

**Questions on John Durham Peters, “Introduction” to *Speaking Into the Air* (1999)**

1. Why consider the history of the idea of communication? Haven't people always communicated? Isn't it just a basic human quality across times and cultures?
2. Why are concepts like “failure” and “miscommunication” so important for understanding the idea of “communication”?
3. Explain the different senses of “communication” as a term. Which does Peters prefer and why?
4. Explain the 5 different ways that 1920s intellectuals considered “communication” as a problem.
5. What are the major developments in the history of the idea of communication after World War II?
6. Why does Peters criticize spiritualist, therapeutic and technocratic approaches to the problem of communication? What are his alternatives?