

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Lexical Luxury: A Gourmet Guide to College Adjectives

Syntactic identification, semantic categorization, and modifier recognition. Refine your academic prose by distinguishing between nuanced descriptive and quantitative forms.

1. In the sentence 'The clandestine meeting resulted in a unanimous decision,' which word serves as a descriptive adjective?

Answer: A) Clandestine

'Clandestine' is a descriptive adjective that characterizes the nature of the meeting (secretive). 'Meeting' and 'decision' are nouns, while 'resulted' is a verb.

2. In the phrase 'those labyrinthine corridors,' the word 'those' is functioning as a demonstrative adjective.

Answer: A) True

Demonstrative adjectives like 'this,' 'that,' 'these,' and 'those' specify which noun is being referred to in relation to the speaker.

3. Choose the most appropriate quantitative adjective for a formal academic context: 'The researcher noted _____ discrepancies in the data set.'

Answer: B) Myriad

'Myriad' is a quantitative adjective meaning a great or indefinite number. 'Very' and 'briefly' are adverbs, and 'usually' is an adverb of frequency.

4. Which of the following sentences utilizes a superlative adjective?

Answer: B) It was the most comprehensive study of the decade.

'Most comprehensive' is the superlative form, used to indicate the highest degree of a quality among three or more items.

5. In the sentence 'The blue ink stained the antique desk,' the word 'antique' is a noun.

Answer: B) False

In this context, 'antique' is a descriptive adjective modifying the noun 'desk' by indicating its age or style.

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6. Identify the comparative adjective in this literary analysis: 'The protagonist's second soliloquy is _____ than the first.'

Answer: C) More poignant

Comparative adjectives (often using 'more' or '-er') are used to compare two things. 'More poignant' correctly compares the second soliloquy to the first.

7. Which word in the following sentence is an adjective of quantity: 'Despite the scant evidence, the jury reached a verdict.'

Answer: B) Scant

'Scant' is a quantitative adjective meaning barely sufficient or meager, describing the amount of evidence.

8. Complete the sentence with an adjective describing a sound: 'The speaker was interrupted by a _____ alarm from the hallway.'

Answer: A) Resonant

'Resonant' is a descriptive adjective related to sound. The other options are adverbs or nouns.

9. In the term 'the latter half of the semester,' the word 'latter' is an adjective.

Answer: A) True

'Latter' is a demonstrative or sequential adjective used to refer to the second of two things mentioned.

10. Which of these is an adjective describing a psychological state?

Answer: A) Melancholy

'Melancholy' functions as an adjective meaning pensive sadness. 'Quickly' is an adverb, 'under' is a preposition, and 'philosophy' is a noun.