

Grammar and Vocabulary History

Linguistics · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. In which year was the first volume of the Oxford English Dictionary officially published?

A) 1884

B) 1901

C) 1928

D) 1950

2. How many letters are in the standard modern English alphabet?

A) 24

B) 26

C) 28

D) 30

3. The first English dictionary published by Samuel Johnson in 1755 contained approximately how many words?

A) 10,000

B) 25,000

C) 40,000

D) 100,000

4. How many parts of speech are traditionally recognized in English grammar?

A) 6

B) 7

C) 8

D) 9

5. William Shakespeare is credited with introducing approximately how many new words into the English vocabulary?

A) 500

B) 1,700

C) 3,500

D) 5,000

6. What is the total number of primary vowels in the English alphabet?

A) 3

B) 5

C) 6

D) 7

7. The oldest known English epic poem, Beowulf, is estimated to have been composed between which centuries?

- A) 4th and 6th
- B) 7th and 10th**
- C) 11th and 13th
- D) 14th and 16th

8. How many distinct syllables are in the word 'encyclopedia'?

- A) 4
- B) 5**
- C) 6
- D) 7

9. The Great Vowel Shift, a major change in English pronunciation, occurred primarily between which years?

- A) 1100-1300
- B) 1400-1700**
- C) 1750-1850
- D) 1900-1950

10. How many 't's are in the word 'staccato'?

- A) 1
- B) 2**
- C) 3
- D) 4

11. Noah Webster published his first American dictionary in which year?

- A) 1776
- B) 1806**
- C) 1828
- D) 1850

12. A 'century' of years refers to a period of how many years?

- A) 10
- B) 50
- C) 100**
- D) 1000

13. How many main types of punctuation marks are most commonly used in standard English sentences?

A) 5

B) 14

C) 20

D) 25

14. The term 'prefix' refers to a word part added to the beginning of a word; how many letters are in the word 'prefix'?

A) 5

B) 6

C) 7

D) 8

15. In the sentence structure 'Subject-Verb-Object', how many primary components are listed?

A) 2

B) 3

C) 4

D) 5

16. How many letters are in the word 'grammar'?

A) 6

B) 7

C) 8

D) 9

17. Old English (Anglo-Saxon) is typically classified as ending in what year following the Norman Conquest?

A) 1066

B) 1100

C) 1250

D) 1300

18. A 'dodecahedron' has 12 faces; the prefix 'dodeca-' originates from Greek meaning what number?

A) 8

B) 10

C) 12

D) 20

19. The first complete printed English Bible (the Coverdale Bible) was published in what year?

A) 1525

B) 1535

C) 1611

D) 1700

20. How many words are in the phrase 'the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog'?

A) 7

B) 8

C) 9

D) 10