



12. The factorial of  $n$ , written  $n!$ , is defined by  $n! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times \dots \times (n-2) \times (n-1) \times n$ . Which of the following values of  $n$  provides a counterexample to the statement: "If  $n$  is a prime number, then  $n! + 1$  is also a prime number"?
- A 1                      B 2                      C 3                      D 4                      E 5

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12. E It is necessary to test only  $n = 2$ ,  $n = 3$ ,  $n = 5$  since the other two possible values are not prime.  $2! + 1 = 3$ , which is prime;  $3! + 1 = 7$ , which is prime; but  $5! + 1 = 121$ , which is not prime. So  $n = 5$  provides the counterexample.