

The Origins and Evolution of Language and Communication

Linguistics · Practice Test · 22 Questions

1. Which of the following is NOT a form of non-verbal communication?

- A) Gestures
- B) Written language
- C) Facial expressions
- D) Body movements

2. According to Mehrabian's findings, what percentage of communication is attributed to verbal elements (words)?

- A) 55%
- B) 38%
- C) 7%
- D) 35%

3. What is considered a direct picture representation of an object?

- A) Symbol
- B) Sign
- C) Language
- D) Gesture

4. Which of the following is a characteristic of all languages?

- A) They are always spoken
- B) They have unique sounds, rhythm, and movement
- C) They are static and do not change
- D) They are only used by humans

5. Language allows humans to perform which of the following actions?

- A) Only talk about the present
- B) Share ideas, tell stories, and plan for the future
- C) Communicate exclusively through gestures
- D) Understand animal sounds

6. What is the concept of 'internal language' also referred to as?

- A) External dialogue
- B) Written correspondence
- C) Self-talk
- D) Public speaking

7. Which of these is NOT a benefit of positive self-talk?

- A) Improves performance
- B) Increases happiness
- C) Reduces the need for sleep
- D) Changes attitude

8. When did written language develop relative to spoken language in human evolution?

- A) Much earlier
- B) At the same time
- C) Relatively recently
- D) Written language predates spoken language

9. What was an early form of record-keeping that involved pictures impressed into clay?

- A) Hieroglyphics
- B) Cuneiform
- C) Pictographs
- D) Alphabets

10. The writing system that used a wedge-shaped stylus to press into clay is known as:

- A) Hieroglyphics
- B) Cuneiform
- C) Pictographs
- D) Cursive

11. Which of the following ancient civilizations developed hieroglyphics?

- A) Mesopotamia
- B) Ancient Greece
- C) Ancient Egypt
- D) Rome

12. The first alphabets emerged from which regions?

- A) Greece and Rome
- B) Sinai and Ugarit
- C) Egypt and Mesopotamia
- D) China and India

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

- A) To create new literature
- B) To facilitate trade
- C) Translating the Bible
- D) Documenting local flora and fauna

14. Which technological advancement significantly changed writing over the centuries?

- A) The abacus
- B) The printing press
- C) The sundial
- D) The astrolabe

15. The evolution pattern of language is described as:

- A) Complex -> Simple -> Complex
- B) Simple -> Complex -> Simple
- C) Linear progression
- D) Cyclical

16. What is 'code switching'?

- A) Using slang in formal settings
- B) Moving between languages or dialects during communication
- C) Translating a document from one language to another
- D) Speaking in a monotone voice

17. Business English is considered a separate language because:

- A) It has its own unique alphabet
- B) It uses completely different grammar structures
- C) It has a unique vocabulary, style, and corporate culture
- D) It is only spoken in boardrooms

18. Emojis and emoticons are generally acceptable in:

- A) Formal emails
- B) Official documents
- C) Informal communication
- D) Legal contracts

19. Good communication on a regular basis helps build what in the workplace?

- A) Competition
- B) Distrust
- C) Trust
- D) Indifference

20. What is the definition of 'evolution' as a key concept?

- A) The rapid development of technology
- B) The gradual change and development of a species over time
- C) The creation of new words
- D) The process of translation

21. Which of these is NOT a way to improve business vocabulary?

- A) Read business news and articles
- B) Listen to business media
- C) Avoid learning new words
- D) Look up unfamiliar words

22. Oral storytelling was important in the past for:

- A) Entertainment only
- B) Recording past experiences and passing them on to future generations
- C) Developing new languages
- D) Scientific research