

• **Word Definition 2** Level 12

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

1) EBULLIENT

- A. convoluted
- B. receding
- C. cheerful
- D. negligent
- E. powerful

2) ABJURE

- A. to renounce or give up a belief
- B. to regard with disgust
- C. to give up one's power or rule
- D. to accept one's fate begrudgingly
- E. to force or throw something out

3) IMPERIOUS

- A. noticeable and apparent
- B. dangerous and risky
- C. mischievous and devilish
- D. pious and priggish
- E. dictatorial and overbearing

4) PARAGON

- A. something that divides a large space into smaller spaces
- B. something regarded as a perfect model of a trait
- C. a simple story used to illustrate a moral lesson
- D. something regarded as socially unacceptable
- E. a statement that is seemingly self-contradictory

5) TRUCULENT

- A. at peace
- B. impressively large
- C. semitransparent
- D. aggressively defiant
- E. able to be followed

6) MUNIFICENCE

- A. generosity
- B. city government
- C. dullness
- D. finance
- E. jurisprudence

7) NADIR

- A. the peak
- B. masculinity
- C. a good feeling
- D. the lowest point
- E. success

8) PORTENT

- A. an emblem of something original
- B. a window in a submarine
- C. a totem of spiritual significance
- D. an omen of something important
- E. a routine occurrence

9) VITUPERATE

- A. to harshly spoil
- B. to increase in power
- C. to subtly hint
- D. to gently scold
- E. to strongly insult

10) NEFARIOUS

- A. wicked
- B. elaborate
- C. careless
- D. far-sighted
- E. pessimistic

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

ebullient (*adjective*): cheerful and full of energy: *Most mornings, Katie wakes up feeling ebullient; that positive energy helps start her day off right.*

2) **A**

abjure (*verb*): to solemnly renounce a belief or cause: *Sir Thomas More refused to abjure the Catholic principle outlawing divorce, and because of his refusal to support Henry VIII's remarriage, More was executed.*

3) **E**

imperious (*adjective*): assuming power or authority without justification; arrogant and domineering: *No one liked taking orders from the domineering Carmen or here equally imperious sister, Carrie.*

4) **B**

paragon (*noun*): a person or thing regarded or viewed as a perfect example of a certain thing or characteristic: *While the Silvestris' first pug was unruly and intractable as a puppy, their new pug puppy is a paragon of perfect behavior and obedience.*

5) **D**

truculent (*adjective*): eager to argue or fight; aggressively defiant of authority: *The motorcycle outlaw, as popularized by Marlon Brando, is a truculent figure, one willing to fight any authority figure thrown at him.*

6) **A**

munificence (*noun*): the quality of being lavishly generous: *Michelangelo worked under the patronage of the Medici family; without their munificence, he would never have been able to create his most brilliant works.*

7) **D**

nadir (*noun*): the lowest point in the fortunes of a person or organization: *Just when Petra thought things couldn't get worse and that she was at her nadir, her dog died, leaving her at new depths of depression.*

8) **D**

portent (*noun*): a sign or warning that something, especially something momentous or calamitous, is likely to happen: *To the medieval mind, ravens were often seen as portents of death, so in much literature of the era, a raven's appearance would foreshadow a death of a major character.*

9) **E**

vituperate (*verb*): to blame or insult someone in strong or violent language: *The coach was admonished by the parents' association because many saw him vituperate the middle-school players, using such abusive language that many of the players were brought to tears.*

10) **A**

nefarious (*adjective*): wicked, evil, or criminal: *Many conspiracy theorists often incorrectly assume that all secret meetings are nefarious, but just because people are meeting in secret doesn't mean they are necessarily planning evil.*