**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 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 discouragement.

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.