

14. Communications and its Forms

Human beings use their language (system of sounds, words etc.) to communicate thoughts and feelings. We can communicate with other people in many different ways. We can talk and write, and we can send messages with our hands and faces. There is also the phone (including the mobile!), the fax and e-mail. Television, film, painting, and photography can also communicate ideas.

Animals have ways of exchanging information, too. Bees dance and tell other bees where to find food. Elephants make sounds that humans can't hear. Whales sing songs. Monkeys use their faces to show anger and love. But this is nothing compared to what people can do. We have language – about 6000 languages in fact. We can write poetry, tell jokes, make promises, explain, persuade, tell the truth or tell lies. And we have a sense of past and future, not just present. Music can be the universal language.

Radio, film and TV have had a huge influence on society in the last hundred years. And now we have the Internet which is infinite. But what is this doing to us? We can give and get a lot of information very quickly. But there is so much information that it is difficult to know what is important and what is not. Modern media is changing our world every minute or every day.

There are different kinds of conversation: formal, informal, verbal, non-verbal f.e. gestures, mime, facial expressions..., chattering, gossiping. Sometimes our body shows our feelings or thoughts f.e. when we yawn, we are tired or bored, sitting with eyes and mouth wide open means that we are fascinated...

Other possible types of communication are mobile phone or e-mails. They are very popular these days and people can send messages very quickly. When we are in danger, we send a mayday. A system of sending messages using dots and dashes or short and long sounds or flashes of light is called Morse code.

QUESTIONS:

1. How many different ways can people communicate?
2. What is special about human communication? What can we do?
3. What is special about "animal communication"? What can they do?
4. What can people do that animals can't?
5. How do you like to communicate?
6. What is happening in information technology now?

chattering- táranie

gossiping - klebetenie

yawn – zívat'

dots – bodky

dashes – pomlčky

sounds – zvuky

flashes - záblesky