

## Answers to Pause and Reflect Boxes for Chapter 1 Introducing Linguistics

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#### Pause and Reflect 1.1

- i. The scientific approach means that research into language has to be systematic. In this instance, there is only one case of similarity between Nahuatl and Greek. The similarity can be attributed to coincidence. Furthermore, there is no reason to form such a hypothesis as there is no previous knowledge of any contact between the inhabitants of Mesoamerica (Mexico) and Greece at any moment in the past.
- ii. Here the evidence is quite robust, so the hypothesis is well formulated. Note the phrase *with no exceptions*.

#### Pause and Reflect 1.2

- i. This is an example of prescriptive grammar, it tells us how we must use the modal *will*.
- ii. This could appear in a linguistics textbook. It simply states a fact about the language spoken in a particular place.
- iii. This could appear in a linguistics textbook. It simply states a fact about the language spoken by a specific group of people.
- iv. The use of the word *correct* makes this a prescriptive rule.
- v. This could appear in a linguistics textbook. It simply states a fact about the language spoken in a particular place.

#### Pause and Reflect 1.3

- i. It may be possible to draw a hippo and then cross it out in the drawing of a classroom. However, note the information that is left out: there could be a large hippopotamus present but not a small one; crossing out the hippo might indicate that hippos are not allowed, not that they are not present (as in some road signs); also the distinction between *a classroom* and *the classroom* is not obvious.
- ii. It may be possible to create a thought bubble above the speaker. However, how do you distinguish between *I believe*, *I think*, or *I want*. Furthermore, how do we distinguish between *it may rain*, *it is raining*, etc.
- iii. It is difficult to represent a command (look). Furthermore, how do you determine what the left side of the person you are talking to is in a drawing?

#### Pause and Reflect 1.4

Answers will vary. However, you could mention a smile, a frown, moving your hands to indicate the height of a person, using your hands to make a gesture to insult someone, etc.

#### Pause and Reflect 1.5

Answers will vary.

### **Pause and Reflect 1.6**

The answer may lead to a great deal of discussion. However, typically, usage-based models are not constrained grammars, so any language, whether an existing one, a made-up one, or a computer simulated one, should be equally learnable.

### **Pause and Reflect 1.7**

Answers will vary.