

LEARNING LISTENING

the challenge of
unscripted language

Annie McDonald

Scripted ...



Unscripted ...



Unscripted ...

speaker-generated

ehm...

isn't it?

listener-oriented

uh huh

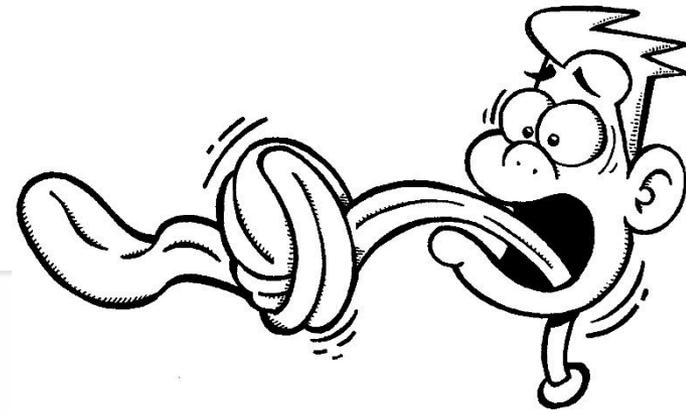
interaction-driven

speaker-generated

ehm...

- 1 false starts; reformulations;
repetitions; fillers**
- 2 changing sounds**
- 3 cutting sounds**

False starts



B Spoken English: false starts

So how do they ... te-, tell us a little bit abou-, about their intelligen-, do ... now, here's an important question: Do ants have an individual intelligence, or is it entirely a, a group thing?

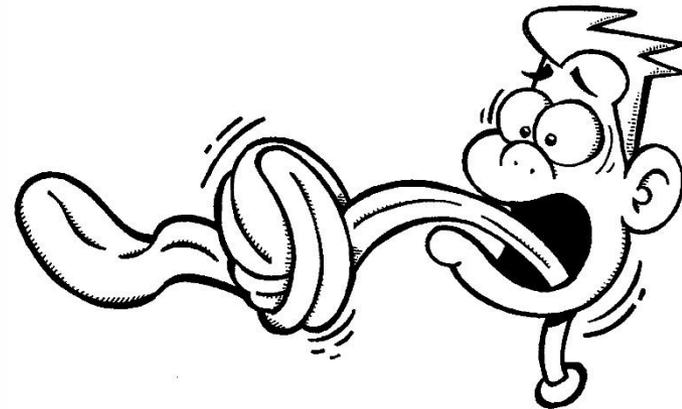
In a, in a wa-, I would argue that no, individually, they don't really have cognition, but as a colony, they do.

- 6  **2.56** Listen to and read the interviewer's question and Antonia's answer above. This is spoken English; how is it different from written English?

Changing sounds

5  **2.55** Listen to and read these fragments. The words in bold are written as they sound. Correct them.

- 1 the **goog** guys
- 2 and it **coob** be like almost harassing you or
- 3 the virus **kung** carry in a protein
- 4 **coob** be good at this
- 5 we **womp** more
- 6 you **shub** be polite
- 7 cruising **ing** company
- 8 I **cump** bear to watch it
- 9 **cum** be more than the sum of their parts

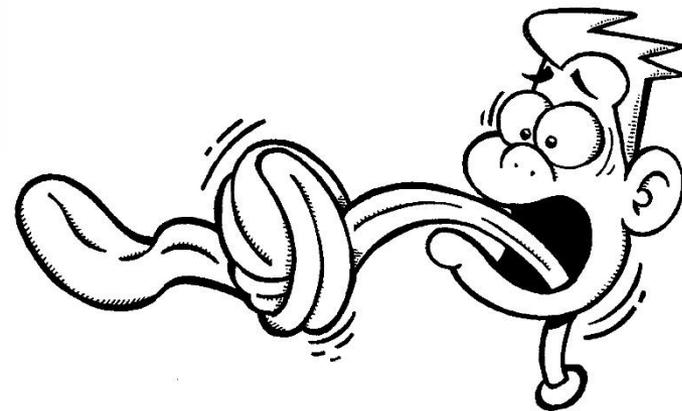


Cutting sounds

3 If a speaker doesn't pronounce a /t/ or /d/ at the end of the word, it sometimes sounds as if they're saying something else. What do you think these speakers were really saying?

- 1 Better luck necks time!
- 2 Would you like a coal drink?
- 3 Who bill the pyramids?
- 4 I fell very tired last night.
- 5 I one to hole your hand.
- 6 I when to the doctor's yesterday.

Better luck next time!



listener-oriented

isn't it?

- 1 you know etc**
- 2 rhetorical questions**
- 3 sort of etc**



You know ...



Listen and show where the speaker inserts *you know* with **yk**

1 yeah, well, no, it's one of those thing like anything else

2 so that that was quite a while ago

3 and so you don't really stop

4 but it wasn't until like the Beatles

5 but, I, so, it, I just got involved in

You know ...



Listen and show where the speaker inserts *you know* with **yk**

1 yeah, well, no, it's one of those thing like anything else

2 so that **yk** that was quite a while ago

3 and so you don't really stop **yk**

4 but it wasn't until like **yk** the Beatles

5 but, I, **yk** so, it, I just got involved in

kind of..., sort of...



Listen and show where the speaker inserts *kind of* $\wedge k$ or *sort of* $\wedge S$

1 for $\wedge S$ the presentation

2 lots of nice pockets of

3 there were 30 in my family

4 but I stumbled into a karaoke place

5 I mean, we went to several places



Rhetorical questions

B Spoken English: tag questions

- 6 In conversational English, tag questions such as *isn't it?* are very common. Look at these different ways you may hear *isn't it?* pronounced.

intip? isni'? innit? iz'ntit? iznip?

Note

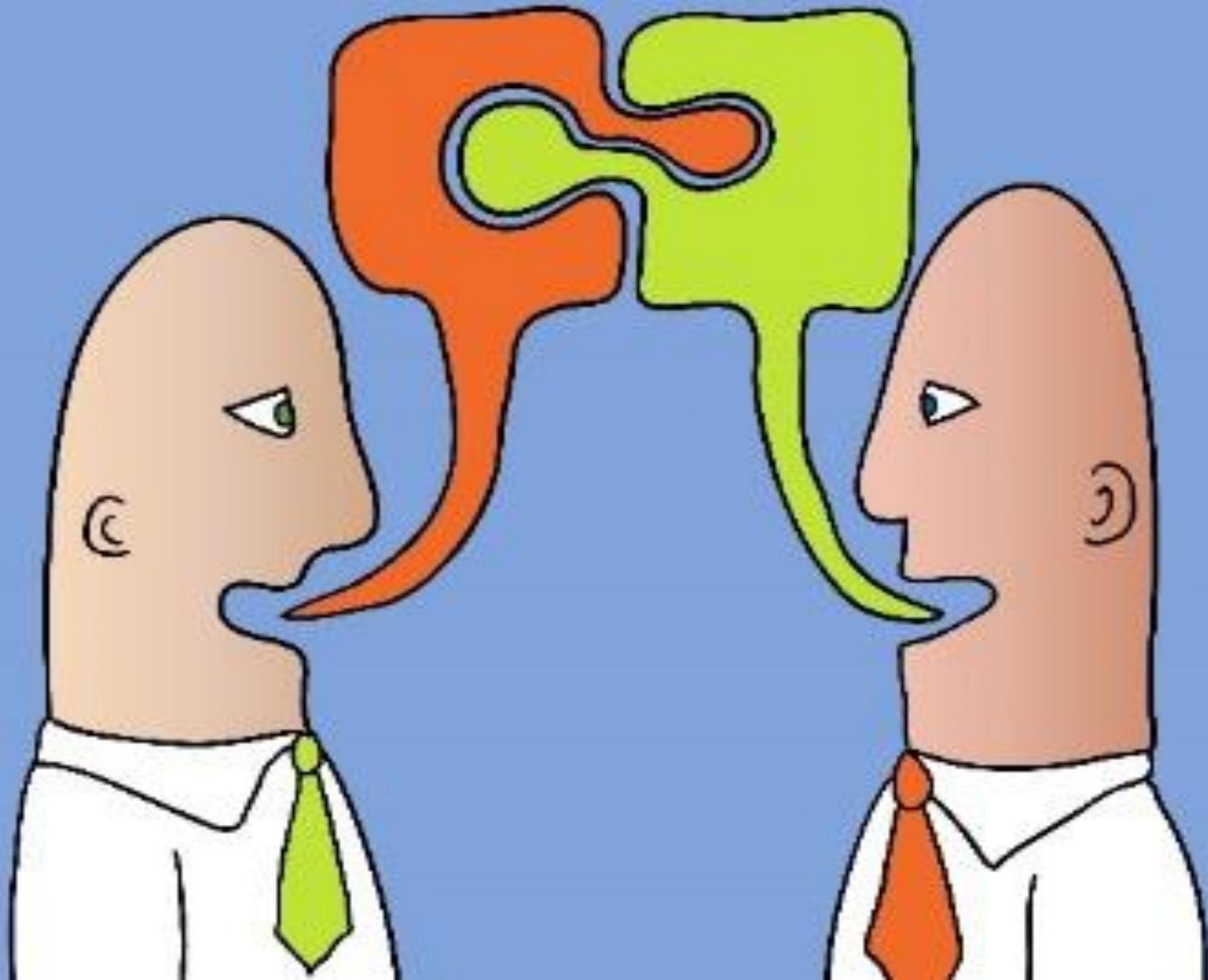
Conversational tag questions are usually not true questions, so the intonation goes down. They are really an invitation for the other person to agree with the speaker.

- 7  **2.73** Listen to six fragments of conversation. Notice the way that *isn't it?* is pronounced.

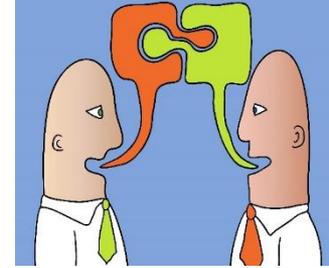
interaction-driven

uh huh

- 1 questioning, turn taking**
- 2 floor holding**
- 3 back-channelling**



Questioning / turn-taking



8  **2.74** Complete these fragments with tag questions, then listen and check. You'll hear each fragment three times.

- 1 and you've got a specialism, ?
- 2 you've got some fairly extreme weather up there, ?
- 3 um, ants are incredibly intelligent creatures, ?
- 4 they're not questioned immediately, ?
- 5 it's not a highly populated area, ?
- 6 first, another bulge appeared, ?
- 7 ants have a very particular way, ?
- 8 it's an iconic symbol, , the deckchair?
- 9 'cause you've got a big job, , there really?

9 One of the tag questions is a real question, and the intonation goes up. Which one it is?

Floor holding



Listen and underline the words which the speaker stretches.

- 1 ... and if you wanna go to an Italian deli, you'll find that ...
- 2 I guess, you see, you know, there's all these, sort of ...
- 3 Then put in the rice.
- 4 and I think it's er, it's good for me
- 5 I think, yeah, I, I would like to have the lifestyle

Floor holding



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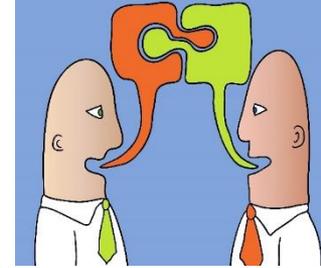
mmm...

I know

yes

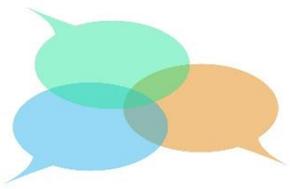
Blah

Back-channelling



Alan: How do you pay for it, in Russia, in China, do you have to pay yourself or does the government help?

Ning: Actually, if you are doing the Bachelor degree **[yeah]** you needed to pay for yourself ... but, er, if you, you can enter the postgraduate school to get it, a higher degree like a Master or PhD, **[um]** er, you don't needed to pay anything. **[Oh, that's]** you **[really?]** you can get a er, get a different amount of money **[yeah]** to support your living cost.



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