

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

