

• **Antonyms 3** Level 7

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

**1. CLIMAX**

- A. foundation
- B. finale
- C. upgrade
- D. highlight
- E. letdown

**2. DETACH**

- A. blend
- B. isolate
- C. merge
- D. link
- E. separate

**3. ABNORMAL**

- A. customary
- B. organic
- C. deviant
- D. impaired
- E. flawless

**4. VICIOUS**

- A. cordial
- B. sinful
- C. dandy
- D. passive
- E. impolite

**5. PERSIST**

- A. endure
- B. quit
- C. remain
- D. vacate
- E. cherish

**6. AJAR**

- A. awestruck
- B. concluded
- C. airtight
- D. unsealed
- E. open

**7. DOWDY**

- A. outdated
- B. fashionable
- C. graceful
- D. blameless
- E. unkempt

**8. RESOLUTE**

- A. impressionable
- B. certain
- C. clear
- D. indecisive
- E. irregular

**9. ASTUTE**

- A. repetitive
- B. boring
- C. unskilled
- D. brainy
- E. ignorant

**10. SULLEN**

- A. hostile
- B. malicious
- C. upbeat
- D. lenient
- E. mellow

## Answers and Explanations

1) **E**

The word *climax* means the most intense or exciting point of something. For example, the climax of an action movie is usually the showdown between the hero and the villain. The opposite of climax is an unexciting or disappointing point of something. Because a *letdown* is a disappointment, choice **(E)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because a *foundation* is an underlying basis or frame for something. This is not the opposite of *climax*.

**(B)** is incorrect because a *finale* is the last part of something and is usually exciting or dramatic. This is practically synonymous with *climax*, not the opposite of it.

**(C)** is incorrect because an *upgrade* is an improved or modernized version of something. This is not the opposite of *climax*.

**(D)** is incorrect because a *highlight* is an outstanding part of an event. This is practically synonymous with *climax*, not the opposite of it.

2) **D**

The word *detach* means to remove or separate something from something to which it is attached. For example, if you remove a cellular phone from its case, you detach it from the case. The opposite of detach is to attach or fasten. Because *link* means to fasten or join, choice **(D)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *blend* means to mix and combine. This is not the opposite of *detach*, because mixing is not the same thing as fastening or attaching.

**(B)** is incorrect because *isolate* means to cause something to remain apart from others. This is not the opposite of *detach*.

**(C)** is incorrect because *merge* means to combine into a single entity. This is not the opposite of *detach*, because combine is not synonymous with attach.

**(E)** is incorrect because *separate* means to cause to move apart. This is practically synonymous with *detach*, not the opposite of it.

3) **A**

The word *abnormal* means unusual. An abnormal occurrence is something that does not typically happen. The opposite of abnormal is normal or typical. Because *customary* means according to the customs or usual practices, choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because *organic* means natural or derived from living matter. This is not the opposite of *abnormal*, because normal is not synonymous with natural.

**(C)** is incorrect because *deviant* means departing from usual standards. This is practically synonymous with *abnormal*, not the opposite of it.

**(D)** is incorrect because *impaired* means disabled. This is not the opposite of *abnormal*.

**(E)** is incorrect because *flawless* means perfect. This is not the opposite of *abnormal*.

4) **A**

The word *vicious* means deliberately cruel or violent. A vicious dog is one that frequently attacks humans. The opposite of vicious is kind or peaceful. Because *cordial* means warm and friendly, choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because *sinful* means wicked and immoral. This is practically synonymous with *vicious*, not the opposite of it.

**(C)** is incorrect because *dandy* means neat and stylish in dress. This is not the opposite of *vicious*.

**(D)** is incorrect because *passive* means accepting of what happens without active resistance. This is not the opposite of *vicious*, because passive is not synonymous with kind and peaceful.

**(E)** is incorrect because *impolite* means rude or unmannerly. This is not the opposite of *vicious*.

5) **B**

The word *persist* means to continue firmly in an opinion or direction despite difficulty or opposition. For example, leaders of the Civil Rights movement persisted in their struggle against racism in the 1950s and 1960s. The opposite of persist is to stop in the face of opposition. Because *quit* means to give up or resign, choice **(B)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *endure* means to suffer patiently. This is synonymous with *persist*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *remain* means to continue to exist. This is practically synonymous with *persist*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *vacate* means to leave a place unoccupied. This is not the opposite of *persist*.

(E) is incorrect because *cherish* means to hold something dear. This is not the opposite of *persist*.

6) C

The word *ajar* means slightly open. A door that is not fully closed would be described as ajar. The opposite of ajar is sealed shut. Because *airtight* means having no openings, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *awestruck* means filled with astonishment. This is not the opposite of *ajar*.

(B) is incorrect because *concluded* means finished or ended. This is not the opposite of *ajar*, since slightly open is not synonymous with starting.

(D) is incorrect because *unsealed* means not closed with a seal or lock. This is not the opposite of *ajar*, as something that is unsealed could be slightly open.

(E) is incorrect because *open* means not closed. This is synonymous with *ajar*, not the opposite of it.

7) B

The word *dowdy* means unfashionable and without style. A dowdy person does not dress well. The opposite of dowdy is stylish. Because *fashionable* means stylish or observant of the current popular fashions, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *outdated* means out of date or obsolete. This is not the opposite of *dowdy*.

(C) is incorrect because *graceful* means having simple elegance or refinement of movement. This is not the opposite of *dowdy*, because someone who is graceful is not necessarily stylish or well-dressed.

(D) is incorrect because *blameless* means innocent of wrongdoing. This is not the opposite of *dowdy*.

(E) is incorrect because *unkempt* means having an untidy appearance. This is not the opposite of *dowdy*.

8) D

The word *resolute* means admirably purposeful and unwavering. If one is resolute about something, then he or she does not change his or her mind about it. The opposite of resolute is wavering or uncertain. Because *indecisive* means wavering or unable to make decisions, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *impressionable* means easily influenced. This is not the opposite of *resolute*, because being easily influenced is not synonymous with being uncertain about something.

(B) is incorrect because *certain* means having complete conviction about something. This is synonymous with *resolute*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *clear* means having no doubt or confusion. This is synonymous with *resolute*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *irregular* means atypical or contrary to the norm. This is not the opposite of *resolute*.

9) E

The word *astute* means clever or ingenious. A shrewd businessperson is an astute one. The opposite of astute is stupid or lacking in insight. Because *ignorant* means lacking in knowledge or awareness, choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *repetitive* means characterized by the tiresome repeating of something that has already been said. This is not the opposite of *astute*.

(B) is incorrect because *boring* means dull or unexciting. This is not the opposite of *astute*, because astute is not synonymous with exciting or interesting.

(C) is incorrect because *unskilled* means lacking in ability. This is not the opposite of *astute*, because astute is not synonymous with skilled.

(D) is incorrect because *brainy* means smart or intelligent. This is synonymous with *astute*, not the opposite of it.

10) C

The word *sullen* means sulky and gloomy. After receiving sad news, someone might appear sullen. The opposite of sullen is cheery or happy. Because *upbeat* means happy or cheerful choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *hostile* means unfriendly. This is not the opposite of *sullen*.

(B) is incorrect because *malicious* means intending to do harm. This is not the opposite of *sullen*.

(D) is incorrect because *lenient* means permissive or merciful. This is not the opposite of *sullen*, because one who is sullen is not necessarily strict or not lenient.

(E) is incorrect because *mellow* means relaxed and free from harshness. This is not the opposite of *sulky*, because sulky is not synonymous with stressed.