

Name: _____ Date: _____

Dissect the Lexical DNA: AP-Level Etymology Challenge

Can you reconstruct a word from its Latinate and Greek components? Synthesis complex morphemes to dominate academic and legal vernacular.

1. In a philosophical treatise, an author describes a 'monolithic' power structure. Given the Greek root 'lithos,' how is this structure being characterized?

- A. A fluid and ever-changing hierarchy
- B. A divided and bipartisan system
- C. A massive, uniform, and rigid entity
- D. A fragile and easily broken alliance

2. To describe a person whose moods change as unpredictably as the Roman god of shifting forms, one might use the adjective _____ean, derived from the root 'Proteus'.

- A. Prometh
- B. Prote
- C. Pyrrh
- D. Phaet

3. The etymological origin of 'anachronism' suggests something that is 'against time' or misplaced in a specific era.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Analyze the word 'somniaambulist' in a literary context. Based on the roots 'somnus' and 'ambulare,' what is the character doing?

- A. Talking in their sleep
- B. Walking while asleep
- C. Fearful of falling asleep
- D. Writing while in a trance

5. In legal medicine, a 'morphology' study focuses on the _____ of organisms, utilizing the Greek root 'morph'.

- A. Internal chemistry
- B. Behavioral patterns
- C. Genetic sequence
- D. Form and structure

6. The prefix 'ob-' in the word 'obsequious' serves to intensify the root and implies a direction of 'against' or 'toward' in a submissive manner.

- A. True

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B. False

7. If a political commentator refers to a 'polysemous' statement, they are highlighting that the statement has:

- A. No logical meaning
- B. Many possible meanings
- C. A singular, deceptive meaning
- D. A meaning that contradicts itself

8. The word 'peripatetic,' often used to describe Aristotle's school of philosophy, uses the prefix 'peri-' to suggest his habit of teaching while _____.

- A. Sitting still
- B. Walking around
- C. Speaking softly
- D. Reading aloud

9. A 'misanthrope' and a 'philanthropist' are etymological opposites primarily because of which morphemic shift?

- A. The change from 'anthro' to 'theo'
- B. The suffix change from '-ist' to '-ope'
- C. The prefix shift from 'mis-' (hatred) to 'phil-' (love)
- D. The core root changing from Latin to Greek

10. The word 'capitulate' is derived from the root 'caput' (head), originally referring to the drawing up of treaty headings or chapters for surrender.

- A. True
- B. False