

• **Antonyms 1** Level 12

**Directions:** Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word in capital letters.

**1. ASSUAGE**

- A. mitigate
- B. inflame
- C. inhibit
- D. conciliate
- E. aver

**2. ROMANTIC**

- A. frivolous
- B. pensive
- C. earthy
- D. tacit
- E. scathing

**3. INFIRM**

- A. hospitable
- B. equestrian
- C. tremulous
- D. robust
- E. anemic

**4. ANOMALY**

- A. recurrence
- B. aberration
- C. recapitulation
- D. felicity
- E. consistency

**5. MELANCHOLY**

- A. exuberant
- B. composed
- C. lugubrious
- D. fetid
- E. esteemed

**6. ADROIT**

- A. gauche
- B. lumbering
- C. amateurish
- D. adept
- E. uncouth

**7. YOKE**

- A. mar
- B. fell
- C. pervert
- D. split
- E. conjoin

**8. INANE**

- A. tawdry
- B. keen
- C. vacuous
- D. innocuous
- E. pellucid

**9. INDULGE**

- A. abstain
- B. quaff
- C. regress
- D. absolve
- E. imbibe

**10. REPULSION**

- A. repugnance
- B. aversion
- C. destitution
- D. petulance
- E. attraction

## Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

The word *assuage* means to ease or make less severe. A massage can assuage pain in one's muscles. The opposite of assuage is to worsen or agitate. Because *inflame* means to make more heated or violent, choice **(B)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *mitigate* means to soften. This is practically synonymous with *assuage*, not the opposite of it.

**(C)** is incorrect because *inhibit* means to hold back. This is not the opposite of *assuage*.

**(D)** is incorrect because *conciliate* means to placate. This is not the opposite of *assuage*.

**(E)** is incorrect because *aver* means to declare to be true. This is not the opposite of *assuage*.

2) **C**

The word *romantic* means fanciful or unrealistic. For example, most utopian ideas are considered romantic, since they are idealized and practically impossible to carry out fully. The opposite of romantic is practical or realistic. Because *earthy* means realistic or practical, choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *frivolous* means petty or trivial. This is not the opposite of *romantic*.

**(B)** is incorrect because *pensive* means dreamily thoughtful. This is nearly synonymous with *romantic*, not the opposite of it.

**(D)** is incorrect because *tacit* means silently understood or implied. This is not the opposite of *romantic*.

**(E)** is incorrect because *scathing* means harshly critical. This is not the opposite of *romantic*.

3) **D**

The word *infirm* means feeble or weak in body or health. A very old dog would likely be infirm. The opposite of infirm is strong in health. Because *robust* means strong and healthy, choice **(D)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *hospitable* means receptive or open. This is not the opposite of *infirm*.

**(B)** is incorrect because *equestrian* means mounted on horseback. This is not the opposite of *infirm*.

**(C)** is incorrect because *tremulous* means quivering or fearful. This is not the opposite of *infirm*.

**(E)** is incorrect because *anemic* means listless or weak. This is synonymous with *infirm*, not the opposite of it.

4) **E**

The word *anomaly* means irregularity or deviation from the norm. For example, snow in July would be a weather anomaly in most parts of the Northern Hemisphere. The opposite of an anomaly is something that happens routinely. Because *consistency* is a steadfast adherence to routine or form, choice **(E)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because a *recurrence* is something that has occurred more than once. This is not the opposite of *anomaly*, since the fact that something has occurred more than once does not mean it happens routinely.

**(B)** is incorrect because an *aberration* is something different from the usual. This is synonymous with *anomaly*, not the opposite of it.

**(C)** is incorrect because a *recapitulation* is a brief summary that restates the main points of an argument. This is not the opposite of *anomaly*.

**(D)** is incorrect because *felicity* is feeling great happiness. This is not the opposite of *anomaly*.

5) **A**

The word *melancholy* means sad or depressed. The opposite of depressed is cheery. Because *exuberant* means happy or having high spirits, choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because *composed* means acting sober or calm. This is not the opposite of *melancholy*.

**(C)** is incorrect because *lugubrious* means sorrowful. This is practically synonymous with *melancholy*, not the opposite of it.

**(D)** is incorrect because *fetid* means foul-smelling. This is not the opposite of *melancholy*.

**(E)** is incorrect because *esteemed* means highly valued or regarded. This is not the opposite of *melancholy*.

6) **C**

The word *adroit* means skillful. An expert carpenter would be described as an adroit carpenter. The opposite of adroit is unskilled or maladroit. Because *amateurish* means inept or having the faults of a beginner, choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *gauche* means crude or socially awkward. This is not the opposite of *adroit*.

**(B)** is incorrect because *lumbering* means moving clumsily. This is not the opposite of *adroit*, since it is too limited in meaning. One can be skillful at tasks that do not require motion.

**(D)** is incorrect because *adept* means very skilled. This is synonymous with *adroit*, not the opposite of it.

**(E)** is incorrect because *uncouth* means unmannerly or socially awkward. This is not the opposite of *adroit*.

7) **D**

The word *yoke* means to unite or join together. Two oxen are yoked if they are tied together to pull a wagon. The opposite of yoke is separate. Because *split* means to divide or separate, choice **(D)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *mar* means to damage. This is not the opposite of *yoke*.

**(B)** is incorrect because *fell* means to chop down. This is not the opposite of *yoke*.

**(C)** is incorrect because *pervert* means to misuse. This is not the opposite of *yoke*.

**(E)** is incorrect because *conjoin* means to join together. This is synonymous with *yoke*, not the opposite of it.

8) **B**

The word *inane* means foolish or silly. An idiot might make an inane comment. The opposite of inane is insightful or intelligent. Because *keen* means smart or insightful, choice **(B)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *tawdry* means gaudy or cheap. This is not the opposite of *inane*.

**(C)** is incorrect because *vacuous* means lacking in intelligence. This is synonymous with *inane*, not the opposite of it.

**(D)** is incorrect because *innocuous* means harmless. This is not the opposite of *inane*.

**(E)** is incorrect because *pellucid* means clear in meaning. This is not the opposite of *inane*, because clarity in meaning does not necessarily imply intelligence.

9) **A**

The word *indulge* means to give in to a craving or desire. To indulge is to willingly give in to a temptation. The opposite of indulge is to refrain from a desire. Because *abstain* means to refrain deliberately from something, choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because *quaff* means to drink deeply or with pleasure. This is not the opposite of *indulge*.

**(C)** is incorrect because *regress* means to move backward. This is not the opposite of *indulge*.

**(D)** is incorrect because *absolve* means to clear from blame. This is not the opposite of *indulge*.

**(E)** is incorrect because *imbibe* means to consume. This is practically synonymous with *indulge*, not the opposite of it.

10) **E**

The word *repulsion* means the state of wanting to repel or reject something. For example, one might feel repulsion towards eating insects. The opposite of repulsion is to be drawn to something or to desire something. Because *attraction* is the state of drawing one in or being alluring, choice **(E)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *repugnance* is a strong distaste. This is synonymous with *repulsion*, not the opposite of it.

**(B)** is incorrect because *aversion* is a strong feeling of dislike. This is synonymous with *repulsion*, not the opposite of it.

**(C)** is incorrect because *destitution* is deprivation or poverty. This is not the opposite of *repulsion*.

**(D)** is incorrect because *petulance* is rudeness. This is not the opposite of *repulsion*.