



Dictionary and Thesaurus Skills

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: Grade 4

Part A: Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer for each question.

1. A dictionary shows "[Latin temperare, to mix]" after the word "temperature." What does this information tell you?

- A) How to spell the word
- B) The word's origin and original meaning
- C) How many syllables the word has
- D) Which definition to use

2. A thesaurus lists "thrilled," "pleased," "content," and "ecstatic" for "happy." Which word has the strongest meaning?

- A) Pleased
- B) Content
- C) Ecstatic
- D) Thrilled

3. The guide words are "together" and "took." Which word would NOT be found on this page?

- A) Tomato
- B) Tongue
- C) Topic
- D) Tone

4. A student writes "The kitten devoured its milk." Why is "devoured" a poor synonym choice for "drank"?

- A) Devoured is not a real word
- B) Devoured means eating greedily, not drinking
- C) Devoured and drank are antonyms
- D) Devoured is only used for people

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the correct answer on each line.

1. The etymology section of a dictionary entry uses brackets to show a word's _____ .
2. Choosing a synonym that is too strong or too weak can change the _____ of your writing.
3. The long vowel mark above a letter in a pronunciation key is called a _____ .
4. A homograph is a word that is spelled the same as another word but has a different _____ .
5. After choosing a thesaurus synonym, you should reread the sentence to make sure it sounds _____ .

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Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the correct answer on each line.

1. The etymology section of a dictionary entry uses brackets to show a word's origin .
2. Choosing a synonym that is too strong or too weak can change the tone of your writing.
3. The long vowel mark above a letter in a pronunciation key is called a macron .
4. A homograph is a word that is spelled the same as another word but has a different meaning .
5. After choosing a thesaurus synonym, you should reread the sentence to make sure it sounds natural .