

## PSYCHOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD | REVIEW QUESTIONS

*These review questions are designed 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. Elementary sounds that are used to produce language are called:
  - A) morphemes.
  - B) syntax.
  - C) phonemes.
  - D) semantics.
  
2. Children's first sentences can often be described as:
  - A) holophrastic speech.
  - B) telegraphic speech.
  - C) overregulated speech.
  - D) narratives.
  - E) pragmatic speech.
  
3. What is the interactionist's stance on language development?
  - A) Language development is motivated by the need to communicate with others.
  - B) The information needed to acquire language is contained in the language itself.
  - C) Language is too complex to come only from experience, so there must be innate structures that enable humans to acquire language.
  - D) Language comes solely from the gradual strengthening of connections in the neural network.
  
4. Understanding what other people say is referred to as language:
  - A) comprehension.
  - B) knowledge.
  - C) construction.
  - D) production.

5. Which of the following speech sounds is least likely to be uttered by an infant who has not yet begun to babble?
- A) goo
  - B) gaga
  - C) aaah
  - D) oooh
6. Grammatical rules are generally learned:
- A) through rote memorization.
  - B) all at once.
  - C) through explicit teaching by parents.
  - D) step-by-step.
7. Studies that demonstrate children being generally better language learners than adults provide evidence for:
- A) brain-hemisphere language specialization.
  - B) aphasia.
  - C) infant-directed talk.
  - D) the critical-period hypothesis.
8. Sonya is beginning to babble. Based on this simple piece of information, which is NOT true?
- A) Sonya is around 7 months of age.
  - B) Sonya's babbles are made up of a repeated sequence consisting of a consonant followed by a vowel.
  - C) Sonya is babbling in a wide range of sounds found in her language and other languages.
  - D) Sonya's parents are probably responding to her sounds.
9. On which point do current theorists agree?
- A) the relative roles of nature and nurture in language development
  - B) the degree to which language acquisition is supported by language-specific versus general-purpose cognitive abilities
  - C) language acquisition being a result of the interaction between characteristics of the human brain and exposure to language
  - D) the role of social interaction and communication in language development

10. Research on developmental changes in infant perception of speech sounds shows that as infants get older, their ability to discriminate between speech sounds that are not in their native language:
- A) increases.
  - B) stays the same.
  - C) decreases.
  - D) is dependent upon the language the infant is hearing.
11. The association of words and their meanings is:
- A) fast mapping
  - B) productive vocabulary.
  - C) extension.
  - D) reference.
12. Descriptions of past events that have the basic structure of a story are referred to as:
- A) collective monologues.
  - B) scaffolds.
  - C) syntaxes.
  - D) narratives.
13. At approximately what age are children able to attend selectively to the sound of their own name among a string of speech sounds?
- A) 5 months
  - B) 3 months
  - C) 9 months
  - D) 12 months
14. The hypothesis that the human brain contains an innate, self-contained language unit is referred to as:
- A) interactionist.
  - B) modularity.
  - C) universal grammar.
  - D) pragmatic.
15. Which should be of most concern to parents?
- A) a child who has trouble pronouncing certain sounds
  - B) a child who talks very little
  - C) a child who seems to have difficulty comprehending what is said to him or her
  - D) a child who talks incessantly

16. The period before approximately age 5 is considered the \_\_\_\_\_ period for language development.
- A) critical
  - B) acceptable
  - C) exclusive
  - D) suitable
17. Research indicates that infants are first able to identify what word?
- A) "Mommy"
  - B) "Daddy"
  - C) their own name
  - D) "No"
18. Dual representation refers to:
- A) communicating verbally and nonverbally.
  - B) a symbolic artifact being understood both as a real object and as a symbol for something else.
  - C) a symbol standing for more than one idea or thing.
  - D) infants' ability to distinguish between different categories, such as living and nonliving things.
19. When young children converse with other young children, their conversations can generally be described as:
- A) monologues.
  - B) collective monologues.
  - C) dialogues.
  - D) collective dialogues.
20. Stan has been diagnosed with Broca's aphasia after a car accident. Which of the following would you expect Stan to have difficulty with?
- A) comprehending language
  - B) producing speech
  - C) learning mathematics
  - D) comprehending language and speech production
21. Infants are sensitive to which of the following properties of their native language?
- A) stress pattern
  - B) distributional properties
  - C) distinctions between speech sounds
  - D) All of the answers are correct.

22. Which of the following lists represents the correct order in which infants acquire language?
- A) recognize words, produce words, comprehend words
  - B) recognize words, comprehend words, produce words
  - C) comprehend words, produce words, recognize words
  - D) produce words, recognize words, comprehend words
23. Which point of view on language development has been advanced by Noam Chomsky?
- A) nonlinguistic views
  - B) connectionist views
  - C) interactionist views
  - D) nativist views
24. Vygotsky believed that \_\_\_\_\_ was important for children to organize their actions, whereas Piaget believed that children's first social exchanges were \_\_\_\_\_ which had little to do with what other children were saying.
- A) dual representation; fast mapping
  - B) collective monologue; private speech
  - C) collective monologue; dual representation
  - D) private speech; collective monologues
25. The view that virtually everything about language development is influenced by its communicative function is:
- A) interactionist.
  - B) connectionist.
  - C) nativist.
  - D) nonlinguistic.
26. The first step in children's language learning is:
- A) pragmatic development.
  - B) phonological development.
  - C) semantic development.
  - D) syntactic development.
27. In which of the following areas has the connectionist view of language development not shown strength?
- A) infants' ability to analyze and identify structural features of the language they hear
  - B) statistical-learning accounts of language learning
  - C) the sensitivity of infants and young children to pragmatic cues
  - D) overregulation errors

28. What role does parental feedback play in a child's progression from making two-word utterances to complex, grammatically correct sentences?
- A) Parental feedback plays a minor role.
  - B) Parental feedback is a generally crucial component.
  - C) Parental feedback that focuses on grammatical mistakes plays an important role.
  - D) Parental feedback helps only in the realm of private speech.
29. Using the word *snow* for a number of things that are white is an example of:
- A) holophrastic utterance.
  - B) pragmatic cuing.
  - C) overextension.
  - D) analytic style.
30. The characteristic intonation patterns, tempo, rhythm, and cadence with which a language is spoken are referred to as:
- A) harmony.
  - B) melody.
  - C) accent.
  - D) prosody.
31. Which type of word is generally the most prominent among the first words American English-speaking children learn?
- A) noun
  - B) verb
  - C) adjective
  - D) preposition
32. Kevin says "banana" and his dad gives him a banana to eat. Kevin says "banana" again, and this time his dad takes the crushed banana away from him. Kevin is using \_\_\_\_\_ to communicate his needs.
- A) holophrastic speech
  - B) telegraphic speech
  - C) fast mapping
  - D) infant-direct speech
33. Which predominates in the early productive vocabularies of children learning English?
- A) verbs
  - B) nouns
  - C) adjectives
  - D) nonsense words

34. In the English language, /d/ and /k/ are examples of:
- A) words.
  - B) morphemes.
  - C) phonemes.
  - D) syntax.
35. The smallest units of meaning in a language are called:
- A) phonemes.
  - B) syntax.
  - C) morphemes.
  - D) semantics.
36. A nativist's view about language development would be that:
- A) language is developed to communicate and interact with others.
  - B) language development does not require innate knowledge; it requires only general-purpose cognitive mechanisms.
  - C) people have innate knowledge of universal grammar and there are cognitive skills that are specific to learning language.
  - D) language development is completely dependent on the experience of the particular child.
37. \_\_\_\_\_ is NOT a symbol.
- A) Spoken language
  - B) Picture
  - C) Map
  - D) Facial expression
  - E) Written alphabet
38. Research on word learning has shown that young children:
- A) use their understanding of a speaker's intentions to figure out what she is naming.
  - B) tend to expect objects to have only one name.
  - C) can learn new words with very little exposure.
  - D) All of these answers are correct.
39. The most common drawing subject for young children is a:
- A) tree.
  - B) house.
  - C) person.
  - D) dog.
  - E) sun.

40. Neural-network accounts of language development are also referred to as:
- A) connectionist.
  - B) nativist.
  - C) innate.
  - D) interactionist.
41. \_\_\_\_\_ is an example of a symbolic activity?
- A) Listening to music
  - B) Drawing a picture
  - C) Helping to make cookies
  - D) Going to a restaurant
42. Which of the following is NOT a symbol?
- A) spoken language
  - B) picture
  - C) map
  - D) facial expression
43. 13-month-old Lydia calls all men "Daddy." Which of the following is NOT correct about Lydia?
- A) Lydia does not discriminate between her father and other men.
  - B) Lydia's behavior is an example of overextension.
  - C) This kind of error occurs primarily during the holophrastic period.
  - D) Lydia is quite behind in her language development.
44. Infants' preparation for speaking includes:
- A) practice producing sounds.
  - B) games like peek-a-boo.
  - C) following an adult's gaze when the adult is talking.
  - D) All of the answers are correct.
45. Twins Jason and Lilly are both 2 years old. Their parents have noticed they have different styles of conversing. Jason's words are mostly isolated and monosyllabic, while Lilly seems to try to use whole sentences. Jason's style is called \_\_\_\_\_, and Lilly's style is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) referential; expressive
  - B) wait-and-see; expressive
  - C) expressive; referential
  - D) referential; wait-and-see

46. What is the significance of adults being able to identify correctly the nationality of an infant by listening to the infant's babbling?
- A) Babbling takes on the sounds, rhythms, and intonation of the language the infant hears.
  - B) Infants babble a limited set of sounds.
  - C) Babbling shows evidence of the distributional properties of speech.
  - D) Babbling requires intersubjectivity.
47. Intersubjectivity refers to:
- A) judgments made across time periods.
  - B) the sharing of a common focus of attention by two individuals.
  - C) the ability of an infant to determine the meanings of words from the context.
  - D) the use of the grammatical structure of an entire sentence to figure out meaning.
48. The \_\_\_\_\_ view of language development emphasizes the communicative function of language.
- A) nativist
  - B) interactionist
  - C) pragmatic
  - D) connectionist
49. Which is NOT a characteristic of infant-directed talk?
- A) It has a "sweet," high-pitched musical quality.
  - B) It is found universally.
  - C) It is accompanied by exaggerated facial expressions.
  - D) It involves extreme changes in intonation.
50. \_\_\_\_\_ is NOT a symbolic artifact?
- A) A map
  - B) A scale model
  - C) The written word "tree"
  - D) All of the items are symbolic artifacts.
51. How many words per day are children estimated to learn from 18 months of age to the time they are in first grade?
- A) 1 to 2
  - B) 5 to 10
  - C) 10 to 12
  - D) 2 to 5

52. The notion that an infinite number of sentences and ideas can be expressed through language is referred to as:
- A) production.
  - B) generativity.
  - C) construction.
  - D) infinitivity.
53. For the majority of people who are right-handed, language is primarily represented in:
- A) the left hemisphere of the brain.
  - B) the right hemisphere of the brain.
  - C) the left and right hemispheres of the brain equally.
  - D) either hemisphere of the brain, as individuals differ greatly as to which part of their brain controls language.
54. Language is:
- A) neither species-specific nor species-universal.
  - B) species-specific.
  - C) species-universal.
  - D) both species-specific and species-universal.
55. The period in which infants use one word at a time is referred to as the:
- A) pragmatic period.
  - B) period of telegraphic speech.
  - C) period of overextension.
  - D) holophrastic period.
  - E) period of nouncentric speech.

## Answer Key - Language Review

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

- 53. A
- 54. D
- 55. D