



Subtle Synonyms

Directions: Read each sentence carefully. Choose the **rare word (A-D)** that best fits the meaning and tone of the sentence. Pay close attention to **context clues**—each choice might be close in meaning, but only one fits perfectly!

1. The artist's vision was so _____ that critics called her paintings dreams on canvas.
A. banal
B. abrasive
C. ethereal
D. austere
2. His tone during the debate was sharp and _____, revealing his frustration with the opposition.
A. placid
B. docile
C. serene
D. acrimonious
3. The scientist's discovery was met with _____ disbelief; no one thought such a result was possible.
A. incredulous
B. mundane
C. jubilant
D. methodical
4. The writer's descriptions were so detailed and _____ that readers felt they were inside the story itself.
A. opaque
B. transient
C. vivid
D. somber
5. The ancient ruins had an _____ glow at dusk, as though they remembered the lives once lived there.
A. mundane
B. luminous
C. discordant
D. jaded
6. Despite many obstacles, her _____ spirit pushed her to keep striving for success.
A. indolent
B. docile
C. lethargic
D. tenacious
7. The teacher's praise was so _____ that the students felt a sense of deep accomplishment.
A. perfunctory
B. effusive
C. reluctant
D. curt
8. The politician tried to _____ his mistake by explaining that the media had misunderstood him.
A. obfuscate
B. fabricate
C. emphasize
D. expose