Name _____ Date _____

Adjective Suffixes -able, -ous and -ive: Turning Words Into Describing Words

Directions: Each suffix in this set turns a word into an adjective. *Able* means can be or able to be, *ous* means full of, and *ive* means tending to. Find the base word, notice any spelling change, and put the meanings together.

1. "The *talkative* parrot repeats every word it hears, all day long."

Here the suffix is *ative*, a longer form of *ive*. What does *talkative* mean?

A. Afraid of loud voices
B. Unable to make any sound
C. Talking only in whispers
D. Tending to talk a lot

2. Each base word becomes an adjective with *able*, *ous* or *ive*. Match each base word to its adjective, and notice how the spelling changes.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ rely
2. _____ value
3. _____ create
4. _____ fame
5. _____ mystery
6. _____ protect

A. reliable
B. famously
C. creative
D. valuable
E. creation
F. famous
G. mysterious
H. protective

3. Each bank word is an adjective, so meaning decides which one fits. Complete the sentences, and leave one bank word unused.

Word bank

inventive • poisonous • enjoyable • spacious • breakable • washable

The glass vase is _____, so even a small bump could shatter it. Do not eat wild mushrooms you find on your own. Some are _____ because they contain toxins that can make a person very sick. Because she is so _____, Dr. Lee keeps coming up with machines that no one has thought of before. Soaking in a warm bath after a long, cold hike is truly _____. The new gym is so _____ that three basketball games can be played at the same time.

4. *Navigate* means to steer a boat or find a way.

"The river is *navigable* only in spring, when melting snow makes the water deep enough for boats."

What does *navigable* mean?

A. Full of fish
B. Too dangerous to swim in
C. Able to be traveled by boat
D. Frozen solid

5. "The road wound through *mountainous* country, climbing one steep peak after another."

What does *mountainous* mean?

A. Flat and dry
B. Crowded with houses
C. Full of mountains
D. Close to the ocean

6. When *decide* becomes *decisive*, what spelling change happens?

A. Nothing changes before *ive*.
B. The c changes to s.
C. The final e is doubled.
D. The *de* at the end changes to *s*.

7. "Jada's *persuasive* speech convinced the principal to start a recycling program."

What does *persuasive* mean?

A. Spoken in a whisper
B. Angry and loud
C. Good at convincing people
D. Very long and slow

8. When *courage* becomes *courageous*, what happens to the final e?

A. It is doubled.
B. It stays, so the g keeps its soft sound.
C. It changes to i.
D. It is dropped.

9. "The *destructive* storm knocked down trees and power lines all across the county."

What does *destructive* mean?

A. Gentle and quiet
B. Cold and snowy
C. Causing a lot of damage
D. Lasting only a minute

10. "The ending of the movie was so *predictable* that Max guessed it in the first ten minutes."

What does *predictable* mean?

A. Too long to finish
B. Very surprising
C. Sad and upsetting
D. Easy to guess ahead of time