Foreign Language Fundamentals

Linguistics · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which of the following writing systems is classified as an abugida, where characters represent a consonant-vowel pair?

A) Latin alphabet
B) Devanagari
C) Chinese characters
D) Arabic script

2. The study of the internal structure of words and how they are formed is known as:

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

3. Which language family is the most widely spoken in the world by number of native speakers?

A) Sino-Tibetan
B) Indo-European
C) Afroasiatic
D) Austronesian

4. What is the term for a language that has no native speakers and arises to facilitate communication between groups who do not share a common language?

A) Creole
B) Dialect
C) Pidgin
D) Register

5. The 'International Phonetic Alphabet' (IPA) was primarily designed to:

A) Translate texts automatically
B) Standardize the representation of speech sounds
C) Create a universal world language
D) Categorize ancient dead languages

6. Which of these languages uses a logographic writing system where symbols represent words or morphemes rather than individual sounds?

A) Spanish
B) Mandarin Chinese
C) Russian
D) Swahili

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7. In linguistics, what is a 'cognate'?

A) A word that sounds the same in two languages but has different meanings
B) A word that has a common etymological origin with a word in another language
C) A speaker who is fluent in three or more languages
D) A grammatical rule shared by two distinct language families

8. Which of the following language groups is considered a 'language isolate', meaning it has no demonstrable genealogical relationship with other languages?

A) Basque
B) Japanese
C) Turkish
D) Finnish

9. What is the difference between a 'monolingual' dictionary and a 'bilingual' dictionary?

A) Monolingual dictionaries are only for dead languages
B) Bilingual dictionaries translate words between two languages
C) Monolingual dictionaries contain only verbs
D) Bilingual dictionaries are for people who cannot read

10. The term 'syntax' refers to which aspect of a language?

A) The arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences
B) The history of how a word changed over time
C) The study of the physical production of speech sounds
D) The emotional meaning behind specific vocabulary

11. Which of these is a tonal language, where the pitch used when pronouncing a syllable changes the meaning of the word?

A) French
B) Vietnamese
C) German
D) Italian

12. What does the 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' imply regarding linguistic rights?

A) Everyone must learn English
B) It is a fundamental right to speak one's mother tongue
C) Governments must ban minority languages to foster unity
D) All languages must eventually merge into one

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