

### Exercise 1:

The naked child was found in the forest, walking on in his hands and feet, eating grass and lapping water from the river. The boy would growl when he saw a small animal, jump on it, and devour it uncooked. He could not speak. He was not sensitive to pain or cold.



This is a description of “The wild boy of Aveyron”. In 1798, a “wild boy” was found in the forests of Aveyron, France. He had been abandoned when he was two years old and had lived alone for nearly a decade.

*“Victor of Aveyron” in 1798*

**Question 1:** How would you describe the behaviour of the “wild child”? What kind of behaviour is it close to?

**Question 2:** How can you explain that behaviour?

#### **Vocabulaire:**

wild : sauvage

lapping : lapper

growl : grogner

sensitive : sensible à

### Exercise 2:

Language is the key to human development. Without language, people have no mechanism for developing thought and communicating their experiences. Unlike animals, humans have no instincts that take the place of language. If an individual lacks language, he or she lives in a world of internal silence, without shared ideas, without connections to others.

Without language, there can be no culture—no shared way of life—and culture is the key to what people become. Each of us possesses a biological heritage, but this heritage does not determine specific behaviours, attitudes, or values. It is our culture that makes us the kind of humans that we are -not our biological heritage.

**Question 1:** What is the biggest difference between humans and animals?

**Question 2:** Why “culture is the key to what people become”?

**Question 3:** Why do we have to speak a language to become a human?

#### **Vocabulaire:**

to lack : manquer

to share : partager

behaviour : comportement

### Exercice 3

Extrait du film de François Truffaut, *L'enfant sauvage*, 1970

(L'exercice, avec l'extrait du film, est disponible à cette adresse : [seslescours.free.fr/?p=967](http://seslescours.free.fr/?p=967))

**Présentation du film :** François Truffaut, un réalisateur français, a, en 1970, réalisé un film qui retrace l'enfance de Victor (le film se base sur les mémoires du docteur Itard).

**Résumé :** Après avoir été trouvé, Victor est amené à Paris, où il reste peu de temps. Il est rapidement recueilli par un médecin, le docteur Itard, qui décide de l'amener dans sa maison, où il vit seul avec une servante (Mme Guérin).

Cet extrait retrace l'arrivée de Victor, et son premier jour chez le docteur Itard.

**Question 1 :** Que font essentiellement le docteur Itard et sa servante avec Victor ?

**Question 2 :** Pourquoi est-ce particulièrement difficile ?

**Question 3 :** Habituellement à quel âge ce type d'actions est-il accompli ?

**Question 4 :** Qui accomplit habituellement ce type d'action ?

### Exercice 4 :

Two sociologists asked mothers to bring their 6-month-old children into their laboratory. They said to the mothers that they wanted to observe the development of the children. But that was a lie: in fact they wanted to observe the mothers, and how they behaved with their children. They found that the mothers kept their daughters closer to them. They also touched their daughters more and spoke to them more frequently than they did to their sons.

By the time the children were 13 months old, the girls stayed closer to their mothers during play, and they returned to their mothers sooner and more often than the boys did.

When the two sociologists put a barrier to separate the children from their mothers, the girls were more likely to cry and ask for help; the boys, to try to climb over the barrier.

The two sociologists concluded that mothers subconsciously reward daughters for being passive and dependent, and sons for being active and independent.

#### Vocabulaire:

sociologist : un sociologue

laboratory: laboratoire

to behave: se comporter

the girls were more likely to cry: the girls cried more often than the boys

climb: monter, franchir

subconsciously: inconsciemment

to reward: récompenser

to be aware: avoir conscience de

**Question 1:** Is the behaviour of mothers the same with their sons and daughters?

**Question 2:** What is the difference between the two?

**Question 3:** In fact, what do the mothers try to teach to their sons and daughters?

**Question 4:** Are the mothers aware of what they do?

**Question 5:** What is the consequence of the mothers' behaviour on the children?

**Question 6:** Try to find other ways the parents socialize their children without being aware of it.

### Exercise 5:

Complete the text with the following words: *normal, socialize, differently, normal, behaviours, gender*

Sociologists call **gender** the..... and attitudes that a society considers..... for its males and females.

Sociologists call **gender socialization** the ways in which society ..... children..... because they are male or female, in order to learn them to behave according to their.....