




# Words to Live By

*An activity of "When was talking invented?"*

Read "When was talking invented?" and "How did people talk in the Stone Age?" (page 18-19, *What's Up* September 2022). Then, do the following to explore the use of language.

1. Look at the following signboards.

|  |  |
|--|--|
|   |    |
|  | <p>Were you able to spot the spelling mistake in each sign?</p> <p>↳ _____</p> <p>↑ _____</p> <p>← _____</p> <p>How did each mistake change the intended meaning of the message?</p> |

(Source: funnyness.com)

2. With a partner, share some reasons why mastery of a language(s) is valuable. Jot down the points that both of you expressed.

*Why mastery of a language is important:*

3. Even if you do not master many languages, it is useful to know key words in some. For example, how would you say and write “Hello”, “Thank you”, and “I love you” in another language?

Ask a classmate for help, or use the internet, to translate these three expressions into three non-English languages you are curious about.

| Language              | Hello                | Thank you                                  | I love you                |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| (Example)<br>Japanese | こんにちは<br>Kon'nichiwa | ありがとうございます<br>た<br>Arigatou gozai mashi ta | 愛しています<br>aishi te i masu |
|                       |                      |  |                           |
|                       |                      |  |                           |
|                       |                      |  |                           |

4. Read the following quote:

***“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, it goes to his head.  
If you talk to him in his own language, it goes to his heart.” — Nelson Mandela***

Write a brief paragraph about what this quote means to you. Share it with a friend.

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5. Reflect on what these four mini activities tell you about the value of knowing languages.