

• **Antonyms 3** Level 4

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

1. ENTERTAIN

- A. bore
- B. perform
- C. recline
- D. excite

2. ATTRACTIVE

- A. wonderful
- B. hideous
- C. beautiful
- D. average

3. ASSIST

- A. support
- B. help
- C. prevent
- D. pamper

4. THREAT

- A. protection
- B. emergency
- C. courage
- D. danger

5. SEVERE

- A. strict
- B. relaxed
- C. kindly
- D. serious

6. ATTENTIVE

- A. lazy
- B. watchful
- C. alert
- D. distracted

7. ENTIRE

- A. unified
- B. flawed
- C. perfect
- D. incomplete

8. CONCENTRATE

- A. daydream
- B. focus
- C. ignore
- D. examine

9. APPROPRIATE

- A. suitable
- B. false
- C. improper
- D. fitting

10. NOBLE

- A. gentle
- B. cruel
- C. dishonorable
- D. meek

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The word *entertain* means to provide someone with amusement or enjoyment. An interesting and funny story might entertain someone. The opposite of entertain is to fail to provide someone with amusement or enjoyment. Because *bore* means to be dull or to make someone feel uninterested, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *perform* means to present a form of entertainment to an audience. This is a way of entertaining, not the opposite of *entertain*.

(C) is incorrect because *recline* means to lie back in a relaxed position. This is not the opposite of *entertain*, because reclining is not the same as failing to provide enjoyment to another.

(D) is incorrect because *excite* means to arouse enthusiasm or eagerness in someone. This is almost the same as *entertain*, not the opposite of it.

2) **B**

The word *attractive* means appealing to look at. Someone who is pretty would be considered attractive. The opposite of attractive is ugly or unappealing to look at. Because *hideous* means very ugly, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *wonderful* means extremely good or marvelous. This is not the opposite of *attractive*.

(C) is incorrect because *beautiful* means very pretty or full of beauty. This is the same as *attractive*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *average* means normal or mediocre. This is not the opposite of *attractive*, because average is not limited in meaning to looks or appearances.

3) **C**

The word *assist* means to help out. When you help someone cook dinner, you are assisting him or her in the kitchen. The opposite of assist is to block or make someone's efforts more difficult. Because *prevent* means to make someone less able to do something, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *support* means to give assistance or help. This is the same as *assist*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *help* means to make it easier for someone to do something by offering one's own services or support. This is the same as *assist*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *pamper* means to spoil or indulge. This is not the opposite of *assist*, since spoiling someone is not the same as making his or her efforts more difficult.

4) **A**

The word *threat* means something likely to cause damage or danger. For example, a predator is a threat to its prey. The opposite of threat is something likely to prevent damage or danger. Because *protection* is something that prevents someone from suffering harm or injury, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because an *emergency* is a serious and unexpected situation that requires immediate action. This is not the opposite of *threat*, since a threat could lead to an emergency.

(C) is incorrect because *courage* is the ability to do something dangerous or frightening. This is not the opposite of *threat*, because a threat is not the same as cowardice.

(D) is incorrect because *danger* is the possibility of suffering harm or injury. This is almost the same as *threat*, not the opposite of it.

5) **B**

The word *severe* means strict or harsh. A severe punishment for a crime is one that is very intense. The opposite of severe is easy or less strict. Because *relaxed* means less strict or harsh, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *strict* means rigidly enforced or harsh. This is almost the same as *severe*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *kindly* means nice. This is not the opposite of *severe*, since severe is not the same as mean.

(D) is incorrect because *serious* means careful or earnest in manner. This is not the opposite of *severe*, since severe is not the same as careless or joking.

6) **D**

The word *attentive* means focused or paying close attention to something. A good student would be attentive in class and listen carefully to everything the teacher says. The opposite of attentive is inattentive or unfocused. Because *distracted* means unfocused because one's mind is preoccupied, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *lazy* means unwilling to work or use energy. This is not the opposite of *attentive*, since attentive is not the same as hardworking.

(B) is incorrect because *watchful* means alert or watching something closely. This is the same as *attentive*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *alert* means quick to notice any unusual circumstances. This is almost the same as *attentive*, not the opposite of it.

7) D

The word *entire* means whole or with no part left out. If someone were to eat every slice of a pizza, then he or she would have eaten the entire pizza. The opposite of entire is partial. Because *incomplete* means partial or not having all the necessary parts, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *unified* means made whole or united. This is almost the same as *entire*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *flawed* means imperfect or damaged. This is not the opposite of *entire*, since entire is not the same as perfect or undamaged.

(C) is incorrect because *perfect* means free from flaw or defect. This is not the opposite of *entire*.

8) A

The word *concentrate* means to focus one's attention or mental efforts on a certain object or activity. A scientist might concentrate on an experiment instead of letting his or her mind wander. The opposite of concentrate is to let one's mind wander. Because *daydream* means to indulge in a series of thoughts that distract someone's attention from the present, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *focus* means to pay attention to something. This is the same as *concentrate*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *ignore* means to fail to consider or intentionally disregard. This is not the opposite of *concentrate*, because one might make a conscious choice to ignore something rather than simply not focusing on it.

(D) is incorrect because *examine* means to inspect something in close detail. This is not the opposite of *concentrate*.

9) C

The word *appropriate* means suitable or proper for a given situation. For example, it is appropriate to wear a bathing suit to the beach. The opposite of appropriate is inappropriate or unsuitable. Because *improper* means unsuitable or inappropriate for a certain situation, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *suitable* means right or appropriate for a particular circumstance. This is the same as *appropriate*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *false* means incorrect or not true. This is not the opposite of *appropriate*, because appropriate is not the same as correct.

(D) is incorrect because *fitting* means appropriate or suitable for the circumstances. This is the same as *appropriate*, not the opposite of it.

10) C

The word *noble* means belonging to a higher social class or having honor and dignity. A king and queen, for instance, are noble people. The opposite of noble is ignoble or lacking in honor and dignity. Because *dishonorable* means lacking honor, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *gentle* means kind or tender. This is not the opposite of *noble*, since noble is not the same as mean.

(B) is incorrect because *cruel* means very mean or willfully causing pain to others. This is not the opposite of *noble*, since noble is not the same as kind.

(D) is incorrect because *meek* means submissive or easily imposed on. This is not the opposite of *noble*, since noble is not the same as assertive.