

SAT Vocabulary Lesson 8

I. Matching -- Match the word on the left with its definition on the right. You will use each letter once. In the blank in the definition, write the part of speech of each word. (Some have two or three parts of speech.)

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|-------------------|----|--|
| ___1. affable | A. | _____. shapeless; without definite form; without organization, unity, or cohesion |
| ___2. aggrandize | B. | _____. to increase in greatness, power, wealth; to build up/intensify; to cause to appear greater |
| ___3. amorphous | C. | _____. thin, light, delicate, insubstantial; _____. a very thin, light cloth |
| ___4. aura | D. | _____. cowardly; _____. a coward |
| ___5. craven | E. | _____. scholarly, learned, bookish, pedantic |
| ___6. erudite | F. | _____. courteous and pleasant; sociable; easy to talk to |
| ___7. fallow | G. | _____. plowed but not seeded; inactive; reddish-yellow; _____. unseeded land; _____. to plow but not seed |
| ___8. gossamer | H. | _____. incapable of being understood; impossible to see through physically |
| ___9. inscrutable | J. | _____. relating to, characteristic of, or situated on an island; narrow or isolated in outlook or experience |
| ___10. insular | K. | _____. that which surrounds (as an atmosphere); a distinctive air or personal quality |

II. Fill in the Blank. Choose from the following list of vocabulary words to complete the sentences.

affable	aggrandize	amorphous	aura	craven
erudite	fallow	gossamer	inscrutable	insular

25. After a month without a date, I decided my social life was definitely in a/an _____ period.
26. Those who urged Great Britain to make peace with Hitler were criticized for their _____ attitude.
27. You seem too sophisticated to hold such _____ opinions.
28. I could not tell by her _____ smile whether she was pleased or only amused with me.
29. The book was so old that each finely printed page seemed only the weight of _____.
30. We spent a pleasant afternoon with our _____ neighbors.
31. For my paper, I found a/an _____ history of the subject written in a clear, unbiased manner.
32. Millionaire John D. Rockefeller _____ his empire through oil wells, refineries and pipelines.
33. What people thought was her _____ of mystery was actually a mask for her shyness.
34. The _____ body of the amoeba was fascinating to watch under the microscope.

III. Synonyms -- Choose the word **most nearly the same** in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression

35. the Sphinx's **enigmatic** riddles _____
36. **scholarly** study of the subject _____
37. had a festive **ambience** _____
38. only a **nebulous** idea of his future _____

- 39. a relaxed, **agreeable** companion _____
- 40. his **provincial** way of thinking _____
- 41. the **fertile** corn fields _____
- 42. the **dense** weave of the fabric _____
- 43. to **amplify** his importance _____
- 44. the **cowardly** behavior of the thief _____

IV. Antonyms -- Choose the word **most nearly opposite** in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression

- 45. the **courageous** police officer _____
- 46. a writer's **productive** years _____
- 47. displayed a **cosmopolitan** awareness of culture _____
- 48. intended to **diminish** her fame _____
- 49. a **thick** morning mist on the garden _____
- 50. his **dour** personality _____
- 51. her **intelligible** drivel _____
- 52. the **abyss** of deadness _____
- 53. the **uneducated** student _____
- 54. the **well-structured** persuasive essay _____

V. Choose the Right Word. From the pair, choose the word that best fits the meaning of the sentence. Write the word in the blank.

- 55. _____ We must reject the (**fallow, craven**) untruth that to solve social problems, democratic freedoms must be abandoned
- 56. _____ During his life, Joe stressed the (**aggrandizement, inscrutability**) of wealth and power at the expense of morals.
- 57. _____ Lucy completed her (**erudite, amorphous**) term paper, quoting over 100 sources to settle the query of might vs. right.
- 58. _____ In a world that has become a "global village," we cannot afford leaders with (**affable, insular**) outlooks.
- 59. _____ On the Sabbath, the village immerses in a/an (**gossamer, aura**) of sacred piety that is difficult to convey to outsiders.
- 60. _____ The musical composition, with no melodic pattern or well-defined structure, seemed (**amorphous, craven**) to my ear.
- 61. _____ What a pleasure to talk about old times with so (**affable, erudite**) a companion!
- 62. _____ Nothing in Shakespeare is as delightful as the (**aggrandized, gossamer**) wit and fancy of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- 63. _____ I tried to find logic in the his strange orders, but his plan and purpose remained utterly (**erudite, inscrutable**).
- 64. _____ After a/an (**amorphous, fallow**) period during which she scarcely touched her brushes, the artist suddenly produced a series of major canvases.