

Name _____ Date _____
Solve the Mystery!

Use context clues to find the meaning of the unknown words.

1) The terrible man committed many criminal acts--he was truly **nefarious**!

Nefarious probably means:

a) kind b) smart c) fast d) wicked

2) Professor Smith is a famous scientist in **entomology** who can tell us much about insects.

Entomology probably means:

a) study of science b) study of insects c) study of professors

3) **Excavation**, or digging up, of land where fossils are found helps archaeologists learn more about dinosaurs.

Excavation probably means:

a) finding fossils b) studying dinosaurs c) digging up land

4) During the 1960's, many people tried to reach **nirvana**, a state of heavenly happiness.

Nirvana probably means:

a) a time in the 1960's b) intense joy c) people trying

5) Virtual schooling was an **aberration** of how students normally learn. It stressed many students, parents, and teachers greatly.

Aberration probably means:

a) unwanted change b) wonderful change c) no change

6) The strange, loud noise was **intermittent**. We'd hear it one time, then it would stop a while, then start again at any time.

Intermittent probably means:

- a) happening steadily
- b) being loud
- c) happening unsteadily

7) "Bryan always contradicts me," complained Sara, "Whatever I say or do he says or does the opposite!"

Contradicts probably means:

- a) agrees with
- b) yells loudly
- c) talk or go against

8) In the experiment, the scientists discovered that oil is **insoluble** in water. No matter how they stirred, it would not dissolve!

Insoluble probably means:

- a) very oily
- b) able to be dissolved
- c) not able to be dissolved.

9) The school field trip fee was **mandatory**. If students did not pay the fee, they could not go to the amusement park.

Mandatory probably means:

- a) field trip
- b) something that must be done
- c) money

10) All animals, except for **amphibians**, can only survive on land or in water. Most have only one environment where it can live.

Amphibians probably are:

- a) animals that can survive only on land
- b) animals that can survive only in water
- c) animals that can survive both on land and in water
- d) not animals but some other species

