# Linguistics Essentials

Linguistics · Practice Test · 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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