

• **Antonyms 2** Level 6

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

**1. NOVICE**

- A. beginner
- B. expert
- C. amateur
- D. competitor
- E. executive

**2. MAXIMUM**

- A. sufficient
- B. largest
- C. merest
- D. limited
- E. greatest

**3. DETERIORATE**

- A. corrode
- B. upgrade
- C. decorate
- D. debilitate
- E. amplify

**4. DRASTIC**

- A. lax
- B. loving
- C. brutal
- D. strict
- E. polite

**5. CONSERVE**

- A. support
- B. stash
- C. sustain
- D. squander
- E. suspend

**6. MINUTE**

- A. mighty
- B. puny
- C. fine
- D. invisible
- E. immense

**7. DOMINATE**

- A. oversee
- B. debate
- C. rile
- D. submit
- E. trounce

**8. EFFICIENT**

- A. unproductive
- B. slipshod
- C. systematic
- D. proficient
- E. capable

**9. TERMINATE**

- A. cancel
- B. lapse
- C. restrict
- D. initiate
- E. continue

**10. GENERATE**

- A. sever
- B. develop
- C. demolish
- D. multiply
- E. humiliate

## Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

The word *novice* means a beginner or person who is new at something. For example, someone who has only played chess a few times would be considered a novice at chess. The opposite of novice is a person who is highly skilled at something. Because an *expert* is a person who has special skills or knowledge in a field or activity, choice **(B)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because a *beginner* is someone who is new to an activity. This is synonymous with *novice*, not the opposite of it.

**(C)** is incorrect because an *amateur* is a person who is not a professional at a certain activity. This is almost synonymous with *novice*, not the opposite of it.

**(D)** is incorrect because a *competitor* is someone who competes or challenges another in a game or contest. This is not the opposite of *novice*, because a competitor is not necessarily skilled at something.

**(E)** is incorrect because an *executive* is a person who has administrative powers in a company or organization. This is not the opposite of *novice*, because an executive may not be highly skilled at something.

2) **C**

The word *maximum* means the greatest amount possible. For example, a bus might have a maximum occupancy, which means there can only be so many riders aboard the bus. The opposite of maximum is minimum or the lowest amount possible. Because *merest* means the smallest or slightest in size, choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *sufficient* means enough. This is not the opposite of *maximum*, because enough is not synonymous with the lowest amount possible.

**(B)** is incorrect because *largest* means the greatest in size. This is practically synonymous with *maximum*, not the opposite of it.

**(D)** is incorrect because *limited* means restricted in size. This is not the opposite of *maximum*, because something can be both great in size and limited at once.

**(E)** is incorrect because *greatest* means larger in size or more important. This is practically synonymous with *maximum*, not the opposite of it.

3) **B**

The word *deteriorate* means to become progressively worse. For example, if one never fixes up an old building, the building will continue to deteriorate over time. The opposite of deteriorate is to improve or become better. Because *upgrade* means to improve or raise to a higher standard, choice **(B)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *corrode* means to destroy or damage by a chemical process. This can be practically synonymous with *deteriorate*, since chemical damage is a type of deterioration.

**(C)** is incorrect because *decorate* means to add an ornament to something so as to make it look more attractive. This is not the opposite of *deteriorate*, because decorating something does not necessarily improve it or prevent it from worsening over time.

**(D)** is incorrect because *debilitate* means to weaken or make infirm. This is practically synonymous with *deteriorate*, not the opposite of it.

**(E)** is incorrect because *amplify* means to heighten or enlarge. This is not the opposite of *deteriorate*, since heighten is not synonymous with improve.

4) **A**

The word *drastic* means extremely severe or extensive. A drastic cut in a budget would be one that severely reduces the size of the budget. The opposite of drastic is limited in scope or relaxed. Because *lax* means relaxed or not severe, choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because *loving* means strongly liking or adoring. This is not the opposite of *drastic*, since drastic is not synonymous with cruel or hating.

**(C)** is incorrect because *brutal* means savagely violent or hard. This is not the opposite of *drastic*.

**(D)** is incorrect because *strict* means demanding proper behavior or total obedience. This is not the opposite of *drastic*.

**(E)** is incorrect because *polite* means considerate and respectful of others. This is not the opposite of *drastic*, because drastic is not synonymous with rude.

5) **D**

The word *conserve* means to save or prevent the overuse of. For example, many citizens are encouraged to conserve water and not use more than is absolutely necessary. The opposite of conserve is to overuse or waste. Because *squander* means to waste something in a foolish manner, choice **(D)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *support* means to hold up or give assistance to. This is not the opposite of *conserve*.

**(B)** is incorrect because *stash* means to store away for safekeeping. This is practically synonymous with *conserve*, not the opposite of it.

**(C)** is incorrect because *sustain* means to strengthen or support. This is not the opposite of *conserve*.

**(E)** is incorrect because *suspend* means to temporarily halt. This is not the opposite of *conserve*.

6) **E**

The word *minute* means very small. For example, a millimeter is a minute section of a meter. The opposite of minute is very large. Because *immense* means very large in size choice **(E)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *mighty* means very strong. This is not the opposite of *minute*, because small is not synonymous with weak.

**(B)** is incorrect because *puny* means small and weak. This is practically synonymous with *minute*, not the opposite of it.

**(C)** is incorrect because *fine* means thin or consisting of small particles. This is practically synonymous with *minute*, not the opposite of it.

**(D)** is incorrect because *invisible* means not able to be seen. This is not the opposite of *minute*.

7) **D**

The word *dominate* means to exercise control over. A king dominates the citizens of his kingdom. The opposite of dominate is to be ruled or to be under someone else's power or control. Because *submit* means to give in to another's authority or control, choice **(D)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *oversee* means to supervise. This is practically synonymous with *dominate*, not the opposite of it.

**(B)** is incorrect because *debate* means to argue about something in a formal way. This is not the opposite of *dominate*.

**(C)** is incorrect because *rile* means to annoy or irritate. This is not the opposite of *dominate*, because rile is not synonymous with surrender or yield.

**(E)** is incorrect because *trounce* means to defeat heavily in a contest. This is not the opposite of *dominate*.

8) **A**

The word *efficient* means achieving maximum productivity with the least amount of effort. For example, an assembly line is an efficient way of producing cars, since it can create many cars without requiring much work from individual workers. The opposite of efficient is inefficient. Because *unproductive* means inefficient or unable to produce large amounts, choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because *slipshod* means careless or poorly done. This is not the opposite of *efficient*, since efficient is not synonymous with careful.

**(C)** is incorrect because *systematic* means done by a fixed plan or method. This is not the opposite of *efficient*.

**(D)** is incorrect because *proficient* means skilled or able to do something. This is not the opposite of *efficient*.

**(E)** is incorrect because *capable* means able to do something. This is not the opposite of *efficient*.

9) **D**

The word *terminate* means to end. If one terminates his or her cable service, he or she cancels the service. The opposite of terminate is to start. Because *initiate* means to start or begin, choice **(D)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *cancel* means to revoke something or decide that something will not take place. This is practically synonymous with *terminate*, not the opposite of it.

**(B)** is incorrect because *lapse* means to fail to maintain or keep using something. This is not the opposite of *terminate*.

**(C)** is incorrect because *restrict* means to limit. This is not the opposite of *terminate*.

**(E)** is incorrect because *continue* means to remain in operation or existence. This is not the opposite of *terminate*, because continue is not synonymous with begin or start.

10) **C**

The word *generate* means to produce or cause something to come about. For example, a tomato plant might generate tomatoes. The opposite of generate is to destroy something. Because *demolish* means to destroy or ruin something, choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *sever* means to cut off. This is not the opposite of *generate*, since severing is not necessarily the same thing as destroying.

**(B)** is incorrect because *develop* means to grow or to become more mature. This is synonymous with *generate*, not the opposite of it.

**(D)** is incorrect because *multiply* means to increase or cause to increase in great numbers. This is practically synonymous with *generate*, not the opposite of it.

**(E)** is incorrect because *humiliate* means to make someone feel ashamed or embarrassed. This is not the opposite of *generate*.