

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lexical Shadows & Literary Light: Junior Vocabulary Quiz

Junior level students sharpen their rhetorical precision by analyzing how word relationships like nuance and phonemic similarity alter a text's deeper meaning.

1. In Ralph Ellison's 'Invisible Man,' the narrator is not physically hidden but socially overlooked. Which synonym for 'invisible' best captures this specific sociopolitical nuance?

- A. Transparent
- B. Marginalized
- C. Ephemeral
- D. Inconspicuous

2. The candidate's speech was characterized by _____, which is an antonym for 'clarity,' often deliberately used to avoid taking a firm stance on controversial issues.

- A. Lucidity
- B. Equivocation
- C. Precision
- D. Brevity

3. In the sentence 'The dissident was sent to a penal colony for his discrete actions,' the use of 'discrete' is correct if the author means the actions were kept secret and cautious.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Identify the relationship between the words 'Altruistic' and 'Mercenary' as they might be used to describe a character's motivations in a Victorian novel.

- A. They are contextual synonyms regarding wealth.
- B. They are homophones that sound identical in British English.
- C. They are gradable antonyms representing selfless vs. self-interested motives.
- D. They are complementary antonyms that cannot exist together.

5. Because the witness's testimony was _____, the jury found it difficult to believe her; this word serves as a strong synonym for 'ambiguous' or 'doubtful.'

- A. Equivocal
- B. Veracious
- C. Succinct
- D. Indubitable

6. The words 'Compliment' (to praise) and 'Complement' (to complete something else) are homophones often confused in technical writing.

- A. True

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B. False

7. Which of the following word pairs demonstrates an antonym relationship involving complexity and simplicity, often found in SAT-level reading passages?

- A. Convoluted / Intricate
- B. Labyrinthine / Straightforward
- C. Esoteric / Obscure
- D. Ephemeral / Evanescent

8. A poet might use the word '_____' to describe an author's style that is very wordy, providing a formal synonym for 'talkative' or 'verbose.'

- A. Laconic
- B. Garrulous
- C. Reticent
- D. Terse

9. If a play's dialogue is described as 'Staccato,' which antonym would best describe a speaker whose voice is fluid, continuous, and melodic?

- A. Abrupt
- B. Mellifluous
- C. Disjointed
- D. Cacophonous

10. In the sentence 'The illicit response from the audience was unexpected,' the word 'illicit' is a synonym for 'evoked' or 'drawn out.'

- A. True
- B. False