Function Codes

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First consideration in coding is whether the statement makes a demand upon the other person to respond either directly or implied. If it does, it is DEMANDING. If it does not, it is NON-DEMANDING.

NON-DEMANDING

Non-demanding messages convey information or social recognition without an obligation for the other to respond.

S Social

These messages initiate or sustain the interaction between people. That contact with the other person is usually more important than passing on content. This is a very broad category, which includes messages of comfort, recognition of others, responses to a request, direct repetitions of the other person's words, paraphrases, conversation extenders, expressions of delight, and the speaker's own personal feelings.

That's funny! You have one at home? Oh, really?
I wish I had one like it. I don't know. Hi, Nancy.
That's all right. So, you're not the only one. You're here!

I Informational

These messages comment upon, expand upon, or describe situations, events, and actions. The intent of informational statements is to provide factual information about experience and to demonstrate how experience is communicated in language.

That fork is bent. Airplanes can carry cargo, too. Your battery is dead. His suit is called a turnout. It fell, didn't it? I have one just like it. You could say, "Excuse me." Mark will go tomorrow. Yesterday was Tuesday.

DEMANDING

Demanding messages influence or direct the other's behavior with an expectation that the other will comply by saying something or acting as requested.

D Directive

Commands, statements or questions which implicitly or explicitly direct the actions or attention of others.

Throw the ball. Listen to what Mark is saying. Would you get a sponge? Let's wash our hands. Why don't I hold it for you? Tell her you're sorry.

T Tutorial

Questions intended to teach others by having the other respond with information the asker already knows.

What color is this? What is a family room? Where do apples come from? Why won't it work? What is this called? How many do you see?

Q Query

Questions intended to elicit unknown information.

Do you want more milk? Which do you like? What's your dog's name? How did that feel? Where did you get that? Tell me about your dog.