U1 AOS1 WR2   
Human Language, Animal Communication

# What makes human language unique? How do other animals communicate?

You might have read, or seen documentaries where people try and teach some animal or another to ‘speak’ – that is, to speak human language. Basically, and unsurprisingly, they show that animals can’t really learn to speak or are very limited in what they can communicate.

**Human language** is seen as having the following qualities that makes it unique among other animal forms of communication:

* + Spontaneity (and Displacement)
  + Creativity
  + Structure
  + Arbitrariness
  + Cultural Transmission

## Your task is to: Create a PowerPoint or brochure with the following

**Part A: Animal Communication**

* choose an animal species from the list below, and
* detail how this animal communicates
* show which qualities of the above list your species exhibits – you will need to conduct your own research so, you must cite your sources in your final product
* examples and discussion about how these features relate to Hockett’s uniqueness features

**Part B: Uniqueness of Human Communication**

In this assessment, you will also briefly discuss human language, showing that you understand each of the above terms, and so that you can compare your animal species and its communication strategies, with human animals and their communication strategies.

* Understand what the above terms mean. Give an explanation, with two or three examples that make sense to you! This will help you when you are reading, watching clips about your chosen animal species, so you know what terms you can refer to in relation to them.
* Having chosen your animal species, do research, both reading and watching clips, taking notes, gathering examples.

## ANIMAL SPECIES TO STUDY

* + Bees
  + Prairie dogs
  + Coyotes
  + Song birds
  + Hump-backed whales
  + Dolphins
  + Tigers or Lions
  + Canaries
  + Chickens
  + Wolves
  + Chimpanzees (wild)
  + Chimpanzees (in the human setting)
* OR – another species that you have checked with your teacher is useful to study.

**This task must be completed to receive an S for Unit 1 English Language.**

**You will be given all of week 8 to complete this task – the quality of your work should reflect this extensive amount of time.**

**Students may work in pairs or groups of 3, but all students must contribute to the final product.**