

• **Antonyms 3** Level 11

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

1. AUGMENT

- A. dishearten
- B. aggrandize
- C. heighten
- D. disband
- E. diminish

2. MEAGER

- A. grandiose
- B. copious
- C. paltry
- D. majestic
- E. slipshod

3. LOYAL

- A. obstinate
- B. allegiant
- C. florid
- D. perfidious
- E. problematic

4. AGGRAVATE

- A. vex
- B. nourish
- C. pique
- D. haggle
- E. allay

5. FLAVORLESS

- A. baleful
- B. maudlin
- C. pungent
- D. vapid
- E. insipid

6. INFALLIBLE

- A. impassive
- B. iniquitous
- C. ingenuous
- D. impeccable
- E. insolvent

7. STRIDENT

- A. muffled
- B. murky
- C. muddled
- D. monastic
- E. multiform

8. GAUDY

- A. august
- B. puerile
- C. drab
- D. garish
- E. explicit

9. DEPRECATE

- A. disparage
- B. chastise
- C. malign
- D. propagate
- E. commend

10. CONVOLUTED

- A. simple
- B. utilitarian
- C. serpentine
- D. laborious
- E. tortuous

Answers and Explanations

1) **E**

The word *augment* means to increase or add to. For example, a salary may be augmented by a pay raise. The opposite of augment is to decrease or subtract from. Because *diminish* means to make smaller, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *dishearten* means to discourage or cause to lose hope. This is not the opposite of *augment*.

(B) is incorrect because *aggrandize* means to increase or intensify. This is synonymous with *augment*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *heighten* means to increase in degree or amount. This is synonymous with *augment*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *disband* means to disperse. This is not the opposite of *augment*.

2) **B**

The word *meager* means scanty or inadequate. For example, a meager meal would be one that is too small to satisfy one's appetite. The opposite of meager is adequate or plentiful. Because *copious* means plentiful, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *grandiose* means impressive or exaggerated. This is not the opposite of *meager*.

(C) is incorrect because *paltry* means insignificant. This is synonymous with *meager*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *majestic* means stately or grand. This is not the opposite of *meager*.

(E) is incorrect because *slipshod* means untidy. This is not the opposite of *meager*.

3) **D**

The word *loyal* means faithful. One is considered a loyal fan of a sports team if he or she never waivers in support of the team, regardless of the team's success. The opposite of loyal is disloyal or traitorous. Because *perfidious* means treacherous or disloyal, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *obstinate* means stubborn. This is not the opposite of *loyal*.

(B) is incorrect because *allegiant* means devoted or loyal. This is synonymous with *loyal*.

(C) is incorrect because *florid* means ruddy or reddish. This is not the opposite of *loyal*.

(E) is incorrect because *problematic* means questionable. This is not the opposite of *loyal*.

4) **E**

The word *aggravate* means to make worse or more severe. For example, putting salt on an open wound aggravates the pain of the wound. The opposite of aggravate is to lessen in severity. Because *allay* means to calm or pacify, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *vex* means to annoy. This is not the opposite of *aggravate*.

(B) is incorrect because *nourish* means to strengthen or build up. Despite its positive meaning, this is not the opposite of *aggravate*, since nourish does not necessarily mean to weaken in severity.

(C) is incorrect because *pique* means to provoke or annoy. This is not the opposite of *aggravate*.

(D) is incorrect because *haggle* means to argue about prices. This is not the opposite of any word, including *aggravate*.

5) **C**

The word *flavorless* means lacking in taste or flavor. A bland meal would be called flavorless. The opposite of flavorless is strong in flavor or taste. Because *pungent* means sharp in taste or smell, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *baleful* means deadly. This is not the opposite of *flavorless*.

(B) is incorrect because *maudlin* means overly sentimental. This is not the opposite of *flavorless*.

(D) is incorrect because *vapid* means dull or bland. This is synonymous with *flavorless*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *insipid* means lacking in flavor. This is synonymous with *flavorless*, not the opposite of it.

6) **B**

The word *infallible* means unerring or absolutely trustworthy. Catholics consider the Pope to be infallible. The opposite of infallible would be erring or untrustworthy. Because *iniquitous* means wicked or immoral, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *impassive* means without feeling. This is not the opposite of *infallible*.

(C) is incorrect because *ingenuous* means naïve or trusting. This is not the opposite of *infallible*.

(D) is incorrect because *impeccable* means faultless or flawless. This is practically synonymous with *infallible*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *insolvent* means bankrupt. This is not the opposite of *infallible*.

7) **A**

The word *strident* means harshly loud. For example, a police siren is strident. The opposite of strident is muted in sound or quiet. Because *muffled* means wrapped to prevent sound, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *murky* means dark or gloomy. This is not the opposite of *strident*.

(C) is incorrect because *muddled* means confused or mixed up. This is not the opposite of *strident*.

(D) is incorrect because *monastic* means related to monasteries and removed from worldly concerns. This is not the opposite of *strident*.

(E) is incorrect because *multiform* means having many forms. This is not the opposite of *strident*.

8) **C**

The word *gaudy* means flashy or showy. For example, the peacock is a very gaudy animal. The opposite of gaudy is subdued or muted. Because *drab* means dull or lacking in color, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *august* means impressive. This is not the opposite of *gaudy*.

(B) is incorrect because *puerile* means childish. This is not the opposite of *gaudy*.

(D) is incorrect because *garish* means overly bright in color. This is synonymous with *gaudy*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *explicit* means totally clear or unambiguous. This is not the opposite of *gaudy*.

9) **E**

The word *deprecate* means to belittle or express disapproval. If the public did not agree with the decision of a president, the public might deprecate the decision. The opposite of deprecate is to praise or express approval of. Because *commend* means to express praise, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *disparage* means to belittle. This is synonymous with *deprecate*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *chastise* means to punish. This is not the opposite of *deprecate*.

(C) is incorrect because *malign* means to speak evil of or defame. This is practically synonymous with *deprecate*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *propagate* means to multiply. This is not the opposite of *deprecate*.

10) **A**

The word *convoluted* means intricate or complex. The plot of a movie is considered convoluted if it is too complicated for audiences to follow. The opposite of convoluted is not complex. Because *simple* means easy to understand or not elaborate, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *utilitarian* means being useful or having a purpose. This is not the opposite of *convoluted*.

(C) is incorrect because *serpentine* means winding or twisting. This is not the opposite of *convoluted*.

(D) is incorrect because *laborious* means demanding much work. This is not the opposite of *convoluted*.

(E) is incorrect because *tortuous* means winding or curving. This is not the opposite of *convoluted*.