

• **Antonyms 2** Level 12

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

1. CANDOR

- A. nuance
- B. veracity
- C. diplomacy
- D. sincerity
- E. guile

2. OPAQUE

- A. enigmatic
- B. translucent
- C. scholarly
- D. esoteric
- E. capacious

3. TRANSITORINESS

- A. evanescence
- B. vacillation
- C. impertinence
- D. longevity
- E. truculence

4. ADULATE

- A. stupefy
- B. lambaste
- C. commend
- D. implicate
- E. moderate

5. OBVIATE

- A. beseech
- B. supplant
- C. feign
- D. necessitate
- E. rail

6. ALTRUISM

- A. malevolence
- B. churlishness
- C. largess
- D. bombast
- E. kismet

7. RESTORATIVE

- A. tonic
- B. sallow
- C. inevitable
- D. fickle
- E. pernicious

8. RESPITE

- A. pretext
- B. cessation
- C. continuance
- D. moratorium
- E. windfall

9. OBTUSE

- A. sagacious
- B. banal
- C. estimable
- D. seminal
- E. insipid

10. GAUNT

- A. lanky
- B. lithe
- C. brawny
- D. rangy
- E. pliant

Answers and Explanations

1) **E**

The word *candor* means frankness. When one speaks with candor, he or she is completely honest. The opposite of candor is dishonesty. Because *guile* is trickery or deception, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *nuance* is a subtle distinction in meaning. This is not the opposite of *candor*.

(B) is incorrect because *veracity* is accuracy or truth. This is practically synonymous with *candor*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *diplomacy* is tact. This is not the opposite of *candor*.

(D) is incorrect because *sincerity* is truth or honesty. This is synonymous *candor*, not the opposite of it.

2) **B**

The word *opaque* means not clear, obscure, or difficult to understand. Astrophysics is a field that is opaque to most students. The opposite of opaque is clear or easy to understand. Because *translucent* means clear or easy to understand, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *enigmatic* means puzzling. This is not the opposite of *opaque*.

(C) is incorrect because *scholarly* means concerned with academic learning. This is not the opposite of *opaque*.

(D) is incorrect because *esoteric* means understood only by a learned few. This is not the opposite of *opaque*.

(E) is incorrect because *capacious* means extensive or large. This is not the opposite of *opaque*.

3) **D**

The word *transitoriness* means the state of lasting for only a short time. For example, the mayfly is noted for its transitoriness, since it lives for just one day. The opposite of transitoriness is the state of lasting a long time. Because *longevity* is a lengthy or great duration of individual life, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *evanescence* is the state of fading away or vanishing gradually. This is practically synonymous with *transitoriness*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *vacillation* is a state of indecision. This is not the opposite of *transitoriness*.

(C) is incorrect because *impertinence* is rudeness. This is not the opposite of *transitoriness*.

(E) is incorrect because *truculence* is fierceness or readiness to fight. This is not the opposite of *transitoriness*.

4) **B**

The word *adulate* means to praise highly. An honoree at an award show is usually adulated by the host. The opposite of adulate is to denounce or criticize. Because *lambaste* means to disapprove angrily, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *stupefy* means to stun or astonish. This is not the opposite of *adulate*.

(C) is incorrect because *commend* means to praise. This is synonymous with *adulate*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *implicate* means to involve in a crime. This is not the opposite of *adulate*.

(E) is incorrect because *moderate* means to make less excessive. This is not the opposite of *adulate*.

5) **D**

The word *obviate* means to make unnecessary. For example, preventive medicine might obviate the need for future medical procedures. The opposite of obviate is to make something required. Because *necessitate* means to make necessary or unavoidable, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *beseech* means to beg or implore. This is not the opposite of *obviate*.

(B) is incorrect because *supplant* means to substitute. This is not the opposite of *obviate*.

(C) is incorrect because *feign* means to pretend. This is not the opposite of *obviate*.

(E) is incorrect because *rail* means to scold with abusive language. This is not the opposite of *obviate*.

6) **A**

The word *altruism* means unselfish concern for the wellbeing of others. Donating money to a charity for the sole purpose of helping the charity out would be an act of altruism. The opposite of altruism is selfishness. Because *malevolence* means wishing evil or harm to others, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *churlishness* is rudeness or boorishness. This is not the opposite of *altruism*.

(C) is incorrect because *largess* is generosity. This is practically synonymous with *altruism*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *bombast* is speech too pompous for an occasion. This is not the opposite of *altruism*.

(E) is incorrect because *kismet* is fate. This is not the opposite of *altruism*.

7) **E**

The word *restorative* means having the power to revitalize. For example, the mythical Fountain of Youth has restorative powers, since it can make an older person instantly youthful. The opposite of restorative is harmful or having the power to cause degeneration. Because *pernicious* means extremely harmful, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *tonic* means invigorating or refreshing. This is practically synonymous with *restorative*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *sallow* means sickly yellow in color. This is not the opposite of *restorative*.

(C) is incorrect because *inevitable* means unavoidable. This is not the opposite of *restorative*.

(D) is incorrect because *fickle* means unreliable or erratic. This is not the opposite of *restorative*.

8) **C**

The word *respite* means a short break or interval of relief. A timeout during a basketball game would be an example of a respite. The opposite of a respite is not taking a break. Because a *continuance* is the act of going on without stopping, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a *pretext* is an excuse. This is not the opposite of *respite*.

(B) is incorrect because a *cessation* is a temporary stopping or pause. This is synonymous with *respite*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because a *moratorium* is a suspension of activity. This is synonymous with *respite*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because a *windfall* is a sudden, unexpected bit of good fortune. This is not the opposite of *respite*.

9) **A**

The word *obtuse* means stupid. An obtuse comment is one that lacks intelligence. The opposite of obtuse is intelligent. Because *sagacious* means keen or shrewd, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *banal* means trite and overly common. This is not the opposite of *obtuse*.

(C) is incorrect because *estimable* means admirable. This is not the opposite of *obtuse*.

(D) is incorrect because *seminal* means relating to the beginning of something. This is not the opposite of *obtuse*.

(E) is incorrect because *insipid* means bland or lacking flavor. This is not the opposite of *obtuse*.

10) **C**

The word *gaunt* means thin and bony. One might appear gaunt after not eating for a long period of time. The opposite of gaunt is thick or muscular. Because *brawny* means muscular or strong, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *lanky* means bony or thin. This is synonymous with *gaunt*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *lithe* means graceful. This is not the opposite of *gaunt*.

(D) is incorrect because *rangy* means slender or long-limbed. This is practically synonymous with *gaunt*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *pliant* means pliable or yielding. This is not the opposite of *gaunt*.