

HONORS PSYCHOLOGY | REVIEW QUESTIONS

The purpose of these review questions is to help you assess your grasp of the facts and definitions covered in your textbook. Knowing facts and definitions is necessary (but not sufficient) for success on formal exams, which assess your ability to conceptualize and analyze the material covered in textbook and lecture. An answer key is provided at the end of these review questions so you can check your answers.

1. The text describes a procedure for testing the ability of very young infants to distinguish between phonemes. This procedure is based on:
 - A) their heart rate.
 - B) their rate of sucking on a nipple to trigger a sound.
 - C) a specific facial expression.
 - D) specific vocal expressions, such as crying and cooing.
2. The development of a Nicaraguan sign language in the early 1980s was a stunning case study in the natural development of language. This signing system progressed from a _____ and was produced by the _____ members of the deaf community.
 - A) true language to a manual pidgin; oldest
 - B) manual pidgin to a true language; oldest
 - C) true language to a manual pidgin; youngest
 - D) manual pidgin to a true language; youngest
3. Which of the following is the best definition of overextension in children?
 - A) the application of common nouns to more narrowly defined categories than adult usage allows
 - B) the production of sentencelike utterances that contain more parts of speech than are necessary for correct grammar
 - C) the application of common nouns to a broader set of referents than adult usage would allow
 - D) the use of proper nouns as common nouns
4. The language-acquisition support system focuses on the role of _____ in language development.
 - A) innate learning mechanisms
 - B) the social environment
 - C) anatomical and physiological characteristics
 - D) motivation

5. The tendency of adults to speak slowly, simply, and with gestures to young children is:
 - A) found in all cultures studied to date.
 - B) necessary for normal language development.
 - C) consistent with the ideas of the LASS.
 - D) purely a reflection of middle-class, Western misconceptions about children's language acquisition.

6. The thoroughly studied case of Genie, who was language deprived for the first 13 years of her life, is an example of:
 - A) cross-cultural differences in LASS.
 - B) the critical period in language development.
 - C) a deaf child learning spoken language.
 - D) a nonhuman ape who learned language.

7. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh and her colleagues have been working with a bonobo named Kanzi since 1981, immersing him in a language culture that includes the use of lexigrams, spoken English, and gestures. Such studies with Kanzi and other apes have demonstrated all of the following EXCEPT:
 - A) apes are relatively adept at acquiring a vocabulary.
 - B) apes learn language only with direct instruction, not with mere immersion in a linguistic environment.
 - C) apes can use signs and lexigrams as true symbols rather than merely as operant responses.
 - D) apes can respond correctly to spoken requests.

8. Who argues that children are born into the world with a language-acquisition device (LAD)?
 - A) Lev Vygotsky
 - B) Jean Piaget
 - C) Barbara Rogoff
 - D) Noam Chomsky

9. Jennifer's mother makes sure to regularly simplify her speech when speaking to her infant, often repeating salient words while using gestures to help convey the meaning. The text refers to this as:
 - A) hypothetical reasoning.
 - B) pidgin language.
 - C) language-acquisition support system.
 - D) content morpheme.

10. Which of the following statements about the LAD and the LASS is TRUE?
- A) Both the LAD and the LASS are internal supports for language development.
 - B) Both the LAD and the LASS are external supports for language development.
 - C) The LAD is an internal support for language development whereas the LASS is an external support.
 - D) The LAD is an external support for language development whereas the LASS is an internal support.
11. Other things being equal, young children assume that a new word they hear is not a(n):
- A) label for an object that is absent from view.
 - B) synonym for a word they already know.
 - C) verb.
 - D) adjective or adverb.
12. Allen and Beatrix Gardner successfully taught a modified version of American Sign Language (ASL) to a chimp named Washoe. The Gardners chose ASL primarily because it does NOT:
- A) have a grammatical structure.
 - B) have an extensive vocabulary.
 - C) require vocalization.
 - D) require hearing, which is poor in chimpanzees.
13. An infant's ability to distinguish between two very similar sounds that represent different phonemes in a language other than the infant's own:
- A) is absent early in infancy but improves as the infant grows older.
 - B) is present in early infancy but deteriorates as the infant grows older.
 - C) is very limited and stays the same as the infant grows older.
 - D) deteriorates during the first 4 months of infancy and then improves during the next 4 months with greater exposure to language.
14. What is the correct sequence for language development?
- A) babble, coo, cry, first word
 - B) cry, babble, coo, first word
 - C) coo, cry, first word, babble
 - D) cry, coo, babble, first word

15. According to the text, the typical person between the ages of 2 and 17 years will learn an average of about _____ new words per day.
- A) 11
 - B) 5
 - C) 20
 - D) 8
16. Verbal language uses symbols that are _____, while nonverbal communication uses signals that are _____.
- A) arbitrary and discrete; imitative and gradational
 - B) rigid and exclusive; flexible and inclusive
 - C) simple and blunt; complex and subtle
 - D) universal; culture-specific
17. What rare linguistic event occurred in Nicaragua in the early 1980s?
- A) the spontaneous development of a true sign language among that country's deaf community
 - B) the successful teaching of speech and lip-reading techniques to that country's deaf community
 - C) the deliberate creation of a new artificial Creole by university researchers
 - D) the evolution of a true non-Chomskyan nonhierarchical language that functions effectively without syntax
18. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh reported that Kanzi, a bonobo:
- A) understands many spoken English words.
 - B) only learned to use lexigrams if explicitly rewarded.
 - C) does not use lexigrams symbolically.
 - D) has grammatical skills comparable to those of a 6-year-old child.
19. Experiments with 3-day-old infants show that they:
- A) do not have sufficiently developed auditory processing to differentiate sounds.
 - B) prefer high-pitched sounds to mid- or low-pitched sounds.
 - C) prefer human speech to other sounds.
 - D) prefer soothing instrumental music to other sounds.
20. A phoneme is:
- A) a rule of language.
 - B) an elementary vowel or consonant sound.
 - C) the smallest meaningful unit of language.
 - D) the appropriate use of words in context.

21. The development of a grammatical sign language by deaf Nicaraguan students is primarily credited to:
- A) children 10 years old or younger who possessed a great desire to communicate with other students.
 - B) the oldest, wisest members of the group who then taught it to their younger counterparts.
 - C) intensive formal instruction aimed at teaching the children to speak and lip-read the nation's vocal language.
 - D) children who had spent time in the United States and shared their knowledge of American Sign Language.
22. People who suffer from Broca's aphasia have speech that retains its _____ but loses its _____.
- A) grammatical structure; meaning
 - B) meaning; grammatical structure
 - C) grammatical structure; articulation
 - D) meaning; articulation
23. An individual with specific damage to Broca's area is likely to:
- A) produce labored and telegraphic speech.
 - B) have difficulty comprehending grammatically complex sentences.
 - C) pack utterances with pronouns and nonsense words and exclude appropriate content words.
 - D) produce labored and telegraphic speech and have difficulty comprehending grammatically complex sentences.
24. The smallest meaningful unit of a language, that is, the smallest unit that stands for some object, event, characteristic, or relationship, is called:
- A) a phoneme.
 - B) a morpheme.
 - C) syntactic structure.
 - D) a word.
25. The repeated consonant-and-vowel sounds made by infants are known as:
- A) babbles.
 - B) pidgin language.
 - C) coos.
 - D) morphemes.

26. Motherese, the simplification of a language by an adult speaking to a young child, is an example of a(n):
- A) language-acquisition support system.
 - B) innate language-acquisition device.
 - C) social custom that inhibits the child's acquisition of language.
 - D) form of pidgin language.
27. Speech that is superficially fluent, filled with articles, prepositions, and nonsense words, but deficient in content words is characteristic of:
- A) nonfluent aphasia.
 - B) Wernicke's aphasia.
 - C) Broca's aphasia.
 - D) nonfluent aphasia and Broca's aphasia.
28. The symbols in a language are called _____, defined as the smallest meaningful units of a language.
- A) pidgin
 - B) morphemes
 - C) syntactic structures
 - D) phonemes
29. Chomsky argues that children are born into the world with a:
- A) set of schemes.
 - B) language-acquisition support system.
 - C) language-acquisition device.
 - D) mental model of the world around them.
30. How many morphemes are contained in the word *dispassionately*?
- A) 1
 - B) 3
 - C) 4
 - D) 5
31. Which of the following is NOT true of vocabulary development?
- A) Most of a child's first words are nouns.
 - B) Children's first words are most often produced in a playful state.
 - C) Children generally infer the meaning of new words from context.
 - D) Infants use words at first to ask for things and later to name things that are already present.

32. The general set of rules that every language has is collectively referred to as:
- A) content morphemes.
 - B) grammar.
 - C) phonemes.
 - D) syntax.
33. In language, the set of rules that specifies the permissible ways that units at one level can be arranged to produce the next higher level of structure is referred to as:
- A) syntax.
 - B) morphology.
 - C) grammar.
 - D) a phoneme.
34. Gunther has just arrived at a newly colonized island made up of people from many different language cultures. According to the text, the first-generation colonists will speak using a communication system referred to as _____ language.
- A) universal
 - B) Creole
 - C) pidgin
 - D) cross-cultural
35. According to your textbook, which of the following is TRUE of cooing and babbling?
- A) They emerge from vocal distress signs and continue to communicate the child's need for attention.
 - B) They are forms of vocal play that occur most often when the infant is happy.
 - C) They seldom include sounds that differ from the parents' spoken language(s).
 - D) Only hearing infants engage in these behaviors.
36. Chomsky accounts for children's ability to learn something as complex as language by hypothesizing the existence of a language-acquisition device (LAD). This device is:
- A) a set of inborn aids that permit children to understand the elements of grammar common to all languages and to acquire the rules specific to their own.
 - B) an innate mechanism that predisposes adults to speak slowly, simply, and with broad gestures when talking to young children.
 - C) the range of social interactions that contribute to the child's successful acquisition of the culture's language.
 - D) an innate mechanism that permits children to understand how to use language operantly, in order to gain rewards.

37. People with _____ aphasia, also known as fluent aphasia, have difficulty understanding language and produce sentences full of nonsense words.
- A) Wernicke's
 - B) Hebb's
 - C) Broca's
 - D) Gazzaniga's
38. Cross-cultural research on the Kalikuli people of New Guinea found that:
- A) infants preferred instrumental music over human speech, mainly because infants lack the ability to treat speech as something special.
 - B) Kalikuli children take much longer to acquire language because the lack of speech directed toward them impairs their ability to learn language.
 - C) infants chose to listen to human speech rather than to other sounds such as instrumental music.
 - D) adults believe there is no reason to speak to babies who cannot yet speak themselves. However, because they constantly overhear the speech of adults and children around them, Kalikuli children acquire language at roughly the same rate as children in Western cultures.
39. A sentence in any language can be described as a four-level hierarchy with the whole sentence at the top and _____ at the bottom.
- A) syntax
 - B) grammar
 - C) morphemes
 - D) phonemes
40. Chomsky proposed the theory of a(n) _____, the notion that humans have innate foundations for learning the rules of language.
- A) language-acquisition support system
 - B) pidgin language
 - C) language-acquisition device
 - D) zone of proximal development
41. Infants up to 6 months of age:
- A) become worse at distinguishing among sounds that are classed as the same phoneme in their native language.
 - B) can distinguish among the phonemes of their native language but not of other languages.
 - C) can distinguish among the phonemes of any language.
 - D) can distinguish among vowel sounds, not consonant sounds.

42. Genie, the girl rescued at the age of 13 from an abusive and severely language-deprived environment, had by age 20 acquired:
- A) a large vocabulary but little understanding of grammar.
 - B) a thorough understanding of grammar but a small vocabulary.
 - C) an understanding of grammar and a vocabulary on par with that of an average 10-year-old.
 - D) no language capability whatsoever.
43. Which of the following is NOT true of cooing and babbling?
- A) Deaf infants begin to coo and babble at about the same age and in the same manner as hearing infants.
 - B) Cooing and babbling occur most often when the infant is happy.
 - C) An infant's earliest babbles are limited to the sounds of its native language.
 - D) Deaf infants who are exposed to a sign language will babble with their hands.

Answer Key - LanguageReview

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. B
8. D
9. C
10. C
11. B
12. C
13. B
14. D
15. A
16. A
17. A
18. A
19. C
20. B
21. A
22. A
23. D
24. B
25. A
26. A
27. B
28. B
29. C
30. B
31. D
32. B
33. C
34. C
35. B
36. A
37. A
38. D
39. D
40. C
41. A
42. A
43. C