Name: Date: Score: / 8

Word Origins in Context: Learn and Practice

Use word histories and context to find meaning

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Word Origins in Context

- Etymology is the history of a word, where it came from and how it changed.
- Knowing a root and reading the sentence around a word can unlock its meaning.
- Many English words come from Greek, Latin, French or Old English.
- Tele means far and phone means sound, so a telephone carries sound far.

1 Dict means say. In: The coach will dictate the rules, what does dictate mean?

A. forget them quickly B. write them in secret
C. say them with authority D. break them apart

2 Aqua means water. In: The aquarium held twenty fish, what is an aquarium?

A. a water tank for animals B. a sandy beach
C. a type of fish food D. a fishing boat

3 Sandwich comes from the title of an earl. A word that comes from a person's name is called...

A. a synonym B. an eponym C. a homophone
D. an antonym

4 Port means carry. In: Our tent is portable, what does portable mean?

A. easy to fold B. made of cloth
C. easy to carry D. very large

5 Spect means look. In: The spectators cheered from the stands, who are they?

A. people who coach B. people who play
C. people who sell food D. people who watch

6 Bio means life. Which word names the story of a person's life?

A. autograph B. telegraph C. geography
D. biography

7 Chron means time. Which word names a list of events in time order?

A. chronology B. photograph C. microscope
D. biology

8 What does etymology study?

A. the sounds of rhymes B. the shapes of letters
C. the history of words D. the lives of insects

✏️ Explain it! In your own words, write the rule for word origins in context and one example.

ANSWER KEY

Word Origins in Context: Learn and Practice (answers)

Use word histories and context to find meaning

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1. Dict means say. In: The coach will dictate the rules, what does dictate mean?

   A. forget them quickly B. write them in secret

   C. say them with authority D. break them apart

   Dict means say, and the coach is in charge, so dictate means to state firmly.

2. Aqua means water. In: The aquarium held twenty fish, what is an aquarium?

   A. a water tank for animals B. a sandy beach

   C. a type of fish food D. a fishing boat

   Aqua means water, and the fish live in it, so it is a water tank.

3. Sandwich comes from the title of an earl. A word that comes from a person's name is called...

   A. a synonym **B. an eponym** C. a homophone

   D. an antonym

   An eponym is a word named after a person, like sandwich.

4. Port means carry. In: Our tent is portable, what does portable mean?

   A. easy to fold B. made of cloth

   C. easy to carry D. very large

   Port means carry and able means can be, so portable means can be carried.

5. Spect means look. In: The spectators cheered from the stands, who are they?

   A. people who coach B. people who play

   C. people who sell food **D. people who watch**

   Spect means look, and they are in the stands, so they are watchers.

6. Bio means life. Which word names the story of a person's life?

   A. autograph B. telegraph C. geography

   D. biography

   Bio means life and graph means write, so a biography is writing about a life.

7. Chron means time. Which word names a list of events in time order?

   A. chronology B. photograph C. microscope

   D. biology

   Chron means time, so a chronology puts events in time order.

8. What does etymology study?

   A. the sounds of rhymes B. the shapes of letters

   C. the history of words D. the lives of insects

   Etymology traces where words come from and how they changed.