



Chimpanzee Intelligence 2

based on a talk by Dr. Tetsuro Matsuzawa of Kyoto University.

Watch the original here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TuBRFn1pgk>

Vocabulary development

Look at the text introducing this part of the talk. Can you remember the words we highlighted in the online lesson?

Why do chimpanzees have better memories than humans? Some experts **speculate** that millions of years ago the common ancestor of chimpanzees and humans had a fantastic memory. However, as humans evolved, their memory became more **limited** as they developed language, because the brain only has so much capacity. In other words, there was a memory-for-language **trade-off**.

In the same way that **anthropology** studies different human cultures, differing chimpanzee cultures also need to be studied. Chimpanzees in various parts of Africa do things differently. This seems to be because of cultural tradition rather than ecological **constraints**.

The observation of a **paralyzed** chimpanzee called Reo indicates that chimpanzees can benefit from being unable to think about the future. While Reo remained totally **intact** from the neck up, his paralysis resulted in painful sores on several of his **limbs**, and great weight loss. Reo didn't become **desperate**, however. His attitude towards life never changed, and he remained as **aggressive** as ever. This was probably because Reo, unlike humans, was unable to contemplate what a terrible future he might have ahead of him.

Read the text and then check you remember the meaning of the words (see below). Try thinking of a new example sentence for each word.

Listening skills development

This talk had good examples of the following skills, among others:

1. Identifying attitude: expressing certainty

A lot of lectures are based on theory, research and opinions. Sometimes speakers may want to emphasize that something is a **fact!** *There's no question that...* , *There's no doubt (in my mind) that...* , *It's well documented that...* , or: *Without doubt...* are all ways of expressing certainty.

2. Identifying signposts: straying from the main topic

Speakers sometimes go off the main topic to provide some extra interest, detail or examples through additional facts or stories which are not directly related to their point. Usually they will point this out by saying, for example: *By the way...* , *As an aside...* , *Incidentally...* , or: *While we're on the subject...* .

3. Understanding how an argument is constructed: cause and effect

Look out for constructions that point to cause and effect. One typical one is: *The more (x happens), the more (y happens)*. For example: *The more a state prospers, the happier its people are*. You can also use the *greater/worse*, or *less* in either clause. Simpler phrases which point to effects include: *Consequently...* , *As a result...* , and: *As a consequence of this...* .

Vocabulary development

speculate

verb

to reach a logical conclusion despite not knowing for sure that it is correct; noun: speculation, adjective: speculative

Example sentence:

I'm only speculating, but I'd say there were over 30,000 people at the concert last night.

limited

adjective

unable to go beyond a certain amount, number or level; verb and noun: limit

Example sentence:

My children don't understand that I have a limited amount of money and that I can't buy them everything they want.

trade-off

noun

a situation where you have to give up something in order to gain something

Example sentence:

For many professional artists, there's a trade-off between creative freedom on the one hand and the needs of the market on the other.

anthropology

noun

the scientific study of human societies and cultures

Example sentence:

We're learning about the society and culture of the Maasai tribe in our anthropology class this semester.

constraint

noun

something that limits or controls what you do; verb: constrain

Example sentence:

I can't afford to buy a new car because of financial constraints.

paralyzed

adjective

unable to move part or all of your body; verb: paralyze, noun: paralysis

Example sentence:

The car crash left him partially paralyzed; he can't move his legs and will probably never walk again.

intact

adjective

not damaged, broken or changed

Example sentence:

I once dropped this glass vase on a stone floor, but amazingly it remained intact and didn't crack or break.

limb

adjective

an arm or a leg

Example sentence:

When he was 18, he broke all four of his limbs in a motorcycle accident.

desperate

adjective

very worried or upset because of a bad situation; noun: desperation

Example sentence:

She's been missing for four days and her family are getting increasingly desperate.

aggressive

adjective

behaving in an angry, threatening way; noun: aggression

Example sentence:

Mother bears are very aggressive; they'll attack you if you go near their young.

Try to find another talk online about this topic and see if the speaker makes any of the same points, or uses any of this vocabulary.