

The Study of Language 7th edition: Test Bank

Chapter 1 The Origins of Language

- 1 Approximately how many years ago did written language develop?
(a) 3,000 (b) 5,000 (c) 7,500 (d) 10,000 (e) 15,000
(f) 20,000
- 2 How many weeks before birth is the human auditory system functioning?
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 6 (e) 8 (f) 10
- 3 What percentage of human breathing while speaking involves exhalation?
(a) 50 (b) 60 (c) 70 (d) 75 (e) 80 (f) 90
- 4 What percentage of its eventual weight is a baby's brain at birth?
(a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 20 (d) 25 (e) 30 (f) 35
- 5 Which two parts of the human vocal tract are in different positions compared to other primates?
(a) larynx (b) lips (c) mouth (d) pharynx (e) teeth (f) tongue
- 6 What types of speech sounds are the earliest to appear in the vocalizations of human infants?
(a) breathy sounds (b) hissing sounds (c) sounds made at the back of the throat (d) sounds made with the lips (e) sounds made with the teeth (f) sounds made with the tongue
- 7 About how long ago do we start to find structural features in fossils that would indicate that a creature could produce speech-like sounds?
(a) 20,000 years (b) 35,000 years (c) 40,000 years (d) 50,000 years (e) 60,000 years (f) 70,000 years
- 8 Which theory suggests that the development of language was motivated by the need for early humans to cooperate?

(a) bow-wow (b) innateness (c) musical (d) physical adaptation (e) pooh-pooh (f) yo-he-ho

9 What language are children who spend their early years in isolation likely to develop?

(a) Egyptian (b) Greek (c) Hebrew (d) No language at all (e) Phrygian (f) Turkish

10 What two biological processes is it necessary to control in order to produce the intonation needed for speech?

(a) breathing (b) lip movement (c) swallowing (d) tongue control (e) vibration of the vocal folds (f) volume

Answer key

Chap 1: 1 (b), 2 (e), 3 (f), 4 (d), 5 (a), (d),
 6 (d), 7 (b), 8 (f), 9 (d), 10 (a), (e)