

1. Secret of love boils down to chemistry

2. Study shows how a dose of the right hormone stimulates bonding,

3. offering hope for a drug to fix marriages BY MAGGIE FOX, REUTERS

4. Could a pill or a squirt up your nose save your marriage? Maybe, according to a researcher who
5. is studying the chemical basis of that most elusive of emotions -- love. Larry Young says his
6. ultimate quest is not a high-tech love potion -- indeed, he has ethical concerns about *that* -- but
7. to shed light on serious conditions such as autism, *which* affects the ability to form social
8. attachments. *To do so*, he is studying brain chemicals involved in emotional attachment.
9. "Biologists may soon be able to reduce certain mental states associated with love to a
10. biochemical chain of events," Young, of the Yerkes National Primate Research Center at Emory
11. University in Atlanta, wrote in the journal *Nature*. *His* study of prairie voles has shown that a
12. quick dose of the right hormone can drastically alter relationships. The cute rodents are a good
13. model for human relationships, Young said. Unlike many other animals, *they* form lifelong pairs
14. and raise their young together. But this behaviour is easy to change, Young says. "It's a
15. chemical reaction. At least in voles we know that if you take a female and place her with a male
16. and infuse her brain with oxytocin, she will quickly bond with that male," he said in a telephone
17. interview. Taking away her natural levels of oxytocin -- a hormone involved in labour, nursing
18. and social bonding -- means *she* will reject a male as a mate no matter how many times she
19. physically copulates with him. "Experiments have shown that a nasal squirt of oxytocin
20. enhances trust and tunes people into *others'* emotions," Young wrote in the *Nature* article.
21. "Internet entrepreneurs are already marketing products such as Enhanced Liquid Trust, a
22. cologne-like mixture of oxytocin and pheromones designed to boost the dating and relationship
23. area of your life," he wrote. Young sees a potential role in fixing damaged marriages. "If we
24. could maybe use a drug in combination with marital therapy, *that* may be desirable," he said.
25. Young is also convinced that love does not boil down to one single hormone. Other studies
26. have shown that differences in a gene called major histocompatibility complex, which affects the
27. immune system, may be involved in initial sexual attraction. For males, the hormone
28. vasopressin appears to be more important. But it is clearly biological. "I think love in humans
29. evolved to draw us together," he said. Which means feelings of love likely exist in other
30. animals. "Any mammal, when the mother has babies, *they* are bonded to those babies and
31. would do anything to protect those babies. That is an ancient brain chemical that is ubiquitous,
32. and stimulates the bond," he said. Humans -- and perhaps prairie voles -- have evolved to use
33. that mechanism to stimulate pair bonds, Young believes. "Either way, recent advances in the
34. biology of pair bonding mean it won't be long before an unscrupulous suitor could slip a
35. pharmaceutical 'love potion' in our drink. And if they did, would we care? After all, love is
36. insanity," he wrote.

READ THE TEXT FIRST

1.) VOCABULARY. Choose the most appropriate alternative (a-b-c) for the meanings of the following words in the context of the article.

1. boils down to (l. 1)	a. brings to	b. heats to	c. bubbles to
2. to fix (l. 3)	a. to save	b. to agree on	c. to anchor
3. squirt (l. 4)	a. a body of water	b. a water pistol	c. a jet of liquid
4. quest (l. 6)	a. journey	b. doubt	c. goal
5. to shed light on (l. 7)	a. to better understand	b. to improve communication on	c. to make brighter
6. attachments (l. 8)	a. belongings	b. e-mails	c. relationships
7. cute (l. 12)	a. nice	b. clever	c. pretty
8. pairs (l. 13)	a. couples	b. matches	c. twins
9. mate (l. 18)	a. friend	b. companion	c. buddy
10. enhances (l. 20)	a. raises	b. magnifies	c. modifies
11. dating (l. 22)	a. timing	b. calculations	c. courting
12. to draw (l. 29)	a. to bring	b. to design	c. to portray
13. suitor (l. 34)	a. man	b. dressmaker	c. clothier
14. slip (l. 34)	a. voluntarily offer	b. intimately concede	c. secretly put

_____ / 7 POINTS

2.) REFERENCE WORDS. Whom or what do the following words refer to in the text?

1. **that (l. 6)**

to do so (l.8)

2. _____

- 3. they (l.13)
- 4. we (l.15)
- 5. she (l.18)
- 6. others' (l.20)
- 7. that (l.24)
- 8. they (l.30)

_____ / 4 POINTS

3.) TRUE – FALSE. Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) to the following statements.

- 1. _____ **Young feels that it will be possible for scientists to develop chemicals that will make people fall in love.**
- 2. _____ **There are already perfumes on the market containing oxytocin.**
- 3. _____ **Researchers agree that love is just a complex chemical reaction.**
- 4. _____ **It is a real possibility that something like oxytocin could be used in conjunction with marital therapies in the near future.**

_____ / 4 POINTS

4.) Comment on ONE of the following. Write a at least 4 complete sentences.

- 1. **Studies in humans show that people who have experienced abuse or neglect in their life have less trust in others. Do you feel that our experiences in life have a very important impact on our ability to form relationships? Why? Why not? Explain.**
- 2. **Some scientists believe it will become increasingly possible to manipulate the mechanisms that play a role in romantic love. Do you think that this kind of manipulation would raise ethical and cultural issues? Why? Why not? Explain.**

5.) CLOZE. Fill-in the blank spaces with the following words:

anxious	consider	leave	These
slow	begin	antidepressants	avoid
from	fear	which	more
This	less moral	causes	hard
persuade	stops	on	easy
before	after	He	in front of
works	hormones	behind	fast
affects	They	lead	behind

Social Anxiety Disorder

People with social anxiety disorder (or social phobia) are extremely _____ about what they will say or do _____ other people. _____ includes public speaking and day-to-day social situations. But it is _____ than just being shy or nervous before public speaking. The fear can _____ weeks or months _____ an event. It can cause a _____ heartbeat and make it _____ to focus. Some people _____ only one or a few types of social situations. For other people, many situations cause stress. This problem _____ daily life. You may be so stressed or afraid that you _____ public situations, including missing work and school. Doctors don't know what causes SAD. Treatment of SAD includes counselling and sometimes medicine, such as _____. Whether you need medicines depends _____ how much the problem affects your daily life. Treatment for SAD _____ for many people. Some people turn to alcohol or drugs to help them relax. This can _____ to addiction problems. _____ may also have depression. It is important to treat these issues too.

6.) Now answer the following comprehension questions based on the cloze exercise above.

1. What is SAD ? _____

2. What causes SAD ? _____

3. How is SAD treated? _____

3 POINTS

TOTAL: _____ / 30 POINTS

KEY:

VOC.

1. a
2. a
3. c
4. c
5. a
6. c
7. b
8. a
9. b
10. a
11. c
12. a
13. a
14. c

2.) REF.

1. high-tech love potion
2. to shed light on serious conditions
3. rodents/ voles
4. researchers / biologists / scientists
5. a female vole
6. other people's
7. fixing damaged marriages
8. any mammal / mammals / mothers

3.) T or F

1. T
2. T

3. F

4. T

4.) Personal Response

5.) anxious -- in front of – This – more -- begin – before – fast – hard -- fear – affects –

avoid -- antidepressants – on – works – lead – They

6.) Social anxiety disorder / social phobia / an illness / health problem

Doctors don't know exactly may be ...genetics or traumatic situation.

Counseling & medicine (antidepressants).