

Speaking in the 4th Dimension

The Principle to Learn	In God's Word
Understand the limitations of computer email.	Matthew 6:16

This lesson deals with the limitations of computer communication (email) and not to be confused with the Twiddle Key Tips lesson that deals with vocabulary.

Preclass



- Review the goals of ComputiVerse
- Review the Class Tips
- Review the Gospel Message

Process

Include the steps of the gospel throughout the lesson; so while student attention is fresh, the real lesson is being planted.

Begin with prayer.

God has given us an incredible body with many parts that talk. We must understand the limited role of email in communicating with others, because misunderstandings, serious ones, can be a frequent result if we don't. Until computers get faster in communicating through telephone lines letting us see and clearly hear the person on the other end, in real time we must use computer communication with caution.

As we learn to communicate growing from a baby we're learning to communicate in far more ways than just with mouth and ears. Even a small baby can continually grab an ear while crying and consider an earache as the problem. A big pout on those little cheeks tell us tears are about to follow and grandma must take her cue by picking up little precious and spoil her some more.

Not much later, we learn to talk with our eyes by "telling" others with them, if we are lying (always looking away), determined (a stern stare), silly (looking cross-eyed), doubtful (squinty eyed), and others.

Even our skin speaks to others some valuable information about how we observe bodily personal hygiene, hard working sweat, or dressed-up perfumes and lotions.

Read The Mummy's Message story on page 71.

Communication in Four Dimensions:

1. **Nose to Nose** – The most powerful dimension of communication is the one most of us enjoy every day. The hearing-impaired overcome obstacles by learning to read lips and hand signing. This has distance and daylight limitations. An incredible advantage often overlooked is the instant feedback by the hearer, whether it is applause from a group or a daydreaming faraway look by a disinterested hearer.
2. **Telephone** is the second dimension of human communication because it lets the hearer know a few more things. We can listen to the tone and speed of the voice and tell if the person is saying the message in anger, surprise, joy, discouragement, and others. Also, the telephone gives the speaker an instant feedback from the listener. If a meaning of word or thought is not understood or disagreed with, the listener can immediately ask a question. But maybe we would change our message if we could see that the listener was blind or in a wheel chair. Visible injuries to the listener would be seen in the nose-to-nose communication dimension but not over the telephone.
3. **Postal mail**; the paper and envelope thingy, is referred to many as snail mail because of its slow delivery. Even spite of its indisputable use it provides no expression or body language communication from the sender. You know very little about the sender and therefore you're message is limited. Also there is no instant feedback.
4. **Email** is the fourth dimension and has some very desirable advantages. A written message can be sent to thousands of people almost at once. A picture can be sent along too. The 'listener' doesn't need to immediately 'answer' the communication immediately. The message can be easily transferred into a paper message and used that way. If fact, some computer programs will change words written on the screen into audible words for the blind. But email suffers many of the same limitations of snail mail.



Email etiquette called 'netiquette' tries to minimize a bit of the limitations of email by agreeing on a few examples in the way we put words on the screen and in our message.

- TYPING A MESSAGE IN ALL CAPITAL LETTERS is called flaming and is the equivalent of shouting.
- You can record body language by adding to your text examples of the following: <grin>, <g>, <confused look>, <frown>. Etc.
- Another form that is beginning to fade is the faces made with the colon, hyphen and parentheses: happy :-), sad :-(, puzzled :-|

- We can also display the mood of our words with **bold underlining** or even change the style of font from *casual* to *frightened*.

ComputiVerse

God's Word show us that not only does our bodies send messages to others that see us, but that people may use these messages for deception.

Matthew 6:16 says: *"Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."*

I'm so glad that God gets past all the communication signals that might dilute or confuse what we say and just reads our heart.

1Samuel16:7 : *"But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."*

This lesson shows the wide contrast of communication with using the restricted computer email and then seeing God's communication in reading our hearts. Aren't you so glad we don't have to talk to God via email? In fact, our hurts, our praise, our heart's desires are taken to God's throne in words that are too wonderful for you and I to put into words.

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which can not be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is in the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:26,27.

We young people need to communicate with God in prayer, praise, and reading his Holy "email" to us all through every day. ☺

The Mummy's Message

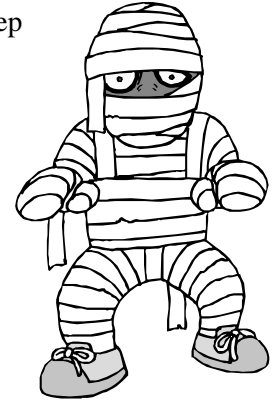
[Theme: Email severely limits and distorts our communication.]

The mummy Speaks! That's what the sign over the clubhouse door should have read. It seemed to Ben that almost everything about his neighborhood club changed when Mr. Frank started meeting with the boys every other Saturday. All fourteen of them were discovering interesting things about themselves, about computers, and especially about God.

Tommy, the shortest of the clubbers, was lying crammed in a box. He'd been wrapped in plastic and wore goggles to protect his eyes. His whole body was covered with enough sand to keep him from moving. This **mummy-in-sand** donned an old gas mask that kept sand out of his mouth, but allowed him to talk with the rest of the group.

All month, the discussion topic had been the phenomenal communication abilities God has given to us. But what really troubled Ben was the word "EMAIL" written in big letters on the makeshift blackboard.

Tommy, the "mummy-in-sand" surveyed the faces of the clubbers staring down at him, hoping he was still on good terms with everybody while in his helpless position. Mr. Frank's only instructions to Tommy were to talk in a monotone voice, and he must always speak at the same rate of speed.



For the next half hour, the boys conversed with the "mummy" about all sorts of general school and sports topics.

Then the mummy was uncovered, and a lively discussion followed. The task was to figure out why, when Tommy didn't have any noticeable difficulty understanding the clubbers, they had to ask him extra questions just to get the same amount of information.

The boys were all entranced as Mr. Frank explained that our whole body "talks," even though we think that only the mouth and ears are involved. Some people refer to this as "body english". The sand covering the "mummy"... er... Tommy, had kept his body from "talking", and had prompted the boys to ask extra questions in order to understand him.

The youth leader took special care to clearly explain how much God loves each of the boys individually; in fact, more than man's words can tell. So He **showed** man what real love is, by sending His Son to pay the price for sins on the Cross.

But that doesn't explain the email characters on the blackboard.

Fred was beginning to get the connection between the mummy experiment and email.

"Communication using only written words, whether in letters or electronic mail, eliminates the 'body english' of our communication with others," he said. And sometimes it sends the wrong signals or the wrong feelings. I have to include a word like <grin> or <frown> in my email message to show what my body english is saying."




Then Monroe jumped in with, "When I'm talking on the phone, it's a little easier because I can tell if the other person is angry, excited, out of breath, or even of a different nationality."

How wonderful it is that God sent us His **written** word, the Bible, so that we could learn more about how much He loves us. But His message, His **actions** spoke louder than words, when He came to this earth to show us His love. His body english erased all doubt or confusion that He is who He says He is. He is our **only** way of salvation, and He wants our communication – ALL of it, to praise Him. ☺

Body English Friends Fun

[Theme: Understanding the limitations of email by discovering the power of body english.]

A fun game for two or more is to have a contest to see which team can think of the most things “to say” without using paper, pencil, or voice. A popular action game years ago called Charades was based on body english and is fantastic for showing how much our body can say silently. A few of them are listed below to get you started. Some of them you’ll have to figure out how to “say” yourself.

	I’m sleepy			It smells in here
That’s too loud		The telephone is for you	I’m telling a lie	Shame on you
I’m angry	I liked that		I’m cold	

Can you guess the expression God has on His face when He sees us do things that dishonor Him or are disrespectful to our parents?

God has lots of ways for us to tell others how much He loves them. Reading His word for ourselves we then can tell others we are around and email others.

Go for it!
It’s more than cool !!

