Name _____ Date _____

Latin Roots voc, mit and tract: Decoding Academic Words in Context

Directions: Learn the Latin roots voc, mit and tract, and watch for their other spellings, vok and miss. Then use the word parts and the sentence around each new word to work out its meaning.

1. Two of these Latin roots have a second spelling. Match each word part (voc or vok, mit or miss, tract, trans, dis, and ad or at) to its meaning.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ voc or vok
2. _____ mit or miss
3. _____ tract
4. _____ trans
5. _____ dis
6. _____ ad or at

A. voice or to call
B. apart or away
C. across
D. to send or let go
E. under
F. to pull or drag
G. to break
H. to or toward

2. Complete each sentence with a word from the bank. Every bank word holds voc, mit, miss or tract, and one of them belongs nowhere.

Word bank

dismiss • attract • transmit • distract • vocal • permit

Maya is very _____ about recycling, and she raises the topic at every student council meeting. High above Earth, satellites _____ TV signals across thousands of miles of space to dishes on rooftops. A strong magnet will _____ the paper clips, pulling them across the table until they stick to it. The loud noise from the hallway did not _____ Zoe from her math test, and she finished early. If thunder rumbles, the coach will _____ the team early and send everyone home.

3. "The *vociferous* fans shouted and chanted through the whole game, and many of them went home hoarse."

Fer comes from a Latin word meaning to carry, so what does *vociferous* mean in this sentence?

A. Quiet and polite B. Loud and noisy C. Silent but angry D. Tired and bored

4. The library may *revoke* a borrowing card if its owner keeps books for months without returning them. Here *vok* is another form of *voc*, and *re* means back, so what does it mean to revoke a card?

A. To lend to a friend
B. To take back or cancel
C. To replace with a new one
D. To renew for another year

5. "Ms. Patel is an *advocate* for safer bike lanes, and she has written dozens of letters asking the city to build them."

Here *ad* means to, so what kind of person is an advocate like Ms. Patel?

A. A person who builds roads
B. A person who publicly supports a cause
C. A person who opposes a plan
D. A person who repairs bikes

6. The *intermittent* rain stopped and started all afternoon, so the game kept getting paused. If *inter* means between, what does *intermittent* tell you about the afternoon's rain?

A. Warm and gentle
B. Falling only at night
C. Heavy and constant
D. Stopping and starting again

7. "Electric cars produce no tailpipe *emissions*, which helps keep city air cleaner."

Here *miss* is another form of *mit*, and *e* means out, so what are emissions?

A. Parts that need to be replaced
B. Fees that drivers pay
C. Gases and other substances sent out into the air
D. Lights on the front of a car

8. The rover's *mission* on Mars is to search for rocks that show water once flowed there. Here *miss* is another form of *mit*, so what does *mission* mean in this sentence about the rover?

A. A rocket that carries supplies
B. A building where rovers are made
C. A special task that someone or something is sent to do
D. A map of the surface of Mars

9. "Most metals *contract* as they cool, so the gaps between sections of a steel bridge grow wider on a frosty morning."

Con means together, and *contract* can be a noun or a verb. Here it is a verb, so what does it mean?

A. To sign a written agreement
B. To grow larger
C. To catch an illness
D. To shrink or get smaller

10. After a *protracted* debate that dragged on until midnight, the town council finally voted. If *pro* means forward, what does *protracted* tell you about the council's debate?

A. Won by a large margin
B. Short and simple
C. Lasting longer than expected
D. Held outdoors

11. "A cat can *retract* its claws, so they stay tucked out of sight until it needs them."

If *re* means back, which meaning of *retract* fits what the cat does with its claws?

A. To clean B. To push out C. To pull back in D. To sharpen

12. Snow tires have deep grooves that give a car better *traction* on icy roads, so what is traction?

A. The color of a tire
B. The speed of a car
C. The noise a tire makes
D. The grip that keeps a wheel from slipping