

### Question 1

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Is everything that preschool children know about language taught to them by their parents (and others in their homes)?

**YES:** no replies (maybe some were lost)

**NO:** Children are also exposed to language outside of their home environments. Additionally, television plays a big role in language learning. Another possibility is that children are equipped with an innate genetic capacity that enables them to learn language. (7)

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### Question 2

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Given that foreign languages in the U.S. are taught to high school and college-aged students, is this the best age for learning a second language?

**YES:** These individuals already have a thorough understanding of their native language that allows for comparison to the language being learned, thereby facilitating learning. (1)

**NO:** Children acquire languages better when they are young, before they enter elementary school. This is because young children's brains are more open to new concepts. (9)

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### Question 3

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Is language ability among students at all levels of education on the decline in the U.S.?

**YES:** This decline is the result of teachers being replaced by computers and new technology, along with an overall decrease in educational standards in the U.S. These factors promote a decreased vocabulary in children. (3)

**NO:** Language ability has remained constant and may even be improving due to increased access to technology at a younger age. However, words tend to be less formal and slang has become more prevalent. (8)

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### Question 4

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Are dialects simply the degraded and uneducated forms of real languages?

**YES:** Dialects are specific to certain regions and result from a kind of laziness of correct language. (1)

**NO:** There is no 'real' language. Dialects represent the evolution of languages within different geographical locations. They are modified forms that account for accents and heritage. (9)

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### Question 5

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Do children wait until they enter school before they learn about the grammar of their language?

**YES:** This is the first time in life that the rules of a language are presented to the child. (1)

**NO:** Children know grammar before they enter school because they can speak it, they just don't know the terminology yet. They learn grammar through following their parents' examples, through being corrected by their parents, and through watching educational programs such as Sesame Street. (10)

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### Question 6

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Is thinking actually a process of using language silently in the mind?

**YES:** When you think, you talk silently to yourself. In order to think we must generate words. (6)

**NO:** Thinking is a separate process from language. Words may be a part of thinking, but the brain primarily makes observations and recognizes patterns. (5)

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## Question 7

Does the diversity of languages in the world mean that there were multiple sites from which these languages originated?

**YES:** People from different areas develop languages specific to their culture. Everyone is capable of learning any language, it just depends on the language of the environment as to which language a person will learn. (7)

**NO:** Diversity exists because languages evolved as time progressed and as people migrated to different locations. (6)

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## Question 8

Did the language ability of Homo Sapiens develop by an evolutionary process different from other human capacities; for example, upright walking?

**YES:** Language evolved more slowly because it was not necessary for survival. It is a result of the human ability for higher learning and understanding. Furthermore, one can walk upright without ever being around other humans, but language learning requires interaction with others. (6)

**NO:** As humans evolved physically, so did their brains. This allowed for the development of language. (6)

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## Question 9

Does language separate humans from other animals in a dramatic and unique way, like no other capacity separates one species from another?

**YES:** Language indicates a higher intelligence that is not present in other animals. Although other animals communicate, there is no system or formula to their communication. Furthermore, language allows humans to accomplish much more than other animals. (8)

**NO:** Other species communicate in different ways. Humans just use words instead of simple sounds. (3)

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## Question 10

Are humans the only species capable of acquiring and using a language?

**YES:** Humans are the only species that have the mental abilities that are necessary to use a language. (3)

**NO:** Other animals are able to use languages that are non-intelligible to humans. They simply use processes other than speaking and writing

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