## Dolphin language may have grammar

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Humans may not be the only ones to use grammar and vocabulary to speak and communicate. Scientists believe dolphins also use words and sentences to speak to each other. We have known for a long time that dolphins can communicate. New research suggests that this communication is similar to the conversations humans have. Scientists say the clicks, whistles and other sounds that dolphins make appear to be sentences that let the sea creatures send messages to each other. The dolphins use their language to identify themselves, have relations with other dolphins, and do things together. Scientists say that one day, we may be able to understand dolphin language and talk to dolphins.

Researchers at the Karadag Nature Reserve in Crimea made the discovery that dolphins had their own language after recording two Black Sea bottlenose dolphins. The dolphins were named Yasha and Yana. The scientists noticed that one dolphin listened to what the other was saying and then replied. Lead researcher Dr Vyacheslav Ryabov said: "This exchange resembles a conversation between two people." He added: "This language exhibits all the design features present in the human spoken language. This indicates a high level of intelligence and consciousness in dolphins." Dr Ryabov said the dolphins' language is, "a highly developed spoken language, like the human language."

Sources: *techtimes.com / independent.co.uk / natureworldnews*

## Writing

It would be very useful to be able to communicate with all creatures. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

grammar / vocabulary / communicate / sentences / similar / whistles / relations / discovery / recording / replied / exchange / conversation / design / intelligence

## True / False

a)   The article says humans are the only ones to use vocabulary.  T / F

b)   Research suggests dolphin and human communication are similar.  T / F

c)   Dolphins use clicks and whistles to make what appear to be sentences.  T / F

d)   Scientists say we will never be able to understand dolphin language.  T / F

e)   The research was carried out at Sea World in Florida.  T / F

f)   The research was carried out on bottlenose dolphins.  T / F

g)   In the research, a dolphin listened to another dolphin and then replied.  T / F

h)   A researcher said dolphin language is not highly developed.  T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **speak** | a. | awareness |
| 2. | **a long time** | b. | bonds |
| 3. | **appear** | c. | comprehend |
| 4. | **relations** | d. | called |
| 5. | **understand** | e. | observed |
| 6. | **named** | f. | seem |
| 7. | **noticed** | g. | very |
| 8. | **exhibits** | h. | talk |
| 9. | **consciousness** | i. | shows |
| 10. | **highly** | j. | ages |

## Discussion – Student A

a)   Would you like to do research into dolphins?

b)   How advanced is your grammar and vocabulary?

c)   Are you good at listening to other people?

d)   Are dolphins more intelligent than humans?

e)   Do you think there will be dolphin language schools one day?

f)   How surprised are you that dolphins have a language?

g)   Do you think dolphins can speak to other creatures?

h)   What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Phrase Match

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Humans may not be the only | a. other sounds |
| 2. use words and | b. between two people |
| 3. clicks, whistles and | c. ones |
| 4. dolphins use their language to identify | d. of intelligence |
| 5. we may be able to understand | e. spoken language |
| 6. recording two Black Sea | f. themselves |
| 7. one dolphin listened to what | g. bottlenose dolphins |
| 8. a conversation | h. dolphin language |
| 9. a high level | i. sentences |
| 10. a highly developed | j. the other was saying |

## Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think about what you read?

b) How intelligent do you think dolphins are?

c) What do you think dolphins talk about?

d) How important are dolphins?

e) What can we learn from dolphins?

f) What would you like to talk to dolphins about?

g) What other animals would you like to communicate with?

h) What can we do to protect dolphins?

## Spelling

1. use grammar and vocabulary to speak and <u>monueitaccm</u>

2. words and <u>tennesecs</u>

3. New research <u>tsssggue</u> that this…

4. clicks, <u>sltwiseh</u> and other sounds

5. sea <u>eucarerst</u>

6. use their language to <u>fdnieyti</u> themselves

7. made the <u>orcviydse</u>

8. The scientists <u>cnoetdi</u> that

9. This exchange resembles a <u>nsavrontocei</u>

10. <u>isdeng</u> features

11. This indicates a high level of <u>geeeclinlnit</u>

12. a highly <u>epvleddoe</u> spoken language

## Role Play

### Role A – Vocabulary
You think vocabulary is most important in a language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so necessary for communication. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): reading, grammar or speaking.

### Role B – Reading
You think reading is most important in a language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so necessary for communication. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): vocabulary, grammar or speaking.

### Role C – Grammar
You think grammar is most important in a language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so necessary for communication. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): reading, vocabulary or speaking.

### Role D – Speaking
You think speaking is most important in a language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so necessary for communication. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): reading, grammar or vocabulary.

## Speaking – Language

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things about language at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- vocabulary
- pronunciation
- reading
- grammar
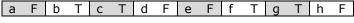- listening
- speaking
- writing
- handwriting

**Answers – Synonym Match**

| 1. h | 2. j | 3. f | 4. b | 5. c |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6. d | 7. e | 8. i | 9. a | 10. g |

**Answers – True False**

| a | F | b | T | c | T | d | F | e | F | f | T | g | T | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.