

Linguistics for Young Explorers

Linguistics · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. What is the term for the study of the sounds of human speech?

- A) Syntax
- B) Phonetics**
- C) Semantics
- D) Morphology

2. Which language family does English belong to?

- A) Romance
- B) Semitic
- C) Germanic**
- D) Slavic

3. What is the smallest unit of meaning in a language called?

- A) Morpheme**
- B) Phoneme
- C) Clause
- D) Sentence

4. Which of these is the most spoken native language in the world by number of speakers?

- A) English
- B) Spanish
- C) Mandarin Chinese**
- D) Hindi

5. What do linguists call the 'rules' that govern how words are arranged into sentences?

- A) Pragmatics
- B) Syntax**
- C) Etymology
- D) Lexicology

6. What is the study of the history and origin of words called?

- A) Etymology**
- B) Phonology
- C) Dialectology
- D) Sociolinguistics

7. Which of these scripts is written from right to left?

- A) Latin
- B) Cyrillic
- C) Arabic**
- D) Devanagari

8. What is a 'loanword'?

- A) A word that is borrowed from another language**
- B) A word that is invented by a child
- C) A word that has no definition
- D) A word used only in poetry

9. What do we call a variety of a language that is specific to a particular geographic region?

- A) Accent
- B) Dialect**
- C) Jargon
- D) Slang

10. Which of these is a 'pictographic' writing system?

- A) Hieroglyphics**
- B) Latin Alphabet
- C) Hangul
- D) Cyrillic

11. What is the name for the study of meaning in language?

- A) Syntax
- B) Semantics**
- C) Phonology
- D) Morphology

12. In linguistics, what is a 'bilingual' person?

- A) Someone who speaks only one language
- B) Someone who speaks two languages**
- C) Someone who cannot speak
- D) Someone who speaks ancient languages

13. What are 'consonants' and 'vowels' classified as in linguistics?

- A) Morphemes
- B) Phonemes**
- C) Semantics
- D) Syntax

14. The word 'robot' was introduced to the world by a play from which country?

A) Czech Republic

B) France

C) Japan

D) Russia

15. What does a 'lexicographer' do?

A) Study ancient stones

B) Write dictionaries

C) Translate movies

D) Teach grammar

16. Which language is the primary language of Brazil?

A) Spanish

B) Portuguese

C) French

D) Italian

17. What do you call a language that has no native speakers but is used for communication between different groups?

A) Dialect

B) Lingua franca

C) Slang

D) Jargon

18. Which of these is a dead language that is no longer spoken as a native language by anyone?

A) English

B) Latin

C) Mandarin

D) Arabic

19. What are the units of sound that distinguish one word from another, such as /p/ vs /b/ in 'pat' and 'bat'?

A) Phonemes

B) Morphemes

C) Graphemes

D) Syllables

20. Which writing system uses characters to represent whole words or ideas rather than individual sounds?

A) Alphabet

B) Logographic

C) Abjad

D) Syllabary

21. What is the 'mother tongue' of a person usually called in linguistics?

A) Second language

B) Foreign language

C) First language

D) Dead language

22. Which century did the printing press, which helped standardize spelling, become popular in Europe?

A) 12th Century

B) 15th Century

C) 18th Century

D) 20th Century

23. What is the term for a word that sounds the same as another but has a different meaning and spelling (like 'see' and 'sea')?

A) Synonym

B) Antonym

C) Homophone

D) Acronym

24. Which family of languages includes French, Spanish, and Italian?

A) Romance

B) Germanic

C) Slavic

D) Celtic

25. What is 'body language' considered in the study of communication?

A) Verbal communication

B) Non-verbal communication

C) Syntax

D) Phonetics