

Grammar and Vocabulary History

Linguistics · Practice Test · 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