

• **Antonyms 1** Level 8

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

1. AGONY

- A. comfort
- B. anguish
- C. success
- D. grief
- E. security

2. MYRIAD

- A. mass
- B. scarcity
- C. void
- D. excess
- E. pyramid

3. GRATIFY

- A. puncture
- B. coddle
- C. disappoint
- D. fatigue
- E. thrill

4. CULTIVATE

- A. labor
- B. neglect
- C. renounce
- D. further
- E. cede

5. MULTIPLY

- A. bisect
- B. accumulate
- C. lessen
- D. deliver
- E. add

6. MISUNDERSTAND

- A. grasp
- B. analyze
- C. nurture
- D. instruct
- E. reminisce

7. SUBSEQUENT

- A. consequential
- B. illogical
- C. later
- D. former
- E. consistent

8. MANUAL

- A. improved
- B. antiquated
- C. standard
- D. industrialized
- E. automated

9. JUSTIFY

- A. explain
- B. rationalize
- C. apologize
- D. pardon
- E. invalidate

10. PUNISHMENT

- A. profit
- B. purgatory
- C. penalty
- D. bounty
- E. abuse

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The word *agony* means extreme physical or mental suffering. Someone who is in a great deal of pain is experiencing agony. The opposite of agony is being free of mental or physical pain. Because *comfort* is a state of being free of pain, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *anguish* is severe mental or physical pain. This is synonymous with *agony*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *success* is the achievement of a goal. This is not the opposite of *agony*.

(D) is incorrect because *grief* is sorrow. This is not the opposite of *agony*.

(E) is incorrect because *security* is the state of being free from threat. This is not the opposite of *agony*.

2) **B**

The word *myriad* means an extremely great number. If there is a myriad of reasons not to do something, then there are a great number of reasons to not do it. The opposite of myriad is small in number. Because *scarcity* means a small quantity or the state of not having enough of something, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a *mass* is a large amount. This is synonymous with *myriad*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because a *void* is a completely empty space. This is not the opposite of *myriad*, because its meaning is too limited and extreme.

(D) is incorrect because *excess* is an amount of something that is more than necessary. This is practically synonymous with *myriad*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because a *pyramid* is a monumental structure with a square base and sides that slant to meet at a point at the top. This is not the opposite of *myriad*.

3) **C**

The word *gratify* means to give pleasure or satisfaction. Anything that provides comfort can gratify someone. The opposite of gratify is to cause pain or not give pleasure. Because *disappoint* means to fail to fulfill someone's hopes or to not please someone, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *puncture* means to make a hole in something. This is not the opposite of *gratify*.

(B) is incorrect because *coddle* means to treat in an overprotective way. This is not the opposite of *gratify*.

(D) is incorrect because *fatigue* means to tire out or exhaust. This is not the opposite of *gratify*, because something that brings someone pleasure might also exhaust him or her.

(E) is incorrect because *thrill* means to excite. This is not the opposite of *gratify*.

4) **B**

The word *cultivate* means to grow or nurture for growth. When one plants and cares for the crops he or she planted, he or she is cultivating said crops. The opposite of cultivate is to harm or not nurture into growing. Because *neglect* means to fail to care for properly, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *labor* means to work. This is not the opposite of *cultivate*.

(C) is incorrect because *renounce* means to formally declare one's abandonment of a principle or belief. This is not the opposite of *cultivate*.

(D) is incorrect because *further* means to advance or help the growth of. This is practically synonymous with *cultivate*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *cede* means to give up territory. This is not the opposite of *cultivate*.

5) **C**

The word *multiply* means to greatly increase in quantity. When one's problems multiply, one acquires many more troubles. The opposite of multiply is to reduce in quantity. Because *lessen* means to decrease in number or size, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *bisect* means to split into two equal parts. This is not the opposite of *multiply*, because splitting something into two pieces does not decrease its overall size.

(B) is incorrect because *accumulate* means to gradually gather or increase in quantity. This is practically synonymous with *multiply*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *deliver* means to hand over something. This is not the opposite of *multiply*.

(E) is incorrect because *add* means to increase in size. This is similar in meaning to *multiply*, not the opposite of it.

6) **A**

The word *misunderstand* means to fail to correctly interpret. When one misinterprets something someone else says, he or she misunderstands it. The opposite of *misunderstand* is to understand. Because *grasp* means to comprehend firmly, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *analyze* means to examine methodically and in detail. This is not the opposite of *misunderstand*, because one can analyze something and still not correctly interpret it.

(C) is incorrect because *nurture* means to care for and encourage the growth of. This is not the opposite of *misunderstand*.

(D) is incorrect because *instruct* means to teach. This is not the opposite of *misunderstand*.

(E) is incorrect because *reminisce* means to indulge in enjoyable recollection of past events. This is not the opposite of *misunderstand*.

7) **D**

The word *subsequent* means occurring afterward. New Year's Day is the holiday that occurs subsequently after New Year's Eve. The opposite of *subsequent* is occurring first or before. Because *former* means occurring previously in time, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *consequential* means following as a result or effect. This is practically synonymous with *subsequent*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *illogical* means lacking sense. This is not the opposite of *subsequent*.

(C) is incorrect because *later* means occurring afterward. This is synonymous with *subsequent*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *consistent* means unchanging over time. This is not the opposite of *subsequent*.

8) **E**

The word *manual* means done with the hands or not automatic. For example, a task such as chopping wood with an axe is manual labor. The opposite of *manual* is automatic. Because *automated* means controlled by automation, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *improved* means to make better. This is not the opposite of *manual*.

(B) is incorrect because *antiquated* means old-fashioned or no longer used. This is not the opposite of *manual*.

(C) is incorrect because *standard* means accepted as normal or average. This is not the opposite of *manual*.

(D) is incorrect because *industrialized* means having industry or manufacturing on a wide level. This is not the opposite of *manual*, because having industry is not synonymous with being automated or automatic.

9) **E**

The word *justify* means to prove to be right or reasonable. For example, one might justify a decision by proving the logic behind it. The opposite of *justify* is to prove not right or unreasonable. Because *invalidate* means to make something erroneous or prove something to be unsound, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *explain* means to clarify or make clearer by describing something in more detail. This is not the opposite of *justify*.

(B) is incorrect because *rationalize* means to attempt to explain something using logical reasons. This is practically synonymous with *justify*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *apologize* means to express regret for something one has done wrong. This is not the opposite of *justify*.

(D) is incorrect because *pardon* means to forgive. This is not the opposite of *justify*.

10) **D**

The word *punishment* means the infliction of a penalty as a result of an offense committed. For example, a prison term is a punishment for many crimes. The opposite of punishment is a reward. Because a *bounty* is a gift or reward, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a *profit* is a financial gain earned through a business. This is not the opposite of *punishment*, because money earned through a business is not synonymous with a reward.

(B) is incorrect because *purgatory* is mental anguish or suffering. This is not the opposite of *punishment*.

(C) is incorrect because a *penalty* is a punishment inflicted for committing a crime. This is synonymous with *punishment*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *abuse* is cruel and violent treatment of a person or animal. This is not the opposite of *punishment*.