

QUIZ #01

CSCI-410 Spring 2013

1. When communicating with a flashlight, why isn't it practical to just 'write' the letters in the air or use a sequential series of blinks (A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, etc) ? (Looking for two specific words.)

If you just make the motions of writing a given letter out in the air, it would be difficult to separate or parse the strokes of the letter out from each other. For using series of blinks, it would become too long to create a given sentence.

2. Explain how speech itself (the English vocabulary) is a code (what do words represent?).

You can use English words to communicate information or ideas. Each word represents some different item, but is not the item itself. For example, I could use the word 'book' in a sentence somewhere, but by just using the word does not mean that the word is a book. The word 'book' represents the physical object of a book.

3. What makes certain codes "useful?" (Looking for a specific quote from the text.)

An ability to accurately and precisely decipher the code's meaning. If a code cannot be interpreted accurately, then the message that is trying to be conveyed will get somewhat lost in the transmission. If it cannot be precisely interpreted, you may end up with symbols which are not in the code at all.

4. Morse code is frequently described as being binary because it consists of two symbols – dits and dahs. In what ways is this an inaccurate and misleading description?

There is another 'symbol' so to speak - the space between characters. The lack of a symbol is as much of a symbol as a dit or a dah is, and is necessary in order to separate out characters.

5. The book says that Braille is binary. Do you agree? Explain why or why not.

I agree with the statement that Braille is binary. There are a maximum of 6 bumps in a single braille character. If you use a 1 to represent if a bump is there, and a 0 to represent if one is not there, you can represent each character in braille with 6 bits. For example, if a given character had 6 bumps, the binary string representing that character would be 111111.