



● **Antonyms 5** Level 7

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

1. CANNY

- A. cunning
- B. daft
- C. juvenile
- D. perceptive
- E. comical

2. ACCLAIM

- A. ovation
- B. notoriety
- C. censure
- D. renown
- E. demotion

3. FLAGANT

- A. modest
- B. enormous
- C. candid
- D. blatant
- E. camouflaged

4. ACKNOWLEDGE

- A. overlook
- B. regard
- C. appreciate
- D. misunderstand
- E. despise

5. NEGLIGENT

- A. thoughtless
- B. slack
- C. zealous
- D. attentive
- E. voluntary

6. ACQUIRE

- A. relinquish
- B. deteriorate
- C. squander
- D. secure
- E. purchase

7. INFURIATE

- A. depress
- B. please
- C. enrage
- D. provoke
- E. hypnotize

8. CASUAL

- A. gaudy
- B. nonchalant
- C. solemn
- D. academic
- E. lax

9. SADDLE

- A. furnish
- B. burden
- C. sustain
- D. relieve
- E. afflict

10. MELANCHOLY

- A. quarrelsome
- B. woeful
- C. sarcastic
- D. dejected
- E. gleeful

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

The word *canny* means smart or showing good judgment. Someone who makes wise decisions would be described as canny. The opposite of canny is unintelligent or showing bad judgment. Because *daft* means senseless or stupid, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *cunning* means skillful at achieving goals by using deceit. This is not the opposite of *canny*, since canny is not synonymous with honest.

(C) is incorrect because *juvenile* means childish or immature. This is not the opposite of *canny*, because childish is not synonymous with stupid.

(D) is incorrect because *perceptive* means showing sensitive insight or intelligence. This is practically synonymous with *canny*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *comical* means humorous. This is not the opposite of *canny*, since foolish and humorous are not synonymous.

2) **C**

The word *acclaim* means enthusiastic public praise. When one is honored in a speech, he or she is receiving acclaim. The opposite of acclaim is public criticism or dishonor. Because a *censure* is a publicly expressed disapproval of someone, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because an *ovation* is an enthusiastic public reception of a person. This is practically synonymous with *acclaim*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *notoriety* is the state of being widely known. This is not the opposite of *acclaim*.

(D) is incorrect because *renown* is fame. This is not the opposite of *acclaim*.

(E) is incorrect because a *demotion* is a reduction in rank or status. This is not the opposite of *acclaim*, because a demotion is not necessarily public.

3) **E**

The word *flagrant* means obviously noticeable or blatant. A bright pink house in an otherwise drab neighborhood would be flagrant. The opposite of flagrant is hidden or unnoticeable. Because *camouflaged* means hidden or disguised in such a way as to make something less noticeable, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *modest* means having regard for the decencies of behavior. This is not the opposite of *flagrant*, because *flagrant* is not synonymous with indecent.

(B) is incorrect because *enormous* means very large. This is not the opposite of *flagrant*.

(C) is incorrect because *candid* means frank or honest. This is not the opposite of *flagrant*.

(D) is incorrect because *blatant* means very obvious. This is synonymous with *flagrant*, not the opposite of it.

4) **A**

The word *acknowledge* means to recognize the import of something or show recognition of another person. If one acknowledges someone, he or she is saying that the other person matters. The opposite of *acknowledge* is to deny the import of or ignore someone or something. Because *overlook* means to ignore or disregard, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *regard* means to think of or consider someone in a certain way. This is not the opposite of *acknowledge*.

(C) is incorrect because *appreciate* means to recognize the full worth of someone or something. This is practically synonymous with *acknowledge*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *misunderstand* means to fail to interpret correctly. This is not the opposite of *acknowledge*, since *acknowledge* is not synonymous with *understand*.

(E) is incorrect because *despise* means to loathe or hate. This is not the opposite of *acknowledge*, since *acknowledge* is not synonymous with *love*.

5) **D**

The word *negligent* means failing to take proper care in doing something. For instance, someone who never waters his or her plants is a negligent gardener. The opposite of *negligent* is taking proper care in doing something. Because *attentive* means paying close attention to something, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *thoughtless* means without consideration of the potential consequences. This is not the opposite of *negligent*.

(B) is incorrect because *slack* means showing laziness or a lack of care. This is practically synonymous with *negligent*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *zealous* means passionate. This is not the opposite of *negligent*, since one does not need to be passionate about something to take care of it.

(E) is incorrect because *voluntary* means done by one's free will. This is not the opposite of *negligent*.

6) **A**

The word *acquire* means to buy or obtain. When one purchases a video game, he or she acquires the game. The opposite of acquire is to lose or give up. Because *relinquish* means to voluntarily give up or not keep, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *deteriorate* means to progressively worsen. This is not the opposite of *acquire*.

(C) is incorrect because *squander* means to waste in a reckless and foolish manner. This is not the opposite of *acquire*, because it is too specific in meaning. This word has an intensely negative connotation, but acquire does not have a positive or negative connotation.

(D) is incorrect because *secure* means to protect against threats or make safe. This is not the opposite of *acquire*.

(E) is incorrect because *purchase* means to buy. This is practically synonymous with *acquire*, not the opposite of it.

7) **B**

The word *infuriate* means to make someone extremely angry. One might be infuriated by a canceled flight or any other annoyance. The opposite of infuriate is to please someone or make someone relaxed. Because *please* means to give someone pleasure, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *depress* means to make someone feel unhappy or dejected. This is not the opposite of *infuriate*, because anger is not the opposite of unhappiness.

(C) is incorrect because *enrage* means to make someone angry. This is synonymous with *infuriate*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *provoke* means to deliberately anger someone. This is nearly synonymous with *infuriate*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *hypnotize* means to fascinate or capture the whole attention of someone. This is not the opposite of *infuriate*.

8) **C**

The word *casual* means informal. When a man wears a suit or tuxedo, he is not dressed in casual attire. The opposite of casual is formal. Because *solemn* means formal and dignified, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *gaudy* means extravagantly bright or showy. This is not the opposite of *casual*, because gaudy is not synonymous with formal.

(B) is incorrect because *nonchalant* means feeling casual and relaxed. This is practically synonymous with *casual*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *academic* means relating to education and scholarship. This is not the opposite of *casual*.

(E) is incorrect because *lax* means not strict. This is practically synonymous with *casual*, not the opposite of it.

9) **D**

The word *saddle* means to burden. An extra homework assignment might saddle a student. The opposite of saddle is to relieve someone of a burden or responsibility. Because *relieve* means to free from a burden, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *furnish* means to supply someone with something. This is not the opposite of *saddle*.

(B) is incorrect because *burden* means to cause hardship or distress. This is synonymous with *saddle*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *sustain* means to strengthen. This is not the opposite of *saddle*, since a burden does not necessarily weaken someone.

(E) is incorrect because *afflict* means to cause pain or suffering. This is not the opposite of *saddle*.

10) **E**

The word *melancholy* means sad, gloomy, or depressed. A melancholy person is not likely to smile often. The opposite of melancholy is cheery or happy. Because *gleeful* means full of joy and glee, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *quarrelsome* means given to fighting or arguing. This is not the opposite of *melancholy*.

(B) is incorrect because *woeful* means causing sorry or misery. This is practically synonymous with *melancholy*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *sarcastic* means using witty verbal irony or sarcasm. This is not the opposite of *melancholy*.

(D) is incorrect because *dejected* means sad and depressed. This is synonymous with *melancholy*, not the opposite of it.