

UNIT 1

What is Language?

4 Days

Lesson 1 - The First Languages - 2 Days

Lesson 2 - Animal Language - 1 Day

Lesson 3 - Communicating without Words - 1 Day

Unit 1 - What is Language?

Lesson 1 - The first languages

Day 1:

Activity

Before taking roll or making any greeting to the students on the first day, go to each student individually, shake hands, and say **salve** (hello in Latin.) Look at the whole class and say **salvete** (the plural form.) Repeat this until they start to catch on that you say one form to one person and the other to more than one person.

Discuss

- Some languages have different forms of the same word to perform different functions.
- In English there aren't different endings on the word *hello*, but in Latin there are.
- In English, however, we do have different words and different ways to give a greeting.

Activity

Ask students to think of many different ways to say *hello*, and list them on the board. Encourage them to think of words in other languages.

Discuss

- Synonyms are different words meaning the same thing.
- Identify the foreign languages that were used.

Play

Hello Across the World on www.PrimaLingua.org. Show students how to create their account and run through the first activity with them. They can replay for homework.

Homework

Animal Communication

Day 2:

Discuss

What was the first language? Was it one of the languages mentioned in the Hello activity, i.e. Latin? Imagine before there were even humans speaking on earth. Perhaps the first language was between animals. Brainstorm in groups or as a class:

- What do animals have to communicate? (food location, danger, mating)
- How do animals communicate these things? (vocally, gestures, scents)
- Do different animals have different forms of communication? (e.g. Bees dance to tell where flowers are)
- What type of language did primitive humans first use?

Homework

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Animal Communication

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Lesson 2 - Animal languages

Play

Animal Communication

Divide students into teams to answer questions. If you have an interactive white board, students can come up to click on multiple choice answers.

Activity

role-play: have one student pretend to be a dog and one a master on the floor. Tell them to show each other in their own ways that they like each other. Have the master request something of the dog and vice versa. Have them each show their thanks to the other.

Discuss

- What was communicated and how?
- List answers that students thought up for homework on the same subject.

Activity

Set up this scenario for the students and discuss the limitations of animal language. Pretend you have been out shopping. You come home to find that your house has been robbed. Your dog is agitated and is trying to communicate that something bad has happened. What can the dog not tell you? e.g. how many people, description, time it happened, etc.

Discuss

- the importance of speaking other languages
- suppose you meet someone who speaks another language; you could only communicate basic things, as you could with the dog

Homework

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Animal Communication

Unit 1 - What is Language?

Lesson 3 - Communicating without Words

Activity

Students in groups of four. You are going to dinner together. Figure out where, when, how to get there, what to eat. You cannot speak or write any words to do so. When they have all finished they should individually write down the answers they obtained to see if everyone in the group has the same.

Discuss

- Groups share what they did.
- Discuss the type of language they developed to communicate.
- What limitations did they experience by using gestures or pictures or grunts?

Summary

- Words can be spoken or gestured, written or drawn
 - There are ways to communicate other than with words
 - But only basic ideas are communicated without words
 - If we want to talk about more interesting and more complicated things, we not only need to use words, but we need to form a more complex language with these words. During this course we will learn how to fiddle with words to make them communicate a greater variety of ideas.
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Homework

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