

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 16

### 1. **CONCISE** (kun-SISE) *adj.* – short and to the point; terse

- Sounds like: Kahn's Ice
- Picture: A company, called "Kahn's Ice," that sells and delivers blocks of ice. The slogan on their truck is "Cold."
- Synonyms: brief, short and sweet, succinct
- Antonyms: wordy, longwinded, loquacious
- Other forms: conciseness (*noun*); concisely (*adv.*)
- Sentence: Phil read the **concise** note from his wife: "Leave. Now."

### 2. **IMPUDENCE** (IMP-yoo-dense) *noun* – rudeness; insolence

- Sounds like: in pew dance ( a pew is a seat or bench in a church)
- Picture: It's a Sunday morning and the church is filled. The minister is about to begin her sermon when suddenly a man jumps up in his pew and performs a wild dance. The churchgoers are shocked, to say the least, at his rudeness and lack of consideration for others.
- Synonyms: bold, inconsiderate, disrespectful
- Antonyms: respectful, polite, courteous
- Other forms: impudent (*adj.*); impudently (*adv.*)
- Sentence: **Impudence**, or any disrespectful behavior, is not tolerated in a court of law.

### 3. **VALIDATE** (VAL-ih-date) *verb* – confirm; corroborate; support; sanction

- Sounds like: valid date
- Picture: Two archeologists. One is handing the other a small statue and saying, "I've done all the tests on this piece and believe it was made in 1962 B.C. It was a Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. Will you please confirm that this is a valid date?"
- Synonyms: verify, prove, authenticate
- Antonyms: reject, oppose; prohibit
- Other forms: valid (*adj.*); validity, validation (*nouns*)
- Sentence: Ellen felt **validated** when the company took a chance and supported her idea.

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 17

1. **MEAGER** (MEE-grr) *adj.* – small in size or amount; thin; weak
  - Sounds like: me grr
  - Picture: A puppy has just been given his bowl which contains a tiny amount of food. As gigantic human feet walk by, the puppy expresses his anger over the meager dinner. “Me grrr!”
  - Synonyms: skimpy, poor, scanty, insufficient
  - Antonyms: plenty, sufficient, generous
  - Other forms: meagerness (*noun*); meagerly (*adv.*)
  - Sentence: The movie promised plenty of action, but the plot was ***meager***.
  
2. **PLACATE** (PLAY-kate) *verb* – to appease; pacify; mollify
  - Sounds like: play Kate
  - Picture: Two girls are playing hopscotch. Kate, who is younger, is obviously upset because she has been excluded. Finally, in an effort to pacify her, one of the girls says, “It’s okay, you can play, Kate.” When she hears this, Kate’s face lights up and she happily joins the others.
  - Synonyms: soothe, calm, satisfy
  - Antonyms: upset, aggravate, antagonize
  - Other form: placatory (*adj.*)
  - Sentence: She is skillful at ***placating*** unhappy customers.
  
3. **RUDIMENTARY** (rood-ih-MEN-ter-ee) *adj.* – undeveloped; fundamental; elementary
  - Sounds like: Rudy Elementary
  - Picture: Rudy’s Elementary School, where the students learn only the simplest concepts. In math, they never get past 2+2, in spelling “cat” is the most difficult word they study.
  - Synonyms: basic, simple, primary
  - Antonyms: difficult, advanced, challenging
  - Other forms: rudiment (*noun*); rudimentarily(*adv*)
  - Sentence: Most of the people were inadequately clothed and lived in ***rudimentary*** houses.

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 18

### 1. **AUSPICIOUS** (aw-SPIH-shuss) *adj.* – taking place under promising conditions; likely to succeed

- **Sounds like:** our space shoes
- **Picture:** Two astronauts have just landed on Neptune. They see they are surrounded by ice. In order to accomplish their mission, they must cross the ice. One astronaut thinks it will be very difficult. The other pulls out special boots fitted with ice blades. “This will be easy,” he says gesturing to the boots, “Our space shoes.”
- **Synonyms:** encouraging, favorable, positive
- **Antonyms:** unfortunate, unlucky, discouraging
- **Other forms:** auspiciousness (*noun*); auspiciously (*adj.*)
- **Sentence:** It was an **auspicious** beginning to the playoffs when the team won the first two games.

### 2. **FUTILE** (FYOO-til) *adj.* – hopelessly ineffective; in vain

- **Sounds like:** few tile
- **Picture:** Two men on a roof. They are professional roofers and should have estimated the number of tiles correctly. Now they’re trying to figure out how to stretch the few tiles they have left to cover about 40 sq. ft. of roof area. “It’s hopeless,” says one. “Too few tiles.”
- **Synonyms:** pointless, unsuccessful, useless
- **Antonyms:** hopeful, successful, fruitful
- **Other form:** futility (*noun*)
- **Sentence:** You can flap your arms forever, but trying to fly is a **futile** effort.

### 3. **SONOROUS** (SAHN-er-uss) *adj.* – loud, full in sound; booming

- **Sounds like:** son of Russ
- **Picture:** Russ had a very loud voice. Russ and his wife have a baby, a boy named Son of Russ, whose voice is unbelievably loud. Russ is on the couch trying to take a nap, but the baby’s booming cry is bounding down the stairs and bouncing off the walls, right into his father’s ears.
- **Synonyms:** deep, echoing, powerful
- **Antonyms:** quiet, soft, noiseless
- **Other forms:** sonorousness (*noun*); sonorously (*adv*)
- **Sentence:** The tuba’s **sonorous** notes filled the room with sound.

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 19

### 1. **MISCONSTRUE** (miss-kun-STROO) *verb* – misunderstand; interpret incorrectly

- Sounds like: Miss Kahn's Two
- Picture: Woman on the telephone at a restaurant called Miss Kahn's Two. She's speaking to a friend who thought they were supposed to meet at Miss Kahn's on the other side of town. Here's how they each misconstrued what the other was saying:

Woman 1: "I'm going out for dinner tonight."

Woman 2: "So am I. Where are you going?"

Woman 1: "I'm going to Miss Kahn's."

Woman 2: "Really? I'm going to Miss Kahn's, too!"

Woman 1: "Oh, okay. I'll see you there!"

- Synonyms: mistake, misinterpret, miscomprehend
- Antonyms: understand, comprehend, know
- Sentence: It's easy to ***misconstrue*** someone's meaning in an email, so be careful.

### 2. **BOLSTER** (BOLE-ster) *verb* – to support; to reinforce

- Sounds like: bowl stir
- Picture: A mixing bowl, filled with cake batter, is talking to the wooden spoon: "Come on spoon, stir that batter. I know you can do it!" (The batter joins in: "Hey, you're really bolstering the spoon's confidence! This cake may just pan out after all!").
- Synonyms: encourage, reinforce, reassure
- Antonyms: oppose, go against
- Sentence: Nancy's goal of a scholarship was ***bolstered*** by an unexpected A in biology.

### 3. **TACITURN** (TASS-it-turn) *adj.* – quiet

- Sounds like: that's Saturn
- Picture: The planet Saturn with a face. The rings are across the mouth, so it can't talk.
- Synonyms: silent, speechless, reserved
- Antonyms: talkative, wordy, loquacious
- Other forms: tacit (*adj.*); tacitly (*adv.*); taciturnity (*noun*)
- Alternate Approach: "Taciturnity" sounds like "tax attorney." You might picture a tax attorney working with some clients. No matter what they say, he remains quiet.
- Sentence: Anne was worried her ***taciturn*** boyfriend wouldn't fit in with her talkative family.

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 20

### 1. **PERVADE** (per-VADE) *verb* – to spread to every part

- Sounds like: parade
- Picture: It had been raining all morning, but just as the parade began, the clouds moved away and the sun appeared. Instantly, a feeling of joy pervaded the crowd (marchers and spectators alike.)
- Synonyms: saturate, permeate, infuse
- Antonyms: take out, deplete, drain
- Other forms: pervasiveness, pervasion (*nouns*); pervasive (*adj.*); pervasively (*adv.*)
- Sentence: The fire was **pervasive** and smoke had spread to every apartment.

### 2. **REDOLENT** (REDD-uh-lint) *adj.* – strongly scented; fragrant

- Sounds like: red doe lint
- Picture: A Doe (female deer) has red lint on her back. The lint is giving off a very powerful fragrance, which has attracted a male deer (“You scent for me?” he asks.).
- Synonyms: odorous, aromatic, perfumed
- Antonyms: unscented, odorless, fragrance-free
- Other form: redolence (*noun*)
- Sentence: The spring air was **redolent** with cut grass and lilacs.

### 3. **SERPENTINE** (SIR-pen-tine) *adj.* – coiled; twisted; winding

- Looks like: serpent
- Rhymes with: turpentine
- Picture: A serpent (snake) that has coiled itself around a can of turpentine. The curved shape of the snake’s body would be described as serpentine (also pronounced SIR-pen-teen).
- Synonyms: meandering, bending, indirect
- Antonyms: straight, direct, unswerving
- Sentence: It would be hard to drive a bus on such a **serpentine** road.

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 21

### 1. **AUDACIOUS** (aw-DAY-shuss) *adj.* – brazen; brash; nervy

- Sounds like: all day shhh's
- Picture: A librarian, referring to a boy talking at a nearby table: "‘Shhhh,’ I say, ‘please Shhhh,’ all day ‘Shhhh’s’ and he just keeps talking. What brashness! What nerve! What audacity!" The boy turns to the librarian and says, "Shhhh! I'm trying to read!"
- Synonyms: daring, bold, rude
- Antonyms: cautious, gentle, humble
- Other forms: audacity (*noun*); audaciously (*adv.*)
- Sentence: He had the **audacity** to demand a refund on pants he'd bought two years ago.

### 2. **COMPLACENT** (kum-PLAY-sent) *adj.* – self-satisfied; unconcerned

- Sounds like: come play, cent
- Picture: A penny sits on a park bench. Two small children call to him, "Come play, Cent!" But the penny, smiling, hands behind head, eyes closed, is too self-satisfied to move from the bench.
- Synonyms: smug, unworried, untroubled
- Antonyms: anxious, dissatisfied, unsure
- Other forms: complacence, complacency (*nouns*)
- Sentence: Facing a less-talented opponent, it's easy to grow **complacent** and blow a big game.

### 3. **ZEALOT** (ZELL-ut) *noun* – someone with an extreme enthusiasm for a particular belief or activity; a fanatic

- Sounds like: sell it
- Picture: A used-car salesman who is driven to sell as many cars as he can. His motto is "Sell it!" His zealous behavior is both admired and criticized by his co-workers. One day his zeal is curbed, at least momentarily, by one of his fellow salesmen, who rushes over to him and says, "What do you mean, 'Sell it'? That's *my* car!"
- Synonyms: extremist, activist, radical
- Antonyms: conservative, moderate, temperate
- Other forms: zeal, zealotry, zealousness (*nouns*); zealous (*adj.*); zealously (*adv.*)
- Sentence: Many religious **zealots** have been willing to die for their beliefs.

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 22

### 1. **EVASIVE** (ee-VAY-siv) *adj.* – tending to avoid giving direct answers

- Sounds like: Eva's hive
- Picture: A bumble bee has flown his date, Eva, home. But she lives in a condominium of hives and doesn't want him to know which ones are hers. "So," he says, "which hive do you live in, Eva?" "Oh, one of those over there," she answers evasively. "Well, anyway, I better get some rest. Give me a buzz some time."
- Synonyms: elusive, shifty, cagey
- Antonyms: truthful, direct, honest
- Other forms: evade (*verb*); evasiveness (*noun*)
- Sentence: The nervous witness avoided eye contact and his answers were ***evasive***.

### 2. **MAGNATE** (MAG-net) *noun* – a person of great power

- Sounds like: magnet
- Picture: A country's populated by paper clips and other small, metal objects. The country's ruler is a large, powerful magnet. The magnet has total influence and control over the citizens.
- Synonyms: mogul, tycoon, leader
- Antonyms: nobody, nonentity, unknown
- Sentence: A billionaire real estate ***magnate***, he owned a quarter of the town.

### 3. **LANGUISH** (suh-BLIME) *v.* – lose energy or motivation; become weak or depressed

- Sounds like: Lang wish
- Picture: A man named Lang. He graduated from college eight months ago and has been lying around ever since. Every day he says to his dog, lying on the floor next to him, "I wish I could find the energy to go get a job, but I'm just too tired today."
- Synonyms: suffer, weaken, deteriorate
- Antonyms: build, develop, grow
- Connect with: Languor (*noun*), languorous (*adj.*)
- Sentence: The unmotivated team ***languished*** in last place all season.

## Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 23

### 1. **ADVOCATE** (AD-vuh-kate) *verb* – support; plead for; speak on behalf of

- Sounds like: ad for Kate
- Picture: Kate is seeking her first job. She's smart and well-educated, but has no experience, so most people won't even give her an interview. Kate's aunt, publisher of the local newspaper, has always been very supportive of Kate. She begins running ads for Kate in the newspaper. The ads tell the reader how talented and reliable Kate is. "I strongly advocate your hiring her" is the last line of each ad.
- Synonyms: promoter, believer, sponsor
- Antonyms: opponent, enemy, rival
- Other forms: advocate; advocacy (*nouns*)
- Sentence: Lawyers **advocate** for their clients.

### 2. **OBSTINATE** (OBB-stin-ett) *adj.* – stubborn; refusing to be persuaded

- Sounds like: Hobbs ten-eight
- Picture: Hobb playing basketball with some of his friends. Hobb insists the score is ten-eight, even when assured by his opponents and his own teammates that the score is twelve-six. "Look," says Hobb, "I don't care that you all think it's twelve-six, or that we have spectators who agree with you, or that we have the game on videotape and that it shows the score to be twelve-six. I still say the score is ten-eight. Why should I change my mind?"
- Synonyms: determined, opinionated, tenacious
- Antonyms: cooperative, agreeable, submissive
- Sentence: Always **obstinate**, Sue insisted on going to the movies, even though she had the flu.

### 3. **PRECOCIOUS** (pre-KO-shuss) *adj.* – mature at a young age

- Sounds like: pre-coat shoes
- Picture: A young boy dressed in a business suit. His mother is admiring his stylish shoes. "Those are beautiful shoes, dear. Just don't forget to wear your coat." The boy's response: "Please don't talk to me as though I were a child. Mother. I am, after all, nearly eight years old."
- Synonyms: advanced, gifted, bright
- Antonyms: challenged, foolish, simple-minded
- Other forms: precociously (*adv.*); precocity (*noun*)
- Sentence: Child actors are often **precocious**, able to seem more grown-up than they are.