

## Practice Quiz - Thinking & Language

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ 1. When we use the word “automobile” to refer to a category of transport vehicles, we are using this word as a(n):  
A) phoneme. B) heuristic. C) concept. D) algorithm.
- \_\_\_ 2. Eva had difficulty recognizing that a sea horse was a fish because it did not closely resemble her \_\_\_\_\_ of a fish.  
A) mental set B) heuristic C) algorithm D) prototype
- \_\_\_ 3. Myron didn't know whether the boy's locker room was located down the hallway to his right or the one to his left. Crossing his fingers, he decided to try the left hallway. Myron's strategy for finding the locker room best illustrates the use of:  
A) the belief perseverance phenomenon. D) the framing effect.  
B) the confirmation bias. E) trial and error.  
C) the representativeness heuristic.
- \_\_\_ 4. A chess-playing computer program that routinely calculates all possible outcomes of all possible game moves best illustrates problem solving by means of:  
A) the availability heuristic. D) the representativeness heuristic.  
B) belief perseverance. E) functional fixedness.  
C) an algorithm.
- \_\_\_ 5. The use of heuristics rather than algorithms is most likely to:  
A) save time in arriving at solutions to problems. C) minimize the overconfidence phenomenon.  
B) yield more accurate solutions to problems. D) involve greater reliance on language skills.
- \_\_\_ 6. As he attempted to spell the word “receive,” Tim reminded himself “i before e except after c.” Tim's self-reminder best illustrates the use of:  
A) a prototype. B) trial and error. C) insight. D) an algorithm. E) a heuristic.
- \_\_\_ 7. Because she believes that boys are naughtier than girls, Mrs. Zumpano, a second-grade teacher, watches boys more closely than she watches girls for any signs of misbehavior. Mrs. Zumpano's surveillance strategy best illustrates:  
A) the availability heuristic. D) the representativeness heuristic.  
B) confirmation bias. E) the framing effect.  
C) functional fixedness.
- \_\_\_ 8. Some people are unable to arrange six matches to form four equilateral triangles because they fail to consider a three-dimensional arrangement. This best illustrates the hazards of:  
A) fixations. B) heuristics. C) algorithms. D) framing. E) overconfidence.
- \_\_\_ 9. Throughout his elementary and high school years, Charlie got away with copying his test answers from classmates. Because the college's test proctors are very observant, Charlie spends as many hours devising new ways to cheat as it would take him to study and perform well in an honest fashion. Charlie's strategy for passing tests illustrates the consequences of:  
A) functional fixedness. D) the availability heuristic.  
B) a mental set. E) the framing effect.  
C) confirmation bias.
- \_\_\_ 10. Marlene forgot to bring a pillow on the camping trip, so she spent a very uncomfortable and restless night. Unfortunately, she never thought of using her down-filled jacket as a pillow. Marlene's oversight best illustrates:  
A) confirmation bias. D) the availability heuristic.  
B) belief perseverance. E) overconfidence.  
C) functional fixedness.
- \_\_\_ 11. Miss Jan De Jong is orderly, neat, fairly quiet, and shy. She enjoys reading in her spare time and belongs to a social club that includes three librarians, nine real estate agents, and eight social workers. A tendency to conclude that Jan must be one of the three librarians would illustrate the powerful influence of:  
A) confirmation bias. D) the belief perseverance phenomenon.  
B) the framing effect. E) the availability heuristic.  
C) the representativeness heuristic.

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- \_\_\_ 12. Dean overestimates the proportion of family chores for which he takes sole responsibility because it's easier for him to recall what he has done than to recall what other family members have done. This best illustrates the impact of:
- A) overconfidence.   D) confirmation bias.  
 B) functional fixedness.   E) the availability heuristic.  
 C) the representativeness heuristic.
- \_\_\_ 13. On Monday, the meteorologist forecast a 20 percent chance of rain, so Sheryl took her umbrella to work. On Friday, he reported an 80 percent chance that it would not rain, so Sheryl left her umbrella at home. Sheryl's behavior illustrates:
- A) confirmation bias.   D) the representativeness heuristic.  
 B) the belief perseverance phenomenon.                         E) the framing effect.  
 C) overconfidence.
- \_\_\_ 14. Wu believes that some murderers truly love their own children; he also believes that all who truly love their own children are effective parents. Wu's negative attitude toward murderers is so strong, however, that he finds it very difficult to accept the logical conclusion that some murderers are effective parents. His difficulty best illustrates:
- A) overconfidence.   B) the framing effect.   C) confirmation bias.   D) the availability heuristic.   E) belief bias.
- \_\_\_ 15. Andre first became suspicious of his roommate's honesty while trying to account for his own missing billfold. Although Andre later recalled that he had left his billfold in the glove compartment of his own car, his newly formed doubt about his roommate's honesty remained as strong as ever. Andre's irrational suspicion of his roommate best illustrates:
- A) confirmation bias.   D) the belief perseverance phenomenon.  
 B) the representativeness heuristic.                                 E) the framing effect.  
 C) functional fixedness.
- \_\_\_ 16. The smallest distinctive sound unit of language is a:
- A) prototype.   B) phenotype.   C) morpheme.   D) phoneme.
- \_\_\_ 17. The various vowel sounds that can be placed between a "t" and an "n" produce words such as tan, ten, tin, and ton. These various vowel sounds represent different:
- A) morphemes.   B) prototypes.   C) phonemes.   D) semantics.   E) phenotypes.
- \_\_\_ 18. Morphemes are:
- A) the smallest speech units that carry meaning.  
 B) the best examples of particular categories of objects.  
 C) the smallest distinctive sound units of a language.  
 D) rules for combining words into grammatically correct sentences.
- \_\_\_ 19. The word "cats" contains \_\_\_\_\_ phoneme(s) and \_\_\_\_\_ morpheme(s).  
 A) 2; 1   B) 4; 1   C) 2; 4   D) 4; 2
- \_\_\_ 20. The rock musician was hit with a rotten egg while performing his latest hit song. The fact that you can recognize two different meanings for the word "hit" in the preceding sentence demonstrates the importance of:
- A) syntax.   B) semantics.   C) morphemes.   D) prototypes.   E) linguistic determinism.
- \_\_\_ 21. Lavonne was careful to avoid the use of dangling participles and run-on sentences in her essay because she did not want to lose points for faulty:
- A) semantics.   B) phonemes.   C) algorithms.   D) morphemes.   E) syntax.
- \_\_\_ 22. The earliest stage of speech development is called the \_\_\_\_\_ stage.  
 A) babbling   B) telegraphic speech   C) oneword   D) grammatical   E) semantic
- \_\_\_ 23. At some point during the babbling stage, infants begin to:
- A) imitate adult grammar.  
 B) make speech sounds only if their hearing is unimpaired.  
 C) speak in simple words that may be barely recognizable.  
 D) lose their ability to discriminate sounds that they never hear.

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- \_\_\_ 24. Children first begin to use sounds to communicate meaning during the \_\_\_\_\_ stage.  
A) one-word    B) two-word    C) echoic    D) telegraphic    E) babbling
- \_\_\_ 25. Which of the following would be most characteristic of a 2-year-old's telegraphic speech?  
A) "a doggy"    B) "eat apple"    C) "to store"    D) "ball pretty"
- \_\_\_ 26. With respect to the debate over the process of language development, nature is to nurture as \_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) Skinner; Whorf    B) Whorf; Skinner    C) Skinner; Chomsky    D) Chomsky; Skinner
- \_\_\_ 27. Noam Chomsky has emphasized that the acquisition of language by children is facilitated by:  
A) an inborn readiness to learn grammatical rules.  
B) their ability to imitate the words and grammar modeled by parents.  
C) the learned association of word sounds with various objects, events, actions, and qualities.  
D) the positive reinforcement that adults give children for speaking correctly.
- \_\_\_ 28. When 3-year-old Rosalie complained, "Boris hitted me with a ball," she was illustrating the tendency of young children to:  
A) use telegraphic speech patterns.  
B) imitate the incorrect speech patterns of others.  
C) receive inadequate reinforcement for correct language usage.  
D) use certain grammatical rules in sentence construction.
- \_\_\_ 29. The best evidence that there is a critical period for language acquisition is the fact that:  
A) infants babble phonemes that do not occur in their parents' native language.  
B) toddlers maintain a capacity to discriminate phonemes that they have never heard.  
C) people most easily master the grammar of a second language during childhood.  
D) preschoolers often overgeneralize certain rules of grammatical structure.
- \_\_\_ 30. Whorf's linguistic determinism hypothesis emphasizes that:  
A) infancy is a critical period for language development.    C) our linguistic proficiencies influence our social status.  
B) all languages share a similar grammar.    D) words shape the way people think.

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**Answer Key**

1. C
2. D
3. E
4. C
5. A
6. E
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. C
11. C
12. E
13. E
14. E
15. D
16. D
17. C
18. A
19. D
20. B
21. E
22. A
23. D
24. A
25. B
26. D
27. A
28. D
29. C
30. D