Linguistics Essentials

Linguistics · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. What term describes the smallest unit of sound in a language that can distinguish one word from another?

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

2. Which theoretical framework, introduced by Noam Chomsky in the 1950s, posits an innate system of mental rules for structural grammar?

A) Structural Linguistics
B) Generative Grammar
C) Functional Grammar
D) Systemic Functional Linguistics

3. What branch of linguistics focuses on the internal structure of words and how they are formed from smaller meaningful units?

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

4. Which historical sound law describes the systematic consonant shift from Proto-Indo-European to Proto-Germanic?

A) Grimm's Law
B) Verner's Law
C) Grassmann's Law
D) Dahl's Law

5. Which International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbol represents the unaccented neutral vowel sound heard at the beginning of the English word 'about'?

A) Glottal stop (ʔ)
B) Schwa (ə)
C) Epsilon (ɛ)
D) Ash (æ)

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6. What is the term for a simplified contact language that arises between groups without a common language and has no native speakers?

A) Creole
B) Pidgin
C) Dialect
D) Lingua franca

7. Which linguistic subfield studies how context influences the interpretation of meaning in communication?

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

8. Which Swiss linguist is widely recognized as a founding figure of structural linguistics following his posthumous work 'Course in General Linguistics'?

A) Ferdinand de Saussure
B) Edward Sapir
C) Roman Jakobson
D) Franz Boas

9. Which major language family encompasses English, Spanish, Hindi, Russian, and Persian?

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

10. In syntactic analysis, what term refers to a word or group of words that functions as a single structural unit within a sentence?

A) Constituent
B) Affix
C) Allomorph
D) Collocation

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