

SAT vocabulesson 19

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. austere | A. | _____ cheerful, lighthearted, casual, unconcerned |
| ___ 2. beneficent | B. | _____ grand in an impressive or stately way; marked by pompous affectation or grandeur, absurdly exaggerated |
| ___ 3. blithe | C. | _____ subject to whims or passing fancies |
| ___ 4. cadaverous | D. | _____ performing acts of kindness or charity; conferring benefits, doing good |
| ___ 5. capricious | E. | _____ severe or stern in manner; without adornment or luxury, simple, plain; harsh or sour in flavor |
| ___ 6. crass | F. | _____ pale, gaunt, resembling a corpse |
| ___ 7. debase | G. | _____ coarse, unfeeling, stupid |
| ___ 8. desecrate | H. | _____ to confuse; to disturb the composure of |
| ___ 9. disconcert | J. | _____ to commit sacrilege upon, treat irreverently; to contaminate, pollute |
| ___ 10. grandiose | K. | _____ to lower in character, quality, or value; to degrade, adulterate; to cause to deteriorate |

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.

austere beneficent blithe cadaverous capricious
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21. It is difficult to deflate the _____ optimism of the young.
22. The _____ clothing and conduct of the Puritans expressed their religious humility.
23. In how many stories, I wonder, does an ambitious villain become the victim of his own _____ plans, usually after he is “caught monologuing” and gives himself away.
24. They had hoped to _____ him with an unexpected question, but he was well prepared.
25. From the Puritans I learned that purely _____ acts can require as much hard work as a nine-to-five job.
26. The one fact about nature that seems completely _____ is that everything is subject to change.
27. Every time a new rule is introduced in a popular sport, there are fans who say it will _____ the game.
28. The search continues for the vandals who _____ the cemetery.
29. We feel that the positions of our representative show a _____ indifference to our problems.
30. Our constitutional system of checks and balances is designed to prevent the _____ use of power by any branch of the federal government.

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 seven of these words.

31. _____ his **highfalutin** manner of speech
32. _____ an **ascetic** life of plain food and little sleep

33. _____ the noise outside my window which seemed to **rattle** me a bit
34. _____ **demean** our group's reputation
35. _____ a museum collection **defiled** by vandals
36. _____ a child who is **indifferent** to the chaos going on around her
37. _____ a **magnanimous** gesture
38. _____ a **tasteless** joke
39. _____ because he looked **completely emaciated**
40. _____ found that her moods were **mercurial**

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 eight of these words.

austere beneficent blithe cadaverous capricious
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41. _____ how **selfishly** he behaved
42. _____ stayed at a **luxurious** hotel
43. _____ couldn't tolerate his **morose** behavior any longer
44. _____ his **unwavering** support of the bill
45. _____ actions which **improved** the reputation of our group
46. _____ his plan for a **humble and modest** wedding ceremony
47. _____ tried to imitate the duke's **refined and elegant** manner
48. _____ the way her **rosy** cheeks glowed with delight
49. _____ the way she **revered** her uncle
50. _____ the calmness in the room that **put me at ease**

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. _____ The Brain's (**grandiose, beneficent**) schemes for world conquest collapsed in a nightmare of military defeat and internal revolt.
52. _____ The conductor of the orchestra was so (**desecrated, disconcerted**) by the noisy audience that he stopped the performance and asked for quiet.
53. _____ By concentrating on personal gain, he has (**debased, crassed**) both himself and the high office to which he was elected.
54. _____ In order to survive until my next paycheck, still two weeks away, I reconciled myself to living (**blithely, austere**) until then.
55. _____ It is unwise to base an important decision—such as whom you will marry or which college you will attend—on a simple (**caprice, cadaver**) and without significant consideration.
56. _____ It is a (**desecration, beneficence**) of the memory of Lincoln to involve his name in defense of such a racist policy.
57. _____ The poet Shelley, entranced by the joyous song of the skylark, addressed the bird as “(**cadaverous, blithe**) spirit.”