

SAT vocab lesson 12

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. anomalous | A. _____ to free from deception or error, set right in ideas or thinking |
| ___2. aspersion | B. _____ leader who exploits popular prejudices/false claims/promises to gain power |
| ___3. assiduous | C. _____ to punish severely; to criticize severely |
| ___4. brusque | D. _____ weariness and dissatisfaction from lack of occupation or interest; boredom |
| ___5. cajole | E. _____ abnormal, irregular, departing from the usual |
| ___6. castigate | F. _____ a damaging or derogatory statement; the act of slandering or defaming |
| ___7. contrive | G. _____ abrupt, blunt, with no formalities |
| ___8. demagogue | H. _____ persistent, attentive, diligent |
| ___9. disabuse | J. _____ to coax or persuade through flattery or artifice; to deceive with soothing thoughts or false promises |
| ___10. ennui | K. _____ to plan with ingenuity, invent; to bring about as the result of a scheme or plan |

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.

anomalous aspersion assiduous brusque cajole
castigate contrive demagogue disabuse ennui

21. If you were as _____ in studying foreign affairs as you are in memorizing batting averages, you would have known how to reply to her comments on the situation in the Middle East.
22. Can you imagine anything as _____ as a drama coach who has never acted on stage?
23. I find it hard to understand how they were able to _____ such an elaborately underhanded scheme in so short a time.
24. At the beginning of the semester, I urged you to _____ yourself of the idea that you can pass this course without hard, regular work.
25. His endless talk about himself and his interests is truly unexcelled for producing _____ in others.
26. The speaker's blatant appeal to the emotions of the crowd smacked more of the _____ than the true leader of the people.
27. Rude questions call for _____ answers, and mine is "NO!"
28. I welcome honest criticism, but I deeply resented their constant _____ on my sincerity and good faith.
29. Resorting to farfetched promises, I finally _____ Tina into going to the prom with me.
30. Since he had always been quiet and shy, we were amazed when he stood up at the meeting and _____ the chairperson for failing to give everyone a chance to speak.

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. _____ fear-mongering of a **rabble-rouser** 33. _____ **inveigle** a pay raise
32. _____ wish to **rebuke** the vandals 34. _____ cleverest plan we could **devise**

35. _____ an **atypical** position
36. _____ an **insult** to his character
37. _____ **harsh, abrupt** manner
38. _____ her **boredom** in class
39. _____ **take away** that bad idea
40. _____ **sedulous** work in class

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 the words.

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| anomalous | aspersion | assiduous | brusque | cajole |
| castigate | contrive | demagogue | disabuse | ennui |
41. _____ **allowed himself to remain in denial** about his drinking problem
42. _____ the **compliments** he paid her while she was away
43. _____ the **excitement** of the ninth inning
44. _____ his usual **gracious** reply
45. _____ known to be a **lackadaisical** student
46. _____ a **normal or customary** response to his question
47. _____ **forced** him to name names in the investigation
48. _____ chose to remain **uninvolved** in any campus issue or debate
49. _____ decided to simply **tell the truth**
50. _____ **praised** him for doing the right thing

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. _____ A favorite ploy of the (**ennui, demagogue**) is to appoint a convenient scapegoat upon whom a misguided populace can vent its anger.
52. _____ By casting (**anomalies, aspersions**) on the ability and character of others, you reveal the misgivings you have about yourself.
53. _____ I cannot understand how she was able to (**disabuse, contrive**) a meeting between two people who had refused to have anything to do with each other.
54. _____ He's so tight with his money that it's nearly impossible to (**cajole, contrive**) a nickel out of him, no matter how worthy the cause.
55. _____ What hurt my feelings was not so much his refusal to give me a job as the (**assiduous, brusque**) manner in which he told me he had nothing for me.
56. _____ His conduct after his mother's death was so (**anomalous, castigating**) that I must conclude that he was not in full possession of his faculties.
57. _____ What she lacks in skill, she makes up for in (**assiduous, brusque**) attention to every last detail and requirement of the job.
58. _____ Although she is well into middle age, my aunt Sally seems unable to (**demagogue, disabuse**) herself of the idea that she is still a teenager.
59. _____ With the innumerable activities open to a young person like you, I can't understand why you should suffer from (**aspersion, ennui**).
60. _____ In *Gulliver's Travels* and other writings, Jonathan Swift (**cajoled, castigated**) the human race for its follies and wickedness.