

Phonetics in the Natural World

Phonetics · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. What is the study of the physical sounds of human speech called?

A) Phonetics

- B) Biology
- C) Geology
- D) Botany

2. Which physical organ do humans use to produce the vibrations necessary for speech sounds?

A) Lungs

B) Vocal cords

- C) Ears
- D) Heart

3. What term describes the high-pitched sounds produced by bats to navigate in the dark?

A) Echolocation

- B) Resonance
- C) Vowel shift
- D) Consonants

4. Which part of a bird's body functions like a human's vocal tract to create song?

A) Syrinx

- B) Beak
- C) Feather
- D) Wing

5. What is the phonetic term for the airflow blockage that creates sounds like 'p' or 'b'?

A) Plosive

- B) Friction
- C) Gliding
- D) Vowel

6. Which animal uses its trunk to produce low-frequency infrasonic sounds that travel long distances?

A) Elephant

- B) Giraffe
- C) Zebra
- D) Lion

7. What does a human use to change the shape of the oral cavity to form different vowel sounds?

A) Tongue

B) Hair

C) Eye

D) Toe

8. Which sound phenomenon is created by the reflection of sound waves off canyon walls?

A) Echo

B) Photosynthesis

C) Osmosis

D) Gravity

9. What is the primary medium through which sound waves travel from a whale's song to a listener?

A) Water

B) Fire

C) Vacuum

D) Sand

10. What do linguists call the smallest distinct unit of sound in a language?

A) Phoneme

B) Molecule

C) Cell

D) Atom

11. Which of these sounds is produced by frogs by inflating their vocal sacs?

A) Croak

B) Purr

C) Hiss

D) Bark

12. What phonetic quality describes the 'depth' or 'heaviness' of a lion's roar?

A) Pitch

B) Color

C) Speed

D) Temperature

13. Which organ do grasshoppers use to create their characteristic 'chirping' sound?

A) Legs

B) Antennae

C) Eyes

D) Wings

14. What occurs to the air pressure in the throat when a person produces a voiced consonant?

A) Vibration

B) Freezing

C) Melting

D) Evaporation

15. What kind of sound do bees produce by rapidly flapping their wings?

A) Buzzing

B) Clicking

C) Whistling

D) Roaring

16. Which type of consonant is produced by narrowing the air passage, like a snake's hiss?

A) Fricative

B) Vowel

C) Silent

D) Liquid

17. What scientific term describes the study of how sound waves move through the environment?

A) Acoustics

B) Optics

C) Chemistry

D) Genetics

18. Which animal uses a 'clicking' sound to communicate underwater?

A) Dolphin

B) Goldfish

C) Shark

D) Turtle

19. What physical property of a sound wave determines its 'pitch'?

A) Frequency

- B) Weight
- C) Texture
- D) Smell

20. Which of these creates a 'plosive' sound in nature, similar to a human 'p'?

A) Breaking twig

- B) Falling leaf
- C) Soft moss
- D) Running water

21. What structure in the human ear detects the vibrations of sound waves?

A) Eardrum

- B) Eyeball
- C) Tongue
- D) Nose

22. What do we call the sudden sound caused by the discharge of electricity in the atmosphere?

A) Thunder

- B) Rain
- C) Sunshine
- D) Fog

23. Which animal is known for 'howling' to communicate across forests?

A) Wolf

- B) Rabbit
- C) Deer
- D) Mouse

24. In phonetics, what is the 'vocal tract' composed of?

A) Mouth and throat

- B) Hands and feet
- C) Stomach and liver
- D) Bones and skin

25. Which sound is produced when air is stopped and then released through the nose?

A) Nasal

- B) Glottal
- C) Fricative
- D) Vowel