**Unit 01 define communication**

In **This unit we explain more about what we mean by ‘*communication*’.**

 Communication is the actionable transfer of information from one person, group, or place to another by writing, speaking, or using a medium that provides a means of understanding. Every communication consists of a minimum of one sender, a receiver, and a message. The transmission of a message from sender to recipient risks being affected by many things because communication impacts how people interact. These include the location, medium used to communicate, the cultural situation, and the emotions involved. However, communication helps people to interact and share various aspects of life.



The communication is a dynamic process that begins with the conceptualizing of ideas by the sender who then transmits the message through a channel to the receiver, who in turn gives the feedback in the form of some message or signal within the given time frame. Thus, there are Seven major elements of communication process:



1. **Sender:**The sender or the communicator is the person who initiates the conversation and has conceptualized the idea that he intends to convey it to others.
2. **Encoding:** The sender begins with the encoding process wherein he uses certain words or non-verbal methods such as symbols, signs, body gestures, etc. to translate the information into a message. The sender’s knowledge, skills, perception, background, competencies, etc. has a great impact on the success of the message.
3. **Message:**Once the encoding is finished, the sender gets the message that he intends to convey. The message can be written, oral, symbolic or non-verbal such as body gestures, silence, sighs, sounds, etc. or any other signal that triggers the response of a receiver.
4. **Communication Channel:** Communication channels is the term given to the way in which we communicate. It is therefore the method used to transmit our message to a recipient, or to receive a message from someone else.

The Sender chooses the medium through which he wants to convey his message to the recipient. It must be selected carefully in order to make the message effective and correctly interpreted by the recipient. The choice of medium depends on the interpersonal relationships between the sender and the receiver and also on the urgency of the message being sent. Oral, virtual, written, sound, gesture, etc. are some of the commonly used communication mediums.

1. **Receiver:** The receiver is the person for whom the message is intended or targeted. He tries to comprehend it in the best possible manner such that the communication objective is attained. The degree to which the receiver decodes the message depends on his knowledge of the subject matter, experience, trust and relationship with the sender.
2. **Decoding:**  **All messages must be encoded into a form that can be conveyed by the communication channel chosen for the message.**Here, the receiver interprets the sender’s message and tries to understand it in the best possible manner. An effective communication occurs only if the receiver understands the message in exactly the same way as it was intended by the sender.
3. **Feedback: The final part of a communication is feedback: the recipient lets the sender know that they have received and understood the message.**

the final step of the process that ensures the receiver has received the message and interpreted it correctly as it was intended by the sender. It increases the effectiveness of the communication as it permits the sender to know the efficacy of his message. The response of the receiver can be verbal or non-verbal.

**Note:** The Noise shows the barriers in communications. There are chances when the message sent by the sender is not received by the recipient.

**Categories of Communication**

**There are a wide range of ways in which we communicate and more than one may be occurring at any given time.**

The different categories of communication include:

* **Spoken or**[**Verbal Communication**](https://www.skillsyouneed.com/ips/verbal-communication.html), which includes face-to-face, telephone, radio or television and other media.
* [**Non-Verbal Communication**](https://www.skillsyouneed.com/ips/nonverbal-communication.html)**,** covering body language, gestures, how we dress or act, where we stand, and even our scent. There are many subtle ways that we communicate (perhaps even unintentionally) with others. For example, the tone of voice can give clues to mood or emotional state, whilst hand signals or gestures can add to a spoken message.
* [**Written Communication**](https://www.skillsyouneed.com/writing-skills.html): which includes letters, e-mails, social media, books, magazines, the Internet and other media. Until recent times, a relatively small number of writers and publishers were very powerful when it came to communicating the written word. Today, we can all write and publish our ideas online, which has led to an explosion of information and communication possibilities.
* **Visualizations:** [**graphs and charts**](https://www.skillsyouneed.com/num/graphs-charts.html), maps, logos and other visualizations can all communicate messages.



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The desired outcome or goal of any communication process is mutual understanding.