

Why people turn left when walking in groups

Vocabulary Match

scientists ● prefer ● anti-clockwise ● discovery ● noticed ● architects ●
● experts ● designers ● left ● like more ● finding ● saw

Article

Scientists from Spain and Japan found an interesting thing about walking. Most people prefer turning anti-clockwise when they walk in a group. The scientists studied children and adults in different situations. They found that younger people showed this pattern more strongly.

The discovery happened during COVID-19 research about social distancing. Scientists watched videos of people walking and noticed that many people moved in the same direction.

The scientists still do not know why this happens. They think it may be connected to the body or the brain. In the future, they want to do more tests to learn the reason. Their research may help architects and engineers design safer stations, buildings and other busy public places for large crowds.

Quiz

1. What did scientists from Spain and Japan find about walking?
2. Who showed the pattern of turning anti-clockwise more strongly?
3. When did the discovery happen?
4. What do the scientists want to do in the future?

Conversation

- A: Did you see the video of people walking?
B: Yes, they all walked anti-clockwise!
A: It's funny how they didn't even notice.
B: Maybe it's something in our brains.
A: Or maybe we just like going left!
B: Well, I'm going to walk clockwise from now on!

Discussion

1. When you walk in a loop, do you prefer to go clockwise or anti-clockwise?
2. Do you like walking in groups or alone? Why?
3. Are you a fast or slow walker?
4. What's the farthest you have ever walked?