Name _____ Date _____

Number Prefixes uni, bi, tri and quad: Counting With Word Parts

Directions: Each prefix in this set stands for a number. Find the prefix, think about what the rest of the word means, and use the number to figure out the whole word.

1. Each sentence has a word that starts with uni, bi, tri or quad. Choose the meaning of each word in italics.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ At the circus, a clown pedaled a *unicycle* across the ring.
2. _____ Because Lena is *bilingual*, she translates for her grandparents at the doctor's office.
3. _____ The photographer set her camera on a *tripod* to keep it steady.
4. _____ The Lee family welcomed *quadruplets*, so they bought four cribs.
5. _____ The whole class said good morning in *unison*.

Choices for question 1

A. four babies born to one mother at the same time
B. all at the same time, as if with one voice
C. a cycle with only one wheel
D. able to speak two languages
E. a stand with four legs
F. a stand with three legs
G. two babies born at the same time

2. Choose the bank word that fits each sentence. Look for the number clue in each one. One word will be left over.

Word bank
unicorn • quadrilateral • biplane • tricycle • triangle • bicycle

In the fairy tale, a _____ with a single horn on its forehead led the lost children home. The pilot flew an old _____ with two sets of wings, one stacked above the other. A yield sign has three sides, so its shape is a _____. Every square is a _____, since it has four straight sides. The toddler pedaled a _____ up the sidewalk, steadied by its three wheels.

3. "Horses, lions and dogs are *quadrupeds*, but birds are not."

The word part *ped* means foot. What is a quadruped?

A. An animal that lives in water
B. An animal that walks on two feet
C. An animal that walks on four feet
D. An animal that has feathers

4. "A long, straight river *bisects* the city, splitting it into an east side and a west side."

Sect means to cut. What does the river do to the city?

A. It cuts the city into two parts.
B. It cuts the city into three parts.
C. It flows all the way around the city.
D. It floods the city every spring.

5. Jada finished the last book of a fantasy *trilogy* and wished the author had written a fourth one. What is a trilogy?

A. A series of three related books
B. A single very long book
C. A book with three main characters
D. A series of two related books

6. "In 1976, the United States held a *bicentennial* celebration for the Declaration of Independence, signed in 1776."

Cent means hundred, and *ennial* refers to years. What did the celebration mark?

A. 20 years
B. 200 years
C. Two parties in one year
D. 100 years

7. "During the summer rush, the price of a ferry ticket *quadrupled*, jumping from $5 to $20."

What does *quadrupled* mean?

A. Became twice as much
B. Became three times as much
C. Dropped by half
D. Became four times as much

8. "Bacteria are *unicellular*, but a frog's body is made of countless cells."

What does *unicellular* mean?

A. Able to live only in water
B. Made of one cell
C. Made of many cells
D. Made of two cells

9. Some words start with the letters u-n-i but use the prefix *un* (not) instead. In which word does *uni* mean one?

A. uninformed
B. uninvited
C. unimportant
D. uniform

10. Only one of these words uses *bi* to mean two. Which word is it?

A. biology
B. bias
C. bison
D. binoculars