Write and Wrong

Here are some of the bad guys from the world of words. They all share the Latin root *mal*, meaning “bad” or “wrong.” For each word listed below, write the letter of the correct definition. Next, circle the correct pronunciation. Use a dictionary to check your answers.

a. desiring harm to someone or something else
b. bad or harmful, producing death
c. illness believed to be spread by bad air, actually spread by mosquitoes
d. performing one’s duty in a bad or wrong way
e. bad-smelling
f. one who does wrong; a villain
g. having bad feelings toward someone or something; spite, hatred
h. bad speech; a curse
i. a bad health condition; a disease
j. a word used the wrong way; usually with humorous results

____ 1. malevolent
____ 2. malapropism
____ 3. malicious
____ 4. malodorous
____ 5. malady
____ 6. malaria
____ 7. malediction
____ 8. malefactor
____ 9. malignant
____ 10. malpractice
Rest In Peace

Not knowing words can be deadly! For each tombstone clue below, write the most suitable vocabulary word.

1. Here lies the body of Mildred Pink, Done in by the stink From her kitchen sink.

2. When I got sick, says Pauline Peters, Was it bad air— Or was it 'skeeters?

3. Blarney Barney Using the wrong word was my curse. Oh well, things could have been verse.

4. Here lies the body of Muscles McMillian, known by all as our town villain.

5. Roosevelt Ruth had an aching tooth. He never should have Visited Doctor Goo!

6. Walter the Wizard Lived in LA Spouting out curses Every day!

7. Here lies Timothy Tate, Eaten up by his very own hate.

8. Roger Rumor A deadly tumor put him In a very bad humor.

9. Miss Mary Louise Caught a very bad disease. It made her sneeze "Til weak in the knees.

10. On the way To harm a friend, Jealous Jason Met his end.
Something is not quite right here. For each sentence, cross out the problem word and replace it with the vocabulary word that will make more sense.

1. After several botched surgeries, Dr. Mordred Miles is on trial for medical expertise.

2. Sheila inhaled a deep breath of the fragrant air blowing in from the landfill.

3. Scientists have been studying the puzzling well-being of soldiers exposed to chemical warfare.

4. Muttering angry benedictions, the prisoner shuffled back to his cell.

5. The surgeon was extremely concerned about the benign tumor growing on the young man’s arm.

6. For years, people who lived in swampy areas suffered from good air.

7. Her correct words never failed to produce howls of laughter.

8. While the teacher’s back was turned, the class bully gave his neighbor a kindly kick in the shins.

9. John Wilkes Booth was the benefactor responsible for Abraham Lincoln’s murder.

10. Benevolence is the root of every war.