

# Do Animals Talk?







**Grizzly bears signal each other with tree marks.**

## How Animals Communicate

Animals don't talk, but they do communicate. When you communicate, you give information to others. Animals have ways of communicating that are different from the ways people use. When your friend talks to you, your friend uses language to communicate information. In a language, each word means something.

Animals do not use words. Instead, they use sounds and signals. Birds sing and move their wings. Some animals, like dogs, move their tails. Other animals communicate by moving their bodies in other ways. Some animals leave signs for other animals to find. For example, bears scratch trees with their claws. Different sounds and signals help animals communicate with each other.

### Key Notes:

**What is communication?**

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**These honeybees are  
doing the round dance.**

## The Honeybee Dance

One way honeybees communicate with each other is by dancing. Honeybees need the nectar in flowers to live. When they find nectar, honeybees fly home to tell other bees where to find flowers with nectar. Their special dance tells the other honeybees where the flowers are.

A honeybee that finds nectar moves its wings very fast when it dances. The bee moves in a shape that looks like the number 8. The bee does the dance many times. How long the dance lasts tells the other bees how far away the flowers are. After the dance, the other bees know just where to find the flowers with nectar.

### Key Notes:

How do honeybees communicate with each other?

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Humpback whales sing  
to communicate with  
each other.

## Whales

Whales communicate with each other by singing. Different kinds of whales sing different songs. Whales in different parts of the world sing different songs, too. When a whale sings, people can sometimes hear the sound. People near a singing whale might also feel the water move from the sound.

The whales that sing the most are called humpbacks. Humpbacks make many different sounds and put these sounds together in many different ways. When most kinds of whales communicate with each other, their songs are short. Humpbacks, though, can sing for a long time. A humpback whale can sing for 20 minutes at a time. Some humpback whale songs are love songs.

### Key Notes:

How do humpback whales communicate with each other?

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Prairie dogs call out to other prairie dogs.

## Danger Signals

People have danger signals to tell each other to be careful. Signs at train crossings and stop signs keep people from danger. Animals have danger signals, too.

Some animals make sounds that tell other animals to be careful. The danger calls of many small birds sound the same and communicate that all of the birds in the area should be careful.

When prairie dogs think there is danger, they call to each other in a certain way. The danger might be bigger animals that want to catch the prairie dogs and eat them. Their call tells other prairie dogs that they should be careful because they might be in danger.

### Key Notes:

How do people and animals use danger signals?

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