

#### PASSAGE 4

One of the social needs addressed by conversational flow is the human need for 'synchrony' - to be 'in sync' or in harmony with one another. Many studies have shown how people attempt to synchronize with their partners, by coordinating their behavior. This interpersonal coordination underlies a wide array of human activities, ranging from more complicated ones like ballroom dancing to simply walking or talking with friends.

In conversations, interpersonal coordination is found when people adjust the duration of their utterances and their speech rate to one another so that they can enable turn-taking to occur, without talking over each other or experiencing awkward silences. Since people are very well-trained in having conversations, they are often able to take turns within milliseconds, resulting in a conversational flow of smoothly meshed behaviors. A lack of flow is characterized by interruptions, simultaneous speech or mutual silences. Avoiding these features is important for defining and maintaining interpersonal relationships.

The need to belong has been identified as one of the most basic of human motivations and plays a role in many human behaviors. That conversational flow is related to belonging may be most easily illustrated by the consequences of flow disruptions. What happens when the positive experience of flow is disrupted by, for instance, a brief silence? We all know that silences can be pretty awkward, and research shows that even short disruptions in conversational flow can lead to a sharp rise in distress levels. In movies, silences are often used to signal non-compliance or confrontation (Piazza, 2006). Some researchers even argue that 'silencing someone' is one of the most serious forms of exclusion. Group membership is of elementary importance to our well being and because humans are very sensitive to signals of exclusion, a silence is generally taken as a sign of rejection. In this way, a lack of flow in a conversation may signal that our relationship is not as solid as we thought it was.

Another aspect of synchrony is that people often try to validate their opinions to those of others. That is, people like to see others as having similar ideas or worldviews as they have themselves, because this informs people that they are correct and their worldviews are justified. One way in which people can justify their worldviews is by assuming that, as long as their conversations run smoothly,

their interaction partners probably agree with them. This idea was tested by researchers using video observations. Participants imagined being one out of three people in a video clip who had either a fluent conversation or a conversation in which flow was disrupted by a brief silence. Except for the silence, the videos were identical. After watching the video, participants were asked to what extent the people in the video agreed with each other. Participants who watched the fluent conversation rated agreement to be higher than participants watching the conversation that was disrupted by a silence, even though participants were not consciously aware of the disruption. It appears that the subjective feeling of being out of sync informs people of possible disagreements, regardless of the content of the conversation.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the text for each answer.*

### **Synchrony**

There is a human desire to co-ordinate 33..... in an effort to be in harmony. This co-ordination can be seen in conversations when speakers alter the speed and extent of their speech in order to facilitate 34..... This is often achieved within milliseconds: only tiny pauses take place when a conversation flows; when it doesn't, there are 35..... and silences, or people talk at the same time.

Our desire to 36..... is also an important element of conversation flow. According to research, our 37..... increase even if silences are brief. Humans have a basic need to be part of a group, and they experience a sense 38..... if silences exclude them.

People also attempt to co-ordinate their opinions in conversation. In an experiment, participants' judgement of the overall 39..... among speakers was tested using videos of a fluent and a slightly disrupted conversation. The results showed that the 40..... of the speakers' discussion was less important than the perceived synchrony of the speakers.

## PASSAGE 5

From the maze of conflicting statements and heated articles on the subject, three main positions about the potential of camera art emerged. The simplest, entertained by many painters and a section of the public, was that photographs should not be considered 'art' because they were made with a mechanical device and by physical and chemical phenomena instead of by human hand and spirit; to some, camera images seemed to have more in common with fabric produced by machinery in a mill than with handmade creations fired by inspiration. The second widely held view, shared by painters, some photographers, and some critics, was that photographs would be useful to art but should not be considered equal in creativeness to drawing and painting. Lastly, by assuming that the process was comparable to other 50 techniques such as etching and lithography, a fair number of individuals realized that camera images were or could be as significant as handmade works of art and that they might have a positive influence on the arts and on culture in general.

Complete the summary using the list of words, **A-G**, below.

**A** inventive  
**B** similar

**C** beneficial  
**D** next

**E** mixed  
**F** justified

**G** inferior

### Camera art

In the early days of photography, opinions on its future were 31....., but three clear views emerged. A large number of artists and ordinary people saw photographs as 32..... to paintings because of the way they were produced. Another popular view was that photographs could have a role to play in the art world, despite the photographer being less 33..... . Finally, a smaller number of people suspected that the impact of photography on art and society could be 34..... .

## PASSAGE 6

In the last 14 years, the National Long-term Health Care Survey has gathered data on the health and lifestyles of more than 20,000 men and women over 65. Researchers, now analysing the results of data gathered in 1994, say arthritis, high blood pressure and circulation problems -the major medical complaints in this age group - are troubling a smaller proportion every year. And the data confirms that the rate at which these diseases are declining continues to accelerate. Other diseases of old age - dementia, stroke, arteriosclerosis and emphysema - are also troubling fewer and fewer people.

'It really raises the question of what should be considered normal ageing,' says Kenneth Manton, a demographer from Duke University in North Carolina. He says the problems doctors accepted as normal in a 65-year-old in 1982 are often not appearing until people are 70 or 75.

Clearly, certain diseases are beating a retreat in the face of medical advances. But there may be other contributing factors. Improvements in childhood nutrition in the first quarter of the twentieth century, for example, gave today's elderly people a better start in life than their predecessors.

On the downside, the data also reveals failures in public health that have caused surges in some illnesses. An increase in some cancers and bronchitis may reflect changing smoking habits and poorer air quality, say the researchers. 'These may be subtle influences,' says Manton, 'but our subjects have been exposed to worse and worse pollution for over 60 years. It's not surprising we see some effect.'

One interesting correlation Manton uncovered is that better-educated people are likely to live longer. For example, 65-year-old women with fewer than eight years of schooling are expected, on average, to live to 82. Those who continued their education live an extra seven years. Although some of this can be attributed to a higher income, Manton believes it is mainly because educated people seek more medical attention.

The survey also assessed how independent people over 65 were, and again found a striking trend. Almost 80% of those in the 1994 survey could complete everyday activities ranging from eating and dressing unaided to complex tasks such as cooking and managing their finances. That represents a significant drop in the number of disabled old people in the population. If the trends apparent in the United States 14 years ago had continued, researchers calculate there would be an additional one million disabled elderly people in today's population. According to Manton, slowing the trend has saved the United States government's Medicare system more than \$200 billion,

suggesting that the greying of America's population may prove less of a financial burden than expected.

The increasing self-reliance of many elderly people is probably linked to a massive increase in the use of simple home medical aids. For instance, the use of raised toilet seats has more than doubled since the start of the study, and the use of bath seats has grown by more than 50%. These developments also bring some health benefits, according to a report from the MacArthur Foundation's research group on successful ageing. The group found that those elderly people who were able to retain a sense of independence were more likely to stay healthy in old age.

*Complete the summary using the list of words, A-Q, below.*

Research carried out by scientists has shown that the proportion of people over 65 suffering from the most common age-related medical problems is 14..... and that the speed of this change is 15..... It also seems that these diseases are affecting people 16..... in life than they did in the past. This is largely due to developments in 17....., but other factors such as improved 18..... may also be playing a part. Increases in some other illnesses may be due to changes in personal habits and to 19..... The research establishes a link between levels of 20..... and life expectancy. It also shows that there has been a considerable reduction in the number of elderly people who are 21..... which means that the 22..... involved in supporting this section of the population may be less than previously predicted.

A cost	B falling	C technology
D undernourished	E earlier	F later
G disabled	H more	I increasing
J nutrition	K education	L constant
M medicine	N pollution	O environment
P health	Q independent	