

1. How would you define **linguistics**?
2. Point out three ways in which linguistics differs from traditional school grammar.
3. What is the difference between a **prescriptive** and a **descriptive** approach to language?
4. Why do linguists regard speech rather than writing as primary?
5. Briefly explain the terms **phonology, syntax and semantics**.
6. Distinguish between **synchronic** and **diachronic** linguistics.
  
7. Suggest at least three properties of language which are rare or absent in animal communication.
8. What is meant by **creativity**?
9. What is meant by **structure dependence**?
10. Work out how many ways the words *surprisingly, eggs, eat, elephant, large, will, sometimes* can be arranged to produce well-formed sentences.
11. Suggest some reasons why people talk?
  
12. Why were 19<sup>th</sup>-century linguists so interested in historical linguistics?
13. Why is de Saussure an important figure in linguistics?
14. What are **discovery procedures**?
15. What is a **generative** grammar, and how does it differ from a **descriptive** grammar?
16. Explain the word **explicit** when used in connection with grammars.
  
17. Why is language like a game?
18. Which aspects of language are most easily detachable from social structures?
19. Why is someone working on a single language likely to want to widen out this study?
  
20. What do you understand by the term **phoneme**?
21. What is a **minimal pair**? Suggest at least ten examples of minimal pairs in English.
22. What is an **allophone**? Give examples.
23. What are **distinctive features**?
24. What is a **natural class**?
25. What is **metrical phonology**?

26. What is a **morpheme**?
27. Distinguish between **inflection** and **derivation**?
28. What is the difference between **phonologically conditioned allomorphs** and **lexically conditioned allomorphs**?
29. How might one identify **word classes**?
  
30. Suggest three ways in which languages show the relationship of one word to another.
31. What is a **tree diagram**, and why is it useful?
32. What are **rewrite rules**?
33. Draw a tree diagram for each of the following sentences:
  - a. *The bus ran down the fog.*
  - b. *The bus ran down the street.*
34. Distinguish between **conjoiing** and **embedding**. Give examples.
35. What are **thematic relations**?
  
36. How might a linguist study the internal relationships between lexical items?
37. What is **inclusion**? Give examples.
38. Distinguish three types of **opposites** found in language.
39. Why is it impossible to assign firm meanings to some words?
40. What is a **prototype**, and why is this notion important for the study of meaning?
41. How might one represent the meaning of sentences?

What do you know about the following? Explain them in as brief as possible.

42. Displacement
43. Traditional grammar
44. Advantages of use of sound signals
45. Structure Dependence
46. Father of modern linguistics
47. Descriptive Grammar
48. American Structuralism
49. Semantics
50. Comparative linguistics
51. Explicitness

What distinctions would you draw between the following pairs? Explain in brief.

52. Connotative meaning vs Denotative meaning
53. Configurational languages vs Non-configurational languages

- 54. Lexical conditioning vs Phonological conditioning
- 55. Lexical items vs syntactic words
- 56. Allophone vs free variation

**Comment on the following expressions:**

- 57. In Latin, inflections are of little use in the process of making sentences.
- 58. Parts of speech and syntactic categories both refer to the same thing.
- 59. The words (oxen, *darken* and *golden*) end with the same suffix.
- 60. We can never make a complete list of all the possible sentences of any language.
- 61. Semantics deals with meaning, but pragmatics does not.