

# Linguistics in the Natural World

Linguistics · Answer Key · 8 Questions

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**1. What is the term for the study of animal vocalizations and their communicative functions, often drawing parallels to human language structures?**

- A) Ethnomusicology
- B) Zoosemiotics**
- C) Biosemiotics
- D) Paleolinguistics

**2. The alarm calls of vervet monkeys, which differ for predators like leopards, eagles, and snakes, demonstrate a form of semanticity in animal communication. What linguistic concept does this most closely align with?**

- A) Prosody
- B) Syntax
- C) Discreteness**
- D) Arbitrariness

**3. The 'waggle dance' of honeybees, used to communicate the location and quality of food sources, is a complex gestural system. This system is considered a form of 'natural language' because:**

- A) It is learned entirely through written instruction.
- B) It possesses displacement, allowing communication about things not present.**
- C) It has a fixed, unchanging structure independent of context.
- D) It requires a vocal apparatus for production.

**4. Certain bird songs, like those of the zebra finch, are learned through auditory input during a critical period and exhibit a structured, sequential organization. This learning process is analogous to which aspect of human language acquisition?**

- A) Phonological awareness
- B) Syntactic development**
- C) Lexical expansion
- D) Morphological analysis

**5. The 'trill' call of a dolphin is often associated with individual identity and social bonding. This illustrates the use of acoustic signals for what purpose in their communication?**

- A) Expressing existential angst
- B) Establishing social recognition**
- C) Mimicking environmental sounds
- D) Describing complex mathematical concepts

**6. The study of how sounds are produced and perceived, relevant to both human speech and animal vocalizations, falls under which branch of linguistics?**

- A) Semantics
- B) Pragmatics
- C) Phonetics**
- D) Sociolinguistics

**7. The unique calls or songs that distinguish individuals or species within a vocal repertoire, much like names for people, are an example of:**

- A) Dialectal variation
- B) Idiosyncratic utterances
- C) Referential signaling**
- D) Phonemic differentiation

**8. The environmental sounds, such as rustling leaves or flowing water, that can influence the acoustic properties of animal calls, are studied in relation to communication within the field of:**

- A) Historical linguistics
- B) Acoustic ecology**
- C) Computational linguistics
- D) Applied linguistics