

Foundations of Language Study

Linguistics · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. Which branch of linguistics focuses specifically on the study of speech sounds?

- A) Syntax
- B) Phonetics
- C) Semantics
- D) Pragmatics

2. What is the term for the smallest unit of meaning in a language?

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

3. In linguistics, what does the 'lexicon' of a language refer to?

- A) The grammatical rules
- B) The pronunciation guide
- C) The complete set of vocabulary
- D) The historical origin of words

4. Which linguistic term describes the arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences?

- A) Syntax
- B) Morphology
- C) Semantics
- D) Etymology

5. What is a 'homophone'?

- A) A word that means the same as another
- B) A word that sounds the same as another but has a different meaning
- C) A word that is spelled the same backwards
- D) A word that refers to a person's name

6. What does 'etymology' study?

- A) The use of language in social contexts
- B) The rules of sentence structure
- C) The origin and history of words
- D) The physical production of sounds

7. Which of these is an example of a 'bound morpheme'?

- A) Cat
- B) Jump
- C) The suffix '-ed'
- D) Table

8. What is the study of meaning in language called?

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

9. A 'grapheme' represents which of the following?

- A) A unit of sound
- B) A written symbol that represents a phoneme
- C) A rule of grammar
- D) A type of metaphor

10. What does the term 'pragmatics' refer to?

- A) The study of sentence structure
- B) The study of how context influences the meaning of language
- C) The history of word origins
- D) The physical movement of the tongue during speech

11. Which of these is a 'diphthong'?

- A) A consonant cluster
- B) A single vowel sound
- C) A glide from one vowel sound to another within the same syllable
- D) A silent letter

12. What is a 'compound word'?

- A) A word that has many synonyms
- B) A word made of two or more existing words joined together
- C) A word that is borrowed from another language
- D) A word that contains only one syllable

13. What do linguists call a language variety that is specific to a particular region or social group?

- A) Dialect
- B) Syntax
- C) Etymology
- D) Phonetics

14. Which linguistic concept describes words that have opposite meanings?

- A) Synonyms
- B) Antonyms
- C) Homonyms
- D) Homophones

15. What is the name for the study of how words are formed from smaller units?

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

16. In linguistics, what is a 'consonant cluster'?

- A) Two or more consonant sounds that appear together with no intervening vowel
- B) A set of words that rhyme
- C) A group of words with similar meanings
- D) A dictionary entry

17. What is an 'inflection' in grammar?

- A) The tone of a person's voice
- B) A change in the form of a word to express a grammatical function
- C) The origin of a word
- D) The study of punctuation

18. Which of these is a 'proper noun'?

- A) city
- B) mountain
- C) Australia
- D) teacher

19. What is a 'portmanteau' word?

- A) A word formed by blending two or more words, like 'smog'
- B) A word that is borrowed directly from Latin
- C) A word that has no vowels
- D) A word that represents a sound

20. What is the 'IPA' in the context of linguistics?

- A) International Phonetic Alphabet
- B) Individual Pronunciation Association
- C) Important Phrasing Analysis
- D) Integrated Phoneme Arrangement