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## Unit 1

### Can Babies Choose Between Good and Bad?



#### Reading

This is an introduction to the news.



1-02

We know that babies, three to six months old, are able to smile and cry to show their emotions, but until recently it was thought that they had no sense of what is right and wrong. Scientists at Harvard, however, have carried out a study which seems to suggest that this is not true.

In the study, babies watch a puppet show in which they are shown bunny rabbit characters. There is a green bunny who is kind and helpful and an orange bunny who is mean. After the show, the babies can choose one of the bunnies, and most of the babies choose the green bunny, the good one. This shows that the children prefer good characters to bad ones.

In the next part of the study, the bunnies are holding snacks: graham crackers. The good bunny has one, and the bad bunny has two. Again, most of the babies will take a cracker from the good bunny, even though that bunny has fewer crackers. However, if the bad bunny has eight crackers and the good bunny only one, the babies are more likely to take a cracker from the bad bunny, suggesting that there is a limit to this moral sense.

#### Try this

After reading the text above, close your textbook and in 30 seconds summarize the content to your partner. You can use Japanese or English.

## Transcript Completion

Watch the news clip.

1-03  
1-07  
AZUZ: If you've spent any time around babies, so we are talking children three to six months in age, you know they can express themselves. Smiling when happy, crying when — well, whenever. But do they know right from wrong? Good from bad? Do babies have a sense of morality? A scientist at Yale University says psychologists have long felt that babies knew nothing in that area. One study is changing that, but there is a caveat.

1-04  
1-08  
REPORTER: These babies at Yale University's Infant Cognition Center are here to watch a puppet show. A show designed to illustrate examples of good and bad behavior. Watch as this puppet struggles to open a box. A green bunny comes along and helps to open the box. Green bunny is nice and helpful. Then, an orange bunny comes along and slams the box shut. The orange bunny is mean, unhelpful. But what does this mean to six-month-old and three-month-old babies? After repeated shows, they are presented with two puppets, the nice green bunny and the mean orange bunny. Which one will they choose?

1-05  
1-09  
Over 80 percent of babies like the nice puppet. So we see babies recognizing good and bad characters. But do they then try to avoid the bad guy? The good bunny has one graham cracker, the bad bunny has two. Which one will the babies choose? Over 80 percent of babies will take one cracker from the nice guy, avoiding the mean guy, even though he has one more cracker.

1-06  
1-10  
But what if the mean guy has eight crackers, and the nice guy just one cracker? Now, which one will the baby choose? 65 percent of babies will take the crackers from the mean guy. According to the study, more crackers means more willingness to overlook dealing with the bad guy.

CNN Student News – 2014

## Comprehension Questions

Mark the following sentences True (T) or False (F). Underline the key words or phrases in the transcript which support your answer.

## Paragraph 1

[ T / F ] (1) Azuz thinks that babies can express themselves.

[ T / F ] (2) A new study says that babies always know the right thing.

## Paragraph 2

[ T / F ] (3) The babies go to the university to help with a puppet show.

[ T / F ] (4) The orange bunny does not help open the box.

## Paragraph 3

[ T / F ] (5) The good bunny is given more crackers than the bad one.

[ T / F ] (6) Babies always prefer the bunny with more crackers.

## Paragraph 4

[ T / F ] (7) The babies sometimes choose the good bunny with one cracker.

[ T / F ] (8) The babies' judgment is affected by both morality and crackers.

## Notes:

caveat: 補足説明 / Infant Cognition Center: 乳児知覚センター / bunny: ウサギ / slam: パタンと閉める / graham cracker: 全麦粉クラッカー

