Name _____ Date _____

Multiple-Meaning Words in Context: Choosing the Meaning a Sentence Needs

Directions: Each word in italics has more than one meaning, and every choice is a real meaning of that word. Use the rest of the sentence to decide which meaning the writer intends.

1. "The river's *current* carried the canoe downstream faster than the girls could paddle."

Which meaning of *current* fits the way the word is used in this sentence about the river?

A. A trend in what people think or do
B. Happening now
C. A flow of electricity through a wire
D. A flow of water moving in one direction

2. In which sentence does *cell* mean the smallest living unit that makes up a plant or an animal?

A. Mom left her *cell* on the kitchen counter again.
B. Long ago, monks slept in small, bare stone *cells*.
C. The old flashlight runs on a single dry *cell*.
D. Under the microscope, each onion skin *cell* looked like a tiny brick in a wall.

3. "Before turning in her essay, Nia wrote three *drafts*, fixing more problems in each one."

Based on the rest of the sentence, what does *draft* mean when Nia writes three of them?

A. A written order for a bank to pay money
B. A rough version of a piece of writing
C. A current of cool air coming into a room
D. A way of picking new players for sports teams

4. "Grandma gave Theo *sound* advice: save a little money from every paycheck."

Which word could replace *sound* without changing the meaning of the sentence?

A. noise
B. sensible
C. channel
D. undamaged

5. "The new governor chose the members of her *cabinet* carefully, since each one would run a state department."

Based on what the members will do, what does *cabinet* mean in this sentence?

A. A piece of furniture with shelves and doors
B. A metal case with drawers for storing files
C. A large case that holds a television or radio
D. A group of officials who advise a leader and run government departments

6. "Ms. Okafor dropped a stone into a cylinder of water and measured how far the water rose to find the stone's *volume*."

Which meaning of *volume* did Ms. Okafor find by watching how far the water rose?

A. One book in a set of books
B. How loud a sound is
C. A large amount of something
D. The amount of space an object takes up

7. "The *plot* of the novel takes a surprising turn when the girl discovers a hidden door in her grandmother's attic."

Which meaning of *plot* fits a sentence about a novel that takes a surprising turn?

A. The events that make up a story
B. A small piece of land
C. To mark points on a graph
D. A secret plan to do something wrong

8. "Table salt is a *compound* of the elements sodium and chlorine, joined together."

Which meaning of *compound* fits a sentence about sodium and chlorine joining together?

A. A substance made of two or more elements joined together
B. A word made by joining two smaller words
C. To add to a problem and make it worse
D. A fenced area that holds a group of buildings

9. "At the start of January, Tyler made a *resolution* to learn three new recipes by spring."

What does *resolution* mean in this sentence?

A. The part of a story where the main problem is solved
B. A firm decision to do something
C. The sharpness of a picture on a screen
D. A formal statement that a group votes on

10. The word *pitch* has a different meaning in each of these sentences, so match each sentence to the meaning it uses. Two meanings in the list fit none of the sentences.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ Before the storm hit, the campers hurried to *pitch* their tents on high ground.
2. _____ The singer held a note at such a high *pitch* that the dog began to howl.
3. _____ Dana gave a two-minute *pitch* to convince the school board to fund a garden.
4. _____ The catcher signaled for a fast *pitch* over the outside corner of the plate.
5. _____ The roof's steep *pitch* lets heavy snow slide right off.

Choices for question 10

A. to fall or plunge forward
B. the steepness of a slope
C. to set up
D. a short talk meant to win support
E. how high or low a sound is
F. a throw of the ball to a batter
G. a sticky black substance like tar