

## SAT vocab lesson 15

**I. Matching.** Match the word on the left with its definition on the right. You will use each letter once.

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|--------------------|--|
| ___1. duplicity    | A. _____ existing in name only, not real; too small to be considered seriously   |
| ___2. nominal      | B. _____ to steal something that has been given into one's trust; to take improperly for one's own use   |
| ___3. peculate     | C. _____ to use coaxing or flattery to gain some desired end   |
| ___4. proclivity   | D. _____ bitter, sarcastic; highly caustic or biting, like a strong acid   |
| ___5. quintessence | E. _____ thin, slender, not dense; lacking clarity or sharpness; or slight importance or significance; lacking a sound basis; poorly supported |
| ___6. sangfroid    | F. _____ resistant to lawful authority; having the purpose of overthrowing an established government   |
| ___7. seditious    | G. _____ composure or coolness, especially in trying circumstances   |
| ___8. tenuous      | H. _____ a natural or habitual inclination or tendency (especially of human nature)  |
| ___9. vitriolic    | J. _____ the purest essence or form of something; the most typical example   |
| ___10. wheedle     | K. _____ treachery, deceitfulness  |

**II. Fill in the blank.** Choose from the following list of vocab words to complete the sentences. You might need to change the form of the word to make it fit correctly into the sentence. Be careful.

<b>duplicity</b>	<b>nominal</b>	<b>peculate</b>	<b>proclivity</b>	<b>quintessence</b>
<b>sangfroid</b>	<b>seditious</b>	<b>tenuous</b>	<b>vitriolic</b>	<b>wheedle</b>

21. The spy used charm and flattery in order to \_\_\_\_\_ the information from the diplomat.
22. Though hurt by his \_\_\_\_\_ language, I had to admit that some of his points were valid.
23. The health clinic charged only \_\_\_\_\_ fees to help its many patients who were having financial troubles.
24. Investigators discovered that the clerk came up with a scheme to \_\_\_\_\_ from the company.
25. My grasp of trigonometry was \_\_\_\_\_ until I attended the extra-help sessions.
26. We found it difficult to believe that our good friend could be capable of such \_\_\_\_\_.
27. Risking one's own life to save the lives of others is considered the \_\_\_\_\_ of selfless valor.
28. Dictators usually begin their reigns by searching out and silencing \_\_\_\_\_ opinion, sometimes by simply not allowing them entry to their meetings and speeches.
29. Curious, patient, and fond of long walks outdoors, she soon displayed a/an \_\_\_\_\_ for nature study.
30. An experienced actor can perform with what seems like limitless \_\_\_\_\_, even when he forgets a line.

**III. Synonyms.** Choose the word from this unit that is **the same** or **most nearly the same** in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the given phrase. You will use five of these words.

31. \_\_\_\_\_ a shocking case of **fraud**
32. \_\_\_\_\_ **embezzle** from the treasury

33. \_\_\_\_\_ a nasty **penchant** for lying
34. \_\_\_\_\_ arguing a **poorly supported** point
35. \_\_\_\_\_ described as the **paragon** of graciousness
36. \_\_\_\_\_ was able to **keep his cool** when the students tried to bait him
37. \_\_\_\_\_ gave him a **title, but no real work** to do
38. \_\_\_\_\_ prosecuted for his **treasonous** behavior
39. \_\_\_\_\_ using gloves during chemistry to handle the **caustic** chemicals
40. \_\_\_\_\_ **charmed and wiggled and lied her way out of punishment** for what she did

**IV. Antonyms.** Choose the word from this unit that is **most nearly opposite** in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the given phrase. You will use five of these words.

**duplicity**                      **nominal**                      **peculate**                      **proclivity**                      **quintessence**  
**sangfroid**                      **sedition**                      **tenuous**                      **vitriolic**                      **wheedle**

41. \_\_\_\_\_ a kingdom filled with **loyal** subjects
42. \_\_\_\_\_ **excessive** objections raised against the new rule
43. \_\_\_\_\_ **bland** and even **sugary** comments during his speech
44. \_\_\_\_\_ **intimidate** the witness into agreeing to testify
45. \_\_\_\_\_ created some **hysteria** among the residents
46. \_\_\_\_\_ praised his **honesty** in dealing with the difficult situation
47. \_\_\_\_\_ did his community service and **returned** the items he stole
48. \_\_\_\_\_ on **solid** ground
49. \_\_\_\_\_ work which **does not represent** the group's efforts
50. \_\_\_\_\_ **incapable** of committing to a serious relationship

**V. Choose the right word.** From the pair, choose the word that best fits the meaning of the sentence. Write the correct word in the space provided. You will use only five of the ten unit words in this section.

51. \_\_\_\_\_ Our military is prepared to deal with external aggression, but our best defense against (**sedition, peculation**) at home is the loyalty of the American people.
52. \_\_\_\_\_ Since he has been able to (**peculate, wheedle**) almost anything he wants out of his parents, he is quite unprepared now to face the harsh realities of life.
53. \_\_\_\_\_ Although the Queen is the (**nominal, duplicitous**) head of state, the Prime Minister is the real leader of the British government.
54. \_\_\_\_\_ I learned that I would have to make a choice between my strong aversion to hard work and my equally strong (**proclivity, quintessence**) for eating.
55. \_\_\_\_\_ Experienced lawyers know that the line between literal truth and slight but significant distortion of the facts is often a (**vitriolic, tenuous**) one.
56. \_\_\_\_\_ Though it may appear rather ordinary to the casual reader, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is to me the (**proclivity, quintessence**) of eloquence.
57. \_\_\_\_\_ It is only in my fantasies that I display the (**sangfroid, vitriol**) associated with movie heroes who are "cool as a cucumber."