

• **Antonyms 2** Level 7

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

1. WARY

- A. rash
- B. conscientious
- C. daring
- D. thrifty
- E. indiscreet

2. IRATE

- A. bitter
- B. riled
- C. courteous
- D. content
- E. annoyed

3. SUBSTANTIAL

- A. impoverished
- B. affluent
- C. insignificant
- D. suffering
- E. abundant

4. QUENCH

- A. stifle
- B. soak
- C. disappoint
- D. allay
- E. parch

5. NURTURE

- A. neglect
- B. underestimate
- C. mother
- D. treasure
- E. detest

6. RECEDE

- A. wane
- B. advance
- C. exaggerate
- D. taper
- E. stockpile

7. CORRUPT

- A. wicked
- B. dishonest
- C. sanitary
- D. principled
- E. reliable

8. FIASCO

- A. miracle
- B. blunder
- C. triumph
- D. catastrophe
- E. flop

9. POISED

- A. collected
- B. comfortable
- C. distracted
- D. unemotional
- E. anxious

10. PEEVISH

- A. morose
- B. patient
- C. flattering
- D. crusty
- E. excitable

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The word *wary* means cautious. Someone who is *wary* thinks about the consequences of an action before doing it. The opposite of *wary* is reckless or incautious. Because *rash* means displaying a lack of careful consideration of the possible consequences of an action, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *conscientious* means meticulous or careful. This is nearly synonymous with *wary*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *daring* means brave. This is not the opposite of *wary*, because one can be both brave and cautious.

(D) is incorrect because *thrifty* means using money carefully. This is not the opposite of *wary*.

(E) is incorrect because *indiscreet* means having too great a readiness to reveal private information. This is not the opposite of *wary*.

2) **D**

The word *irate* means extremely angry. When something aggravates someone who is already mad, that person might become *irate*. The opposite of *irate* is calm. Because *content* means in a state of peaceful happiness, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *bitter* means angry or hurt. This is practically synonymous with *irate*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *iriled* means irritated. This is practically synonymous with *irate*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *courteous* means polite. This is not the opposite of *irate*, since *irate* is not synonymous with impolite.

(E) is incorrect because *annoyed* means irritated. This is practically synonymous with *irate*, not the opposite of it.

3) **C**

The word *substantial* means of considerable import, size, or worth. A substantial donation to a hospital would fairly large. The opposite of *substantial* is unimportant or small in size. Because *insignificant* means too small or unimportant to be worth consideration, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *impoverished* means poor or lacking in money. This is not the opposite of *substantial*, because it is too limited in meaning. *Substantial* does not only refer to money.

(B) is incorrect because *affluent* means wealthy. This is not the opposite of *substantial*.

(D) is incorrect because *suffering* means experiencing pain or discomfort. This is not the opposite of *substantial*.

(E) is incorrect because *abundant* means plentiful. This is not the opposite of *substantial*.

4) **E**

The word *quench* means to satisfy thirst by drinking. When you have a drink of water, you are quenching your thirst. The opposite of *quench* is to make thirsty. Because *parch* means to make dry or thirsty, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *stifle* means to quell or end by force. This is not the opposite of *quench*.

(B) is incorrect because *soak* means to thoroughly wet. This is similar in meaning to *quench*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *disappoint* means to fail to fulfill the hopes of someone. This is not the opposite of *quench*, because *quench* is not synonymous with please.

(D) is incorrect because *allay* means to relieve or alleviate. This is not the opposite of *quench*.

5) **A**

The word *nurture* means to care for and aid in development. If one feeds a cat, he or she is nurturing it. The opposite of *nurture* is to disregard or ignore. Because *neglect* means to ignore, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *underestimate* means to regard someone as less capable than he or she really is. This is not the opposite of *nurture*.

(C) is incorrect because *mother* means to look after kindly and protectively. This is practically synonymous with *nurture*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *treasure* means to value highly. This is not the opposite of *nurture*.

(E) is incorrect because *detest* means to hate. This is not the opposite of *nurture*, because *nurture* is not synonymous with love.

6) **B**

The word *recede* means to move back or further away from a previous position. If an army retreats, it recedes from its current position. The opposite of *recede* is to move forward. Because *advance* means to move forward, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *wane* means to decrease in strength or power. This is not the opposite of *recede*.

(C) is incorrect because *exaggerate* means to represent something as being larger than it really is. This is not the opposite of *recede*.

(D) is incorrect because *taper* means to diminish at one end. This is practically synonymous with *recede*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *stockpile* means to accumulate a large supply of something. This is not the opposite of *recede*, since *stockpile* is not synonymous with *advance*.

7) **D**

The word *corrupt* means evil or morally depraved. A politician who gives bribes in exchange for votes is corrupt. The opposite of *corrupt* is moral. Because *principled* means acting in accordance with morality, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *wicked* means evil. This is synonymous with *corrupt*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *dishonest* means untruthful. This is not the opposite of *corrupt*.

(C) is incorrect because *sanitary* means hygienic and clean. This is not the opposite of *corrupt*, since being moral and being clean are not synonymous.

(E) is incorrect because *reliable* means dependable. This is not the opposite of *corrupt*, since *corrupt* is not synonymous with *undependable*.

8) **C**

The word *fiasco* means something that is a complete failure, especially in a humiliating way. For example, if one threw a party and none of the guests came, it would be a fiasco. The opposite of *fiasco* is a success. Because a *triumph* is a great success or victory, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a *miracle* is a surprising and welcome event that cannot be explained by science. This is not the opposite of *fiasco*, because it is too limited in meaning.

(B) is incorrect because a *blunder* is a stupid or careless mistake. This is not the opposite of *fiasco*.

(D) is incorrect because a *catastrophe* is a disaster or total failure. This is synonymous with *fiasco*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because a *flop* is a total failure. This is synonymous with *fiasco*, not the opposite of it.

9) **E**

The word *poised* means composed and self-assured. Someone who does not get nervous under pressure would be described as poised. The opposite of *poised* is rattled, upset, or nervous. Because *anxious* means nervous or worried, choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *collected* means not perturbed or distracted. This is practically synonymous with *poised*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *comfortable* means free from discomfort, tension, or stress. This is practically synonymous with *poised*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *distracted* means unfocused. This is not the opposite of *poised*, because *focused* is not synonymous with *self-assured*.

(D) is incorrect because *unemotional* means not showing strong feelings. This is not the opposite of *poised*.

10) **B**

The word *peevish* means easily irritated. Someone who is peevish gets angered or annoyed by even incredibly trivial things. The opposite of *peevish* is pleasant, relaxed, or unlikely to become irritated. Because *patient* means able to accept problems without becoming annoyed or irritated, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *morose* means sullen and ill-tempered. This is practically synonymous with *peevish*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *flattering* means full of praise and compliments. This is not the opposite of *peevish*, because someone who is not full of praise is not necessarily irritable.

(D) is incorrect because *crusty* means irritable. This is synonymous with *peevish*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *excitable* means responding too readily to something new or stimulating. This is not the opposite of *peevish*.