7) Used by a group of people

**Design Features**
1) Hockett (1960) → 16 general features of spoken human language
2) But → very focussed on physical characteristics
3) Accepted design feature of language → under voluntary control

**Arbitrary Mapping**
1) Language may have begun with onomatopoeia → more sound based
2) Variation in onomatopoeia in different languages
3) animals sounds → made differently in different languages

**Study**
1) Kohler (1929) → Suggested that even shapes have sounds
2) More likely to give sharp sounds to sharp shapes
3) 85-90% of people agreed on which made up words should go to made up shapes
4) People with ASD only agree around 50% of the time – they have a deficit here

**Syntax**
1) Difference animal & human language → animals don’t shown evidence of syntax
2) Suggests → animals do not possess language ability

**Properties of syntax**
1) Language → discrete combinatorial system → new meanings when different words combined
2) Well-ordered sentences depend on → ordering syntactic categories of words in correct sequences
3) Sentences are built around verbs
4) We can distinguish words that do the semantic work of language
5) Recursion – phrases containing examples of themselves → can construct infinite number of sentences from finite number of rules

**Animal Language**
1) Animals → communicate but unsure of whether they use language
2) Language → form of communication
3) Not all communication is language
4) Many animals communicate → the release of pheromones
5) Bee wiggle dance → novel messages, but only about food
6) Dolphins → can communicate there is something new in the water, no real evidence that they possess language, no evidence of syntax
7) Songbirds → overlap with human language acquisition, there is a critical period where they learn how to produce these songs, left-hemisphere specialisation

**Primates**
1) Visual, auditory, tactile & olfactory signals to communicate
2) Communicate about stimuli for which they do not already possess a signal
3) Suggests → creativity