

Linguistics for Young Explorers

Linguistics · Practice Test · 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