

# Linguaquest — Activity Book

*A Spark & Anvil activity book — puzzles, questions, and fun from Linguaquest.*

Write in the book, circle your answers, and check the Answer Key at the back.

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## 1. Language Families of the World

### Circle the correct answer

1. What is a language family?

(A) A list of languages in alphabetical order (B) Languages that sound similar but are unrelated (C) Languages spoken by the same family at home (D) A group of languages that developed from the same ancient ancestor language

2. Which language family has the most native speakers in the world?

(A) Sino-Tibetan (B) Afro-Asiatic (C) Niger-Congo (D) Indo-European

3. What is Mandarin Chinese classified under in terms of language family?

(A) Afro-Asiatic (B) Austronesian (C) Indo-European (D) Sino-Tibetan

4. Approximately how many languages are spoken in the world today?

(A) About 200 (B) About 1,000 (C) About 50,000 (D) About 7,000

5. Which language family do Arabic and Hebrew belong to?

(A) Afro-Asiatic (B) Austronesian (C) Indo-European (D) Uralic

6. Why do linguists compare languages to a family tree?

(A) Because all languages were invented by one person (B) Because languages branch off from common ancestors, with closely related languages sharing more recent ancestors (C) Because languages grow leaves and branches like real trees (D) Because family trees are the only way to organize information

### Write the answer

7. How can two languages be in the same family but sound completely different?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Why does Africa have more language families than any other continent?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

9. What does it mean when a language is called an 'isolate'?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Why is it significant that the Indo-European family stretches from Iceland to Bangladesh?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Match each question to its answer

1. You discover that the words for 'mother' in several languages sound similar: 'mama' (English), 'mama' (Swahili), 'māma' (Mandarin). Can you conclude these languages are related? →

2. Your friend says 'Japanese and Chinese must be in the same language family because they share some writing characters.' How would you respond using your knowledge of language families? →

3. You notice that the Spanish word 'noche' (night) is similar to the French word 'nuit' and the Italian word 'notte.' What can you conclude about these languages? →

4. A new language is discovered in a remote area. What steps would a linguist take to determine which language family it belongs to? →

5. You're creating a classroom display about world language families. How would you organize the languages to best show their relationships? →

(A) No, because 'mama' sounds are among the first babies make worldwide, so the similarity may be coincidence rather than shared ancestry

(B) Use a tree diagram with branches showing how families split into sub-groups and individual languages

(C) Shared writing doesn't prove family relationship—Japanese borrowed Chinese characters but the spoken languages come from different families

(D) Compare basic vocabulary, grammar patterns, and sound systems with known languages to find systematic similarities

(E) They likely descended from the same ancestor language, with each version evolving differently over time

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## 2. Greetings and Basic Phrases

### Circle the correct answer

11. What is the standard greeting in Japanese?

(A) Sayonara (B) Konnichiwa (C) Sumimasen (D) Arigatou

12. How do you say 'thank you' in French?

(A) S'il vous plaît (B) Bonjour (C) Au revoir (D) Merci

**13.** What does 'Namaste' mean in Hindi?

- (A) Good morning only (B) Goodbye forever (C) I bow to you (a respectful greeting)  
(D) Please sit down

**14.** What is the Arabic word for 'peace' used in the common greeting 'As-salamu alaykum'?

- (A) Alaykum (B) Marhaba (C) Shukran (D) Salaam

**15.** How do you say 'hello' in Swahili?

- (A) Kwaheri (B) Habari (C) Jambo (D) Asante

**16.** Why do some languages have different greetings depending on the time of day while others use a single all-purpose greeting?

- (A) Different cultures place different importance on acknowledging time context in social interactions (B) Languages with more greetings are more advanced (C) Only European languages have time-based greetings (D) It's random with no cultural explanation

## **Write the answer**

**17.** Why might learning just five basic phrases in someone's language make a big difference in how they respond to you?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**18.** Why does the Spanish greeting 'Buenos días' literally mean 'good days' (plural) rather than 'good day' (singular)?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**19.** How does the Hawaiian greeting 'Aloha' carry more meaning than a simple 'hello'?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**20.** Why do many Asian languages have different ways of saying 'you' depending on who you're talking to?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Match each question to its answer**

**1.** You're visiting a friend's home and their grandparent, who speaks Korean, greets you. Knowing Korean culture values respect for elders, how should you greet them? →

**2.** You're at an international food fair and want to greet vendors from Mexico, Japan, and Egypt in their languages. What greetings would you use? →

**3.** Your pen pal from Brazil writes 'Tchau!' at the end of their letter. Based on your knowledge of Portuguese greetings, what are they saying? →

**4.** You notice that the Hebrew greeting 'Shalom' and the Arabic greeting 'Salaam' sound very similar. Using your knowledge of language families, explain this. →

5. A new student who speaks Mandarin joins your class. How would you welcome them appropriately using your knowledge of Chinese greetings and culture? →

- (A) Both Hebrew and Arabic belong to the Semitic branch of the Afro-Asiatic family, so they share a common root word for peace
  - (B) Use the formal greeting and bow slightly to show respect for their age and status
  - (C) Say 'Nǐ hǎo' with a friendly smile, and avoid physical contact like hugs since Chinese culture generally values personal space in greetings
  - (D) They're saying goodbye—'Tchau' is the Brazilian Portuguese way of saying 'bye'
  - (E) Hola (Spanish/Mexico), Konnichiwa (Japanese/Japan), Marhaba or As-salamu alaykum (Arabic/Egypt)
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### 3. Cognates and Word Origins

#### Circle the correct answer

21. What is a cognate?

- (A) A word in two different languages that looks and sounds similar because they share a common origin
- (B) A word that was recently invented
- (C) A word that means the same thing in every language
- (D) A word that is impossible to translate

22. What is etymology?

- (A) The study of grammar rules
- (B) The study of the origin and history of words
- (C) The study of pronunciation
- (D) The study of insects

23. What is a 'false cognate' (also called a false friend)?

- (A) A word that is spelled the same in all languages
- (B) A word that looks similar in two languages but has a different meaning
- (C) A word that doesn't exist in any language
- (D) A word that sounds ugly in another language

24. From which ancient language did many English, French, Spanish, and Italian words originate?

- (A) Mandarin Chinese
- (B) Latin
- (C) Ancient Egyptian
- (D) Old Norse

25. What is a 'loanword'?

- (A) A word adopted from one language into another with little or no modification
- (B) A word that you can only use temporarily
- (C) A word that must be returned to the original language
- (D) A word that doesn't belong to any language

26. Why does English have so many words borrowed from French?

- (A) Because English speakers thought French sounded prettier, since this follows the standard patterns of the English language
- (B) Because the Norman Conquest of 1066 brought French-speaking rulers to England, and French vocabulary entered English

through centuries of political and cultural influence (C) Because France is close to England geographically, according to the widely accepted rules of written expression (D) Because English had no words of its own before 1066, which is the accepted usage in formal written communication

## Write the answer

27. Why do the English words 'beef,' 'pork,' and 'veal' come from French while 'cow,' 'pig,' and 'calf' are Germanic?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

28. How can knowing cognates help you learn a new language faster?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

29. Why do scientific and medical terms tend to be similar across many different languages?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

30. Why can tracing a word's etymology sometimes reveal historical events or cultural exchanges?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Match each question to its answer

1. You encounter the Italian word 'università' for the first time. Using your knowledge of cognates, what does it most likely mean? →

2. A friend says the Spanish word 'librería' means 'library.' Using your knowledge of false cognates, is this correct? →

3. You're reading a French menu and see 'chocolat chaud.' Using cognate recognition and context, what is this dish? →

4. The English words 'paternal' and 'father' both relate to the concept of fatherhood. Using your knowledge of word origins, explain why they look so different. →

5. You notice that 'chocolate,' 'tomato,' and 'avocado' come from Nahuatl (Aztec language). What does this tell you about cultural history? →

(A) No, 'librería' means 'bookstore' in Spanish—the word for library is 'biblioteca'

(B) Hot chocolate

(C) University

(D) 'Paternal' comes from Latin 'pater' while 'father' comes from the Germanic branch—both trace back to Proto-Indo-European but changed differently in each branch

(E) It reveals that these foods originated in Mesoamerica and were introduced to European languages through contact with Aztec civilization

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## 4. Writing Systems and Alphabets

### Circle the correct answer

31. What is an alphabet?

(A) A writing system that only uses numbers (B) A set of grammar rules (C) Any system of writing including pictures (D) A writing system where individual letters represent individual sounds

32. What writing system does Chinese use?

(A) An alphabet like English (B) Only pictographs that look like what they represent (C) Logographic characters where each symbol represents a word or meaningful unit (D) A system identical to Japanese

33. What is the name of the alphabet used to write Russian?

(A) Cyrillic (B) Arabic (C) Latin (D) Greek

34. In which direction is Arabic traditionally written?

(A) Right to left (B) Top to bottom (C) Left to right (D) Bottom to top

35. What is Braille?

(A) An ancient writing system from Egypt, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) A computer programming language, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) A tactile writing system using raised dots that allows blind and visually impaired people to read by touch (D) A secret code used by spies, and this principle applies across similar situations

36. Why do some writing systems use an alphabet while others use characters that represent whole words?

(A) All writing systems started as alphabets, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) Different civilizations independently developed writing to solve the same problem but arrived at different solutions based on their language's structure (C) Character systems were created to be deliberately difficult, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (D) Alphabets are more advanced than character systems, making this the most widely accepted explanation

### Write the answer

37. Why did the invention of writing represent such a revolutionary moment in human history?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

38. How does Japanese use three different writing systems simultaneously, and why?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

39. Why do many languages that adopted the Latin alphabet add special marks like accents, tildes, or umlauts?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

40. Why has the Latin alphabet become the most widely used writing system in the world?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Match each question to its answer

1. You see a sign with text written right-to-left in flowing, connected script. Which script family is it most likely from? →

2. Your class is creating signs for International Day in English, Arabic, Chinese, and Hindi. What different considerations do you need for each? →

3. A friend argues that emoji are a new writing system. Using your knowledge, how would you respond? →

4. You're designing a poster about world writing systems for school. How would you organize the display? →

5. You want to type Korean on your phone and see unfamiliar symbols. Knowing Korean uses a featural alphabet, what approach helps you learn it? →

(A) Arabic or a related script like Persian or Urdu

(B) Group by writing system type (alphabets, syllabaries, logographic, abjads) with examples and a world map showing where each is used

(C) Learn that Hangul letter shapes show how your mouth forms each sound, then group letters by type (consonants vs. vowels)

(D) Emoji are useful symbols but lack the systematic grammar and comprehensive vocabulary needed to fully represent language like a true writing system

(E) English (left-to-right Latin), Arabic (right-to-left connected), Chinese (characters, can be vertical or horizontal), Hindi (left-to-right Devanagari with top connecting line)

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## 5. Food, Culture, and Language

### Circle the correct answer

41. What is a 'culinary loanword'?

(A) A word that only chefs use, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) A word that translates perfectly between all languages, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) A food-related word borrowed from another language, like 'sushi' from Japanese or 'pizza' from Italian (D) A made-up word for a new food, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

**42.** Which language does the word 'chocolate' originally come from?

(A) Nahuatl (the Aztec language) (B) Spanish, which is the accepted usage in formal written communication (C) French, based on the established rules of syntax and sentence structure (D) Swiss German

**43.** What does 'bon appétit' mean in French?

(A) Thank you for cooking, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) Good appetite—a wish for someone to enjoy their meal (C) The food is ready, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) Good morning, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

**44.** What is 'umami'?

(A) The Japanese word for 'delicious' (B) A Japanese word for the fifth basic taste, described as savory or meaty (C) A type of Japanese noodle (D) A cooking technique from China

**45.** What does 'halal' mean in Arabic?

(A) Vegetarian food only, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (B) Spicy food, making this the most widely accepted explanation (C) Food that is expensive, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (D) Permissible or lawful, especially referring to food prepared according to Islamic dietary guidelines

**46.** Why do many cultures have untranslatable food-related words that don't exist in English?

(A) Because each culture's unique food traditions create concepts that other cultures haven't developed specific words for (B) Because English is missing important vocabulary (C) Because other cultures make up unnecessary words (D) Because food words can always be translated exactly

## **Write the answer**

**47.** Why did food words like 'tea' follow specific trade routes, resulting in some languages calling it 'tea' and others 'chai'?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**48.** How does the concept of 'comfort food' differ across cultures, and what does this reveal about language and emotion?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**49.** Why do many cultures have specific words for communal eating that go beyond just 'having dinner together'?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**50.** Why have words like 'sushi,' 'taco,' and 'pasta' entered English without translation?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Match each question to its answer

1. You're hosting a multicultural potluck. How would you use food vocabulary from different languages to make everyone feel welcome on the menu? →
2. Your friend says 'chai tea latte' at a coffee shop. Using your knowledge of food loanwords, what's redundant about this phrase? →
3. You're writing a food blog about Korean cuisine. How should you handle Korean food terms for an English-speaking audience? →
4. A classmate asks why you can't just call ramen 'Japanese noodle soup.' How would you explain why the original term matters? →
5. You discover that 'ketchup' likely comes from a Chinese word for fermented fish sauce. How does this change your understanding of the condiment? →

(A) It reveals that ketchup has a much more complex global history than most people realize, traveling from Chinese fish sauce through Southeast Asia to become a tomato-based American staple

(B) Label dishes in both English and their original language, include pronunciation guides, and add brief cultural context for each dish

(C) 'Ramen' encompasses specific ingredients, preparation methods, regional variations, and cultural significance that 'Japanese noodle soup' cannot convey

(D) 'Chai' already means 'tea' in Hindi, so 'chai tea' literally says 'tea tea'

(E) Use the Korean names with brief English descriptions, helping readers learn the authentic terms while understanding the dishes

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## 6. Grammar Across Languages

### Circle the correct answer

51. What is 'word order' in grammar?

- (A) The order in which children learn words (B) How long words are in a language  
(C) The alphabetical order of words in a dictionary (D) The arrangement of subjects, verbs, and objects in a sentence

52. What is grammatical gender?

- (A) A type of grammar only used in European languages (B) The pronunciation difference between male and female speakers (C) Whether a word refers to a male or female person (D) A system where nouns are classified into categories (like masculine, feminine, neuter) that affect other words in the sentence

53. What are 'tones' in tonal languages?

- (A) Pitch patterns that change the meaning of a word—the same syllable spoken at different pitches means different things (B) The emotional tone of voice, which is the

most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) The volume at which words are spoken, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (D) Musical notes used instead of words, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

**54.** What is an 'agglutinative' language?

(A) A language that uses glue to connect writing (B) A language that builds complex words by attaching many prefixes and suffixes to a root word (C) A language with very short words only (D) A language with no grammar rules

**55.** What does SVO stand for in linguistics?

(A) Simple Verb Ordering, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (B) Subject-Verb-Object, the basic word order used in English and many other languages (C) Spoken Versus Original, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) Standard Vocabulary Organization, as this directly follows from the underlying principles

**56.** Why do some languages put the verb at the end of the sentence (SOV) instead of in the middle like English (SVO)?

(A) Because their speakers think backwards (B) Because only primitive languages use SOV (C) Different languages evolved different ways to organize information, with SOV being the most common word order worldwide (D) Because those languages haven't finished developing yet

## **Write the answer**

**57.** Why do some languages have grammatical gender while others (like English) have largely lost it?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**58.** How can a language function effectively without the verb 'to be,' as in some languages?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**59.** Why might a language have fifteen different words for 'you' depending on who you're addressing?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**60.** Why is it misleading to say one language is 'harder' or 'easier' than another?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Match each question to its answer**

1. An English speaker learning Japanese is confused that the verb always comes last. How would you explain this SOV pattern using familiar examples? →
2. You're trying to learn the grammatical gender of French nouns. What strategy would help you remember whether a word is masculine or feminine? →
3. You need to explain to a younger student why Mandarin Chinese doesn't have verb conjugations like Spanish does. How would you make this understandable? →
4. A classmate says 'English grammar is the normal way and other languages are weird.' How would you use examples from cross-linguistic grammar to respond? →
5. You're creating a comparison chart of grammar features across five languages. What categories would you include to show meaningful differences? →

(A) Word order (SVO/SOV/VSO), grammatical gender (yes/no/how many), tones (yes/no), verb conjugation complexity, and use of honorific levels

(B) Learn each noun with its article (le/la) as a single unit rather than trying to memorize gender rules separately

(C) Explain that Chinese uses context words (like 'yesterday' or 'tomorrow') to show when something happened, instead of changing the verb itself

(D) Show that English is the 'weird' one in many respects—most languages use SOV order, many have grammatical gender, and English's spelling is unusually irregular

(E) Compare it to English sentences like 'I the book read' and explain that in Japanese, the listener knows the action is coming at the end, like saving the punchline for last

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## 7. Translation and Interpretation

### Circle the correct answer

61. What is the term for converting written text from one language to another?

- (A) Interpretation (B) Translation (C) Transcription (D) Transliteration

62. What is the difference between translation and interpretation?

- (A) Translation is spoken; interpretation is written (B) They are the same thing (C) Translation is faster than interpretation (D) Translation is written; interpretation is spoken

63. What is a 'source language' in translation?

- (A) The most common language in the world (B) The original language being translated from (C) The language being translated into (D) The translator's native language

**64.** What does 'simultaneous interpretation' mean?

(A) Interpreting after the speaker finishes (B) Interpreting at the same time as the speaker talks (C) Interpreting a written document quickly (D) Two interpreters working together

**65.** What is a 'bilingual dictionary' used for in translation?

(A) Finding word equivalents between two languages (B) Studying the history of languages (C) Practicing pronunciation (D) Learning grammar rules of one language

**66.** Why can't idioms usually be translated word-for-word into another language?

(A) Their meaning comes from culture, not individual words (B) Other languages don't have idioms (C) They contain too many words (D) Idioms use special grammar rules

## Write the answer

**67.** Explain why context matters when translating the English word 'bank.'

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**68.** Why do professional translators usually translate into their native language rather than out of it?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**69.** What does it mean when people say something was 'lost in translation'?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**70.** Why might a poem be especially difficult to translate compared to a news article?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Match each question to its answer

**1.** The Spanish idiom 'tomar el pelo' literally translates as 'to take the hair.' Apply your knowledge of idioms to determine its likely meaning. →

**2.** A translator is working on a Japanese menu for an American restaurant. The dish '親子丼' (oyakodon) literally means 'parent-and-child bowl.' Apply translation strategies to create an appropriate English menu description. →

**3.** You need to translate a children's book that mentions 'Thanksgiving' for readers in Japan. Apply cultural adaptation principles to handle this reference. →

**4.** A sign at a hotel says 'Please don't disturb' in English. Apply your knowledge to identify the best French translation. →

**5.** You are interpreting for a doctor's visit where the patient speaks Mandarin and the doctor speaks English. The patient says they have '上火' (shàng huǒ), which literally means 'rising fire.' Apply interpretation skills to handle this. →

- (A) Ne pas déranger (Do not disturb)
  - (B) Describe the actual ingredients: chicken and egg rice bowl
  - (C) Add a brief explanation of the holiday while keeping the reference
  - (D) To joke with someone or pull their leg
  - (E) Explain the concept as traditional Chinese medicine symptoms like inflammation or irritation
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## 8. Endangered Languages and Preservation

### Circle the correct answer

71. Approximately how many languages are spoken in the world today?

- (A) About 50,000 (B) About 200 (C) About 7,000 (D) About 1,500

72. What does it mean when a language is classified as 'endangered'?

- (A) It has been banned by a government (B) It is very difficult to learn (C) It has few remaining speakers and is at risk of no longer being spoken (D) It is spoken in a dangerous country

73. What organization maintains the Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger?

- (A) National Geographic (B) The World Health Organization (C) UNESCO (D) The United Nations General Assembly

74. What is a 'language isolate'?

- (A) A language that has never been written down (B) A language with only one speaker left (C) A language spoken on an island (D) A language with no known relatives in any language family

75. What does 'language revitalization' mean?

- (A) Efforts to increase the use and number of speakers of a declining language (B) Creating a new language from scratch (C) Translating all books into one language (D) Making a language official in a country

76. Explain why the loss of a language means more than just losing words.

- (A) Other languages can express the same ideas, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (B) Language loss only affects vocabulary, making this the most widely accepted explanation (C) Lost languages can always be reconstructed, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) Languages carry unique cultural knowledge, worldviews, oral histories, and ways of understanding the world

### Write the answer

**77.** Why are indigenous languages particularly vulnerable to endangerment?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**78.** Describe how urbanization can contribute to language endangerment.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**79.** Explain what 'intergenerational transmission' means and why it is critical for language survival.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**80.** Why do linguists compare language loss to biodiversity loss?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Match each question to its answer**

- 1.** The Hawaiian language had fewer than 50 child speakers in the 1980s. Apply your knowledge of revitalization strategies to explain how Hawaiian immersion schools (Pūnana Leo) helped reverse this decline. →
- 2.** A community has 200 elderly speakers of a language but no children are learning it. Apply UNESCO's classification system to categorize this language's endangerment level. →
- 3.** A linguist wants to document an unwritten language before its last speakers pass away. Apply documentation methods to describe what they should record. →
- 4.** Apply the concept of language rights to explain why a country should allow court proceedings in indigenous languages. →
- 5.** Technology is being used to help preserve endangered languages. Apply your knowledge to explain how a mobile app could support language revitalization. →

(A) Apps can provide interactive lessons, pronunciation guides, dictionaries, and daily practice accessible anywhere

(B) Immersion schools created environments where children could learn and use Hawaiian daily, restoring intergenerational transmission

(C) Critically endangered — the youngest speakers are elderly, and no children are learning it

(D) Record spoken stories, conversations, songs, vocabulary lists, grammar patterns, and cultural knowledge

(E) Speakers have the right to access justice in their own language, and forcing a dominant language creates barriers

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## **9. World Languages & Linguistics**

### **Circle the correct answer**

- 81.** What is the largest language family in the world by number of speakers?  
(A) Niger-Congo (B) Afro-Asiatic (C) Indo-European (D) Sino-Tibetan
- 82.** What term describes the hypothetical ancestor language that a family of languages descended from?  
(A) Proto-language (B) Dialect (C) Pidgin (D) Creole
- 83.** Which language family does Mandarin Chinese belong to?  
(A) Austronesian (B) Sino-Tibetan (C) Uralic (D) Indo-European
- 84.** What is the process called when one language gradually changes into two or more separate languages?  
(A) Language divergence (B) Language extinction (C) Language convergence (D) Language borrowing
- 85.** Which branch of Indo-European includes French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese?  
(A) Germanic languages (B) Slavic languages (C) Celtic languages (D) Romance languages
- 86.** What is the name for the study of how languages change over time?  
(A) Sociolinguistics (B) Computational linguistics (C) Psycholinguistics (D) Historical linguistics

## Write the answer

- 87.** Why do linguists group languages into families?  
Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
- 88.** How did the spread of the Roman Empire help create the Romance languages?  
Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
- 89.** What does it mean when two words in different languages are 'cognates'?  
Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
- 90.** Why is Proto-Indo-European considered a 'reconstructed' language?  
Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Match each question to its answer

1. What is the difference between a language and a dialect? →
2. The English word 'father,' German 'Vater,' and Latin 'pater' are cognates. What sound pattern do you notice? →
3. If you know that 'agua' means 'water' in Spanish, predict what it might be in Portuguese. →
4. English uses 'is' and German uses 'ist' for 'to be' (third person). What does this suggest about the two languages? →

5. The word 'telephone' comes from Greek roots 'tele' (far) and 'phone' (sound). Apply this knowledge: what does 'telescope' likely relate to? →

- (A) Seeing things far away
  - (B) They are related and share a common Germanic ancestor
  - (C) The initial consonant shifted from 'p' to 'f' in Germanic languages
  - (D) There is no clear scientific boundary; the distinction is often based on political and social factors
  - (E) Agua (or very similar)
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## 10. World Languages & Linguistics

### Circle the correct answer

91. What type of writing system uses symbols that each represent a single consonant or vowel sound?

- (A) Syllabary (B) Logography (C) Alphabet (D) Pictography

92. What writing system does Japanese use where each symbol represents a whole syllable?

- (A) Braille, following the standard grammatical conventions of modern English (B) Syllabary (hiragana and katakana) (C) Alphabet, according to the widely accepted rules of written expression (D) Logography, based on the established rules of syntax and sentence structure

93. What type of writing system does Chinese use, where symbols represent whole words or ideas?

- (A) Syllabic (B) Alphabetic (C) Phonetic (D) Logographic

94. What is Braille?

- (A) An ancient writing system from Egypt, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) A secret code used by spies, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) A tactile writing system using raised dots that allows blind and visually impaired people to read (D) A computer programming language, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

95. What is the name of the writing system used in ancient Egypt that used picture-like symbols?

- (A) Hieroglyphics (B) Morse code (C) Runes (D) Cuneiform

**96.** What is American Sign Language (ASL)?

(A) A simplified version of English for deaf people (B) A universal sign language used worldwide (C) A way to spell English words with your hands (D) A complete visual language using hand shapes, movements, and facial expressions

## Write the answer

**97.** Why do alphabets need fewer symbols than logographic systems?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**98.** Why does Japanese use three different writing systems (hiragana, katakana, and kanji)?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**99.** How did the Rosetta Stone help scholars decode Egyptian hieroglyphics?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**100.** Why do some writing systems go right-to-left (like Arabic and Hebrew) while others go left-to-right?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Match each question to its answer

**1.** What does it mean that Braille is a 'tactile' writing system? →

**2.** You see an unfamiliar script where each symbol seems to represent a consonant-vowel pair like 'ka,' 'ki,' 'ku.' What type of writing system is this likely to be? →

**3.** If you were creating a writing system for a language with only 5 vowels and 10 consonants, would an alphabet or syllabary be more efficient? Why? →

**4.** A friend says that Chinese must be a difficult language because it has thousands of characters. How would you respond? →

**5.** You notice that the Korean alphabet (Hangul) groups letters into syllable blocks. Apply your knowledge: is Hangul more like an alphabet or a syllabary? →

(A) An alphabet would need only 15 symbols, while a syllabary could need 50+ symbols (each consonant-vowel combination), so an alphabet is more efficient

(B) It is designed to be read by touch rather than by sight

(C) The writing system is complex, but the spoken language is not inherently harder; all languages present different challenges

(D) It is an alphabet because each symbol represents an individual sound, but the visual grouping into blocks gives it a syllabary-like appearance

(E) A syllabary

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# 11. World Languages & Linguistics

## Circle the correct answer

**101.** What is the term for a regional or social variety of a language with distinctive vocabulary, grammar, or pronunciation?

- (A) Jargon (B) Accent (C) Slang (D) Dialect

**102.** What is code-switching?

- (A) Translating a document from one language to another (B) Forgetting how to speak your native language (C) Alternating between two or more languages or language varieties in a single conversation (D) Learning a secret language

**103.** What does it mean when a language is 'endangered'?

- (A) It is spoken by too many people (B) It has very few remaining speakers and is at risk of no longer being spoken (C) It has too many difficult grammar rules (D) It is a dangerous language to learn

**104.** What is bilingualism?

- (A) Studying languages in school without speaking them (B) Translating books for a living (C) Speaking one language very well (D) The ability to speak two languages with proficiency

**105.** What is a lingua franca?

- (A) The official language of France, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (B) A language that no one speaks natively, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (C) A language used as a common means of communication between speakers of different native languages (D) The oldest language in the world, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

**106.** What is language revitalization?

- (A) Banning foreign languages in a country (B) Efforts to reverse the decline of an endangered language and increase its use (C) Teaching everyone in the world to speak one language (D) Creating a brand new language from scratch

## Write the answer

**107.** Why do people code-switch between languages in a conversation?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**108.** Why might a language become endangered?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**109.** How does bilingualism affect the brain?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**110.** Why is it incorrect to say that some dialects are 'wrong' or 'bad' versions of a language?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Match each question to its answer**

**1.** What is the difference between a pidgin and a creole? →

**2.** Your friend says 'I ain't going nowhere' and a teacher corrects them to say 'I am not going anywhere.' Using your sociolinguistic knowledge, explain what is happening. →

**3.** You are at a family gathering where your grandmother speaks only Spanish and your school friends speak only English. How might you use code-switching? →

**4.** A community wants to revitalize their endangered language, which has only 50 elderly speakers left. What would be the most effective first step? →

**5.** In Japan, people use different levels of formality depending on who they are speaking to. Apply your knowledge: why might formal and informal speech registers exist in many languages? →

(A) A pidgin is a simplified language created for trade between groups, while a creole develops when children grow up speaking a pidgin as their native language

(B) Speak Spanish with your grandmother and switch to English with friends, possibly mixing both when speaking with bilingual family members

(C) They reflect social relationships, showing respect, distance, or familiarity between speakers

(D) Create immersion programs where the elderly speakers teach the language to young children

(E) Both sentences follow consistent grammar rules of their respective dialects; the teacher is applying Standard English rules, but 'ain't' and double negatives are systematic features of some dialects, not errors

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## **12. World Languages & Linguistics**

### **Circle the correct answer**

**111.** What is machine translation?

(A) A device that records speech in one language (B) The use of computers to automatically translate text from one language to another (C) A machine that reads books aloud (D) A robot that speaks multiple languages

**112.** What does NLP stand for in the context of computer science?

(A) Numerical Logic Processing (B) Network Language Protocol (C) New Language Program (D) Natural Language Processing

**113.** What is a corpus in computational linguistics?

(A) A grammar textbook, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) A type of computer virus, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (C) A translation dictionary, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) A large collection of text or speech data used to study language patterns

**114.** What language technology does a virtual assistant like Siri or Alexa use to understand spoken commands?

(A) Speech recognition (also called automatic speech recognition or ASR) (B) A human translator hidden inside the device (C) A dictionary of every possible sentence (D) A camera that reads lip movements

**115.** What is a chatbot?

(A) A computer program designed to simulate conversation with human users (B) A program that translates chats between languages (C) A chat room where only bots are allowed (D) A robot that walks and talks like a human

**116.** What career involves working with language data to improve search engines, translation tools, and voice assistants?

(A) Foreign language teacher (B) Speech therapist (C) Librarian (D) Computational linguist

## **Write the answer**

**117.** Why is translating between languages difficult for computers?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**118.** How do modern machine translation systems learn to translate?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**119.** Why does Google Translate sometimes produce awkward or incorrect translations?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**120.** What is sentiment analysis and how might a company use it?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Match each question to its answer**

1. How has machine translation changed the way people travel internationally? →
2. You want to use Google Translate to help with a French homework assignment. What is the best way to use it responsibly? →
3. A local restaurant has a menu that was clearly translated by machine translation. The English version says 'Exploded chicken with mountain vegetables.' What likely went wrong? →
4. You are building a simple chatbot that answers questions about your school. What information would you need to program into it? →
5. A speech recognition system keeps misunderstanding your friend who speaks English with a strong accent. Apply your NLP knowledge: what is likely causing this? →

(A) School hours, location, contact information, frequently asked questions, class schedules, and rules for recognizing different question types

(B) It has made it possible to communicate in countries where you do not speak the language by providing instant translations on phones

(C) The system was trained mainly on standard accents and does not have enough data for your friend's accent variety

(D) The MT system translated cooking terms literally instead of using the correct culinary terms in English (probably 'popcorn chicken' or 'stir-fried chicken')

(E) Use it as a reference tool to check specific words or phrases, but write your own sentences to practice and learn the language

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## 13. Language Families of the World

### Circle the correct answer

**121.** Analyze why colonial languages like English, Spanish, and French became widespread while many indigenous language families remained geographically limited.

(A) Colonial powers used military, economic, and political dominance to impose their languages across conquered territories

(B) Because indigenous languages aren't real languages

(C) Because colonial languages are more beautiful

(D) Because colonial languages are easier to learn

**122.** Why do formal and informal greeting registers exist in most languages, and what purpose does this distinction serve?

(A) Only some languages have formal and informal registers, making this the most widely accepted explanation

(B) Formal greetings are outdated and purposeless, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

(C) They help speakers navigate social relationships by signaling the level of respect, familiarity, or social distance appropriate to the situation

(D) Informal greetings are always rude, which is the most

common explanation for this phenomenon

**123.** Evaluate whether false cognates are more of a help or a hindrance when learning a new language.

(A) They're entirely harmful and should be ignored, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) They're a short-term hindrance but a long-term help—the mistakes they cause are memorable learning moments that deepen understanding of both languages (C) They don't affect language learning at all, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (D) They're entirely helpful and never cause problems, making this the most widely accepted explanation

**124.** Analyze why King Sejong designed the Korean alphabet (Hangul) in 1443 when Chinese characters were already used in Korea.

(A) Chinese characters were too complex for common people, so Sejong created a simple, logical alphabet to increase literacy among all Koreans (B) Sejong wanted to show off, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (C) China forced Korea to stop using Chinese characters, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) Korean sounds couldn't be written in any existing system, making this the most widely accepted explanation

**125.** You're hosting a multicultural potluck. How would you use food vocabulary from different languages to make everyone feel welcome on the menu?

(A) Only use English names for everything, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (B) Don't label any food and let people guess, making this the most widely accepted explanation (C) Label dishes in both English and their original language, include pronunciation guides, and add brief cultural context for each dish (D) Only use foreign names with no translation, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

**126.** You're creating a comparison chart of grammar features across five languages. What categories would you include to show meaningful differences?

(A) Only alphabet type and number of letters, and this principle applies across similar situations (B) Only the number of words in each language, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) Word order (SVO/SOV/VSO), grammatical gender (yes/no/how many), tones (yes/no), verb conjugation complexity, and use of honorific levels (D) Only whether the language is spoken or written, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

## Write the answer

**127.** Examine why two different translators might produce different but equally valid translations of the same text.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**128.** What does 'language revitalization' mean?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**129.** Evaluate whether studying language families is practical for students or just an academic exercise.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**130.** How does the Hawaiian greeting 'Aloha' carry more meaning than a simple 'hello'?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Match each question to its answer

**1.** What is etymology? →

**2.** You see a sign with text written right-to-left in flowing, connected script. Which script family is it most likely from? →

**3.** Analyze why the French have more specific vocabulary for bread types than English speakers do. →

**4.** An English speaker learning Japanese is confused that the verb always comes last. How would you explain this SOV pattern using familiar examples? →

**5.** Analyze the ethical responsibilities of a medical interpreter compared to a literary translator. →

(A) France's deep bread culture, with centuries of baking traditions and legal definitions for bread types, created the need for precise vocabulary

(B) Compare it to English sentences like 'I the book read' and explain that in Japanese, the listener knows the action is coming at the end, like saving the punchline for last

(C) The study of the origin and history of words

(D) Arabic or a related script like Persian or Urdu

(E) Medical interpreters must prioritize accuracy for patient safety; literary translators balance accuracy with artistic expression

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## 14. Language Families of the World

### Circle the correct answer

**131.** What is Mandarin Chinese classified under in terms of language family?

(A) Austronesian (B) Indo-European (C) Sino-Tibetan (D) Afro-Asiatic

**132.** Why might learning just five basic phrases in someone's language make a big difference in how they respond to you?

(A) Because greetings are the hardest part of any language (B) Because it shows respect for their culture and willingness to meet them on their terms (C) Because people only respect those who speak their language perfectly (D) Because five phrases is enough to have a full conversation

**133.** What is an alphabet?

(A) Any system of writing including pictures (B) A writing system that only uses numbers (C) A writing system where individual letters represent individual sounds (D) A set of grammar rules

**134.** Compare how food taboos (kosher, halal, vegetarianism) are reflected in different languages' vocabulary.

(A) Languages develop specialized vocabulary around their food rules—more precise terms for what's permitted vs. forbidden, reflecting the cultural importance of these distinctions (B) Only some languages have food-related words, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) Food taboos have no effect on vocabulary, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) All cultures have identical food rules, making this the most widely accepted explanation

**135.** Is studying comparative grammar practical for middle school students, or is it too abstract? Defend your position.

(A) Middle schoolers can't understand grammar at all, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) It's practical because comparing grammar across languages develops critical thinking, reduces language-learning anxiety, and builds appreciation for linguistic diversity (C) Only one language's grammar should be studied, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) Grammar comparison is only for university linguists, and this principle applies across similar situations

**136.** Why are indigenous languages particularly vulnerable to endangerment?

(A) Indigenous languages are too simple to survive (B) Indigenous peoples choose to stop speaking their languages (C) Colonization, forced assimilation, and dominance of majority languages have disrupted transmission to younger generations (D) Indigenous languages were never widely spoken

## **Write the answer**

**137.** A new language is discovered in a remote area. What steps would a linguist take to determine which language family it belongs to?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**138.** Analyze why some cultures greet with physical contact (handshakes, kisses) while others prefer non-contact greetings (bowing, pressing palms).

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**139.** Some people argue that loanwords 'pollute' a language and should be replaced with native words. Evaluate this position.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**140.** What is a 'culinary loanword'?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Match each question to its answer**

**1.** Why might a language have fifteen different words for 'you' depending on who you're addressing? →

**2.** A company used machine translation to create their website in 12 languages without human review. Evaluate the risks of this approach. →

**3.** A government proposes spending \$10 million on endangered language preservation programs instead of building new roads. Evaluate this decision. →

**4.** Compare the Indo-European and Sino-Tibetan language families. What is a major structural difference between most languages in these two families? →

**5.** A new student who speaks Mandarin joins your class. How would you welcome them appropriately using your knowledge of Chinese greetings and culture? →

(A) Say 'Nǐ hǎo' with a friendly smile, and avoid physical contact like hugs since Chinese culture generally values personal space in greetings

(B) Most Indo-European languages use inflection (word endings change) while many Sino-Tibetan languages use tone (pitch changes meaning)

(C) The language's grammar encodes social relationships—age, status, intimacy, and respect—directly into pronoun choice

(D) Both are valid needs; language loss is irreversible while roads can be built later, but communities also need infrastructure

(E) High risk of embarrassing errors, cultural insensitivity, and loss of brand voice across different markets

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## **15. Language Families of the World**

### **Circle the correct answer**

**141.** Some linguists argue that all human languages may ultimately descend from a single ancestor. Evaluate the challenges of proving or disproving this 'Proto-World' hypothesis.

(A) It's easy to prove by comparing modern languages directly, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) The hypothesis is meaningless because languages don't change (C) It's already been proven by computer analysis, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) The time depth is too great—linguistic evidence degrades beyond about 10,000 years, making it impossible to prove or disprove connections between ancient language families

**142.** What is the Arabic word for 'peace' used in the common greeting 'As-salamu alaykum'?

(A) Salaam (B) Shukran (C) Marhaba (D) Alaykum

**143.** A friend says the Spanish word 'librería' means 'library.' Using your knowledge of false cognates, is this correct?

(A) No, 'librería' means 'bookstore' in Spanish—the word for library is 'biblioteca' (B) Yes, but only in some Spanish-speaking countries (C) Yes, it's a perfect cognate (D) No, it means 'freedom'

**144.** What writing system does Chinese use?

(A) Logographic characters where each symbol represents a word or meaningful unit (B) An alphabet like English (C) Only pictographs that look like what they represent (D) A system identical to Japanese

**145.** Your friend says 'chai tea latte' at a coffee shop. Using your knowledge of food loanwords, what's redundant about this phrase?

(A) 'Chai' already means 'tea' in Hindi, so 'chai tea' literally says 'tea tea' (B) 'Chai' means coffee, not tea, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) Nothing is redundant about it, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) 'Latte' is the redundant part, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

**146.** What is a 'source language' in translation?

(A) The language being translated into (B) The translator's native language (C) The most common language in the world (D) The original language being translated from

## Write the answer

**147.** Explain what 'intergenerational transmission' means and why it is critical for language survival.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**148.** What is a language family?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**149.** Your pen pal from Brazil writes 'Tchau!' at the end of their letter. Based on your knowledge of Portuguese greetings, what are they saying?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**150.** Why do some writing systems use an alphabet while others use characters that represent whole words?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Match each question to its answer

1. What is 'umami'? →

2. What is a 'bilingual dictionary' used for in translation? →

3. Design a community language preservation plan that includes at least 4 specific strategies for saving an endangered language with 500 remaining speakers. →

4. Design a 'Language Family Passport' activity for your class where students explore three different language families. What would each passport page include? →

5. What is the standard greeting in Japanese? →

(A) Each page features a language family with sample greetings, a mini family tree showing member languages, a map of where they're spoken, and a fun fact about the family's history

(B) A Japanese word for the fifth basic taste, described as savory or meaty

(C) Plan should include: immersion schools, elder-youth mentoring, digital documentation, community media, and cultural events in the language

(D) Finding word equivalents between two languages

(E) Konnichiwa

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## 16. Language Families of the World

### Circle the correct answer

**151.** Compare how 'How are you?' is actually used in English versus what the words literally mean. Why is this significant?

(A) English speakers don't understand their own language, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) It's always used as a sincere health inquiry (C) It functions as a ritual greeting expecting 'fine' as a response, not a genuine health inquiry—showing greetings carry social function beyond literal meaning (D) This only applies to English, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

**152.** Should all countries adopt one universal writing system for easier global communication? Evaluate pros and cons.

(A) Yes, the Latin alphabet should replace all others, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) No change is ever justified for any writing system, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (C) While a universal system would simplify international communication, it would erase centuries of cultural heritage embodied in each script (D) Writing systems don't affect communication, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

**153.** Apply the concept of language rights to explain why a country should allow court proceedings in indigenous languages.

(A) Indigenous languages are too informal for legal proceedings (B) It doesn't matter what language is used in court (C) Speakers have the right to access justice in their own language, and forcing a dominant language creates barriers (D) Only one language should be used in courts for consistency

**154.** How do you say 'hello' in Swahili?

(A) Jambo (B) Kwaheri (C) Asante (D) Habari

**155.** Compare the challenges of learning to read in English versus Chinese. Why does each present unique difficulties?

(A) Both take exactly the same effort, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) Chinese is harder in every way, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (C) English has irregular spelling despite using an alphabet, while Chinese requires memorizing thousands of characters but each carries clear meaning (D) English is harder in every way, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

**156.** A friend argues that emoji are a new writing system. Using your knowledge, how would you respond?

(A) Emoji are a complete writing system equal to alphabets, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) Emoji have nothing to do with communication, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (C) Emoji will replace all alphabets soon, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) Emoji are useful symbols but lack the systematic grammar and comprehensive vocabulary needed to fully represent language like a true writing system

## **Write the answer**

**157.** What does SVO stand for in linguistics?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**158.** Compare the translation challenges of translating from English to Chinese versus from English to Spanish. What structural differences create different challenges?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**159.** Compare the language situations in Papua New Guinea (850+ languages) and Iceland (1 language). What factors explain such different levels of linguistic diversity?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**160.** How can a language function effectively without the verb 'to be,' as in some languages?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Match each question to its answer

1. A sign at a hotel says 'Please don't disturb' in English. Apply your knowledge to identify the best French translation. →

2. What is the term for converting written text from one language to another? →

3. Should all languages simplify their grammar to make them easier to learn as second languages? Evaluate this proposal. →

4. What is a 'loanword'? →

5. Create a phrasebook page for travelers visiting your community. Include five essential phrases and explain why you chose each one. →

(A) Translation

(B) Ne pas déranger (Do not disturb)

(C) A page with hello, thank you, please, excuse me, and 'where is...?' — chosen because these cover the most common social and practical needs a visitor would have

(D) Simplification would sacrifice cultural nuance and expressive capacity—grammar complexity serves communication needs that can't be reduced without losing meaning

(E) A word adopted from one language into another with little or no modification

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## Answer Key

1. D — A group of languages that developed from the same ancient ancestor language
2. D — Indo-European
3. D — Sino-Tibetan
4. D — About 7,000
5. A — Afro-Asiatic

6. B — Because languages branch off from common ancestors, with closely related languages sharing more recent ancestors
7. Because they diverged thousands of years ago and changed independently over time
8. Because humans have lived in Africa the longest, giving languages the most time to diversify
9. It has no known relatives and doesn't belong to any established language family
10. It shows that ancient migrations spread a single language across a vast area, which then diversified into many languages  
Matching (Language Families of the World): 1→A, 2→C, 3→E, 4→D, 5→B
11. B — Konnichiwa
12. D — Merci
13. C — I bow to you (a respectful greeting)
14. D — Salaam
15. C — Jambo
16. A — Different cultures place different importance on acknowledging time context in social interactions
17. Because it shows respect for their culture and willingness to meet them on their terms
18. It's a cultural convention wishing the person multiple good days, reflecting a warm and generous greeting style
19. Aloha encompasses love, compassion, peace, and the spirit of mutual regard—it's a way of life, not just a word
20. These languages encode social relationships and respect levels directly into their grammar through honorific systems  
Matching (Greetings and Basic Phrases): 1→B, 2→E, 3→D, 4→A, 5→C
21. A — A word in two different languages that looks and sounds similar because they share a common origin
22. B — The study of the origin and history of words
23. B — A word that looks similar in two languages but has a different meaning
24. B — Latin

25. A — A word adopted from one language into another with little or no modification
26. B — Because the Norman Conquest of 1066 brought French-speaking rulers to England, and French vocabulary entered English through centuries of political and cultural influence
27. French-speaking nobles ate the meat (using French words) while English-speaking peasants raised the animals (using Germanic words)
28. Cognates give you a head start on vocabulary because you can recognize words that look similar to ones you already know
29. Because scientists historically created technical terms from Greek and Latin roots, which were then adopted internationally
30. Because words travel between languages through trade, conquest, migration, and cultural contact, leaving traces of these interactions  
Matching (Cognates and Word Origins): 1→C, 2→A, 3→B, 4→D, 5→E
31. D — A writing system where individual letters represent individual sounds
32. C — Logographic characters where each symbol represents a word or meaningful unit
33. A — Cyrillic
34. A — Right to left
35. C — A tactile writing system using raised dots that allows blind and visually impaired people to read by touch
36. B — Different civilizations independently developed writing to solve the same problem but arrived at different solutions based on their language's structure
37. Writing allowed knowledge to be preserved and transmitted across time and distance without relying on human memory
38. Hiragana for native words, katakana for foreign loanwords, and kanji (Chinese characters) for meaning-rich content—each serves a distinct purpose
39. Because the basic 26 Latin letters don't have enough symbols to represent all the sounds in their language
40. European colonial expansion spread the Latin alphabet to the Americas, Africa, and Asia, often replacing or supplementing indigenous writing systems  
Matching (Writing Systems and Alphabets): 1→A, 2→E, 3→D, 4→B, 5→C
41. C — A food-related word borrowed from another language, like 'sushi' from

Japanese or 'pizza' from Italian

42. A — Nahuatl (the Aztec language)
43. B — Good appetite—a wish for someone to enjoy their meal
44. B — A Japanese word for the fifth basic taste, described as savory or meaty
45. D — Permissible or lawful, especially referring to food prepared according to Islamic dietary guidelines
46. A — Because each culture's unique food traditions create concepts that other cultures haven't developed specific words for
47. Languages that received tea through sea trade (via Fujian) say 'tea,' while those that received it overland (via Mandarin) say 'chai'
48. Each culture's comfort foods reflect their specific traditions and memories, showing that the emotional relationship with food is universal but the specific foods are culturally determined
49. Because communal meals carry social, spiritual, and cultural significance that simple dining vocabulary doesn't capture
50. Because these foods are so culturally specific that no existing English word could accurately describe them  
Matching (Food, Culture, and Language): 1→B, 2→D, 3→E, 4→C, 5→A
51. D — The arrangement of subjects, verbs, and objects in a sentence
52. D — A system where nouns are classified into categories (like masculine, feminine, neuter) that affect other words in the sentence
53. A — Pitch patterns that change the meaning of a word—the same syllable spoken at different pitches means different things
54. B — A language that builds complex words by attaching many prefixes and suffixes to a root word
55. B — Subject-Verb-Object, the basic word order used in English and many other languages
56. C — Different languages evolved different ways to organize information, with SOV being the most common word order worldwide
57. Grammatical gender is an inherited classification system from ancestral languages that some languages maintained while others simplified over time
58. These languages express existence, identity, and states through other

grammatical structures like word order, context, or different verb types

59. The language's grammar encodes social relationships—age, status, intimacy, and respect—directly into pronoun choice

60. Difficulty depends on what language you already speak—languages similar to your native language seem easier, while structurally different ones seem harder  
Matching (Grammar Across Languages): 1→E, 2→B, 3→C, 4→D, 5→A

61. B — Translation

62. D — Translation is written; interpretation is spoken

63. B — The original language being translated from

64. B — Interpreting at the same time as the speaker talks

65. A — Finding word equivalents between two languages

66. A — Their meaning comes from culture, not individual words

67. It has multiple meanings that translate to different words in other languages

68. They have deeper knowledge of nuance and natural expression in their native language

69. Some meaning or nuance couldn't be preserved when changing languages

70. Poetry relies on rhythm, rhyme, and wordplay that may not transfer between languages

Matching (Translation and Interpretation): 1→D, 2→B, 3→C, 4→A, 5→E

71. C — About 7,000

72. C — It has few remaining speakers and is at risk of no longer being spoken

73. C — UNESCO

74. D — A language with no known relatives in any language family

75. A — Efforts to increase the use and number of speakers of a declining language

76. D — Languages carry unique cultural knowledge, worldviews, oral histories, and ways of understanding the world

77. Colonization, forced assimilation, and dominance of majority languages have disrupted transmission to younger generations

78. When rural speakers move to cities, they often shift to the dominant language for economic and social reasons

79. Parents passing their language to children; without it, the language dies within a generation

80. Each language represents unique knowledge and perspectives that, once lost, cannot be recovered

Matching (Endangered Languages and Preservation): 1→B, 2→C, 3→D, 4→E, 5→A

81. C — Indo-European

82. A — Proto-language

83. B — Sino-Tibetan

84. A — Language divergence

85. D — Romance languages

86. D — Historical linguistics

87. Because the languages share a common ancestor and have similar features

88. Latin was carried to new regions and evolved differently in each area

89. They share a common historical origin and have similar forms

90. Because it was never written down and is pieced together from evidence in its descendant languages

Matching (World Languages & Linguistics): 1→D, 2→C, 3→E, 4→B, 5→A

91. C — Alphabet

92. B — Syllabary (hiragana and katakana)

93. D — Logographic

94. C — A tactile writing system using raised dots that allows blind and visually impaired people to read

95. A — Hieroglyphics

96. D — A complete visual language using hand shapes, movements, and facial expressions

97. Because alphabets reuse a small set of sound-symbols to spell any word, while logographic systems need a separate symbol for each word

98. Each system serves a different purpose: kanji for meanings, hiragana for grammar, and katakana for foreign words

99. It contained the same text in three scripts including Greek, which scholars

already knew

100. The direction is a historical convention that developed in different cultures; there is no inherent advantage to either direction

Matching (World Languages & Linguistics): 1→B, 2→E, 3→A, 4→C, 5→D

101. D — Dialect
102. C — Alternating between two or more languages or language varieties in a single conversation
103. B — It has very few remaining speakers and is at risk of no longer being spoken
104. D — The ability to speak two languages with proficiency
105. C — A language used as a common means of communication between speakers of different native languages
106. B — Efforts to reverse the decline of an endangered language and increase its use
107. To express ideas more precisely, show identity, build social connection, or because certain concepts are easier in one language
108. Because speakers shift to a dominant language for economic, social, or political reasons, and stop passing the language to their children
109. Research shows bilingualism can improve executive function, mental flexibility, and may delay the onset of dementia
110. Because all dialects are complete, rule-governed language systems; no dialect is linguistically superior to another
- Matching (World Languages & Linguistics): 1→A, 2→E, 3→B, 4→D, 5→C
111. B — The use of computers to automatically translate text from one language to another
112. D — Natural Language Processing
113. D — A large collection of text or speech data used to study language patterns
114. A — Speech recognition (also called automatic speech recognition or ASR)
115. A — A computer program designed to simulate conversation with human users
116. D — Computational linguist
117. Because languages have ambiguity, cultural context, idioms, and grammatical structures that do not map directly onto each other

118. They are trained on millions of parallel texts (documents that exist in multiple languages) using neural networks that learn patterns
119. Because it relies on statistical patterns rather than true understanding of meaning, context, and cultural nuance
120. It is the use of NLP to determine whether text expresses positive, negative, or neutral feelings; companies use it to analyze customer reviews and social media  
Matching (World Languages & Linguistics): 1→B, 2→E, 3→D, 4→A, 5→C
121. A — Colonial powers used military, economic, and political dominance to impose their languages across conquered territories
122. C — They help speakers navigate social relationships by signaling the level of respect, familiarity, or social distance appropriate to the situation
123. B — They're a short-term hindrance but a long-term help—the mistakes they cause are memorable learning moments that deepen understanding of both languages
124. A — Chinese characters were too complex for common people, so Sejong created a simple, logical alphabet to increase literacy among all Koreans
125. C — Label dishes in both English and their original language, include pronunciation guides, and add brief cultural context for each dish
126. C — Word order (SVO/SOV/VSO), grammatical gender (yes/no/how many), tones (yes/no), verb conjugation complexity, and use of honorific levels
127. Translation involves choices about style, tone, and interpretation that are subjective
128. Efforts to increase the use and number of speakers of a declining language
129. It's practical because understanding language relationships helps with learning new languages, appreciating cultural diversity, and understanding human migration history
130. Aloha encompasses love, compassion, peace, and the spirit of mutual regard—it's a way of life, not just a word  
Matching (Language Families of the World): 1→C, 2→D, 3→A, 4→B, 5→E
131. C — Sino-Tibetan
132. B — Because it shows respect for their culture and willingness to meet them on their terms
133. C — A writing system where individual letters represent individual sounds

134. A — Languages develop specialized vocabulary around their food rules—more precise terms for what's permitted vs. forbidden, reflecting the cultural importance of these distinctions
135. B — It's practical because comparing grammar across languages develops critical thinking, reduces language-learning anxiety, and builds appreciation for linguistic diversity
136. C — Colonization, forced assimilation, and dominance of majority languages have disrupted transmission to younger generations
137. Compare basic vocabulary, grammar patterns, and sound systems with known languages to find systematic similarities
138. Physical contact norms in greetings reflect cultural values about personal space, formality, and how warmth is expressed socially
139. Loanwords enrich languages by filling vocabulary gaps and reflecting cultural exchange; attempts to purge them often fail and deny a language's natural evolution
140. A food-related word borrowed from another language, like 'sushi' from Japanese or 'pizza' from Italian  
Matching (Language Families of the World): 1→C, 2→E, 3→D, 4→B, 5→A
141. D — The time depth is too great—linguistic evidence degrades beyond about 10,000 years, making it impossible to prove or disprove connections between ancient language families
142. A — Salaam
143. A — No, 'librería' means 'bookstore' in Spanish—the word for library is 'biblioteca'
144. A — Logographic characters where each symbol represents a word or meaningful unit
145. A — 'Chai' already means 'tea' in Hindi, so 'chai tea' literally says 'tea tea'
146. D — The original language being translated from
147. Parents passing their language to children; without it, the language dies within a generation
148. A group of languages that developed from the same ancient ancestor language
149. They're saying goodbye—'Tchau' is the Brazilian Portuguese way of saying 'bye'
150. Different civilizations independently developed writing to solve the same problem but arrived at different solutions based on their language's structure

Matching (Language Families of the World): 1→B, 2→D, 3→C, 4→A, 5→E

- 151. C — It functions as a ritual greeting expecting 'fine' as a response, not a genuine health inquiry—showing greetings carry social function beyond literal meaning
  - 152. C — While a universal system would simplify international communication, it would erase centuries of cultural heritage embodied in each script
  - 153. C — Speakers have the right to access justice in their own language, and forcing a dominant language creates barriers
  - 154. A — Jambo
  - 155. C — English has irregular spelling despite using an alphabet, while Chinese requires memorizing thousands of characters but each carries clear meaning
  - 156. D — Emoji are useful symbols but lack the systematic grammar and comprehensive vocabulary needed to fully represent language like a true writing system
  - 157. Subject-Verb-Object, the basic word order used in English and many other languages
  - 158. Chinese lacks verb conjugation and uses characters instead of an alphabet, creating fundamentally different challenges than Spanish
  - 159. Geographic isolation of communities, mountainous terrain, and limited contact between groups preserve many languages in PNG
  - 160. These languages express existence, identity, and states through other grammatical structures like word order, context, or different verb types
- Matching (Language Families of the World): 1→B, 2→A, 3→D, 4→E, 5→C

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