



Wednesday July 20, 2016

Greetings! ,

This week, Monty answers a question about the silent language of gestures that horses use to communicate with each other, and with us too.

Question

The language that you devised, Equus, how many movements ("words") does it entail? Or what is its vocabulary?

Answer

Please understand that I never 'devised' anything. It is also true that I did not invent or create this language. I only observed what nature already had in place. I then emulated these gestures of which there are at least 200.

The dictionary definition of communication is "an act or instance of transmitting information." Horses living in a herd have to communicate to survive. Domestic horses tend to be vociferous; however, in the wild it is important to be as silent as possible in order not to attract attention-not to attract predators.

When brought into domestic environments, I have seen mustangs panic at the sound of domestic horses whinnying. I have seen them run to the corner of their enclosure, huddle tightly together and lower their heads to about knee level. I believe they are concerned that the domestic horses will alert the predators, which the mustangs believe are certain to arrive.

I have experimented by removing all but one mustang from the enclosure, noting that the remaining individual will fail to call to his removed friends. This simply does not happen with domestic horses.

Domestic horses use sound mainly to signal where they are and to be sure that they have a location on their friends. Horses will learn how to react to certain human

sounds like "whoa" and "trot," but this is habituation rather than communication.

Surprisingly, the human communicates using as much as 80 percent body language. Although we base many of our communication systems on the spoken word, body language is the most powerful conveyor of our emotions and intent. Certainly intonation, volume and demeanor of the speaker are virtually as important as the words he utters.

In Chapter 1, Chapter 2 and at the end of Chapter 4 of my textbook, [From My Hands to Yours](#), you will find a dictionary of the Language of Equus. It is illustrated to educate the reader in the signs and signals that I use to communicate with horses.

Sincerely,
Monty
[The Man Who Listens to Horses](#)

MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNIVERSITY THIS WEEK'S EPISODE



This online video lesson features Join-Up with a reticent horse. Not a student yet? Click on the buttons below to Join-Up with thousands of horse lovers learning Monty's force-free and fun methods now.

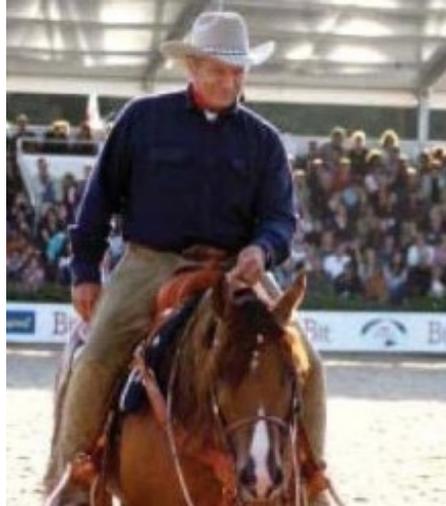


UPCOMING EVENTS

Galloping the Globe with Monty Roberts. Monty is on his way back to California to lead summer clinics and training programs at his spectacular Flag Is Up Farms.

USA

July 30: Night of Inspiration
August 1-5: Monty's Special Training
August 22-September 2: Gentling Wild Horses
September 24-25: Riding with Respect



[FULL SCHEDULE HERE](#)



MONTY'S PRINCIPLES HORSE SENSE FOR PEOPLE

G'day, Monty. Thanks again for speaking at our national conference last week. Your testimony was not only fascinating but equally inspiring. You may not recall, but I approached you during the dinner (among dozens of others I'm sure!) to really encourage you in making your audience aware of your past. Although I had a very encouraging and loving father and mother, to hear what you had to endure is a testimony that simply needs to be told.

As you are aware of the hate and violence that is filling our world today, our country, more than ever, needs to know how to respond to evil. As a follower of Jesus Christ myself, I believe the ultimate solution is when Jesus instructs us to love our enemies in Luke 6, for when people respond with good when they are mistreated, that will eventually lead to changed hearts; and ultimately, changed lives. Your past is not an embarrassment that needs to be covered up; instead, it needs to be a beacon so that people can see actual love being lived out; even when having lived in a pit.

Indeed, the movie "Unbroken" comes to mind; where people who are abused and hurt reach out with forgiveness. Think of the lives that would have been saved today if people would respond in this way rather than their guns, as we just witnessed in Baton Rouge today. People more than ever need to hear testimonies like yours so that real differences can be made.

Thanks again for your time, kindness, and encouragement that you provided us last week. God Bless in Abundance!

Doug Rountree
Dog Behavioral Therapist and Trainer
Bark Busters USA



MONTY'S CHALLENGE

Test yourself each week as I challenge you to answer the question below. I mean this. Sit down and write an answer. Don't wait for my answer next week. If you have been reading my Weekly Questions and Answers for the last six months, you should be in a position to do this. Send your answer to my team at: askmonty@montyroberts.com

Why should you bother? Because it will help you focus. There is probably a comparable question in your life that needs answering - or will be. If you can gain insight into how to go about answering a practical question that is loosely related to your problem, this exercise will help you answer your nagging question. Then read my answer. I want all of my students to learn to be better trainers than me. That's good for you and good for horses!

~ Monty

NEXT WEEK'S QUESTION

How long did it take you to learn to "listen" to horses? Did you make any mistakes in the process? Any amusing or unexpected results?

HORSEMANSHIP RADIO



Trainer Satish Seemar describes why he broke with tradition for his love of horses. Since 1990, the ruler of Dubai has put Seemar in charge of his Zabeel Racing Stables, a world class racing facility. And Arthur Dixon describes how he is accomplishing mastery of riding dressage, though totally blind, with Soundscaping. Jamie Jennings reads Monty's Tip for purchasing a horse trailer.

[EPISODE 68 | LISTEN HERE](#)



REDUCING VIOLENCE THROUGH WORKSHOPS WITH HORSES IN ANTIGUA GUATEMALA

Lead-Up International (Affiliate of Join-Up International) is a program based around workshops with horses in which youth at risk are introduced to calm and humane ways of interacting with horses. Participants discover non-violence for themselves and develop a new sense of peaceful leadership.

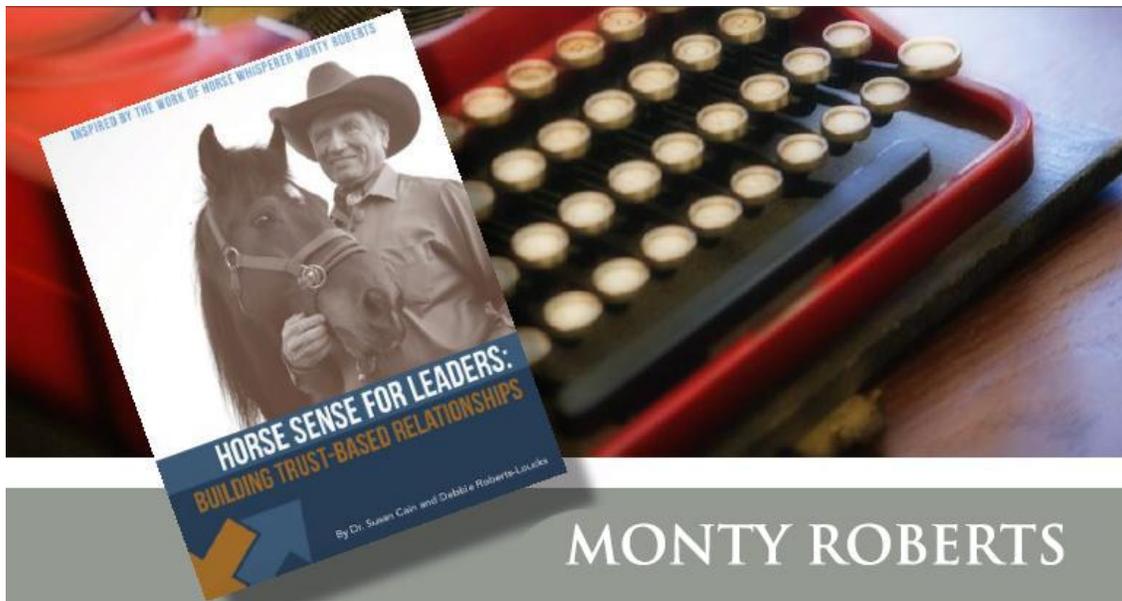
[READ MORE](#)

GIVING BACK TO VETERANS



Help support our war veterans and first responders by using [Our Link](#) to shop on Amazon Smile. Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of your purchase price to Monty's non-profit, Join-Up International. Through Join-Up International Monty is able to provide free clinics for war veterans, rescues horse, and more. You can also make a donation directly to Join-Up International [Here](#).

HORSE SENSE FOR LEADERS



Buying Monty's book, [Horse Sense for Leaders: Building Trust-Based Relationships](#), is another great way to support Monty in his efforts. We have a [Paperback Version](#) and a [Color Version](#). The Chief Scientific Officer for The Humane Society of the United States, Andrew Rowan, writes

"The connection made in this book between leadership and non-violence is extremely important. Many leaders have employed violence or cruelty to achieve their ends but Monty Roberts has gone in the opposite direction and shows how true leadership is about the development of trust (whether between a human and an animal or between humans) and encouraging those around one to reach their full potential. Everybody

could benefit from absorbing the practices outlined in this book."



[Join-Up International](#) | AskMonty@montyroberts.com | MontyRoberts.com

