• Antonyms 2  Level 5

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

1. DEBATE
   A. agree
   B. tame
   C. dispute
   D. ignore

6. SOLITARY
   A. friendly
   B. lonely
   C. isolated
   D. together

2. HAVOC
   A. wonder
   B. peace
   C. chaos
   D. warfare

7. SOAR
   A. elevate
   B. float
   C. mount
   D. land

3. EXCAVATE
   A. scrape
   B. hollow
   C. bury
   D. mask

8. ATHLETIC
   A. frail
   B. muscular
   C. energetic
   D. intelligent

4. ABSURD
   A. batty
   B. sensible
   C. certain
   D. insane

9. CRITICIZE
   A. punish
   B. praise
   C. blame
   D. approve

5. PEDESTRIAN
   A. motorist
   B. hiker
   C. galloper
   D. sailor

10. ACCOMPLISH
    A. exhaust
    B. manage
    C. blunder
    D. cease
Answers and Explanations

1)  A
The word debate means to argue or discuss. When two people disagree about something, they might debate it. The opposite of debate is to share the same view or ideas. Because agree means to have the same opinion, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because tame means to make calmer or easier to control. This is not the opposite of debate.

(C) is incorrect because dispute means to challenge or argue. This is almost the same as debate, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because ignore means to not notice or pay attention to. This is not the opposite of debate, since arguing about something is not the same thing as paying attention to it.

2)  B
The word havoc means widespread destruction or confusion. A great tragedy might lead to havoc. The opposite of havoc is calmness. Because peace is a calmness or freedom from disturbance, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because wonder is a feeling of surprise. This is not the opposite of havoc.

(C) is incorrect because chaos is complete disorder and confusion. This is the same as havoc, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because warfare is violent conflict. This is not the opposite of havoc.

3)  C
The word excavate means to dig out. A dog might retrieve a bone from the backyard by excavating it. The opposite of excavate is to put into the ground. Because bury means to put or hide underground, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because scrape means to rub a sharp object across something, such as the skin. This is not the opposite of excavate.

(B) is incorrect because hollow means to make a hole and remove the inner contents of something. This is not the opposite of excavate.

(D) is incorrect because mask means to cover up or disguise. This is not the opposite of excavate, because excavating is not the same as uncovering or revealing.

4)  B
The word absurd means foolish, unreasonable, or unrealistic. An absurd idea is one that is completely ridiculous. The opposite of absurd is smart, reasonable, or realistic. Because sensible means wise and reasonable, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because batty means crazy or insane. This is almost the same as absurd, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because certain means sure or known. This is not the opposite of absurd, since absurd is not the same as unsure.

(D) is incorrect because insane means crazy. This is almost the same thing as absurd, not the opposite of it.

5)  A
The word pedestrian means a person walking along a road. Anyone on foot in a city or town is a pedestrian. The opposite of a pedestrian is someone driving a car on a road. Because a motorist is someone driving a vehicle, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because a hiker is someone who walks long distances. This is not the opposite of pedestrian, because a pedestrian does not only walk for short distances.

(C) is incorrect because a galloper is someone who walks at a very fast pace. This is not the opposite of pedestrian, since a pedestrian does not only walk slowly.

(D) is incorrect because a sailor is a person who works on a ship. This is not the opposite of pedestrian, because a sailor might not necessarily operate a motor-powered boat. For example, there are rowboats and sailboats.

6)  D
The word solitary means done or existing alone. In prison, if one is put in solitary confinement, he or she is completely alone in a prison cell. The opposite of solitary is with other people. Because together means with another person or people, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because friendly means nice or sociable. This is not the opposite of solitary, since being alone is not the same as being mean or unfriendly.
(B) is incorrect because *lonely* means without companions. This is the same as *solitary*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *isolated* means having little contact with others. This is almost the same as *solitary*, not the opposite of it.

7) D
The word *soar* means to fly high in the air. For example, jumbo jets soar from airport to airport. The opposite of soar is to be on the ground. Because *land* means to come down from the air and touch the ground, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *elevate* means to rise higher. This is not the opposite of *soar*.

(B) is incorrect because *float* means to hover or fly just above the surface. This is not the opposite of *soar*, since both floating and soaring are ways of flying.

(C) is incorrect because *mount* means to climb. This is not the opposite of *soar*.

8) A
The word *athletic* means physically strong, fit, and active. Someone who is in good physical shape would be considered athletic. The opposite of athletic is weak or lazy. Because *frail* means weak and delicate, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *muscular* means strong or fit. This is almost the same as *athletic*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *energetic* means active or full of energy. This is nearly the same as *athletic*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *intelligent* means smart. This is not the opposite of *athletic*, since being athletic is not the same as being dumb.

9) B
The word *criticize* means to indicate one’s faults in a negative way. One might criticize someone else for being lazy, for instance. The opposite of criticize is to indicate one’s good qualities in a positive way. Because *praise* means to express approval or admiration, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *punish* means to penalize someone for doing something bad. This is not the opposite of *criticize*.

(C) is incorrect because *blame* means to assign responsibility for a fault or wrongdoing. This is not the opposite of *criticize*.

(D) is incorrect because *approve* means to believe that something is good or satisfactory. This is not the opposite of *criticize*, because one could approve of something without mentioning it publicly.

10) C
The word *bicker* means to argue about unimportant matters. Siblings might bicker about unimportant things such as who

The word *accomplish* means to achieve or complete something successfully. For example, if you have reached a goal, you have accomplished something. The opposite of accomplish is to fail. Because *blunder* means to fail or make a foolish mistake, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *exhaust* means to tire out. This is not the opposite of *accomplish*, since accomplish does not mean to energize.

(B) is incorrect because *manage* means to oversee. This is not the opposite of *accomplish*.

(D) is incorrect because *cease* means to come to an end or stop. This is not the opposite of *accomplish*, because stopping something is not the same as failing at something.