

Chapter 1. What is stuttering?

Multiple Choice Questions

1. A clear, workable definition of stuttering is important for:
 - a. determining treatment outcome
 - b. differential diagnosis of stuttering
 - c. measuring the effect of experimental conditions
 - d. all of the above

2. Definitions of stuttering typically include some or all of the following **except**:
 - a. listeners' feelings about stuttering
 - b. psychological reactions of the person who stutters
 - c. disfluent speech characteristics
 - d. physical characteristics of persons who stutter.

3. In research, a definition of stuttering is **not** important in:
 - a. selecting measures of stuttering
 - b. selection measures of language skills
 - c. selecting subjects who stutter
 - d. selecting control subjects who do not stutter
 - e. two of the above

4. Stuttering-like-disfluencies (Yairi & Ambrose, 1999) do **not** include:
 - a. repetitions of single syllable words
 - b. repetitions of parts of words
 - c. repetitions of phrases
 - d. sound prolongations

5. The "tip of the iceberg" (Sheehan, 1958) refers to the:
 - a. overt features of stuttering

- b. covert features of stuttering
- c. fluent segments of speech
- d. tip of the tongue

6. The term "disfluency" refers to:

- a. normal interruptions in speech
- b. abnormal interruptions in speech
- c. associated non-speech behaviors
- d. both a and b above

7. Disfluency types most typical of stuttering:

- a. interjections, revisions, pauses
- b. whole word, phrase and multisyllable repetitions
- c. sound prolongations, sound and syllable repetitions
- d. both b and c above

8. Van Riper suggested that stuttering is best defined as:

- a. a defect in the structure and function of the speech mechanism
- b. a word improperly patterned in time and the speaker's reaction to it
- c. a difficulty changing position of the tongue when moving from one sound to the next
- d. a momentary disruption of ongoing speech

9. Stuttering has occurred when the speaker:

- a. holds out a speech sound while falling off a chair
- b. repeats a phrase again because the listener failed to understand
- c. repeats a word because a siren blared when it was said the first time
- d. none of the above

10. An example of a covert aspect of stuttering:

- a. sound repetitions
- b. sense of a loss of control over speech
- c. disrhythmic phonations
- d. eye blinks

11. Yaruss and Quesal's (2006) model of stuttering:
- a. defines stuttering as primarily an organic speech impairment
 - b. defines stuttering as a psychologically- and environmentally-based disorder
 - c. defines stuttering as a personal handicap regardless of its etiology
 - d. does not define what stuttering is but represents what it involves
12. Which of the following aspects of speech and language is most impaired in the disorder of stuttering.
- a. vocabulary
 - b. pitch
 - c. rate
 - d. syntax

True - False Questions

1. The definition and clinical diagnosis of stuttering are not the same. However, arriving at a clinical diagnosis often involves use of specifications of, e.g., the frequency, of the parameters found in the definition of the disorder.
2. One reason why definitions of stuttering differ is that some of them are based entirely, or partially, on hypotheses about the cause of the disorder instead of describing it.
3. The inner, affective reactions of the person who stutters that are associated with stuttering events are known as the "core behaviors."

4. Research has indicated that fluent speech of stutterers may also be different from fluent speech of normally speaking individuals.
5. Various surface interruptions that occur in ongoing speech are referred to as “disfluencies.”

Essay Questions

1. List three situations or conditions where a definition of stuttering is important and has practical implications. After listing a situation, briefly (5-7 lines) explain/discuss.
2. What is meant by “stuttering as an event”? What is meant by “stuttering as a disorder”? Give examples of the features that might characterize a stuttering event and the features that may broadly characterize a stuttering disorder.
3. Your textbook stated that not all speech disfluencies are stuttering. Explain what this means. What factors influence the distinction between just “speech disfluencies” and “stuttering”?
4. What are the reasons that there is such a wide variation in the definitions of the same term “stuttering”?
5. Explain what the term “covert” aspects of stuttering means, and give two examples of some more typical covert aspects.
6. In Yairi & Seery (2011, p. 11), it is explained that the fluent speech of adults who stutter may not be free of the stuttering disorder. What is one point of evidence characteristic of their *fluent* speech that may indicate that there is an underlying problem?