



● **Antonyms 5** Level 6

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

1. DECLARE

- A. confess
- B. avow
- C. confuse
- D. retract
- E. confirm

2. VIGILANT

- A. nervous
- B. studious
- C. alert
- D. moronic
- E. inattentive

3. IMPROVISE

- A. concoct
- B. pretend
- C. explain
- D. devise
- E. convince

4. INTIMIDATE

- A. terrify
- B. ruffle
- C. prevent
- D. exhilarate
- E. encourage

5. ELUDE

- A. encounter
- B. evade
- C. embarrass
- D. entrap
- E. escape

6. INEPT

- A. incapable
- B. competent
- C. awkward
- D. athletic
- E. serious

7. LITERAL

- A. corrupt
- B. accurate
- C. deceptive
- D. fraudulent
- E. basic

8. CULTIVATE

- A. deface
- B. destroy
- C. fertilize
- D. manage
- E. moderate

9. FANCY

- A. elegant
- B. complicated
- C. plain
- D. lavish
- E. homely

10. FUTILE

- A. productive
- B. realistic
- C. useless
- D. worthless
- E. unreal

Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

The word *declare* means to state openly or make officially known. For example, when an umpire calls a strike in baseball, he is declaring that the pitch was a strike. The opposite of declare is to withdraw a statement or deny something. Because *retract* means to withdraw a statement as untrue or unjustified, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *confess* means to admit to something. This is practically synonymous with *declare*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *avow* means to assert openly. This is synonymous with *declare*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *confuse* means to cause someone to misunderstand something. This is not the opposite of *declare*, because declare is not synonymous with explain or clarify.

(E) is incorrect because *confirm* means to state with assurance. This is synonymous with *declare*, not the opposite of it.

2) **E**

The word *vigilant* means alert and ready. A night watchman's job is to stay vigilant and look out for intruders or other types of danger. The opposite of vigilant is distracted, sleepy, or unready. Because *inattentive* means not alert or not paying attention to something, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *nervous* means easily agitated or alarmed. This is not the opposite of *vigilant*.

(B) is incorrect because *studious* means showing great care or attention. This is not the opposite of *vigilant*.

(C) is incorrect because *alert* means quick to notice danger. This is synonymous with *vigilant*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *moronic* means unintelligent. This is not the opposite of *vigilant*, because being smart is not the same thing as being alert.

3) **D**

The word *improvise* means to create or produce spontaneously. For example, a jazz band improvises music, since it does not play from sheet music. The opposite of improvise is to plan something ahead of time. Because *devise* means to plan or invent by careful thought, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *concoct* means to create by combining various ingredients. This is not the opposite of *improvise*, since one does not necessarily plan out something he or she concocts.

(B) is incorrect because *pretend* means to imagine or act as if something false is actually true. This is not the opposite of *improvise*.

(C) is incorrect because *explain* means to make something clear to another by describing it in more detail. This is not the opposite of *improvise*.

(E) is incorrect because *convince* means to cause someone to believe firmly in the truth of something. This is not the opposite of *improvise*.

4) **E**

The word *intimidate* means to frighten or threaten someone to prevent him or her from doing something. For example, the height of Mount Everest might intimidate a mountain climber. The opposite of intimidate is to give support or confidence to someone. Because *encourage* means to give support, confidence, or hope to someone, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *terrify* means to greatly frighten. This is practically synonymous with *intimidate*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *ruffle* means to upset someone. This is not the opposite of *intimidate*.

(C) is incorrect because *prevent* means to keep something from happening. This is not the opposite of *intimidate*.

(D) is incorrect because *exhilarate* means to make someone very happy. This is not the opposite of *intimidate*, since intimidate is not synonymous with depress.

5) **A**

The word *elude* means to evade or escape from. For instance, a criminal might elude the police if he or she avoids being arrested. The opposite of elude is to face or be captured. Because *encounter* means to make contact or be faced with something, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *evade* means to escape or avoid. This is synonymous with *elude*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *embarrass* means to cause someone to feel shame. This is not the opposite of *elude*.

(D) is incorrect because *entrap* means to capture someone or catch someone in a trap. This is not the opposite of *elude*, because being captured is not the same thing as capturing.

(E) is incorrect because *escape* means to break free from confinement. This is synonymous with *elude*, not the opposite of it.

6) **B**

The word *inept* means unskilled or clumsy. Someone who cannot sew would be considered inept at sewing. The opposite of inept is skilled or able. Because *competent* means skilled or capable, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *incapable* means unable to do something. This is synonymous with *inept*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *awkward* means ungainly or not graceful. This is not the opposite of *inept*.

(D) is incorrect because *athletic* means skilled at sports or physically strong and active. This is not the opposite of *inept*, because it is too limited in meaning.

(E) is incorrect because *serious* means thoughtful in character. This is not the opposite of *inept*, because inept is not synonymous with senseless or unserious.

7) **C**

The word *literal* means real or free from exaggeration and distortion. A direct quotation is a literal translation of what someone said. The opposite of literal is exaggerated, distorted, or fictitious. Because *deceptive* means giving a misleading appearance or impression, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *corrupt* means evil or morally depraved. This is not the opposite of *literal*.

(B) is incorrect because *accurate* means correct in all details or exact. This is synonymous with *literal*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *fraudulent* means done by criminal deception. This is not the opposite of *literal*, because it is too limited in meaning.

(E) is incorrect because *basic* means simple or fundamental. This is not the opposite of *literal*.

8) **B**

The word *cultivate* means to promote the growth of. For example, one might cultivate a plant by watering it and using fertilizer. The opposite of cultivate is to ruin or prevent growth. Because *destroy* means to ruin something or end the existence of something, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *deface* means to spoil something's appearance. This is not the opposite of *cultivate*, because defacing something may not actually prevent it from growing.

(C) is incorrect because *fertilize* means to make more productive or likely to grow. This is synonymous with *cultivate*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *manage* means to oversee. This is not the opposite of *cultivate*.

(E) is incorrect because *moderate* means to make less intense. This is not the opposite of *cultivate*, because cultivate is not synonymous with intensify or heighten.

9) **C**

The word *fancy* means elaborate in structure or decoration. A Christmas tree that is covered in ornaments would be fancy. The opposite of fancy is undecorated or simple. Because *plain* means undecorated or simple in character, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *elegant* means pleasingly stylish in appearance. This is not the opposite of *fancy*.

(B) is incorrect because *complicated* means intricate or elaborate in structure. This is synonymous with *fancy*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *lavish* means very elaborate or luxurious. This is practically synonymous with *fancy*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *homely* means unattractive in appearance. This is not the opposite of *fancy*, because fancy is not synonymous with beautiful.

10) **A**

The word *futile* means pointless. A futile effort is one that cannot possibly lead to a productive or beneficial outcome. The opposite of futile is useful or beneficial. Because *productive* means generative, useful, or being able to cause something, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *realistic* means having a practical idea of what can be expected. This is not the opposite of *futile*, because something could be both

realistic and futile. For example, one could be realistic about the pointlessness of an effort.

(C) is incorrect because *useless* means not fulfilling an intended purpose. This is practically synonymous with *futile*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *worthless* means having no point or value. This is practically synonymous with *futile*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *unreal* means imagined or fictitious. This is not the opposite of *futile*.