

1. Find **at least three** words in the text containing vowels or groups of vowels which are pronounced in the same way as /ɑ:/ in **laughs**, /ɒ/ in **common** and /u:/ in **prove**.

### **Keep Smiling!**

Laughter plays an important part in most people's lives – in fact, an average person laughs at least seventeen times a day. However, contrary to what most people believe, we don't only laugh when something funny happens; we also laugh as a sign of relief or of fear. One philosopher, John Morreal, has a theory that the first ever case of human laughter could have been when ancient men expressed their relief by laughing after they had survived a dangerous situation.

Laughter has many uses. Sometimes people use laughter to reduce tension when others get angry, thus avoiding unpleasant or even violent and dangerous reactions. Moreover, in addition to reducing tension, laughter is a means of forming relationships with other people. When they laugh at a common subject, people find it easier to bond with each other. Furthermore, some doctors are convinced that laughter is, as the proverb says, the best medicine. They believe that laughing releases a certain chemical in our bodies which helps relieve pain and makes us feel more relaxed. It is now becoming quite common for hospitals to invite clowns to perform in order to cheer patients up and hopefully contribute to the healing process.

Finally, laughter is also associated with power and success. Research shows that people who are in a position of power, for example tribal chiefs or bosses in companies, tend to laugh more than people who have got less authority than them. There are even indications that in certain cultures, the ability to make people laugh not only widens a person's circle of friends, but can also actively contribute to that person's professional advancement.

People have recognised the power of laughter for many years. There is an old saying: "Laugh, and the whole world laughs with you; cry, and you cry alone". Modern research would seem to prove that at least the first part of this statement is indeed true.

- J. Find **at least one** word in the text containing each of these phonetic sounds: /ɔɪ/ - /ʊ/ - /ɪə/ - /ɔ:/ - /eə/ and /ʊə/.

### **The Chameleon**

It is a well known fact that the colour of a chameleon can change. In many spy stories the character being chased is called "a chameleon" because his or her appearance changes all the time. The spy is successful because no one is able to recognise him or her. Sometimes the term "chameleon" is used in another way. It is used negatively about someone who always changes his or her opinion, depending on whom the person is talking to at a particular time.

In nature, however, a chameleon is neither negative nor secretive. It is a member of the reptile family, and known for its ability to change colour. The colour change takes place because of environmental factors, such as light and temperature, and emotional factors – fear, victory in battle against another animal, or defeat. Contrary to popular belief, it does not occur as a means of hiding from danger.

There are about 87 species of chameleons, over half of which live in Madagascar, a poor island in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Africa. The other species are found on continents throughout the world. Most chameleons range in length from 17 to 25 centimetres, but some have been known to grow as long as 60 centimetres. This reptile has independently movable eyes and a long tongue. This enables it to catch insects, which are its main diet. However, some large chameleons also eat birds. One final point of interest is the fact that the male chameleon has sometimes got up to three horns, resembling those of a dragon. However, despite its frightening appearance, there is no need to fear the chameleon – it will only attack in self-defence.