

Name: _____

Score: _____ / _____

08.12b Grammaticality &lg diversity [3/5 to pass]

Part 1

Use information from the M Aug 10 lecture, the reading in *CL* Ch 1, and the learning activities from W Aug 12 to answer the questions in the following Learning Assignment. [3/5 or higher is a passing score.]

1

Which of the following is most likely to provide linguists with data about how the human mental language system operates?

- ☐ A. Descriptive grammar
- ☐ B. Prescriptive grammar
- ☐ C. Spelling mistakes
- ☐ D. Standard language varieties

2

Saying that a sentence is **ungrammatical** is another way of saying that it **doesn't make sense**.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

3

In his TEDx talk, John Baugh makes a distinction between the terms accent and dialect. How does he define each of these terms?

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Different accents | A. differ in their pronunciation |
| 2. Different dialects | B. differ in their grammatical structures |

In his TEDx talk, John Baugh describes a structure that is grammatical in African American English[*] but not in mainstream or "standard" American English. He gives an example AAE sentence: *She be happy*. **Which of the following mainstream American English sentences is the closest in meaning to this AAE sentence?**

[*] As we will see later in the course, African American English is the name often given to a certain variety (dialect) of English, many of whose native speakers are African American, and which developed historically in Black communities in the US. Other names for this variety (or family of varieties) include Black English, African American Vernacular English, and, briefly in the late 1990s, "Ebonics".

- ☐ A.
She is happy right now.
- ☐ B.
She is happy most of the time.
- ☐ C.
She is acting like she's happy, but she isn't actually happy.

Which of the following are true about the standard or prestige variety (dialect) of a language, such as Standard American English? Choose all that apply.

- ☐ A. Standard varieties are used in education, professional contexts, etc., because they are more logical than non-standard varieties.
- ☐ B. Speakers of standard varieties are more likely to have a mental grammar of their language than speakers of non-standard varieties.
- ☐ C. Which variety of a given language has become the standard or prestige variety is due to historical, social, and/or political factors rather than linguistic factors.
- ☐ D. Speakers of standard varieties are intrinsically more intelligent than speakers of non-standard varieties.