

Roots at Work

Use context to uncover the meanings of root-based academic words.

6.2.C “determine the meaning and usage of grade-level academic English words derived from Greek and Latin roots such as mis/mit, bene, man, vac, scrib/script, and jur/jus.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the seven words formed with these roots: mis/mit, bene, man, vac, scrib/script, and jur/jus. In the margin, write a short clue from the passage next to each word that helps you infer its meaning.

A Ferry Story Returns

- ① At the Harbor History Center, Maya joined a team preparing an exhibit about the town's old ferry. Their mission was to show how boats once connected families, farms, and markets across the bay. The curator asked each student to study a different object and share reliable details. Maya chose a weathered brass bell found near the former dock. Its clear sound had once signaled a ferry's arrival, even in fog. Visitors would be able to ring a safe replica during the opening event.
- ② Another group examined a vacant shed beside the museum. For years, the building had no workers or stored supplies, but the team hoped to use it for workshops. They planned a beneficial project: local carpenters would repair loose boards, and younger children would paint signs. The work would make the area safer and give neighbors a useful place to gather. To move heavy display cases, the adults used a small hand truck instead of trying to manipulate the cases with bare hands.
- ③ Inside the exhibit, Maya noticed an inscription on the bell's rim. The words named the boat's builder and the year it entered service. She copied the text carefully for a label, knowing that a tiny error could change a historical record. At the opening event, a retired juror spoke about fairness in the town's early courts. He explained that justice depended on listening to evidence before making a decision. His story helped visitors connect the ferry exhibit to the community's past.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does mission mean in paragraph 1? What phrase in the paragraph gives you a clue?

2 What does vacant mean in paragraph 2? Use one detail from the paragraph to support your answer.

3 What does manipulate mean in paragraph 2? Explain what the adults did instead.

4 What does justice mean in paragraph 3? Which detail shows its meaning?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write two sentences about a school event. Use two different target-root words from the passage correctly, and put brackets around each word.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the seven words formed with these roots: mis/mit, bene, man, vac, scrib/script, and jur/jus. In the margin, write a short clue from the passage next to each word that helps you infer its meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does mission mean in paragraph 1? What phrase in the paragraph gives you a clue?	Mission means a purpose or goal. The clue is that the team's goal was to show how boats connected people across the bay.
2	What does vacant mean in paragraph 2? Use one detail from the paragraph to support your answer.	Vacant means empty or not being used. The shed had no workers or stored supplies for years.
3	What does manipulate mean in paragraph 2? Explain what the adults did instead.	Manipulate means to handle or move something. The adults used a small hand truck to move the heavy display cases.
4	What does justice mean in paragraph 3? Which detail shows its meaning?	Justice means fairness in making decisions. The detail says it depended on listening to evidence before making a decision.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The [vacant] classroom became a quiet space for the debate team. Our teacher asked us to show [justice] by letting each speaker have equal time.

Accept context-supported synonyms for the question answers. The seven words to underline are mission, vacant, beneficial, manipulate, inscription, juror, and justice; accept Part 3 responses that use two different target-root words accurately in two complete sentences.