

Unit Two: Linguistics- Listening Extra Practice

Choose the right option:

1. According to the text, what is the main topic of discussion?
 - A. Chinese language learning
 - B. Second language acquisition
 - C. Childhood education
 - D. Language teaching methods
2. What theory does the text introduce about language learning?
 - A. Adults learn faster than children
 - B. Language learning is impossible after adolescence
 - C. There is a critical period for language learning
 - D. Children cannot learn languages effectively
3. Who first introduced the critical period theory for language learning?
 - A. Steven
 - B. The speaker's son
 - C. Eric Lenneberg
 - D. A Mandarin Chinese teacher
4. How does the speaker describe his own language learning experience?
 - A. Extremely easy and quick
 - B. Challenging and difficult
 - C. Completely unsuccessful
 - D. Faster than children's learning
5. What happened to Steven when he first arrived in the class?
 - A. He was fluent in English immediately
 - B. He spoke perfect English
 - C. He didn't speak any English
 - D. He refused to learn English
6. What does the text suggest about brain changes in language learning?
 - A. Brains never change
 - B. Brains become more capable with age
 - C. Childhood brains are more ready for language learning
 - D. Adult brains learn faster than children's brains

7. How does the speaker feel about language learning differences?

- A. Completely indifferent
- B. Frustrated and surprised
- C. Extremely confident
- D. Uninterested in the topic

Decide T/F for the following statements:

8. The author believes that age is the only factor affecting language learning.

9. Steven is learning English in a supportive environment with his friends.

10. The author takes a Chinese class for two hours every week.

11. The author feels embarrassed about their language learning progress.

12. The author thinks that being in a different environment would help their language learning.

13. Steven is able to speak English perfectly at his age.

14. The author compares their language learning experience with Steven's to highlight differences.

Fill in the blanks with only one word:

Me, on the other hand, I find it very difficult to speak _____ (15) when I'm not sure what I'm saying. I get very nervous and embarrassed. And, as a result, I don't practice speaking as much as I should. So clearly, a person's _____ (16) about learning is very important in _____ (17) a second language. Finally, the last factor we'll look at is motivation. OK, why is the person learning the language? Now, Steven is probably very _____ (18) to learn English. All his friends speak it, so he needs to learn it in order to play with them. I, on the other hand, want to learn Chinese, but I don't need to. So we're both motivated to learn, but _____ (19) my motivation isn't quite as strong. All right, so, what do we understand about second language _____ (20)? Well, there does seem to be a critical period in childhood when language learning is much easier. But it's important to look at all the _____ (21) and there are several, including

environment, attitude, and motivation—which help decide if someone is going to be a successful language learner. As for me? I'm not ready to give up on Chinese just yet!

22. Which title is the most appropriate for the passage?

- A) Why Adults Can Never Learn a Second Language
- B) Second Language Acquisition: Factors That Matter
- C) The Best Age to Learn a New Language

23. Which of the following summaries correctly describes the listening passage?

- A)** The lecture discusses second language acquisition, emphasizing that adults can never learn a second language fluently because they have passed the critical period. The speaker shares a personal story about his struggle with learning Mandarin, proving that only children can acquire a new language successfully.
- B)** The lecture explores second language acquisition, focusing on why children tend to learn new languages more easily than adults. It introduces the critical period hypothesis by Eric Lenneberg but also considers other factors such as learning environment, attitude, and motivation. The speaker uses personal experiences to highlight these factors and explains that while children may have an advantage, adults can still learn effectively with the right conditions.
- C)** The lecture explains that the best way to learn a second language is by listening to audio recordings. The speaker argues that motivation and environment are unimportant compared to daily listening practice. He shares his own experience of learning Mandarin and concludes that all adults can achieve fluency by following this method.

