

• **Antonyms 3** Level 8

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

1. BUSTLE

- A. convenience
- B. agitation
- C. inactivity
- D. comfort
- E. commotion

2. ADJUNCT

- A. principal
- B. associate
- C. servant
- D. partner
- E. delegate

3. ZEALOUS

- A. sassy
- B. relaxed
- C. enthusiastic
- D. indifferent
- E. possessed

4. VESTIGE

- A. sliver
- B. plethora
- C. evidence
- D. fragment
- E. panorama

5. DICTATE

- A. ask
- B. interrogate
- C. demand
- D. inquire
- E. request

6. CONCEAL

- A. expose
- B. shroud
- C. recall
- D. harbor
- E. obscure

7. STERILE

- A. arid
- B. fruitful
- C. undeveloped
- D. greasy
- E. disheveled

8. REMAIN

- A. emigrate
- B. endure
- C. abide
- D. vanish
- E. retreat

9. BUCKLE

- A. purify
- B. adulterate
- C. straighten
- D. arc
- E. droop

10. CALLOUS

- A. insolent
- B. soulless
- C. flexible
- D. tough
- E. compassionate

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

The word *bustle* means excited activity or movement. Crowded city streets might be full of bustle. The opposite of bustle is unexcited movement or a lack of action. Because *inactivity* means a lack of activity, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *convenience* is the state of being able to proceed with something without much difficulty. This is not the opposite of *bustle*.

(B) is incorrect because *agitation* is a state of anxiety. This is not the opposite of *bustle*.

(D) is incorrect because *comfort* is a state of physical ease. This is not the opposite of *bustle*, because being exciting is not synonymous with being difficult.

(E) is incorrect because *commotion* is a state of confused and noisy disturbance. This is practically synonymous with *bustle*, not the opposite of it.

2) **A**

The word *adjunct* means a person associated with secondary status or rank. An assistant might be someone else's adjunct. The opposite of adjunct is a person associated with a higher status or rank. Because a *principal* is a chief or head, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because an *associate* is a person who actively shares in a business or enterprise. This is not the opposite of *adjunct*, because an associate can be of equal or lesser rank to another person.

(C) is incorrect because a *servant* is a person who performs duties for others. This is not the opposite of *adjunct*.

(D) is incorrect because a *partner* is a person who takes part in an undertaking with others. This is not the opposite of *adjunct*, because partners can be of equal, higher, or lower rank than each other.

(E) is incorrect because a *delegate* is a person sent or authorized to represent others at a conference. This is not the opposite of *adjunct*.

3) **D**

The word *zealous* means passionate. A zealous supporter of a candidate would be very excited about the candidate and devoted to him or her. The opposite of zealous is passionless or uncaring. Because *indifferent* means lacking in interest or care, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *sassy* means lively or bold. This is not the opposite of *zealous*.

(B) is incorrect because *relaxed* means free from tension. This is not the opposite of *zealous*, as passion and tension have no direct relationship.

(C) is incorrect because *enthusiastic* means excited. This is synonymous with *zealous*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *possessed* means controlled by an evil spirit. This is not the opposite of *zealous*.

4) **B**

The word *vestige* means a trace amount of something that has disappeared. A vestige of hope would be the scant bit of hope that remains in a worsening situation. The opposite of vestige is an abundance of something. Because a *plethora* is a large amount, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a *sliver* is a small piece of something. This is practically synonymous with *vestige*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *evidence* is a sign or indication of something. This is not the opposite of *vestige*.

(D) is incorrect because a *fragment* is a tiny piece of something. This is practically synonymous with *vestige*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because a *panorama* is a wide or complete view or presentation of something. This is not the opposite of *vestige*, because it is too specific in meaning.

5) **E**

The word *dictate* means to lay down authoritatively. When one dictates something, he or she is demanding it. The opposite of dictate is to ask for in an undemanding way. Because *request* means to politely or formally ask for something, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *ask* means to question. This is not the opposite of *dictate*, because asking is not necessarily polite.

(B) is incorrect because *interrogate* means to aggressively question someone for information. This is not the opposite of *dictate*.

(C) is incorrect because *demand* means to ask authoritatively or require. This is synonymous with *dictate*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *inquire* means to seek information by questioning. This is not the opposite of *dictate*, because inquiring is not necessarily polite.

6) **A**

The word *conceal* means to cover up or hide. One might use makeup to conceal a blemish on his or her face. The opposite of conceal is to uncover or leave uncovered. Because *expose* means to uncover or make something visible, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *shroud* means to cover up. This is synonymous with *conceal*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *recall* means to bring back into one's mind. This is not the opposite of *conceal*.

(D) is incorrect because *harbor* means to secretly keep in one's mind. This is not the opposite of *conceal*.

(E) is incorrect because *obscure* means to hide or keep from being seen. This is synonymous with *conceal*, not the opposite of it.

7) **B**

The word *sterile* means barren or unable to produce offspring. When a dog is spayed or neutered, it becomes sterile, since it can no longer create puppies. The opposite of sterile is able to produce offspring. Because *fertile* means productive or capable of producing offspring, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *arid* means extremely dry. This is not the opposite of *sterile*.

(C) is incorrect because *undeveloped* means immature or not fully grown. This is not the opposite of sterile.

(D) is incorrect because *greasy* means covered with an oily substance. This is not the opposite of *sterile*.

(E) is incorrect because *disheveled* means disordered. This is not the opposite of *sterile*.

8) **D**

The word *remain* means to stay or continue to exist. If a species remains alive in a certain area, then that means there are at least a few living members of that species in the area. The opposite of remain is to leave or disappear. Because *vanish* means to disappear without a trace, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *emigrate* means to leave one's own country in order to settle permanently in another. This is not the opposite of *remain*, because it is too specific in meaning.

(B) is incorrect because *endure* means to continue or survive. This is practically synonymous with *remain*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *abide* means to continue without fading or being lost. This is practically synonymous with *remain*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *retreat* means to move back or withdraw, especially from an invading army. This is not the opposite of *remain*, because it is too specific in meaning.

9) **C**

The word *buckle* means to bend and give way under pressure. For example, if a bridge were past capacity, it might buckle, resulting in collapse. The opposite of buckle is to become straighter or not bend. Because *straighten* means to make straight, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *purify* means to remove contaminants from or make clean. This is not the opposite of *buckle*.

(B) is incorrect because *adulterate* means to make impure. This is not the opposite of *buckle*.

(D) is incorrect because *arc* means to curve. This is practically synonymous with *buckle*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *droop* means to sag or bend. This is practically synonymous with *buckle*, not the opposite of it.

10) **E**

The word *callous* means insensitive or possessing disregard for others. Someone who is callous does not care at all about other people's feelings. The opposite of callous is sensitive or sympathetic of others. Because *compassionate* means showing sympathy and concern for others, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *insolent* means rude or disrespectful. This is not the opposite of *callous*.

(B) is incorrect because *soulless* means lacking human feelings or qualities. This is practically synonymous with *callous*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *flexible* means not rigid. This is not the opposite of *callous*.

(D) is incorrect because *tough* means able to endure hardship or pain. This is not the opposite of *callous*.