Linguistics Fundamentals

Linguistics · Practice Test · 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

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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

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