

• **Antonyms 1** Level 5

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

1. DEBATE

- A. agree
- B. tame
- C. dispute
- D. ignore

2. HAVOC

- A. wonder
- B. peace
- C. chaos
- D. warfare

3. EXCAVATE

- A. scrape
- B. hollow
- C. bury
- D. mask

4. ABSURD

- A. batty
- B. sensible
- C. certain
- D. insane

5. PEDESTRIAN

- A. motorist
- B. hiker
- C. galloper
- D. sailor

6. SOLITARY

- A. friendly
- B. lonely
- C. isolated
- D. together

7. SOAR

- A. elevate
- B. float
- C. mount
- D. land

8. ATHLETIC

- A. frail
- B. muscular
- C. energetic
- D. intelligent

9. CRITICIZE

- A. punish
- B. praise
- C. blame
- D. approve

10. ACCOMPLISH

- A. exhaust
- B. manage
- C. blunder
- D. cease

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The word *debate* means to argue or discuss. When two people disagree about something, they might debate it. The opposite of debate is to share the same view or ideas. Because *agree* means to have the same opinion, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *tame* means to make calmer or easier to control. This is not the opposite of *debate*.

(C) is incorrect because *dispute* means to challenge or argue. This is almost the same as *debate*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *ignore* means to not notice or pay attention to. This is not the opposite of *debate*, since arguing about something is not the same thing as paying attention to it.

2) **B**

The word *havoc* means widespread destruction or confusion. A great tragedy might lead to havoc. The opposite of havoc is calmness. Because *peace* is a calmness or freedom from disturbance, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *wonder* is a feeling of surprise. This is not the opposite of *havoc*.

(C) is incorrect because *chaos* is complete disorder and confusion. This is the same as *havoc*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *warfare* is violent conflict. This is not the opposite of *havoc*.

3) **C**

The word *excavate* means to dig out. A dog might retrieve a bone from the backyard by excavating it. The opposite of excavate is to put into the ground. Because *bury* means to put or hide underground, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *scrape* means to rub a sharp object across something, such as the skin. This is not the opposite of *excavate*.

(B) is incorrect because *hollow* means to make a hole and remove the inner contents of something. This is not the opposite of *excavate*.

(D) is incorrect because *mask* means to cover up or disguise. This is not the opposite of *excavate*, because excavating is not the same as uncovering or revealing.

4) **B**

The word *absurd* means foolish, unreasonable, or unrealistic. An absurd idea is one that is completely ridiculous. The opposite of absurd is smart, reasonable, or realistic. Because *sensible* means wise and reasonable, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *batty* means crazy or insane. This is almost the same as *absurd*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *certain* means sure or known. This is not the opposite of *absurd*, since absurd is not the same as unsure.

(D) is incorrect because *insane* means crazy. This is almost the same thing as *absurd*, not the opposite of it.

5) **A**

The word *pedestrian* means a person walking along a road. Anyone on foot in a city or town is a pedestrian. The opposite of a pedestrian is someone driving a car on a road. Because a *motorist* is someone driving a vehicle, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because a *hiker* is someone who walks long distances. This is not the opposite of *pedestrian*, because a pedestrian does not only walk for short distances.

(C) is incorrect because a *galloper* is someone who walks at a very fast pace. This is not the opposite of *pedestrian*, since a pedestrian does not only walk slowly.

(D) is incorrect because a *sailor* is a person who works on a ship. This is not the opposite of *pedestrian*, because a sailor might not necessarily operate a motor-powered boat. For example, there are rowboats and sailboats.

6) **D**

The word *solitary* means done or existing alone. In prison, if one is put in solitary confinement, he or she is completely alone in a prison cell. The opposite of solitary is with other people. Because *together* means with another person or people, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *friendly* means nice or sociable. This is not the opposite of *solitary*, since being alone is not the same as being mean or unfriendly.

(B) is incorrect because *lonely* means without companions. This is the same as *solitary*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *isolated* means having little contact with others. This is almost the same as *solitary*, not the opposite of it.

7) **D**

The word *soar* means to fly high in the air. For example, jumbo jets soar from airport to airport. The opposite of *soar* is to be on the ground. Because *land* means to come down from the air and touch the ground, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *elevate* means to rise higher. This is not the opposite of *soar*.

(B) is incorrect because *float* means to hover or fly just above the surface. This is not the opposite of *soar*, since both floating and soaring are ways of flying.

(C) is incorrect because *mount* means to climb. This is not the opposite of *soar*.

8) **A**

The word *athletic* means physically strong, fit, and active. Someone who is in good physical shape would be considered athletic. The opposite of athletic is weak or lazy. Because *frail* means weak and delicate, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *muscular* means strong or fit. This is almost the same as *athletic*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *energetic* means active or full of energy. This is nearly the same as *athletic*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *intelligent* means smart. This is not the opposite of *athletic*, since being athletic is not the same as being dumb.

9) **B**

The word *criticize* means to indicate one's faults in a negative way. One might criticize someone else for being lazy, for instance. The opposite of criticize is to indicate one's good qualities in a positive way. Because *praise* means to express approval or admiration, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *punish* means to penalize someone for doing something bad. This is not the opposite of *criticize*.

(C) is incorrect because *blame* means to assign responsibility for a fault or wrongdoing. This is not the opposite of *criticize*.

(D) is incorrect because *approve* means to believe that something is good or satisfactory. This is not the opposite of *criticize*, because one could approve of something without mentioning it publicly.

10) **C**

The word *bicker* means to argue about unimportant matters. Siblings might bicker about unimportant things such as who The word *accomplish* means to achieve or complete something successfully. For example, if you have reached a goal, you have accomplished something. The opposite of accomplish is to fail. Because *blunder* means to fail or make a foolish mistake, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *exhaust* means to tire out. This is not the opposite of *accomplish*, since accomplish does not mean to energize.

(B) is incorrect because *manage* means to oversee. This is not the opposite of *accomplish*.

(D) is incorrect because *cease* means to come to an end or stop. This is not the opposite of *accomplish*, because stopping something is not the same as failing at something.