You should bring soft drinks or juice and dessert.

*This could mean that you must bring just soft drinks OR juice and dessert.*

*Or you may choose between soft drinks and dessert OR juice and dessert).*

Bob isn’t coming to the party. Tell Joe that we’ll see him next week.

*So are we telling Joe that we will see Joe or Bob next week?*

Each of us saw her duck.

 So did we see her dodging something or does she have a feathered pet?

Ambiguous Newspaper Headlines (*fun-with-words.com*)

1. PROSTITUTES APPEAL TO POPE

2. KIDS MAKE NUTRITIOUS SNACKS

4. QUEEN MARY HAVING BOTTOM SCRAPED

5. DEALERS WILL HEAR CAR TALK AT NOON

6. MINERS REFUSE TO WORK AFTER DEATH

7. JUVENILE COURT TO TRY SHOOTING DEFENDANT

8. PANDA MATING FAILS; VETERINARIAN TAKES OVER

9. RED TAPE HOLDS UP NEW BRIDGE

10. POLICE BEGIN CAMPAIGN TO RUN DOWN JAYWALKERS

11. 2 SISTERS REUNITED AFTER 18 YEARS AT CHECKOUT COUNTER

12. GRANDMOTHER OF EIGHT MAKES HOLE IN ONE

13. TWO SOVIET SHIPS COLLIDE, ONE DIES

14. SQUAD HELPS DOG BITE VICTIM

15. ENRAGED COW INJURES FARMER WITH AX

16. LACK OF BRAINS HINDERS RESEARCH

General Vocabulary 1

1. Acquiesce (verb) =to consent, to go along with without protest

 [acquiescence, acquiescently, acquiescent, acquiescing, acquiesced, acquiesces

2. Voluble (adj.) =talking a great deal with ease; glib

3. Acuity (noun) =a keenness of perception [acuities]

4. Undulate (verb) =move in a wavelike motion [undulates, undulating]

5. Expedient (adj.) =appropriate to a particular purpose, serving narrow or selfish interests

 [expedience, expediency, expediently, expedients]

6. Ambiguous (adj.) =open to more than one interpretation [ambiguously, ambiguousness, ambiguity]

7. Proverbial (adj.) =shows an immediate parallel with a well-known story or saying.

8. Egregious (adj.) =flagrantly incorrect or bad [egregiously]

9. Apathy (noun) =a lack of emotion, interest, enthusiasm or concern

 [apathies, apathetic, apathetically, apathetical]

10. Mitigate (verb) =to make or become less severe; to lessen pain or damage

 [mitigating, mitigated, mitigation, mitigatable, unmitigatable]

11. Erudite (adj.] =processing extensive knowledge on a given subject, learned

12. Deference (noun) =courteous submission to the opinion, wishes, or judgment of another

 [deferent, deferential]

13. Anecdote (noun) =a brief, entertaining, amusing, interesting story; an unreliable account, hearsay

 [anecdotal, anecdotage, anecdotally, anecdotist, anecdotalist]

14. Bastion (noun) =a projecting part of a fortification; a metaphor for strength [bastioned, bastions]

15. Apprehensive adj =fearful, anxious, leery

 [apprehensively, apprehensiveness, apprehend, apprehensible, apprehension]

16. Ascetic (adj/noun) =self-denying, going without pleasure, especially for religious reasons

 [ascetically, ascetical, ascetics, asceticism]

17. Assuage (verb) =to ease or satisfy (curiosity, hunger, etc.)

 [assuagement, assuager, assuasive, assuages, assuaging, assuaged]

18. Banal (adj.) =completely ordinary [banally, banalize, banality]

19. Euphonious (adj.) =agreeable sound

 [euphoniously, euphonium, euphony, euphoniousness, euphonically, euphonies, euphonic]

20. Cacophonous (adj.) =harsh, discordant sound

21. Diffident adj. =timid, shy [diffidence, diffidently]

22. Paucity (noun) =scarcity, not much of something [paucities]

23. Indolence (noun) =laziness [indolent, indolently]

24. Misogyny (mi SAW je nee)(noun) =hatred of women; contempt for women

 [misogynistic, misogynist]

25. Misandry (mi SAN dree)(noun) =hatred of men, contempt for or prejudice against men and boys in general

 [misandristic, misandrist, misanthropy]

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General Vocabulary 2

24. Austere adj = stern; overly simple

 austerely, austereness, austerity, severe

25. Autonomy n = independent; self-contained

 autonomist, autonomies, autonomic

20. Benevolent (adj.) =charitable good nature or act [benevolently, benevolentness, benevolence]

26. Benign adj = not malignant, not injurious, not harmful

 benignity, benignly, benignancy

13. Astute adj = shrewd, clever, crafty

 astutely, astuteness, astutely

14. Atrophy v = waste away from lack of use or aging

 atrophic, atrophies, atrophying, atrophied

8. Blasphemy n = to speak of God or something sacred with disrespect

 blasphemous, blasphemies, blasphemed

9. Cacophonous adj = harsh and/or jarring sound

 cacophonously, cacophonies cacophonic, cacophonist,

18. Avarice n = extreme desire for wealth; greed

 avaricious, avariciousness, avariciously

10. Candor n = frankness or bluntness, to the point, to say what you think without softening it

 candid

11. Capricious n = an impulsive change of mind, whimsical

 capriciousness, capriciously

24. Provincial =Adj. of or pertaining to a province, limited in perspective [provincially]

25. Respite (noun) =a short interval of rest or relief, a postponement

6. Ameliorate v = to make or grow better

 ameliorated, ameliorating, amelioration, ameliorative, ameliorator, amelioratory

12. Censure v = to condemn sternly, a public statement of disapproval (typically in a formal statement)

 censures, censurable, censured, censurer, censuring, censureless

13. Complacent n = content, often smugly, being self-satisfied

 complacently, complacency, complacencies,

14. Compliance n = to go along with someone’s wish or request; to obey the rules

 compliant, comply, complying, compliancy, compliances, compliable

7. Anarchy n = chaos, especially social or political

 anarchic, anarchism, anarchical, anarchies

15. Conciliate v = to stop someone from being angry or discontented; to placate or pacify

 conciliated, conciliating, conciliation, conciliative, conciliator, conciliatory, conciliable, conciliatory

1. Contrite adj. = repentant, feeling contrition, feeling sorry --

 contritely, contriteness, contrition, contriteness

2. Philanthropist n = contributes to the well-being of mankind, does good deeds --

 philanthropy, philanthropists, philanthropic

3. Denounce v = to express vehement disapproval openly, to accuse formally --

 denouncement, denouncer, denounced, denouncing, denounces

3. Aesthetic n = relating to art or beauty

 aesthetics, aesthetically, aesthetical, aesthetically

8. Credulous adj. = gullible --

 credulously, credulousness, credulity

9. Inevitable adj. = incapable of being avoided or prevented --

 inevitably, inevitability, inevitableness

10. Elucidate v = clarify --

 elucidation, elucidative, elucidator

8. Anecdote n = a brief, entertaining story

 anecdotal, anecdotage, anecdotally, anecdotist, anecdotalist

12. Peripheral adj. = on the outer edges of something or relatively unimportant, the outermost region within a precise boundary -- peripherally periphery

4. Affable adj = easy to talk to, friendly

 affably, affableness, affability

13. Didactic adj. = intended to teach --

 didactical, didactically, didacticism

14. Flagrant adj. = shocking --

 flagrancy, flagrance, flagrantly

15. Desecrate v = to profane, abuse, especially something sacred --

 desecrator, desecration 1. Futile =Adj. useless

 futilely, futileness

2. Guile noun =N craftiness

 guiled guiling, guiles

3. Gullible adj. =Adj. easily deceived or duped

 gullibility, gullibly

4. Heretic noun = N one who holds opinions that differ from established beliefs

 heretical

5. Dogmatic =Adj. marked by an authoritarian, often arrogant assertion of principles

 dogmatical, dogmatically

6. Incessant =Adj. continuing with out interruption, unceasing

 Incessantly, incessantness

7. Pedestrian =N one traveling on foot Adj. common place

8. Extol =V eulogize, praise highly

 Extolled, extolling, extolment

9. Digression =N to stray from the main subject in writing or speaking

 digressed digress digressing

10. Squander =V to use or spend wastefully or extravagantly

 Squandering, squandered

11. Static =Adj. not moving, active or in motion; N charges of electricity, interference, angry criticism,

 statically

7. Anarchy n = chaos, especially social or political

 anarchic, anarchism, anarchical, anarchies

8. Anecdote n = a brief, entertaining story

 anecdotal, anecdotage, anecdotally, anecdotist, anecdotalist

1. Drone =N an idler or a deep humming sound; verb to idle away time, to make a deep monotonous humming sound or to speak monotonously

 droning

2. Strut =N a pompous gait (walk); V to walk with a pompous (stuck up) or affected (showy) stiff erect gait

 Strutting, strutted

3. Philistine =adj. hostile or indifferent to culture, one who is pedestrian; N if capitalized, it refers to

 people of ancient Palestine who oppose the people of Israel.

4. Dissent =V to think differently, to disagree; N a difference of opinion; nonconformity; a refusal to accept the doctrines (teachings) of an established or orthodox Church

 Dissenter, dissenting, dissented

5. Innovate =V to bring in new methods or ideas or to make changes

 Innovated, innovating

6. Insipid =adj. lacking vigor or interest; dull; flavorless

 Insipidly, insipidness

7. Prosaic =adj. like prose as in having a lack of poetic beauty, unromantic, dull, commonplace

 Prosaically.

8. Depravity =N a moral corruption, wickedness, a wicked act

 Deprave, depraved, depraving,

9. Innocuous =adj. harmless, not offensive (inoffensive)

 Innocuously

11. Immutable =adj. unchangeable

12. Novel =N a fictitious prose story of book length, adj. something new

13. Ephemeral =adj. lasting or of use for only a short time, transitory

14. Enigma =N something puzzling or inexplicable; a saying, a question or a picture, etc. containing a hidden meaning; a riddle

 Enigmatic

15. Impervious =adj. not allowing entrance, impermeable or impenetrable to reason

 Imperviousness, imperviously

1. fetid adj. stinking

2. pragmatic adj. dealing with matters with regard to their practical requirements or consequences

3. liturgical adj. of or related to liturgies or public worship Liturgy is a form of public worship, esp. Christian. Also a set of formularies for this.

4. succinct adj. briefly expressed, concise, terse (brief / abrupt)

5. allude verb intransitive refer to indirectly or covertly

6. bombastic adj. pompous or extravagant language

7. hubris noun arrogant pride or presumption

8. culminate verb Intr. usu. foll. by in reach its highest or final point / tr. bring to its highest or final point

9. abscond v.intr. depart hurriedly and furtively, esp. unlawfully or to avoid arrest.

10. unequivocal adj. , plain, unmistakable, not ambiguous

11. commiseration noun a feeling of pity for someone or his/her loss

12. discernible adj. perceivable with the mind or the senses

13. insurgence noun a revolt, a rushing in, a rebellion

14. credence noun acceptance as factual; legitimate. Credence is belief or plausibility

15. impugned v.tr. called into question or challenged

\*\*intransitive verb does not take or require a direct object

\*\*transitive verb takes an object either actual or implied eg. saw = saw *the donkey*1. M.B.A. Master of Business Administration

2. Ph.D. abbreviation for Doctor of Philosophy Latin for philosophiae doctor

3. et cetera Latin “and others” etc.

4. advice counsel

5. advise the act of counseling

6. frugal thrifty, careful about spending money, especially with regards to food

7. torrid hot in temperature, arid, or hot in temperament

8. salubrious favorable to health

9. reprehensible worthy of blame

10. rend spit apart or torn apart - past tense (rent)

11. plethora an overabundance

12. animosity bitter hostility or hatred

13. alacrity cheerful readiness

14. scrupulous conscientious, moral

15. inflammatory tending to arouse strong emotions

MD Doctor of Medicine; Latin Medicinae Doctor

MA Master of Arts

MS Master of Science

4. abridge v.tr shorten (book, film) by using fewer words or making deletions

5. exacerbate v.tr make (pain, anger) worse, irritate

6. patricide noun the killing of one’s father

7. brouhaha noun commotion, uproar

8. flatulent adj. causing formation of gas / inflated, pretentious

9. phlebitis noun inflammation of the walls of a vein

10. chaste adj. abstaining from extramarital, or from all, sexual intercourse

11. irrefutable adj. something you can’t prove wrong

12. pittance noun a scanty or meager allowance / a small number

13. debauchery noun excessive sensual indulgence

14. cantankerous adj. bad tempered, quarrelsome

15. pinnacle noun a culmination or climax / a natural peak

1. immaculate pure, spotless / free from fault; innocent / well executed

2. louse (as the singular for lice) parasitic insect / (pl. lice) a contemptible person (pl. louses)

3. heroes (people) (sandwiches are heros)a person noted for courage, great achievements / The main male character in a poem, play, story, etc.

4. superfluous more than enough

5. laud to praise, esp. in hymns

6. protracted to prolong or lengthen in space or esp. time (protracted their stay for some weeks)

7. dubious hesitating (dubious about going) questionable value or truth (a dubious claim) unreliable or suspicious (dubious company)

8. eccentric odd or capricious in behavior or appearance; whimsical

9. surreptitious covert; kept secret / done by stealth; clandestine

10. obscure not clearly expressed or easily understood / dull, indefinite

11. parsimony carefulness in the use of money or other resources / meanness, stinginess

12. expedite assist the progress of; hasten an action, process, etc.; accomplish quickly

13. fastidious very careful in matters of choice or taste; fussy

14. derision noun ridicule; mockery (bring into derision

15. taciturn reserved in speech; saying little; uncommunicative

expunge-- verb erase, remove (sep. a passage from a book or a name from a list)

innuendo-- noun an allusive or oblique remark or hint, usu. disparaging / remark with a double meaning usu. suggestive.

preclude-- verb prevent, exclude / make impossible’ remove (so as to preclude all doubt)

turpitude-- noun formal baseness, depravity, wickedness

inordinate-- adj. immoderate; excessive

vendetta-- noun a feud in which the family of a murdered person seeks vengeance on the murderer or the murderer’s family / a prolonged bitter quarrel

agnostic-- noun a person who is unable to conclude that there is or is not a God.

masticate-- verb to chew. To masticate is to knead and grind with the teeth

aggrandize-- verb To raise the importance of or make to appear great

precocious-- adj. often derog. (of a person, esp. a child, prematurely developed in some faculty or characteristic.

opulent-- adj. Rich. Something characterized by wealth or affluence (an extravagant dinner party, for instance) could be considered opulent.

sanguine-- adj. Possessing a positive attitude. Sanguine usually carries the sense of being cheerful despite obstacle or potential problems

ruminate-- verb To ponder or review mentally. Someone who ruminates over something tosses it over in his mind.

belligerent-- adj. Aggressive or pugnacious; eager to instigate a fight. Belligerent is rooted in

 the Latin word for “war.”

\*\*misogamy the hatred of marriage Greek -- ‘misos’ = hatred + gamos = ‘marriage’

monogyny having only one wife at a time

monogamy married to one person at a time.

1. emanate-- verb to issue forth as from a source To emanate is to flow from a point.

2. obfuscate-- verb To muddy or confuse an issue. Someone who obfuscates makes every effort to muddle

facts important to someone else’s judgment or decision.

3. penultimate-- adj. Next to last. Penultimate is often thought to mean “final,” but it does not.

4. hiatus-- noun An interruption or break in continuity.

5. ambience-- noun A feeling or atmosphere associated with a place or individual. The distinctive air

patrons may associate with a certain restaurant, the ‘feel’ for the place.

6. meander-- verb to follow a turning and winding path. To meander is to wander idly without a set goal.

7. profligate-- adj. (prof li get) shamelessly immoral. can also mean extravagantly or recklessly wasteful

8. sardonic--adj. bitter or sarcastic, scornful derisive

9. baccalaureate-- noun (back-a- ) the degree awarded upon completion of an undergraduate course of study

AKA a bachelor’s degree Is also a farewell address to a graduation class.

10. resplendent-- adj. brilliantly shining

11. infernal-- adj. devilish or fiendish

12. cogitate-- verb to ponder or ruminate

13. sporadic-- adj. irregular, occurs at unpredictable intervals

14. vacillate-- verb to waiver between options

15. strident-- adj. speech that is grating / harsh 1. mendacious – adjective – lying or false. Someone who tells falsehoods could be said to be mendacious.

2. heterogeneous – adjective – different. Heterogeneous means consisting of utterly dissimilar parts or styles

3. scintillate – verb – Giving off sparks. Something of remarkable interest that sets off a sudden reaction among people can also be said to scintillate.

4. misanthropy – noun hatred of mankind Misanthropy refers to contempt for the human race

5. scathing – violently critical. Scathing usually refers to speech or writing about another’s conduct or performance.

6. ubiquitous – (yoo-BIK-wi-tuss) –k adj – Seemingly everywhere at once. That whish is ubiquitous is so common as to appear to be all places.
By the early ‘50s, that ubiquitous symbol of independence, the automobile, had influenced virtually every facet of American life.

7. adamant—adj.—Unwilling to submit; stubborn and unyielding. Historically, adamant refers to a legendary stone of infinite hardness (The word diamond share the same root.)

8. dalliance—noun A lighthearted undertaking; carefree spending of time. A dalliance is an inconsequential event. (The word often refers to an amorous flirtation or distraction).

9. aspersion – noun—false accusation; slander. To cast an aspersion on another is to make an unfair or untrue statement about his/her conduct or character. “I will not allow you to cast these aspersions on a man whose career has been so distinguished.”

10. fruition -- noun—That which has arisen from development, possession, use, or effort. The achievement of something desired or labored for is the fruition of that deed.

11. opine—verb—To make one’s opinion known. To opine is to state one’s view.

12. pathos—noun—A quality arousing or evoking pity or sorrow. To employ pathos is to act in a way meant to elicit tender sympathy from an observer.

13. transpose—verb—To reverse or change the position of. To transpose A and B is to put A in B’s place, and vice versa

14. vacuous—(VAK-yoo-uss)—adj.—Lacking content or substance. That whis is empty is vacuous.

15. opus—noun—A major work (or art or literature). Opera is derived from one of the plural forms of opus. In English, opuses is the accepted plural.

1. Abstemious – adj. Holding back from eating or drinking too much. A person who wishes to lose weight much be more abstemious when portioning out his dinner items.

2. Obtuse – stupid; not clear or precise

Are you being deliberately obtuse or are you just naturally stupid?

I hate to appear obtuse, but I just don’t understand quadratic equations.

3. Intrepid – adj. Fearless

Intrepidly, Columbus saidled west.

An intrepid stuntman, Steve hurled himself into the ocean far below.

4. Replete – noun overflowing Her story is replete with hyperbole.

5. Spurious – adj. False; counterfeit; lacking logic; specious

In our earth science lab, we had to determine which fossils were genuine and whice were spurious.

McCall sadi he was the author of the poem, but his claim was spurious. The actual author was McCarthy.

6. raze – vb to tear dow; to destroy

The old Victorian house was razed to make room for the parking garage.

We thought the children’s horrendous noise would raze the roof.

7. brevity – noun briefness or conciseness in speech or writing

For the sake of brevity, choose your words with care.

Limited space in the newsletter makes brevity essential.

8. pithy adj. Brief and full of meaning and substance; concise

For the yearbook, Jenny searched for a pithy quotation about courage.

Jonathan’s sonnet ended with a pithy rhyming couplet.

What expresses affection more pithily than the three words, I love you?

9. quiescent adj. Quiet; still; inactive

Mount St. Helens has been quiescent since its last eruption in 1986. On long summer weekends, the city loses its bustle and is strangely quiescent.

Never one to make waves, Leo quiescently followed the coach’s orders.

10. circumlocution – noun speaking in circles; roundabout speech

To avoid hurting anyone’s feelings, Hank resorted to circumlocution

Circumlocution is commonly called beating around the bush.

The principal said, “Your circumlocution is wasting time. Just tell me exactly what you want.”

11. eloquence – noun artful ease with speaking; speech that can impact people’s feelings

Even the most eloquent graduation speeches are quickly forgotten.

Although he sounds eloquent, he has no substance to convey

12. diffuse – adj. (dif **use**) Spread out, not concise; wordy

The class discussion was so diffuse that few solid points were made.

A diffuse argument won’t convince the class to vote for me.

13. ostentatious – adj. Having to do with showing off; pretentious

Don’t you agree that wearing a pearl bracelet, two ruby rings, and diamond-studded earrings is a bit ostentations?

My parents prefer staying at a quiet inn by the sea to a glitzy, ostentatious Miami Beach hotel.

14. pretentious – adj. Claiming or pretending increased importance; ostentatious; affectedly grand

my neighbors thrive on pretension. They plaster their windshields with the decals of posh prep shoos, beach clubs, and Ivy League colleges.

Pretentious Patrick never goes anywhere without a copy of *War and Peace* under his arm, even though he’s never read a word of it.

15. pernicious adj. – very destructive or harmful, usually in an inconspicuous and relentless way

From the Columbine incident, Ralph got the pernicious idea to tade a gun to school.

1. Lady Macbeth planted in her husband’s mind the pernicious scheme of killing the king and seizing the crown.debacle-- noun a failure or breakdown; a collapse that is often nonsensical

For me, physics class was a debacle. I understood none of it, failed every test, and finally dropped the course.

1. adversity-- noun great trouble or difficulty

The book tells how he overcame the adversity of an impoverished childhood. Think of an adversary to remember that this word means presenting a problem just like an adversary would.

1. conflagration—noun a huge fire, an inferno

Flames from the conflagration lit up the sky for miles around.

1. precarious – adj. Dangerous or risky; uncertain

Bungee jumping is too precarious for me; I prefer safer activities

1. cryptic—adj. Hidden; hard to understand; mysterious; obscure

We found a cryptic message scrawled on the blackboard. No one could figure out its meaning. The twins used a cryptic language between them that no one could understand.

A crypt is a cave or something wholly or partly underground.

6. quagmire – nouin a difficult or troubling situation; a swampy ground, bog.

A quagmire of troubles kept Julie awake at night. Once Pete freed mihself from his quagmire of unpaid bills, he was happy. Unable to avoid the quicksand, Rebecca began sinking into the quagmire!

1. reticent—adj. Not talking much; reserved

Usually reticent, Ms. Smith surprised us all with a long story.

Molly is shy and reticent, while her boyfriend is very talkative.

1. verbose—adj. Using too many words; wordy; long-winded

The teacher asked Brenda to cut her verbose speech from forty to fifteen minutes.

9. supercilious—adj. Looking down on others; proud and scornful

 While strutting to class with her nose in the air, supercilious Sue notices no one.

1. derivative – adj. Unoriginal; taken from something already existing
2. “Write an original story,” instructed Mr. Schirmer, “not derivative fiction drawn from LOTF.” Julie’s derivative work resembled the paintings of the old masters.
3. hackneyed—adj. Made commonplace by overuse; trite

Because poets aim to create new insights, they shun hackneyed language.

1. platitude—noun quality of being dull; an obvious remark uttered as if it were original
2. How Rick’s poem won an award for originality boggles my mind, for it consists of nothing but platitudes.
3. allay—verb to lessen fear; to calm; to relieve pain

An SAT prep course can ally your anxiety.

1. appease – verb to make tranquil or quiet, especially by giving in to demands; to pacify

Joe compliments his mom to appease her when he comes home late. She was amused but not appeased.

1. abstruse – adj. – obscure, perplexing, complex

2. alleviate – verb – to lessen pain or tension

3. audacious – adj. – brave, overconfident, foolhardy

4. charlatan – impostor or fake, swindler, con quak, con artist

5. mea culpa an acknowledgement of one’s fault or error / Latin by my fault

6. quiescent adj. quiet; still; inactive

 Mount St. Helens has been quiescent since its last eruption in 1986.Leo quiescently followed the rules.

7. colloquial – adj. pertaining to common everyday speech; conversational.

8. loquacious – adj. very talkative; liking to talk; garrulous

The loquacious audience grew quiet when the movie started. Loquacity was not Steve’s strength; he was quiet.

9. rhetorical – adj. relating to speech that is used to persuade or have some effect; insincere in expression

The speech of politicians is often thick with rhetoric.

The attorney’s forceful rhetoric convinced the jury to acquit the defendant.

Metaphors, allusions, and pithy quotations are examples of rhetorical devices.

10. verbose – adj. using too many words; wordy; longwinded

The teacher asked her to cut her verbose speech down to 10 minutes.

11. insolent – adj. boldly disrespectful in speech or behavior; rude

When Amy told the principal to “bug off,” his insolence earned him a suspension.

12. narcissistic - adj. having to do with extreme self-adoration and a feeling of superiority to everyone.

Becky is so narcissistic, she even chooses her friends based on how their looks complement hers.

Info about Narcissus???

13. vapid – adj. (use a soft a sound like in amber) lacking freshness and zest; flat; stale

Behind every uninspiring, vapid TV sit-com, you’ll find an empty-headed producer, director and screenwriter.

14. trite – adj. unoriginal and stale because of overuse

15. mundane – adj. commonplace; ordinary

The voluble salesman was convincing to the innocent buyer.

2. incorrigible adj. (apparently) incapable of being reformed

4. trajectory noun the path of flight followed by a projectile.

5. infidel noun a person who does not accede to a particular set of religious beliefs /

 is an unbeliever

6. rapport noun a favorable relationship or established pattern of communication

 characterized by mutual trust and understanding

7. surrogate noun one who acts in place of another

8. thespian noun an actor

10. wanton adj. completely unrestrained / can also mean (done) without any justification

11. collusion noun a conspiratorial or secret understanding entered into for an illicit of fraudulent end

 The leaders were arraigned on price collusion in violation of anti-trust laws.

12. synopsis noun summary

13. watershed noun an important event that serves to distinguish two separate phases. Literally a watershed is a ridge that diverts water in a new direction.

 The new arms agreement is being touted as a watershed in East-West relations.

15. deplorable adj. extremely reproachful or worthy of censure

2. mollify – verb -to pacify, soothe, or appease; to make less severe or violent

Jay mollified his mother by bringing home all A’s on his report card. Nothing could mollify Greg’s righteous indignation.

3. amicable – adj. showing goodwill; peaceable

The conflict came to an amicable end when the adversaries finally shook hands. They settled everything amicably.

4. congenial – adj. compatible; having kindred needs or tastes; sympathetic

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are a congenial couple because they share hobbies.

Her congeniality made her likeable.

5. convivial – adj. sociable, outgoing in a festive way, especially when pertaining to eating and drinking; fond of good company

The convivial crowd enjoyed the party.

6. contentious – adj. quarrelsome; belligerent

7. captious – adj. (KAP–shus) made for the sake of quarreling; quibbling

My teacher quibbles over every little error and write captious comments on our papers.

My supervisor’s nasty captiousness forced me to quit my job.

8. capacious – Adj. (ka-PAY-shus) able to contain a large quantity, spacious; roomy

9. altruistic – adj. showing an unselfish concern for others

Anne exemplifies altruism. She leads youth groups and delivers meals to the homebound.

Not exactly altruistic, Joan’s charity work was mostly for show.

10. munificent – adj. very generous

It’s easy to be munificent when you already have everything you want.
Her munificence was shown in the costly gifts she gave.

11. penurious - adj. (pen-NOOR-ee-us / PEN-ye-ry) stingy; relating to great poverty, destitution

His penurious childhood taught my father the value of saving.

The penury of the family was made clear by the small cup of soup the mother served for dinner.

12. mercenary – adj. greedy for self-gain; thinking only of money-making; a hired soldier fighting for a foreign country

13. bane – noun. Fatal injury or ruin; a deadly poison (wolf’s-bane)

His baneful remark about her new dress ruined her day.

The inflammatory speech was the bane of all hopes for reconciliation.

14. ominous –adj. pertaining to an evil omen; foreboding

15. carp – verb – to find fault; to be critical

Carping is not the way to get people to change.

To carp is to harp on your friends.

1. jocular – adj. liking to be with people, joke around with them and have fun.

2. disputatious – adj. likely to dispute or argue

I don’t wish to be disputatious, but I contend that you are wrong.

3. largess – noun – generous and giving

Sam is famous for his largess so waitresses want him at one of their tables.

4. deleterious – adj. harmful to one’s health or overall welfare

Adj. deleteriously noun deleteriousness

5. castigate – verb – to scold or punish severely

Before castigating others by sure you are right; unfair castigation ruins relationships; no one appreciates being castigated, but when it’s completely unfair, you will have serious problems.

6. phlegmatic – adj. (fleg- MA- tic) fleg is like egg – hard to get excited or emotional; calm; slow-moving

1. polemic – noun – a controversy or argument, esp a refutation of a specified opinion, doctrine / the art of argumentation or controversy / the person engaged in or inclined to controversy, argument, or refutation

Adj. polemical of or pertaining to a controversy, argument or refutation. Polemically adjverb

Mike, a polemic individual, made everyone uncomfortable.

The speech was too sensationalized to be constructive; it was more of a polemic.

When Donna disagrees, she doesn’t calmly differ; she tends to be polemical.

2. pugnacious adj. eager to fight; belligerent

Pugnacious as ever, she caused many fights at school.

3. virulent –adj. Extremely poisonous; deadly; full of spiteful hatred

4. deprecate – verb – to show mild disapproval

Remarks that deprecate other students’ work are rude.

Deprecation doesn’t’ change anyone’s behavior, so praise them.

5. impassive – adj. lacking emotion or drive

The man stood by with an impassive expression while his partner murdered the hostage.

The impassive student’s work ethic will not sustain her through college.

6. nonchalant – adj. casual and indifferent; not showing any great concern or worry about anything

SAT #20

1. pernicious adj. very destructive or harmful, usually in an inconspicuous and relentless way

From the Columbine incident, Bob got the pernicious idea to take a gun to school.

Cigarette smoke caused a pernicious growth to form in his lungs.

2. deride – verb to ridicule or make fun of; to scoff at

Deriding others will make you look small.

Filled with derision, the bully continued to heckle certain people.

3. stolid –adj. lacking emotion or not showing any emotion; stoic

Carrie accepted her punishment in stolid silence.

His stolid determination helped him win the contest without much fuss.

SAT #21

1. rancorous – adj. deeply hateful or spiteful; malicious

Our rancorous feud went on for months, but once I understood the problem, I lost my rancor.

desecrate to profane or abuse

dogmatic marked by an authoritarian, often arrogant, assertion of principles

languid idle / inert / apathetic / slow moving / sluggish

heretic one who holds opinions that differ from established beliefs

deference courteous submission to the opinion, wishes, or judgment of another

imbue verb to saturate or flow throughout by absorption / often used metaphorically to describe the transmission of an idea feeling or emotioned. Burt’s philosophy was imbued with the ideas of John Stewart Mill.

goad verb to stimulate, urge or prod especially toward a given action

temblor noun and earthquake for a Spanish verb meaning to quake

decrepit adj. enfeebled as by old age a weakened person or object or idea that’s past its prime

-osmosis noun the process of attaining something by gradual exposure to it seemingly without conscious effort eg. knowledge

-nonchalance noun the quality of being unconcerned with worldly cares / A cool carefree person can be said to be nonchalant.

-stymie verb to stand in the way of or to hinder

-vexation noun irritation

-degenerate adj. having regressed or descended to a lower state. noun a person who has declined to a state of immorality or low refinement

-vociferous adj. marked by noisy exclamation / That which demands attention with insistent loudness is vociferous.

-mnemonic adj. meant to aid in memory / noun a device (rhyme) meant to make memorizing easier

-prognosticate verb to predict

-gratuitous adj. unnecessary / also given or granted without recompense or charge

-promiscuity noun indiscriminate choice of sexual partners

-transgression noun a violation of a rule to break a law