The Sounds of Speech

Phonetics · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. What is the study of the physical sounds of human speech called?

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

2. Which system is used to represent the sounds of all spoken languages with a unique symbol for each sound?

A) Morse Code
B) The Alphabet
C) International Phonetic Alphabet
D) Braille

3. When making a 'plosive' sound like 'p' or 'b', what happens to the airflow?

A) It flows continuously
B) It is completely blocked and then released
C) It vibrates through the nose
D) It is made by narrowing the throat

4. Which part of the body vibrates to produce 'voiced' sounds like 'z' or 'v'?

A) The lips
B) The tongue
C) The vocal folds
D) The nose

5. What do linguists call a basic unit of sound that distinguishes one word from another in a language?

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

6. Which of these sounds is classified as a 'nasal' sound because air travels through the nose?

A) s
B) m
C) t
D) p

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7. What is the term for a vowel sound that changes its quality within the same syllable, such as the sound in 'coin'?

A) Monophthong
B) Consonant
C) Diphthong
D) Glide

8. In phonetics, what is the 'place of articulation' for the sound 'f'?

A) Labiodental
B) Bilabial
C) Alveolar
D) Velar