

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Vibrant Etymology Lab for 12th Grade

Deconstruct complex semantic structures found in legal, medical, and philosophical texts by analyzing rare Greek and Latin morphemes.

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**1. In the context of contemporary socio-political discourse, if a leader is accused of 'demagoguery,' which root/prefix combination best explains their behavior?**

**Answer:** A) Demos (people) + agogos (leading)

Demagoguery comes from 'demos' (the people) and 'agogos' (leading/guiding), specifically referring to a leader who gains support by appealing to the desires and prejudices of ordinary people.

**2. The architectural term 'monolithic,' often used to describe imposing structures or systems, utilizes the root 'lith' meaning 'to write.'**

**Answer:** B) False

False. The root 'lith' (from Greek lithos) means 'stone.' A monolith is a single large stone, whereas 'graph' is the root associated with writing.

**3. The word 'anthropocentric' describes a worldview where humans are the central element. What is the precise meaning of the root 'anthrop'?**

**Answer:** C) Human

The root 'anthrop' (from Greek anthropos) means 'human being' or 'mankind,' as seen in words like anthropology and philanthropy.

**4. Analyze the word 'obsequious.' Based on the Latin root 'sequi,' which behavior is an individual exhibiting if they are described this way?**

**Answer:** B) Following or complying excessively

The root 'sequi' means 'to follow' (compare with 'sequence'). Someone obsequious is excessively obedient or attentive, literally 'following' every command.

**5. The prefix 'ana-' in the word 'anachronism' (something out of its proper time) conveys the sense of 'back' or 'against.'**

**Answer:** A) True

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True. 'Ana-' means 'against' or 'back,' and 'chron' means 'time.' An anachronism is literally 'against-time,' or misplaced in a time period.

**6. In philosophical texts, authors often discuss 'epistemology.' If the suffix '-logy' means 'study of,' what does the root 'epistem' refer to?**

**Answer:** C) Knowledge

'Epistem' comes from the Greek 'episteme,' which means 'knowledge' or 'understanding.' Epistemology is the study of the nature and grounds of knowledge.

**7. When a scientist describes an organism as 'endogenous,' they are referring to something that is grown or produced:**

**Answer:** B) Internally or from within

The prefix 'endo-' means 'within' or 'inner,' and 'gen' means 'to produce/birth.' Endogenous factors originate from within the system or organism.

**8. The word 'peripatetic' (walking or traveling about) utilizes the Greek root 'path,' which means 'to feel or suffer.'**

**Answer:** B) False

False. 'Peripatetic' is derived from 'peri' (around) and 'patein' (to walk/tread). The root 'path' (empathy, apathy) is not present in this term.

**9. If a writer is criticized for being 'verbose,' which Latin root indicates the nature of the critique?**

**Answer:** B) Verb (word)

The root 'verb' means 'word.' A verbose person is wordy or uses more words than necessary to express an idea.

**10. Consider the term 'panacea.' If the prefix 'pan-' means 'all,' what does the root 'akos' (often translated into the 'acea' suffix) imply in medical history?**

**Answer:** B) Cure

A panacea is a universal remedy or a 'cure-all.' The Greek 'pan' (all) is combined with 'akos' (remedy/cure).