

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Marvelous Morphemes: Masterful 11th Grade Meaning Makers

Morphological analysis, etymological synthesis, and contextual decoding develop the cognitive precision required for sophisticated academic discourse.

1. In the context of contemporary legal jargon, if a judge describes a witness's testimony as 'corroborative,' which Latin root and prefix combination is at work?

Answer: A) cor- (together) + robur (strength)

'Corroborate' comes from the prefix 'com-' (becoming 'cor-' before 'r') meaning 'together' or 'wholly', and the root 'robur,' meaning 'strength' (as in robust). To corroborate is to strengthen a claim by providing supporting evidence.

2. The suffix '-ism' in words like 'stoicism' or 'existentialism' functions to transform a base word into a noun representing a system of belief or practice.

Answer: A) True

In 11th-grade humanities, identifying '-ism' is vital for recognizing philosophical, political, or social systems and movements.

3. Consider the word 'anachronism.' The prefix 'ana-' (against/back) combines with the Greek root 'chron' (time). In a historical novel set in 1700, a character using a smartphone would be an anachronism because ____.

Answer: A) it represents a chronological inconsistency

Analysing the morphemes reveals that an 'anachronism' is something placed out of its proper time period, literally moving 'back' or 'against' the chronological flow.

4. The scientific term 'pathogenic' utilizes the Greek root 'pathos.' Based on your knowledge of medical terminology, what is the most likely meaning of this word?

Answer: B) Capable of causing disease

The root 'path' can mean 'feeling' (as in empathy), but in a biological context, it often refers to 'suffering' or 'disease.' Combined with '-genic' (producing), it means disease-causing.

5. In the word 'circumlocution,' the root 'loqu' relates to the act of 'pulling or dragging.'

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Answer: B) False

False. The root 'loqu' or 'locut' means 'to speak.' Circumlocution is the act of 'speaking in circles' or using many words where fewer would do.

6. The word 'epitome' (epi- + temnein) literally means 'a surface cut.' In literary analysis, we use it to describe a person or thing that is a ___ of a whole class or type.

Answer: C) perfect example

While it literally originates from 'cutting into,' rhetorically, an epitome is a representative part that stands for the whole, serving as a perfect embodiment.

7. Which set of morphemes would you combine to create a word meaning 'the state of being inclined toward a specific outcome beforehand'?

Answer: A) Pre- + disposit + -ion

Pre- (before) + disposit (arranged/inclined) + -ion (state/act) creates 'predisposition,' commonly used in psychology and biology.

8. Evaluate the word 'panacea.' If 'pan-' means 'all,' then a panacea in a political essay is most likely discussed as a ___ for all social problems.

Answer: B) universal cure

The root 'akos' means 'cure.' Combined with 'pan-' (all), a panacea is a hypothetical remedy for all ills or difficulties.

9. The prefix 'per-' in words like 'pervasive' and 'permeate' conveys the meaning of 'through' or 'completely.'

Answer: A) True

'Per' means through. To permeate is to pass through every part, and something pervasive has spread through an entire area.

10. If an author describes a character as 'magnanimous,' they are using the roots 'magn' (great) and 'anim' (spirit/soul). Such a character would most likely be:

Answer: C) Generous and forgiving toward rivals

A 'great-souled' person (magnanimous) is someone whose spirit is big enough to be generous and forgiving, especially toward those less powerful or toward rivals.

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