

• **Antonyms 1** Level 2

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

1. EXCITING

- A. boring
- B. uncommon
- C. lively

2. DIFFICULT

- A. simple
- B. complex
- C. challenging

3. PLAYFUL

- A. horrible
- B. funny
- C. serious

4. DELIGHT

- A. please
- B. upset
- C. blame

5. BLAND

- A. raw
- B. flavorless
- C. tasty

6. ALWAYS

- A. sometimes
- B. never
- C. rarely

7. HANDSOME

- A. ugly
- B. pretty
- C. gorgeous

8. ENORMOUS

- A. tiny
- B. heavy
- C. tall

9. STIFF

- A. hard
- B. flexible
- C. frozen

10. ARRIVE

- A. enter
- B. welcome
- C. depart

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The word *exciting* means thrilling or causing great enthusiasm, interest, or eagerness. For example, a game played during recess might be exciting. The opposite of exciting is dull or unable to cause enthusiasm or excitement. Because *boring* means not interesting or exciting, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *uncommon* means out of the ordinary or not occurring often. This is not the opposite of *exciting*, since something can be both uncommon and exciting. Uncommon things usually are exciting, in fact, because they are unfamiliar breaks in routines that can otherwise be dull.

(C) is incorrect because *lively* means full of energy. This is not the opposite of *exciting*, since someone who is lively might also be exciting.

2) **A**

The word *difficult* means hard to accomplish or needing much effort or work to accomplish or understand. For example, becoming a doctor is a difficult task, since it means you have to go to school for a very long time and complete lots of hard work. The opposite of difficult is easy. Because *simple* means easily understood or done, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *complex* means not easy to understand. This is almost the same as *difficult*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *challenging* means demanding or not easy to accomplish. This is almost the same as *difficult*, not the opposite of it.

3) **C**

The word *playful* means lighthearted or fond of games and amusement. A kitten that is constantly pawing at balls of yarn and other toys would be described as playful. The opposite of playful is somber or depressing in manner. Because *serious* means somber and thoughtful in manner, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *horrible* means shocking or causing horror. This is not the opposite of *playful*, because it is too extreme. The opposite of a playful person is not someone who causes horror or fear.

(B) is incorrect because *funny* means causing laughter or amusement. This is almost the same as *playful*, not the opposite of it.

4) **B**

The word *delight* means to please someone greatly. A fun trip to the zoo might delight everyone in your family. The opposite of delight is to cause displeasure. Because *upset* means to make someone unhappy, angry, or displeased, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *please* means to cause someone to feel happy and satisfied. This is almost the same as *delight*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *blame* means to assign responsibility to someone for a wrong act. This is not the opposite of *delight*, because blaming is not the same as displeasing.

5) **C**

The word *bland* means flavorless. Pasta without any sauce or cheese is a bland food. The opposite of bland is flavorful. Because *tasty* means having a pleasant, distinct flavor, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *raw* means uncooked. This is not the opposite of *bland*, because a food can be both raw and flavorful. For example, an apple is raw, but it still tastes sweet.

(B) is incorrect because *flavorless* means having no flavor or taste. This is the same as *bland*, not the opposite of it.

6) **B**

The word *always* means at all times or occasions. For example, the sun always rises in the sky, since it does so every single day. The opposite of always is at no times or occasions. Because *never* means at no times or occasions, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *sometimes* means occasionally. This is not the opposite of *always*, because it is not extreme enough. Something that happens sometimes happens from time to time, whereas the opposite of something that happens always is something that happens on no occasions.

(C) is incorrect because *rarely* means not often. This is not the opposite of *always*, because it is not extreme enough. Something that happens rarely happens from time to time, whereas the opposite of something that happens always is something that happens on no occasions.

7) **A**

The word *handsome* means good-looking. Any man that is attractive or pleasant to look at would be described as handsome. The opposite of handsome is unattractive or unpleasant in appearance. Because *ugly* means unpleasant in appearance, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *pretty* means good-looking. This is the same as *handsome*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *gorgeous* means very attractive. This is almost the same as *handsome*, not the opposite of it.

8) **A**

The word *enormous* means very large in size. For example, an elephant is an enormous animal. The opposite of enormous is very small in size. Because *tiny* means very small in size, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *heavy* means of great weight. This is not the opposite of *enormous*, since something that is enormous is likely also heavy.

(C) is incorrect because *tall* means of great height. This is not the opposite of *enormous*, because something that is enormous is likely also tall.

9) **B**

The word *stiff* means not easily bent. A brick is stiff, since it is hard to bend or shape it. The opposite of stiff is easily bent. Because *flexible* means easily bent without breaking, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *hard* means not easily bent, broken, or pierced. This is almost the same as *stiff*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *frozen* means very cold or turned into ice. This is not the opposite of *stiff*, since something that is frozen is likewise hard to bend.

10) **C**

The word *arrive* means to reach one's destination after traveling. When your bus gets to school, you have arrived at school. The opposite of arrive is to leave. Because *depart* means to leave in order to start a journey, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *enter* means to come or go into a place. This is almost the same as *arrive*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *welcome* means to be glad to receive a visitor. This is not the opposite of *arrive*, because welcoming is not the same as leaving.