

Linguistics

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The task of a linguist is to figure out how languages work by researching their **essential components**.

These components work together to create meaningful communication among individuals. Each component plays a crucial role in the make-up of a language as a whole.

To master a language, one must learn **these components**.

1. Phonetics: seeks to figure out how speech sounds are produced in a language.

2. Phonology: seeks to figure out how speech sounds work in a language. Whereas phonetics deals with the physical properties of sounds, phonology deals with their functional ones.

3. **Morphology:** seeks to figure out how word formation works; how prefixes, suffixes, and infixes are added to derive words.

4. **Syntax:** seeks to figure out how words combine to make sentences. Whereas morphology examines how morphemes are combined to form words, syntax examines how words combine to form sentences.

5. **Semantics:** seeks to figure out how meaning is encoded in language.

6. **Pragmatics:** seeks to figure out how context contributes to meaning. Whereas semantics focuses on the literal meanings of linguistic expressions, pragmatics focuses on their non-literal ones.