

1. Natural language after all, is so sophisticated, yet almost all babies learn it faster and more thoroughly than the best computer around. Full of nuances, loaded with meaning and implication, language is a subtle but comprehensive mode of communicating. To most people, it's a genuine mark of being human.
2. Our lives are so bound up with art that we often **fail to recognize** how much we are shaped by it. We are bombarded with examples of graphic art (television commercials, magazine ads, CD jackets, displays in stores) every day; we use art to make statements about who we are and what we value in the way we decorate our rooms and in the style of our dress. In all of these ways we manipulate artistic symbols to make statements about what we believe in, what we stand for, and how we want others to see us.
3. A recent survey on “the seven ages of man” shows what really matters to people at different stages of their lives. Perhaps unexpectedly, falling in love takes on a growing importance as people grow older. The study found that the over-90s, who might be obsessed with death, in fact regard the forming of new relationships as **the most important thing that happens to them.**
4. It is often said by Westerners that the Japanese are a people of few words, preferring to communicate as much as possible using nonverbal communication. But the Japanese sometimes feel it is necessary to say something **at a time a native speaker of English would usually say nothing.** This seems very strange to a native English speaker.
5. Pesticides make the honeybees forgetful, and they also affect **the ways in which** they communicate, so either they cannot remember where nectar-producing plants are, or they are unable to inform other bees where to find them. But banning pesticides is very difficult, since they assist in the successful growth of other crops. Banning pesticides might create more food shortages, and we cannot simply revert to a world without agricultural chemicals.

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