



Bonobos' Surprising Human-Like Syntax Unveiled

Description

Bonobos use different calls that combine to form phrases. This shows that this type of language is older than we thought. Humans use language to communicate, and one important part is syntax. This means putting words together to make longer sentences.

Even animals like chimpanzees can combine calls to warn each other. But only humans were believed to have the ability for true language with complex sentence structure. Scientists at the University of Zurich studied bonobos to see if they also have this ability.

By observing bonobos in the Congo, researchers found that bonobos use specific calls in combinations with distinct meanings. This suggests they have a form of syntax like humans. Although bonobos don't have full language like humans, they do have a complex way of communicating with each other. This discovery could change how we understand the evolution of language.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Syntax** /'sɪŋ.tæks/ (noun): The arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language.
2. **Communicate** /kə'mjuː.nɪ.keɪt/ (verb): To share or exchange information ideas or feelings.
3. **Observing** /əb'zɜːrvɪŋ/ (verb): Watching carefully and attentively to gain information.
4. **Suggests** /sə'dʒɛsts/ (verb): Proposes or recommends an idea or plan for consideration.
5. **Discovery** /dɪs'kʌv.ər.i/ (noun): The act of finding or learning something for the first time.
6. **Evolution** /ˌiː.və'luː.ʃən/ (noun): The gradual development or change of something over time.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What do bonobos use to communicate with each other?

Option: Gestures

Option: Different calls

Option: Facial expressions

Option: Written language



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2. What do humans use to communicate, according to the text?
- Option: Facial expressions
 - Option: Syntax
 - Option: Gestures
 - Option: Whistling
3. What is one important part of human language mentioned in the text?
- Option: Written language
 - Option: Syntax
 - Option: Gestures
 - Option: Facial expressions
4. What were humans originally believed to be the only species capable of having?
- Option: Complex sentence structure
 - Option: Gestural communication
 - Option: Syntax
 - Option: Whistling skills
5. Where did researchers study bonobos to observe their communication abilities?
- Option: Congo River
 - Option: Amazon Rainforest
 - Option: Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve
 - Option: Serengeti National Park
6. What did researchers find bonobos use to convey distinct meanings?
- Option: Gestures
 - Option: Different calls
 - Option: Facial expressions
 - Option: Written language

True-False

7. Bonobos in the Congo do not use any form of syntax in their communication.
8. Chimpanzees are not capable of combining calls to communicate warnings according to the text.
9. Humans have a more advanced form of language communication compared to bonobos.



10. Bonobos at Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve were studied by researchers from Harvard University.
11. The ability for complex sentence structures was originally believed to be unique to humans.
12. The study conducted by the University of Zurich could potentially change our understanding of bonobo communication.

Gap-Fill

13. Bonobos use specific calls in combinations with distinct meanings, suggesting they have a form of syntax like _____.
14. Although bonobos do not have full language like humans, they do have a complex way of communicating with each other. This discovery could change how we understand the evolution of _____.
15. By observing bonobos in the Congo, researchers found that bonobos use specific calls in combinations with distinct meanings. This suggests they have a form of syntax like _____.
16. Bonobos were studied to see if they have the ability for true language with _____ sentence structure like humans.
17. The use of syntax in bonobo communication was discovered by researchers from the University of _____.
18. Bonobos combine calls to convey warnings, similar to behavior observed in _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Different calls 2. Syntax 4. Complex sentence structure 5. Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve
True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. True
Gap-Fill: 13. humans 14. language 16. complex 17. Zurich 18. chimpanzees



Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the term used for a person officially charged with a crime?
Option: Defendant
Option: Plaintiff
Option: Witness
Option: Judge
2. What is a conclusion reached after considering facts and evidence in a certain matter?
Option: Chance
Option: Guess
Option: Opinion
Option: Verdict
3. What is a general term for a decline in mental ability?
Option: Memory
Option: Concentration
Option: Intelligence
Option: Cognition
4. Which term describes a medical condition characterized by excessive body fat?
Option: Anorexia
Option: Malnutrition
Option: Obesity
Option: Sarcopenia
5. What is the term for a person who exposes misconduct alleged dishonest or illegal activity occurring within an organization?
Option: Collaborator
Option: Conspirator
Option: Whistleblower
Option: Instigator
6. What is the principle of moral rightness based on ethics rationality law natural law religion fairness and equity?



- Option: Vengeance
- Option: Bribery
- Option: Justice
- Option: Corruption

7. What is the act of finding or learning something for the first time?

- Option: Concealment
- Option: Obscurity
- Option: Discovery
- Option: Secrecy

8. What is the term for claiming or asserting that something is the case typically without providing evidence or proof?

- Option: Proving
- Option: Admitting
- Option: Alleging
- Option: Confessing

9. What is the term for publicly supporting or recommending a particular cause or policy?

- Option: Deterring
- Option: Advocating
- Option: Obstructing
- Option: Rejecting

10. What is the arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language?

- Option: Context
- Option: Lexicon
- Option: Grammar
- Option: Syntax

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. In computer science a set of instructions that performs a specific task is called a

_____.

12. If a person disagrees with a court decision they may file an _____ to have the decision reviewed.



13. Prescribed drugs or substances used for medical treatment are commonly referred to as _____.
14. A government agency or body responsible for controlling and supervising a particular area of activity is known as a _____.
15. Challenges or hindrances that impede progress or achievement are often called _____.
16. The process of sharing or exchanging information through speech writing or other mediums is known as _____.
17. The evidence presented strongly _____ that the suspect was at the scene of the crime.
18. The gradual development or advancement of something over time is often referred to as _____.
19. To inspire motivate or support someone to do something positive is to _____ them.
20. Her upbringing greatly _____ her beliefs and values as an adult.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The act of secretly obtaining information considered confidential or classified is known as espionage or .
22. He pursued his goals never backing down from a challenge.
23. The therapist focused on improving the patient's functions through various exercises.
24. Sitting for prolonged periods without movement can lead to health issues caused by .
25. Making false and damaging statements about someone's reputation is considered .



26. Her for the environment led her to become an active conservationist.
27. The legal proceeding where the guilt or innocence of a defendant is determined is called a .
28. Exposure to certain chemicals can have effects on the human body.
29. Before using the new device make sure to read the manual carefully.
30. The organization is dedicated to for the rights of marginalized communities.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Defendant 2. Verdict 3. Cognition 4. Obesity 5. Whistleblower 6. Justice 7. Discovery 8. Alleging 9. Advocating 10. Syntax

Gap-Fill: 11. Program 12. Appeal 13. Medications 14. Regulator 15. Obstacles 16. Communicate 17. Suggests 18. Evolution 19. Encourage 20. Influenced

Matching sentence: 1. Spying 2. Aggressively 3. Cognitive 4. Inactivity 5. Defamation 6. Concerns 7. Trial 8. Harmful 9. Instructions 10. Advocating

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL2

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