Verbal Language

- Verbal Language – This is a system of spoken & written words where we use Sounds and Symbols to communicate.

Verbal Language consists of Five important features:

1. **Language is a SYSTEM** – Groups of elements, such as sounds and words, are arranged and work together to communicate.

2. **Language is SYMBOLIC** – A symbol is something that stands for something else. Words are symbols for ideas, actions, objects, and feelings.
Verbal Language Continued

3. **Language is CONVENTIONAL** – This means that language is accepted by a large number of people. People attach specific meanings to certain words. “What are some examples?”

4. **Language is LEARNED** – Do we come into this world knowing how to speak a language? No, we learn the language of our culture over time. “Does this mean that we only begin to communicate at a certain age?”

5. **Language CHANGES** – The English Language is constantly changing and evolving. “What are some examples of words that have multiple meanings?”
Words and their meanings

Understanding differences in words and their meanings will help you communicate effectively. Those meanings are communicated in 2 ways:

1. **Denotation** – This is the Dictionary Definition of a word, but be careful because many of the same words have multiple meanings. “Let’s think of some examples.”

2. **Connotation** – This is what the word means to you based on your feelings and experiences.
This is language that is used in FORMAL speaking situations. SAE follows the rules and guidelines found in grammar books, and covers such topics as subject/verb agreement, correct use of tenses, etc.
Sublanguages

Sublanguages are used when speaking in informal situations. The different categories are:

1. **Jargon** – This is specialized vocab. that is used and understood by people in a particular group or activity. For example, Doctors, Lawyers, Football Players, etc. all have certain language that they use that is, for the most part, unique to their field. However, Jargon can be Formal if the audience members are a part of that group or field.
Sublanguages Continued

2. **Slang** – Created words, or old words used in a new way. Slang is typically associated with time periods like the 80’s or the 90’s, and usually starts with teenagers.

3. **Dialect** – This is language based on region or culture that varies from SAE. “For example, do we speak differently from people in Boston or New York? Furthermore, do Americans speak differently than people from other countries?”