Name _____ Date _____

Negative Prefixes un, in, im, dis and non: Words That Mean Not

Directions: Each prefix in this set (un, in, im, dis and non) can add the meaning not to a base word. Find the prefix, think about what the base word means, and put the two meanings together.

1. In each sentence, the word in italics starts with un, in, im, dis or non. Choose the meaning that fits each word.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ Kai was *unaware* that the bus had already left.
2. _____ The weather report was *inaccurate*: it promised sun, but it rained all day.
3. _____ It is *impolite* to talk with your mouth full of food.
4. _____ The puppy would *disobey* every command and run the other way.
5. _____ Rocks and water are *nonliving* parts of a pond.

A. not correct in its facts or details
B. following a rule or an order carefully
C. not knowing about something
D. to not follow a rule or an order
E. not alive
F. not showing good manners
G. knowing a lot about a subject

2. Pick the word from the bank that completes each sentence. Every bank word has a prefix that means not, and one word will be left over.

Word bank
incomplete • unsafe • impossible • nonfiction • nonstop • dishonest

The flight was _____, so it flew all the way from Chicago to Tokyo without landing once. Marcus knew his clothes still covered the floor, so it was _____ of him to say he had cleaned his room. Running across the frozen pond is _____, because the thin ice could crack and someone could get hurt. The puzzle asked for a whole number greater than 10 and less than 11, so it was _____ to solve. Priya left the last two questions blank, so her homework was _____ when she turned it in.

3. "The screech of the fire alarm was *unbearable*, so Ana covered her ears and hurried outside."

In this word, *bear* means to put up with. What does unbearable mean?

A. Able to be carried
B. Easy to ignore
C. Very quiet
D. Too unpleasant to put up with

4. Use the prefix *dis* to work out what *dissimilar* means in this sentence.

"The twins look alike, but their handwriting is completely *dissimilar*: Sam writes in tiny, neat letters, while Sara writes in big, loopy ones."

A. Exactly the same
B. Small and neat
C. Messy and hard to read
D. Not alike at all

5. "Coal is a *nonrenewable* resource. Once people dig it up and burn it, nature needs millions of years to make more."

If *renewable* means able to be replaced, what does nonrenewable mean?

A. Not useful for heating homes

B. Not able to be replaced as fast as people use it

C. Found only under the ocean

D. Able to be used again and again

6. *Edible* means safe and fit to eat. Which phrase could replace *inedible* in this sentence?

"After the bread burned black in the oven, it was *inedible*, and the family had to throw it away."

A. too hot to touch B. too heavy to lift C. fresh and tasty D. not fit to eat

7. "After the blizzard, the cars on Hill Street were *immobile*, buried in snow up to their windows."

The base word *mobile* means able to move. How would you describe the cars?

A. They could not move. B. They were brand new.

C. They were moving slowly. D. They had just been washed.

8. The prefix *in* does not always mean not. In which word does *in* mean not?

A. insert B. incorrect C. indoor D. inhale

9. Which prefix turns *patient* (able to wait calmly) into the usual English word today for someone who has trouble waiting calmly?

A. *un* B. *in* C. *im* D. *dis*

10. Each sentence uses a word that begins with *im*. In which sentence does *im* mean not?

A. The grocery store imports bananas from Ecuador.

B. The flooded dirt road was impassable for a week.

C. The vet will implant a tiny ID chip under the puppy's skin.

D. The family plans to immigrate to Canada next year.