

Linguistics Fundamentals

Linguistics · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. What is the branch of linguistics that studies the sounds of human speech?

- A) Syntax
- B) Phonetics**
- C) Semantics
- D) Pragmatics

2. Which term describes the smallest unit of meaning in a language?

- A) Phoneme
- B) Grapheme
- C) Morpheme**
- D) Syllable

3. What do linguists call the system of rules that governs how words are arranged into sentences?

- A) Syntax**
- B) Morphology
- C) Etymology
- D) Lexicography

4. The study of the meaning of words and phrases is known as:

- A) Phonology
- B) Semantics**
- C) Dialectology
- D) Orthography

5. What is the term for a variety of a language spoken by a specific group of people or in a specific region?

- A) Slang
- B) Jargon
- C) Dialect**
- D) Creole

6. Which of the following is an example of a 'bound' morpheme in English?

- A) Cat
- B) Run
- C) -ing**
- D) Big

7. What is the study of the history and origin of words called?

- A) Etymology**
- B) Anthropology
- C) Sociolinguistics
- D) Morphology

8. A 'phoneme' is defined as the smallest unit of:

- A) Meaning
- B) Sound**
- C) Writing
- D) Grammar

9. Which writing system represents individual sounds rather than whole words?

- A) Hieroglyphics
- B) Logographic
- C) Alphabetic**
- D) Pictographic

10. What is the official term for a language that has no native speakers but is used for communication between groups with different native languages?

- A) Pidgin
- B) Lingua franca**
- C) Dialect
- D) Slang