

# Language & Cognition Review Questions

1. Based on news coverage, Conor overestimates the frequency of child abductions and underestimates the frequency of credit card fraud, due to the:

- A. representativeness heuristic
- B. conjunction fallacy
- C. sunk-cost fallacy
- D. availability heuristic
- E. recognition heuristic

2. Tragic cases of children deprived of language exposure suggest the \_\_\_\_\_ for language development is around age 7.

- A. base rate
- B. refractory period
- C. mental set
- D. critical period
- E. algorithm

3. Suffixes & prefixes, such as -s to make a word plural or pre- to indicate before, are examples of: A. phonemes

- B. phonological rules
- C. morphemes
- D. syntactical rules
- E. universal grammar

4. The idea humans have a "language acquisition device" predisposing us to acquire language is most associated with:

- A. Amos Tversky & Daniel Kahneman
- B. Noam Chomsky
- C. B. F. Skinner
- D. Jean Piaget
- E. Benjamin Whorf

5. 5 year-old Sarah saw a breed of dog she hadn't seen before but recognized it as a dog by comparing it to her mental representation of a "most dog-like dog", known as a:

- A. mental set
- B. prototype
- C. algorithm
- D. phoneme
- E. wug

6. Tom assumes the eccentrically-dressed person he sees in a cafe must be an artist, even though professional artists are rare. Tom's assumption demonstrates:

- A. the representativeness heuristic
- B. the recognition heuristic
- C. the conjunction fallacy
- D. functional fixedness
- E. hindsight bias

7. The object of a sentence tends to come after the verb in English, while the opposite is true in German, illustrating that languages have different:

- A. phonemes
- B. overregularization
- C. exemplars
- D. phonological rules
- E. syntactical rules

8. Prior to a taste-test, 90 of 100 participants believed they would perform above average at recognizing their preferred beverage, suggesting:

- A. belief perseverance
- B. the availability heuristic
- C. the sunk-cost fallacy
- D. illusory superiority
- E. the framing effect

9. Around age 4, Eric began saying things like "I ranned to school" and "She sitted on the floor", demonstrating:

- A. syntactical rules
- B. telegraphic speech
- C. over-generalization
- D. mental set
- E. functional fixedness

10. During art class, students were challenged to list all the possible ways of creating a portrait, an exercise that would rely on their \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. convergent thinking
- B. recognition heuristic
- C. exemplar theory
- D. fast-mapping
- E. divergent thinking



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#### 1. D - the availability heuristic

Due to dramatic news coverage, Conor can probably bring examples of child abductions to mind, while credit card fraud is more common and thus less newsworthy, which may cause him to underestimate its occurrence.

# 2. D - critical period

The critical period for developing full fluency in one's first language is estimated to end somewhere around age 7 or 8. Lacking exposure before this can result in persistent deficits in language use.

#### 3. C- morphemes

Morphemes are small units of language which have meaning. Since these suffixes and prefixes change meaning when added to words, they are considered to be morphemes.

#### 4. - B- Noam Chomsky

Noam Chomsky proposed that humans have a Language Acquisition Device that other animals lack, which enables us to pick up on the rules and structure of language provided we receive sufficient exposure.

#### 5. B - prototype

A prototype is a "best example" of a concept or category. Prototype theory suggests that we identify members of a category by comparing these new instances to existing mental prototypes.

#### 6. A - the representativeness heuristic

The representativeness heuristic suggests that we are likely to ignore base rates and rely on similarity to our prototypes when making decisions about group membership.

# 7. E - syntactical rules

Syntactical rules determine how words and phrases are combined to express ideas. The specifics of these rules, such as the order of subjects, verbs, and objects, can vary in different languages.

# 8. D - illusory superiority

Illusory superiority, or the "Lake Wobegon Effect", is a type of overconfidence in which the majority of people believe their abilities to be above average, even though this is statistically impossible.

#### 9. C - over-generalization

Over-generalization, or over-regularization, refers to extending grammatical rules such as "add -ed to a verb for past tense" to situations in which they don't apply. While this results in errors, it also reveals that young children can understand and apply grammatical rules.

#### **10.** E - divergent thinking

Divergent thinking refers to coming up with multiple unrelated and often creative solutions to a problem or task, rather than focusing on finding a single solution (convergent thinking).