

What does talking mean to you?

Talking is great isn't it, to anyone, to your neighbour, your friend, or even to someone on the internet who lives a million miles away. As a family we use meal times as a chance to get together and talk. We were chatting over dinner when an interesting conversation came up, if you've sent someone an email, a message, or some form of written speech you're not, in grammatical terms, talking. That led me to wonder what talking really means, and where the boundaries lie between verbal and non-verbal communication.

I found a few definitions on online dictionaries, mostly saying that talking is to engage in speech. The definition is fair enough, in the same way you can't sign with your voice box, what shocked me was the definition of discussion which was yet again focused around the process of verbal speech; it wasn't until I searched a word as specific as converse that a more general definition arose.

Within a modern society where many forms of communication are used it is worrying to think that definitions of conversing and talking are still being limited to the verbal word, almost suggesting that other methods of communication leave people unable to converse. Whilst there is a positive focus on allowing people with disabilities to be heard, maybe just as important is allow everyone to have a voice. A voice as not just recognised by speech but that includes all the different systems that are a part of our everyday lives and language.

So what does talking mean to you, how will you #Dare2 Connect?

