

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Ancient Roots, Modern Minds: Sophomore Vocabulary Challenge

Can you decode the DNA of the English language? Analyze how morphemic synthesis shapes complex secondary-level academic and scientific terminology.

1. In the context of sociological research, if a society is described as 'patriarchal,' which root-based definition best explains its structure?

Answer: B) Structured around father figures or male lineage (pater-)

The Latin root 'pater' means father, and the suffix '-arch' denotes a ruler or leader, describing a system centered on male authority.

2. The candidate's _____ speech was designed to appeal to the emotions of the crowd rather than their logic.

Answer: B) Demagogic

'Demagogic' utilizes the root 'dem' (people) and 'agog' (leader/promoter), often referring to a leader who gains power by exploiting popular prejudices.

3. The prefix 'ana-' in the word 'anachronism' serves to indicate that something is 'against' or 'out of' its proper chronological time.

Answer: A) True

'Ana-' can mean 'back' or 'against,' and 'chron' refers to time; thus, an anachronism is something placed in a time period where it does not belong.

4. Consider the word 'equanimity.' How do the prefix and root work together to create its meaning during a crisis?

Answer: A) Equi- (equal) + anim (mind/spirit) = evenness of mind

'Equi-' means equal or level, and 'anim' refers to the mind or soul, resulting in the meaning of composure or mental calmness.

5. A philosopher who argues that all knowledge is derived from human experience might be described as a proponent of _____.

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Answer: C) Empiricism

The root 'empir' comes from the Greek word for experience, while '-ism' denotes a system of belief or practice.

6. Which word utilizes a suffix that transforms a verb into a noun representing a state or quality?

Answer: C) Resilience

The suffix '-ence' in 'resilience' turns the root (meaning to jump back) into a noun defining a specific quality.

7. In the term 'circumnavigate,' the prefix 'circum-' means 'through' or 'across.'

Answer: B) False

The prefix 'circum-' means 'around' (like a circle), while 'trans-' would mean across.

8. The _____ nature of the virus made it difficult for scientists to predict its next mutation.

Answer: B) Protean

Derived from the Greek god Proteus (who could change shape), 'Protean' describes something that is constantly changing or versatile.

9. If a doctor is discussing 'subcutaneous' fat, where is that fat located based on the morphemes present?

Answer: C) Under the skin

The prefix 'sub-' means under, and the root 'cutan' refers to the skin.

10. The word 'misanthrope' combines 'mis-' (hatred) and 'anthro' (humanity) to describe someone who avoids human society.

Answer: A) True

True. 'Mis-' functions as a prefix for 'wrong' or 'hatred,' and 'anthro' is the Greek root for human/mankind.