

Week 6

## #26 Do animals have language?

**Skills/ Objectives: Listening**

### PART 1: Before you read...

#### Preparatory questions

1. What are the functions of language? Is language unique to human beings?
2. Do animals have language?

#### Vocabulary

1. Camouflage (noun): the way that the colour or shape of an animal that looks like natural environment to hide from attackers
2. Infinite (adjective): unlimited
3. Fictional (adjective): unreal, imaginary
4. Predator (noun): an animal that kills, or eats other animals

### PART 2: Video

This video explores the four properties of human language and discusses if animals' communication systems possess these properties.

**Do animals have language?** *(click the link watch the video)*

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/do-animals-have-language-michele-bishop> (4:54 minutes)

(Source: TED Ed)

### PART 3: Let's discuss!

1. What are the four properties of language discussed in the video? What surprised you the most?
2. Do you think apes, monkeys, and gorillas can learn human language? Why? Why not?

## **PART 4: Learn further**

### **1. The properties of language**

This article discusses the six properties of language.

<https://linguisticsunimet.wordpress.com/3-the-properties-of-language/>

### **2. Six things we have and they don't — part 1**

This article discusses the six properties of language and explores whether animals' communication systems possess these features.

<https://www.languagesoftheworld.info/language-and-mind/six-things-we-have-and-they-dont-part-1.html>

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