

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST (LEVEL B1)

Read the following text:

One day in 1963, a dolphin named Elvar and an the astronomer Carl Sagan were playing a little game. The astronomer was visiting an institute which was looking into the way dolphins communicate with each other. Sagan was standing on the edge of one of the tanks where several of these friendly, highly intelligent creatures were kept. Elvar had just swum up alongside him and had turned on his back. The dolphin wanted Sagan to scratch his stomach again, as he had done twice before. Elvar looked up at Sagan, waiting. Then, after a minute or two, the dolphin leapt up through the water and made a sound just like the word "more". The astonished astronomer went to the director of the institute and told him about the incident. "oh, yes, that is one of the words he knows", the director said, showing no surprise at all.

Dolphins have bigger brains in proportion to their body size than humans have, and it has been known for a long time that they can make a number of sounds. What is more, these sounds seem to have different functions, such as warning each other of danger. Sound travels much faster and much further in water than it does in air. That is why the parts of the brain that deal with sound are much better developed in dolphins than in humans. But can it be said that dolphins have a language in the real sense of the word? Scientists don't agree on this.

A language is not just a collection of sounds, or even words. A language has a structure and what we call a grammar. The structure and grammar of a language help to give it meaning. For example, "who loves Mary?" and "who does Mary love?" mean very different things. If you stop to think about it you will see that this difference doesn't come from the words in the question but from the difference in structure. That is why the question "can dolphins speak?" can't be answered until we find out if dolphins not only make sound but also arrange them in a grammatical order which affects their meaning.

A-Read the text and **choose the best option**. Copy the evidence from the text to support your answer (2 points each. Total **6 points**).

- 1-The dolphin leapt into the air because
 - a) Sagan was too near the water
 - b) It was part of a game he learned some time ago
 - c) He wanted Sagan to play with him
 - d) Sagan wanted to communicate with him
- 2-Dolphins' brains are particularly well developed to
 - a) communicate with each other and with other species through sound
 - b) arrange sounds in different structures
 - c) travel fast in water
 - d) warn human beings of danger
- 3-Sounds can only be called language if
 - a) each sound has a different meaning
 - b) each sound is different from the other
 - c) there is a system of writing
 - d) they have a structure or grammar

B- Answer the following questions **according to the information given in the text.**
Where possible, use your own words (4 points each. Total **12 points**).

1-Why was Carl Sagan astonished?

2-What do scientists disagree about?

3-What would happen if we discovered that dolphins are able to arrange sounds in a grammatical order that affects their meaning?

C- Complete the sentences with **say, tell, talk or speak** (2 points each. Total **20 points**).

- a) How many languages can you _____?
- b) What is the first word most children learn to _____?
- c) Stop it! Don't _____ nonsense!
- d) Can you _____ me the joke again?
- e) when do children usually learn to _____?
- f) Please _____ me when to get off the bus.
- g) Actions _____ louder than words.
- h) Sorry, I wasn't listening. What did you _____?
- i) I _____ very little Spanish, unfortunately.
- j) She _____ people too many things about my private life. I hate it.

D- Ask complete questions with **who/when/why/how/what** (2 points each. Total **20 points**)

- a) Mrs Thatcher loved someone
Who _____?
- b) Someone loved Mrs. Thatcher
Who _____?
- c) Someone kissed my husband yesterday
Who _____?
- d) My husband kissed someone yesterday
Who _____?
- e) He left his wife
Why _____?
- f) She didn't return the money
Why _____?
- g) He knew I was the thief
How _____?
- h) I told you to keep quiet
What _____?
- i) They loved the movie they saw
What _____?

E-Finish the following sentences in a logical way (2 points each. Total **8 points**)

1-If I won a million pounds on the lottery

2-In 10 years' time I

3-What I like most about Spain is

4-The worst thing I have ever done is

F- write a composition on **only one** of the following topics (about 120 words. Total **34 points**)

- a) Describe a visit to the zoo
- b) Advantages and disadvantages of having a pet

Total points: 100