

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

**TRUE/FALSE - Write 'T' if the statement is true and 'F' if the statement is false.**

1) Using language to convey meaning is known as verbal communication.

- true
- false

2) A coffee advertisement claims that "Good coffee is like friendship; rich and warm and strong." The advertisers are using a simile.

- true
- false

3) The social function of verbal communication is the use of language to engage in critical thinking to evaluate and critique issues or ideas.

- true
- false

4) The two processes for interpreting messages are denotation meaning and connotation meaning.

- true
- false

5) The agreed-upon meaning of a word, the one generally found in the dictionary, is known as the denotative meaning.

- true
- false

6) Verbal communication includes a number of rules including rules of place.

- true
- false

7) Language that denigrates people on the basis of their gender is known as racist language.

- true
- false

8) When a relative is lunching with you and says, "I have to go to the little girl's room," she is using jargon.

- true
- false

9) If you want to improve your verbal communication, you should avoid asking the other person, "What did you mean?"

- true
- false

10) Building your vocabulary can improve your verbal communication.

- true
- false

**MULTIPLE CHOICE - Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.**

11) *Verbal communication* is

- A) the use of bodily movement as messages.
- B) the conversion of thought into words.
- C) the use of facial expression to convey meaning.
- D) the use of language to convey meaning.

12) *Language* is

- A) the only way we can communicate with each other.
- B) the code we use to communicate with each other.
- C) the expression of thought through gesture.
- D) the dictionary meaning of words.

**13)** *Meaning* is

- A) whatever message someone is trying to convey.
- B) how a message is interpreted by another.
- C) the conveyed message and its interpretation by another.
- D) the verbal content of a message.

**14)** The four functions of language include all of the following EXCEPT the

- A) instrumental.
- B) analytical.
- C) creative.
- D) structural.

**15)** When your teacher tells you that your term paper is due in three weeks, your teacher is using which function of language in communication?

- A) structural
- B) analytical
- C) creative
- D) instrumental

**16)** When you use acronyms and abbreviations in tweeting and texting, you are using an ancient rhetorical canon or principle called

- A) *inventio*.
- B) *elocutio*.
- C) *dispositio*.
- D) *pathos*.

17) What kind of figurative language was the teacher using when she said, "The universe is a large pizza in which just one of the pepperonis is our galaxy surrounded by many others"?

- A) simile
- B) alliteration
- C) reductionism
- D) metaphor

18) Which of the following is the best example of alliteration?

- A) Alice's aunt ate apples and acorns around August.
- B) After the blow, his head swelled like a basketball.
- C) Far from true, his statement was a blatant falsehood.
- D) So tiny was he that his shoes could fit a child.

19) Which of the following is the best example of a simile?

- A) The sunset was disturbed by the contrail of a passing jet.
- B) Her face brightened like a beacon when he complimented her.
- C) The corners of her mouth curved upward in happiness.
- D) His strength was not in athletics but in math and science.

20) Because listeners daydream, speakers need to say a message in more than one way by using all of the following strategies EXCEPT

- A) repetition.
- B) review.
- C) preview.
- D) implementation.

**21)** Examples of the analytical function of language include all of the following EXCEPT

- A) researching an issue for understanding.
- B) evaluating an issue for weakness and strengths.
- C) recommending solutions to problems.
- D) restating the issue in figurative language.

**22)** Saying "hi" to an acquaintance on the sidewalk and expecting only a "hi" in return is a form of communication called

- A) phatic communication.
- B) interpersonal communication.
- C) intrapersonal communication.
- D) social communication.

**23)** "Trouble talk" is a social function of communication characterized by

- A) figuring out a solution to an immediate problem.
- B) complaining about problems without really expecting any solution.
- C) brainstorming solutions to a problem without choosing one.
- D) talking about and solving a problem.

**24)** *Conflict management* is

- A) using language to resolve issues between individuals and groups.
- B) serving as a referee between individuals in a dispute.
- C) winning an argument by being a competent communicator.
- D) using words to express one's view in a conflict.

25) Instrumental language usually

- A) lacks descriptiveness.
- B) presents a point in an indirect manner.
- C) functions as a tool to get something done.
- D) is driven by creativity.

26) The analytical function of verbal ability is used to

- A) evaluate ideas.
- B) build relationships.
- C) motivate others.
- D) stir the imagination.

27) The use of an array of rhetorical devices is characteristic of the \_\_\_\_\_ function of verbal communication.

- A) instrumental
- B) creative
- C) analytical
- D) social

28) A modern example of the language creativity function would be

- A) job directives posted by supervisors on a company's website.
- B) acronyms and abbreviations used in texting.
- C) software used to quickly scan archived documents.
- D) people complaining in the comments section of an online publication.

29) An effective speaker should

- A) have to say something just once.
- B) have little need for visual aids.
- C) focus on just one method to support an argument.
- D) summarize the message before finishing.

30) The social function of language

- A) provides instructions to others.
- B) activates imagination to make stories exciting.
- C) examines and critiques ideas.
- D) creates and supports relationships.

31) When Blake was a young child, he and his grandfather were involved in a boating accident. Blake's negative reaction when he hears the word *boat* is an example of

- A) connotative meaning.
- B) denotative meaning.
- C) neologism.
- D) translation.

32) Which of the following statements about language is FALSE?

- A) Language is an imperfect means of communication.
  - B) The thoughts that one person encodes never exactly match what the other decodes.
  - C) Language often requires interpretation or clarification.
  - D) Encoded messages are generally decoded accurately.
- 33)** Which item below is a denotative meaning of a word?
- A) A mouse is a tiny creature that scares people because of its unexpected movement.
  - B) A mouse is a four-legged mammal classified as a rodent.
  - C) A mouse can produce a litter of young about every 19 days.
  - D) A mouse is a furry little animal much beloved as a stuffed toy.
- 34)** New concepts require new words, referred to as
- A) conceptualizations.
  - B) neologisms.
  - C) semantics.
  - D) metaconcepts.
- 35)** The connotative meaning of a word could include all of the following EXCEPT
- A) the feelings it evokes.
  - B) its dictionary definition.
  - C) experiences associated with it.
  - D) figures of speech that help describe it.
- 36)** Effective communicators follow



- A) the same communication rules regardless of where they are.
- B) the same communication rules regardless of who is present.
- C) communication rules that vary with place and who is there.
- D) their own communication rules that challenge the norm.

**37)** In which situation below should you be most careful about your language choices?

- A) a beer party before a game with friends
- B) an interview for an important job
- C) a study session with a group of other students
- D) an informal gathering during the lunch hour at work

**38)** In which situation below can you be most casual about your language?

- A) asking directions from a well-dressed stranger at the airport
- B) telling your own young children how to use the computer
- C) at the dinner table with relatives during a religious holiday
- D) with your best friends on a vacation

**39)** Rules of engagement refer to rules about all of the following EXCEPT

- A) initiating communication.
- B) terminating communication.
- C) conducting communication.
- D) interfering with communication.

**40)** Turn taking is most commonly exhibited in which communication situation?

- A) a vigorous argument
- B) a conversation
- C) a classroom lecture
- D) a public speech

41) Which item below best illustrates the concept of code switching?

- A) a navy vet who talks one way with his shipmates but quite another way when interviewing for a civilian job
- B) a child who speaks one way at age three but quite another way at the age of five
- C) a Jamaican who speaks *patois* at home and at work
- D) a woman who speaks the same way to her kids as to her husband

42) In order to avoid offending people, journalists are expected to

- A) mention age, race, or ethnicity only if it is important to the story.
- B) specify a person's race and sexual orientation unless told otherwise.
- C) omit any references to race or ethnicity from their stories.
- D) mention race, age, and gender if it supports their employer's political agenda.

43) Which of the following observations is NOT credible?

- A) Older people in the United States may be less tolerant of profanity than are younger people.
- B) In general, men use profanity more than women do, especially in public.
- C) Profanity is so common currently that once-forbidden words have practically lost their impact.
- D) The Internet is the one place where profanity can be used openly with no prohibitions.

44) Which statement below is an example of sexism in language?

- A) It's okay to use man-linked words like *freshman*; everyone knows what you mean.
- B) We can no longer use language that assumes all members of a category like lawyers, physicians, professors, and soldiers are male.
- C) The Women's Policy Institute champions the interests of women throughout the country.
- D) Women continue to get paid less than men working in the same fields and on similar tasks.

45) Which of the following is NOT a suggested approach to the use of racist language in communication?

- A) People in a particular racial group should get to decide what people outside that group call them.
- B) One possible way to reduce racial jokes is to quit laughing at them.
- C) An aggressive stance for reducing racial jokes is to ask the person to quit using them.
- D) Even if it means losing your job, you should tell your boss to quit telling racist jokes.

46) Politicians who answer questions without giving any specific details are using

- A) jargon.
- B) euphemisms.
- C) overused expressions.
- D) ambiguous words.

47) The definition "informal, casual language used among equals" refers to

- A) clichés.
- B) hyperbole.
- C) slang.
- D) profanity.

**48)** An author finds this note from the textbook editor: "AU: OK to KT list at EOC?" The editor is using

- A) jargon.
- B) slang.
- C) similes.
- D) code switching.

**49)** Using the term "friendly fire" to refer to an American soldier killed by another American soldier is to use

- A) slang.
- B) a euphemism.
- C) profanity.
- D) an ambiguity.

**50)** To use words that are open to multiple interpretations is to use

- A) ambiguous language.
- B) euphemistic language.
- C) simplistic language.
- D) colorful language.

**51)** Observations are

- A) words and statements that are specific rather than abstract or vague.
- B) descriptions of what you directly saw, touched, tasted, smelled, or heard.
- C) conclusions based on some evidence.
- D) relationships that help listeners remember.

**52)** Strategies for improving verbal communication include all of the following EXCEPT

- A) building your vocabulary.
- B) describing without judgment.
- C) defining your terms.
- D) correcting others.

**53)** An excellent strategy to increase accurate communication is to state in your own words what you think the other person meant, a strategy called

- A) repetition.
- B) paraphrasing.
- C) explaining.
- D) arguing.

**54)** When the physician tells the patient that she has a tumor the size of a grape, the physician is using what language strategy for clarification?

- A) professional jargon
- B) a figure of speech
- C) slang
- D) an unlikely comparison

**55)** Which item below best illustrates the use of concrete language?

- A) He had black hair, brown eyes, bronze complexion, and a pleasant smile.
- B) She was a real beauty.
- C) He was a handsome dude with an attractive personality.
- D) She was ugly as a mud fence.

**56)** Some people refer to their noon meal as dinner and their evening meal as supper; others have dinner at night. These are examples of what language characteristic?

- A) connotations
- B) denotations
- C) jargon
- D) regionalisms

## **Answer Key**

Test name: Nelson 2

- 1) TRUE
- 2) TRUE
- 3) FALSE
- 4) FALSE
- 5) TRUE
- 6) TRUE
- 7) FALSE
- 8) FALSE
- 9) FALSE
- 10) TRUE
- 11) D
- 12) B
- 13) C
- 14) D
- 15) D
- 16) B
- 17) D
- 18) A
- 19) B
- 20) D
- 21) D
- 22) A
- 23) B
- 24) A
- 25) C
- 26) A

- 27) B
- 28) B
- 29) D
- 30) D
- 31) A
- 32) D
- 33) B
- 34) B
- 35) B
- 36) C
- 37) B
- 38) D
- 39) D
- 40) B
- 41) A
- 42) A
- 43) D
- 44) A
- 45) D
- 46) D
- 47) C
- 48) A
- 49) B
- 50) A
- 51) B
- 52) D
- 53) B
- 54) B
- 55) A
- 56) D



