

Determine the Meaning of Words Using Antonyms in Context

Directions: Underline the antonym of the word in **bold** in each paragraph.



1. The Arizona desert seems like a hostile environment for a non-native plant species to put down roots and thrive. But for the humble tumbleweed, the American desert has proven quite **hospitable**. This species has now become a symbol of the American West.
2. At the campsite, our parents gathered dried leaves and twigs to use as tinder to kindle a fire. We toasted marshmallows and told ghost stories around the warm flames. Then, Mom was careful to **extinguish** the dying embers before heading to bed.
3. The senator was shocked and dismayed to see the **confidential** information he'd shared privately with a friend splashed across the headlines of every major newspaper. He'd thought their conversation was private, but it was certainly public now.
4. There was **scant** physical evidence to prove that it was Gerald who had broken into their secret lair. But there were abundant clues in his suspicious behavior and uncanny knowledge of their intended course of action.
5. They did everything they could to **repel** the giant mosquitoes that seemed to be swarming around the lake house. They doused themselves with anti-bug spray, burned citronella candles, and sprayed eucalyptus oil on everything. Unfortunately, their efforts only seemed to attract more mosquitoes.
6. The pioneers had to travel light. They packed only the supplies they believed necessary to survive their long trek across an unfamiliar landscape. Today, what they considered **adequate** provisions would seem quite insufficient to Americans accustomed to modern conveniences.
7. Students are **prohibited** from entering the chemistry lab without safety goggles. This rule is designed to protect everyone from chemical exposure. Upon leaving the lab, students are permitted to remove their goggles.
8. At many points in history, there have been encounters between people of different cultures, with varied reactions. In some situations, the people involved **embraced** each other's differences and even merged their traditions. In other situations, the people rejected the "other" and clung even more tightly to their group's established ways.
9. The prime minister lacked the **tact** needed to keep the discussions moving in a positive direction. His insensitivity to the needs and desires of the different parties at the negotiating table made a satisfactory resolution unlikely.