

• **Antonyms 3** Level 11

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

1. AUGMENT

- A. dishearten
- B. aggrandize
- C. heighten
- D. disband
- E. diminish

2. MEAGER

- A. grandiose
- B. copious
- C. paltry
- D. majestic
- E. slipshod

3. LOYAL

- A. obstinate
- B. allegiant
- C. florid
- D. perfidious
- E. problematic

4. AGGRAVATE

- A. vex
- B. nourish
- C. pique
- D. haggle
- E. allay

5. FLAVORLESS

- A. baleful
- B. maudlin
- C. pungent
- D. vapid
- E. insipid

6. INFALLIBLE

- A. impassive
- B. iniquitous
- C. ingenuous
- D. impeccable
- E. insolvent

7. STRIDENT

- A. muffled
- B. murky
- C. muddled
- D. monastic
- E. multiform

8. GAUDY

- A. august
- B. puerile
- C. drab
- D. garish
- E. explicit

9. DEPRECATE

- A. disparage
- B. chastise
- C. malign
- D. propagate
- E. commend

10. CONVOLUTED

- A. simple
- B. utilitarian
- C. serpentine
- D. laborious
- E. tortuous

Answers and Explanations

1) **E**

The word *augment* means to increase or add to. For example, a salary may be augmented by a pay raise. The opposite of *augment* is to decrease or subtract from. Because *diminish* means to make smaller, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *dishearten* means to discourage or cause to lose hope. This is not the opposite of *augment*.

(B) is incorrect because *aggrandize* means to increase or intensify. This is synonymous with *augment*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *heighten* means to increase in degree or amount. This is synonymous with *augment*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *disband* means to disperse. This is not the opposite of *augment*.

2) **B**

The word *meager* means scanty or inadequate. For example, a meager meal would be one that is too small to satisfy one's appetite. The opposite of *meager* is adequate or plentiful. Because *copious* means plentiful, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *grandiose* means impressive or exaggerated. This is not the opposite of *meager*.

(C) is incorrect because *paltry* means insignificant. This is synonymous with *meager*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *majestic* means stately or grand. This is not the opposite of *meager*.

(E) is incorrect because *slipshod* means untidy. This is not the opposite of *meager*.

3) **D**

The word *loyal* means faithful. One is considered a loyal fan of a sports team if he or she never waivers in support of the team, regardless of the team's success. The opposite of *loyal* is disloyal or traitorous. Because *perfidious* means treacherous or disloyal, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *obstinate* means stubborn. This is not the opposite of *loyal*.

(B) is incorrect because *allegiant* means devoted or loyal. This is synonymous with *loyal*.

(C) is incorrect because *florid* means ruddy or reddish. This is not the opposite of *loyal*.

(E) is incorrect because *problematic* means questionable. This is not the opposite of *loyal*.

4) **E**

The word *aggravate* means to make worse or more severe. For example, putting salt on an open wound aggravates the pain of the wound. The opposite of *aggravate* is to lessen in severity. Because *allay* means to calm or pacify, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *vex* means to annoy. This is not the opposite of *aggravate*.

(B) is incorrect because *nourish* means to strengthen or build up. Despite its positive meaning, this is not the opposite of *aggravate*, since *nourish* does not necessarily mean to weaken in severity.

(C) is incorrect because *pique* means to provoke or annoy. This is not the opposite of *aggravate*.

(D) is incorrect because *haggle* means to argue about prices. This is not the opposite of any word, including *aggravate*.

5) **C**

The word *flavorless* means lacking in taste or flavor. A bland meal would be called flavorless. The opposite of *flavorless* is strong in flavor or taste. Because *pungent* means sharp in taste or smell, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *baleful* means deadly. This is not the opposite of *flavorless*.

(B) is incorrect because *maudlin* means overly sentimental. This is not the opposite of *flavorless*.

(D) is incorrect because *vapid* means dull or bland. This is synonymous with *flavorless*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *insipid* means lacking in flavor. This is synonymous with *flavorless*, not the opposite of it.

6) **B**

The word *infallible* means unerring or absolutely trustworthy. Catholics consider the Pope to be infallible. The opposite of infallible would be erring or untrustworthy. Because *iniquitous* means wicked or immoral, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *impassive* means without feeling. This is not the opposite of *infallible*.

(C) is incorrect because *ingenuous* means naïve or trusting. This is not the opposite of *infallible*.

(D) is incorrect because *impeccable* means faultless or flawless. This is practically synonymous with *infallible*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *insolvent* means bankrupt. This is not the opposite of *infallible*.

7) **A**

The word *strident* means harshly loud. For example, a police siren is strident. The opposite of strident is muted in sound or quiet. Because *muffled* means wrapped to prevent sound, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *murky* means dark or gloomy. This is not the opposite of *strident*.

(C) is incorrect because *muddled* means confused or mixed up. This is not the opposite of *strident*.

(D) is incorrect because *monastic* means related to monasteries and removed from worldly concerns. This is not the opposite of *strident*.

(E) is incorrect because *multiform* means having many forms. This is not the opposite of *strident*.

8) **C**

The word *gaudy* means flashy or showy. For example, the peacock is a very gaudy animal. The opposite of gaudy is subdued or muted. Because *drab* means dull or lacking in color, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *august* means impressive. This is not the opposite of *gaudy*.

(B) is incorrect because *puerile* means childish. This is not the opposite of *gaudy*.

(D) is incorrect because *garish* means overly bright in color. This is synonymous with *gaudy*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *explicit* means totally clear or unambiguous. This is not the opposite of *gaudy*.

9) **E**

The word *deprecate* means to belittle or express disapproval. If the public did not agree with the decision of a president, the public might deprecate the decision. The opposite of deprecate is to praise or express approval of. Because *commend* means to express praise, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *disparage* means to belittle. This is synonymous with *deprecate*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *chastise* means to punish. This is not the opposite of *deprecate*.

(C) is incorrect because *malign* means to speak evil of or defame. This is practically synonymous with *deprecate*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *propagate* means to multiply. This is not the opposite of *deprecate*.

10) **A**

The word *convoluted* means intricate or complex. The plot of a movie is considered convoluted if it is too complicated for audiences to follow. The opposite of convoluted is not complex. Because *simple* means easy to understand or not elaborate, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *utilitarian* means being useful or having a purpose. This is not the opposite of *convoluted*.

(C) is incorrect because *serpentine* means winding or twisting. This is not the opposite of *convoluted*.

(D) is incorrect because *laborious* means demanding much work. This is not the opposite of *convoluted*.

(E) is incorrect because *tortuous* means winding or curving. This is not the opposite of *convoluted*.