

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 1

### 1. **LETHARGIC** (leh-THAR-jik) *adj.* –tired; sluggish; drowsy

- Sounds like: leather chick
- Picture: A young chicken is trying to run around the barn, but she's too tired. The problem is that when she hatched she was covered with leather instead of feathers, and the combination of heat and the weight of the leather has drained her of all her energy.
- Synonyms: exhausted; worn out; weary
- Antonyms: hyper; energetic; enthusiastic
- Other forms: lethargy (*noun*); lethargically (*adv.*)
- Sentence: He'd intended to mow the lawn, but was too ***lethargic*** and simply fell asleep.

### 2. **VILIFY** (VILL-ih-fie) *verb* –defame; attack someone's reputation

- Sounds like: village fly
- Picture: A giant fly, known as the Village Fly, who goes from house to house, saying bad things about the neighbors.
- Synonyms: slander; disparage; malign
- Antonyms: compliment; praise; admire
- Other form: vilification (*noun*)
- Sentence: He was so ***vilified*** in the press that his reputation never recovered.

### 3. **UNANIMOUS** (yoo-NAN-ih-muss) *adj.* –in total agreement

- Sounds like: you, Nanny Moose
- Picture: Nanny Moose is running for president of the PTA. Immediately after the election, the members stand up and announce, "We all voted for you, Nanny Moose!"
- Synonyms: 100%; unison; agreeable; absolute
- Antonyms: undecided; disagreement; individual
- Other forms: unanimously (*adv.*); unanimity (*noun*)
- Sentence: Everyone wanted Michelle to be class president, so the vote was ***unanimous***.

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 2

### 1. **BUMPTIOUS** (BUMP-shuss) *adj.* –pushy; obnoxiously self-assertive

- Sounds like: bump chess
- Picture: A man and woman are playing chess. The man is annoying, pushy, and rude. Whenever he captures one of his opponent's pieces, he bumps it off the board and yells out, "Bump chess! I love this game! And I really love winning!"
- Synonyms: brag; rude; arrogant
- Antonyms: polite; good sport; respectful
- Other forms: bumptiousness (*noun*); bumptiously (*adv.*)
- Sentence: The **bumptious** car salesman scared customers away.

### 2. **ECCENTRIC** (ek-SEN-trik) *adj.* – different from most, especially in personality or behaviors

- Sounds like: accent Rick
- Picture: An old man named Rick who sits in a rocking chair on the sidewalk in front of his house and speaks in a different accent every five minutes. (The neighbors think he's a little weird).
- Synonyms: odd; weird; strange
- Antonyms: regular; normal; typical; common
- Other form: eccentricity (*noun*)
- Sentence: Alice was **eccentric**, but everyone loved her odd ways.

### 3. **USURP** (yoo-SERP) *verb*—to seize or take over by force

- Sounds like: you slurp
- Picture: Two women seated at the counter in a diner. One woman is slurping her soup. The other woman grabs the soup from her and says, "You slurp, and I take your soup!"
- Synonyms: control; over-power; dominate; capture
- Antonyms: lose; defeated; failure
- Other form: usurpation (*noun*)
- Sentence: The army **usurped** the throne.

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 3

1. **VOLATILE** (VAHL-ah-till) *adj.* –capable of evaporating, exploding, or changing moods very quickly

- Sounds like: volley tile
- Picture: A game similar to volleyball, except that instead of a ball, a tile is hit back and forth over the net. The tile is volatile and could explode at any time, so the players try to keep it in the air.
- Synonyms: moody; emotional; temperamental
- Antonyms: stable; calm; steady or unchanging
- Other form: volatility (*noun*)
- Sentence: The judge had a **volatile** temper, so the lawyers were on their best behavior.

2. **DESTITUTE** (DESS-tih-toot) *adj.* –poor; lacking possessions

- Sounds like: dusty tooth
- Picture: A man so poor that he has only one tooth left (he can't afford dental care). And even that one tooth is dusty, because he doesn't own a toothbrush.
- Synonyms: needy; penniless; deprived
- Antonyms: wealthy; prosperous; well-to-do
- Other form: destitution (*noun*)
- Sentence: In order to qualify for the scholarship, you had to be almost **destitute**.

3. **WITHER** (WIH-ther) *verb* –dry out; shrivel up; lose life or energy

- Sounds like: with her
- Picture: A woman who carries old, shriveled flowers with her wherever she goes.
- Synonyms: wilt; crumble; die; waste away
- Antonyms: sprout; energetic; hyper; flourish
- Other form: withered (*adj.*)
- Sentence: He **withered** in the hot desert sun.

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 4

1. **OMINOUS** (omm-IN-USS) *adj.* – a sign of something unpleasant that’s about to happen; inauspicious
- Sounds like: “Oh, my noose!”
  - Picture: A condemned man looking at the noose that will soon be placed around his neck. Growing extremely nervous, he says, “Oh, my noose!”
  - Synonyms: threatening; warning; menacing
  - Antonyms: promising, auspicious; hopeful
  - Other forms: omen (*noun*); ominously (*adv.*)
  - Sentence: Centuries ago, people saw comets, eclipses, and other astronomical events as **ominous** signs of further trouble.
2. **CONUNDRUM** (kah-NUN-drum) *noun* –riddle; mystery
- Looks like: cone and drum
  - Picture: A man playing the drum, but instead of drumsticks, he’s using ice cream cones. An observer asks: “How does he play music with those things?” A second observer: “It’s a mystery to me.”
  - Synonyms: puzzle; challenge; riddle
  - Antonyms: identified; solved; well-known
  - Sentence: The more scientists learn about the universe, the more of a **conundrum** it appears to be.
3. **MOROSE** (mawr-OSE) *adj.* –depressed
- Sounds like: more oats
  - Picture: Depressed horse at a bar. The bartender asks, “More oats, pal?”
  - Synonyms: gloomy; pessimistic; glum
  - Antonyms: happy; joyful; thrilled
  - Other forms: moroseness (*noun*); morosely (*adv.*)
  - Sentence: I was already **morose**, and four days of rain made it worse.

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 5

### 1. **ALTRUISTIC** (al-troo-ISS-tik) *adj* –unselfish; caring

- Sounds like: Al True's Wish Stick
- Picture: A man named Al True has a "wish stick," or magic wand. He uses it to help people by giving them what they need.
- Synonyms: selfless; philanthropic; self-sacrificing; compassionate
- Antonyms: stingy; selfish; uncharitable
- Other form: altruism (*noun*)
- Sentence: Most religions teach that **altruism** is good.

### 2. **EXUBERANT** (ex-ZOO-burr-ent) *adj.* – uncontrollably joyous

- Sounds like: ex-zoo bear aunt
- Picture: A grizzly bear who had left the zoo returns to visit his aunt.

When they see each other, they are very happy, hugging, and dancing and singing for many hours.

- Synonyms: animated; elated; excited
- Antonyms: morose; lethargic; discouraged
- Other forms: exuberance (*noun*); exuberantly (*adv.*)
- Sentence: The city was **exuberant** after its team won the championship.

### 3. **OPAQUE** (oh-PAKE) *adj* – too dark or thick for light to pass through

- Sounds like: oh cake
- Picture: Right after the wedding reception, the newlyweds run to their car to leave for their honeymoon. They're surprised to find no "Just Married" sign on the back or bells hanging from the mirrors. But when they get into the car they notice the entire windshield has been covered and they can't see through it. When they look more closely they say, "Oh, cake!"
- Synonyms: impenetrable; murky; cloudy
- Antonyms: clear; transparent; light
- Other form: opacity (*noun*)
- Sentence: The stain was **opaque** and hid the grain of the wood.

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 6

### 1. **CONCUR** (kun-KERR) *verb* –agree

- Sounds like: can curl
- Picture: Two hairstylists discussing a customer's hair. "I believe it can curl," says one. The other concurs, or agrees.
- Synonyms: confirm; coincide; acquiesce
- Antonyms: disagree; difference; clash
- Other form: concurrence (*noun*)
- Sentence: Scientists do not **concur** on what caused the dinosaurs to die out.

### 2. **IMPEDE** (im-PEED) *verb* – get in the way; hinder

- Looks like: I'm Pete
- Picture: Pete walks out onto the track while a women's relay race is going on. Just as two racers are about to exchange the baton, he walks between them and says to one, "I'm Pete."
- Synonyms: obstruct; hinder; hamper
- Antonyms: assist; help; help
- Other forms: impedance, impediment (*noun*)
- Sentence: There are strict rules against a fielder **impeding** the progress of the base runner.

### 3. **POMPOUS** (POMP-us) *adj.* – filled with self-importance; arrogant; obnoxiously proud

- Sounds like: pom-poms
- Picture: The new head cheerleader at the high school has just been chosen and she has decided to appear before an assembly of the entire school to tell everyone how much she deserves the honor and how lucky they are to have her. "And now," she says, waving her pom-poms over her head, "how about a BIG CHEER just for ME?"
- Synonyms: self-important; arrogant; pretentious
- Antonyms: modest; humble; reserved
- Other forms: pomposity (*noun*); pompously (*adv.*)
- Sentence: The new manager seemed like a **pompous** jerk who wasn't interested in anyone else's ideas.

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 7

### 1. **INCESSANT** (in-SESS-ent) *adj.* – continuous; endless

- Sounds like: in says ant
- Picture: An ant hill just before a storm. One ant stands at the door and says, “In! In! In!” over and over and over as an endless stream of ants pours into the shelter.
- Synonyms: ceaseless; constant; nonstop; perpetual
- Antonyms: ending; competed; finished
- Other forms: incessantly (*adv.*); incessancy (*noun*)
- Sentence: The ***incessant*** buzzing of mosquitoes drove us crazy.

### 2. **PERUSE** (puh-ROOZ) *verb* – read something casually and quickly

- Looks like: Per use
- Picture: A college student standing in front of her washing machine in a mountain of suds. Since she only **perused** the laundry detergent label, and didn’t carefully read how much detergent she needed **per use**, her washing machine overflowed into a sudsy mess.
- Synonyms: browse; skim; scan; glance over
- Antonyms: scrutinize; inspect; examine
- Other forms: perusal (*noun*)
- Note: The traditional definition of **peruse** is *to read thoroughly or with great care*. It does not traditionally mean *to skim, to look through, or to browse*. But **peruse** is so often used as a synonym of *browse* that this secondary definition has gained acceptance.
- Sentence: The shoppers **perused** the magazines while waiting in line to check out.

### 3. **SARDONIC** (sar-DONN-ik) *adj.* – humorous, but humor tinged with sarcasm or disdain; cynical.

- Sounds like: Sardine Nick
- Picture: A sardine named Nick who’s working as a stand-up comedian. Much of his act consists of sardonic, sarcastic humor.
- Synonyms: satirical; mocking; disdainful
- Antonyms: sincere; genuine; heartfelt
- Other form: sardonically (*adv.*)
- Sentence: The movie had a **sardonic** tone that, while funny, was also depressing.

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 8

### 1. **CORDIAL** (KOR-jil) *adj.* – friendly; welcoming; gracious

- Sounds like: cord Jill
- Picture: A girl named Jill who stands at the post office and hands out cord to customers in case they need to tie up packages. She is known to everyone as the warmest, friendliest person in town.
- Synonyms: sociable; amicable; congenial; pleasant
- Antonyms: insincere; rude; unfriendly
- Other forms: cordiality (*noun*); cordially (*adv.*)
- Sentence: We'd heard she was a grouch, so we were surprised by the ***cordial*** welcome.

### 2. **EXTOL** (ex-TOLE) *verb* – praise

- Sounds like: eggs toll
- Picture: A giant egg working as a toll collector. The driver must praise the egg before he's permitted to pass through the gate.
- Synonyms: exalt; admire; commend
- Antonyms: criticize; condemn; deprecate
- Other form: extolment (*noun*)
- Sentence: The writer was ***extolled*** for her creativity.

### 3. **SUPERFLUOUS** (soo-PURR-floo-us) *adj.* – unnecessary; extra

- Sounds like: super floss
- Picture: A dental floss that's advertised as "Super Floss," so strong that strand can lift a fleet of dump trucks without breaking. Such strength, and such claims, would be superfluous-unnecessary, far beyond the possible needs of any customer.
- Synonyms: extra; surplus; unneeded
- Antonyms: useful; necessary; needed
- Other forms: superfluously (*adv.*); superfluity (*noun*)
- Sentence: She had six mailboxes outside her house; five of them were ***superfluous***.