Understanding Word Meanings Worksheet

Understanding Word Meanings - Readers use different strategies to understand unfamiliar words.

Context Clues - Words or sentences around an unknown word that help explain its meaning.

Synonyms - Words that have the same or nearly the same meaning.

Antonyms - Words that have opposite meanings.

Prefixes & Suffixes - Word parts added to the beginning or end of a word that change its meaning.

Part I – Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer.

1. A synonym for "happy" is:
   A. Sad
   B. Angry
   C. Joyful
   D. Nervous
2. An antonym for "large" is:
   A. Huge
   B. Tiny
   C. Wide
   D. Tall
3. What does the prefix "un-" usually mean?
   A. Again
   B. Not
   C. Before
   D. Full of
4. What does the suffix "-ful" mean in the word "hopeful"?
   A. Without
   B. Full of
   C. Before
   D. Small
5. Which word is most likely a synonym for "quick"?
   A. Slow
   B. Rapid
   C. Quiet
   D. Weak

Part II – Context Clues - Read each sentence and use context clues to determine the meaning of the underlined word.

6. The desert was so **arid** that very few plants could grow there.

   What does "arid" mean?
   A. Wet
   B. Dry
   C. Cold
   D. Dark
7. Mia felt **exhausted** after running five miles in the race.

   What does "exhausted" mean?
   A. Excited
   B. Energetic
   C. Very tired
   D. Confused

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8. The tiny kitten was very **fragile**, so the children held it carefully.

   What does "fragile" mean?
   A. Strong
   B. Dangerous
   C. Easily broken
   D. Loud

9. The teacher's instructions were **brief**, lasting only a minute or two.

   What does "brief" mean?
   A. Long
   B. Short
   C. Confusing
   D. Loud

10. Jake was **furious** when he lost his homework assignment.

    What does "furious" mean?
    A. Angry
    B. Happy
    C. Calm
    D. Proud

Part III – Prefixes and Suffixes

11. What does the prefix "re-" mean?
    A. Again
    B. Not
    C. Under
    D. Full of

12. Which word means "not fair"?
    A. Replay
    B. Careless
    C. Unfair
    D. Helpful

13. What does the suffix "-less" mean?
    A. Full of
    B. Without
    C. Again
    D. Before

14. Which word means "full of care"?
    A. Careless
    B. Careful
    C. Replay
    D. Unkind

15. What does the prefix "pre-" mean?
    A. After
    B. Again
    C. Before
    D. Not

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