

The Origins of Language and Communication

Linguistics · Practice Test · 21 Questions

1. What are the three main forms of communication described in the text?

- A) Verbal, non-verbal, and written
- B) Spoken, gestural, and visual
- C) Auditory, tactile, and olfactory
- D) Internal, external, and symbolic

2. Before written language, how did humans primarily communicate?

- A) Through complex spoken languages only
- B) Using body language, sounds, signs, and symbols
- C) Primarily through written symbols
- D) By telepathic means

3. According to Mehrabian's findings, what percentage of communication is attributed to vocal elements (tone, pitch, speed)?

- A) 7%
- B) 38%
- C) 55%
- D) 100%

4. What is a 'sign' as defined in the text?

- A) A word representing an idea
- B) A mark that represents a relationship
- C) A direct picture representation of an object
- D) A sound that expresses emotion

5. What distinguishes a symbol from a sign?

- A) Symbols are always spoken, while signs are visual
- B) Symbols are more abstract than signs
- C) Signs are used for immediate objects, while symbols are for complex ideas
- D) Symbols are a newer development than signs

6. What allows humans to create an infinite number of sentences?

- A) The vastness of the human vocabulary
- B) The ability to memorize all possible word combinations
- C) Language patterns and rules
- D) The use of non-verbal cues

7. How often are new words added to the Oxford Dictionaries, according to the text?

- A) About 100 words per year
- B) About 1,000 words per year
- C) About 10,000 words per year
- D) New words are added only when a new language develops

8. What is 'internal language' also referred to as?

- A) Written language
- B) Spoken language
- C) Self-talk
- D) Non-verbal communication

9. What was a primary motivation for German and British missionaries to develop written forms of indigenous languages in colonised countries?

- A) To facilitate trade
- B) To document local flora and fauna
- C) Translating the Bible
- D) To establish new educational systems

10. What is 'code switching'?

- A) Using a different language for formal communication
- B) Using different languages or dialects within a single sentence
- C) Translating a message from one language to another
- D) Speaking in a coded or secretive manner

11. When did spoken language develop approximately?

- A) 100,000 years ago
- B) 5,000 years ago
- C) 25,000 years ago
- D) 1 million years ago

12. What is cuneiform?

- A) An ancient Egyptian writing system
- B) A type of cave painting
- C) A writing system developed in Mesopotamia using a wedge-shaped stylus
- D) The first known alphabet

13. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an early form of record-keeping?

- A) Scratches on stone or wood
- B) Knots in rope
- C) Cave paintings
- D) Written scrolls

14. What is a key concept related to the development of species over time?

- A) Adaptation
- B) Mutation
- C) Evolution
- D) Natural Selection

15. Business English is considered a separate language because it has unique grammar and structures.

- A) True
- B) False

16. Emojis and emoticons are generally appropriate in which type of communication?

- A) Formal emails
- B) Official documents
- C) Informal communication
- D) Academic papers

17. What is a benefit of good communication in the workplace?

- A) Increased competition among colleagues
- B) Improved understanding and relationships
- C) Reduced need for collaboration
- D) Faster decision-making through isolation

18. The evolution pattern of language is described as Simple -> Complex -> ?

- A) Complex
- B) Simple
- C) Static
- D) Evolving

19. Which civilization is associated with the development of hieroglyphics?

- A) Mesopotamian
- B) Greek
- C) Egyptian
- D) Roman

20. The first alphabets emerged representing which type of sounds?

- A) Vowel sounds only
- B) Consonant sounds only
- C) Both vowel and consonant sounds
- D) All phonetic sounds

21. What role does language play in human development according to the text?

- A) It limits complex societal organization
- B) It is not essential for the development of modern cultures
- C) It enables recording information, sharing knowledge, and complex societal organization
- D) It distinguishes humans from animals but has no other major role