

Nature and Typography Basics

Typography · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. In typography, what is the 'serif'--the small decorative stroke at the end of a character--most similar to in terms of animal anatomy?

- A) The gills of a fish
- B) The small tufts of hair on a lynx's ear tips**
- C) The scales on a lizard
- D) The whiskers of a cat

2. A 'ligature' joins two letters into one. In nature, what type of organism is formed by the joining of two distinct species, such as a fungus and an alga?

- A) A lichen**
- B) A fern
- C) A moss
- D) A colony of ants

3. The 'baseline' is the invisible line upon which characters sit. Which natural feature acts as a biological baseline for a forest ecosystem?

- A) The canopy
- B) The topsoil**
- C) The mountain peak
- D) The river delta

4. Typography 'weight' refers to the thickness of a stroke. Which animal has the heaviest body weight among land mammals?

- A) Giraffe
- B) African Elephant**
- C) Hippopotamus
- D) White Rhinoceros

5. 'Kerning' is the adjustment of space between two characters. Which social insect creates highly organized patterns with very little wasted space between cells in a honeycomb?

- A) Termites
- B) Bumblebees
- C) Honeybees**
- D) Wasps

6. A 'font family' is a collection of related typefaces. What is the correct scientific term for a group of related animal species?

- A) A genus
- B) A phylum
- C) A kingdom
- D) A biome

7. 'Ascenders' are parts of letters that rise above the x-height. Which bird has the longest primary wing feathers that extend above its back while perching?

- A) Penguin
- B) Ostrich
- C) Albatross
- D) Emu

8. 'Descenders' are parts of letters that go below the baseline. Which aquatic animal uses its long, trailing tentacles that descend deep into the water column?

- A) Sea turtle
- B) Jellyfish
- C) Dolphin
- D) Starfish

9. 'Tracking' refers to the uniform spacing across a line of text. Which migratory bird species flies in a V-formation to maintain consistent spacing?

- A) Canada Goose
- B) Penguin
- C) Ostrich
- D) Peacock

10. 'Cap height' is the distance from the baseline to the top of capital letters. Which tree species can reach the greatest 'height' in the world?

- A) Coast Redwood
- B) Oak
- C) Banyan
- D) Baobab

11. 'Italic' text is slanted. Which plant is known for naturally 'slanted' or leaning growth toward a light source, a process called phototropism?

- A) Cactus
- B) Sunflower
- C) Seaweed
- D) Fern

12. 'Points' are used to measure font size. Which animal has spots (points) on its coat that are unique to every individual?

A) Zebra

B) Giraffe

C) Tiger

D) Polar Bear

13. 'Sans-serif' means 'without serif'. Which flightless bird species is 'without' wings that can be used for flight?

A) Eagle

B) Kiwi

C) Parrot

D) Falcon

14. A 'glyph' is a specific character shape. Which animal is famous for the unique 'glyph' or pattern of black and white stripes on its body?

A) Zebra

B) Lion

C) Camel

D) Kangaroo

15. 'Bold' refers to heavy, thick strokes. Which bear species is known for having a very 'bold' and thick fur coat to survive arctic temperatures?

A) Sun Bear

B) Polar Bear

C) Sloth Bear

D) Black Bear