

Did You Know?

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SPEECH ≠ LANGUAGE

LANGUAGE ≠ INTELLIGENCE

ENGLISH ≠ AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

SIMULTANEOUS COMMUNICATION ≠ TOTAL COMMUNICATION

Understand the Differences:

- ★ Birds can use SPEECH, voicing words without language.
- ★ People can use LANGUAGE without voice, by writing or signing.

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- ★ Persons across a full range of intelligence use LANGUAGE.

- ★ Persons of high INTELLIGENCE may not know the language of their community.

For example:

- A brilliant foreigner, fluent and well-educated in his native language, may have little or no knowledge of the new country's language.
- An intelligent person, born deaf, does not hear the language being spoken by those around him. If he is not exposed to a language which he can clearly perceive, he may never gain fluency in any language.
- Despite lack of fluency in the unheard spoken language, a deaf person who has the opportunity to learn a visual language may quickly become articulate, even eloquent, in that language.

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- ★ ENGLISH is an aural-oral (heard and spoken) language, with its own grammar and vocabulary. Over time, English developed and evolved naturally as a spoken language, through everyday use among hearing people. (Groups have

artificially fashioned systems of manual communication for purposes of teaching English to deaf children. These code systems are attempts to translate the spoken language of English, word by word, into a visual form, maintaining English grammatical order. These Manually Coded English (MCE) systems are *not* "sign language" and are not in general use by the deaf community.)

- ★ AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) is a visual-gestural language with its own grammar and vocabulary. Over time, ASL developed and evolved naturally, as a signed language, through everyday use among communities of deaf people. (It has no relationship to English.) ASL is the language of choice among deaf people in the United States and Canada today.

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- ★ SIMULTANEOUS COMMUNICATION (sim-com) is a **method** of communication. A person who speaks and signs at the same time is using sim-com.

- ★ TOTAL COMMUNICATION (TC) is a **philosophy** of communication.

The philosophical position of total communication holds that individuals have the right to choose and use any method or methods of communication they prefer. Individuals or organizations that support TC will allow the use of sign alone, voice alone, sim-com and other communication methods.

