

## SAT vocabulesson 26

**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. defamation   | A. _____ unable to make up one's mind  |
| _____ 2. irresolute   | B. _____ done for show, striving to make a big impression; making demands on one's skill or abilities; ambitious |
| _____ 3. nebulous     | C. _____ untidy, dirty, careless   |
| _____ 4. novice       | D. _____ cloudlike, resembling a cloud; vague, confused, indistinct  |
| _____ 5. penury       | E. _____ extreme poverty; barrenness, insufficiency  |
| _____ 6. pretentious  | F. _____ to review a series of facts; to sum up  |
| _____ 7. recapitulate | G. _____ slander or libel  |
| _____ 8. slovenly     | H. _____ something that is assumed or taken for granted without conclusive evidence                              |
| _____ 9. supposition  | J. _____ one who is just a beginner at some activity requiring skills and experience (also used adjectivally)    |
| _____ 10. torpid      | K. _____ inactive, sluggish, dull  |

**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>defamation</b>	<b>irresolute</b>	<b>nebulous</b>	<b>novice</b>	<b>penury</b>
<b>pretentious</b>	<b>recapitulate</b>	<b>slovenly</b>	<b>supposition</b>	<b>torpid</b>

21. We all felt \_\_\_\_\_ after that long, dull lecture.
22. We never seem to tire of stories of people who go from \_\_\_\_\_ to sudden wealth.
23. By the time everyone present had expressed an opinion, the original idea had become somewhat \_\_\_\_\_.
24. You must be patient and realize that all his mistakes are typical of a/an \_\_\_\_\_ in this line of work.
25. Celebrities sometimes feel that they have no choice but to sue tabloids for \_\_\_\_\_.
26. In Hamlet, the prince is \_\_\_\_\_ about whether to obey his father's ghost or to go on as if nothing has happened.
27. Talking about one's wealth is thought to be \_\_\_\_\_ and in poor taste.
28. Don't bother to \_\_\_\_\_ the plot of the book; instead, tell me if you liked it.
29. Her room was in a/an \_\_\_\_\_ state, and it took her an entire Saturday to clean it.
30. Guided by a/an \_\_\_\_\_ that turned out to be false, they made some disastrous decisions.

**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 all of these words.

31. \_\_\_\_\_ made a reasonable **presumption** about her friend's whereabouts
32. \_\_\_\_\_ her job to **summarize** what happened since our last meeting
33. \_\_\_\_\_ feeling rather **languid** after a long day at the beach
34. \_\_\_\_\_ the **ostentatious** mannerisms she used to draw attention to herself

35. \_\_\_\_\_ guilty of slinging untruths and **slanderous remarks**
36. \_\_\_\_\_ struggled along in abject **destitution**
37. \_\_\_\_\_ with the clumsiness of a **neophyte**
38. \_\_\_\_\_ because he was still **uncertain** whether he wanted to go to the concert or not
39. \_\_\_\_\_ early in the process when her ideas still had **no form or shape**
40. \_\_\_\_\_ acting very **sluggishly** in his depression

**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 all of these words.

**defamation      irresolute      nebulous      novice      penury**  
**pretentious      recapitulate      slovenly      supposition      torpid**

41. \_\_\_\_\_ **made a decision** about which college she'll attend
42. \_\_\_\_\_ showed up for the interview looking sharp, **tidy**, and well-dressed
43. \_\_\_\_\_ was never taught how to handle the **great wealth** handed down to him
44. \_\_\_\_\_ were ready and excited for what promised to be a **dynamic** presentation
45. \_\_\_\_\_ because she was so **modest** and **unassuming**
46. \_\_\_\_\_ the problem that was **clearly defined**
47. \_\_\_\_\_ became the foremost **expert** in her field
48. \_\_\_\_\_ grateful that she was able to **defend** him in public
49. \_\_\_\_\_ because he **knew the answer for sure** and didn't have to assume
50. \_\_\_\_\_ notes that were hard to use because they were long and **word-for-word**

**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 heat in the room, the quiet drone of the fly at the window, and the bright sunlight put me into a (**torpid, slovenly**) state.
52. \_\_\_\_\_ As a result of (**irresolution, pretension**) when that novel was first submitted, the publishing house lost the biggest best-seller of the year.
53. \_\_\_\_\_ Only a (**penury, novice**) at golf would have tried to use a drive when hitting into such a strong wind.
54. \_\_\_\_\_ Lacking a positive program of his own, he hoped to gain the support of the voters by (**recapitulating, defaming**) the other candidates.
55. \_\_\_\_\_ You may be right in your belief that she won't let us use her car, but remember that this is still only (**nebulous, supposition**).
56. \_\_\_\_\_ What she calls her "philosophy of life" seems to me a hodgepodge of childish fallacies and (**nebulous, slovenly**) generalizations.
57. \_\_\_\_\_ In the densely populated and underdeveloped countries we visited, we saw the depths to which people can be reduced by (**penury, pretention**) the other candidates.
58. \_\_\_\_\_ Biologists have a theory that states that every plant or animal in the course of its development (**defames, recapitulates**) all the stages of its evolution.