# Foundations of Linguistics

Linguistics · Practice Test · 10 Questions

**1. Which subfield of linguistics is primarily concerned with the study of speech sounds?**

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

**2. In linguistics, what is the smallest unit of meaning in a language called?**

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

**3. Which branch of linguistics focuses on the rules governing the arrangement of words into phrases and sentences?**

A) Syntax
B) Morphology
C) Phonology
D) Lexicography

**4. What term describes the study of how context influences the interpretation of meaning in communication?**

A) Semantics
B) Etymology
C) Pragmatics
D) Dialectology

**5. Who is widely considered the father of modern linguistics and proposed the concept of Universal Grammar?**

A) Ferdinand de Saussure
B) Noam Chomsky
C) Steven Pinker
D) Edward Sapir

**6. What is a 'phoneme' defined as in the study of linguistics?**

A) A written character
B) The smallest unit of sound that distinguishes meaning
C) A grammatical category
D) A type of regional accent

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**7. The study of the historical development of languages and their relationships is known as:**

A) Sociolinguistics
B) Historical Linguistics
C) Psycholinguistics
D) Applied Linguistics

**8. Which term refers to the variety of a language that is characteristic of a particular group or region?**

A) Dialect
B) Register
C) Jargon
D) Slang

**9. In semantics, what is the term for two words that have the same meaning?**

A) Antonyms
B) Homonyms
C) Synonyms
D) Polysemes

**10. What does the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis suggest about the relationship between language and thought?**

A) Language is purely biological
B) Language influences how its speakers perceive the world
C) Thought exists independently of language
D) Grammar is identical across all cultures

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