

• **Antonyms 1** Level 6

Directions: Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word in capital letters.

1. LOATHE

- A. cherish
- B. detest
- C. prize
- D. reject
- E. caress

2. PROSPER

- A. blossom
- B. fizzle
- C. dishonor
- D. flourish
- E. omit

3. CONSENT

- A. discard
- B. surrender
- C. oppose
- D. approve
- E. sanction

4. PRIMITIVE

- A. elementary
- B. modern
- C. juvenile
- D. withering
- E. infant

5. PROVOKE

- A. invoke
- B. insult
- C. aggravate
- D. encourage
- E. soothe

6. RESOLUTE

- A. cruel
- B. steadfast
- C. careless
- D. fickle
- E. loyal

7. PROPEL

- A. activate
- B. cede
- C. hasten
- D. reduce
- E. retreat

8. DESPERATE

- A. daring
- B. peaceful
- C. hopeful
- D. violent
- E. useless

9. ELIGIBLE

- A. disqualified
- B. undesirable
- C. proper
- D. clumsy
- E. suitable

10. HAZARDOUS

- A. vivid
- B. convenient
- C. dangerous
- D. secure
- E. risky

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The word *loathe* means to hate. If you loathe another person, you despise him or her. The opposite of loathe is to love. Because *cherish* means to hold something dear or to think of lovingly, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *detest* means to dislike intensely. This is synonymous with *loathe*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *prize* means to value extremely highly. This is not the opposite of *loathe*, because valuing something highly is not the same thing as loving it.

(D) is incorrect because *reject* means to dismiss something for not being good enough. This is not the opposite of *loathe*.

(E) is incorrect because *caress* means to touch in a caring manner. This is not the opposite of *loathe*, because one could caress something without necessarily loving it.

2) **B**

The word *prosper* means to succeed financially or in material terms. If a business prospers, it is turning a large profit. The opposite of prosper is to fail. Because *fizzle* means to fail in a disappointing way, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *blossom* means to mature in a promising way. This is not the opposite of *prosper*.

(C) is incorrect because *dishonor* means to bring shame upon something or someone. This is not the opposite of *prosper*, since prosper is not synonymous with honor.

(D) is incorrect because *flourish* means to develop rapidly and successfully. This is practically synonymous with *prosper*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *omit* means to leave out or exclude. This is not the opposite of *prosper*.

3) **C**

The word *consent* means to give permission for something. A parental permission slip gives consent for a student to go on a field trip. The opposite of consent is to refuse permission. Because *oppose* means to disallow or express disapproval for something, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *discard* means to get rid of something that is no longer useful. This is not the opposite of *consent*, since consent is not synonymous with acquire.

(B) is incorrect because *surrender* means to stop fighting an enemy and submit to the enemy's authority. This is not the opposite of *consent*.

(D) is incorrect because *approve* means to officially agree to or accept as satisfactory. This is practically synonymous with *consent*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *sanction* means to give official permission for. This is synonymous with *consent*, not the opposite of it.

4) **B**

The word *primitive* means relating to something from an earlier stage of development or evolution. For example, a rotary dial phone is a more primitive telephone than the mobile cell phone. The opposite of primitive is advanced, more evolved, or relating to the present or future. Because *modern* means characterized by using the most advanced and up-to-date equipment or ideas, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *elementary* means simple or basic. This is not the opposite of *primitive*.

(C) is incorrect because *juvenile* means childish or immature. This is not the opposite of *primitive*.

(D) is incorrect because *withering* means declining or becoming dry and shriveled. This is not the opposite of *primitive*, because primitive is not synonymous with growing.

(E) is incorrect because *infant* means relating to the earliest stage of something. This is similar in meaning to *primitive*, not the opposite of it.

5) **E**

The word *provoke* means to annoy or anger someone deliberately. Someone might provoke another by saying something offensive to him or her. The opposite of provoke is to calm someone down. Because *soothe* means to gently calm someone's feelings, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *invoke* means to appeal to someone as an authority on a subject. This is not the opposite of *provoke*.

(B) is incorrect because *insult* means to speak to someone disrespectfully. This can be practically synonymous with *provoke*, since insulting someone might annoy or anger that person.

(C) is incorrect because *aggravate* means to make a problem more serious. This is not the opposite of *provoke*.

(D) is incorrect because *encourage* means to give support or hope to someone. This is not the opposite of *provoke*, because *provoke* is not synonymous with *discourage*.

6) D

The word *resolute* means determined and unwavering. Someone who works tirelessly to achieve a goal is resolute. The opposite of resolute is wavering or uncertain. Because *fickle* means frequently changing in loyalty, interests, or affection, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *cruel* means very mean or evil. This is not the opposite of *resolute*.

(B) is incorrect because *steadfast* means unwavering or resolutely firm. This is synonymous with *resolute*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *careless* means not caring or concerned. This is not the opposite of *resolute*, since resolute is not synonymous with careful.

(E) is incorrect because *loyal* means showing firm and constant support to a person or cause. This is practically synonymous with *resolute*, not the opposite of it.

7) E

The word *propel* means to drive or push forward. For instance, when one rows a boat, he or she propels the boat forward. The opposite of propel is to push or move backward. Because *retreat* means to move back or withdraw from a given area, choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *activate* means to make operative. This is not the opposite of *propel*.

(B) is incorrect because *cede* means to give up territory. This is not the opposite of *propel*, because propelling is not synonymous with gaining territory or land.

(C) is incorrect because *hasten* means to hurry. This is not the opposite of *propel*.

(D) is incorrect because *reduce* means to decrease in size. This is not the opposite of *propel*, since propel is not synonymous with increase.

8) C

The word *desperate* means feeling hopeless or despairing. For instance, one might feel desperate if he or she were stranded on a desert island with no chance of rescue. The opposite of desperate is optimistic. Because *hopeful* means feeling optimistic about the future, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *daring* means adventurous or bold. This is not the opposite of *desperate*.

(B) is incorrect because *peaceful* means calm or free from disturbance. This is not the opposite of *desperate*, since desperate is not synonymous with disturbed or agitated.

(D) is incorrect because *violent* means involving physical force intended to hurt or kill someone. This is not the opposite of *desperate*.

(E) is incorrect because *useless* means serving no purpose. This is not the opposite of *desperate*.

9) A

The word *eligible* means satisfying the appropriate conditions. For instance, if only adults were eligible for a contest, then only those over the age of 18 would be allowed to enter the contest. The opposite of eligible is ineligible or failing to satisfy the appropriate conditions. Because *disqualified* means unsuitable for an activity, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *undesirable* means not wanted. This is not the opposite of *eligible*, because eligible is not synonymous with wanted or desired.

(C) is incorrect because *proper* means suitable or appropriate. This is synonymous with *eligible*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *clumsy* means awkward in movement. This is not the opposite of *eligible*.

(E) is incorrect because *suitable* means appropriate or satisfying the appropriate conditions. This is synonymous with *eligible*, not the opposite of it.

10) **D**

The word *hazardous* means risky or dangerous. For example, playing with fire might be hazardous to one's health. The opposite of hazardous is safe. Because *secure* means safe or not subject to threat or harm, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *vivid* means clear or focused. This is not the opposite of *hazardous*.

(B) is incorrect because *convenient* means involving little trouble or effort. This is not the opposite of *hazardous*, since hazardous is not synonymous with inconvenient.

(C) is incorrect because *dangerous* means harmful or unsafe. This is synonymous with *hazardous*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *risky* means dangerous or unsafe. This is synonymous with *hazardous*, not the opposite of it.