

ENGLISH

Chapter 13
Session B



EN

Communicate







Reading and critical thinking 5



A history essay

Work in pairs. How many different ways of sharing information can you think of?

Write an article online, send a message ...



2 Look at the ways of sharing news in the box. Which ones can you see on p63?

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cave painting chain of signals (smoke, fire or flag)
human messenger messenger pigeon stone tablet
town crier whistling
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Complete the table. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of these forms of communication?

	Advantages	Disadvantages
stone tablet	permanent	difficult to transport
cave painting	easy to understand	only visitors to the cave can see it
messenger	relatively fast and	pigeon may get lost
pigeon	can fly distances	slow, prone to accidents
human messenger	fairly fast (broad cast news farther)	can get tired-injured
chain of	easy to see from	fire can go out, wind can
signals	distances	change (weather)
town crier	aloud and inmediate	can lose their voice
whistling	can hear from distances	Need to learn whistling

Possible Advantages or Disadvantages:

town crier Advantages: aloud and immediate/a large group of people can hear, (give message to a crowd, read aloud news to people who couldn't read)

Disadvantage: can lose their voice/only people present can hear the announcement, (-)

distances, (bivaucast news idi diei arre),

whistling Advantages: can hear from a distance, (needs less effort than shouting or running, instant)

Disadvantage: need to learn whistling language, (-)

chain of signals Advantages: easy to see from a distance, (more immediate, easy to see from a distance)

Disadvantages: fire can go out/wind can change, (depended on humans or weather)

4 2 2 Read and listen to the essay. Check your ideas in exercise 3. What other advantages and/or disadvantages does the article mention?

A brief history of **SHARING NEWS** AND **INFORMATION**

Humans have always distinguished themselves from other living beings through their ability to communicate complicated thoughts and ideas. Nowadays, it is easy to inform the whole world about an event simply by pressing 'send' on our mobile devices, but how did our ancestors spread their news?

Some experts claim that the first form of written communication was the Kish tablet in 3500 BCE, which is a stone carved with symbols. These symbols represented physical objects. However, if we travel back to 35,000 years ago, early humans were painting on cave walls. Many historians have asked themselves why cave people did this and there are several theories: some say these ancestors used paintings to describe hunting expeditions, whereas others believe that they drew animals to show the difficulties of surviving.

Nevertheless, cave paintings could only communicate a message to someone close by, so it was not useful for broadcasting news farther away. In 776 BCE, the Greeks used a messenger pigeon to announce the results of the Olympic Games. About 300 years later, the original marathon runner, Pheidippides, ran about 40 km to Athens to say that they had won a battle at Marathon. Records confirm that they used human messengers in Egypt and China between 200 and 100 BCE. However, living messengers could be slow and prone to accidents. Other more immediate responses were needed and as a result, people used a chain of signals - smoke, fire or flags. These signals did not always work well, as they depended on humans or weather.

In Medieval England (1066–1485), there was an effective way of making public announcements – a town crier. To gather the crowd, he would ring a bell and shout, 'Oyez, Oyez, Oyez!' which comes from the 13th-century French word 'Oiez!' ('Listen!'). As most town inhabitants at that time could not read, the crier would then read out the news, new laws and other announcements.

When Europeans first settled on the Spanish island of La Gomera off the coast of Africa, they discovered that the shepherds there used a whistling language called Silbo Gomero to communicate amongst themselves. In fact, over 70 different groups of people worldwide whistle, from hunters in the Amazon rainforest to Inuit whalers. It requires less effort than shouting or running. It is instant and in open spaces, it can travel up to 5 km.

Thus, when you next click on 'send' to share your news, spare a thought for your ancestors who may not have found this task so straightforward.

5 Read the essay again. What do the numbers refer to?

- refer to:
- **1** 3500 BCE
- **2** 70
- 2 /(
- **3** 40

4 776

6 35,000

5 5

- 1 3500 BCE The Kish Tablet is from this time, and it is one of the earliest forms of writing. *BCE Before the Common
- The number of groups of people around the world who use whistling to communicate.
- 3 40 Pheidippides ran around 40km to tell the people in Athens that they had won the battle in Marathon.
- 4 776 The year the Greeks used a Messenger pigeon to Announce the winners of the Olympics.
- 5 5 The distance a whistle can travel in kilometers.
 - 6 35,000 Early humans painted on cave 35,000 years ago.

- 8 Complete these sentences with one of the words in exercise 7.
 - 1 We needed to send messages over great distances, ____thus__ pigeons were used.
 - 2 English is the most widely spoken language, <u>Whereas</u> a great deal more people speak Mandarin Chinese as their native language.
 - **3** Three percent of the world's <u>inhabitants</u> speak more than four languages.
 - 4 Americans and the British both speak English. Nevertheless, their sign languages are different.

Subskill: Understanding formal language We use different words for different types of texts. Some essays and articles use formal words, whereas texts such as chatty blogs or emails to friends use more informal language. Word work Look at the formal words in bold in the essay and match them with their less formal equivalent 1–8. short SO 3 while but likely to be affected by something seen themselves as different from - distinguished 6 straightforward 7 easy inhabitants 8 people that live in a place