

General English MCQ: Antonyms (Opposites)



Q1. AUSTERE

- a) comfortable
- b) plentiful
- c) painful
- d) lavish

Answer: (d)

Mohan leads an austere life. He eats simple food, does not have furniture, and prefers walking to riding a car. He thus saves money and sends it to his son.

His city dwelling son lives lavishly on that money. He throws parties every week, wears the best of designer wear, and travels mostly by air.

General English MCQ: Antonyms (Opposites)



Q2. LEGITIMATE

- a) extend
- b) distinguished
- c) valid
- d) unlawful

Answer: (d)

Legitimate means legal or lawful, distinguished means eminent, and courteous means polite.

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Q3. EXTENSION

- a) condensation
- b) subtraction
- c) diminution
- d) deletion

Answer: (b)

There has been an extension of STD facility to 2000 more villages. In other words, there has been an addition to the number of villages under STD coverage.

Now, the opposite of addition is subtraction.

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Q4. TERMINATION

- a) beginning
- b) phasing
- c) endeavoring
- d) amendment

Answer: (a)

The controversy led to a termination of the contract.

That is, the contract came to an end. The opposite of End is beginning.

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Q5. LIBERATE

- a) enclose
- b) conceal
- c) imprison
- d) liberal

Answer: (c)

Liberate is to make someone free and imprison is to put in prison, conceal is to hide and vacillation is to move from one place or idea to another.

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Q6. CHUIERICAL

- a) real
- b) heavenly
- c) numerical
- d) obvious

Answer: (a)

A chimera is an imaginary monster. So the opposite of chimerical is real.

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Q7. LUMINOUS

- a) ludicrous
- b) provoking
- c) dark
- d) unsteady

Answer: (d)

Luminous means bright or giving out a lot of light.

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Q8. OBVIOUSLY

- a) surely
- b) certainly
- c) obscurely
- d) indefinitely

Answer: (c)

If something is obvious, it is clearly seen. If it is obscure, it is hidden.

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Q9. ANACHRONISTIC

- a) present
- b) non-existing
- c) formerly
- d) futuristic

Answer: (d)

Anachronistic is something that belongs to a time gone by, while futuristic is something that belongs to the future or suggests how the future would be.

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Q10. CELIBATE

- a) prodigal
- b) married
- c) reprobate
- d) profligate

Answer: (b)

One who is celibate does not marry or have sex, because of one's religious beliefs. (a), (c) and (d) are close choices. But we reject (a) and (c) because they have other meanings too. Profligate and reprobate give a general sense of wastefulness. Such persons may be given to vices, sex being one of them. Thus (a) and (c) can be focused as an antonym only in absence of (d).

A married man, on the other hand, is categorically not celibate.

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Q11. VENEER

- a) interior
- b) armour
- c) exterior
- d) impression

Answer: (a)

The veneer of something is the coating from outside. It is the exterior which often gives a false impression of the reality inside. The inside of something is its interior.

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Q12. INSTANTLY

- a) lately
- b) slowly
- c) repeatedly
- d) immediately

Answer: (b)

Instantly means “at once, without any delay”. Its antonym therefore will be slowly. If you are tempted to say lately, take care! If you have the meaning “with delay” in mind, note that this meaning is given by the word late.

Lately (also of late) means – in the recent past, not long ago

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Q13. EVENTUALLY

- a) resultantly
- b) objectively
- c) primarily
- d) initially

Answer: (d)

Eventually means “at the end”; initially means “in the beginning”.

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Q14. ORIGIN

- a) detergent
- b) comfort
- c) ointment
- d) remnant

Answer: (d)

Origin means the starting point and remnant is what is left after finishing or distribution.

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Q15. FLOURISH

- a) retard
- b) stop
- c) improve
- d) hamper

Answer: (a)

The economy flourishes when there are lesser restrictions. That is, it grows quickly and strongly. Imposing of restrictions makes the growth of the economy retard.

That is, it gets slower, as if under brakes.

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Q16. ENGAGE

- a) liberate
- b) join
- c) abstain
- d) release

Answer: (c)

Usually, at this time of the year, I would be engaged in debates and dramas. That is, I used to be actively involved in them.

This year, however, I have my Board exams. So I am abstaining (keeping away) from them,

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Q17. SEDATE

- a) excited
- b) inebriate
- c) addicted
- d) shy

Answer: (a)

When the doctor gives you a sedative, what happens? It makes you sedate (calm, quiet).
It prevents you from getting excited

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Q18. GREGARIOUS

- a) societal
- b) solitary
- c) sociable
- d) unsociable

Answer: (d)

Gregarious denotes tending to form a group with others of the same species and unsociable is the opposite.

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Q19. ACCORD

- a) policy
- b) act
- c) concord
- d) dissent

Answer: (d)

Four of the judges were in accord with one another while one dissented. That is, four of them were in agreement with one another on the judgement.

There was no conflict between their opinions. One judge, however, did not share the majority opinions. He was of a different opinion. In other words, he dissented.

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Q20. DISSIPATE

- a) conserve
- b) unite
- c) waste
- d) organize

Answer: (a)

Arjuna Ranatunga does not dissipate his energy by running fast every time he takes a run. That is, he does not waste it in a foolish way.

When he sees that the ball is distant enough for him to easily reach the crease for a single, and that no matter how fast he runs he cannot take more than a single, he simply ambles across the pitch. He thus conserves (saves) energy and utilizes it when there is need for a quick run.

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Q21. **PERFIDIOUS**

- a) treacherous
- b) humane
- c) loyal
- d) religious

Answer: (c)

One who is perfidious is treacherous or untrustworthy. He may be with you today and against you tomorrow.

On the other hand, a local person remains Firm in his or her friendship or support.

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Q22. INTRICACY

- a) simplicity
- b) cordiality
- c) ornate
- d) distance

Answer: (a)

The carpets are priced so high due to the intricacy of patterns.

An intricate pattern is made up of many small details. It is complicated, not simple. The noun from simple is simplicity.

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Q23. REDUNDANT

- a) surplus
- b) required
- c) repentant
- d) singular

Answer: (d)

Redundant means excessive. Its opposite is singular.

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Q24. DIVULGE

- a) dissemble
- b) transmit
- c) disseminate
- d) publicize

Answer: (a)

The meaning of word Divulge (verb) is : Reveal, make known. Its antonym should be : Dissemble.

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Q25. OBSCENE

a) objectionable

b) jealousy

c) decent

d) condemnable

Answer: (c)

Obscene means indecent, objectionable and condemnable mean similar to obscene.

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