

Test Exam for Introduction to English Linguistics

This exam is intended purely for practice and will not be graded or reviewed. Mark the correct answer(s) to each multiple choice question and formulate an answer where applicable.

1.

Which of the following statements about human language do you consider to be in accord with linguistic theory?

- a) Language can be described as a cognitive ability
- b) The sound structure of words usually reflects their meaning
- c) Only highly advanced cultures have complex languages
- d) Much of what people say carries no meaning
- e) Languages naturally change over time

2.

Which of these sections of the brain plays an important part in language production/comprehension?

- a) Wernicke's area
- b) Johnson's area
- c) Parietal lobe
- d) Broca's area
- e) Motor cortex

3.

Which of the following are places of articulation?

- a) nasal
- b) plosive
- c) dental
- d) fricative
- e) palatal

4.

Mark those of the examples below which are minimal pairs in English

- a) thick /sick
- b) sled / red
- c) rope / rose
- d) war / tore
- e) miner / minor

5.

Mark those of the following effects which typically occur in connected speech

- a) suffixation
- b) elision
- c) reduplication
- d) intrusion
- e) assimilation

6.

Which of the following statements are correct?

- a) Inflectional morphemes encode grammatical information.
- b) Derivational morphemes encode grammatical information.
- c) Grammatical morphemes may be either free or bound.
- d) Lexical morphemes may be either free or bound.
- e) In English, all derivational affixes are prefixes.

7.

Which of the words listed below is monomorphemic?

- a) women
- b) doorbell
- c) ran
- d) badly
- e) spaghetti

8.

Which of the following are grammatical categories?

- a) deixis
- b) aspect
- c) type
- d) mood
- e) mode

9.

Which of the examples given below has the structure Subject - Verb - Complement(Subject)?

- a) John kissed Mary
- b) Consider it done
- c) The flowers are beautiful
- d) The dog slept
- e) She gave him the tickets

10.

In the space below, draw a tree diagram reflecting the phrase structure of the following sentence: *The boys ran to the house*

11.

Which of the definitions below are commonly used to describe semantics?

- a) Semantics is concerned with conventional meaning
- b) Semantics is concerned with social and affective meaning
- c) Semantics describes meaning in context
- d) Semantics describes meaning independent from context
- e) Semantics only deals with monoreferential expressions

12.

Which of the following statements are correct?

- a) *happy* is a homonym of *sad*
- b) *finger* is an antonym of *hand*
- c) *blue* is a synonym of *color*
- d) *soccer* is a hyponym of *sports*
- e) *The White House* is a metonym of *The United States Government*

13.

Mark those of the following statements about Pragmatics which are correct

- a) Pragmatics is concerned with meaning independent from context
- b) A message's illocution is the meaning intended by the speaker
- c) A message's perlocution is the meaning understood by the listener
- d) Direct speech acts are always felicitous
- e) Indirect speech acts are frequently used to express politeness

14.

Which Gricean Maxim is qualified by the hedge in the expression *As far as I know, Jenny and Mike split up last month?*

- a) Quantity
- b) Quality
- c) Relation/Relevance
- d) Manner
- e) Politeness

15.

Which of these examples contain one or more deictic expressions?

- a) I like pie
- b) We spoke on the phone yesterday
- c) Susan loves chocolate - she sure eats a lot of it
- d) Mike and Bob look so alike, you can't really tell the difference
- e) The president declared war on Japan following the attack on Pearl Harbor

16.

What devices do we use in spoken discourse to encourage others to take the floor?

- a) completion points
- b) anaphora
- c) ellipsis
- d) social deixis
- e) clefting

17.

How is given information commonly marked in information structure?

- a) By the switch from indefinite to definite article
- b) By the switch from definite to indefinite article
- c) By the replacement of a full noun phrase with a pronoun
- d) By ellipsis of the given expression
- e) By zero derivation

18.

Which of these examples contains a cleft?

- a) While I can't stand Pepsi, I love Coke
- b) Coke I love, while Pepsi I can't stand
- c) It's Pepsi that I can't stand
- d) What I can't stand is Pepsi
- e) John loves Coke and I love Pepsi

19.

Mark those of the following statements about language varieties that you consider accurate

- a) Some languages have no varieties
- b) Regional and social are two common kinds of varieties
- c) Accents are phonetically conditioned
- d) Genderlects are strongly codified
- e) Standards evolve naturally over time

20.

Name and very briefly describe one well-known sociolinguistic study:

21.

Which of these change phenomena have affected English in its development?

- a) Loss of inflections
- b) Loss of grammatical gender
- c) Shortening of vowels
- d) Nasalization
- e) Loss of infixes

22.

Which of these statements about English is accurate?

- a) English is a strongly polysynthetic language
- b) English has no inflections
- c) English is a Germanic language
- d) English has borrowed large parts of its lexicon from French
- e) English orthography closely reflects its pronunciation