Name _____ Date _____

Noun Suffixes -tion, -ment and -ness: Building Nouns and Spotting Spelling Changes

Directions: Each suffix in this set turns a word into a noun. Look for the base word, notice any spelling change, and think about what the new noun means.

1. *Enjoy* + *ment* makes *enjoyment*, but *sad* + *ness* makes *sadness*. What explains the different suffixes?

A. *Enjoy* is an adjective, and *sad* is a verb.

B. *Enjoy* names a feeling, and *sad* names an action.

C. *Enjoy* is a longer word than *sad*.

D. *Enjoy* is a verb, and *sad* is an adjective.

2. Match each base word to the noun made from it. Watch for spelling changes.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ describe
2. _____ explain
3. _____ educate
4. _____ argue
5. _____ amaze
6. _____ polite

A. argument
B. enjoyment
C. description
D. amazement
E. explanation
F. education
G. politeness
H. decision

3. Every word in the bank is a noun, so use meaning to choose. Pick the noun that fits each sentence. One word will be left over.

Word bank

agreement • darkness • kindness • celebration • invention • excitement

After the soccer team won the championship, the whole town threw a huge _____ in the park. When the power went out, the _____ was so complete that Ben could not see his own hand. After arguing for weeks, the two neighbors finally reached an _____ about where to put the fence. Tomas built a backpack with a fold-out umbrella, and his clever _____ won first prize at the science fair. Caring for a stranger's lost puppy was an act of _____, since Ms. Diaz expected nothing in return.

4. "Before anyone skated, the park ranger measured the *thickness* of the pond ice."

What did the ranger measure?

A. How wide the pond was

B. How thick the ice was

C. How cold the ice was

D. How smooth the ice was

5. When *lazy* becomes *laziness*, what spelling change happens?

A. The a changes to e.
B. The y changes to i.
C. An e is added before ness.
D. The z is doubled.

6. *Astonish* means to surprise greatly.

"To the crowd's *astonishment*, the tiny dog pulled the heavy wagon all by itself."

What does *astonishment* mean?

A. Great surprise
B. Boredom
C. Loud cheering
D. Anger

7. "Each fall, the ground squirrel curls up in its burrow and goes into *hibernation*, sleeping until spring."

What does *hibernation* mean?

A. A long winter rest that is like a deep sleep
B. A search for food
C. A trip to a warmer place
D. A burrow dug for winter

8. "Before the climb, the hikers checked their *equipment*: ropes, helmets and a first-aid kit."

Equip means to supply with what is needed. What is equipment?

A. The tools and supplies needed for a job
B. The leader of the group
C. The time it takes to climb
D. The weather on the mountain

9. Coach Bell's warm words helped the nervous swimmer try the high dive again. Which noun names what the coach gave the swimmer?

A. Carelessness
B. Encouragement
C. Loneliness
D. Pollution

10. *Pollute* means to make dirty or harmful.

"Smoke from factories and exhaust from cars add to air *pollution* in many big cities."

What does *pollution* mean?

A. A factory that makes cars
B. Heavy traffic on city streets
C. Fresh, clean air
D. Harmful matter that dirties air, water or land