ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

English Antonyms Vocabulary MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 5

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Explanations

1. Find the antonym of the following words:

Blunt
✓ **B) sharp**
Blunt means not sharp, for example a **blunt knife**. The opposite is **sharp**. Not **dull**, because dull means almost the same as blunt.

2. **Prohibit**
✓ **A) permit**
Prohibit means to officially not allow something. The opposite is **permit**, which means to allow. **Forbid** and **ban** mean the same as prohibit.

3. **Shove**
✓ **B) drag**
Shove means to push someone or something roughly. The opposite is **drag**, which means to pull something along with effort. **Press** and **thrust** are also kinds of pushing.

4. **Compulsory**
✓ **A) optional**
Compulsory means something you must do. The opposite is **optional**, which means you can choose to do it or not. **Obligatory** means the same as compulsory.

5. **Profit**
✓ **D) loss**
Profit is money you gain in business. The opposite is **loss**, which is money you lose. **Gain** and **benefit** are close in meaning to profit.

6. **Liberate**
✓ **B) confine**
Liberate means to set someone free. The opposite is **confine**, which means to keep someone shut in a place. **Rescue** and **deliver** are close in meaning to liberate.

7. **Stiff**
✓ **C) limp**
Stiff means hard and difficult to bend. The opposite is **limp**, which means soft and hanging loosely, for example a **limp lettuce leaf**. **Rigid** and **firm** are close in meaning to stiff.

8. **Barren**
✓ **A) fertile**
Barren land is too poor for plants to grow on. The opposite is **fertile**, which describes land where plants grow well. **Arid** and **dry** are close in meaning to barren.

9. **Tough**
✓ **B) tender**
Tough meat is hard to cut and chew. The opposite is **tender**, which means soft and easy to eat, as in **tender steak**. Not **hard**, because hard is close in meaning to tough.

10. **Rebel**
✓ **B) obey**
To **rebel** means to fight against or refuse to follow people in authority. The opposite is **obey**, which means to do what you are told. **Mutiny** and **rise up** mean the same as rebel.

11. **Kick off**
✓ **B) conclude**
Kick off is an informal phrasal verb that means to start, as in **The match kicks off at 3**. The opposite is **conclude**, which means to finish. **Commence** and **start** mean the same as kick off.

12. **Innocent**
✓ **A) criminal**
Innocent means not having done anything wrong or illegal. The opposite is **criminal**, which means connected with breaking the law. Not **naive**, because naive is close to another meaning of innocent: not knowing much about the world.

13. **Fine**
✓ **C) thick**
Here **fine** means very thin, as in **fine hair** or **a fine line**. The opposite is **thick**. **Skinny**, **slim** and **lank** are not opposites of fine.

14. **Tug**
✓ **D) thrust**
To **tug** means to pull something hard and quickly. The opposite is **thrust**, which means to push something suddenly and hard. **Drag**, **draw** and **jerk** are all kinds of pulling.

15. **Agitate**
✓ **A) soothe**
To **agitate** means to make someone worried or upset. The opposite is **soothe**, which means to make someone calm. **Stir up** and **provoke** are close in meaning to agitate.

16. **On purpose**
✓ **D) inadvertently**
On purpose means deliberately. The opposite is **inadvertently**, which means by accident, without meaning to. Not **intentionally**, because it means the same as on purpose.

17. Trivial

✓ **B) significant**

Trivial means small and not important. The opposite is **significant**, which means important. **Minor** and **worthless** are close in meaning to trivial.

18. Sparse

✓ **D) dense**

Sparse means thin and spread out, with only a few of something, for example **sparse hair**. The opposite is **dense**, which means thick and close together, as in **a dense forest**. **Scanty** is close in meaning to sparse.

19. Dismiss

✓ **C) appoint**

To **dismiss** someone means to remove them from their job. The opposite is **appoint**, which means to choose someone for a job. **Sack**, **fire** and **discharge** mean the same as dismiss.

20. Do up

✓ **C) loosen**

To **do up** a coat or shoes means to fasten them. The opposite is **loosen**, which means to make something less tight. **Fasten** and **tie** mean the same as do up.

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