Quiz 1: Introduction to Language

1. What is the mental lexicon?
   (c) finite set of arbitrary words [94.2% correct]

2. What is a grammar?
   (b) set of rules that produce meaningful combinations [97% correct]

3. Natural languages exhibit recursion which:
   (a) reproduces something inside itself [65.7% correct]
   You can apply a rule over and over again if there is repetition in the structure, but it does not necessarily mean that the rule will call itself.

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

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

   (c) rose smells beautifully [question was buggy]
   There is no rule in the above grammar that expands a VP to a verb (V) and an adjective (V).

5. What is the critical period in language development?
   (b) the period in development during which language can be acquired like a native speaker [79.1% correct]

6. What does the wug-test show?
   (c) kids are capable of forming the past tense creatively even for words they have not heard before [88.1% correct]

7. How does blocking help explain the words vs. rules dichotomy?
   (a) Blocking prevents speakers from using rules for irregular verbs [92.5% correct]

8. Suppose you are an empiricist; which of the following claims is false?
   (b) Knowledge arises from the manipulation of symbols by rules [49.2% correct]
   Empiricists do not believe in the existence of rules or symbols, hence the claim is false for an empiricist.

9. Suppose you are an rationalist; which of the following claims is false?
   (c) Knowledge is derived from experience [44.8% correct]
   Rationalists believe in the existence of innate knowledge rather than in the formation of such knowledge through experience. The claim is thus false for a rationalist.