

• Word Definition 3 Level 11

Directions: Choose the answer choice that best defines the word in capital letters.

1) DEMAGOGUE

- A. an antagonist in a work of fiction
- B. a political leader who seeks support by appealing to prejudices
- C. a social climber or person with a great deal of ambition
- D. a person who makes his or her living through public speaking
- E. a being with partial or lesser divine status than a deity

2) CORROBORATE

- A. to divide an activity into separate smaller projects
- B. to remove the central part of something
- C. to work jointly on an activity
- D. to make two things accurately align or become parallel
- E. to confirm a statement with evidence

3) INTUITIVE

- A. invisible
- B. inside
- C. instinctive
- D. insulting
- E. ingenious

4) NOVICE

- A. a beginner
- B. an original idea
- C. a short literary work
- D. a religious zealot
- E. a numbing agent

5) ORATOR

- A. a doctor or surgeon
- B. a coach or teacher
- C. an opera singer
- D. a public speaker
- E. a graceful person

6) PRETENTIOUS

- A. toadyish and fawning
- B. snobbish and disdainful
- C. unwarranted and excessive
- D. affected and pompous
- E. punctual and prompt

7) MUNDANE

- A. generous
- B. dull
- C. dirty
- D. required
- E. extraordinary

8) DELETERIOUS

- A. harmful
- B. canceled
- C. envious
- D. censored
- E. slowing

9) RECLUSIVE

- A. enjoying a relaxing or amusing activity
- B. becoming less advanced
- C. denying other people or things entry
- D. opening up previously secret information to the public
- E. avoiding the company of other people

10) ENERVATE

- A. to cause worry
- B. to sadden
- C. to weaken
- D. to encourage
- E. to excite

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

demagogue (*noun*): a political leader who seeks support by appealing to popular desires and prejudices rather than by using rational argument: *George Wallace was arguably the most successful demagogue in history: he was able to win five states in 1968 largely by appealing to Southern racism.*

2) **E**

corroborate (*verb*): to confirm or give support to a theory, statement, or argument: *The defense attorney found four separate witnesses who could corroborate her client's statement, and this firmly proved his alibi in the eyes of the jury.*

3) **C**

intuitive (*adjective*): using or based on what one feels to be true even without conscious reasoning: *I had an intuitive feeling that something was wrong with my dog, and my instincts paid off when the vet was able to diagnose her with ringworm.*

4) **A**

novice (*noun*): a person new to or inexperienced in a field or situation: *Unlike her brother, who has been playing chess for years, Dorothy remains a mere novice.*

5) **D**

orator (*orator*): a skilled and eloquent public speaker: *Abraham Lincoln's greatest asset was his speaking skills; he was such a fine orator that he could convince almost anyone to agree with his points of view.*

6) **D**

pretentious (*adjective*): attempting to impress by affecting greater importance, talent, culture, or knowledge than is actually possessed: *Derrick had a tendency to try to mention important works of literature and art in his casual conversation, and such pretentious airs tended to make others dislike him.*

7) **B**

mundane (*adjective*): lacking interest or excitement: *Many readers seek a temporary escape from their dull, mundane existences by reading gripping adventure stories.*

8) **A**

deleterious (*adjective*): causing harm or damage: *While exercise is generally beneficial, too much exercise can actually have deleterious effects on one's health.*

9) **E**

reclusive (*adjective*): solitary or avoiding the company of other people: *Many, inspired by Thoreau's life of solitude in the words, have sought similar reclusive excursions.*

10) **C**

enervate (*verb*): to cause someone to feel drained of energy or vitality: *Just as a vampire drains blood out of its victim, so an energy vampire enervates its victim, leaving him or her feeling drained of vigor.*