

## **Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 9**

### **1. UPBRAID** (up-BRADE) *verb* –criticize severely; scold

- Looks like: up braid
- Picture: A schoolgirl with braided hair. She’s being scolded so harshly by her teacher that her braids are standing straight up.
- Synonyms: lecture; reproach; rebuke
- Antonyms: praise; honor; compliment
- Sentence: He was afraid he would be *upbraided* for his mistake.

### **2. INSCRUTABLE** (in-SKROO-tuh-bul) *adj.* – mysterious

- Sounds like: on scooter bull
- Picture: Archaeologists have discovered drawings on the walls of a cave. The drawings are thousands of years old and clearly show a bull riding a scooter. “We shall call these drawings, “On Scooter Bull,” says a scientist. “But we may never know what they mean.”
- Synonyms: unexplainable; conundrum; incomprehensible
- Antonyms: obvious; clear; predictable
- Other forms: inscrutability (*noun*); inscrutably (*adv.*)
- Sentence: People have always longed to understand the *inscrutable* universe.

### **3. EMBELLISH** (em-BEL-ish) *verb* – to make more beautiful; decorate; adorn

- Sounds like: M bell fish
- Picture: A young girl showing her mother how she’s decorated the fish in their goldfish bowl. The fish have bells hanging from their bodies, and each of the bells has the letter “M” on it. “Look, Mommy,” says the girl, “M Bell Fish!” “Oh, they’re beautiful,” says the mother, “and if they ever jump out of the bowl, we’ll be able to hear them flopping around on the floor! Let’s go decorate the hamsters!”
- Synonyms: accessorize; fancy; garnish
- Antonyms: denude (strip); simplify; plain
- Other form: embellishment (*noun*)
- Sentence: Their home was plain and simple, but *embellished* with handmade crafts.

## **Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 10**

1. **GREGARIOUS** (greh-GAIR-ee-uss) *adj.* – sociable; extroverted; enjoying companionship
- Sounds like: Greg, Gary and us
  - Picture: A man and woman are getting ready to leave for vacation. As the husband carries his suitcase down the stairs, he sees that two friends are seated in his living room. His wife explains that she's inviting everyone she wants to go on vacation with them. "Well, so far it's Greg, Gary, and us," she says. "But I'm still waiting to hear from Audrey, Fred, and Nora Jean. And Fred's going to call his brother, and Audrey's asking everyone in her building ..."
  - Synonyms: convivial; outgoing; unreserved
  - Antonyms: shy; introverted
  - Other forms: gregariously (*adv.*); gregariousness (*noun*)
  - Sentence: *Gregarious* people probably make better salesmen.

2. **DEPLETED** (dee-PLEET-id) *verb* – emptied; drained; used up
- Sounds like: the pleated
  - Picture: Saleswoman to a customer who is looking through a rack of pants. "I'm sorry," she says, "the pleated ones are all gone."
  - Synonyms: exhausted; tired; useless; lethargic
  - Antonyms: full; refreshed
  - Other forms: depletion (*noun*); depletable (*adj.*)
  - Sentence: The epidemic became a medical emergency when supplies of the antibiotic were *depleted*.

3. **TENACIOUS** (ten-AY-shuss) *adj.* – strong; persistent; determined to hold on
- Sounds like: tennis shoes
  - Picture: The women's finals at Wimbledon. After the match, the winner sits down to take off her tennis shoes, but she can't. Even with the help of her opponent, the judge, two ball boys, and seventeen spectators pulling at her shoes, they won't come off her feet. (Tennis shoes can be *tenacious*).
  - Synonyms: stubborn; firm; resolute
  - Antonyms: indecisive; weak; undetermined
  - Other forms: tenacity (*noun*); tenaciously (*adverb*)
  - Sentence: The defensive lineman was small but *tenacious*, and he

sacked the quarterback twice.

### **Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 11**

#### **1. WANE** (WAIN) *verb* – grow gradually smaller

- Sounds like: the name “Wayne”
- Picture: Wayne is getting shorter, and his clothes are becoming too big for him.
- Synonyms: diminish; decline; fade
- Antonyms: wax; expand; increase
- Connect with: wax (*verb*)
- Sentence: With her strength *waning*, she grabbed the rope just in time.

#### **2. LUDICROUS** (LOO-dih-kruss) *adj.* – absurd; ridiculous

- Sounds like: Lou to cross
- Picture: A 24-lane super highway. Cars are racing by at 80 mph in every lane. Lou stands at the edge of the highway, waiting for a break in the traffic, so he can cross the road. “Lou,” yells at a friend from a passing car, “it’s ludicrous to think you can ever get across. There hasn’t been a break in this traffic since 1986!” “Well, isn’t that ludicrous?” Lou says to himself. “Does that guy really think I can hear him with all these cars going by?”
- Synonyms: preposterous; outrageous; nonsensical
- Antonyms: sensible; rational; judicious
- Other forms: ludicrousness (*noun*); ludicrously (*adv.*)
- Sentence: It’s *ludicrous* to say second-hand smoke is harmless.

#### **3. OBSOLETE** (obb-so-LEET) *adj.* – no longer usable; outdated

- Sounds like: Hobb so late
- Picture: Hobb riding in a horse and buggy, arriving for an important meeting. His co-workers are annoyed at his lateness, and wonder why he’s driving such an obsolete vehicle.
- Synonyms: archaic; outmoded; old-fashioned
- Antonyms: up-to-date; new; state-of-the-art
- Other form: obsolescence (*noun*)
- Sentence: Manual typewriters would be considered *obsolete* in most modern offices.

## **Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 12**

**1. DIGRESS** (dye-GRESS) *verb* – to move away from the main topic when writing or speaking; to go off on a tangent

- Sounds like: die grass
- Picture: The guest speaker at the American Lawn Club’s annual convention. The speaker’s topic is “How to Bring Dead Grass Back to Life.” Just a few minutes into his talk, while discussing the problem of dead grass under the barbecue grill, the lecturer begins to tell his audience about a really fun cookout he went to when he was visiting his sister in Arkansas, and the great recipe she gave him for shish kabob, and how his brother-in-law, Mark, cheated at monopoly and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah...
- Synonyms: deviate; wander; ramble
- Antonyms: focus; concentrate
- Other forms: digression (*noun*); digressive (*adj.*); digressively (*adv.*)
- Sentence: In writing, if you *digress* from the main point for too long, you may lose your reader.

**2. ARTICULATE** (ar-TICK-u-let) *adj.* – able to speak clearly and effectively

- Sounds like: Artie Kool-Aid
- Picture: A man named Artie holding a pitcher, giving a speech: “...and let me assure you, dear fellows, that it would be a veritable impossibility for me to be so eloquent without this extraordinary thirst quenching concoction, Kool-Aid.”
- Synonyms: eloquent; coherent; fluent
- Antonyms: inarticulate; mumbled; garbled
- Other forms: articulation (*noun*); articulate (*verb*)
- Sentence: To be effective, a preacher must be *articulate*.

3. **TIRADE** (TY-rade) *noun* – a long and bitter speech; diatribe

- Sounds like: tie raid
- Picture: A man goes to his closet to get his blue tie. It isn't there. He looks for his red tie, the one with the little penguins on it. Gone. He searches for his green and white New York Jets tie. It's missing, too. In fact, there isn't a tie to be found. He storms up to his teenage son's room, flings open the boy's closet door, and finds all of his ties, hanging on a wooden rack. He then launches into a harsh, angry, biting, twenty minute speech about his son's lack of consideration. (Son, after his father has finished: "Does this mean I can't borrow your black sweater tonight?")
- Synonyms: outburst; diatribe; lecture
- Antonyms: none
- Sentence: After the team's ninth straight loss, the coach's *tirade* could be heard in the parking lot.

## **Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 13**

### **1. VERSATILE** (VERS-uh-tile) *adj.* – having many talents or uses

- Sounds like: reverse a tile
- Picture: A TV commercial promoting Reverse-a-Tile, “the amazing new floor tile with 1001 uses. Each Reverse-a-Tile is a ceramic tile. Flip it over and it’s a square of carpet. Flip it again and it’s a square of artificial grass. Reverse-a-Tile covers floors, walls, counter tops, ceilings, and driveways. It’s also great for quilts, bathtubs, roofs, and highway overpasses.”
- Synonyms: multipurpose; adaptable; useful
- Antonyms: limited; restricted; narrow
- Other form: versatility (*noun*)
- Sentence: Most small companies value *versatility* – they can’t afford a different person for every task.

### **2. FLIPPANCY** (FLIP-an-see) *noun* – treating a serious situation with arrogant humor or disrespect

- Sounds like: flip and see
- Picture: A man sits in the electric chair. Just minutes earlier, a storm knocked out power and now one of the guards asks if the electricity is back on. The prisoner smiles casually and gestures to the large switch on the wall next to the chair: “Just flip and see.”
- Synonyms: frivolity; impertinence
- Antonyms: weightiness
- Other forms: flippant (*adj.*); flippantly (*adv.*)
- Sentence: Hal’s *flippant* attitude after his arrest only angered the police more.

### **3. MYRAID** (MEER-ee-id) *adj.* – large number; many

- Sounds like: Mary had
- Think of: The song, “Mary Had A Little Lamb.” Now imagine that this lamb grew up and had little lambs of her own. And then *they* all had little lambs, and so on, so that in a few years, Mary had thousands of little lambs. (They all still followed her to school. Luckily, she went to a large university.)
- Synonyms: countless; innumerable; mass
- Antonyms: few; little
- Sentence: The *myriad* choices in a store can be confusing.

## **Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 14**

### **1. LOQUACIOUS** (low-QUAY-shuss) *adj.* – talkative

- Sounds like: low gray shoes
- Picture: A pair of low gray shoes. Both shoes are talking.
- Synonyms: garrulous; chatty; verbose
- Antonyms: taciturn; reticent
- Other forms: loquaciousness (*noun*); loquaciously (*adv.*)
- Sentence: The *loquacious* lady in the library irritated those trying to read.

### **2. CAPRICIOUS** (cuh-PREE-shuss) *adj.* – unpredictable

- Looks like: cap riches
- Picture: A man standing in front of a slot machine in a casino. He puts a quarter into the slot, pulls the handle, and holds his cap under the chute, waiting hopefully for his riches. He doesn't know if or when it will happen, but he's sure it *could* happen.
- Synonyms: changeable; fickle; erratic
- Antonyms: predictable; expected; anticipated
- Other forms: caprice(*noun*); capriciously(*adv.*)
- Sentence: It's hard to plan a vacation when the weather can be so *capricious*.

### **3. STOIC** (STO-ik) *noun* – a person who shows no response to pleasure or pain; someone who is impassive

- Sounds like: his toe wick
- Picture: A man who makes candles by pouring melted wax over his foot. After the wax hardens, he lights his big toe, which acts as the wick. Even with his toe wick burning, the man shows no sign of pain!
- Synonyms: fatalist
- Antonyms: excitable
- Other forms: stoic, stoical (*adj.*) ; stoically (*adv.*)
- Sentence: Even during torture, he was a *stoic* and never responded.

## **Set A SAT WORDS: LESSON 15**

1. **CAJOLE** (cuh-JOLE) *verb* – to fool with flattery or false promises; coax; deceive

- Sounds like: cage hole
- Picture: A large cat sits outside a parakeet's cage. The cage has a small hole at the top. Inside, a parakeet is perched on a swing. "You have the most beautiful feathers I've ever seen," says the cat. "The colors are magnificent. Why don't you squeeze out through that hole so I can get a better look at you?"
- Synonyms: entice; sweet-talk; persuade
- Antonyms: dissuade
- Other forms: cajolery, cajolement (*nouns*)
- Sentence: The scam artist *cajoled* them out of their money.

2. **PRUDENT** (PROO-dent) *adj.* – wise; shrewd; cautious

- Looks like: prune dent
- Picture: Two gangs are on opposite sides of the street. They're having their monthly prune war, in which they continue to throw prunes at each other until one side gives up. Your car is parked in the street, directly in the line of fire. It's a new car, without a scratch, and you wish to keep it that way. So, to avoid prune dents and other such blemishes, you prudently run to the car and drive it to safety.
- Synonyms: careful; discreet; far-sighted
- Antonyms: reckless; irresponsible
- Other forms: prudently (*adv.*); prudence (*noun*); prudential (*adj.*)
- Sentence: Sometimes the most *prudent* thing to say is nothing at all.



**3. SUMPTUOUS** (SUMP-choo-uss) *adj.* – rich; magnificent

- Sounds like: some chew us
- Picture: A bountiful feast set on a magnificent table. The platters rest on a linen tablecloth. The glasses are expensive crystal, the forks and spoons fine silver. Each plate of food is beautifully prepared and presented. As you approach the feast, you overhear one of the dinner rolls say to a carrot, “People are so impressed when they see us. Some chew us, but most just stand and stare.”
- Synonyms: luxurious; extravagant; opulent
- Antonyms: meager; scanty; paltry
- Other forms: sumptuously (*adv.*); sumptuousness (*noun*)
- Note: Does NOT mean delicious.
- Sentence: The hotel lobby was so *sumptuous*, I knew instantly I couldn’t afford a room.