



## TED Talk: How Bacteria “Talk”

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[http://www.ted.com/talks/bonnie\\_bassler\\_on\\_how\\_bacteria\\_communicate.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/bonnie_bassler_on_how_bacteria_communicate.html) (18:11)

1. How does the number of cells in humans compare to the number of bacteria cells on a human being?
2. What are some of the pros and cons of bacteria for humans?
3. What special characteristic does the bacterium *Vibrio fischeri* have?
4. What happens when *Vibrio fischeri* are at a low density?
5. What happens when *Vibrio fischeri* are at a high density?

6. Describe the symbiotic relationship between *Vibrio fischeri* and the Hawaiian bobtail squid.

7. How do bacteria make and receive signals?

8. What is quorum sensing?

9. Why is bacterial quorum sensing important in the human body?

10. How are bacteria “multi-lingual”?

11. What practical applications are Bonnie Bassler’s lab working on with the bacterial quorum sensing? (*be sure to watch until end of video for complete answer*)