

• **Antonyms 3** Level 10

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

**1. AID**

- A. meander
- B. flounder
- C. hamper
- D. scuttle
- E. assist

**2. OPTIMISTIC**

- A. hopeful
- B. cynical
- C. naive
- D. pathetic
- E. wicked

**3. INDIFFERENCE**

- A. laxity
- B. attraction
- C. splendor
- D. dispassion
- E. obsession

**4. CONSEQUENTIAL**

- A. scanty
- B. dire
- C. trivial
- D. momentous
- E. paltry

**5. REINFORCED**

- A. ruined
- B. undermined
- C. strengthened
- D. enhanced
- E. shuffled

**6. REVEALED**

- A. obscured
- B. publicized
- C. lessened
- D. illuminated
- E. eroded

**7. ANTAGONIST**

- A. scribe
- B. author
- C. bandit
- D. hero
- E. rival

**8. BARREN**

- A. sterile
- B. wintry
- C. balmy
- D. fertile
- E. arid

**9. SUCCINCT**

- A. intelligible
- B. concise
- C. wordy
- D. hospitable
- E. elegant

**10. CHEERY**

- A. melancholy
- B. unfortunate
- C. merry
- D. confident
- E. imbecilic

## Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

The word *aid* means help or provide support. Someone aids another by making things easier for the other person. The opposite of aid is to make things harder for someone else. Because *hamper* means hold back or hinder, choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *meander* means wander or ramble. This is not the opposite of *aid*.

**(B)** is incorrect because *flounder* means struggle clumsily. This is not the opposite of *aid*.

**(D)** is incorrect because *scuttle* means deliberately sink, as in a ship. This is not the opposite of *aid*.

**(E)** is incorrect because *assist* means help or give support. This is synonymous with *aid*, not the opposite of it.

2) **B**

The word *optimistic* means tending to expect favorable outcomes. One is optimistic if he or she assumes things will work out well. The opposite of optimistic is pessimistic or expecting unfavorable outcomes. Because *cynical* means bitterly distrusting or pessimistic, choice **(B)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *hopeful* means full of the feeling that things will turn out for the best. This is synonymous with *optimistic*, not the opposite of it.

**(C)** is incorrect because *naïve* means unsophisticated or unworldly. This is not the opposite of *optimistic*.

**(D)** is incorrect because *pathetic* means pitiable or weak. This is not the opposite of *optimistic*.

**(E)** is incorrect because *wicked* means evil or morally bad. This is not the opposite of *optimistic*.

3) **E**

The word *indifference* means a lack of interest or concern. Someone shows indifference if he or she does not express any care about something. The opposite of indifference is interest. Because *obsession* is the act of dwelling or fixating on a particular subject or idea, choice **(E)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *laxity* is a looseness or lack of severity. This is not the opposite of *indifference*.

**(B)** is incorrect because *attraction* is allure or the power to draw one to another. This is not the opposite of *indifference*.

**(C)** is incorrect because *splendor* is magnificence. This is not the opposite of *indifference*.

**(D)** is incorrect because *dispassion* is the state or quality of being unemotionally involved. This is practically synonymous with *indifference*, not the opposite of it.

4) **C**

The word *consequential* means of importance. Something is consequential if it has an impact. The opposite of consequential is unimportant. Because *trivial* means of very little importance, choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *scanty* means meager or small in amount. This is not the opposite of *consequential*.

**(B)** is incorrect because *dire* means dreadful or terrible. This is not the opposite of *consequential*.

**(D)** is incorrect because *momentous* means of huge significance. This is synonymous with *consequential*, not the opposite of it.

**(E)** is incorrect because *paltry* means meager or small in amount. This is not the opposite of *consequential*.

5) **B**

The word *reinforced* means strengthened or made more effective. A building has been reinforced if something has been added to it that improves its structure. The opposite of reinforced is weakened. Because *undermined* means weakened by removing underlying support, choice **(B)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *ruined* means completely destroyed. This is not the opposite of *reinforced* because it is too extreme in meaning.

**(C)** is incorrect because *strengthened* means improved in power. This is synonymous with *reinforced*, not the opposite of it.

**(D)** is incorrect because *enhanced* means intensified or magnified. This is practically synonymous with *reinforced*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *shuffled* means walked without lifting one's feet. This is not the opposite of *reinforced*.

6) **A**

The word *revealed* means made known or visible. Something is revealed if it was once hidden but now is not hidden. The opposite of revealed is hidden or not open to view. Because *obscured* means concealed or hidden, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *publicized* means advertised or brought notice to. This is practically synonymous with *revealed*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *lessened* means reduced. This is not the opposite of *revealed*.

(D) is incorrect because *illuminated* means lit up. This is nearly synonymous with *revealed*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *eroded* means eaten up. This is not the opposite of *revealed*.

7) **D**

The word *antagonist* means a person who competes with another, especially the protagonist or main character in a story. For instance, the antagonist of a horror movie would be the monster. The opposite of antagonist is, then, the main character or protagonist. Because a *hero* is the main male character of a story and, generally, a person celebrated for bravery, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a *scribe* is a writer. This is not the opposite of *antagonist*.

(B) is incorrect because an *author* is a writer. This is not the opposite of *antagonist*.

(C) is incorrect because a *bandit* is a robber or outlaw. This is not the opposite of *antagonist*.

(E) is incorrect because a *rival* is a person who competes with another for the same prize. This is practically synonymous with *antagonist*, not the opposite of it.

8) **D**

The word *barren* means unproductive or incapable of creating offspring. Land is barren if it cannot produce fruit or vegetation. The opposite of barren is being able to create life. Because *fertile* means capable of producing vegetation or offspring, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *sterile* means unproductive or incapable of creating offspring. This is synonymous with *barren*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *wintry* means cold or frosty. This is not the opposite of *barren*.

(C) is incorrect because *balmy* means soft and soothing. This is not the opposite of *barren*.

(E) is incorrect because *arid* means incredibly dry. This is not the opposite of *barren*.

9) **C**

The word *succinct* means expressed in few words. A statement is succinct if it short in length. The opposite of succinct is expressed in a lot of words. Because *wordy* means characterized by the use of too many words, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *intelligible* means capable of being understood. This is not the opposite of *succinct*.

(B) is incorrect because *concise* means expressed in few words. This is synonymous with *succinct*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *hospitable* means welcoming or inviting. This is not the opposite of *succinct*.

(E) is incorrect because *elegant* means gracefully refined or dignified. This is not the opposite of *succinct*.

10) **A**

The word *cheery* means gay in spirits or happy in disposition. Someone is cheery if he or she shows that he or she is enjoying him or herself or encouraging others to be happy. The opposite of cheery is something negative such as depressed or saddened. Because *melancholy* means sad or gloomy, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *unfortunate* means unlucky. This is not the opposite of *cheery*.

(C) is incorrect because *merry* means joyous or gay. This is synonymous with *cheery*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *confident* means self-assured. This is not the opposite of *cheery*.

(E) is incorrect because *imbecilic* means silly or stupid. This is not the opposite of *cheery*.