

## **50 Important MCQ on Syntax, Pragmatics and Semantics for MAT Test English Linguistics**

**Syntax:**

**Which of the following is a constituent in a sentence?**

- a) Subject**
- b) Verb**
- c) Object**
- d) All of the above**

**Answer: d) All of the above**

**In the sentence "The cat chased the mouse," what is the syntactic function of "chased"?**

- a) Subject**
- b) Predicate**
- c) Object**
- d) Complement**

**Answer: b) Predicate**

**Which of the following sentences is syntactically incorrect?**

- a) She quickly ate the delicious cake.**
- b) Quickly she ate the delicious cake.**
- c) Ate she quickly the delicious cake.**
- d) She ate the delicious cake quickly.**

**Answer: c) Ate she quickly the delicious cake.**

**What is the syntactic role of "for" in the sentence "I bought a gift for my friend"?**

- a) Preposition
- b) Conjunction
- c) Determiner
- d) Adverb

**Answer: a) Preposition**

**Which of the following sentences demonstrates subject-verb agreement?**

- a) The dog barks loudly.
- b) The dog bark loudly.
- c) The dogs barks loudly.
- d) The dogs bark loudly.

**Answer: a) The dog barks loudly.**

**Pragmatics:**

**Pragmatics is the study of language in relation to:**

- a) Structure
- b) Meaning
- c) Context
- d) Sound

**Answer: c) Context**

**Which of the following best describes the implicature in the sentence "She didn't come to the party, but her absence was noted"?**

- a) She was expected to come to the party.
- b) Her absence was not important.
- c) She was not invited to the party.
- d) The party was not fun.

**Answer: a) She was expected to come to the party.**

**What does Grice's Cooperative Principle propose?**

- a) People always speak the truth.**
- b) People often say more than is necessary.**
- c) People try to make their conversation contributions as informative, truthful, relevant, and clear as required.**
- d) People avoid communication.**

**Answer: c) People try to make their conversation contributions as informative, truthful, relevant, and clear as required.**

**Which of the following is an example of a speech act?**

- a) "The weather is nice today."**
- b) "Pass the salt, please."**
- c) "The book is on the table."**
- d) "I like ice cream."**

**Answer: b) "Pass the salt, please."**

**What is the main focus of pragmatics?**

- a) The internal structure of words**
- b) How language is used in context**
- c) The grammatical rules of language**
- d) The historical development of languages**

**Answer: b) How language is used in context**

**Semantics:**

**Semantics is the study of:**

- a) How words are formed**

- b) How language is used in context**
- c) The meaning of words and sentences**
- d) The structure of sentences**

**Answer: c) The meaning of words and sentences**

**Which of the following is an example of a synonym?**

- a) Big - Small**
- b) Car - Vehicle**
- c) Fast - Slow**
- d) Run - Jump**

**Answer: b) Car - Vehicle**

**What does the term "polysemy" refer to?**

- a) Words that have multiple meanings**
- b) Words with opposite meanings**
- c) Words that sound similar**
- d) Words with specific cultural meanings**

**Answer: a) Words that have multiple meanings**

**What is the difference between entailment and presupposition?**

- a) Entailment involves the meaning of a word, while presupposition involves the context.**
- b) Entailment involves the context, while presupposition involves the meaning of a word.**
- c) Both entailment and presupposition involve context.**
- d) Both entailment and presupposition involve the meaning of a word.**

**Answer: a) Entailment involves the meaning of a word, while presupposition**

**involves the context.**

**Which theory of meaning suggests that the meaning of a word is determined by the objects or concepts it refers to?**

- a) Referential theory**
- b) Denotative theory**
- c) Sense theory**
- d) Truth-conditional semantics**

**Answer: a) Referential theory**

**What is the meaning of the term "homonym" in semantics?**

- a) Words with similar meanings**
- b) Words with opposite meanings**
- c) Words with the same spelling or pronunciation but different meanings**
- d) Words with ambiguous meanings**

**Answer: c) Words with the same spelling or pronunciation but different meanings**

**In the sentence "She bought a new dress," what does the word "new" contribute to the meaning?**

- a) It specifies the type of dress.**
- b) It indicates the action performed.**
- c) It describes the color of the dress.**
- d) It adds emphasis to the sentence.**

**Answer: a) It specifies the type of dress.**

**Which of the following is an example of hyponymy?**

- a) Vehicle - Car**

**b) Fast - Slow**

**c) Animal - Dog**

**d) Run - Jump**

**Answer: c) Animal - Dog**

**What is the relationship between the words "buy" and "sell"?**

**a) Synonyms**

**b) Antonyms**

**c) Homonyms**

**d) Hyponyms**

**Answer: b) Antonyms**

**Which of the following is an example of a semantic field?**

**a) Dog, Cat, Bird**

**b) Happy, Sad, Angry**

**c) Table, Chair, Desk**

**d) Eat, Sleep, Drink**

**Answer: a) Dog, Cat, Bird**

**What is the term for a word that has a more specific meaning within a larger category?**

**a) Hyponym**

**b) Hypernym**

**c) Synonym**

**d) Antonym**

**Answer: a) Hyponym**

**Which semantic theory suggests that the meaning of a word is its use in a**

**language?**

- a) Referential theory**
- b) Denotative theory**
- c) Sense theory**
- d) Pragmatic theory**

**Answer: d) Pragmatic theory**

**Which of the following is an example of semantic ambiguity?**

- a) The dog barks loudly.**
- b) She saw the man with the telescope.**
- c) I need to book a flight.**
- d) The bank is closed.**

**Answer: b) She saw the man with the telescope.**

**What does the term "prototype" refer to in semantics?**

- a) The most basic meaning of a word**
- b) The central or ideal example of a category**
- c) Words that have multiple meanings**
- d) Words with opposite meanings**

**Answer: b) The central or ideal example of a category**

**Which theory of meaning focuses on the relationship between language and the world?**

- a) Referential theory**
- b) Denotative theory**
- c) Sense theory**
- d) Pragmatic theory**



**Answer: a) Referential theory**

**What is the term for the relationship between a word and the concept it represents?**

- a) Reference**
- b) Denotation**
- c) Sense**
- d) Pragmatics**

**Answer: a) Reference**

**Which of the following is an example of semantic extension?**

- a) "Mouse" originally referring to the small rodent, now also referring to a computer accessory.**
- b) "Fast" originally meaning quick, now meaning secure.**
- c) "Table" originally referring to a piece of furniture, now also referring to a data structure.**
- d) "Cat" originally referring to a domestic animal, now also referring to a type of software.**

**Answer: a) "Mouse" originally referring to the small rodent, now also referring to a computer accessory.**

**What is the term for a word that has the same meaning as another word?**

- a) Hyponym**
- b) Hypernym**
- c) Synonym**
- d) Antonym**

**Answer: c) Synonym**

**In the sentence "The old man drives a fast car," what does "old" contribute**



to the meaning?

- a) It specifies the type of car.
- b) It indicates the action performed.
- c) It describes the age of the man.
- d) It adds emphasis to the sentence.

Answer: c) It describes the age of the man.

Which of the following is an example of semantic change through broadening?

- a) "Nice" originally meaning ignorant, now meaning pleasant.
- b) "Mouse" originally referring to a small rodent, now also referring to a computer accessory.
- c) "Awful" originally meaning awe-inspiring, now meaning terrible.
- d) "Gay" originally meaning happy, now primarily referring to homosexuality.

Answer: c) "Awful" originally meaning awe-inspiring, now meaning terrible.

What is the term for the study of the meaning of sentences and phrases?

- a) Syntax
- b) Pragmatics
- c) Semantics
- d) Phonology

Answer: c) Semantics

Which semantic relation describes the relationship between a word and its referent?

- a) Synonymy
- b) Antonymy

**c) Hyponymy**

**d) Referentiality**

**Answer: d) Referentiality**

**What is the term for a word that has a broader meaning and encompasses other words within it?**

**a) Hyponym**

**b) Hypernym**

**c) Synonym**

**d) Antonym**

**Answer: b) Hypernym**

**Which of the following best describes the concept of semantic roles?**

**a) The grammatical structure of sentences**

**b) The social context in which language is used**

**c) The specific roles that words play in a sentence based on their meaning**

**d) The phonological properties of words**

**Answer: c) The specific roles that words play in a sentence based on their meaning**

**Which semantic theory suggests that meaning arises from the relationship between words rather than their individual properties?**

**a) Referential theory**

**b) Denotative theory**

**c) Sense theory**

**d) Semantic network theory**

**Answer: d) Semantic network theory**

**That completes the set of 50 multiple-choice questions on Syntax, Pragmatics, and Semantics. Let me know if you need further assistance!**

**Which semantic relation describes the relationship between words that have opposite meanings?**

- a) Synonymy**
- b) Antonymy**
- c) Hyponymy**
- d) Polysemy**

**Answer: b) Antonymy**

**What is the term for words that have similar meanings but different forms?**

- a) Homophones**
- b) Homographs**
- c) Synonyms**
- d) Morphemes**

**Answer: c) Synonyms**

**Which of the following is an example of semantic narrowing?**

- a) "Nice" originally meaning ignorant, now meaning pleasant.**
- b) "Mouse" originally referring to a small rodent, now also referring to a computer accessory.**
- c) "Awful" originally meaning awe-inspiring, now meaning terrible.**
- d) "Gay" originally meaning happy, now primarily referring to homosexuality.**

**Answer: d) "Gay" originally meaning happy, now primarily referring to homosexuality.**

**What is the term for the study of meaning in language beyond the level of the sentence or clause?**

- a) Syntax
- b) Pragmatics
- c) Semantics
- d) Morphology

**Answer: b) Pragmatics**

**Which of the following best describes the concept of presupposition?**

- a) The literal meaning of a word or phrase
- b) The social context in which language is used
- c) The implied meaning that is taken for granted in a sentence
- d) The phonological properties of words

**Answer: c) The implied meaning that is taken for granted in a sentence**

**Which theory of meaning emphasizes the importance of context in determining meaning?**

- a) Referential theory
- b) Denotative theory
- c) Sense theory
- d) Pragmatic theory

**Answer: d) Pragmatic theory**

**What is the term for words that have the same spelling but different meanings and pronunciations?**

- a) Homophones
- b) Homographs
- c) Synonyms
- d) Morphemes

**Answer: b) Homographs**

**In the sentence "John gave Mary a book," what is the semantic role of "John"?**

- a) Agent**
- b) Theme**
- c) Recipient**
- d) Goal**

**Answer: a) Agent**

**Which of the following is an example of semantic bleaching?**

- a) "Nice" originally meaning ignorant, now meaning pleasant.**
- b) "Mouse" originally referring to a small rodent, now also referring to a computer accessory.**
- c) "Awful" originally meaning awe-inspiring, now meaning terrible.**
- d) "Gay" originally meaning happy, now primarily referring to homosexuality.**

**Answer: a) "Nice" originally meaning ignorant, now meaning pleasant.**

**What is the term for the phenomenon where the meaning of a word becomes weaker over time?**

- a) Semantic shift**
- b) Semantic extension**
- c) Semantic narrowing**
- d) Semantic bleaching**

**Answer: d) Semantic bleaching**

**Which semantic relation describes the relationship between words that are part of the same category?**

- a) Synonymy**

**b) Antonymy**

**c) Hyponymy**

**d) Holonymy**

**Answer: c) Hyponymy**

**In the sentence "The cat chased the mouse," what is the semantic role of "the cat"?**

**a) Agent**

**b) Theme**

**c) Recipient**

**d) Goal**

**Answer: a) Agent**

**What is the term for the study of language in use and the effects of context on meaning?**

**a) Syntax**

**b) Pragmatics**

**c) Semantics**

**d) Phonology**

**Answer: b) Pragmatics**

**Which of the following is an example of semantic change through metaphor?**

**a) "Nice" originally meaning ignorant, now meaning pleasant.**

**b) "Mouse" originally referring to a small rodent, now also referring to a computer accessory.**

**c) "Awful" originally meaning awe-inspiring, now meaning terrible.**

**d) "Gay" originally meaning happy, now primarily referring to homosexuality.**

**Answer: d) "Gay" originally meaning happy, now primarily referring to homosexuality.**

**What is the term for words that have the same pronunciation but different meanings and/or spellings?**

**a) Homophones**

**b) Homographs**

**c) Synonyms**

**d) Morphemes**

**Answer: a) Homophones**