

# READING & SPEAKING



## Animal Communication



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Section One

Let's Read

# Animals That Talk

Did you ever wonder whether animals can understand what humans are saying? Did you ever want to understand what animals were thinking? Humans use language to speak to each other, and some animals have similar ways of communicating. Let's learn about some animal languages.

### Orcas

Orcas live in large family groups called pods. Scientists have studied the ways orca pods communicate. Like humans, orcas use their mouths to make sounds. Instead of producing words, however, orcas communicate with clicks, whistles, and calls. Each of these sounds has its own meaning. However, not all pods use the same sounds. Similar to humans using different languages in different countries, orcas in different areas use different sounds to communicate a particular idea. So, for example, orcas in one ocean have a different way of greeting one another compared to orcas in another ocean. Scientists are trying to recreate the sounds orcas make in an attempt to 'speak' with them. One curious fact: did you know orcas are actually a type of large dolphin?



### Honey bees

Honey bees use dancing to communicate with one another. Different dances communicate different things. For example, the waggle dance lets other bees know that food is far away, while the round dance lets other bees know that food is closer to the hive. The length of time spent dancing tells the other bees the food's distance from the hive. Meanwhile, the direction that the food is in is communicated by the way that bees position their bodies in relation to the sun's location in the sky. Honey bees interpret the dances by using their antennae to detect changes in sound and movement.



## Bats

There are many different species of bats around the world. Strangely, bats are the only flying mammal in the animal kingdom. Did you know that bats communicate in a very special way? Echolocation is a technique of using sound to see. Bats produce very high-pitch screeches that humans cannot hear. These sounds bounce off objects and animals in a bat's surroundings, before returning to their sensitive ears as echoes. These echoes enable the bat to form an 'image' of its environment, allowing it to judge how far away something is. Because many bats hunt at night or in dark caves, they use echolocation to communicate with each other to find food.



How is the  
languages of orcas  
similar to that of  
humans?

How are these  
communication  
methods similar and  
different?

## Let's Talk

How are bats able  
to see in the dark?

In what other ways  
do animals  
communicate?

## My New Words

Write each word and its definition. Next, write a sentence using the new word.

1. Word: \_\_\_\_\_ noun / verb / adjective / adverb

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Word: \_\_\_\_\_ noun / verb / adjective / adverb

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Word: \_\_\_\_\_ noun / verb / adjective / adverb

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Word: \_\_\_\_\_ noun / verb / adjective / adverb

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Word: \_\_\_\_\_ noun / verb / adjective / adverb

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Word: \_\_\_\_\_ noun / verb / adjective / adverb

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

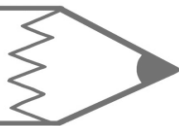
Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary Check I

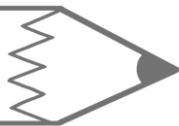
Find new words in the text that have opposite meanings to the following words.

1. **big**



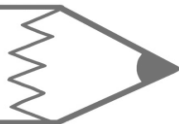
\_\_\_\_\_

2. **copy**



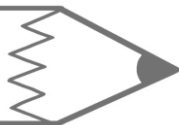
\_\_\_\_\_

3. **place**



\_\_\_\_\_

4. **screams**



\_\_\_\_\_



## Vocabulary Check 2

Write a word that matches each of the following definitions.

1. A way of saying 'hello'

\_\_\_\_\_

2. To understand or explain the meaning of something

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Two long, thin items on an insects head, used for feeling changes

\_\_\_\_\_

## Challenge Yourself!

Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the words from the word box.

**distance • species • mammal • languages • whistles**

1. Spanish and Portuguese are the two most common \_\_\_\_\_ in South America.
2. Farmers can use \_\_\_\_\_ to call their sheepdogs.
3. Humans are a kind of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Tortoises and turtles looks similar, but they are different \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ between Hong Kong and Macau is quite small.

## Section Two

Let's Learn

# Types of Animal Communication

Let's learn what kind of communication animals use!

### Gestures

Gestures are body movements that communicate something. For example, dogs stretch out their legs and lower their bodies when they want to play. Gestures also show feelings. Gorillas stick out their tongues when angry, and horses show affection by rubbing their noses together.



### Facial Expressions

Facial expressions are one way that animals can show emotion. Did you ever feel like your pet was smiling? Well, they very well may have been. Dogs and wolves snarl and show their teeth when they are angry, and horses widen their eyes when they are afraid.



### Color Change

Did your face ever turn red when you were embarrassed? Some animals also change color to communicate. For example, octopuses turn bright red with white spots to scare away predators. Chameleons also turn bright colors when being aggressive to each other.



### Sound

Sound is a very common form of communication. Animals communicate emotions in this way. For example, rattlesnakes shake their tails as a warning. Many birds cry to tell others their location, while wolves do this by howling. Humpback whales spend days at a time 'singing', but no one knows why yet.



## Let's Check

Refer to the text, *Types of Animal Communication*. Then, read the statements and tick the correct box to tell whether each one is true or false.

1. We always know what animal's mean when they communicate.
2. Facial expressions are used to communicate location.
3. Animals react in different ways if they feel threatened.
4. Color changes usually communicate happiness.
5. Not many animals use sound to communicate.
6. Bearing teeth is a sign of aggression.

True	False

## Multiple Choice Questions

Refer to the reading, *Animals That Talk*. Circle the letter next to the correct answers.

1. **How is orca communication similar to that of human's?**

- a. They both use words.
- b. It's different around the world.
- c. Neither use clicks or whistles.
- d. Both a. and b.

2. **How do honey bees tell each other the direction food is in?**

- a. The wind
- b. The stars
- c. The moon
- d. The sun

3. **How are bats different from all other species of mammal?**

- a. They can fly.
- b. They have good hearing.
- c. They hunt at night.
- d. All of the above

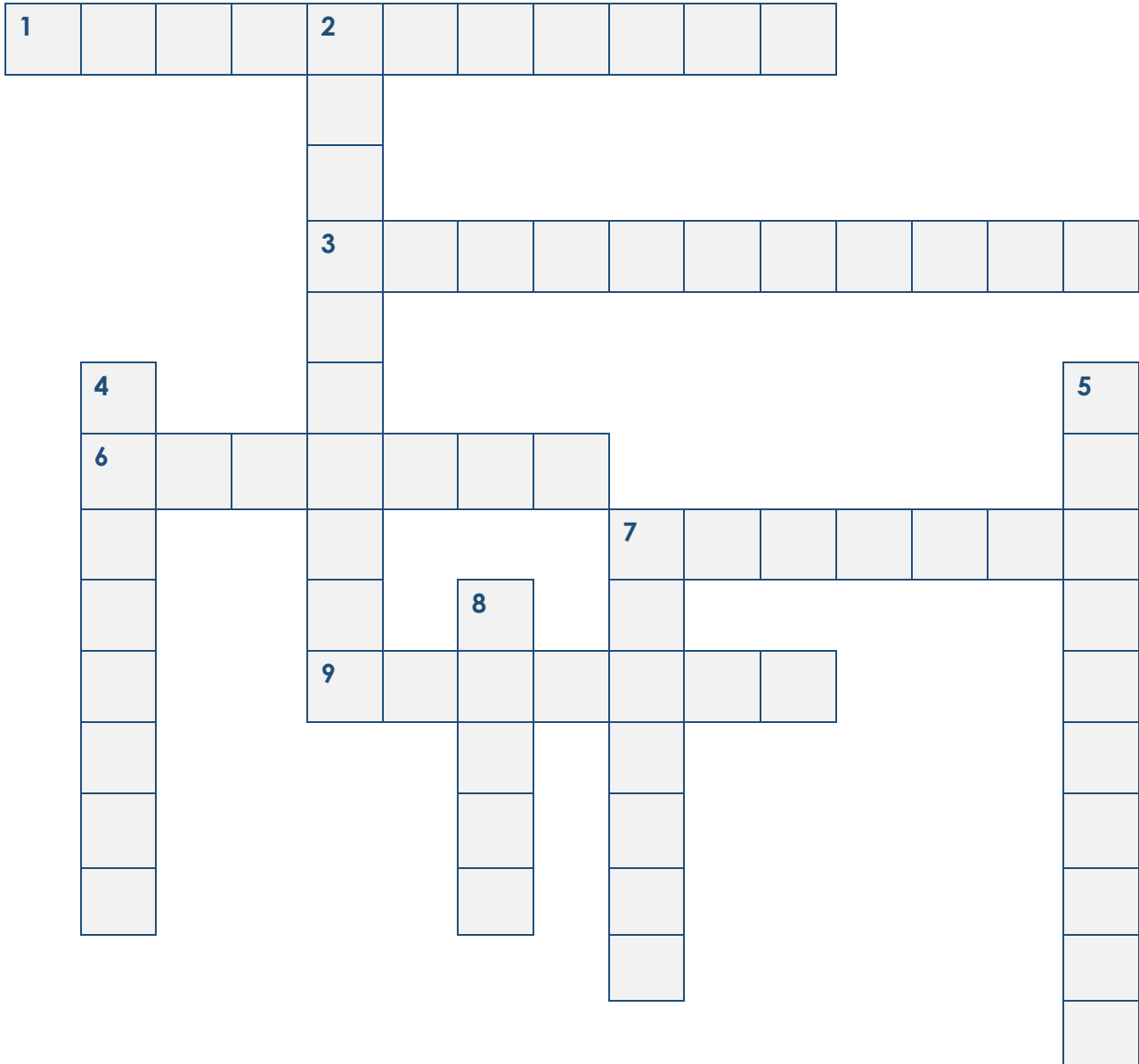
4. **How do honey bees sense the changes around them?**

- a. They have good hearing.
- b. They do a dance.
- c. They use their antennae.
- d. They use echolocation.



## Challenge Yourself!

Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.



### ACROSS

1. Using words, movement, and other things to show an idea or feeling
3. Feeling uneasy, shy, or awkward
6. A feeling or mood
7. A message of caution
9. Moving the body in a pattern when listening to music

### DOWN

2. To know the meaning of something
4. Using body parts to communicate something
5. Ready to fight or attack
7. A high-pitched sound made by forcing air through the teeth or lips
8. To bare teeth and growl

## Language Focus

### Indefinite Pronouns

- We use **indefinite pronouns** to talk about people or things without saying exactly who or what they are.
- We can use the ending **body** or **one** for people. And we can use the ending **thing** for things.

somebody	someone	something
anybody	anyone	anything
nobody	no one	nothing
everybody	everyone	everything



Let's practice! Use the pictures and the given indefinite pronouns to make sentences.



1. Nobody



2. Everything



3. Someone



4. Somebody



5. Everyone



6. Anybody



7. Anything



8. Something



9. Nothing

### Section Three

## Let's Learn the Skill

# Ask Questions

- Before you read a text, look at the title and pictures to figure out what it is about.
- Then, decide what you hope to learn from the text and think of some questions that you have about its topic.
- This is called **asking questions**. When you read the text, look for the answers to your questions.

## Let's Ask Questions

Refer to the reading passage, *Communication in Prairie Dog Colonies*, to help you complete the following activities.

1. Read the title and look at the pictures. What do you think the text will be about?

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2. Reread the title. Turn it into a question.

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3. What do you already know about animal communication?

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4. Think about what else you can learn about the topic. Ask two questions that you think the text will answer.

a. 

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b. 

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5. Read the text. Can you answer the question you asked in #2?

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6. Can you answer the questions you asked in #4?

a. 

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b. 

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7. Write a fact that you learned about prairie dogs by reading this text.

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8. What other question do you have about this topic after reading this text?

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Let's Read

# Communication in Prairie Dog Colonies



You may have never heard of a prairie dog before. These small creatures live in the grasslands and deserts of North America. They build underground tunnels, in which they live in very large colonies that have many thousands of members.

Communication within large animal populations is different from that among smaller groups. For example, scientists studying prairie dogs have found that they have a very complicated and diverse way of communicating with one another.

Mostly, prairie dogs communicate with lots of loud barking and yipping. That is why they are called dogs, even though they are a type of squirrel. Prairie dogs are threatened by a lot of predators, so they have developed ways of communicating what kind of predator is coming. They can warn others how big a predator is, from where it is approaching, and how fast it is. Some scientists believe that, with their barks and yelps, prairie dogs can even communicate what color of shirt humans are wearing.

Because prairie dog barks and calls are so different and diverse, some scientists even believe they have developed a type of grammar. Grammar is the way language is built and how it works. Without grammar, words could be spoken randomly and not make any sense. So prairie dog barks follow rules that allow other prairie dogs to understand what is being "said".





How is prairie dog's communication different from another animal's?

What kind of information can prairie dogs communicate?

## Let's Talk

What is grammar and how does it work?

Have you ever seen a prairie dog?



## Vocabulary Check

Match the pictures to the correct words.



predator

population

grammar

tunnels

## Fun Activity

What do you think a prairie dog colony looks like? Sketch a picture to show your ideas.

## Section Four

Let's Learn

# More Animal Communication

Some animals communicate in interesting ways. Let's learn about some of them!

## Elephants

For a long time, how elephants are able to communicate with one another across long distances was a mystery. Scientists have now found that elephants can make low-frequency sounds that humans can't hear. These sound waves can travel long distances and be heard by other elephant herds far away.



## Albatrosses

Albatrosses are birds that live around the oceans of the world. These birds can spend days at a time flying without landing. Hundreds of young birds return to their place of birth each year and dance with each other. Albatrosses then choose their lifelong mates from these dances.



## Fireflies

Despite their name, fireflies are actually beetles. These beetles have a special form of communication. Fireflies make flashes of light in different patterns in order to communicate with one another. The light flashes are also used to show predators that fireflies will not taste good.



## Let's Talk

Why do you think  
elephants  
communicate over  
long distances?

Why do  
albatrosses  
dance with  
each other?

What do  
fireflies  
communicate  
by glowing?

## Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the letter next to the correct answers.

1. How long do albatross mates stay together?

- a. One year
- b. Ten days
- c. For life
- d. Three weeks

2. What are fireflies?

- a. Spiders
- b. Flies
- c. Grasshoppers
- d. Beetles

3. Low frequency sound waves travel...

- a. by bus.
- b. over long distances.
- c. short distances.
- d. on the backs of elephants.

4. Albatrosses live where?

- a. Underground caves
- b. In the mountains
- c. Around the oceans
- d. In space

5. Which of the following is not a form of communication?



a.



b.



c.



d.

## Written Response Questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. In what different ways do animals communicate with one another?

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2. What things are animals able to communicate?

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3. How does communication help animals survive?

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## Let's Spell

Listen carefully to the words and write them on the lines below.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |



## Let's Present

Create your own animal species and think about how it communicates within its colonies. Draw pictures and diagrams to show your ideas. Finally, present to your class to show what your ideas.

What kind of animal is  
this and where is it  
found?

How does this animal  
communicate?

What kinds of things is  
this animal able to  
communicate about?

## Try This at Home

### Let's Match

Match the words to the definitions.

1. colony

2. facial expression

3. sound wave

4. population

Movement of the mouth and eyes to show emotion

The total amount of people or animals living in an area

A large group of animals or insects living together

The movement of noise through air

### Let's Check

Look at the pictures and match each animal to its mode of communication.



dancing

color

echolocation

light



## Challenge Yourself!

Write a word from the reading, *Communication in Prairie Dog Colonies*, that matches each definition. Then, find the words in the word search below.

Below the earth

\_\_\_\_\_

Difficult to understand

\_\_\_\_\_

The sound made by a dog

\_\_\_\_\_

An animal that eats other animals

\_\_\_\_\_

Done without a method or order

\_\_\_\_\_

Belonging to a group

\_\_\_\_\_

U	F	T	C	E	B	K	W	X	Q	R	C
N	G	Y	C	Q	M	A	C	N	O	E	O
D	I	D	P	P	U	E	R	X	X	O	M
E	N	N	P	U	M	L	R	K	Q	T	P
R	B	J	R	R	M	C	M	G	I	C	A
G	I	C	E	C	E	Z	N	D	I	N	C
R	A	N	D	O	M	L	Y	B	F	N	G
O	L	Q	A	D	B	E	I	L	E	G	G
U	I	J	T	S	E	O	M	N	S	F	C
N	O	V	O	D	R	I	A	M	P	G	R
D	N	F	R	I	B	Z	T	I	E	R	R
E	C	O	M	P	L	I	C	A	T	E	D

# READING & SPEAKING

## LEVEL D UNIT 8

### Progress Report

☐ **LESSON 1** \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ **LESSON 2** \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ **LESSON 3** \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ **LESSONS 4-5** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Teacher Signature :** \_\_\_\_\_