

Linguistics Basics

Linguistics · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. What is the scientific study of language called?

- A) Psychology
- B) Sociology
- C) Linguistics**
- D) Anthropology

2. Which of these is NOT considered a part of linguistics?

- A) The sounds of language
- B) The structure of words and sentences
- C) The meaning of words and sentences
- D) The history of art**

3. What is the smallest unit of sound that can distinguish one word from another?

- A) Syllable
- B) Morpheme
- C) Phoneme**
- D) Word

4. The study of word formation and structure is called:

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

5. What do we call the rules that govern how words are combined to form sentences?

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

6. The study of meaning in language is called:

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

7. What is the term for the smallest meaningful unit of language?

- A) Phoneme
- B) Grapheme
- C) Morpheme**
- D) Syllable

8. The way language is used in different social contexts is studied in:

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

9. Which branch of linguistics deals with the sounds of speech and how they are produced and perceived?

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

10. The study of language change over time is known as:

- A) Historical Linguistics**
- B) Sociolinguistics
- C) Psycholinguistics
- D) Computational Linguistics

11. What is the study of the relationship between language and society called?

- A) Psycholinguistics
- B) Sociolinguistics**
- C) Historical Linguistics
- D) Applied Linguistics

12. Which field of linguistics investigates the mental processes involved in language acquisition and use?

- A) Sociolinguistics
- B) Computational Linguistics
- C) Psycholinguistics**
- D) Historical Linguistics

13. A system of communication using sounds, symbols, or gestures is called:

- A) Code
- B) Dialect
- C) Language**
- D) Jargon

14. What is the term for a regional or social variety of a language distinguished by pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary?

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

15. The sounds of a language system are studied in:

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

16. The branch of linguistics that uses computers to analyze and process human language is:

- A) Applied Linguistics
- B) Sociolinguistics
- C) Computational Linguistics**
- D) Historical Linguistics

17. What does the term 'lexicon' refer to in linguistics?

- A) Sentence structure
- B) The history of words
- C) The vocabulary of a language**
- D) The sounds of speech

18. The study of how signs and symbols are used and interpreted is part of:

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

19. What is the term for a word or phrase that is no longer in common use?

A) Neologism

B) Archaism

C) Slang

D) Jargon

20. The basic units of meaning in a word, like 'un-' in 'unhappy', are called:

A) Phonemes

B) Morphemes

C) Syllables

D) Graphemes