We can read them ourselves. Why do you think this technology is necessary?
- Are you worried that companies will only use the technology to sell more products?
- What do you say to people who don't like the idea of their computer reading their emotions? Is there anything scary about this technology?

9 Work in pairs. You are going to interview Rana el Kaliouby. One of you should play the interviewer, the other, Rana. Prepare your questions and answers by looking again at Exercises 3, 4, 6 and 8. Then conduct the interview!