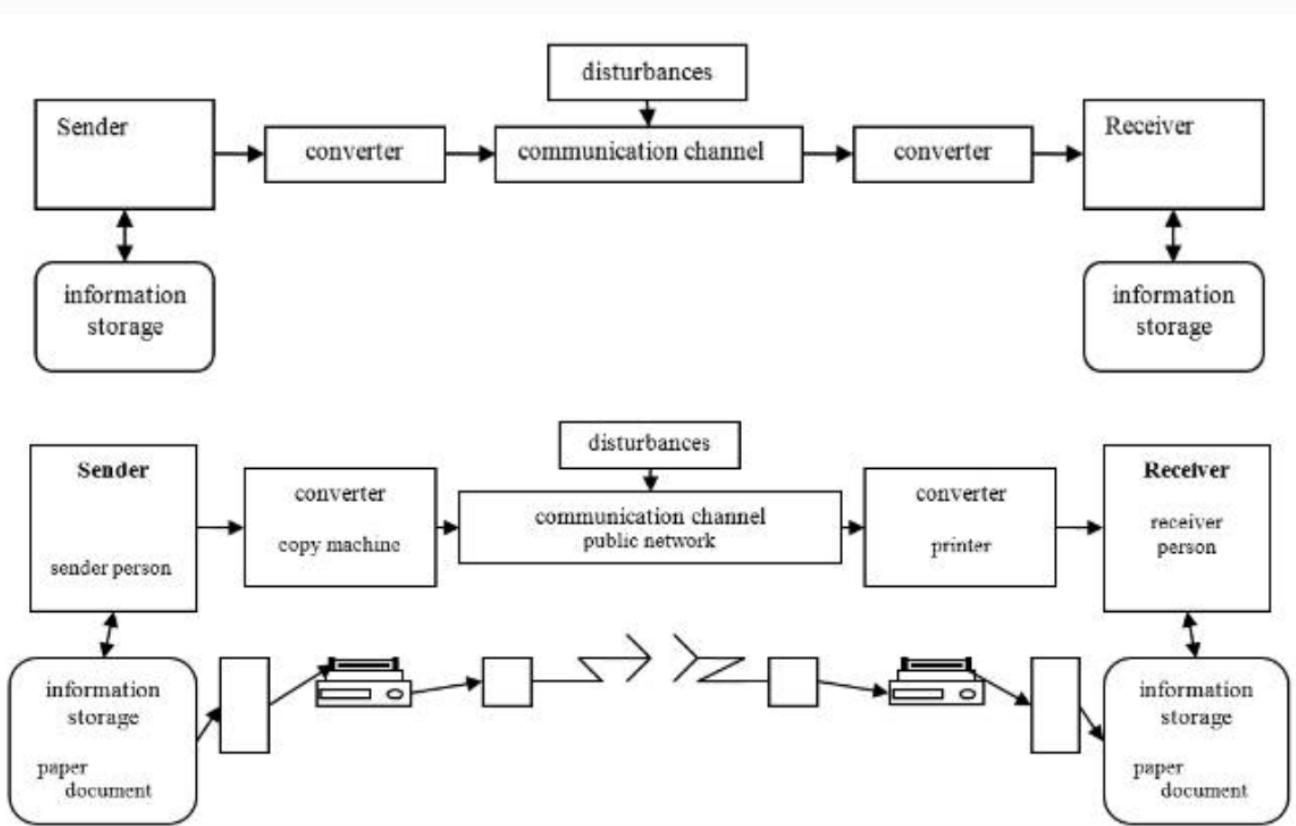


Communication is an activity which involves several parties (multi-party). The parties in these activities exchange information with each other.

Communication activities must have at least two participants. In the background its main purpose is always to exchange information. It always reflects the sender's intention.

Communication can be characterized by the following simple and straightforward figure:



In the beginning the information is stored on a physical medium. The sender (person) converts it so therefore it can be transferred via the communication channel. This process is called encryption.

We always have to take into consideration that the communication channel always has 'noise', so our message will change its original meaning. Or a hacker or any kind of third-party participant who knows the encoding process can interfere and simply replace or just delete our message.

In order to prevent these scenarios people use the so-called cryptographic and digital signature procedures. The converter receives the data (on the side of the receiver) and reconverts it so that the receiver can understand the meaning of the message. It may repair the damage which can occur during the transmission process, and can verify the sender's identity by using digital signatures.

If the transfer was successful the data can be stored on a physical storage medium.

