Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes

Museum Label Fact-Check

Name _____ Date _____

Quick review Use a familiar root or affix as a clue, then check the sentence. A matching set of letters does not always have the same meaning.

Example The Latin root port means carry. In transport, the root helps suggest carrying something from one place to another.

Check the word-part claims on draft museum labels. Repair mistakes, distinguish real parts from matching letters, and compare affixes. Explain each decision; other sound wording is valid.

Check Before Printing

[1] A museum club is reviewing labels for a viewing instrument, a picture exhibit, a moving cart, and a family history display. Each label must use a real word part and fit the exhibit's description. The editors also want two example words showing how suffixes can change a meaning.

1. A label says, 'Tele in telescope means close because the stars look closer.' Repair the word-part claim.

2. A photograph label says, 'Graph means carry because you can carry a photograph.' Explain the mistake and give the correct Greek root meaning.

3. Transport means carry from place to place; portal means a doorway. Which belongs in the Latin port meaning carry family? Explain why matching letters are not enough.

4. A family display label claims, 'Uncle means not cle because un- means not.' Explain why this is not a sound way to split uncle.

5. Compare hopeful and hopeless for the example-word label. Name the shared base and explain how each suffix changes it.

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Responses and feedback: Museum Label Fact-Check

These are sample responses and reasoning. Accept other answers that fit the task and are supported by the text or language rule.

1. Greek tele means far. A telescope helps someone view objects that are far away, even though they may look closer through it.

Reasoning: First, recall tele's meaning, far. Next, separate an object's real distance from how it appears through the instrument. The appearance does not change the root's meaning.

2. Graph means write or draw, not carry. Being able to carry a picture does not establish its word parts.

Reasoning: First, use the taught meaning of graph, write or draw, which relates to making an image. Next, distinguish that origin from an unrelated action someone can do with the finished picture. Carry belongs to Latin port.

3. Transport belongs in the carry family because its meaning includes carrying. Portal shares letters, but its meaning here is doorway, not carry.

Reasoning: First, compare each supplied meaning with carry. Next, keep transport because its meaning fits. Do not assign the same root meaning to portal solely because its spelling includes port.

4. Uncle is a family word, not un- added to a meaningful base cle. Its first two letters do not make un- a prefix in this word.

Reasoning: First, test whether the proposed base and prefix build the word's meaning. Cle is not the base of uncle, and not cle does not describe the family relationship. Therefore, the matching letters do not show a real prefix.

5. Both use hope. Hopeful uses -ful, full of hope; hopeless uses -less, without hope.

Reasoning: First, identify hope as the shared base. Next, attach each suffix's meaning: full of for -ful and without for -less. The suffix change produces contrasting meanings while the base stays the same.