

SYNONYMS

The Synonym questions test your vocabulary, specially, your ability to understand the meaning of words and to distinguish between the fine shades of meanings.

This question type requires a strong college level vocabulary. A strong vocabulary cannot be developed instantly; it grows over a long period. As vocabulary is the lifeblood in Synonyms questions, we have included vocabulary of not all but many of the words used in exercises. For your better understanding, I have included a fully explained exercise, which you can use as perfect guideline to tackle Synonym question type.

ONE WORD SUBSTITUTION

In this type of questions, a phrase or a sentence is given. The test taker is to choose the word closest in meaning to the phrase or the sentence.



SOLVED EXAMPLES



DIRECTIONS:

Each of the following questions consists of a word in capital letters followed by four or five lettered or phrase choices (A through D/E). Select the choice closest in meaning to the main word.

ANSWER OF EACH QUESTION HAS BEEN GIVEN AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION.

1. FRAGILE:

- A. Strong B. Grave
C. Weak D. Showy

The right answer is C.

Explanation:

Weak is similar in meaning to fragile – easily breakable.

2. ESOTERIC

- A. Fair B. Popular
C. Alluring D. Private

The right answer is D.

Explanation:

Private is not exactly equivalent to esoteric but it is nearest in meaning among the alternative.

3. He used to regale us with anecdotes:

- A. Flatter B. Bore
C. Fix D. Entertain

The right answer is D.

Explanation:

The word —regale in the question sentence means —to give pleasure or amusement to entertain. The right choice, hence from the choices is D.

4. He is believed to be a very industrious worker:

- A. Successful B. Sensible
C. Punctual D. Diligent

The right answer is D.

Explanation:

The keyword in the given sentence is *Industrious*. *Industrious* is a person who performs with hard work and diligent. Hence, the word closest in meaning is *Diligent*- choice D

5. He had the nerve to suggest that I was cheating.

- A. Strength B. Capacity
C. Audacity D. Courage

The right answer is C.

Explanation:

The key word used in the question is —cheating and the key phrase pointing the real sense is —He had the nerve. Hence the person is bold enough to say something against someone. Out of given choices, C gives the meaning of a similar person. *Audacity* means —intrepid boldness. Hence the right choice is (C).

6. He had the nerve to face the robbers all alone.

- A. Strength B. Capacity
C. Audacity D. Courage

The right answer is D.

Explanation:

The key word used in the question is —to face and the key phrase pointing the real sense is —He had the nerve. The person has courage to fight against robbers alone. Hence, courage becomes

the right choice.

7. WANE

- A. Decline B. Tired
C. Dead D. Shine

The right answer is A.

Explanation:

The meaning of the main word *WANE* is —to decrease in size, extent, or degree. It is directly leading to the answer choice A.

8. BAPTIZE

- A. Christen B. Holy
C. Dehumanize
D. Something that had been ostracized

The right answer is B.

Explanation:

Baptize means —to purify or cleanse spiritually especially by a purging experience or ordeal. The right choice is B. (Holy)

9. BENEDICTION

- A. Rise B. Blessing
C. Curse D. Prayer

The right answer is B.

Explanation:

The meaning of the main word *benediction* is —the invocation of a blessing which leads to the blessing. The right choice is B.

Do it yourself

PRACTICE EXERCISE



DIRECTIONS:

Each of the following questions consists of a word in capital letters followed by four or five lettered or phrase choices (A through D/E). Select the choice closest in meaning to the main word.

THE ANSWERS OF THE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN AT THE END OF THE EXERCISE.

1. DISCONCERT

- A. Sing in harmony B. Pretend
C. Cancel program D. Confuse
E. Interrupt

2. GARRULOUS

- A. Laconic B. Strangling
C. Ecstatic D. Frozen
E. Wordy

3. ABOLISH

- A. Hate B. End
C. Prosper D. Abject

4. ABRUPT

- A. Above B. Sudden
C. Noisy D. Calm
E. Agnation

5. BEWILDERED

- A. Confused B. Bedeviled
C. Discarded D. Neglected
E. Sabotage

6. POSTHUMOUS

- A. Grand
B. Born after father's death
C. Given to enjoyment
D. Hard working
E. Origin

7. SECULAR

- A. Safe
B. Worldly

- C. Religious state

- D. Powerful personality E. Anarchy

8. AVIARY

- A. A weighing machine
B. A birdbath
C. An old measure of weight
D. A bird enclosure
E. Group of birds

9. ATAVISM

- A. Resemblance to remote ancestors
B. Ancestor worship
C. The science of prolonging human life
D. The science of soul
E. Survival

10. CANT

- A. Singing through the nose
B. A temporary catchword
C. Begging
D. A penny whistle
E. Affected manner of speech

12. NYMPH

- A. Clinch B. Flinch
C. Airy D. Fairy
E. Cheery

12. SHORTAGE

- A. Paucity B. Niggardly
C. Wastage D. Hostage
E. Foliage

13. HYPOTHETICAL

- A. Methodical
B. Based on supposition
C. Double faced
D. To do with superstition
E. Mathematical law

14. INCIDENCE

- A. Stubbornness
B. The range of occurrence
C. Anecdotes
D. Conclusion
E. Drastic

15. GARGOYLE

- A. Stone spout
B. Golden eagle
C. Garish
D. Vile
E. Negation

16. TACITURN

- A. Sentimental
B. Uncommunicative
C. Diplomatic
D. Calculating
E. Bifurcates

17. LINEAL

- A. Unconnected
B. Isolated
C. Directly descended
D. Wrinkled
E. Circular

18. ABSTRACT

- A. Theoretical
B. Confused
C. Indefinite
D. Unrealistic
E. Paintings

19. BRACKISH

- A. Backward
B. Having of foul smell

- C. Salty
D. Woody
E. Novelty

20. BALEFUL

- A. Doubtful
B. Virtual
C. Deadly
D. Headless
E. Virtuous

21. BANAL

- A. Philosophical
B. Original
C. Dramatic
D. Headless
E. Commonplace

22. BANEFUL

- A. Generous
B. Kindly
C. Ruinous
D. Severity
E. Superfluous

23. BATTER

- A. To improve
B. To beat
C. To finish
D. To rise
E. Baking

24. BEHOLD

- A. To hold
B. To heat
C. To see
D. To speak
E. Sigh

25. VOLUBLE

- A. Fat
B. Loud
C. Talkative
D. Rambling
E. Adore

ANSWERS

1	D	2	E	3	B	4	B	5	A
6	B	7	B	8	D	9	A	10	B
11	D	12	A	13	B	14	B	15	A
16	B	17	C	18	A	19	C	20	C
21	E	22	C	23	B	24	C	25	C