

Why It Seems as if Everyone Is Always Angry With You

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Why do you look so angry? This article hasn't even begun and already you disapprove. Why can't I ever win with you? I see it in your face.

If this sounds unfamiliar, good for you. You don't need this.

For the rest of us, it may be helpful to know that some people seem to have outsize difficulty with reading neutral faces as neutral, even if they are exceptionally accurate at interpreting other facial expressions. Over the past decade psychologists have been piecing together why this occurs.

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“Angry interactions could be a cue for them to retreat to their room,” said [Alice Schermerhorn](#), a developmental psychologist at the University of Vermont and the author of the study. “By comparison, neutral interactions might not offer much information, so children may not value them and therefore may not learn to recognize them.”