

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Crush These Morphological Codes: 10th Grade Vocabulary Blast

Go beyond dictionary definitions by deconstructing classical Greek and Latin affixes to decode sophisticated academic terminology and nuances.

1. The root 'path' appears in words like 'empathy' and 'apathy.' What core meaning does this root convey?

Answer: B) Feeling or emotion

Derived from the Greek 'pathos,' this root relates to feeling or suffering, as seen in empathy (sharing feelings) or apathy (lack of feeling).

2. In the word 'monolingual,' the prefix 'mono-' indicates that more than one language is spoken.

Answer: B) False

The prefix 'mono-' means 'one' or 'single.' Therefore, 'monolingual' describes someone who speaks only one language.

3. Adding the suffix _____ to the root 'cred' changes the word meaning to 'believable' or 'worthy of trust.'

Answer: B) -ible

The suffix '-ible' (a variant of -able) transforms the root 'cred' (to believe) into the adjective 'credible,' meaning capable of being believed.

4. If 'chrono' means time and '-meter' refers to a measuring device, which word describes a highly accurate timekeeping instrument?

Answer: D) Chronometer

Combining 'chrono' (time) and 'meter' (measure) creates 'chronometer,' a specific device used for precise timekeeping.

5. Identify the prefix meaning 'against' or 'opposite' in the word 'contradict.'

Answer: A) contra-

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'Contra-' is a Latin prefix meaning against. To contradict is to speak ('dict') against a statement.

6. The suffix '-ism' is typically used to denote a specific belief, practice, or doctrine.

Answer: A) True

Words like 'optimism,' 'realism,' and 'altruism' use the suffix '-ism' to indicate a system of thought or a behavior pattern.

7. Which of these words uses the root 'luc' or 'lum' to describe something that is bright or easy to understand?

Answer: A) Lucid

The roots 'luc' and 'lum' mean light. A 'lucid' explanation is one that is clear and 'bright' enough to understand easily.

8. The prefix _____ in the word 'prologue' suggests that the text comes 'before' the main body of a literary work.

Answer: B) pro-

'Pro-' means before or forward. A prologue is the 'speech' or 'writing' (logue) that occurs before the main story.

9. In the word 'autocracy,' the root 'auto' means 'group' or 'collective.'

Answer: B) False

'Auto' means 'self.' An autocracy is a system of government where one person (self) has absolute power.

10. Which suffix would you add to the verb 'analyze' to turn it into a noun describing the person performing the action?

Answer: C) -st

While '-er' is common, in academic English '-ist' or '-st' often denotes a specialist, such as an 'analyst' (though 'analyst' follows a slightly different spelling rule, '-st' is the closest functional morpheme here).