Titlul resursei: READING COMPREHENSION - ASSESSMENT
Disciplina: LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
Clasa: a VII-a
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Școala: COLEGIUL NAȚIONAL IOSIF VULCAN, ORADEA
Competențe specifice vizate:
    3.2. Selectarea de informații din texte pe teme din viața cotidiană

FIȘĂ DE ACTIVITĂȚI- Reading Comprehension - Assessment

Read the article and answer the questions

With Dogs, It's What You Say — and How You Say It

By JAMES GORMAN AUG. 29, 2016

Who's a good dog?

Well, that depends on whom you're asking, of course. But new research suggests that the next time you look at your pup, whether Maltese or mastiff, you might want to choose your words carefully.

Dogs that were trained to enter an M.R.I. machine for the research. Photo Credit: Enik Kubinyi

"Both what we say and how we say it matters to dogs," said Attila Andics, a research fellow at Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest.

Dr. Andics, who studies language and behaviour in dogs and humans, along with Adam Miklosi and several other colleagues, reported in a paper to be published in this week's issue of the journal Science that different parts of dogs' brains respond to the meaning of a word, and to how the word is said, much as human brains do.

A dog waiting for its brain activity to be measured in a magnetic resonance imaging machine for research reported in the journal Science. Photo Credit: Enik Kubinyi
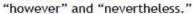
As with people's brains, parts of dogs' left hemisphere react to meaning and parts of the right hemisphere to intonation — the emotional content of a sound. And, perhaps most interesting to dog owners, only a word of praise said in a positive tone really made the reward system of a dog's brain light up.

The experiment itself was something of an achievement. Dr. Andics and his colleagues trained dogs to enter a magnetic resonance imaging machine and lie in a harness while the machine recorded their brain activity.

A trainer spoke words in Hungarian — common words of praise used by dog owners like "good boy," "super" and "well done." The trainer also tried neutral words like "however" and "nevertheless."

The research found that different parts of dogs' brains respond to the meaning of a word and to how the word is said, much as human brains do.

The positive words spoken in a positive tone prompted strong activity in the brain's reward centers. All the other conditions resulted in significantly less action, and all at the same level.

In other words, "good boy" said in a neutral tone and "however" said in a positive or neutral tone all got the same response.

What does it all mean? For dog owners, Dr. Andics said, the findings mean that the dogs are paying attention to meaning, and that you should, too.

That doesn't mean a dog won't wag its tail and look happy when you say, "You stinky mess" in a happy voice. But the dog is looking at your body language and your eyes, and perhaps starting to infer that "stinky mess" is a word of praise.

In terms of evolution of language, the results suggest that the capacity to process meaning and emotion in different parts of the brain and tie them together is not uniquely human.

Anna Gabor speaking to a dog as part of the research. Photo Credit Vilja and Vanda Molnár

Article taken from: https://goo.gl/LNEEYC

Questions - Text 1 (20 marks)

1. What is the main point of this article?	2 points
2. Who do you think the target audience is?	2 points
3. What kind of language has been used in this article?	1 point
4. Using one adjective, describe the tone of this article.	1 point
5. Give an example of emotive language in this article and explain why you think it is emotive.	3 points
6. Write down one example of an obviously biased opinion that the writer shows and explain your answer.	2 points
7. Put the following facts from the article into chronological order.	7 points
• **A trainer spoke words in Hungarian — common words of praise used by dog owners like "good boy," "super" and "well done."**	
• **Dr. Andics and his colleagues trained dogs to enter a magnetic resonance imaging machine.**	
• **The trainer also tried neutral words like "however" and "nevertheless."**	
• **Dr. Andics reported in a paper to be published in this week's issue of the journal Science that different parts of dogs' brains respond to the meaning of a word, and to how the word is said.**	
• **Dr. Andics and his colleagues devised an experiment using dogs to measure whether dog's brains respond to how we say things as opposed to just 'what' we say.**	
• **The dogs had to lie in a harness while the machine recorded their brain activity.**	
• **The positive words spoken in a positive tone prompted strong activity in the brain's reward centers.**	
8. Write down an alternate title for this article.	2 points

Suggested Answers - Text 1 (20 marks)

1. The main point of this article is that both what we say and how we say it matters to dogs.

2. The target audience of this article is dog Owners and people interested in research and science to do with animals.

3. This article uses a mixture of formal and informal language with some witty phrases to keep the reader entertained.

4. playful / fun / informative etc…

5. There are a few different appropriate examples in this article, as long as the learner has explained his/her reasoning appropriately, he/she may be awarded the marks.

     Suggested Answer: "Who's a good dog?" This is an example of emotive language because as soon as you read it you can picture a dog owner saying it positively to his/her dog. This phrase conjures up a positive emotive scenario where a dog has been well-behaved and is being praised.

6. There are a few different appropriate examples in this article, as long as the learner has explained his/her reasoning appropriately, he/she may be awarded the marks.

     Suggested Answer: "For dog owners, Dr. Andics said, the findings mean that the dogs are

paying attention to meaning, and that you should, too." This quotation leaves no room for the reader to think anything else. The use of the imperative 'should' orders the reader to behave in a

certain way instead of inviting him/her to form his/her opinion.

7.

a) Dr. Andics and his colleagues devised an experiment using dogs to measure whether dog's brains respond to how we say things as opposed to just 'what' we say.

b) Dr. Andics and his colleagues trained dogs to enter a magnetic resonance imaging machine.

c) The dogs had to lie in a harness while the machine recorded their brain activity.

d) A trainer spoke words in Hungarian — common words of praise used by dog owners like "good boy," "super" and "well done."

e) The trainer also tried neutral words like "however" and "nevertheless."

f) The positive words spoken in a positive tone prompted strong activity in the brain's reward centers.

g) Dr. Andics reported in a paper to be published in this week's issue of the journal Science that different parts of dogs' brains respond to the meaning of a word, and to how the word is said.

8. Answers will differ, so refer to the following guideline when marking:

1 mark - an attempt at an appropriate title but contains spelling mistakes or is slightly inappropriate like being too long or off topic.

1.5 marks – a good title idea with grammatical error/s.

2 marks – an appropriate, catchy title with no grammatical errors.