



PDC BOOK TEST
WORD BY WORD
by Kory Stamper

NAME

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Please mark only one answer per question. Questions with multiple answers marked will be marked as incorrect.

1) Lexicographers at Merriam-Webster need to be native English speakers.

- a) True
- b) False

2) How many parts of speech are in the English language?

- a) 4
- b) 6
- c) 8
- d) 10

3) Which king began using English in his official correspondence?

- a) Richard II
- b) Richard III
- c) Henry IV
- d) Henry V

4) At Merriam-Webster, the citation files are:

- a) Paper
- b) Electronic
- c) Both paper and electronic

5) Why is it difficult to record changes in the English language?

- a) Changes happen first in speech
- b) Not all writing is public
- c) Lexicographers can't read all writing in print
- d) All of the above

6) Which are some of the core skills of a lexicographer?

- a) Defining
- b) Reading and marking
- c) Writing
- d) A and B
- e) B and C

7) What is *not* a part of an entry?

- a) Corpus
- b) Headword
- c) Sense
- d) Subsense

8) What are the three criteria for a word to be entered into the dictionary?

- a) The word must be widely used in print, see a sudden uptick in use, and have a meaningful use.
- b) The word must be widely used in print, have a long shelf life, and have a meaningful use.
- c) The word must be widely used in speech, see a sudden uptick in use, and have a meaningful use.
- d) The word must be widely used in speech, have a long shelf life, and have a meaningful use.

9) The style guide at Merriam-Webster is referred to as the:

- a) Black Books
- b) Blue Books
- c) Purple Books
- d) Red Books

10) The letter S makes up what portion of the dictionary?

- a) One-fifth
- b) One-tenth
- c) One-fifteen
- d) One-twentieth

11) How long does it take to revise the Collegiate Dictionary?

- a) About a year
- b) One to two years
- c) Two to three years
- d) Three to four years

12) What determines if a word is taboo?

- a) The audience and the context
- b) The inflection and the context
- c) The audience and the inflection

13) Jim Rader is a(n):

- a) Etymologist
- b) Lexicographer
- c) Logophile

14) Which countries have an academy of language?

- a) England
- b) France
- c) Germany
- d) Spain
- e) A and C
- f) B and D

15) Which dictionary has a Usage Panel?

- a) The American Heritage Dictionary
- b) Merriam-Webster
- c) Oxford English Dictionary
- d) None of the above

16) What do dates in word entries represent at Merriam-Webster?

- a) The first time an English word is used.
- b) The first time an English word is used in print in English.
- c) The first time an English word is used in a printed book.
- d) The first time a word is used in print in English.

17) Who first used *OMG* in a letter?

- a) Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- b) Noah Webster
- c) Shakespeare
- d) Winston Churchill

18) Many pronunciation complaints are regarding foreign borrowed terms. Most of these terms come from which language?

- a) French
- b) German
- c) Greek
- d) Spanish

19) Who can write in to the dictionary with a question about the English language and expect to receive a response?

- a) Anyone who has access to a copy of Merriam-Webster
- b) Anyone who has purchased a copy of Merriam-Webster
- c) Anyone who lives in the United States
- d) Anyone who is studying language

20) What is *not* true of Supreme Court justices who use the dictionary in deciding cases?

- a) Dictionary definitions are primary reasons for the decision.
- b) The heaviest dictionary users include Justices Scalia, Thomas, Breyer, Souter, and Alito.
- c) Individual justices tend to favor specific dictionaries.
- d) The use of dictionaries in Supreme Court decisions is inconsistent.

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