Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Theo almost certainly never heard an adult say goed, so he could not have copied it and must have generated it from a rule he extracted himself. This overregularization shows he moved from memorizing individual words to operating the general past-tense rule, and learning the exceptions is the stage that follows.

2. Directly correcting a young child's grammar accomplishes very little, while recasting supplies the correct form inside a natural reply that keeps the conversation going. When Theo says catched and hears caught in the answer, he receives the accurate model without the exchange becoming a correction he has to defend against.

Multiple Choice

1. D

2. B

3. C

Matching

1-B, 2-A, 3-E, 4-C, 5-D

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) babbling, 2) receptive, 3) overregularization

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Errors like goed and foots are forms the child has almost certainly never heard an adult produce, so they cannot be imitation. They can only come from the child extracting a general rule and applying it, which means the mistake is direct evidence that the underlying grammar rule has been learned.

Q2: Language develops through interaction rather than exposure, and the key ingredient is speech directed at the child that responds to what the child just did. Background television produces the same output regardless of the child, so it supplies sound without the contingent back-and-forth that actually builds the language circuits.

Q3: Books contain vocabulary and sentence structures that seldom appear in everyday household conversation, so shared reading exposes a child to language they would not otherwise encounter. Reading together also naturally produces pointing,

questions, and answers, which supplies the interactive back-and-forth alongside the richer input.