

Министерство образования и науки Российской Федерации  
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им. Л. Н. Толстого

**Л. Н. Полунина,  
И. М. Бобровская**

# **ЯЗЫК, КОММУНИКАЦИЯ, ОБЩЕСТВО**

*Учебно-методическое пособие по английскому языку  
для студентов высших учебных заведений,  
обучающихся по направлениям  
«Гуманитарные и социальные науки»,  
«Образование и педагогика»*

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*Рецензент –*  
кандидат филологических наук *Л. И. Бронзова*  
(кафедра иностранных языков Тульского филиала  
Московского университета МВД России)

**Полунина, Л. Н.**

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Учебно-методическое пособие разработано с учетом рекомендаций Совета Европы «Общеввропейские компетенции владения иностранным языком: Изучение, обучение, оценка» и направлено на развитие коммуникативной компетенции студентов в сфере профессионального общения. Издание включает в себя аутентичные тексты, связанные с основными сферами гуманитарного знания, и разнообразные упражнения для совершенствования навыков в основных видах речевой деятельности. Пособие предназначено для бакалавров и магистров, обучающихся по направлениям «Гуманитарные и социальные науки», «Образование и педагогика», а также для всех, кто самостоятельно изучает английский язык.

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## ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Пособие «Language, communication, society» продолжает серию учебных материалов по английскому языку для студентов неязыковых факультетов высших учебных заведений (направления подготовки «Гуманитарные и социальные науки», «Образование и педагогика»).

Пособие разработано с учетом рекомендаций Совета Европы «Общеевропейские компетенции владения иностранным языком: Изучение, обучение, оценка» и направлено на формирование коммуникативной компетенции в сфере профессионального общения (уровень B1+). Издание включает в себя актуальные аутентичные тексты, отражающие современные социо-культурные реалии англо-говорящих стран, а также разнообразные задания для развития навыков в основных видах речевой деятельности.

Пособие состоит из двенадцати разделов, посвященных ключевым сферам гуманитарного знания. Каждый раздел содержит пять блоков: «Reading», «Language in use», «Speaking», «Writing», «Supplementary Reading». Блок «Reading» открывает опорный текст справочно-энциклопедического характера, который сопровождается комплексом упражнений для совершенствования произношения, усвоения лексического минимума и отработки грамматического материала. Блок «Language in use» посвящен расширению активного словарного запаса и развитию умения распознавать основные лингвистические явления при чтении профессионально ориентированных текстов. Блок «Speaking» ориентирован на активизацию устной речи, выработку способности строить связное высказывание, поддерживать речевое взаимодействие и достигать желаемой коммуникативной цели. Блок «Writing» включает в себя задания для совершенствования письменной речи, связанные как непосредственно с письменной коммуникацией, так и с конспектированием информации. Завершает каждый раздел блок «Supplementary Reading», тексты которого рекомендуется использовать для самостоятельной работы (реферирование, аннотация, конспект).

## UNIT 1

### LANGUAGE

#### *WARMING UP*

1. Is it possible to calculate how many languages there exist in the world nowadays?
2. What is the main difference between natural languages and animal communication?
3. What artificial languages do you know? Do you use any of them?
4. Here is a famous verse translated from English into Klingon, the constructed language spoken by Klingons in the fictional Star Trek universe. Guess what work the text is taken from.

taH pagh taHbe'. DaH mu'tlheghvam vIqelnIS.  
quv'a', yabDaq San vaQ cha, pu' je SIQDI'  
pagh, Seng bIQ'a'Hey SuvmeH nuHmey SuqDI',  
'ej, Suvmo', rInmoHDI'?

#### *READING*

The question ‘What is language?’ is comparable with – and, some would say, hardly less profound than – ‘What is life?’ Language is one of the hallmarks of the human species – an important part of what makes us human. Perhaps because of its familiarity we rarely observe language, taking it rather for granted, as we do breathing or walking. Almost everything that we do in our everyday lives depends on language. In fact, it is hard to even imagine what our world would be like without language. So much of what keeps people and societies together depends crucially on language. We need language to make and enforce laws; get and distribute valued resources; create and maintain personal and public relationships; teach children our ways of ‘being’, ‘thinking’ and ‘doing’; preserve our past and plan our future. Language allows us to make friends (and enemies), joke and argue with each other, celebrate happy occasions and mourn sad ones.

. . . . . Ä

The modern definitions of language have been proposed by different linguists. In his famous book *Language: An Introduction to the Study of Speech* Edward Sapir defined language as “a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of a system of voluntary produced symbols.” B. Bloch and G.L. Trager consider language to be “a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group co-operates.” In contrast with Sapir’s definition this one puts all the emphasis upon the social function of language and makes no appeal to its communicative purpose. R.A. Hall, like E. Sapir, treats language as a purely human institution “whereby humans communicate and interact with each other by means of habitually used oral-auditory arbitrary symbols.” The term ‘institution’ makes explicit the view that the language that is used by a particular society is part of that society’s culture. R.H. Robins did not give a formal definition of language; he pointed out that such definitions “tend to be trivial and uninformative” and laid special emphasis on the flexibility and adaptability of languages.

These definitions of language have served to introduce some of the properties which some linguists have taken to be essential features of languages as we know them. Most of them have presented the view that languages are systems of symbols designed for the purpose of communication.

In general a language can be defined as a system for encoding and decoding information. In its most common use, the term refers to so-called ‘natural languages’ – the forms of communication considered peculiar to humankind. Essential to this meaning is the systematic creation and usage of systems of symbols – each referring to linguistic concepts with semantic or logical or otherwise expressive meanings. The most obvious manifestations are spoken languages such as English or spoken Chinese. However, there are also written languages and other systems of visual symbols such as sign languages.

A set of commonly accepted signs (indices, icons or symbols) is only one feature of language. All languages must define the structural relationships between these signs in a system of grammar, the context wherein the signs are used (pragmatics) and the content specificity, i.e. its meaning (semantics). Rules of grammar is one of the characteristics sometimes said to distinguish language from other forms of

communication. They allow a finite set of signs to be manipulated to create a potentially infinite number of grammatical utterances.

Another property of language is that its symbols are arbitrary. Any concept or grammatical rule can be mapped onto a symbol. In other words, most languages make use of sound, but the combinations of sounds used do not have any necessary and inherent meaning – they are merely an agreed-upon convention to represent a certain thing by users of that language.

Languages live, die, move from place to place, and change with time. Any language that ceases to change or develop is categorized as a dead language. Conversely, any language that is in a continuous state of change is known as a living language or modern language.

*(Adapted from Fasold, R.W., Connor-Linton, J.  
An introduction to language and linguistics, 2006  
and Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia)*

### ***Expand your vocabulary***

*species* – биологический вид

*arbitrary* – произвольный, случайный

*to point out* – указывать, обращать внимание

*peculiar* – свойственный чему-л.

*to cease* – прекращать делать что-л.

*inherent* – неотъемлемый, врожденный

### ***POST-READING ACTIVITY***

#### ***1. Discuss the following questions.***

1. Can people do without a language?
2. Is a man born with a predisposition toward a particular language or are all human beings genetically endowed with the ability to learn and use language in general?
3. How can the sex or age of the speaker determine the use of language?
4. What are the distinguishing features of language?

5. What similar properties allow determining languages to be genetically related?

**2. Write the words given below in the correct column according to the stress pattern.**

ability	context	emphasis	particular
auditory	crucially	infinite	peculiar
communicate	determine	inherent	property
concept	develop	linguist	relationship
consider	distinguishing	obvious	species

■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■
		con <u>s</u> ider	

**3. Match the words with their meanings.**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1. argue       | a. see or point out the difference of something   |
| 2. definition  | b. a systematic procedure, technique, or mode of inquiry employed by a particular discipline or art |
| 3. distinguish | c. maintain in its original or existing state   |
| 4. hallmark    | d. a formal statement of the exact meaning of a word  |
| 5. inherent    | e. exchange views or opinions, especially heatedly or contentiously                                 |
| 6. method      | f. a distinguishing characteristic, trait, or feature   |
| 7. preserve    | g. existing in something, especially as a permanent or characteristic attribute                     |

**4. Match the words to complete word combinations. Use them to form the sentences.**

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. artificial    | a. background |
| 2. basic         | b. definition |
| 3. broad         | c. difference |
| 4. common        | d. language   |
| 5. communicative | e. meaning    |
| 6. cultural      | f. part       |
| 7. essential     | g. practice   |
| 8. human         | h. purpose    |
| 9. inherent      | i. species    |
| 10. public       | j. utterance  |

**5. Find the noun that is usually uncountable in each line.**

- |                |                |            |            |
|----------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| 1. trait       | feature        | nature     | hallmark   |
| 2. information | combination    | definition | convention |
| 3. animal (n)  | individual (n) | humankind  | society    |
| 4. past (n)    | concept        | life       | part       |
| 5. study       | research       | method     | technique  |
| 6. language    | word           | utterance  | speech     |

**6. Put questions to the words or word expressions in the bold type.**

- Perhaps **because of its familiarity** we rarely observe language.
- Almost everything that we do in our everyday lives depends on **language**.
- The modern definitions of language have been proposed by **different linguists**.
- B. Bloch and G.L. Trager** consider language to be “a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group co-operates.”
- This definition puts all the emphasis upon the **social** function of language.