

Communication and Culture

Whether you live in a city or small town in the United States, a Kibbutz in Israel, a village in Thailand, the jungles of Colombia, or the plains of Kenya, you employ the seven elements of the communication process. The methods will be different but the process remains the same. For example, a Japanese Geisha and a Michigan schoolteacher send and receive messages using different channels with varying amounts of feedback, yet all seven channels of the process are present.

Culture is an important aspect of communication because it is one's culture that determines the formation and content of messages, as well as which messages are noticed and which ones are interpreted. According to Edward T. Hall, "Nothing in our lives is free from cultural influences. It is the keystone in civilizations arch and is the medium through which all of life's events must flow."

Edward T. Hall. *Beyond Culture*. (p.14). Garden City, NY: Anchor Doubleday.