

TED Lesson: Evolution's great mystery: Language

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https://www.ted.com/talks/michael_corballis_evolution_s_great_mystery_language

Warm - up:

1. How many languages can you speak?
2. Why do you want to learn English?
3. How do you like to learn a new language? Reading? Writing? Please explain.

Vocabulary:

Unprecedented
Gestures
Sequences
Ignited
Controversy
Predator

Underlying
Abstract
Articulate
Optimal
Perception
Vast

Comprehension:

1. Who is Kanzi and what did it do?
2. How many distinct languages do humans speak?
3. According to researchers, how many species have a language?
4. When did humans first acquire the capacity to speak a language?

Discussion Questions:

1. How would your life be different if you could speak English fluently?
2. What do you think is the most important thing when learning a new language?
3. How familiar are you with body language and gestures?
4. Try to answer the following questions only using gestures:
 1. How old are you?
 2. Where do you live?
 3. What is your favorite food?
 4. Where is the restroom?
 5. What is your job?