Quiz 1: Introduction to Language

1. What is the **mental lexicon**?
   
   (a) rules we use to make sentences  
   (b) stems and past tense morphemes  
   (c) a finite set of arbitrary words

2. What is a **grammar**?
   
   (a) word entries in the mental lexicon  
   (b) set of rules that produce meaningful combinations  
   (c) a computer program

3. Natural languages exhibit **recursion** which:
   
   (a) reproduces something inside itself  
   (b) applies a grammar rule over and over again  
   (c) is a computer implementation of a natural language grammar  
   (d) is the outcome of the words and rules theory

4. Which of the following sentences **cannot** be generated by the grammar:

   \[
   \begin{align*}
   NP & \rightarrow N \ N \\
   NP & \rightarrow \text{det} \ N \\
   VP & \rightarrow V \\
   S & \rightarrow NP \ VP \\
   N & \rightarrow \text{rose} \\
   NP & \rightarrow N \\
   N & \rightarrow \text{smells} \\
   Det & \rightarrow \text{the} \\
   Adv & \rightarrow \text{beautifully} \\
   \end{align*}
   \]
   
   (a) the rose smells  
   (b) rose rose smells  
   (c) rose smells beautifully

5. What is the **critical period** in language development?
   
   (a) when a child learns to talk in sentences  
   (b) the period in development during which language can be acquired like a native speaker  
   (c) both these things

6. What does the wug-test show?
   
   (a) that kids know how to form the past tense  
   (b) kids can answer linguistic questions from an early age correctly  
   (c) kids are capable of forming the past tense creatively even for words they have not heard before  
   (d) it can be used to estimate how many grammar rules a child has acquired

7. How does **blocking** help explain the words vs. rules dichotomy?
(a) Blocking prevents speakers from using rules for irregular verbs
(b) Blocking allows speakers to use rules regular verbs
(c) Blocking is innate as words and rules

8. Suppose you are an **empiricist**; which of the following claims is false?

   (a) The human mind starts out as a blank slate
   (b) Knowledge arises from the manipulation of symbols by rules
   (c) The mind generalizes from observations

9. Suppose you are an **rationalist**; which of the following claims is false?

   (a) Humans are born with innate knowledge
   (b) Knowledge comes from logical deduction
   (c) Knowledge is derived from experience