

The Incredible Dolphin

1 Many people say dolphins are very **intelligent**. They seem to be able to think, understand, and learn things quickly. But are they **smart** like humans or more like cats or dogs? Dolphins use their brains differently from people. But scientists say
5 dolphin intelligence and human intelligence *are alike* in some ways. How?

FACT 1: Talk to Me

10 Like humans, every dolphin has its own “name.” The name is a special whistle. Each dolphin chooses a **specific** whistle for itself, usually by its first birthday. Actually, scientists think dolphins, like people, “talk” to each other about a lot of things, such as their age, their feelings, or finding food. And, like humans, dolphins use a **system** of sounds and
15 body language to communicate. But understanding their **conversations** is not easy for humans. No one “speaks dolphin” yet, but some scientists are trying to learn.

FACT 2: Let's Play

20 Dolphins are also social animals. They live in groups called *pods*, and they often join others from different pods to play games and have fun—just like people. In fact, playing together is something only intelligent animals do.

FACT 3: Fishermen's Helpers

25 Dolphins and humans are similar in another way: both make plans to get something they want. In the seas of southern Brazil, for example, dolphins use an interesting **strategy** to get food. When fish are near a boat, dolphins signal¹ to the fishermen to put their nets in the water. Using this **method**,
30 the men can catch a lot of fish. What is the **advantage** for the dolphins? Why do they **assist** the men? The dolphins get to eat some of the fish.

¹ If you **signal** to someone, you make a gesture or sound to tell them something.



▲ Dolphins communicate using sounds and body language.

▼ Like humans, dolphins play games together.

