



# LET'S DEFINE COMMUNICATION

## DEFINITION



According to Bill VanPatten, communication is the **EXPRESSION, INTERPRETATION, and NEGOTIATION OF MEANING** in a **GIVEN CONTEXT**. What's more, it's also **PURPOSEFUL**. Let's break that down...

## EXPRESSION



**EXPRESSION** can be understood as **PRODUCTION**, such as writing and speaking. It can also be facial cues like smiling, raising eyebrows, or using body language such as waving.

## INTERPRETATION



**INTERPRETATION** can be understood as **COMPREHENSION**, such as listening & reading. Some other entity must always be there to comprehend and interpret the message & intent of the person expressing

## NEGOTIATION



**NEGOTIATION** is about clarification, confirmation, and the co-construction of discourse. In other words, working together to understand what the other person is saying.

## MEANING



**MEANING** has to do with information, propositional content, or intent. In other words, what is it that you want to say or what is the other person saying to you?

## CONTEXT



**CONTEXT** is the participants and the setting of what is being expressed. This is important to consider because settings shift and change. Communication must adapt to that.

## PURPOSE



Language, gestures, signs, or anything else involved in communication is used for a reason - to get something done, to entertain, or let someone know something.

## THEREFORE...



If you teach communicatively, it is important to understand what communication is and see how your teaching practices align with the definition & goal of communication.