

**Knowledge Question:** What effect does language have on our thought processes?

**1. Do Now:**

- What is language?

Established method of communication between two beings.

Symbols that are meant to communicate

Form of expression to share ideas

- What must be true for two people to communicate through language?

People have to understand the same kind of language whether spoken or written.

Must be an overlap of experience, concept, knowledge

Both people have to be able to produce the some common form of communications

Requires a medium

There has to be *agreement*

- What are the limitations of communicating through language?
  - People understand language differently, requires interpretation. People can misinterpret.
  - Many different languages, people don't always understand the same things
  - Sometimes topics like emotions can have a limited ability to be communicated
  - Some things like thoughts cannot be properly communicated through language
  - Sometimes things like intuition cannot be communicated

## 2. Listen excerpt from Radiolab podcast: *Words*

According to the podcast, what effect does language have on our thought process?

- In the absence of language, there is an absence of reflection, you lose the ability you acknowledge your sense of self.
- Implies that without language your thoughts don't have structure and you may not have thoughts.
- Without language you may become like an infant
- Without language you interpret the world through senses and interprets through emotion.
- Cannot connect or differentiate yourself from stuff around you.

## 3. *The World I Live In* by Helen Keller

Read and annotate. Focus on the relationship between *language* and *thoughts*.