Verbal Ability (Antonyms)

Direction: Select a word that is most nearly opposite in meaning.

1. EXHUME

    a. expel
    b. exit
    c. infer
    d. refer
    e. inter
    f. (E. inter) Exhume means to remove from the grave. Expel means to force out, eject. Exit means to depart. Infer means to conclude or deduce. Refer means to relate. Inter means to bury a dead body.

2. NEBULOUS

    a. astronomical
    b. distinct
    c. eccentric
    d. hopeful
    e. moribund
    f. (B. distinct) Nebulous means vague or hazy. Choice B distinct means clear, single, particular, or discrete. The adjective moribund, choice E, means dying.

3. INANE

    a. foolish
    b. serious
    c. mature
    d. nameless
    e. contrary
    f. (B. serious.) Inane means silly or empty. Choice B serious means important or solemn.

4. DISPARATE

a. dissimilar
b. similar
c. disconcerted
d. contrite
e. desperate
f. (B. similar.) Disparate means different. Choice A dissimilar means different. Choice B similar means the same or nearly the same. Choice C disconcerted means bewildered or confused. Choice D contrite means repentant.

5. MANDATORY

a. dispassionate
b. obligatory
c. voluntary
d. inveterate
e. disconsolate
f. (C. voluntary) Mandatory means obligatory, ordered. Choice A dispassionate means impartial. Choice D inveterate means deep-seated. Choice E disconsolate means cheerless, unhappy.

6. ABSTEMIOUS

a. self-indulgent
b. on the dole
c. self-sacrificing
d. off the mark
e. self-satisfied

(A. self-indulgent) Abstemious means self-denying, temperate.

7. INFIRM

a. ailing
b. hospitalized
c. robust
d. recovering
e. firm
f. (C. robust.) Infirm means weak, especially from illness or old age. Choice C robust means very healthy.

8. HIDEBOUND

a. liberal
b. dishonorable
c. honorable
d. conservative
e. leathery

(A. liberal) Hidebound means narrow-minded. Choice A liberal means openminded.

9. LABYRINTHINE

a. flowery
b. direct
c. amazing
d. dark
e. towering
f. (B. direct) Labyrinthine means mazelike. The best opposite is direct, which means straightforward.

10. HERETICAL

a. skeptical
b. orthodox
c. unorthodox
d. ethereal
e. insincere

f. (B. orthodox) Heretical means challenging conventional beliefs. Choice A skeptical means inclined not to believe. Choice B orthodox means to accept conventional beliefs. Choice C unorthodox means unconventional. Choice D ethereal means light and delicate or heavenly. Choice E insincere means hypocritical, not sincere.

11. INVEIGH

a. to lose weight
b. to estimate
c. to accept meekly
d. to cherish fondly
e. to retreat
f. (C. to accept meekly) To inveigh is to protest strongly, to rail against. The opposite is choice C to accept meekly.

12. TACITLY

a. thoughtlessly
b. carelessly
c. coherently
d. openly expressed
e. mildly amused
f. (D. openly expressed) Tacitly means silently, without being openly expressed.

13. PROCEED

a. secede
b. succeed
c. impede
d. lead
e. recede

f. (E. recede.) Proceed means move forward, go ahead as planned. Choice E recede means to move backward. Choice A secede means to withdraw or quit. Choice C impede means to slow down.

14. DOWDY

a. slovenly
b. out of date
c. stylish
d. above average
e. seasonal
f. (C. stylish) Dowdy means drab or out of date. Choice A slovenly means untidy.

15. CHIVALROUS

a. gallant
b. discourteous
c. civilized
d. armored
e. vainglorious
f. (B. discourteous.) Chivalrous means positive or high-minded. Choice A gallant means brave or courageous. Choice B discourteous means not courteous. Choice E vainglorious means marked by excessive pride and vanity.

16. ELEVATED

a. grounded
b. raised
c. excited
d. subterranean
e. moody
f. (D. subterranean.) Elevated means above the ground. Choice A grounded means connected to

the earth. Choice D subterranean means beneath the surface.

17. CAPTIOUS

a. eager
b. deprived
c. indulgent
d. free
e. anxious
f. (C. indulgent) Captious means quick to find fault, carping. The opposite is indulgent.

18. HUGGER-MUGGER

a. incarcerate
b. eat heartily
c. dance wildly
d. keep watch
e. publicize
f. (E. publicize) As a verb, hugger-mugger means to hush up. Choice E publicize means to announce, promote, or advertise. To incarcerate, choice A, is to imprison.

19. NADIR

a. ebb tide
b. positron
c. mean
d. median
e. zenith
f. (E. zenith) Nadir is the bottom, the lowest point. Choice A ebb tide means a period or state of decline. Choice B positron means an electrically charged particle. Choice C mean means the average. Choice D median means the

middle point. Choice E zenith means topmost or highest point.

20. ORNERY

a. with many faults
b. odorless
c. agreeable in disposition
d. fetid
e. highly decorated
f. (C. agreeable in disposition) Ornery means disagreeable, mean, crotchety. The adjective fetid, choice D, means noisome, stinking.

21. PALPABLE

a. pliable
b. facetious
c. evident
d. intangible
e. careful
f. (D. intangible) Palpable means easily perceived, obvious, tangible. Choice A pliable means flexible, easily influenced. Choice B facetious means intending to be funny. Choice D intangible means not tangible.

22. PUNGENT

a. acrid
b. piquant
c. harmonious
d. untenable
e. insipid
f. (E. insipid) Pungent means sharply affecting the organs of taste, or a strong sour or bitter taste. Choice E insipid means tasteless. Choices A and

B are synonyms of pungent. Choice D untenable means implausible or unreasonable.

23. INDIGENT

a. inconsequential
b. nonnative
c. extraterrestrial
d. affluent
e. compliant
f. (D. affluent) Indigent means needy, poor. Choice D affluent means rich, wealthy, or prosperous. Choice E compliant means obliging.

24. INFIRM

a. ailing
b. hospitalized
c. robust
d. recovering
e. firm
f. (C. robust.) Infirm means weak, especially from illness or old age. Choice C robust means very healthy.

25. ABSTEMIOUS

a. self-indulgent
b. on the dole
c. self-sacrificing
d. off the mark
e. self-satisfied

(A. self-indulgent) Abstemious means self-denying, temperate.

26. GARRULOUS

a. Barren
b. Funnel

c. Censored
d. Deaf
e. Notable
f. (D. Deaf) Garrulous means talking too much. Only Deaf; who cannot speak is the right answer.

27. MANDATORY

a. dispassionate
b. obligatory
c. voluntary
d. inveterate
e. disconsolate
f. (C. voluntary) Mandatory means obligatory, ordered. Choice A dispassionate means impartial. Choice D inveterate means deep-seated. Choice E disconsolate means cheerless, unhappy.

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a. secede
b. succeed
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f. (E. recede.) Proceed means move forward, go ahead as planned. Choice E recede means to move backward. Choice A secede means to withdraw or quit. Choice C impede means to slow down.

29. ENIGMATIC

a. explicit
b. cryptic
c. implicit

d. syntactic
e. impolitic
(A. explicit) Enigmatic means puzzling, unclear, obscure. Explicit means clear and direct. Cryptic means puzzling. Implicit means indirect. Syntactic means having to do with sentence structure. Impolitic means unwise.

30. MATRICULATE

a. articulate
b. speculate
c. divorce
d. impart
e. graduate
f. (E. graduate) Matriculate means to sign up, to register for or join, especially for college. Choice A articulate means to express ideas clearly. Choice B speculate means to form opinions without definite knowledge. Choice E graduate means to be awarded a diploma for a course of study or to conclude school successfully.

31. EMPATHY

a. compassion
b. lack of feeling for others
c. lack of religious certainty
d. lack of credit
e. recalcitrance
f. (B. lack of feeling for others) Empathy means feeling for others, sympathy. Choice E recalcitrance means disobedience, noncompliance.

32. DISCRIMINATING

a. racist
b. gourmet
c. crass
d. popular
e. segregated
f. (C. crass) Discriminating means being able to make fine distinctions. Choice C crass means gross, being unable to make fine distinctions.

33. NOVEL

a. fictional
b. poetic
c. ordinary
d. narrative
e. peerless
f. (C. ordinary) Novel means new or unique. Fictional means made up or fabricated. Poetic means elegant or musical. Ordinary means common or everyday. Narrative means related to a story. Peerless means unique.

34. SUCCULENT

a. harshly astringent
b. axiomatic
c. quietly reclusive
d. parched
e. highly spiced
f. (D. parched) Succulent means full of juice, juicy. Choice D parched means dried out. Choice B axiomatic means self-evident.

35. EUPHORIA

a. mandate
b. intoxicant
c. life

d. euthanasia
e. gloom
f. (E. gloom.) Euphoria means a feeling of well-being or elation. Choice A mandate means an order or command. Choice B intoxicant means a mind-altering substance. Choice D euthanasia means mercy killing. Choice E gloom means sadness or depression.

36. PRECURSOR

a. sequel
b. pointer
c. tyro
d. claimant
e. afterthought

(A. sequel) A precursor is a thing or person that precedes, but a sequel, choice A, is something that comes after. A tyro, choice C, is a novice or beginner. A claimant, choice D, is one who makes a claim.

37. IMBROGLIO

a. imbibition
b. proviso
c. fracas
d. clarification
e. settlement
f. (E. settlement) Imbroglio means a noisy fight or a dispute. Choice E settlement is the best opposite. Choice A imbibition means to absorb ideas into the mind. Choice B proviso means something insisted on as part of an agreement, with each side giving up some of its demands. Choice C fracas is also a noisy dispute or brawl.

38. BOMBASTIC

a. Creative
b. Selfish
c. Artistic
d. Polite
e. Overbearing
f. (D. Polite) Bombastic is a very strong word that means boastful. Notice that it simply sounds like a strong word. The best opposite here is Polite.

39. CHAOTIC

a. Immersive
b. Orderly
c. Hectic
d. Nervous
e. Embarrasing
f. (B. Orderly) Chaotic is a negative word that means in a state of complete confusion or disorder. Orderly is the positive word that is the best opposite.

40. PROFUSE

a. extravagant
b. antinatural
c. immodest
d. sparse
e. refutable
f. (D. sparse) Profuse means lavish, lush, or abundant. Choice A extravagant means going beyond what is reasonable. Choice B antinatural means against nature. Choice C immodest means lacking in modesty or indecent. Choice D

sparse means not thickly grown. Choice E refutable means able to be proved wrong.

41. MATRICULATE

a. articulate
b. speculate
c. divorce
d. impart
e. graduate

(E. graduate) Matriculate means to sign up, to register for or join, especially for college. Choice A articulate means to express ideas clearly. Choice B speculate means to form opinions without definite knowledge. Choice E graduate means to be awarded a diploma for a course of study or to conclude school successfully.

42. APPROBATION

a. probation
b. guilt
c. disapproval
d. disavowal
e. disaffected

(C. disapproval) Approbation means approval. Choice A probation is a period of time for examination or evaluation. Choice C disapproval means objection, and is the opposite of approbation. Choice D disavowal means a denial of responsibility. Choice E disaffection means discontent.

43. INFAMOUS

a. eager for praise
b. criminal
c. with a good reputation

d. heinous
e. appearing often

(C. with a good reputation) Infamous means having a bad reputation. The adjective heinous, choice D, means evil, abominable.

44. SYNCHRONIZED

a. Arrhythmic
b. Resonating
c. Harmonized
d. Bough
e. Chronological

(A. Arrhythmic) Synchronized means occuring at the same time or occurring together. The best opposite would be Arrhythmic.

45. NADIR

a. ebb tide
b. positron
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(E. zenith) Nadir is the bottom, the lowest point. Choice A ebb tide means a period or state of decline. Choice B positron means an electrically charged particle. Choice C mean means the average. Choice D median means the middle point. Choice E zenith means topmost or highest point.

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a. inconsequential
b. nonnative
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(D. affluent) Indigent means needy, poor. Choice D affluent means rich, wealthy, or prosperous. Choice E compliant means obliging.

47. HIDEBOUND

a. liberal
b. dishonorable
c. honorable
d. conservative
e. leathery

(A. liberal) Hidebound means narrow-minded. Choice A liberal means openminded.

48. INVEIGH

a. to lose weight
b. to estimate
c. to accept meekly
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(C. to accept meekly) To inveigh is to protest strongly, to rail against. The opposite is choice C to accept meekly.

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50. ALTRUISTIC

a. selfish
b. below sea level
c. interdisciplinary
d. nonalcoholic
e. self-reliant

(A. selfish) Altruistic means benevolent, generous, or unselfishly concerned for others. Choice A is the best opposite.

51. PALPABLE

a. pliable
b. facetious
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56. HUGGER-MUGGER

a. incarcerate
b. eat heartily
c. dance wildly
d. keep watch
e. publicize

(E. publicize) As a verb, hugger-mugger means to hush up. Choice E publicize means to announce, promote, or advertise. To incarcerate, choice A, is to imprison.

57. TRUMPET

a. fetch
b. glut
c. hone
d. idle
e. veil

(E. veil) The verb trumpet means to announce loudly, to proclaim. The opposite is veil, which means to cover or conceal.

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b. succeed
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60. FERVOR

a. an unfortified place
b. patriotism
c. drollery
d. merrymaking
e. nonchalance

(E. nonchalance) Fervor means zeal or warmth of feeling, and choice E nonchalance is cool indifference. Choice C drollery is something amusing.