

Name: _____ Date: _____

Elder Scrolls & New Roots: 12th Grade Etymology Quest

Morphological analysis, etymological tracing, and semantic shifts. This lab provides foundational decoding strategies for high-stakes academic reading and collegiate vocabulary.

1. In contemporary political discourse, a leader might be described as possessing 'charismatic' qualities. Based on the Greek root 'charis', what is the literal foundational meaning?

- A. Power or strength
- B. Grace or favor
- C. Speech or oratory
- D. Fear or intimidation

2. The prefix 'ante-' (as seen in 'antediluvian') and the prefix 'anti-' (as seen in 'anticlimax') are morphemes that carry the same semantic meaning of 'against'.

- A. True
- B. False

3. In Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein', the creature is often described as having an 'irreparable' sense of loneliness. What is the grammatical function of the suffix '-able' in this context?

- A. It turns the verb into a noun signifying a person
- B. It indicates a state of being in the past tense
- C. It turns the verb into an adjective signifying capability
- D. It creates a superlative form of a root word

4. If an 18th-century philosopher writes about the 'primogeniture' of a monarch, which root within the word identifies the concept of 'birth'?

- A. Prim
- B. Gen
- C. Ture
- D. Ogen

5. In the word 'misanthrope', the prefix 'mis-' functions as a negator meaning 'wrong' or 'bad', while the root 'anthro' refers to 'mankind' or 'human'.

- A. True
- B. False

6. When analyzing the word 'equanimity'—a trait valued by Stoic philosophers—the Latin root 'equ' suggests what physical or metaphorical state?

- A. Horse-like or swift
- B. Even or level
- C. Water-like or fluid

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D. Old or ancient

7. Cormac McCarthy often uses 'polysyndeton' in his prose. Using your knowledge of the prefix 'poly-', what does this rhetorical device involve?

- A. The omission of all conjunctions
- B. The use of many conjunctions in close succession
- C. A single conjunction used at the start of a chapter
- D. The use of words with several different meanings

8. If a literary critic describes a poem as 'evanescent,' they are using the prefix 'e-' (out) and the root 'van' (empty). This word implies that the poem's imagery is _____.

- A. Empty of any significant meaning
- B. Quickly fading or disappearing like vapor
- C. Written in an ancient, empty language
- D. Loud and boisterous in its delivery

9. The word 'bibliophile' utilizes the root 'biblio' (book) and the suffix '-phile' (lover of). Therefore, a bibliophile is someone who collects or loves books.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Consider the word 'circumlocution.' If 'circum' means 'around,' what does the root 'locut' relate to?

- A. Movement or travel
- B. Speech or talking
- C. Vision or sight
- D. Cutting or dividing