

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Lexical Labyrinth: Conquer the College Vocabulary Quest

Scholars refine linguistic precision by identifying nuanced word relationships, distinguishing between phonetically identical terms and semantic opposites in academic contexts.

1. In a legal or academic context, which word serves as the most accurate synonym for 'mitigate'?

Answer: B) Alleviate

'Mitigate' and 'alleviate' both mean to make something less severe or painful. 'Aggravate' is an antonym.

2. The university board refused to ___ the new policy, as they did not want to ___ the current student handbook.

Answer: A) adopt / adapt

These near-homophones or confused words have distinct meanings: 'adopt' means to take up or accept, while 'adapt' means to modify or adjust.

3. 'Pragmatic' and 'Idealistic' are best described as antonyms.

Answer: A) True

Pragmatic focuses on practical, realistic solutions, while idealistic focuses on visionary or perfectionist goals, making them conceptual opposites.

4. Identify the homophone that correctly completes this sentence: 'The professor requested that the students ___ their sources correctly.'

Answer: C) Cite

'Cite' means to quote or refer to a source; 'site' refers to a location, and 'sight' refers to vision.

5. The literary critic described the author's prose as 'redundant,' suggesting it was ___.

Answer: B) Superfluous

'Superfluous' is a synonym for 'redundant,' both meaning unnecessary or exceeding what is required.

6. Which of the following is an antonym for the word 'Epistemic' (relating to knowledge)?

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Answer: C) Uninformed

While 'epistemic' relates to the validation of knowledge, 'uninformed' represents a lack of knowledge, serving as a functional antonym.

7. The words 'Compliment' (praise) and 'Complement' (to complete something) are homophones.

Answer: A) True

These words are pronounced identically in most dialects but have different spellings and meanings, fitting the definition of homophones.

8. In a debate, if an argument is described as 'cogent,' it is considered ____.

Answer: A) Compelling

'Cogent' is a synonym for 'compelling' or 'convincing,' particularly in the context of logic and argumentation.

9. The word 'Transient' is a synonym for 'Permanent.'

Answer: B) False

These are antonyms. 'Transient' means lasting only a short time, whereas 'permanent' means lasting indefinitely.

10. Choose the correct homophone for this sentence: 'The ____ of the department decided to implement a new grading rubric.'

Answer: B) Principal

'Principal' refers to a person in a leading position, while 'principle' refers to a fundamental truth or rule.