

Advanced C1-C2

# Metalanguage

## Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: / 20

### Exercise A · Identify the metalanguage term (Q1–5)

Underline the metalanguage term in each sentence.

- The subject of this sentence is 'the cat'.*
- 'However' is a discourse marker signalling contrast.*
- The passive construction distances the narrator from the event.*
- The author uses hedging language to soften the claim.*
- Repetition of the word 'never' reinforces the speaker's determination.*

### Exercise B · Match the term to the definition (Q6–10)

Choose the correct metalanguage term for each definition.

1. Language used to describe or discuss language itself.

- a) register                      b) metalanguage                      c) discourse                      d) hedging

2. A word or phrase that signals the logical relationship between ideas.

- a) modifier                      b) discourse marker                      c) clause                      d) appositive

3. Referring back to something already mentioned using a pronoun.

- a) ellipsis                      b) anaphora                      c) cohesion                      d) fronting

4. Omitting words that can be understood from context.

- a) anaphora                      b) hedging                      c) ellipsis                      d) foregrounding

5. Language that softens a claim to avoid overstating certainty.

- a) hedging                      b) register                      c) metalanguage                      d) cohesion

## Metalanguage — Side B

### Exercise C · Use the metalanguage correctly (Q11–14)

Each sentence uses a metalanguage term incorrectly. Write the corrected sentence.

1. *The verb 'quickly' modifies the adjective 'ran'.*

---

2. *The subject 'was eaten by the cat' performs the action.*

---

3. *A discourse marker like 'table' signals contrast.*

---

4. *Hedging language makes a claim more certain and definitive.*

---

### Exercise D · Describe using metalanguage (Q15–17)

Write a sentence using metalanguage to describe the underlined feature.

1. However, the results were unexpected.

---

2. The cat sat on the mat. It was completely still.

---

3. The author may suggest that the protagonist is unreliable.

---

### Exercise E · Fill in the blank (Q18–20)

Fill in the blank with the correct metalanguage term from the word bank.

Word bank: *register · ellipsis · intimacy*

1. The use of 'I' in the poem creates a sense of personal \_\_\_\_ between speaker and reader.

2. She omitted the repeated noun phrase — this is an example of \_\_\_\_.

3. Choosing formal vocabulary over casual language reflects a change in \_\_\_\_.

## Answer Sheet

For teacher / self-marking use only.

### Exercise A — Metalanguage term

1. subject
2. discourse marker
3. passive construction
4. hedging language
5. Repetition

### Exercise B — Match the term

6. metalanguage
7. discourse marker
8. anaphora
9. ellipsis
10. hedging

### Exercise C — Correct usage

11. The adverb 'quickly' modifies the verb 'ran'.
12. The subject 'the cat' performs the action.
13. A discourse marker like 'however' signals contrast.
14. Hedging language makes a claim less certain / more cautious.

### Exercise D — Describe using metalanguage

15. 'However' is a discourse marker that signals contrast between the previous idea and the unexpected results.
16. 'It' is a pronoun used anaphorically to refer back to 'the cat'.
17. 'May suggest' is an example of hedging language that qualifies the claim about the protagonist.

### Exercise E — Fill in the blank

18. intimacy
19. ellipsis
20. register