# Year 5 English: Words with the nearest meaning (Hard)

English · Reading and vocabulary
Level: Hard

Student: _____ Date: _____

**Instructions**
- There are 10 questions. Read each one carefully.
- Write your answers on this paper. Use the space under a question to work it out.
- A grown-up can read a question aloud — that's fine.
- The answers are at the end. Check them together when you have finished.

## Questions

**1.** Read: “The cake had very elaborate sugar flowers.” What does elaborate mean here?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** lovely ○ **B** explain ○ **C** plain ○ **D** detailed

**2.** “The shop sold genuine opals from Lightning Ridge.” Which word could take the place of genuine without changing the meaning?

Circle one answer.

The shop sold _____ opals from Lightning Ridge.

○ **A** fake ○ **B** gentle ○ **C** real ○ **D** rare

**3.** “If you persist with practice, you will improve.” Which word could take the place of persist without changing the meaning?

Circle one answer.

If you _____ with practice, you will improve.

○ **A** stop ○ **B** continue ○ **C** persuade ○ **D** improve

**4.** Read: “The knife was so keen that it cut the rope cleanly.” What does keen mean here?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** eager ○ **B** sharp ○ **C** clean ○ **D** dull

**5.** Read: “The soup was a meagre meal for six hungry hikers.” What does meagre mean here?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** tasty ○ **B** very small ○ **C** magic ○ **D** plentiful

**6.** In this sentence, which word is nearest in meaning to refuge? “The old hut was a refuge from the storm.”

Circle one answer.

○ **A** refund ○ **B** camp ○ **C** shelter ○ **D** danger

**7.** Read: “The fine sand slipped through her fingers.” Which meaning of fine fits here?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** a penalty for breaking a rule ○ **B** healthy and well

○ **C** made of very small grains

**8.** Read: “The wombat hid behind the trunk of the gum tree.” Which meaning of trunk fits here?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** the thick main stem of a tree ○ **B** a large box for storing things

○ **C** an elephant's long nose

**9.** Read: “The lake was tranquil in the early morning.” What does tranquil mean here?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** trap ○ **B** calm and quiet ○ **C** stormy

○ **D** deep

**10.** Which one word means “a person who studies rocks”?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** biologist ○ **B** geographer ○ **C** archaeologist

○ **D** geologist

# Answer key

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**1.** D — detailed

Here elaborate means detailed. Try it: “The cake had very detailed sugar flowers.” Plain is the opposite. Lovely goes with the topic but does not mean the same.

**2.** C — real

Here genuine means real. Try it: “The shop sold real opals from Lightning Ridge.” Fake is the opposite. Gentle only looks or sounds a little like genuine.

**3.** B — continue

Here persist means continue. Try it: “If you continue with practice, you will improve.” Stop is the opposite. Persuade only looks or sounds a little like persist.

**4.** B — sharp

Here keen means sharp. Try it: “The knife was so sharp that it cut the rope cleanly.” Dull is the opposite. Eager is a different meaning of keen, not the one in this sentence.

**5.** B — very small

Here meagre means very small. Try it: “The soup was a very small meal for six hungry hikers.” Plentiful is the opposite. Magic only looks or sounds a little like meagre.

**6.** C — shelter

Here refuge means shelter. Try it: “The old hut was a shelter from the storm.” Danger is the opposite. Refund only looks or sounds a little like refuge.

**7.** C — made of very small grains

Here fine means made of very small grains. The other choices are real meanings of fine, but they do not fit this sentence.

**8.** A — the thick main stem of a tree

Here trunk means the thick main stem of a tree. The other choices are real meanings of trunk, but they do not fit this sentence.

**9.** B — calm and quiet

Here tranquil means calm and quiet. Try it: “The lake was calm and quiet in the early morning.” Stormy is the opposite. Trap only looks or sounds a little like tranquil.

**10.** D — geologist

Geologist is the one word that means a person who studies rocks. Geographer only looks or sounds a little like that word. Biologist and archaeologist go with the topic of science but do not mean the same.