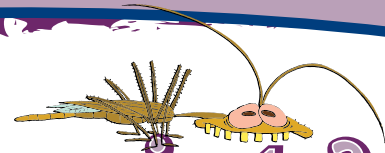


## How do insects communicate?



Insects have many different ways of communicating. Scientists, including many at Montana State University, are still learning about all the different ways bugs communicate. Crickets use sound, fireflies flash light, moths attract each other with odors, and honeybees use a dance to tell other bees the location of food. Communication is the transfer of information between two individuals. Like most animals, insects use their five senses (sight, smell, touch, taste and hearing) to gather information about their surroundings.

You can pretend you are an insect and make your own language. Pretend you are a firefly and use flashlights to communicate or act like a cricket and use clicking noises. You can also pretend you are a moth and see if you can attract or repel your friends with different smells. Ask your parent to find an old food container and cut holes in the top. Place different kinds of foods in it and have your friends close their eyes, smell, and see if they like the scent and can guess what it is.

### Did-you-know?



Silk cloth is made from silkworm cocoons, a moth species that has been domesticated for more than 5,000 years. You can make your own silk by raising silkworms. Visit [mulberryfarms.com](http://mulberryfarms.com) or [carolina.com](http://carolina.com) for more information.

Learn about opportunities to participate in upcoming science activities and events at MSU by visiting [Montana.edu/outreach](http://Montana.edu/outreach)

### Try this pretend insect language or make up your own!

Pretend you are a honey bee. Hide something like a toy or a piece of candy and see if you can tell someone how to find it using the code below.

- You are close ..... rub your tummy
- You are far ..... wave bye-bye
- Look behind you ..... draw a circle with your finger
- Look in front of you ..... bend at your waste and bow
- Go right ..... jog in place
- Go left ..... walk in place

