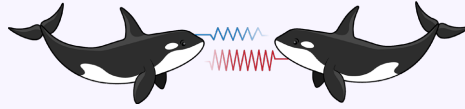


## TOPIC: THE STRUCTURE OF LANGUAGE

### Language

**Communication:** The process of exchanging information or \_\_\_\_\_ between organisms.



**Language:** A uniquely human skill involving a structured system of symbols and rules used to communicate complex ideas and information.

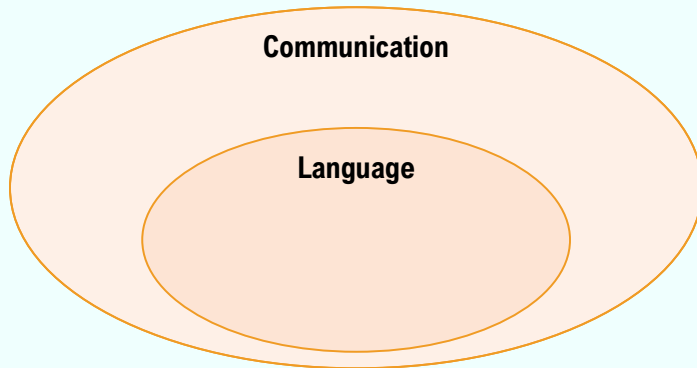
1. Can generate an \_\_\_\_\_ number of novel utterances.
2. Can refer to intangible or \_\_\_\_\_ things.
3. Can be used internally as we \_\_\_\_\_, and this influences neural organization.

◆ All language is communication, but \_\_\_\_\_ all communication is language.

## **TOPIC: THE STRUCTURE OF LANGUAGE**

### **EXAMPLE**

For each statement below, determine whether it describes language or communication and place it in the correct spot in the Venn diagram.



- a) Bees perform a “waggle dance” to direct other bees to pollen.
- b) A parent and teenager discuss the pros and cons of different college majors.
- c) Vervet monkeys use different calls to warn colony mates of specific predators.

### **PRACTICE**

Which of the following statements are true of language?

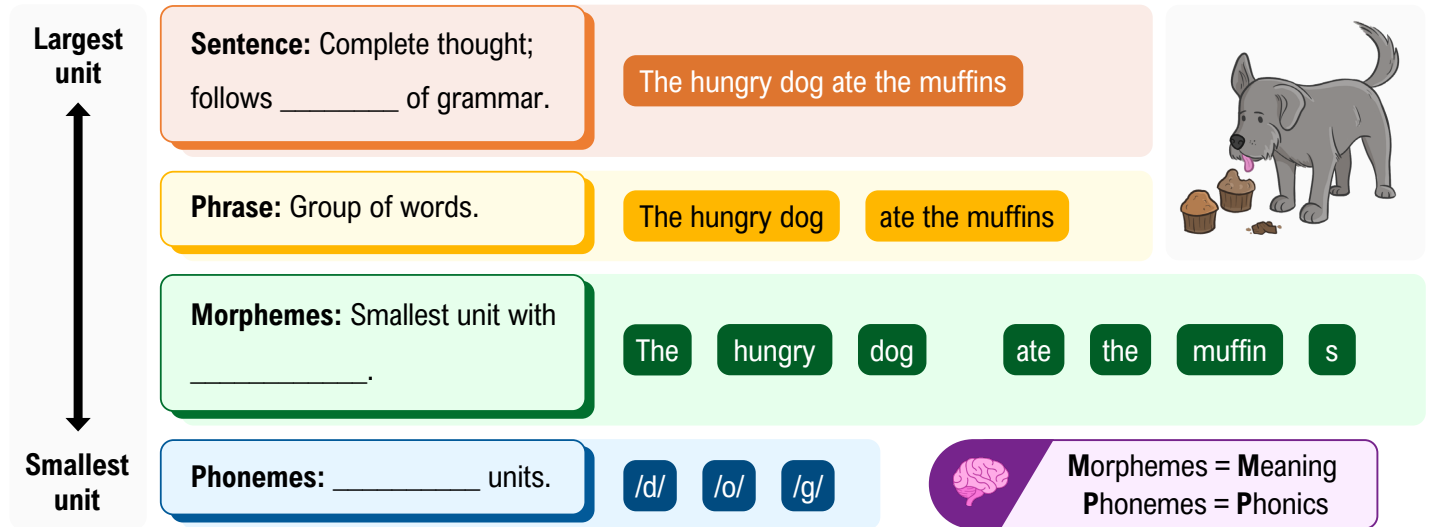
- I) Language can influence brain organization.
- II) Language has a finite capacity for novel combinations.
- III) Language can describe abstract ideas.

- a) I & II.
- b) I & III.
- c) II & III.
- d) I, II, & III.

## TOPIC: THE STRUCTURE OF LANGUAGE

### Units of Language

◆ Language is made up of several essential building blocks:



◆ Sentences follow **syntax rules**: indicate \_\_\_\_\_ words can be combined, and in what \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ex: English uses subject-verb-object – “The dog fetched the ball.” / “Fetched the ball the dog.”
- Ex: Adjectives before nouns - “The fuzzy cat.” / “The cat fuzzy.”

### EXAMPLE

For the words below, determine what morphemes are in the word.

a) Talking: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Book: \_\_\_\_\_

c) Ducks: \_\_\_\_\_

## **TOPIC: THE STRUCTURE OF LANGUAGE**

### **PRACTICE**

Zola states that morphemes are the smallest unit of language. Is this statement true? If not, how would you correct the statement?

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- a) Zola is correct.
- b) Zola is incorrect: morphemes are the largest units of language.
- c) Zola is incorrect: morphemes are the smallest unit of language with *meaning*.
- d) Zola is incorrect: both morphemes and phonemes are the smallest unit of language.

### **PRACTICE**

The statement “They are a student clever” violates which type of rule that governs language?

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- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| a) Phonetic rules. | c) Syntax rules.   |
| b) Implicit rules. | d) Morpheme rules. |