

演習問題

次の英文を読み、設問に答えよ。

Language is a system of communication (1) meaningful sounds are produced and heard by the ear. Humans are the only known animals that use language. It is impossible to trace the development of language, but (2) it is believed that humans have used it for at least the last 40,000 years. However language may have developed, there
5 are somewhere between three and eight thousand different languages (3) around the world today.

Despite the fact (4) that there are so many languages, they all share some common components. Linguists agree that (5) languages are fairly similar in organization and function. First, all languages have some forms of nouns and verbs. Second, every
10 language puts words together in groups to form sentences that express some thought. And third, every language makes a distinction among statements, questions and commands.

Most children from any culture learn to speak their native language quite well by the age of four or five, (6) they are not instructed. Young children also have the
15 physical ability to pronounce sounds from other languages quite easily. (7) This ability begins to drop off when children reach the early teen years, which makes it more difficult to learn a second language. (8) Why this happens is not known, but it holds true for children of all cultures.

Language is one of the important ties which bring us all together. It allows us to
20 express ourselves clearly (9) understand others better. We use it to gather information and to give out information. Language is a wonderful tool that we use in communicating.