

Getting meaning across

1 Choose the best answer (a, b or c).

- 1 When your friend gives a rather **blunt** opinion of your new haircut, you are most likely to be
a upset b confused c overjoyed
- 2 If someone drops a subtle **hint** that it will be their birthday the next day, they might
a announce it loudly
b sing 'Happy Birthday to Me'
c draw a small candle on the day on their calendar
- 3 If the teacher gave a **vague** answer to a student's question, the class would probably feel
a confused b satisfied c exhausted
- 4 When a person **mumbles**, it can be a sign of
a honesty
b a lack of confidence
c determination
- 5 If someone gives you directions which are **ambiguous**, they are
a clear and precise
b disorganised
c open to interpretation in different ways
- 6 If you are in a restaurant and you are **vocal** about the poor quality of the food, you
a make a complaint to the waiter
b put up with it but don't go back
c throw the food on the floor
- 7 If an artist **conveys** their ideas through their art, they
a communicate clearly
b ignore their audience
c hide their point of view
- 8 If someone **implied** that you were not very intelligent, they
a told you directly
b made an indirect comment which seemed to be aimed at you
c spread a rumour about you

/ 8 points

Collocations - communication

2 Complete the dialogues with these words, collocated with **communication** or **voice**.

at the top of your • breakdown of • face-to-face
in regular • lower your • means of • speak with one
tone of

- 1 A: It wasn't the content of what he said to me, it was the cold way he said it.
B: So his wasn't supportive?
- 2 A: I'm tired of having these disagreements by text – we're getting nowhere.
B: Yes, is always the best way to resolve your differences.
- 3 A: Have you read that article about the twins with autism whose only was saying prime numbers to each other?
B: I have. It was incredible how high the numbers went – 20 digits!
- 4 A: I don't know why I don't do well in debates.
B: It could be a – your words might say one thing, but your body language might express something quite different.
- 5 A: I saw this news programme which said that loud voices are less trustworthy.
B: So you should next time you ask to borrow your parents' car!
- 6 A: Before we start the campaign we should be clear about what our message is.
B: Yes, if we all our message will be stronger.
- 7 A: I don't know why I bother – she never listens.
B: Well, the way you speak probably annoys her.
- 8 A: How did you get so many followers on your blog?
B: Well, I post updates every day. It's important that we stay

- 3 Make synonyms of the words below with these words, collocated with *say*, *speak* or *tell*. You may need to change the form of the verb.

be about to ... • hate to ... • have nothing to ...
 hear someone ... • not be on ... terms
 not trust yourself to ... • ... out against
 ... someone what you think • ... the difference
 ... the truth • ... you so • ... your mind

- 1 distinguish
- 2 reluctantly admit
- 3 vocally protest
- 4 give your opinion
- 5 be honest
- 6 I was right
- 7 overhear
- 8 almost say
- 9 not speaking to each other
- 10 be silent
- 11 fear of saying the wrong thing
- 12 share your opinion with someone

/ 20 points

Unit review

- 4 Circle the correct alternative.

Gorilla Sign Language

Have you ever (1) heard someone say/heard someone tell/heard someone speak that there is a gorilla who can write poetry and tell jokes? I hate to say it, but they might be (2) voicing the truth/telling the truth/saying the truth! Meet Koko, a female western lowland gorilla, who has amazed the world with her ability to (3) imply/convey/mumble her thoughts and feelings through sign language. From the age of one, Koko's teacher and lifelong caregiver and friend, Dr Francine Patterson, taught her a modified (4) regular/breakdown of/means of communication named 'Gorilla Sign Language'. Through the sign language Koko is able to (5) speak with one voice/speak out against/speak her mind and, while she is extremely loving and loyal, she is not one to drop (6) subtle/blunt/vague hints and her opinions can be quite blunt. Koko can also (7) tell the difference/say the difference/speak the difference between abstract concepts like life and death.

Although Koko is universally loved, some critics have (8) told out against/spoken out against/spoken their mind against the lack of objective scientific evidence in Patterson's research, (9) mumbling/conveying/implying that she may be exaggerating the extent of Koko's ability. However, recent articles in the media have reported that Koko may (10) be about to say/hate to say/hate to tell her first spoken words as she is showing signs of early speech.

Koko lives in San Francisco and keeps (11) a breakdown of/in regular/a means of communication with fans on her website. Maybe one day she will (12) say/speak/tell her critics what she really thinks!

/ 12 points

Total: / 40 points