

25●

SAT Words

Practice Book

NDC - BHH

About this book

This book is a collection of exercises designed to help learners master Sparknotes' selection of the 250 most difficult SAT words (<http://www.sparknotes.com>). All the sentences used in the practice questions are adapted from The Free Library (<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/>), British National Corpus (<http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/>), Collin Cobuilds Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Webster's New World Essential Vocabulary (David A. Herzog), and How to Prepare For the SAT 23rd Edition (Barron's). Please send your comments and corrections to learningvocabulary@gmail.com.

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Table of Contents

About this book.....	i
Set 01.....	1
Practice Set 1A.....	2
Practice Set 1B.....	2
Practice Set 1C.....	3
Practice Set 1D.....	3
Practice Set 1E.....	4
Practice Set 1F.....	4
Set 02.....	5
Practice Set 2A.....	6
Practice Set 2B.....	6
Practice Set 2C.....	7
Practice Set 2D.....	7
Practice Set 2E.....	8
Practice Set 2F.....	8
Set 03.....	9
Practice Set 3A.....	10
Practice Set 3B.....	10
Practice Set 3C.....	11
Practice Set 3D.....	11
Practice Set 3E.....	12
Practice Set 3F.....	12
Set 04.....	13
Practice Set 4A.....	14
Practice Set 4B.....	14
Practice Set 4C.....	15
Practice Set 4D.....	15
Practice Set 4E.....	16
Practice Set 4F.....	16
Set 05.....	17
Practice Set 5A.....	18
Practice Set 5B.....	18
Practice Set 5C.....	19
Practice Set 5D.....	19
Practice Set 5E.....	20
Practice Set 5F.....	20
Review of Sets 1 – 5.....	21
Set 06.....	26
Practice Set 6A.....	27
Practice Set 6B.....	27
Practice Set 6C.....	28
Practice Set 6D.....	28
Practice Set 6E.....	29
Practice Set 6F.....	29
Set 07.....	30
Practice Set 7A.....	31
Practice Set 7B.....	31
Practice Set 7C.....	32
Practice Set 7D.....	32
Practice Set 7E.....	33
Practice Set 7F.....	33

Set 08.....	34
Practice Set 8A.....	35
Practice Set 8B.....	35
Practice Set 8C.....	36
Practice Set 8D.....	36
Practice Set 8E.....	37
Practice Set 8F.....	37
Set 09.....	38
Practice Set 9A.....	39
Practice Set 9B.....	39
Practice Set 9C.....	40
Practice Set 9D.....	40
Practice Set 9E.....	41
Practice Set 9F.....	41
Set 10.....	42
Practice Set 10A.....	43
Practice Set 10B.....	43
Practice Set 10C.....	44
Practice Set 10D.....	44
Practice Set 10E.....	45
Practice Set 10F.....	45
Review of Sets 6 – 10.....	46
Set 11.....	51
Practice Set 11A.....	52
Practice Set 11B.....	52
Practice Set 11C.....	53
Practice Set 11D.....	53
Practice Set 11E.....	54
Practice Set 11F.....	54
Set 12.....	55
Practice Set 12A.....	56
Practice Set 12B.....	56
Practice Set 12C.....	57
Practice Set 12D.....	57
Practice Set 12E.....	58
Practice Set 12F.....	58
Set 13.....	59
Practice Set 13A.....	60
Practice Set 13B.....	60
Practice Set 13C.....	61
Practice Set 13D.....	61
Practice Set 13E.....	62
Practice Set 13F.....	62
Set 14.....	63
Practice Set 14A.....	64
Practice Set 14B.....	64
Practice Set 14C.....	65
Practice Set 14D.....	65
Practice Set 14E.....	66
Practice Set 14F.....	66
Set 15.....	67
Practice Set 15A.....	68
Practice Set 15B.....	68
Practice Set 15C.....	69

Practice Set 15D.....	69
Practice Set 15E.....	70
Practice Set 15F.....	70
Review of Sets 11 – 15.....	71
Set 16.....	76
Practice Set 16A.....	77
Practice Set 16B.....	77
Practice Set 16C.....	78
Practice Set 16D.....	78
Practice Set 16E.....	79
Practice Set 16F.....	79
Set 17.....	80
Practice Set 17A.....	81
Practice Set 17B.....	81
Practice Set 17C.....	82
Practice Set 17D.....	82
Practice Set 17E.....	83
Practice Set 17F.....	83
Set 18.....	84
Practice Set 18A.....	85
Practice Set 18B.....	85
Practice Set 18C.....	86
Practice Set 18D.....	86
Practice Set 18E.....	87
Practice Set 18F.....	87
Set 19.....	88
Practice Set 19A.....	89
Practice Set 19B.....	89
Practice Set 19C.....	90
Practice Set 19D.....	90
Practice Set 19E.....	91
Practice Set 19F.....	91
Set 20.....	92
Practice Set 20A.....	93
Practice Set 20B.....	93
Practice Set 20C.....	94
Practice Set 20D.....	94
Practice Set 20E.....	95
Practice Set 20F.....	95
Review of Sets 15 – 20.....	96
Set 21.....	101
Practice Set 21A.....	102
Practice Set 21B.....	102
Practice Set 21C.....	103
Practice Set 21D.....	103
Practice Set 21E.....	104
Practice Set 21F.....	104
Set 22.....	105
Practice Set 22A.....	106
Practice Set 22B.....	106
Practice Set 22C.....	107
Practice Set 22D.....	107
Practice Set 22E.....	108
Practice Set 22F.....	108

Set 23.....	109
Practice Set 23A.....	110
Practice Set 23B.....	110
Practice Set 23C.....	111
Practice Set 23D.....	111
Practice Set 23E.....	112
Practice Set 23F.....	112
Set 24.....	113
Practice Set 24A.....	114
Practice Set 24B.....	114
Practice Set 24C.....	115
Practice Set 24D.....	115
Practice Set 24E.....	116
Practice Set 24F.....	116
Set 25.....	117
Practice Set 25A.....	118
Practice Set 25B.....	118
Practice Set 25C.....	119
Practice Set 25D.....	119
Practice Set 25E.....	120
Practice Set 25F.....	120
Review of Sets 21 – 25.....	121
Sets Answer Keys.....	126
Set 01A.....	126
Set 01B.....	126
Set 01C.....	126
Set 01D.....	126
Set 01E.....	126
Set 01F.....	126
Set 02A.....	126
Set 02B.....	126
Set 02C.....	126
Set 02D.....	126
Set 02E.....	126
Set 02F.....	126
Set 03A.....	126
Set 03B.....	127
Set 03C.....	127
Set 03D.....	127
Set 03E.....	127
Set 03F.....	127
Set 04A.....	127
Set 04B.....	127
Set 04C.....	127
Set 04D.....	127
Set 04E.....	127
Set 04F.....	127
Set 05A.....	127
Set 05B.....	127
Set 05C.....	127
Set 05D.....	128
Set 05E.....	128
Set 05F.....	128
Set 06A.....	128

Set 06B.....	128
Set 06C.....	128
Set 06D.....	128
Set 06E.....	128
Set 06F.....	128
Set 07A.....	128
Set 07B.....	128
Set 07C.....	128
Set 07D.....	128
Set 07E.....	128
Set 07F.....	129
Set 08A.....	129
Set 08B.....	129
Set 08C.....	129
Set 08D.....	129
Set 08E.....	129
Set 08F.....	129
Set 09A.....	129
Set 09B.....	129
Set 09C.....	129
Set 09D.....	129
Set 09E.....	129
Set 09F.....	129
Set 10A.....	129
Set 10B.....	130
Set 10C.....	130
Set 10D.....	130
Set 10E.....	130
Set 10F.....	130
Set 11A.....	130
Set 11B.....	130
Set 11C.....	130
Set 11D.....	130
Set 11E.....	130
Set 11F.....	130
Set 12A.....	130
Set 12B.....	130
Set 12C.....	130
Set 12D.....	131
Set 12E.....	131
Set 12F.....	131
Set 13A.....	131
Set 13B.....	131
Set 13C.....	131
Set 13D.....	131
Set 13E.....	131
Set 13F.....	131
Set 14A.....	131
Set 14B.....	131
Set 14C.....	131
Set 14D.....	131
Set 14E.....	131
Set 14F.....	132
Set 15A.....	132

Set 15B.....	132
Set 15C.....	132
Set 15D.....	132
Set 15E.....	132
Set 15F.....	132
Set 16A.....	132
Set 16B.....	132
Set 16C.....	132
Set 16D.....	132
Set 16E.....	132
Set 16F.....	132
Set 17A.....	132
Set 17B.....	133
Set 17C.....	133
Set 17D.....	133
Set 17E.....	133
Set 17F.....	133
Set 18A.....	133
Set 18B.....	133
Set 18C.....	133
Set 18D.....	133
Set 18E.....	133
Set 18F.....	133
Set 19A.....	133
Set 19B.....	133
Set 19C.....	133
Set 19D.....	134
Set 19E.....	134
Set 19F.....	134
Set 20A.....	134
Set 20B.....	134
Set 20C.....	134
Set 20D.....	134
Set 20E.....	134
Set 20F.....	134
Set 21A.....	134
Set 21B.....	134
Set 21C.....	134
Set 21D.....	134
Set 21E.....	134
Set 21F.....	135
Set 22A.....	135
Set 22B.....	135
Set 22C.....	135
Set 22D.....	135
Set 22E.....	135
Set 22F.....	135
Set 23A.....	135
Set 23B.....	135
Set 23C.....	135
Set 23D.....	135
Set 23E.....	135
Set 23F.....	135
Set 24A.....	135

Set 24B.....	136
Set 24C.....	136
Set 24D.....	136
Set 24E.....	136
Set 24F.....	136
Set 25A.....	136
Set 25B.....	136
Set 25C.....	136
Set 25D.....	136
Set 25E.....	136
Set 25F.....	136
Review Answer Keys.....	137
Review of Sets 1 – 5.....	137
Review of Sets 6 – 10.....	137
Review of Sets 11 – 15.....	137
Review of Sets 16 – 20.....	138
Review of Sets 21 – 25.....	138
Word List.....	139

Set 01

1. **abjure** [ab-joor]
(v.) to reject, renounce (To prove his honesty, the president abjured the evil policies of his wicked predecessor.)
abjuration (n.)
2. **abrogate** [ab-ruh-geyt]
(v.) to abolish, usually by authority (The Bill of Rights assures that the government cannot abrogate our right to a free press.)
abrogation (n.)
3. **acerbic** [uh-sur-bik]
(adj.) biting, bitter in tone or taste (Jill became extremely acerbic and began to cruelly make fun of all her friends.)
4. **acrimony** [ak-ruh-moh-nee]
(n.) bitterness, discord (Though they vowed that no girl would ever come between them, Biff and Trevor could not keep acrimony from overwhelming their friendship after they both fell in love with the lovely Teresa.)
acrimonious (adj.)
5. **acumen** [ak-yuh-muhn]
(n.) keen insight (Because of his mathematical acumen, Larry was able to figure out in minutes problems that took other students hours.)
6. **adumbrate** [ad-uhm-breyt]
(v.) to sketch out in a vague way (The coach adumbrated a game plan, but none of the players knew precisely what to do.)
adumbration (n.); **adumbrative** (adj.)
7. **alacrity** [uh-lak-ri-tee]
(n.) eagerness, speed (For some reason, Chuck loved to help his mother whenever he could, so when his mother asked him to set the table, he did so with alacrity.)
8. **anathema** [uh-nath-uh-muh]
(n.) a cursed, detested person or thing (I never want to see that murderer. He is an anathema to me.)
anathematize (v.)
9. **antipathy** [an-tip-puh-thee]
(n.) a strong dislike, repugnance (I know you love me, but because you are a liar and a thief, I feel nothing but antipathy for you.)
10. **approbation** [ap-ruh-bey-shuhn]
(n.) praise; approval (The crowd welcomed the heroes with approbation.)
approve (v.)

Practice Set 1A

**acerbic antipathy abrogate acrimony abjure acumen alacrity
adumbrate approbation anathema**

1. _____ (v.) to reject, renounce
2. _____ (v.) to abolish, usually by authority
3. _____ (n.) bitterness, discord
4. _____ (n.) a strong dislike, repugnance
5. _____ (v.) to sketch out in a vague way
6. _____ (n.) eagerness, speed
7. _____ (n.) keen insight
8. _____ (n.) praise, approval
9. _____ (adj.) bitter in tone or taste
10. _____ (n.) a cursed, detested person or thing

Practice Set 1B

**antipathy anathema acerbic approbation alacrity acrimony
adumbrate acumen abjure abrogates**

1. If something is _____ to you, you strongly dislike it.
2. _____ humor is critical in a direct and rather cruel way
3. _____ is a strong feeling of dislike or hostility towards someone or something.
4. If you do something with _____, you do it quickly and eagerly.
5. If someone in a position of authority _____ something such as a law, agreement, or practice, she puts an end to it.
6. _____ is bitter, sharp animosity, especially as exhibited in speech or behavior.
7. _____ is the ability to make good judgments and quick decisions.
8. _____ is approval of something or agreement to it.
9. To _____ something means to give only the main facts and not the details about it.
10. If you _____ something such as a belief or way of life, you state publicly that you will give it up or that you reject it.

Practice Set 1C

**abjured acrimony abrogate acerbic antipathy approbation
acumen anathema adumbrated alacrity**

1. The coach _____ a game plan, but none of the players knew precisely what to do.
2. To prove his honesty, the President _____ the evil policies of his wicked predecessor.
3. Because of his mathematical _____, Larry was able to figure out in minutes problems that took other students hours.
4. The Bill of Rights assures that the government cannot _____ our right to a free press.
5. I know you love me, but because you are a liar and a thief, I feel nothing but _____ for you.
6. Though they vowed that no girl would ever come between them, Biff and Trevor could not keep _____ from overwhelming their friendship after they both fell in love with the lovely Teresa.
7. I never want to see that murderer; he is an _____ to me.
8. For some reason, Chuck loved to help his mother whenever he could, so when his mother asked him to set the table he did so with _____.
9. Some movie producers care more about making a profit than winning the _____ of critics.
10. By July 1939, Nizan's anti-fascist denunciations had become more _____, more bitter, more personalized, heightened by the increased tensions of a highly volatile international political situation.

Practice Set 1D

**anathema antipathies abrogation acrimony alacrity approbation
acumen acerbic abjure adumbrated**

1. The Pope has condemned the slave trade but no more heed is paid to his _____ than to the passing wind.
2. _____ is a formal act of putting an end to something such as a law, agreement, or practice.
3. Finally, tired of disputing, and remorseful for their _____, they dined amicably together.
4. Tom gave up the brush with reluctance in his face, but _____ in his heart.
5. Leon Guggenhammer was young and fat; not a day more than thirty, his face, save for the _____ puff sacks under the eyes, was as smooth and lineless as a boy's.
6. Once a man has lost his self-respect, and has decided to _____ his better qualities and human dignity, he falls headlong, and cannot choose but do so.
7. He is not as forceful a character as Mike Lester, with less in the way of business _____ or entrepreneurial flair, but he is technically competent.
8. The goods are not allowed to be exported without _____ of the customs.
9. Despite the deep _____ between them, the two sides have managed to negotiate an agreement.
10. Jill became extremely _____ and began to cruelly make fun of all her friends

Practice Set 1E

**acrimony adumbrated alacrity antipathy abrogate acerbic
abjure anathema approbation acumen**

1. His lyrics are as _____ and poignant as they ever have been.
2. His _____ to cowardice was such that given the choice between cowardice and violence he would choose violence.
3. She did not wish to lose his _____; the Colonel and his wife were valuable, long-standing guests.
4. Washington's government offered the quid pro quo of neutral duties which had previously been _____ but not fully developed.
5. When I found that he was a Catholic I was almost ready to _____ the Protestant religion for his sake; but I perceived that this was not necessary when I came to know that most of his friends were Protestants.
6. She remembered a little of the _____, of the mounting bitterness within the house, of their winter of discontent.
7. He had settled in Ireland many years ago and through his shrewd business ability and financial _____ he had become very wealthy.
8. The existence of a Constitution of itself may not be a guarantee against repressive or totalitarian governments which disregard individual liberty and _____ human rights
9. Keen above all to protect the interests of the country's farmers, and abandoning the doctrine of laissez faire in a period of crisis, parliament moved with _____ to pass the Corn Law of 1815.
10. To a people of this nature the Homeric epos would be unacceptable, and the post-Homeric epic, with its conventional atmosphere, its trite and hackneyed diction, and its insincere sentiment, would be _____.

Practice Set 1F

**approbation abrogate abjure anathema adumbrated acumen
alacrity acerbic antipathy acrimonious**

1. The minister intended to _____ the decree issued by his predecessor.
2. When Irish people express their _____ to the British, the real target of their hatred is the English.
3. Such was Andrew Mellon's financial _____ that he and his brother were among the four richest men in America.
4. The points were _____ but not fully developed in the report.
5. At first his relations with the official College of Arms were inclined to be _____; but, as his work and scholarship came to be appreciated, they became more cordial.
6. Their great grief was disturbed by agitators and others to create distrust and confusion by _____ and malignant observation.
7. Galileo was made to kneel and admit to being vain and ambitious and to _____ the Copernican doctrine as being wrong
8. Some hated him, envying his success and finding his whole manner _____.
9. The words sounded convincing, and the judge leaned forward in _____.
10. George Bernard Shaw was the only one who did not accept with _____ the invitation to contribute to the library, and, in the Princess's own words, he refused "in a very rude manner."

Set 02

1. **arrogate** [ar-uh-geyt]
(v.) to take without justification (The king arrogated the right to order executions to himself exclusively.)
arrogation (n.)
2. **ascetic** [uh-set-ik]
(n.) someone who practices restraint as a means of self-discipline, usually religious; (adj.) pertaining to or characteristic of an ascetic (The priest lives an ascetic life devoid of television, savory foods, and other pleasures.)
asceticism (n.)
3. **aspersion** [uh-spur-zhuhn]
(n.) a curse, expression of ill-will (The rival politicians repeatedly cast aspersions on each others' integrity.)
4. **assiduous** [uh-sij-oo-uhs]
(adj.) hard-working, diligent (The construction workers erected the skyscraper during two years of assiduous labor.)
assiduity (n.); **assiduousness** (n.)
5. **blandish** [blan-dish]
(v.) to coax by using flattery (Rachel's assistant tried to blandish her into accepting the deal.)
blandishment (n.)
6. **boon** [boon]
(n.) a gift or blessing (The good weather has been a boon for many businesses located near the beach.)
7. **brusque** [bruhsks]
(adj.) short, abrupt, dismissive (The captain's brusque manner offended the passengers.)
brusqueness (n.)
8. **buffet**
 1. [buhf-it] (v.) to strike with force (The strong winds buffeted the ships, threatening to capsize them.); (n.) a blow
 2. [boo-fey] (n.) an arrangement of food set out on a table (Rather than sitting around a table, the guests took food from our buffet and ate standing up.)
9. **burnish** [bur-nish]
(v.) to polish, shine (His mother asked him to burnish the silverware before setting the table.)
10. **buttress** [buh-tris]
 1. (v.) to support, hold up (The column buttresses the roof above the statue.)
 2. (n.) something that offers support (The buttress supports the roof above the statues.)

Practice Set 2A

**aspersion boon ascetic brusque assiduous burnish blandish
buffet arrogate buttress**

1. _____ (v.) to polish, shine
2. _____ (n.) a curse, expression of ill-will
3. _____ (adj.) hard-working, diligent
4. _____ (adj.) short, abrupt, dismissive
5. _____ (v.) to take without justification
6. _____ (v.) to coax by using flattery
7. _____ (n.) a gift or blessing
8. _____ 1. (v.) to strike with force; 2. (n.) an arrangement of food
9. _____ (adj.) practicing restraint as a means of self-discipline, usually religious
10. _____ 1. (v.) to support, hold up; 2. (n.) something that offers support

Practice Set 2B

**ascetic buttress boon assiduous buffeted blandish burnish
aspersion arrogates brusque**

1. You can describe something as a _____ when it makes life better or easier for someone.
2. To _____ an argument or system means to give it support and strength.
3. An _____ person has a way of life that is simple and strict, usually because of her religious beliefs.
4. _____ is an unfavorable or damaging remark or the act of defaming or slandering.
5. Someone who is _____ works hard or does things very thoroughly.
6. To _____ the image of someone or something means to improve her image.
7. To _____ someone is to insincerely flatter her in order to influence or sway her decision.
8. If someone _____ to herself something such as a responsibility or privilege, she claims or takes it even though she has no right to do so.
9. If something is _____ by strong winds or by stormy seas, it is repeatedly struck or blown around by them.
10. If you describe a person or her behavior as _____, you mean that she deals with things, or says things, quickly and shortly, so that she seems to be rude.

Practice Set 2C

**ascetic aspersions buffeted arrogate brusque buttress boon
assiduous burnished blandish**

1. This is a good essay, but it needs a few more facts as a _____ to the conclusions.
2. Its meetings were fiercely argumentative; members seemed to love nothing better than to cast _____ on each other's intellect and class loyalty.
3. To master the details of bankruptcy law was a task requiring not only skill but _____ and prolonged attention.
4. The strong winds _____ the ships, threatening to capsize them.
5. At first he thought that Dirk was the cause of the disaster, and he was needlessly _____ with him.
6. The recent rains that filled our empty reservoirs were a _____ to the whole community.
7. Rachel's assistant tried to _____ her into accepting the deal.
8. The priest lives an _____ life devoid of television, savory foods, and other pleasures.
9. Governments should not be deluded into thinking that they can _____ to themselves powers that they do not and cannot possess.
10. They polished the blade until all the rust was removed and it glistened like _____ silver.

Practice Set 2D

**ascetic assiduous burnish arrogate boon buttress buffet aspersions
brusque blandishment**

1. We may imagine an _____ who consistently chooses the sour instead of the sweet apple, in order to mortify the flesh.
2. Throughout his three great journeys of discovery and exploration, Captain James Cook had been the most _____ of diarists, keeping an almost daily record of thoughts and observations.
3. The good weather has been a _____ for many businesses located near the beach.
4. He described Lord Duveen as an impossibly bumptious and opinionated ass who took advantage of any opportunity that presented itself to _____ his image and to further his own interests.
5. The call for education to _____ democracy by inculcating into young people the principles of citizenship became increasingly exaggerated and, in some senses, melodramatic.
6. Orley had once been forced to resign from a local men's club for casting _____ on the character of another member's wife.
7. When he did come home much later in the evenings she was often _____ and cross with him.
8. Huge and powerful as his body had seemed, it was now white and fragile in the face of that imminent, great-handed _____ of the sea.
9. _____ is flattery intended to sway an opinion or decision.
10. The human and fallible should not _____ a power with which the divine and perfect alone can be safely entrusted.

Practice Set 2E

**arrogated ascetic buttress buffeted boon brusque assiduous
aspersion burnished blandishments**

1. The king _____ the right to order executions to himself exclusively.
2. Not even the sweetest _____ could move Reginald to surrender the keys to his car to Gilda Lilly in her condition.
3. This _____ approach to fuel saving, is, of course, fine during times of shortage, but more difficult to promote during times of plenty.
4. The attorney came up with a several far-fetched arguments in a vain attempt to _____ his weak case.
5. In the _____ mirror of the lake, mountain, chapel, houses, groves and boats are counterfeited so brightly and so clearly that one scarce knows where the reality leaves off and the reflection begins.
6. In the 19th century any reference to female sexuality was considered a vile _____.
7. By such _____ and persevering labor they made their way about four hundred and fifty miles up the Missouri, by the 16th of November, to the mouth of the Nodowa.
8. This is a resource for fishermen and a _____ for tourists, because the port is the ideal place to sit once you have made your way down to the bottom of the town.
9. He had been _____ and taciturn all morning, giving short, sharp answers to Charlotte's questions.
10. If an economy or government is _____ by difficult or unpleasant situations, it experiences many of them.

Practice Set 2F

**buttress blandishment brusque buffet boon burnished
aspersions ascetic assiduous arrogated**

1. Ms. Walter's plain, dark clothing and pulled-back hair give her an _____ appearance, but she is actually very warm and fun-loving.
2. Edward came to Corfe from a hunt, and while his attendants were seeing to the dogs she allured him to her with female _____ and made him lean forward.
3. Little John turned upon the Steward and smote him such a _____ that the fat man fell to the floor and lay there as though he would never move again.
4. During haytime and harvest, the four horses bought from his father-in-law had proved to be a _____.
5. The _____ merchant, the laborious husbandman, the active mechanic, and the industrious manufacturer all look forward with eager expectation and growing alacrity to this pleasing reward of their toils.
6. He sought to _____ some of his arguments with quotations from Mein Kampf.
7. His manners had been _____, and his words had been few.
8. This fact is not intended to hurt anyone's feelings, and still less, dear reader, to cast any _____ on your honesty and integrity.
9. They ensured that the infant emperor continued to study in Paris for another seven years and meantime the French Resident Superior in Hue _____ to himself the few remaining vestiges of imperial authority.
10. Sunlight _____ the surface of the grey-green water, making it seem dense and yet clear, like melted glass.

Set 03

1. **cacophony** [kuh-kof-uh-nee]
(*n.*) tremendous noise, disharmonious sound (The elementary school orchestra created a cacophony at the recital.)
cacophonous (*adj.*)
2. **cajole** [kuh-johl]
(*v.*) to urge, coax (Fred's buddies cajoled him into attending the bachelor party.)
cajolery (*n.*)
3. **calumny** [kal-uhm-nee]
(*n.*) an attempt to spoil someone else's reputation by spreading lies (The local official's calumny ended up ruining his opponent's prospect of winning the election.)
calumniate (*v.*)
4. **capricious** [kuh-prish-uhs]
(*adj.*) subject to whim, fickle (The young girl's capricious tendencies made it difficult for her to focus on achieving her goals.)
caprice (*n.*)/[kuh-prees]
5. **clemency** [clem-uhn-see]
(*n.*) mercy (After he forgot their anniversary, Martin could only beg Maria for clemency.)
clement (*adj.*)
6. **cogent** [koh-juhnt]
(*adj.*) intellectually convincing (Irene's arguments in favor of abstinence were so cogent that I could not resist them.)
cogency (*n.*)
7. **concomitant** [kuhn-kom-i-tuhnt]
(*adj.*) accompanying as a consequence (His dislike of hard work carried with it a concomitant lack of funds.)
concomitant (*n.*)
8. **conflagration** [kon-fluh-grey-shuhn]
(*n.*) great fire (The conflagration consumed the entire building.)
conflagrantly (*adj.*)
9. **contrite** [kuhn-trahyt]
(*adj.*) penitent, feeling sorry for having done something wrong (Blake's contrite behavior made it impossible to stay angry at him.)
contrition (*n.*)
10. **conundrum** [kuh-nuhn-druhm]
(*n.*) puzzle, problem (Interpreting Jane's behavior was a constant conundrum.)

Practice Set 3A

**cogent capricious calumny conundrum contrite clemency
concomitant cajole cacophony conflagration**

1. _____ (v.) to urge, coax
2. _____ (n.) puzzle, problem
3. _____ (n.) an attempt to spoil someone else's reputation by spreading lies
4. _____ (n.) mercy
5. _____ (adj.) intellectually convincing
6. _____ (adj.) subject to whim, fickle
7. _____ (adj.) accompanying as a consequence
8. _____ (n.) tremendous noise, disharmonious sound
9. _____ (n) great fire
10. _____ (adj.) penitent

Practice Set 3B

**Concomitant calumny contrite cogent capricious cacophonous
conflagration clemency cajole conundrum**

1. A _____ is a fire that burns over a large area and destroys property.
2. A _____ reason, argument, or example is strong and convincing.
3. If you _____ someone into doing something, you get her to do it after persuading her for some time.
4. Someone who is _____ often changes her mind unexpectedly.
5. If someone is granted _____, she is punished less severely than she could be.
6. If you are _____, you are very sorry because you have done something wrong.
7. Jealousy is the usual _____ of love, and the noble enthusiasm of liberty is apt to be infected with a spirit of narrow and illiberal distrust.
8. If you describe a mixture of sounds as _____, you mean that it is loud and unpleasant.
9. A _____ is an untrue statement made about someone in order to reduce other people's respect and admiration for her.
10. A _____ is a problem or puzzle which is difficult or impossible to solve.

Practice Set 3C

**capricious conflagration cogent calumny clemency conundrum
cajole cacophony contrite concomitant**

1. The problem here is analogous to that embodies in the familiar _____ "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?"
2. The young girl's _____ tendencies made it difficult for her to focus on achieving her goals.
3. Blake's _____ behavior made it impossible to stay angry at him.
4. Crowds of people were rushing the other way, towards the _____, to try to stem the fire before it spread to the other wooden buildings by the river.
5. His dislike of hard work carried with it a _____ lack of funds.
6. Irene's arguments in favor of abstinence were so _____ that I could not resist them.
7. After he forgot their anniversary, Martin could only beg Maria for _____.
8. The calls were a _____ of piercing screams, low growls and a host of other noises.
9. The local official's _____ ended up ruining his opponent's prospect of winning the election
10. He would _____, flatter and persuade congressmen to support him by using his wide knowledge of their attitudes, constituencies, prejudices and personal backgrounds.

Practice Set 3D

**cajole contrite cacophonous concomitant capricious
conflagration clemency conundrum cogent calumny**

1. To the south a monster _____ was filling the sky, and we knew that the great ghetto was burning.
2. Their modus operandi is to _____ their victims into parting with valuables which subsequently they hope to resell for much higher prices.
3. The sound and loudness of the different birds stating their claim to their territories is so _____ that it is impossible to listen to.
4. He looked so _____ that for a moment she was in danger of actually believing him, until common sense came to her aid.
5. Ralph gave Alice several _____ reasons they should vacation at a mountain resort rather than at the beach before she gave way to him.
6. Seventeen prisoners held on death row are to be executed after their pleas for _____ were turned down.
7. This serious query was at first received with suspicion because it sounded like a _____.
8. There is nothing more _____ than a child's memory: what it will hold and what it will lose no one can predict.
9. A _____ of something is another thing that happens at the same time and is connected with it.
10. An attempt at divorce could lead to nothing but a public scandal, which would be a perfect godsend to his enemies for _____ and attacks on his high position in society.

Practice Set 3E

**calumny cacophony caprice cajole cogent contrition clemency
concomitant conundrum conflagration**

1. The _____ raged for many hours throughout the town, spreading rapidly through buildings already torn open by the blast, and with not a single person left alive to check it.
2. He was subjected to the most vicious _____, but he never complained and never sued.
3. The authorities are reportedly prepared to release Fr Jin if he appeals for _____ on grounds such as ill-health.
4. The caller from the agency may plead and _____ you into agreeing to accept the job, especially if it is a last minute booking and they are desperate for someone.
5. In the end we wisely and philosophically determined to await the result with patience, well knowing that we were altogether in the hands of _____ and fashion.
6. The study of English trains students to be critical, to evaluate different points of view, and to present considered judgments in a _____ and incisive way.
7. The next day he'd be full of _____, weeping and begging forgiveness.
8. Cultures that were better at trading saw a _____ increase in their wealth.
9. The grand symphony of the song has turned so quickly into a raucous and bitter _____, drowning all sound of the truth.
10. The observational data show that Easton's neighborhood police have two recipes for resolving this dilemma and its associated _____.

Practice Set 3F

**caprice cajole clemency calumny conundrum conflagration
cacophony concomitant cogent contrite**

1. In order to _____ him into accepting the role, the British tandem of Peter Yates and John Mortimer were asked to fly out from London to Philadelphia, where the play was trying out.
2. The family cannot be broken up by a whim, a _____, or even by the sin of one of the partners in the marriage, and our life must go on as it has done in the past.
3. The influence of factious leaders may kindle a flame within their particular States, but will be unable to spread a general _____ through the other States.
4. The more attentively I consider and investigate the reasons which appear to have given birth to this opinion, the more I become convinced that they are _____ and conclusive.
5. By around 1020, the quality of Norman coins declined markedly as a _____ to the rapid increase in quantity.
6. Another important component of the competence of neighborhood police is knowing the answer to the _____ of what to do when nothing can be done.
7. If you do not know what a tree or shrub is, exercise _____ and give it a year's grace to demonstrate its worth before you turn it over to the axeman.
8. Mercy should be shown to the _____, but the community needed to be reassured that the contrition was genuine.
9. Away from the human-made _____ of towns and cities, elephants call to each other through kilometers of dense forest using sounds too low for us to hear.
10. What I mean by being proof against _____ is being able to point to the fact as a contradiction.

Set 04

1. **credulity** [kruh-dyoo-li-tee]
(*n.*) readiness to believe (His credulity made him an easy target for con men.)
credulous (*adj.*)
2. **cupidity** [kyoo-pid-i-tee]
(*n.*) greed, strong desire (His cupidity made him enter the abandoned gold mine despite the obvious dangers.)
3. **cursory** [kur-suh-ree]
(*adj.*) brief to the point of being superficial (Late for the meeting, she cast a cursory glance at the agenda.)
cursoriness (*n.*)
4. **decry** [di-krah-y]
(*v.*) to criticize openly (The kind video rental clerk decried the policy of charging customers late fees.)
5. **defile** [di-fah-yil]
(*v.*) to make unclean, impure (She defiled the calm of the religious building by playing her banjo.)
6. **deleterious** [del-i-teer-ee-uhs]
(*adj.*) harmful (She experienced the deleterious effects of running a marathon without stretching her muscles enough beforehand.)
deleteriousness (*n.*)
7. **demure** [di-myoor]
(*adj.*) quiet, modest, reserved (Though everyone else at the party was dancing and going crazy, she remained demure.)
8. **deprecate** [dep-ri-keyt]
(*v.*) to belittle, depreciate (Always over-modest, he deprecated his contribution to the local charity.)
deprecation (*v.*)
9. **deride** [di-rah-yd]
(*v.*) to laugh at mockingly, scorn (The bullies derided the foreign student's accent.) **derision** (*n.*); **derisive** (*adj.*)
10. **desecrate** [des-i-kreyt]
(*v.*) to violate the sacredness of a thing or place (They feared that the construction of a golf course would desecrate the preserved wilderness.)
desecrated (*adj.*); **desecration** (*n.*)

Practice Set 4A

**cursory decry credulity desecrate defile deride demure cupidity
deleterious deprecate**

1. _____ (adj.) brief to the point of being superficial
2. _____ (n.) greed, strong desire
3. _____ (v.) to criticize openly
4. _____ (adj.) quiet, modest, reserved
5. _____ (v.) to laugh at mockingly, scorn
6. _____ (v.) to violate the sacredness of a thing or place
7. _____ (adj.) harmful
8. _____ (n.) readiness to believe
9. _____ (v.) to belittle, depreciate
10. _____ (v.) to make unclean, impure

Practice Set 4B

**cupidity cursory desecrates decries credulity deride deprecate
deleterious demure defile**

1. If you _____ someone or something, you say that person or thing is stupid or have no value.
2. _____ is a greedy desire for money and possessions.
3. A _____ glance or examination is a brief one in which you do not pay much attention to detail.
4. If you _____ something, you depreciate and criticize it.
5. If someone _____ something which is considered to be holy or very special, she deliberately damages or insults it.
6. If you describe someone, usually a young woman, as _____, you mean she is quiet and rather shy, usually in a way that you like and find appealing, and behave very correctly.
7. _____ is a willingness to believe that something is real or true.
8. To _____ something that people think is important or holy means to do something to it or say something about it which is offensive.
9. If someone _____ an idea or action, she criticizes it strongly.
10. Something that has a _____ effect on something has a harmful effect on it.

Practice Set 4C

**deleterious defiled cupidity deprecated derided credulity demure
desecrate decries cursory**

1. Always over-modest, he _____ his contribution to the local charity.
2. She experienced the _____ effects of running a marathon without stretching her muscles enough beforehand.
3. Con artists take advantage of the _____ of inexperienced investors to swindle them out of their savings.
4. The bullies _____ the foreign student's accent.
5. It's a shame that such a beautiful area has been _____ by a rubbish dump.
6. Though everyone else at the party was dancing and going crazy, she remained _____.
7. His _____ made him enter the abandoned gold mine despite the obvious dangers.
8. The founder of the Children's Defense Fund, Marian Wright Edelman, strongly _____ the lack of financial and moral support for children in America today.
9. Late for the meeting, she cast a _____ glance at the agenda.
10. They feared that the construction of a golf course would _____ the preserved wilderness.

Practice Set 4D

**cupidity desecrated demure cursory defile derided decry
deprecated deleterious credulity**

1. The fear of crime is having a _____ effect on community life.
2. Shattering the altar and trampling the holy objects underfoot, the invaders _____ the sanctuary.
3. Thirteenth-century sermons illustrate the mixture of _____, ignorance and superstition that permeated popular belief.
4. She was _____ and reserved, a nice modest girl whom any young man would be proud to take home to his mother.
5. A firm believer in old-fashioned courtesy, Miss Post _____ the modern tendency to address new acquaintances by their first names.
6. Because a _____ examination of the ruins indicates the possibility of arson, we believe the insurance agency should undertake a more extensive investigation of the fire's cause.
7. I could not imagine a human being so blinded by _____ as to sell poison to such an atrocious creature.
8. Not desiring to _____ the wall of the consecrated place, he went round the corner to spit into the gutter.
9. Prof Wilkinson points out that the international community might not _____ unilateralist intervention provided that it approves of the outcome.
10. The critics _____ his pretentious dialog and refused to consider his play seriously.

Practice Set 4E

**deriding defile desecrated deleterious deprecating credulity
demure cupidity cursory decry**

1. Her _____ smile clearly showed that she thought I'd said something stupid.
2. Although she had molded herself into the _____ and restrained wife suitable to Stephen's position, deep down she still possessed the wild spirits which had led her into Sir William Forster's arms.
3. The book is _____ in its treatment of Eliot's literary background: there is no mention, for instance, of Wallace Stevens, Ivy Compton-Burnett, of Empson or Leavis, and no adequate picture of what Eliot meant to later generations of intellectuals in Britain.
4. They stood there, shouting ribaldry at him, _____ him, mocking him, jeering at him.
5. He has abused your _____ and involved you all in an attempted fraud, for when all is said and done this claim is nothing else.
6. If you believe that smoking is _____ to your health (and the Surgeon General certainly does), then quit!
7. I only desired he would lend me two clean shirts, which, having been washed since he wore them, I believed would not so much _____ me.
8. While countries and citizens everywhere _____ the rape of rainforest in Brazil, Malaysia, Indonesia and so on, Canada is actively pursuing massive deforestation to fuel equally massive pulp-mill projects.
9. That he was taking his life in his hands he well knew, but so great was the man's _____ that he reckoned no risk too great for the acquirement of a fortune.
10. She shouldn't have _____ the picture of a religious leader.

Practice Set 4F

**cursory decry defile derision deprecated credulity deleterious
demure cupidity desecrate**

1. It seemed a scandal to abuse the _____ of the free-handed stranger, who, without a suspicion or a question, had admitted him to equal social rights.
2. If you treat someone or something with _____, you express contempt for that person or thing.
3. He couldn't imagine any person with an artistic sense permitting such gross vulgarity to _____ the hall of their house.
4. It aimed at understanding contemporary Buddhism, and _____ any intention of an attack on Buddhism, appealing to Buddhist readers to correct any inaccurate or biased statements.
5. Mr Greenway praised the 'distinguished and courageous' Falklands campaign and added: 'We had better be careful before we _____ the names of people who acted with such valor in the name of the United Kingdom.'
6. Theirs was an age when the favored feminine look was the _____, the obedient, the shy.
7. The defeated people could not satisfy the _____ of the conquerors, who demanded excessive tribute.
8. Even a _____ inspection reveals the resemblance between the main geological features of Northern Ireland and those of southern and central Scotland.
9. Everyone experiences disturbing life events from time to time, and although they may cause a good deal of psychological distress, they cannot on the whole be considered to have a _____ effect on health.
10. History will _____ our time as a period of market soothsaying when it was believed that the market could provide everything and solve all problems.

Set 05

1. **desiccated** [des-i-key-tid]
(*adj.*) dried up, dehydrated (The skin of the desiccated mummy looked like old paper.)
desiccate (*v.*) **desiccation** (*n.*)
2. **diaphanous** [dahy-af-uh-nuhs]
(*adj.*) light, airy, transparent (Sunlight poured in through the diaphanous curtains, brightening the room.)
3. **diffident** [dif-i-duhnt]
(*adj.*) shy, quiet, modest (While eating dinner with the adults, the diffident youth did not speak for fear of seeming presumptuous.)
diffidence (*n.*)
4. **discursive** [di-skur-siv]
(*adj.*) rambling, lacking order (The professor's discursive lectures seemed to be about every subject except the one initially described.)
discursiveness (*n.*)
5. **dissemble** [di-sem-buhl]
(*v.*) to conceal, fake (Not wanting to appear heartlessly greedy, she dissembled and hid her intention to sell her ailing father's stamp collection.)
dissemblance (*n.*)
6. **dither** [dith-er]
(*v.*) to be indecisive (Not wanting to offend either friend, he dithered about which of the two birthday parties he should attend.)
dither (*n.*)
7. **ebullient** [i-buhl-yuhnt]
(*adj.*) extremely lively, enthusiastic (She became ebullient upon receiving an acceptance letter from her first-choice college.)
ebullience (*n.*)
8. **effrontery** [i-fruhn-tuh-ree]
(*n.*) impudence, nerve, insolence (When I told my aunt that she was boring, my mother scolded me for my effrontery.)
9. **effulgent** [i-fuhl-juhnt]
(*adj.*) radiant, splendorous (The golden palace was effulgent.)
effulgence (*n.*)
10. **egregious** [i-gree-juhs]
(*adj.*) extremely bad (The student who threw sloppy joes across the cafeteria was punished for his egregious behavior.)
egregiousness (*n.*)

Practice Set 5A

**diaphanous dissemble diffident dither egregious discursive
effrontery effulgent ebullient desiccated**

1. _____ (adj.) extremely bad
2. _____ (adj.) shy, quiet, modest; lacking self-confidence
3. _____ (adj.) rambling, lacking order
4. _____ (adj.) light, airy, transparent
5. _____ (adj.) extremely lively, enthusiastic
6. _____ (v.) to be indecisive
7. _____ (adj.) radiant, splendorous
8. _____ (n.) impudence, nerve, insolence
9. _____ (adj.) dried up, dehydrated
10. _____ (v.) to conceal, fake

Practice Set 5B

**Effrontery ebullient dissemble Diaphanous egregious discursive
dithers Desiccated effulgent diffident**

1. When people _____, they hide their real intentions or emotions.
2. An _____ mistake, failure, problem etc is extremely bad and noticeable
3. _____ is behavior that is bold, rude, or disrespectful.
4. When someone _____, she hesitates because she is unable to make a quick decision about something.
5. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that she is lively and full of enthusiasm or excitement about something.
6. If a style of writing is _____, it includes a lot of facts or opinions that are not necessarily relevant.
7. _____ cloth is very thin and almost transparent.
8. If you describe something as _____, it is resplendent or shining brilliantly.
9. Someone who is _____ is rather shy and does not enjoy talking about herself or being noticed by other people.
10. _____ things have lost all the moisture that was in them.

Practice Set 5C

**diffident effulgent diaphanous ebullient dissembled dithered
egregious desiccate discursive effrontery**

1. The professor's _____ lectures seemed to be about every subject except the one initially described.
2. Amy's _____ nature could not be repressed; she was always bubbling over with excitement.
3. Not wanting to offend either friend, he _____ about which of the two birthday parties he should attend.
4. A tour of this smokehouse will give you an idea of how the pioneers used to _____ food in order to preserve it.
5. She was an _____ liar; we all knew better than to believe a word she said.
6. While eating dinner with the adults, the _____ youth did not speak for fear of seeming presumptuous.
7. Not wanting to appear heartlessly greedy, she _____ and hid her intention to sell her ailing father's stamp collection.
8. Sunlight poured in through the _____ curtains, brightening the room.
9. The _____ sunset lit across the wet pale green paint in the most glorious way; with the sunset shining straight across it, you could see every detail.
10. When I told my aunt that she was boring, my mother scolded me for my _____.

Practice Set 5D

**dissembling egregious dithering desiccated diaphanous diffident
effrontery ebullient discursive effulgent**

1. Last night's _____ sunset was a treat, with the moon rising at the exact same instant that the sun disappeared behind the opposite horizon.
2. He was silent all through the meal and then had the _____ to complain that I looked bored!
3. We have been living together for five years, and we're still _____ over whether to marry.
4. The girl was undeniably beautiful, and clearly knew it for she was wearing no petticoat and a _____ dress of pale gold that did little to hide her body.
5. Her manner is a little _____ as yet, but she'll soon come out of her shell with the right encouragement.
6. The perfused segment of entire small intestine was removed, rinsed, bottled, and _____ at 100 degrees Celsius to obtain the dry weight.
7. She became _____ upon receiving an acceptance letter from her first-choice college.
8. She was a very honest person who was incapable of _____.
9. As the lecturer wandered from topic to topic, we wondered what if any point there was to his _____ remarks.
10. Ed's housekeeping was _____: he let his dirty dishes pile up so long that they were stuck together with last week's food.

Practice Set 5E

**discursive dissemble diffident dither effrontery effulgent ebullient
desiccated egregious diaphanous**

1. Through the _____ curtains, the burglar could clearly see the large jewelry box on the dressing table.
2. I was thrilled at the prospect ahead of me but _____ and embarrassed at joining a community so totally unfamiliar.
3. When the pools dry, the rotifers turn into minute particles of dust, wrinkled and _____, awaiting the next rainfall.
4. Whatever happens and whoever is to blame, time and car parking spaces are being wasted while the two parties _____.
5. He was very _____: his lectures on Augustine, the date of whose birth he was still discussing at the end of term, contrived to include a list of books on the law of tort.
6. By failing to understand the asymmetry of commitment between the United States and the Vietnamese communists, they paved the way for committing the most _____ error a country going to war can make underestimating the adversary's capacity to prevail while overestimating one's own.
7. She was tall and attractive, with an _____ smile and a felicitous sense of fashion.
8. When she heard that a mere layman had had the _____ to advise on civil service matters, she went to see the Minister on the following day to tender her resignation.
9. Even though John tried to _____ his motive for taking modern dance, we all knew he was there not to dance but to meet girls.
10. Monday's an enthusiastic, _____ and exuberant day when you could get totally carried away and end up saying or doing something silly.

Practice Set 5F

**desiccated dissemble dither effulgent diaphanous egregious
effrontery diffidence discursive ebullient**

1. Scotland coach Douglas Morgan repeatedly asked players to be positive on the ball and not to _____ in their decision making.
2. The sages, who know the Truth, describe Shri Radha to be the personification of sweetness, freshness and youth; with her bubbling voice and perpetually _____ smile she conquers the Undefeatable Supreme Lord.
3. His _____ spirits were always on tap to spill over on the slightest provocation, and, as he was afterwards to demonstrate, he could weary a puppy with play.
4. I thought I would write and suggest that she should suggest herself to tea one day and not only did she have the _____ to do so but she brought her husband.
5. The Prince carelessly handed over the sealed paper, then sent one of his Dutch aides to inquire about the identity of the girl in the _____ gold dress.
6. The text can be highly _____ and reads like a series of points rather randomly formed into short paragraphs.
7. The head, body and arms open out boldly in such a way that the performer is seen to be fully revealed to all as an honest, sincere person who has no need to _____.
8. Mr. Gordon says he does not particularly like President Clinton, who also gets lavished with high job-approval ratings despite _____ personal acts.
9. It was almost eleven before we left that great mud complex, driving back through Trujillo and on south across dull, _____ country, a lot of it near-desert.
10. You must overcome your _____ if you intend to become a salesperson.

Review of Sets 1 – 5

1. Rossetti and his friends did not _____ the noble idealism of Raphael himself, but they felt that in trying to follow his grand style the art of their own time had become too abstract and conventional.
 - (a) arrogate
 - (b) burnish
 - (c) demure
 - (d) decry
2. Those lawless men are gathered together to defile Thy temples, to overthrow Thine altars, and to _____ our holy shrines.
 - (a) deride
 - (b) desecrate
 - (c) decry
 - (d) demure
3. These are people who were too proud to register for compensation, who were shy about meeting delegations from Tokyo and who were _____ about making a political issue over “our little pollution incident.”
 - (a) credulous
 - (b) derisive
 - (c) diffident
 - (d) acrimonious
4. Little John turned upon the Steward and smote him such a _____ that the fat man fell to the floor and lay there as though he would never move again.
 - (a) boon
 - (b) buffet
 - (c) burnish
 - (d) credulity
5. The Labor Party objected strongly to Weizmann's dismissal and threatened to withdraw from the year-old coalition unless the decision was _____.
 - (a) abrogated
 - (b) burnished
 - (c) arrogated
 - (d) deprecated
6. It has been suggested that President North intervened in the judicial progress with a plea for _____ on the grounds that Dr Proctor is too essential to the shaky economy of the United States to be executed.
 - (a) acrimony
 - (b) clemency
 - (c) calumny
 - (d) acumen
7. He was invited to contribute any really good enigmas, charades, or _____ that he might recollect.
 - (a) anathemas
 - (b) conundrums
 - (c) buffets
 - (d) conflagrations
8. It would be possible for a man with cataract to regret the painful process by which his dim blurred sight of men as trees walking had been exchanged for clear outline and _____ day.
 - (a) effulgent
 - (b) cogent
 - (c) acerbic
 - (d) diffident
9. Lord Duveen was described as an impossibly bumptious and opinionated ass who took advantage of any opportunity that presented itself to _____ his image and to further his own interests.
 - (a) deride
 - (b) buttress
 - (c) burnish
 - (d) buffet
10. Tired of disputing, and remorseful for their _____, they dined amicably together.
 - (a) calumny
 - (b) acumen
 - (c) acrimony
 - (d) cacophony

11. Nahum was immediately _____, apologizing for his hesitation and assuring her that her health was more important than anything else, especially if there was the longed-for reason for her tiredness.
- (a) contrite
 - (b) alacrious
 - (c) cogent
 - (d) discursive
12. The fragrant sadness of Janis Kelly in Street Scene is counterpointed by the _____ jitterbugging of Catherine Zeta Jones and Philip Gould as the young lovers risking careless rupture.
- (a) cursory
 - (b) demure
 - (c) buffet
 - (d) ebullient
13. Fortunately for the Government, this short debate in the House of Lords seems to have attracted little attention from the press, and it continued to receive general _____ for the exhibition, with the relevance of the competition remaining largely unquestioned.
- (a) approbation
 - (b) aspersion
 - (c) arrogation
 - (d) abrogation
14. Galileo was made to kneel and admit to being vain and ambitious and to _____ the Copernican doctrine as being wrong.
- (a) blandish
 - (b) demure
 - (c) abjure
 - (d) cajole
15. He made several _____, impatient movements at the table but still she could not stop.
- (a) ascetic
 - (b) cogent
 - (c) diaphanous
 - (d) brusque
16. As a rule, her conversation, though pleasing, was _____ and lacked central motive, but one morning she had genuine news to impart.
- (a) cursory
 - (b) ebullient
 - (c) demure
 - (d) discursive
17. Sometimes the media cannot be so easily deployed by political actors and the media may, in consequence, exert an indeterminate and sometimes _____ effect on the doings of political institutions and actors.
- (a) cacophonous
 - (b) effulgent
 - (c) contrite
 - (d) capricious
18. By July 1939, Nizan's anti-fascist denunciations had become more _____, more bitter, more personalized, heightened by the increased tensions of a highly volatile international political situation.
- (a) brusque
 - (b) assiduous
 - (c) acerbic
 - (d) ascetic
19. They must behold the actual situation of their country with painful solicitude, and _____ the evils which ambition or revenge might, with too much facility, inflict upon it.
- (a) arrogate
 - (b) deride
 - (c) desiccate
 - (d) deprecate
20. The strategy of teamwork on each assignment of a director, consultant and a researcher has worked well in producing an impressive completion rate and _____ large amount of repeat business.
- (a) contrite
 - (b) cacophonous
 - (c) cogent
 - (d) concomitant

21. The menu was sufficiently wide to make one _____ a bit because there were several options that looked appetizing.
(a) buffet
(b) defile
(c) dither
(d) demure
22. Some hated him, envying his success and finding his whole manner _____.
(a) anathema
(b) antipathy
(c) clemency
(d) buttress
23. He was a thin, hard-featured man, with an _____, aquiline cast of face, grizzled and hollow-cheeked, clean-shaven with the exception of the tiniest curved promontory of ash-colored whisker.
(a) capricious
(b) ascetic
(c) cursory
(d) acerbic
24. It also strained _____ to believe that any sort of war where any sort of nuclear weapons were available would not eventually lead to full-scale atomic destruction.
(a) credulity
(b) clemency
(c) cupidity
(d) calumny
25. Even a _____ look at gay history and culture suggests that the sweep and conclusions of his argument are questionable at virtually every turn, as indeed is the very notion of a homosexual sensibility.
(a) desiccated
(b) cursory
(c) assiduous
(d) ascetic
26. Edward came to Corfe from a hunt, and while his attendants were seeing to the dogs she allured him to her with female _____ and made him lean forward.
(a) ebullience
(b) blandishment
(c) anathema
(d) conundrums
27. Here roving tribes of hunters, living in tents or lodges, and following the migrations of the game, may lead a life of savage independence, where there is nothing to tempt the _____ of the white man.
(a) alacrity
(b) contrition
(c) deprecation
(d) cupidity
28. Rochester had sometimes read my unspoken thoughts with a (an) _____ to me incomprehensible: in the present instance he took no notice of my abrupt vocal response; but he smiled at me with a certain smile he had of his own.
(a) acrimony
(b) acumen
(c) calumny
(d) desecration
29. The battery had continued firing and was only not captured by the enemy because they could not surmise that anyone could have the _____ to continue firing from four quite undefended guns.
(a) effrontery
(b) abrogation
(c) arrogation
(d) effulgence
30. In the diver-picture he shows himself ready to _____ the idea of a spatial setting, but the artist is far more cautious and conventional than his Etruscan predecessor.
(a) arrogate
(b) blandish
(c) abrogate
(d) adumbrate
31. If a power of appointment, either in law or in fact, is vested in trade unions, the effect is not only to _____ to them rights attaching only to ownership, but to establish them in this particular matter as the constitutional equals of Parliament.

- (a) arrogate
 - (b) abrogate
 - (c) adumbrate
 - (d) deprecate
32. Mrs. Strickland was glad to show me her children, and she accepted my invitation with _____.
- (a) cupidity
 - (b) acrimony
 - (c) alacrity
 - (d) contrition
33. It was an _____ error for a statesman to show such ignorance.
- (a) assiduous
 - (b) acrimonious
 - (c) capricious
 - (d) egregious
34. The head, body and arms open out boldly in such a way that the performer is seen to be fully revealed to all as an honest, sincere person who has no need to _____.
- (a) defile
 - (b) dissemble
 - (c) buttress
 - (d) deprecate
35. She said, in a deliberate sweet voice that seemed to clothe her words in a _____ garment of impalpable irony.
- (a) egregious
 - (b) diaphanous
 - (c) assiduous
 - (d) capricious
36. It takes something more than words to _____ them into doing our will, covering us with glory.
- (a) dither
 - (b) abjure
 - (c) defile
 - (d) cajole
37. Impotent old devils and dried-up hags always _____ the efforts of the young.
- (a) deride
 - (b) abrogate
 - (c) demure
 - (d) buffet
38. Its meetings were fiercely argumentative; members seemed to love nothing better than to cast _____ on each other's intellect and class loyalty.
- (a) ascetics
 - (b) boons
 - (c) aspersion
 - (d) approbation
39. Not desiring to _____ the wall of the consecrated place, I went round the corner to spit into the gutter.
- (a) cajole
 - (b) deride
 - (c) defile
 - (d) demure
40. The _____ I crave is that you will place it in my hands and let me die still grasping it.
- (a) boon
 - (b) deprecation
 - (c) anathema
 - (d) approbation
41. Her face was brilliant and glowing, but this glow was not one of brightness; it suggested the fearful glow of a _____ in the midst of a dark night.
- (a) blandishment
 - (b) contrition
 - (c) conflagration
 - (d) approbation
42. Might it suffice him that every wholesome growth should be converted into something _____ and malignant at his touch?
- (a) ascetic
 - (b) deleterious
 - (c) diaphanous
 - (d) egregious

43. When the pools dry, the rotifers turn into minute particles of dust, wrinkled and _____, awaiting the next rainfall.
(a) desiccated
(b) brusque
(c) concomitant
(d) deleterious
44. The people of Madagonia had an _____ to the people of Novakatka and set upon some sailors of a Novakatkan vessel, killing two and wounding twelve.
(a) antipathy
(b) abrogation
(c) acrimony
(d) anathema
45. There is no course of action that will help you lose the _____ of teenagers yelling, adults whining and children screaming, until the turn off for Carn Mor Dearg, which joyfully appears at Lochan Meall an t-Suidhe.
(a) boon
(b) calumny
(c) cacophony
(d) acrimony
46. _____ evidence of potential damage to national security flowing from the trial of the issues would have to be adduced, whether in open court or in camera, to justify any modification of the court's normal procedure.
(a) Ebullient
(b) Cogent
(c) Capricious
(d) Effulgent
47. Lowering her glance unexpectedly till her dark eye-lashes seemed to rest against her white cheeks, she presented a perfectly _____ aspect.
(a) acrimonious
(b) assiduous
(c) demure
(d) capricious
48. From the age of six to that of sixteen, Julia had no other communications with Miss Emmerson than those endearments which neither could suppress, and a constant and _____ attention on the part of the aunt to the health and attire of her niece.
(a) acrimonious
(b) egregious
(c) assiduous
(d) capricious
49. He knew all about gossip and _____, having tried for months to cope with the shifty Hoornik family.
(a) clemency
(b) cacophony
(c) calumny
(d) acumen
50. The tall man leaned heavily upon her to take the weight off his tender foot, thrusting forward his young companion to act as a _____ whenever the pressure of the crowd threatened to bear him away.
(a) cupidity
(b) buttress
(c) derision
(d) buffet

Set 06

1. **enervate** [en-er-veyt]
(v.) to weaken, exhaust (Writing these sentences enervates me so much that I will have to take a nap after I finish.)
enervated (adj.); **enervative** (adj.); **enervation** (n.)
2. **ephemeral** [i-fem-er-uhl]
(adj.) short-lived, fleeting (She promised she'd love me forever, but her "forever" was only ephemeral: she left me after one week.)
3. **eschew** [es-choo]
(v.) to shun, avoid (George hates the color green so much that he eschews all green food.)
eschewal (n.)
4. **evince** [i-vins]
(v.) to show, reveal (Christopher's hand-wringing and nail-biting evinces how nervous he is about the upcoming English test.)
evincible (adj.)
5. **exculpate** [ek-skuhl-peyt]
(v.) to free from guilt or blame, exonerate (My discovery of the ring behind the dresser exculpated me from the charge of having stolen it.)
exculpation (n.) **exculpable** (adj.)
6. **execrable** [ek-si-kruh-buhl]
(adj.) loathsome, detestable (Her pudding is so execrable that it makes me sick.)
7. **exigent** [ek-si-juhnt]
(adj.) urgent, critical (The patient has an exigent need for medication, or else he will lose his sight.)
exigency (n.)
8. **expiate** [ek-spee-eyt]
(v.) to make amends for, atone (To expiate my selfishness, I gave all my profits to charity.)
expiative (adj.); **expiatory** (adj.); **expiation** (n.)
9. **expunge** [ik-spuhnj]
(v.) to obliterate, eradicate (Fearful of an IRS investigation, Paul tried to expunge all incriminating evidence from his tax files.)
10. **extant** [ek-stuhnt]
(adj.) existing, not destroyed or lost (My mother's extant love letters to my father are in the attic trunk.)

Practice Set 6A

**exculpate expunge evince ephemeral expiate enervate exigent
execrable extant eschew**

1. _____ (adj.) short-lived, fleeting
2. _____ (v.) to make amends for, atone
3. _____ (v.) to weaken, exhaust
4. _____ (v.) to shun, avoid
5. _____ (adj.) urgent, critical
6. _____ (v.) to show, reveal
7. _____ (v.) to free from guilt or blame, exonerate
8. _____ (adj.) loathsome, detestable
9. _____ (v.) to obliterate, eradicate
10. _____ (adj.) existing, not destroyed or lost

Practice Set 6B

**expunge eschew expiate exculpated evinces ephemeral extant
execrable enervated exigent**

1. If you _____ something, you deliberately avoid doing it or becoming involved in it.
2. If you _____ guilty feelings or bad behavior, you do something to indicate that you are sorry for what you have done.
3. If you _____ something, you get rid of it completely, because it causes problems or bad feelings.
4. If you describe something as _____, you mean that it lasts only for a very short time.
5. If something is _____, it is still in existence, in spite of being very old.
6. If you describe something as _____, it requires immediate action or aid.
7. If someone is _____ of a charge of guilt or fault, she is cleared from it.
8. If you describe something as _____, you mean that it is very bad or unpleasant.
9. If someone or something _____ a particular feeling or quality, they show that feeling or quality, often indirectly.
10. If you feel _____, you feel tired and weak.

Practice Set 6C

**extant evince exculpated expiate expunge eschews ephemeral
execrable exigent enervates**

1. She promised she'd love me forever, but her "forever" was only _____: she left me after one week.
2. My mother's _____ love letters to my father are in the attic trunk
3. George hates the color green so much that he _____ all green food.
4. Christopher's hand-wringing and nail-biting _____ how nervous he is about the upcoming English test.
5. My discovery of the ring behind the dresser _____ me from the charge of having stolen it.
6. The patient has an _____ need for medication, or else he will lose his sight.
7. Writing these sentences _____ me so much that I will have to take a nap after I finish.
8. Her pudding is so _____ that it makes me sick.
9. To _____ my selfishness, I gave all my profits to charity.
10. Fearful of an IRS investigation, Paul tried to _____ all incriminating evidence from his tax files.

Practice Set 6D

**ephemeral extant evince eschew enervated expiating exigency
exculpated expunged execrable**

1. He was _____ of the crime when the real criminal confessed.
2. Trapping data into files in this way can be extremely useful because it changes _____ data into a permanent list.
3. It is popularly supposed to be extinct Society, but she has written notes to show it is still _____.
4. It seemed that Alice was _____ her father's sins with her charity work.
5. Hoping to present himself to his girlfriend as a totally reformed character, he tried to _____ all the vices, especially chewing tobacco and drinking bathtub gin.
6. Some past tenant with _____ taste had left the whole place superficially hideous.
7. In this _____, we must look for aid from our allies
8. He was determined to prevent it, if possible, though his mother, who equally heard the conversation which passed at table, did not _____ the least disapprobation.
9. The revolutionaries _____ domestic opposition and mobilized their resources for the war.
10. She was _____ and chafed by the excitements and disappointments of the previous months.

Practice Set 6E

**eschew evince exculpate ephemeral expiate enervated execrable
extant expunge exigent**

1. I had the conviction that he could only regard me as a poor-spirited slave, wherefore I now went about to shun his presence and _____ his conversation.
2. The fact that Inez was shown to have been out of town caused the judge to _____ her in the case of the missing bananas.
3. In order to _____ his sins and make sure of his place in Heaven, in 1556 he founded the Hospital of St John the Baptist, an almshouse for the support and relief of poor and indigent people.
4. The mayfly is an _____ creature: its adult life lasts little more than a day.
5. The heat was fierce that June -- 102 degrees in the shade at one time -- but Mrs. Browning went out in it and seemed to have forgotten such scorching sun had once _____ her to the point of collapse.
6. I deplore the action of Lieutenant Alvarez, but I cannot _____ from my mind the loyalty and self-sacrificing friendship which has prompted him to his acts.
7. Helena has existed as an island from a very remote epoch: some obscure proofs, however, of the elevation of the land are still _____.
8. He was a man whose personal life, though occasionally _____, never became a siren song.
9. He spent years and years in desultory studies, undertakings, and meditations; he began to _____ considerable indifference to social forms and observances.
10. The anecdote was in such _____ taste that it revolted the audience.

Practice Set 6F

**expiate execrable exigent exculpate extant eschew expunge
enervated evince ephemeral**

1. Obviously he was the kind of man who could _____ an unsatisfactory incident from his memory as if it had never happened, and get on with living in the present.
2. Dr Tehyi Hsieh was known as "the Teddy Roosevelt of China," and he did more than many other Chinese scholars to familiarize westerners with the real story of that oldest of all _____ civilizations -- China, ancient and modern.
3. In days when salesmen wore flash suits and spats, IBM people were directed to dress soberly, _____ strong drink, and go to church.
4. Accusing us of being disloyal to cover his own sorry behavior is truly _____.
5. The Vietnam show is playing to an audience comprised of the generation that was there, and therefore much of the art/entertainment arising out of the Vietnam war seeks to explain or _____, to purge and to apologize.
6. As soon as the good soul knew the real cause of it all, he sacrificed himself generously, took upon himself all the blame of my reserve, and tried to _____ me, but all to no purpose.
7. _____, prostrate, and breathless, he became unconscious of outward objects; he seemed to be entering that vague delirium preceding death.
8. It is _____ that Diane return the poorly fitting blouse before the time allowed expires.
9. Minton, despite the gaiety he stimulated, was never happy: he did not complain or _____ self-pity but he conveyed a bitter acceptance that happiness had eluded him.
10. Habit differs from disposition in this, that while the latter is _____, the former is permanent and difficult to alter.

Set 07

1. **evanescent** [ev-uh-**nes**-uhnt]
(*adj.*) fleeting, momentary (My joy at getting promoted was evanescent because I discovered that I would have to work much longer hours in a less friendly office.)
evanescence (*n.*)
2. **extol** [ik-**stohl**, -**stol**]
(*v.*) to praise, revere (Violet extolled the virtues of a vegetarian diet to her meat-loving brother.)
extolment (*n.*)
3. **fallacious** [fuh-**ley**-shuhs]
(*adj.*) incorrect, misleading (Emily offered me cigarettes on the fallacious assumption that I smoked.)
fallacy (*n.*)
4. **fastidious** [fa-**stid**-ee-uhs]
(*adj.*) meticulous, demanding, having high and often unattainable standards (Mark is so fastidious that he is never able to finish a project because it always seems imperfect to him.)
fastidiousness (*n.*)
5. **fatuous** [fach-oo-uhs]
(*adj.*) silly, foolish (He considers himself a serious poet, but in truth, he only writes fatuous limericks.)
fatuity (*n.*)
6. **fecund** [fek-uhn, **feek**-]
(*adj.*) fruitful, fertile (The fecund tree bore enough apples to last us through the entire season.)
fecundity (*n.*); **fecundate** (*v.*)
7. **feral** [fer-uhl, **feer**-]
(*adj.*) wild, savage (That beast looks so feral that I would fear being alone with it.)
8. **fetid** [fet-id, **feet**-]
(*adj.*) having a foul odor (I can tell from the fetid smell in your refrigerator that your milk has spoiled.)
fetidness (*n.*)
9. **florid** [flor-id]
(*adj.*) flowery, ornate (The writer's florid prose belongs on a sentimental Hallmark card.)
floridness (*n.*); **floridity** (*n.*)
10. **fractious** [frak-shuhs]
(*adj.*) troublesome or irritable (Although the child insisted he wasn't tired, his fractious behavior—especially his decision to crush his cheese and crackers all over the floor—convinced everyone present that it was time to put him to bed.)

Practice Set 7A

**fetid fallacious feral florid extol fastidious evanescent fractious
fatuous fecund**

1. _____ (adj.) fruitful, fertile
2. _____ (v.) to praise, revere
3. _____ (adj.) having a foul odor
4. _____ (adj.) meticulous, demanding
5. _____ (adj.) incorrect, misleading
6. _____ (adj.) fleeting, momentary
7. _____ (adj.) silly, foolish
8. _____ (adj.) wild, savage
9. _____ (adj.) troublesome or irritable
10. _____ (adj.) flowery, ornate

Practice Set 7B

**fatuous fractious extol evanescent Fetid fecund fallacious
florid feral fastidious**

1. If you say that someone is _____, you mean that she pays great attention to detail because she likes everything to be very neat, accurate, and in good order.
2. When you are talking about living things or natural processes, _____ means the same as fertile.
3. If you describe someone as _____, you disapprove of them because they become upset or angry very quickly about small unimportant things.
4. If you describe something as _____, you disapprove of the fact that it is complicated and extravagant rather than plain and simple.
5. If you describe someone or something as _____, you mean that that person or thing seem wild, fierce, and uncontrolled.
6. If you describe an action or remark as _____, you think that it is extremely silly, showing a lack of intelligence or thought.
7. If an idea, argument, or reason is _____, it is wrong because it is based on a fallacy.
8. Something that is _____ quickly disappears from sight or memory.
9. _____ water or air has a very strong unpleasant smell, usually caused by decay.
10. If you _____ someone or something, you praise that person or thing enthusiastically.

Practice Set 7C

**feral fallacious fatuous fetid fractious florid extolled
evanescent fecund fastidious**

1. Mark is so _____ that he is never able to finish a project because it always seems imperfect to him.
2. Her nose twitched to the smell: moldy and _____ like sweaty clothes left to stew in a plastic bag.
3. If your postcards about the trip praise Florida in flowery words, your prose sounds _____.
4. Although the child insisted he wasn't tired, his _____ behavior—especially his decision to crush his cheese and crackers all over the floor—convinced everyone present that it was time to put him to bed.
5. She _____ the virtues of Joe, stressing how hard he had worked.
6. The _____ tree bore enough apples to last us through the entire season.
7. My joy at getting promoted was _____ because I discovered that I would have to work much longer hours in a less friendly office.
8. Emily offered me cigarettes on the _____ assumption that I smoked.
9. He considers himself a serious poet, but in truth, he only writes _____ limericks.
10. Abandoned by their owners, dogs may revert to their _____ state, roaming the woods in packs.

Practice Set 7D

**fatuous fallacious fastidious extolled fractious fetid florid
fecundity evanescent feral**

1. It is _____ to think that putting insect-repelling candles by the edge of a marsh will prevent mosquito bites.
2. If by then you are within five minutes of the end of the examination period don't waste time by writing such _____ remarks as "sorry, no time".
3. Bobby was such a _____ eater that he would eat a sandwich only if his mother first cut off every scrap of crust.
4. The poet-philosopher is an interpreter or translator who turns the things of the moment into the eternal, the _____ into the everlasting.
5. As the rain gradually died away, birds began to fight and squabble like _____ children just allowed out after being cooped up indoors.
6. The room just along the corridor from where the Marshal had been waiting was stuffy and _____ with the smell of old unwashed clothing and mothballs.
7. The _____ of his mind is illustrated by the many vivid images in his poems.
8. If you go to Florida and get a sunburn, your complexion will look _____.
9. Jonathan's jumping into the lake and rescuing the toddler was _____ on all the evening news shows.
10. A _____ cat or other animal is one that lives in a wild state but was once kept as a pet or lived on a farm

Practice Set 7E

**fatuous fecund fractious fetid fastidious extol evanescent
fallacious feral florid**

1. Brandon's satisfaction in his new job was _____, for he immediately began to notice its many drawbacks.
2. Early Mediterranean statues and reliefs depict _____ goddesses with great nourishing breasts, generous hips and bellies ripe with pregnancy, often with serpents entwined sensuously about their bodies.
3. She was completely _____, a tie-dye splash of blood across her front, her fingers bent into claws.
4. We followed him across the street and down crumbling cement stairs into a _____ basement that stank of excrement, a place two feet deep in sodden papers, envelopes, parcels and stained government forms.
5. Usually Artai behaved like a _____ child, his temper uncertain, his demeanor abrupt and discourteous.
6. There were those who found an aesthetic delight in performing dogs; while others exhausted their vocabulary to _____ the distinction of conjurers and trick-cyclists.
7. He was so _____ and prim about his place that a boy would go to a good deal of trouble to throw a dead cat into his back yard, or to dump a sackful of tin cans in his alley.
8. The report that was put to committee by the officers have arguments which I feel are fatuous, _____, erroneous and at best equivocal.
9. Whether that is achieved by a woman on this side or the other side of the House, to talk of women gaining promotion as part of a target number is one of the most stupid and _____ things that anyone could suggest.
10. He was obviously not in the habit of apologizing, and his rather _____ complexion grew even more flushed.

Practice Set 7F

**fractious evanescent fetid fecund fastidious fallacious florid
feral extol fatuous**

1. In times of strong emotion mankind disdain all base considerations; but such times are _____.
2. The duppy is the personification of evil and only capable of malicious acts; at the very least its _____ breath will cause a victim to vomit violently, though it is more often asked to kill via its pernicious touch.
3. There have been a number of recorded cases of children living in the wild and presumed to have been nurtured and reared by animals; such children are often referred to as _____ children.
4. Societies may choose to emphasize the "_____" side of the feminine, by exalting an image of woman that is plump and heavy-breasted, or there may be a preference for a youthful, virginal beauty, with "natural" styles of hair and a slim figure to go with it.
5. Over her head was a _____, curling garland of curious flowers, tulips, auriculas and daffodils, tied with a green bow at each end.
6. It is laudable, what they think hard; what is indispensable and hard they call good; and what relieves in the direst distress, the unique and hardest of all, they _____ as holy.
7. I knew all along that a _____ gentleman like him would not be contented with the thoughts of other people about these matters.
8. Huggy Bear are like a _____ baby, communicating their youthful frustration through noise, abrasive confrontation and complete confusion, screaming out at the unfairness of a world they don't fully comprehend.
9. Paradoxically, _____ reasoning does not always yield erroneous results: even though your logic may be faulty, the answer you get may nevertheless be correct.
10. He is far too intelligent to utter such _____ remarks.

Set 08

1. **garrulous** [gar-uh-luhs]
(*adj.*) talkative, wordy (Some talk-show hosts are so garrulous that their guests can't get a word in edgewise.)
garrulousness (*n.*)
2. **grandiloquence** [gran-dil-uh-kwuhns]
(*n.*) lofty, pompous language (The student thought her grandiloquence would make her sound smart, but neither the class nor the teacher bought it.)
grandiloquent (*adj.*)
3. **gregarious** [gri-gair-ee-uhs]
(*adj.*) drawn to the company of others, sociable (Well, if you're not gregarious, I don't know why you would want to go to a singles party!)
4. **hackneyed** [hak-need]
(*adj.*) unoriginal, trite (A girl can only hear "I love you" so many times before it begins to sound hackneyed and meaningless.)
5. **hapless** [hap-lis]
(*adj.*) unlucky (My poor, hapless family never seems to pick a sunny week to go on vacation.)
haplessness (*n.*)
6. **harangue** [huh-rang]
 1. (*n.*) a ranting speech (Everyone had heard the teacher's harangue about gum chewing in class before.)
 2. (*v.*) to give such a speech (But this time the teacher harangued the class about the importance of brushing your teeth after chewing gum.)
7. **hegemony** [hi-jem-uh-nee, hej-uh-moh-nee]
(*n.*) domination over others (Britain's hegemony over its colonies was threatened once nationalist sentiment began to spread around the world.)
hegemonic (*adj.*)
8. **iconoclast** [ahy-kon-uh-klast]
(*n.*) one who attacks common beliefs or institutions (Jane goes to one protest after another, but she seems to be an iconoclast rather than an activist with a progressive agenda.)
iconoclastic (*adj.*)
9. **ignominious** [ig-nuh-min-ee-uhs]
(*adj.*) humiliating, disgracing (It was really ignominious to be kicked out of the dorm for having an illegal gas stove in my room.)
ignominy (*n.*)
10. **impassive** [im-pas-iv]
(*adj.*) stoic, not susceptible to suffering (Stop being so impassive; it's healthy to cry every now and then.)
impassiveness (*n.*)

Practice Set 8A

**harangue hegemony iconoclast hackneyed hapless gregarious
ignominious garrulous grandiloquence impassive**

1. _____ (n.) lofty, pompous language
2. _____ (n.) a ranting speech; 2. (v.) to give such a speech
3. _____ (adj.) unoriginal, trite
4. _____ (n.) one who attacks common beliefs or institutions
5. _____ (n.) domination over others
6. _____ (adj.) humiliating, disgracing
7. _____ (adj.) unlucky
8. _____ (adj.) talkative, wordy
9. _____ (adj.) drawn to the company of others, sociable
10. _____ (adj.) stoic, not susceptible to suffering

Practice Set 8B

**hegemony hackneyed impassive garrulous harangues gregarious
grandiloquent hapless iconoclast ignominious**

1. _____ language or behavior is very formal, literary, or exaggerated, and is used by people when they want to seem important.
2. If you describe something such as a saying or an image as _____, you think it is no longer likely to interest, amuse or affect people because it has been used, seen, or heard many times before.
3. If you're the type of person who enjoys partying, the odds are favorable that you're _____.
4. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that they talk a great deal, especially about unimportant things.
5. A _____ person is unlucky.
6. _____ is a situation in which one country, organization, or group has more power, control, or importance than others.
7. If you describe someone as an _____, you mean that she often criticizes beliefs and things that are generally accepted by society.
8. If someone is _____ or her face is _____, she is not showing any emotion.
9. If you describe an experience or action as _____, you mean it is embarrassing because it shows a great lack of success.
10. If someone _____ you, she tries to persuade you to accept her opinions or ideas in a forceful way.

Practice Set 8C

**hackneyed hegemony iconoclast grandiloquent garrulous
gregarious impassive ignominious harangue hapless**

1. Sheep are _____ animals and never travel alone if they can help it.
2. Jane goes to one protest after another, but she seems to be an _____ rather than an activist with a progressive agenda.
3. Stop being so _____; it's healthy to cry every now and then.
4. It was really _____ to be kicked out of the dorm for having an illegal gas stove in my room.
5. Britain's _____ over its colonies was threatened once nationalist sentiment began to spread around the world.
6. The sergeant gave the patrol a 20-minute _____ when they failed to be in the first two to finish their exercise.
7. When the reviewer criticized the movie for its _____ plot, we agreed; we had seen similar stories hundreds of times before.
8. The politician could never speak simply; she was always _____.
9. He spoke of himself as a _____, hopeless, helpless male, seven years in thrall to an unknowing, uncaring, unattainable woman.
10. My Uncle Henry is the most _____ person in Cayuga County: he can outtalk anyone I know.

Practice Set 8D

**hackneyed hegemony ignominy iconoclastic garrulous
grandiloquence hapless impassive harangue gregarious**

1. Refusing to let the enemy see how deeply shaken he was by his capture, the prisoner kept his face _____.
2. The student thought her _____ would make her sound smart, but neither the class nor the teacher bought it.
3. The 1930s and 1940s saw the collapse of UK _____ and the consolidation of the United States' _____ over a new international economic system.
4. Some talk-show hosts are so _____ that their guests can't get a word in edgewise.
5. _____ phrases are ones that have been so overused that they have become meaningless, like "a stitch in time saves nine."
6. A _____ is a long, forceful speech that someone makes to try and persuade other people to accept their opinions.
7. Deeply _____, Jean Genet deliberately set out to shock conventional theatergoers with his radical plays.
8. Discarded by the press, the _____ Mrs. Ullman walked slowly back to the Tube station, still reeling from her brief moment of TV fame.
9. Typically, partygoers are _____; hermits are not.
10. The Workers' Coalition experienced the _____ of total defeat in the last election.

Practice Set 8E

**iconoclast ignominious garrulous hackneyed hapless
grandiloquent harangue impassive hegemony gregarious**

1. Edward was naturally _____, always in need of a wide audience of friends.
2. She was so frightened he would walk out of her life again that she sank to _____ depths to keep him close to her.
3. Her speech was full of _____ language, but it contained no new ideas.
4. Most company sales meetings are dominated by _____ persons who love to hear themselves speak.
5. Hywel seemed to her like some _____ creature in a story, spellbound by despair, made powerless by circumstance, trapped by a ruthless magic.
6. A girl can only hear "I love you" so many times before it begins to sound _____ and meaningless.
7. Contemporary realists have countenanced single-power domination, or _____, by the United States, whose role, when appropriately exercised, is to maintain global stability.
8. Everyone had heard the teacher's _____ about gum chewing in class before.
9. Knefhausen kept his face _____, although his heart was filled with glee.
10. Cage was an _____; he refused to be bound by western musical traditions of harmony and structure.

Practice Set 8F

**grandiloquence iconoclasts hapless ignominious gregarious
impassive hackneyed harangued garrulous hegemony**

1. Charles Dickens come back, there is plenty of material for a new novel about pitiless employers and _____ employees.
2. When at last she spoke, she did so simply and directly, for although the moment was solemn, and although it was probably historic as well, these were not creatures who would react favorably to _____.
3. Power corrupts and absolute power absolutely corrupts; that's the old _____ phrase, but it's true.
4. The campaign which Mortimer now led in Scotland turned out to be an _____ fiasco.
5. Iraq was the only Arab state capable of challenging Israel's military _____ over the Middle East, therefore Iraq's military power had to be destroyed in order to restore the status quo.
6. The first difference between them is that crows are usually solitary or in pairs, while rooks are _____.
7. Stephen made no reply, and it was impossible for her to tell what he was thinking behind his _____ face.
8. To evolutionists, creationists can seem to be _____ who seek to destroy the theories of evolution; the reverse is seen by the creationists.
9. From being a painfully shy, diffident recluse, he suddenly metamorphosed into a _____ and sometimes painfully overbearing extrovert.
10. The coach _____ the kicker for 15 minutes for having missed the field goal.

Set 09

1. **imperious** [im-**peer**-ee-uhs]
(*adj.*) commanding, domineering (The imperious nature of your manner led me to dislike you at once.)
imperiousness (*n.*)
2. **impertinent** [im-**pur**-tn-uhnt]
(*adj.*) rude, insolent (Most of your comments are so impertinent that I don't wish to dignify them with an answer.)
impertinence (*n.*)
3. **impervious** [im-**pur**-vee-uhs]
(*adj.*) impenetrable, incapable of being affected (Because of their thick layer of fur, many seals are almost impervious to the cold.)
imperviousness (*n.*)
4. **impetuous** [im-**pech**-oo-uhs]
(*adj.*) rash; hastily done (Hilda's hasty slaying of the king was an impetuous, thoughtless action.)
5. **impinge** [im-**pinj**]
 1. (*v.*) to impact, affect, make an impression (The hail impinged the roof, leaving large dents.)
 2. (*v.*) to encroach, infringe (I apologize for impinging upon you like this, but I really need to use your bathroom. Now.)**impingement** (*n.*)
6. **implacable** [im-**plak**-uh-buhl], -**pley**-kuh-]
(*adj.*) incapable of being appeased or mitigated (Watch out: Once you shun Grandma's cooking, she is totally implacable.)
implacability (*n.*)
7. **inchoate** [in-**koh**-it, -eyt]
(*adj.*) unformed or formless, in a beginning stage (The country's government is still inchoate and, because it has no great tradition, quite unstable.)
inchoateness (*n.*)
8. **incontrovertible** [in-kon-truh-**vur**-tuh-buhl]
(*adj.*) indisputable (Only stubborn Tina would attempt to disprove the incontrovertible laws of physics.)
9. **indefatigable** [in-di-**fat**-i-guh-buhl]
(*adj.*) incapable of defeat, failure, decay (Even after traveling 62 miles, the indefatigable runner kept on moving.)
10. **ineffable** [in-**ef**-uh-buhl]
(*adj.*) unspeakable, incapable of being expressed through words (It is said that the experience of playing with a dolphin is ineffable and can only be understood through direct encounter.)

Practice Set 9A

incontrovertible ineffable impetuous impinge indefatigable
inchoate impertinent imperious implacable impervious

1. _____ (adj.) rude, insolent
2. _____ (adj.) incapable of defeat, failure, decay
3. _____ (adj.) rash; hastily done
4. _____ 1. (v.) to impact, affect; 2. (v.) to encroach, infringe
5. _____ (adj.) impenetrable, incapable of being affected
6. _____ (adj.) incapable of being appeased or mitigated
7. _____ (adj.) indisputable
8. _____ (adj.) unspeakable, indescribable
9. _____ (adj.) unformed or formless, in a beginning stage
10. _____ (adj.) commanding, domineering

Practice Set 9B

impertinent indefatigable inchoate impinges ineffable impervious
impetuous implacable Incontrovertible imperious

1. If you are _____ to someone's actions, you are not affected or influenced by them.
2. If someone talks or behaves in a rather impolite and disrespectful way, you can say that she is being _____.
3. _____ evidence or facts are absolutely certain and cannot be shown to be wrong.
4. You use _____ to describe someone who never gets tired of doing something.
5. If something is _____, it is recent or new, and vague or not yet properly developed.
6. If you say that someone is _____, you mean that she has very strong feelings of hostility or disapproval which nobody can change.
7. Something that _____ on you affects you to some extent.
8. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that she has a proud manner and expect to be obeyed.
9. You use _____ to say that something is so great or extreme that it cannot be described in words.
10. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that she is likely to act quickly and suddenly without thinking or being careful.

Practice Set 9C

**indefatigable imperious implacable impinge impetuous
impertinent impervious inchoate ineffable incontrovertible**

1. Most of your comments are so _____ that I don't wish to dignify them with an answer.
2. Mary's oak tree has begun to _____ on her neighbors' property and is threatening their roof.
3. When Vic's car broke down 10 miles after he had left the repair shop, his anger was _____.
4. It is said that the experience of playing with a dolphin is _____ and can only be understood through direct encounter.
5. Hilda's hasty slaying of the king was an _____, thoughtless action.
6. Because of their thick layer of fur, many seals are almost _____ to the cold.
7. Jane rather liked a man to be masterful, but Mr. Rochester seemed so bent on getting his own way that he was actually _____!
8. Only stubborn Tina would attempt to disprove the _____ laws of physics.
9. The country's government is still _____ and, because it has no great tradition, quite unstable.
10. Although the effort of taking out the garbage tired Wayne out for the entire morning, when it came to partying, he was _____.

Practice Set 9D

**impetuous inchoate impertinent indefatigable ineffable impervious
implacable incontrovertible imperious impinge**

1. His neighbors' _____ curiosity about his lack of dates angered Ted; it was downright rude of them to ask him such personal questions.
2. There were signs of an _____, a peremptory temper, an egotism that was strong and hard.
3. The senator's _____ efforts have finally succeeded in passing a bill of rights for rabbits.
4. If Frederick, when he comes of age, sees that he has been deprived of the empire by the Roman Church, he will become its _____ enemy.
5. Looking down at her newborn daughter, Ruth felt such _____ joy that, for the first time in her adult life, she had no words to convey what was in her heart.
6. A six-week-old fetus is _____ in its development.
7. The carpet salesman told Simone that his most expensive brand of floor covering was warranted to be _____ to ordinary wear and tear.
8. Buddy was _____ when he suddenly joined the army, and he had two years to reflect on the act.
9. Personal problems experienced by students may _____ on their work.
10. Unless you find the evidence against my client absolutely _____, you must declare her not guilty of this charge.

Practice Set 9E

**impetuous ineffable incontrovertible indefatigable inchoate
impervious impinge impertinent implacable imperious**

1. Jack was expelled from school for being _____ with his teachers and with the school administrators.
2. After the _____ beginning, he would puzzle them by turning out staid and cautious.
3. He will be remembered for his _____ work, for his great integrity, for his diplomacy, and for his never failing courtesy.
4. Whatever your opinion, the _____ fact is that Sinead O'Connor is a woman of great passion and conviction, an absolute believer that truth will triumph over lies, right over wrong, love over hate.
5. It is a paradox that even though mystics insist that their experiences are radically _____, many of the great mystics have felt compelled to write them down and to try to communicate them to others.
6. We experience the world in virtue of the fact that the contents of the world _____ on us.
7. Governments, whether elected or not, who attempt large-scale improvements in the conditions of the poor and exploited will run headlong into the _____ opposition of the rich and privileged
8. Mrs. Thatcher herself remained an _____ figure, respected, perhaps feared, but rarely viewed with affection.
9. Sister Cas., in general, was _____ to masculine charm, and yet she mellowed visibly as General Francis apologized for his presence.
10. What the Firearms Act provides is a series of _____ or preventive offenses which criminalize conduct even before it has reached the stage of an attempt to commit some substantive offense.

Practice Set 9F

**impertinent implacable indefatigably imperious inchoate impinge
ineffable impervious impetuous incontrovertible**

1. He was at a loss to describe the sky, its lilac whiteness, so _____ above him that it was like a secret waiting to be deciphered, reflecting everything and seeping into the thin mist on the ground.
2. If it hadn't been an important point of principle not to let the damn _____ man get away with his nauseating behavior, she'd have let the whole thing drop.
3. She worked _____ and enthusiastically to interest the young in music.
4. Though the machine has its critics and it seems clear that not everybody can adjust to its speed and voraciousness, one _____ fact emerges: the machine can generate wealth of such volume as the world has never dreamed.
5. Even his friends concede that Pillsbury can be difficult, being something of a diva, hot-tempered and _____.
6. As yet my understanding of this was _____, but I never for a moment doubted that, while I might work hard and comprehend these studies quite thoroughly, the true meaning of my life lay somewhere else.
7. We are the product of historical, biological, psychological, economic and social factors which interact, cluster and _____ on our lives sequentially
8. Operation Rescue was an organization notorious for its confrontational tactics and its _____ opposition to abortion under all circumstances.
9. Bank managers tend to be far from _____ in putting their own money at risk and Mr Cowdrill was suitably cautious before investing his cash.
10. The whole Steam Tank is protected by a thick armored skin, making it immune to fire from arrows and light missiles and _____ to blows from most warriors.

Set 10

1. **impudent** [im-pyuh-duhnt]
(*adj.*) casually rude, insolent, impertinent (The impudent young man looked the princess up and down and told her she was hot even though she hadn't asked him.)
impudence (*n.*)
2. **inexorable** [in-ek-ser-uh-buhl]
(*adj.*) 1. incapable of being persuaded or placated (Although I begged for hours, Mom was inexorable and refused to let me stay out all night after the prom.)
2. (of a process) that cannot be stopped or changed.
3. **ingenuous** [in-jen-yoo-uhs]
(*adj.*) not devious; innocent and candid (He must have writers, but his speeches seem so ingenuous it's hard to believe he's not speaking from his own heart.)
ingenuousness (*n.*)
4. **inimical** [i-nim-i-kuhl]
(*adj.*) hostile (I don't see how I could ever work for a company that was so cold and inimical to me during my interviews.)
5. **iniquity** [i-nik-wi-tee]
(*n.*) wickedness or sin ("Your iniquity," said the priest to the practical joker, "will be forgiven.")
iniquitous (*adj.*)
6. **insidious** [in-sid-ee-uhs]
(*adj.*) appealing but imperceptibly harmful, seductive (Lisa's insidious chocolate cake tastes so good but makes you feel so sick later on!)
insidiousness (*n.*)
7. **intransigent** [in-tran-si-juhnt]
(*adj.*) refusing to compromise, often on an extreme opinion (The intransigent child said he would have 12 scoops of ice cream or he would bang his head against the wall until his mother fainted from fear.)
intransigence (*n.*)
8. **inure** [in-yoor]
(*v.*) to cause someone or something to become accustomed to a situation (Twenty years in the salt mines inured the man to the discomforts of dirt and grime.)
9. **invective** [in-vek-tiv]
(*n.*) an angry verbal attack (My mother's irrational invective against the way I dress only made me decide to dye my hair green.)
10. **inveterate** [in-vet-er-it]
(*adj.*) stubbornly established by habit (I'm the first to admit that I'm an inveterate coffee drinker—I drink four cups a day.)

Practice Set 10A

**inure inveterate iniquity inexorable inimical insidious invective
intransigent ingenuous impudent**

1. _____ (adj.) incapable of being persuaded or placated
2. _____ (v.) to cause someone to become accustomed to a situation
3. _____ (adj.) hostile
4. _____ (adj.) stubbornly established by habit
5. _____ (n.) wickedness or sin
6. _____ (adj.) appealing but imperceptibly harmful, seductive
7. _____ (adj.) refusing to compromise, often on an extreme opinion
8. _____ (n.) an angry verbal attack
9. _____ (adj.) not devious; innocent and candid
10. _____ (adj.) casually rude, insolent, impertinent

Practice Set 10B

**inexorable inimical iniquitous Invective inured insidious
ingenuous inveterate intransigent impudent**

1. Conditions that are _____ to something make it difficult for that thing to exist or do well.
2. You use _____ to describe a process which cannot be prevented from continuing or progressing.
3. If you become _____ to something unpleasant, you become familiar with it and able to accept and bear it.
4. If you describe something as _____, you mean that it is very unfair or morally bad.
5. If you describe someone as _____, you mean she is rude or disrespectful, or does something she has no right to do.
6. _____ is rude and unpleasant things that people shout at people they hate or are angry with.
7. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that she is innocent, trusting, and honest.
8. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that she refuses to behave differently or to change her attitude to something.
9. Something that is _____ is unpleasant or dangerous and develops gradually without being noticed.
10. If you describe someone as, for example, an _____ liar or smoker, you mean that she has lied or smoked for a long time and is not likely to stop doing it.

Practice Set 10C

**inured intransigent ingenuous inveterate inimical insidious
invective iniquitous impudent inexorability**

1. My mother's irrational _____ against the way I dress only made me decide to dye my hair green.
2. The _____ child said he would have 12 scoops of ice cream or he would bang his head against the wall until his mother fainted from fear.
3. Whether or not King Richard III was responsible for the murder of the two young princes in the Tower, it was an _____ deed.
4. I'm the first to admit that I'm an _____ coffee drinker—I drink four cups a day.
5. Lisa's _____ chocolate cake tastes so good but makes you feel so sick later on!
6. I don't see how I could ever work for a company that was so cold and _____ to me during my interviews.
7. He must have writers, but his speeches seem so _____ it's hard to believe he's not speaking from his own heart.
8. The reader might have come away with a Victorian idea of the _____ of progress, each generation better, finer and braver than its parents.
9. The _____ young man looked the princess up and down and told her she was hot even though she hadn't asked him.
10. Twenty years in the salt mines _____ the man to the discomforts of dirt and grime.

Practice Set 10D

**inured insidious intransigence inveterate ingenuous inimical
iniquity inexorable invective impudent**

1. You can refer to wicked actions or very unfair situations as _____.
2. After spending some time on the island they became _____ to the hardships.
3. After listening to the pleas for clemency, the judge was _____ and gave the convicted man the maximum punishment allowed by law.
4. The changes are _____, and will not produce a noticeable effect for 15 to 20 years.
5. They did not look like the kind of people she usually associated with but seemed _____, common, even savage, and with truculent, peevish faces.
6. An _____ smoker, Bob cannot seem to break the habit, no matter how hard he tries.
7. Some of them spoke pleasantly and were well behaved, while others were _____ and insulting.
8. It is not considered appropriate to use _____ when traveling in polite circles.
9. The negotiating team had not expected such _____ from the striking workers, who rejected any hint of a compromise.
10. It is no accident that the _____ and unpretentious Lady Clavering should have left to professionals the task of deciding what is, and what is not, good taste.

Practice Set 10E

**inimical invective inexorable ingenuous inured iniquitous
inveterate impudent intransigence insidious**

1. Hubbard was a florid, red-whiskered little man, whose admiration for art was considerably tempered by the _____ impecuniosity of most of the artists who dealt with him.
2. He let out a stream of _____, but the placid face before him took both spittle and spleen without flinching.
3. Steven was _____ in his support for universal medical coverage, despite all who argued against it.
4. The summit also called for an end to the deadlock in Iran-Iraq peace talks, which it blamed on the "persistently negative stance and _____" of Iran.
5. The woodsman had not realized how _____ Little Red Riding Hood was until he heard that she had gone off for a walk in the woods with the Big Bad Wolf.
6. Although the inhalation of mercury vapor and dust is an obvious hazard, there is another danger that is potentially more long lasting and _____.
7. He just lay there and he quietly slipped away -- most unlike himself because he was normally such a noisy, _____ chap.
8. The bill raised strong opposition from the media, and the Press Council of India described it as inherently _____ to the freedom of the press.
9. Certainly smuggling is monstrous and _____, and we are indeed fortunate to have stamped it out at last.
10. Mary took no notice of his flattering words: she was largely -- though not wholly -- _____ against compliments.

Practice Set 10F

**ingenuous insidious inveterate impudent inexorable iniquitous
intransigent inimical inured invective**

1. Despite his _____ experiments and opinions, Chapman was highly regarded by the FA, which often sought his advice on domestic and international matters.
2. The look in his eyes told her quite clearly he didn't believe a word of it, and she struggled to maintain a bland, _____ expression on her own features, wondering if even he could be cruel enough to brand her a liar.
3. The model of the tap and the glass explains that for some people their first experience of anxiety symptoms was not caused by any specific frightful encounter but rather by the _____, unapparent build-up of stress, one drop at a time.
4. Study of the religious story shows that it has always been organized religion which has eventually retreated before the _____ advance of science, and religious leaders should acknowledge that this retreat provides the living proof of the falsity of their position.
5. Now, suddenly, a jay looks down from a hiding place in a lichen oak and slips away without breaking the silence: stealthy, cunning, typical of the _____ egg thief.
6. It is perhaps surprising that Mr Lamont did not do something to stop the _____ practice of large firms delaying due payments to small firms, which has put many of the latter into serious difficulty.
7. Corporal punishment did not address the causes of bad behavior, caused resentment among older pupils in particular, and was _____ to the quality of relationships between teachers and pupils upon which good behavior is based.
8. There was still a long way to go, for the _____ opposition not only refused to give way but put intense private pressure on Paul to reject this pernicious doctrine of collegiality.
9. Using _____ when speaking of people never won anybody new friends.
10. It is probable that plague remained a constant threat, even if it is less well recorded in contemporary writings than at an earlier date; probably men were more _____ to its presence than they had been in the first shock of 1348.

Review of Sets 6 – 10

1. He will be as indefatigable in defending our historical edifices as our _____ of the schools and academies are eager in attacking them
 - (a) inchoation
 - (b) iconoclasts
 - (c) implacability
 - (d) hegemony
2. My discovery of the ring behind the dresser _____ me from the charge of having stolen it.
 - (a) expiated
 - (b) inchoated
 - (c) expunged
 - (d) exculpated
3. Mrs Thatcher herself remained an _____ figure, respected, perhaps feared, but rarely viewed with affection.
 - (a) impervious
 - (b) imperious
 - (c) impetuous
 - (d) insidious
4. The eight corpses swung in their chains, a _____, blackened, hideous, and indistinguishable mass.
 - (a) fecund
 - (b) feral
 - (c) fetid
 - (d) florid
5. The gentleman with the gray whiskers was obviously an _____ adherent of serfdom and a devoted agriculturist, who had lived all his life in the country.
 - (a) fecund
 - (b) inveterate
 - (c) enervated
 - (d) impassive
6. When the generations overlap, and when the insect is _____, the juveniles are often infected and infection passes freely between juveniles and adults.
 - (a) fractious
 - (b) gregarious
 - (c) fallacious
 - (d) gracious
7. To them, his gracious manners only draped his lies; his amiable protestations and _____ courtesies, new to the foolish and ignorant, too plainly showed their texture to an observing mind.
 - (a) hackneyed
 - (b) fractious
 - (c) garrulous
 - (d) gregarious
8. _____, prostrate, and breathless, he became unconscious of outward objects; he seemed to be entering that vague delirium preceding death.
 - (a) Evince
 - (b) Enervate
 - (c) Expiate
 - (d) Extol
9. When at last she spoke, she did so simply and directly, for although the moment was solemn, and although it was probably historic as well, these were not creatures who would react favorably to _____.
 - (a) iniquity
 - (b) grandiloquence
 - (c) fallacy
 - (d) invective
10. Her lips trembled into a smile, but the eyes remained distant and serious, as if bent on some _____ vision.
 - (a) inexorable
 - (b) implacable
 - (c) hackneyed
 - (d) ineffable
11. The prosecution of them, for this reason, will seldom fail to agitate the passions of the whole community, and to divide it into parties more or less friendly or _____ to the accused.
 - (a) inimical

- (b) fatuous
(c) insidious
(d) iniquitous
12. She forced herself to _____ most of her beloved descriptions, though it took three re-writings before the story could be pruned down to please the fastidious Harrison.
(a) extol
(b) expunge
(c) impinge
(d) enervate
13. Their maturity and intelligence have been two vital possessions for survival in a business that is often _____.
(a) florid
(b) fatuous
(c) evanescent
(d) fecund
14. In order to _____ the sin of avarice, which was my undoing, I oblige each passer-by to give me a blow.
(a) expunge
(b) expiate
(c) harangue
(d) impinge
15. They demand a wide range of special arrangements for their children: single-sex schools for adolescents, special school-uniforms and halal meals, and science courses which _____ references to Darwinism and evolution.
(a) eschew
(b) impinge
(c) extol
(d) inure
16. My dear Marianne, as it has already exposed you to some very _____ remarks, do you not now begin to doubt the discretion of your own conduct?
(a) impervious
(b) impertinent
(c) imperious
(d) indefatigable
17. The old Squire was an _____ man: he made resolutions in violent anger, and he was not to be moved from them after his anger had subsided-- as fiery volcanic matters cool and harden into rock.
(a) impassive
(b) ineffable
(c) implacable
(d) ineffable
18. Cave explorers, always _____ in their search for holes in the ground, have discovered several apertures in the beds of the streams coming down from Barbon High Fell, many of them admitting to underground passages and caves attained only by arduous effort.
(a) fetid
(b) indefatigable
(c) imperious
(d) ineffable
19. As horribly addictive, unhealthy and expensive as the tobacco habit is, cigarettes have been part of the culture for so long that it's easy to become _____ to seeing stacks of packs and accompanying ads at convenience stores.
(a) feral
(b) fecund
(c) florid
(d) inured
20. As yet my understanding of the subject was _____, but I never for a moment doubted that, while I might work hard and comprehend these studies quite thoroughly, the true meaning of my life lay somewhere else.
(a) enervated
(b) inveterate
(c) iniquitous
(d) inchoate
21. He was a man whose personal life, though occasionally _____, never became a siren song.
(a) extant
(b) exigent

- (c) ineffable
(d) hapless
22. Her imagination, which often inconvenienced her in this way, began to suggest that, naturally, this remote valley would be the haunt of rabid, starving packs of _____ dogs.
(a) feral
(b) fecund
(c) florid
(d) iconoclastic
23. It was Anne's turn in the car, driving the five _____ and argumentative children from the neighbourhood to St Michael's, three miles away.
(a) garrulous
(b) insidious
(c) inchoate
(d) impassive
24. They praised his valor, and his deeds of bravery they judged with praise, even as it is fitting that a man should _____ his friendly lord, should love him in his soul, when he must depart from the body to become of naught.
(a) impinge
(b) extol
(c) harangue
(d) eschew
25. When the sedition had proceeded from causes which had inflamed the resentments of the major party, they might often be found obstinate and _____, when policy demanded a conduct of forbearance and clemency.
(a) execrable
(b) inchoate
(c) inexorable
(d) ineffable
26. What is remarkable is how _____ a government can be to changing public opinion when insulated from the threat of political defeat by a substantial parliamentary majority.
(a) impervious
(b) impetuous
(c) impertinent
(d) imperious
27. "Trying to scare Ukraine is _____ and fruitless," he declared.
(a) exigent
(b) inured
(c) fetid
(d) impudent
28. It is easy for a well-fed English-woman like myself to shake with anger about the futility of war, to protest about the _____ of racial prejudice and to deplore the helplessness of little people in the face of vast political forces fighting for power.
(a) grandiloquence
(b) iniquity
(c) impertinence
(d) inchoation
29. He was restless, fearless, but of _____ and sometimes ungovernable temper.
(a) impervious
(b) imperious
(c) impetuous
(d) ingenuous
30. The water moistened a small swale that lay beneath the spot, which yielded, in return for the _____ gift, a scanty growth of grass.
(a) florid
(b) fetid
(c) feral
(d) fecund
31. The Chesterfield, which stood, as Don had last seen it, in the middle of the room, waiting to go somewhere, was now plumply buttoned in the most _____ of Sanderson prints.
(a) feral
(b) fecund
(c) florid
(d) fetid
32. It is no accident that the _____ and unpretentious Lady Clavering should have left to professionals the task of deciding what is, and what is not, good taste.

- (a) insidious
(b) ingenuous
(c) impetuous
(d) imperious
33. It is strange that a man so exact and _____ could have made this error.
(a) fallacious
(b) fatuous
(c) insidious
(d) fastidious
34. Your Minister may perhaps be good as a Minister, but as a general he is not merely bad but _____, yet to him is entrusted the fate of our whole country.
(a) execrable
(b) ineffable
(c) fetid
(d) feral
35. When he is eventually hounded out of America and into exile by J Edgar Hoover (Kevin Dunn) it is an _____ end to his career.
(a) ignominious
(b) insidious
(c) ingenuous
(d) gregarious
36. I was always regarded as THE child, and the pet of the family: father, mother, and sister, all combined to spoil me, not by foolish indulgence, to render me _____ and ungovernable, but by ceaseless kindness, to make me too helpless and dependent.
(a) fractious
(b) hackneyed
(c) fallacious
(d) fatuous
37. Because of its incorporation into the 'history' of mankind it led to totally _____ ideas which even today unwittingly mislead many Marxists.
(a) fractious
(b) fastidious
(c) fallacious
(d) hackneyed
38. Not until the late sixteenth century, under the warlords Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi, was the country unified under a single military _____, and this was only achieved by building on a series of successful military alliances.
(a) evanescence
(b) grandiloquence
(c) implacability
(d) hegemony
39. I have looked at the question in all its bearings, I have resolutely attacked it, and by _____ calculations I find that a projectile endowed with an initial velocity of 12,000 yards per second, and aimed at the moon, must necessarily reach it.
(a) incontrovertible
(b) insidious
(c) inveterate
(d) inexorable
40. And as far as the child is concerned, it is the mother's behavior that will _____ on him, and not some abstract concept.
(a) evince
(b) impinge
(c) expunge
(d) expiate
41. If you are _____, or are determined to stick to the letter of your contract come what may, you could be in for a rude awakening.
(a) impassive
(b) exigent
(c) impertinent
(d) intransigent
42. They are great gossips, the men as much as the women, whispering behind raised hands, then bursting into sudden excesses of rage with wildly waving hands, flashing eyes, curled lips spitting torrents of _____.
(a) impassion
(b) exculpation

- (c) enervation
(d) invective
43. To me, they are highly underrated -- they are a band who write tuneful songs and have a very good line-up, despite what Ian Cheek thinks of 'Scott Reynolds' _____ inability to sing in anything other than a monotone shout'.
(a) fatuous
(b) expiative
(c) impudent
(d) hapless
44. Apart from all transitory passions and the _____ results of mortal love, the song of the Taoist lover soars unstained, untrammelled.
(a) feral
(b) ephemeral
(c) inveterate
(d) execrable
45. Helena has existed as an island from a very remote epoch: some obscure proofs, however, of the elevation of the land are still _____.
(a) extant
(b) execrable
(c) exigent
(d) expiative
46. If by then you are within five minutes of the end of the examination period don't waste time by writing such _____ remarks as "sorry, no time".
(a) garrulous
(b) hackneyed
(c) fatuous
(d) fractious
47. Hilly country, ponds surrounded by aquatic grass, and woods with thick undergrowth must be carefully searched because these are places where men in ambush or _____ spies are likely to be lurking.
(a) fastidious
(b) ignominious
(c) imperious
(d) insidious
48. Her _____ face showed no sign of reaction and he leaned closer to emphasize the importance of his news.
(a) implacable
(b) garrulous
(c) impassive
(d) florid
49. It was truly refreshing to hear such a sermon, after being so long accustomed to the dry, prosy discourses of the former curate, and the still less edifying _____ of the rector.
(a) exculpations
(b) fetidness
(c) implacability
(d) harangues
50. These men pressed close to the wall to let Pierre and Anna Mikhaylovna pass and did not _____ the least surprise at seeing them there.
(a) expiate
(b) impinge
(c) expunge
(d) evince

Set 11

1. **jubilant** [joo-buh-luhnt]
(*adj.*) extremely joyful, happy (The crowd was jubilant when the firefighter carried the woman from the flaming building.)
jubilance (*n.*)
2. **juxtaposition** [juhk-stuh-puh-zish-uhnt]
(*n.*) the act of placing two things next to each other for implicit comparison (The interior designer admired my juxtaposition of the yellow couch and green table.)
juxtapose (*v.*)
3. **laconic** [luh-kon-ik]
(*adj.*) terse in speech or writing (The author's laconic style has won him many followers who dislike wordiness.)
laconism (*n.*)
4. **languid** [lang-gwid]
(*adj.*) sluggish from fatigue or weakness (In the summer months, the great heat makes people languid and lazy.)
languidness (*n.*)
5. **largess** [lahr-jes, lahr-jis]
(*n.*) the generous giving of lavish gifts (My boss demonstrated great largess by giving me a new car.)
6. **latent** [leyt-nt]
(*adj.*) hidden, but capable of being exposed (Sigmund's dream represented his latent paranoid obsession with other people's shoes.)
latency (*n.*)
7. **legerdemain** [lej-er-duh-meyn]
(*n.*) deception, slight-of-hand (Smuggling the French plants through customs by claiming that they were fake was a remarkable bit of legerdemain.)
8. **licentious** [lahy-sen-shuhs]
(*adj.*) displaying a lack of moral or legal restraints (Marilee has always been fascinated by the licentious private lives of politicians.)
licentiousness (*n.*)
9. **limpid** [lim-pid]
(*adj.*) clear, transparent (Mr. Johnson's limpid writing style greatly pleased readers who disliked complicated novels.)
limpidity (*n.*); **limpidness** (*n.*)
10. **maelstrom** [meyl-struhm]
(*n.*) a destructive whirlpool which rapidly sucks in objects (Little did the explorers know that as they turned the next bend of the calm river a vicious maelstrom would catch their boat.)

Practice Set 11A

**maelstrom jubilant limpid languid laconic latent legerdemain
juxtaposition licentious largess**

1. _____(n.) a destructive whirlpool which rapidly sucks in objects
2. _____(adj.) extremely joyful, happy
3. _____(adj.) terse in speech or writing
4. _____(adj.) sluggish from fatigue or weakness
5. _____(adj.) clear, transparent
6. _____(n.) deception, slight-of-hand
7. _____(n.) the act of placing two things next to each other
8. _____(adj.) displaying a lack of moral or legal restraints
9. _____(n.) the generous giving of lavish gifts
10. _____(adj.) hidden, but capable of being exposed

Practice Set 11B

**juxtaposition languid laconic maelstrom jubilant legerdemain
latent largess licentious limpid**

1. _____ is sleight of hand or a show of skill or deceitful cleverness.
2. The _____ of two contrasting objects, images, or ideas is the fact that they are placed together or described together, so that the differences between them are emphasized.
3. If you describe a situation as a _____, you mean that it is very confused or violent.
4. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that she shows little energy or interest and is very slow and casual in her movements
5. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that she uses very few words to say something, so that she seems casual or unfriendly.
6. If you are _____, you feel extremely happy because of a success.
7. _____ is used to describe something which is hidden and not obvious at the moment, but which may develop further in the future.
8. If you describe a person as _____, you mean that she is very immoral, especially in her sexual behavior.
9. If you say that something is _____, you mean that it is very clear and transparent.
10. _____ is a generous gift of money or a generous act of kindness.

Practice Set 11C

**latent jubilant licentious laconic juxtaposition maelstrom languid
largess legerdemain limpid**

1. Unscrupulously seducing the daughter of his host, Don Juan felt no qualms about the immorality of his _____ behavior.
2. We could see swarms of colorful tropical fish in the _____ waters of the peaceful cove.
3. The author's _____ style has won him many followers who dislike wordiness.
4. My boss demonstrated great _____ by giving me a new car.
5. Little did the explorers know that as they turned the next bend of the calm river a vicious _____ would catch their boat.
6. In the summer months, the great heat makes people _____ and lazy.
7. Words that modify other words should be placed in _____ to the words they modify.
8. The crowd was _____ when the firefighter carried the woman from the flaming building.
9. Smuggling the French plants through customs by claiming that they were fake was a remarkable bit of _____.
10. Learning is not always used as soon as it is acquired: Edward Tolman gave experimental evidence for this _____ learning.

Practice Set 11D

**juxtapose latent limpid legerdemain maelstrom languid jubilant
largess licentious laconic**

1. The trial itself was shot full of _____, prearranged to lead the jury astray.
2. If you _____ two contrasting objects, images, or ideas, you place them together or describe them together, so that the differences between them are emphasized.
3. Ian's interest in mathematics is lacking and can best be described as _____.
4. We're trying to bring out the _____ artistic talents that many people possess without realizing it.
5. We were all being swept into a _____ of energy which was beyond anyone's ability to control or even explain.
6. As he illustrates, in Harsnett's case the theater was a symbolically charged zone of pollution, disease, and _____ entertainment.
7. Ferdinand was _____ after making an impressive comeback from a month on the injured list.
8. Many of the characters portrayed by Clint Eastwood are _____ types: strong men of few words.
9. The money for this _____ would presumably come from Russia, which keeps Mr Najibullah supplied with arms and food.
10. If you describe speech, writing, or music as _____, you like it because it is clear, simple and flowing.

Practice Set 11E

**languid jubilant legerdemain laconic maelstrom licentious
largess latent juxtaposition limpid**

1. In the center of the eastern side of the Place, rose a heavy and hybrid construction, formed of three buildings placed in _____.
2. His mother remained asleep, with one long arm across her Androsia print dress, a knee drawn up and fallen away, _____.
3. In the 1930s, the Supreme Court began to widen its interpretation of free speech to include writings and films of little or no artistic merit, provided they did not include "_____" speech, the forms of which were listed in 1942 as libel, slander, insulting or "fighting" words, and obscenity.
4. His departure gave rise to widespread public rejoicing, as Panamanian citizens joined US troops in _____ street celebrations.
5. He had prosecuted his studies, also, under a traveling sage who united the mysteries of medicine with magic and _____.
6. Troubles had certainly brought out in him virtues which might otherwise have remained _____.
7. Levin was struck by this transition from the confused, verbose discussion with Pestsov and his brother to this _____, clear, almost wordless communication of the most complex ideas.
8. With an effort she struggled to the surface of the emotions that, like a bubbling _____, threatened to pull her under.
9. Archer's New York tolerated hypocrisy in private relations; but in business matters it exacted a _____ and impeccable honesty.
10. Minton's _____ was attractive: Bernard still recollects how, at a time when he was earning £2 10s a week, in a timber yard off Greek Street, Minton astonished him with a gift of £10, in effect a month's wages.

Practice Set 11F

**licentious legerdemain limpid maelstrom languidly jubilant
largess latent laconic juxtaposition**

1. The court can and will ignore sham transactions or the creation of magical and non-existent losses or expenditure by a series of carefully contrived steps in a process of fiscal _____.
2. He is all that is worst in the aristocracy: profligate, _____ and godless.
3. In a different mood, Edgar Allan Poe's The Descent into the _____ grips the throat by being not so much about a giant whirlpool but human fear, again breaking the editor's rule.
4. The clear streams and running brooks yielded their savory _____ waters in noble abundance.
5. Like most men of action, he is _____ in speech, and sinks readily into his own thoughts, but he is always quick to answer a question or join in a conversation, talking in a queer, jerky, half-humorous fashion.
6. He lifted his hands feebly and, leaning forward, dropped them _____ on the blanket in front of him.
7. From this day she forced herself to take pains to avoid him--never allowing herself, as formerly, to remain long in his company, even if their _____ were purely accidental.
8. He remembered how he had exulted, how _____, even intoxicated, he had felt when he had received the ten dollars for the first load of wheat he had hauled to Fort Scott.
9. Contested elections were expensive, not merely in bribes or gifts to electors, but also in the distribution of _____ to the vast mass of the population whose frustrations could result in violence.
10. Calm, gentle, passionless, as he appeared, there was yet, we fear, a quiet depth of malice, hitherto _____, but active now, in this unfortunate old man, which led him to imagine a more intimate revenge than any mortal had ever wreaked upon an enemy.

Set 12

1. **magnanimous** [mag-nan-uh-muhs]
(*adj.*) noble, generous (Although I had already broken most of her dishes, Jacqueline was magnanimous enough to continue letting me use them.)
magnanimity (*n.*)
2. **malediction** [mal-i-dik-shuhn]
(*n.*) a curse (When I was arrested for speeding, I screamed maledictions against the policeman and the entire police department.)
maledictory (*adj.*)
3. **malevolent** [muh-lev-uh-luhn]
(*adj.*) wanting harm to befall others (The malevolent old man sat in the park all day, tripping unsuspecting passersby with his cane.)
malevolence (*n.*)
4. **manifold** [man-uh-fohd]
(*adj.*) diverse, varied (The popularity of Dante's *Inferno* is partly due to the fact that the work allows for manifold interpretations.)
5. **maudlin** [mawd-lin]
(*adj.*) excessively sentimental (Although many people enjoy romantic comedies, I usually find them maudlin and shallow.)
6. **mendacious** [men-dey-shuhs]
(*adj.*) having a lying, false character (The mendacious content of the tabloid magazines is at least entertaining.)
mendacity (*n.*)
7. **mercurial** [mer-kyoor-ee-uhl]
(*adj.*) quick and changeable in temperament; volatile (Though he was widely respected for his mathematical proofs, the mercurial genius was impossible to live with.)
8. **modicum** [mod-i-kuhm]
(*n.*) a small amount of something (Refusing to display even a modicum of sensitivity, Henrietta announced her boss's affair in front of the entire office.)
9. **morass** [muh-ras]
(*n.*) a wet swampy bog; figuratively, something that traps and confuses (When Theresa lost her job, she could not get out of her financial morass.)
10. **nadir** [ney-der, ney-deer]
(*n.*) the lowest point of something (My day was boring, but the nadir came when I accidentally spilled a bowl of spaghetti on my head.)

Practice Set 12A

**mercurial nadir maudlin mendacious magnanimous manifold
modicum malediction morass malevolent**

1. _____ (n.) a curse
2. _____ (n.) the lowest point of something
3. _____ (adj.) noble, generous
4. _____ (adj.) weakly sentimental
5. _____ (adj.) having a lying, false character
6. _____ (adj.) diverse, varied
7. _____ (n.) a small amount of something
8. _____ (n.) a wet swampy bog; figuratively, something that traps and confuses
9. _____ (adj.) quick and changeable in temperament; volatile
10. _____ (adj.) wanting harm to befall others

Practice Set 12B

**morass malevolent maudlin Malediction modicum
magnanimous mendacious mercurial nadir manifold**

1. _____ is a curse or the utterance of a curse.
2. If you describe an unpleasant or confused situation as a _____, you mean that it seems impossible to escape from or resolve, because it has become so serious or so complicated.
3. If you describe a song, book, or film as _____, you are criticizing it for being very sentimental.
4. A _____ of something, especially something that is good or desirable, is a reasonable but not large amount of it.
5. A _____ person is someone who tells lies; a _____ statement is one that is a lie.
6. If you are _____, you behave kindly and generously towards someone, especially after defeating her or being treated badly by her.
7. The _____ of something such as someone's career or the history of an organization is its worst time.
8. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that she frequently changes her mind or mood without warning.
9. Things that are _____ are of many different kinds.
10. A _____ person deliberately tries to cause harm or evil.

Practice Set 12C

**malevolent maledictions mercurial mendacious morass nadir
manifold modicum maudlin magnanimous**

1. When Theresa lost her job, she could not get out of her financial _____.
2. The _____ old man sat in the park all day, tripping unsuspecting passersby with his cane.
3. When I was arrested for speeding, I screamed _____ against the policeman and the entire police department.
4. Although many people enjoy romantic comedies, I usually find them _____ and shallow.
5. Distrusting Huck from the start, Miss Watson assumed he was _____ and refused to believe a word he said.
6. The popularity of Dante's *Inferno* is partly due to the fact that the work allows for _____ interpretations.
7. My day was boring, but the _____ came when I accidentally spilled a bowl of spaghetti on my head.
8. Although I had already broken most of her dishes, Jacqueline was _____ enough to continue letting me use them.
9. Quick as quicksilver to change, he was _____ in nature and therefore unreliable.
10. Although his story is based on a _____ of truth, most of the events he describes are fictitious.

Practice Set 12D

**magnanimous morass mercurial modicum manifold malevolent
nadir maledictions maudlin mendacious**

1. The _____ of such reasonings is very treacherous and many have disappeared into it, suffocating in its mud.
2. When the magic mirror revealed that Snow White was still alive, the wicked queen cried out in rage and uttered dreadful _____.
3. Though he was widely respected for his mathematical proofs, the _____ genius was impossible to live with.
4. Whenever a particularly _____ tearjerker was playing at the movies, Marvin would embarrass himself by weeping copiously.
5. Refusing to display even a _____ of sensitivity, Henrietta announced her boss's affair in front of the entire office.
6. One village's benevolent deities are, in effect, another's _____ demons.
7. When Buckingham was assassinated, England's international reputation was at its _____.
8. The State is more sacred than any Church for the State stands for the whole people in their _____ collective life; and any Church is but a fragment of that life, though one of the most important fragments
9. Some of these statements are misleading and some downright _____.
10. Philanthropists by definition are _____; misers, by definition, are not.

Practice Set 12E

**nadir malediction mercurial mendacious malevolent
magnanimous modicum manifold maudlin morass**

1. Corbett spent the rest of the evening analyzing what he knew and had learned but soon realized that he had been drawn into a maze of marshy _____ and the more he probed, the more puzzled he became.
2. Giving one the evil eye is one form of _____ popular among some European cultures.
3. To the morality of a Western reader an account of these meetings would wear perhaps the sinister character of old legendary tales where the Enemy of Mankind is represented holding subtly _____ dialogs with some tempted soul.
4. Cordelia was too _____ to resent her father's unkindness to her; instead, she generously forgave him.
5. While the accuser asserts that deliberate malice is involved, the accused protests his innocence, politely but firmly disclaiming any _____ intentions.
6. To begin with there is no single ability, rather there are several like speed, accuracy, strength, endurance and resilience which combine in _____ ways to determine the "raw material" to be shaped.
7. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that she is being sad and sentimental in a foolish way, perhaps because of drinking alcohol.
8. She has her own occupations to attend to; and besides, she is too old to run after a child, and he is too _____ to be tied to an elderly woman.
9. In the United Kingdom most databases will have protection providing they are the result of a _____ of skill, labor or judgment.
10. The _____ was reached when at Bannockburn in 1314 the English army was annihilated by the Scots under Robert Bruce.

Practice Set 12F

**manifold morass maudlin nadir modicum mendacious
malevolent mercurial malediction magnanimous**

1. Industrialists were exasperated by the obstacles to creating joint-stock companies, the _____ of red tape, bureaucratic sloth and corruption.
2. Although few people realized it, the Dow-Jones averages had reached their _____ and would soon begin an upward surge.
3. President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani on the same day dismissed the reports as "_____ propaganda and blackmail," saying: "We must make America understand that today one cannot use the deceitful weapon of disarmament to threaten other countries and to interfere in their affairs."
4. We join an organization feeling relatively neutral about an external group of competitors but within months regard them as _____ enemies.
5. He searched about in his mind for an adequate _____ for the indefinite cause, the thing upon which men turn the words of final blame.
6. In the earlier epochs of history, we find almost everywhere a complicated arrangement of society into various orders, a _____ gradation of social rank.
7. When we came to leave the Lamb that afternoon, Mr Barnett, we were all in similar states of intoxication, but Jack had become as _____ as only an Irishman in liquor can.
8. Of the two, Jardine was the dour, disciplined business planner, while Matheson was the more _____ and intellectually curious entrepreneur.
9. The plot concerns an attempt to assassinate the Roman Emperor Titus: it is foiled, but the _____ emperor pardons the conspirators.
10. Her _____ of strength had been exhausted, and she was unable even to move from her position.

Set 13

1. **mawkish** [maw-kish]
(*adj.*) effusively or insincerely emotional, maudlin (Although some nineteenth-century critics viewed Dickens's writing as mawkish, contemporary readers have found great emotional depth in his works.)
mawkishness (*n.*)
2. **multifarious** [muhl-tuh-fair-ee-uhs]
(*adj.*) having great diversity or variety (This Swiss Army knife has multifarious functions and capabilities. Among other things, it can act as a knife, a saw, a toothpick, and a slingshot.)
3. **munificence** [myoo-nif-uh-suhns]
(*n.*) generosity in giving (The royal family's munificence made everyone else in their country rich.)
munificent (*adj.*)
4. **nascent** [nas-uhnt, ney-suhnt]
(*adj.*) in the process of being born or coming into existence (Unfortunately, my brilliant paper was only in its nascent form on the morning that it was due.)
nascency (*n.*)
5. **nefarious** [ni-fair-ee-uhs]
(*adj.*) heinously villainous (Although Dr. Meanman's nefarious plot to melt the polar icecaps was terrifying, it was so impractical that nobody really worried about it.)
nefariousness (*n.*)
6. **neophyte** [nee-uh-fahyt]
(*n.*) someone who is young or inexperienced (As a neophyte in the literary world, Malik had trouble finding a publisher for his first novel.)
7. **obdurate** [ob-doo-rit, -dyoo-]
(*adj.*) unyielding to persuasion or moral influences (The obdurate old man refused to take pity on the kittens.)
obduracy (*n.*)
8. **obfuscate** [ob-fuh-skeyt, ob-fuhs-keyt]
(*v.*) to render incomprehensible (The detective did not want to answer the newspaperman's questions, so he obfuscated the truth.)
obfuscation (*n.*)
9. **oblique** [uh-bleek, oh-bleek]
(*adj.*) diverging from a straight line or course, not straightforward (Martin's oblique language confused those who listened to him.)
obliqueness (*n.*)
10. **obsequious** [uhb-see-kwee-uhs]
(*adj.*) excessively compliant or submissive (Mark acted like Janet's servant, obeying her every request in an obsequious manner.)
obsequiousness (*n.*)

Practice Set 13A

**nefarious nascent neophyte munificence mawkish obsequious
obfuscate multifarious oblique obdurate**

1. _____ (adj.) having great diversity or variety
2. _____ (adj.) very wicked, iniquitous, heinously villainous
3. _____ (adj.) in the process of being born or coming into existence
4. _____ (n.) someone who is young or inexperienced, novice, beginner
5. _____ (n.) generosity in giving
6. _____ (adj.) effusively or insincerely emotional, maudlin
7. _____ (adj.) unyielding to persuasion or moral influences
8. _____ (adj.) diverging from a straight line or course; indirect or evasive
9. _____ (v.) to render incomprehensible
10. _____ (adj.) excessively compliant or submissive

Practice Set 13B

**Nascent obfuscate oblique obdurate nefarious obsequious
neophyte multifarious munificent mawkish**

1. _____ things or processes are just beginning, and are expected to become stronger or to grow bigger.
2. If you describe a statement as _____, you mean that is not expressed directly or openly, making it difficult to understand.
3. To _____ something means to deliberately make it seem confusing and difficult to understand.
4. If you describe someone as _____, you think that she is being unreasonable in her refusal to change her decision or opinion.
5. If you describe someone as _____, you are criticizing her because she is too eager to help or agree with someone more important than her.
6. If you describe an activity as _____, you mean that it is wicked and immoral.
7. If you describe things as _____, you mean that they are many in number and of many different kinds.
8. A _____ is someone who is new to a particular activity.
9. A _____ person is very generous.
10. You can describe something as _____ when you think it is sentimental and silly.

Practice Set 13C

**multifarious munificent nascent oblique obsequious nefarious
neophyte obfuscated mawkish obdurate**

1. This Swiss Army knife has _____ functions and capabilities; among other things, it can act as a knife, a saw, a toothpick, and a slingshot.
2. Unfortunately, my brilliant paper was only in its _____ form on the morning that it was due.
3. Although Dr. Meanman's _____ plot to melt the polar icecaps was terrifying, it was so impractical that nobody really worried about it.
4. Despite his tenants' having a difficult time coming up with the rent, Simon Legree was _____ in his intention to evict them.
5. As a _____ in the literary world, Malik had trouble finding a publisher for his first novel.
6. Shamelessly fawning over a particularly generous donor, the dean kept on referring to her as "our _____ benefactor."
7. The detective did not want to answer the newspaperman's questions, so he _____ the truth.
8. Mark acted like Janet's servant, obeying her every request in an _____ manner.
9. Although some nineteenth-century critics viewed Dickens's writing as _____, contemporary readers have found great emotional depth in his works.
10. Despite Joe's trying to get a direct answer from his supervisor as to whether his taking vacation time would impair his chances of promotion, the supervisor's answers remained _____.

Practice Set 13D

**nefarious oblique multifarious obsequious mawkish munificent
neophyte nascent obfuscate obdurate**

1. If we could identify these revolutionary movements in their _____ state, we would be able to eliminate serious trouble in later years.
2. Andrew Carnegie was noted for his _____ donations to artistic causes.
3. The lawyer tried to pin Alice down on how much of the conversation she had overheard, but she was _____ in most of her responses.
4. Parts of the administration may be changing but others have been _____ defenders of the status quo.
5. Their sins deny them rest and they will continue their _____ behavior beyond the grave unless formally exorcised.
6. Anna, a skiing _____, stayed on the bunny slope while her friends went up the mountain.
7. There are still some forces in Russia who do not want to cooperate on this matter, who want to _____.
8. A career woman and mother, she was constantly busy with the _____ activities of her daily life.
9. Helen liked to be served by people who behaved as if they respected themselves; nothing irritated her more than an excessively _____ waiter or a fawning salesclerk.
10. He remembered in particular a long and _____ poem he had written when his father died: an attempt to create emotions that hadn't existed.

Practice Set 13E

**obsequious multifarious nefarious obfuscation oblique
obdurate nascent neophyte mawkish munificent**

1. Increasingly, they have been linked to more _____ activities, from cheating on taxes to financing cocaine traffickers.
2. By then the ethnic composition of its native population was _____ and complex, being the result of a long period of prehistoric development.
3. You have no right to preach to me, you _____, that have not passed the porch of life, and are absolutely unacquainted with its mysteries.
4. He gave a more lucid exposition of the party's strategy than Bush has managed in months of _____.
5. Although Susan tried to get her employer to allow her to work flexible hours so that she could take some courses, the manager remained _____ in insisting she stick to a fixed schedule.
6. Martin's _____ language confused those who listened to him.
7. In recognition of this _____ patronage of the State's languishing industries, the Governor commissioned him a colonel.
8. His beard was still in its infancy; and _____ lines of whisker traced their modest way sparsely down his cheeks.
9. At Heidelberg I met a fat veterinary surgeon whose voice broke with sobs as he repeated some _____ poetry.
10. They were _____ and servile and did not presume to talk to their masters as if they were their equals.

Practice Set 13F

**mawkish obfuscate neophyte nascent oblique munificent
multifarious obsequious nefarious obdurate**

1. Throughout the negotiations, Arnulf was on hand, advising all sides on possible compromises, sometimes deploring Henry's intransigence and sometimes losing patience with the _____ Becket.
2. Henry III was a _____ benefactor to this Convent, having among other donations, granted the sum of £20 payable annually on the feast of All Saints.
3. His most _____ recorded act was to defame York's new wife Anne Hyde, in the hope of dissolving the marriage, which many considered to be a disaster.
4. Untrammelled by the tyranny of one period or a single discipline, John Harwood is a designer whose work is _____.
5. Pound knew enough of his own gifts, and of the protracted strenuousness of his apprenticeship, to know that what was safe for him was not safely available to others, least of all to those he called "the _____."
6. He is never overbearing, though accustomed to command men in the utmost degree below him, nor ever too _____, from a habit of obeying men highly above him.
7. She could not make out his face, obscured from her by shadow and the _____ angle at which he had set his seat.
8. The French government has just approved a whole range of radical spelling changes which will deform some of the most familiar French words, _____ their etymological origins and massacre many an adopted foreign word.
9. A young child's view of the world is _____ and is shaped by parents as well as environment.
10. He had become too cloying in his affections, his talk as saccharine as the dialog from the Christmas classics on the television, his every gaze _____.

Set 14

1. **myriad** [mir-ee-uhd]
(*adj.*) consisting of a very great number; (n.) a very large number (It was difficult to decide what to do Friday night because the city presented us with myriad possibilities for fun.)
2. **obstreperous** [uhb-strep-er-uhs]
(*adj.*) noisy, unruly (Billy's obstreperous behavior prompted the librarian to ask him to leave the reading room.)
3. **obtuse** [uhb-toos, -tyoos]
(*adj.*) lacking quickness of sensibility or intellect (Political opponents warned that the prime minister's obtuse approach to foreign policy would embroil the nation in mindless war.)
4. **odious** [oh-dee-uhs]
(*adj.*) deserving or causing hatred, disgusting (Mark was assigned the odious task of cleaning the cat's litter box.)
odiousness (n.)
5. **officious** [uh-fish-uhs]
(*adj.*) offering one's services when they are neither wanted nor needed (Brenda resented Allan's officious behavior when he selected colors that might best improve her artwork.)
officiousness (n.)
6. **opulent** [op-yuh-luhnt]
(*adj.*) characterized by rich abundance verging on ostentation (The opulent furnishings of the dictator's private compound contrasted harshly with the meager accommodations of her subjects.)
opulence (n.)
7. **ostensible** [o-sten-suh-buhl]
(*adj.*) appearing as such, seemingly (Jack's ostensible reason for driving was that airfare was too expensive, but in reality, he was afraid of flying.)
8. **palliate** [pal-ee-eyt]
(v.) to reduce the severity of (The doctor trusted that the new medication would palliate her patient's discomfort.)
palliative (*adj.*)(n.)
9. **pallid** [pal-id]
(*adj.*) lacking color (Dr. Van Helsing feared that Lucy's pallid complexion was due to an unexplained loss of blood.)
10. **panacea** [pan-uh-see-uh]
(n.) a remedy for all ills or difficulties (Doctors wish there was a single panacea for every disease, but sadly there is not.)

Practice Set 14A

**panacea palliate odious obtuse opulent pallid obstreperous
myriad ostensible officious**

1. _____ (adj.) appearing as such, seemingly
2. _____ (adj.) noisy, unruly, boisterous
3. _____ (adj.) offering one's services when they are neither wanted nor needed
4. _____ (adj.) consisting of a very great number; (n.) a very large number
5. _____ (adj.) deserving or causing hatred, disgusting
6. _____ (adj.) characterized by rich abundance verging on ostentation
7. _____ (adj.) lacking quickness of sensibility or intellect
8. _____ (adj.) lacking color; having an abnormally pale complexion
9. _____ (n.) a remedy for all ills or difficulties
10. _____ (v.) to reduce the severity of

Practice Set 14B

**palliative odious myriad opulent ostensible pallid panacea
obstreperous obtuse officious**

1. Someone who is _____ has difficulty understanding things, or makes no effort to understand them.
2. If you describe people or things as _____, you think that they are extremely unpleasant.
3. Someone or something that is _____ is pale in an unattractive or unnatural way.
4. A _____ or _____s of people or things is a very large number or great variety of them.
5. _____ is used to describe something that seems to be true or is officially stated to be true, but about which you or other people have doubts.
6. _____ things or places look grand and expensive; _____ people are very wealthy and spend a lot of money.
7. If you describe someone as _____, you are critical of her because she is eager to tell people what to do when you think she should not.
8. If you say that someone is _____, you think that she is noisy and difficult to control.
9. A _____ is an action that is intended to make the effects of a problem less severe but does not actually solve the problem.
10. If you say that something is not a _____ for a particular set of problems, you mean that it will not solve all those problems.

Practice Set 14C

**palliate opulent obstreperous officious obtuse pallid
ostensible panacea myriad odious**

1. Dr. Van Helsing feared that Lucy's _____ complexion was due to an unexplained loss of blood.
2. Not content merely to _____ the patient's sores and cankers, the researcher sought a means of wiping out the disease.
3. Billy's _____ behavior prompted the librarian to ask him to leave the reading room.
4. It was difficult to decide what to do Friday night because the city presented us with _____ possibilities for fun.
5. Brenda resented Allan's _____ behavior when he selected colors that might best improve her artwork.
6. Doctors wish there was a single _____ for every disease, but sadly there is not.
7. Jack's _____ reason for driving was that airfare was too expensive, but in reality, he was afraid of flying.
8. Cinderella's ugly stepsisters had the _____ habit of popping their zits in public.
9. The _____ furnishings of the dictator's private compound contrasted harshly with the meager accommodations of her subjects.
10. Political opponents warned that the prime minister's _____ approach to foreign policy would embroil the nation in mindless war.

Practice Set 14D

**ostensibly panacea pallid obtuse obstreperous palliative
myriad odious opulent officious**

1. While it certainly cannot be claimed to be a _____ for all ills, and no system of therapeutics has yet turned out to be that, it is an approach which I would not like to be without.
2. A bachelor farmer began to call, _____ to talk to her father, but really to see her.
3. A _____ is a drug or medical treatment that relieves suffering without treating the cause of the suffering.
4. Because his job required that he work at night and sleep during the day, he had an exceptionally _____ complexion.
5. Look up in the sky on a clear night away from city lights, and you'll find a _____ of stars and other glowing bodies.
6. Something that is _____ is very impressive because it contains the best and most expensive things.
7. The boys go to school every day but they're at large all the afternoon, and they're getting a bit too _____ to have about the place.
8. Judy wanted to look over the new computer models on her own, but the _____ salesman kept on butting in with "helpful" advice until she was ready to walk out of the store.
9. I abhor every common-place phrase by which wit is intended; and "setting one's cap at a man," or "making a conquest," are the most _____ of all.
10. Because Mr. Collins was too _____ to take a hint, Elizabeth finally had to tell him that she wouldn't marry him if he were the last man on earth.

Practice Set 14E

**obstreperous odious officious pallid opulent ostensible obtuse
palliative myriad panacea**

1. How _____ I had been not to suspect some trouble at home behind Grass's aggressive behavior.
2. College students at a fraternity party generally turn _____ after a couple of hours.
3. Peter Ivanovitch became to him suddenly so _____ that if he had had a knife, he fancied he could have stabbed him not only without compunction, but with a horrible, triumphant satisfaction.
4. When people put on uniforms, their attitude becomes more confident and their manner more _____.
5. Pelham Manor, New York, another wealthy suburban community, had an _____ stone structure with a powerfully squat square tower for ticket lobby and waiting-room.
6. It is through change that we grow and discover ourselves, that we begin to actualize some of the _____ possibilities of our lives.
7. Margaret had been out of the sun for so long that her face had taken on an unhealthy, _____ color.
8. Their _____ goal was to clean up government corruption, but their real aim was to unseat the government.
9. The increase in the number of rooms available in private homes acted as a _____ to the general accommodation shortage.
10. Lister's discovery of the importance of antisepsis made surgery, which up till that time had been a hazardous technique, a safe procedure, and with the development of anesthesia, surgery suddenly began to enjoy great popularity as a _____ for many ills.

Practice Set 14F

**pallid myriad palliate ostensibly odious officious panacea
opulent obstreperous obtuse**

1. Life on board these _____ ships was claimed by one tourist to be "the perfection of human existence": electric light, carpets, libraries, ladies' saloons, gleaming brass, and white-robed servants with red tarbooshes to provide excellent service.
2. If you really are determined to get fitter, go to a good bookshop and choose any one of the _____ of books on the subject
3. The moon, shining through a thin layer of cloud, gave the water a soft, _____ sheen; and Anne's face, white, upturned, was like another moon, staring up at him.
4. He has spent the past three months in Florida, _____ for medical treatment, but in actual fact to avoid prosecution for a series of notorious armed robberies.
5. Many village priests insisted on living in luxury, dressing in the best garb, jerkin and multi-colored hose, and making every effort to _____ the hardships of their lives.
6. He knew the nature of that good man to be so averse to any baseness or treachery, that the least attempt of such a kind would make the sight of the guilty person for ever _____ to his eyes, and his name a detestable sound in his ears.
7. Even if he has no special interest, his action nevertheless is that of an _____, though well-meaning, bystander who is not content merely to stand by.
8. He had apparently been very _____ during the night -- trying to get up, demanding to go home and so disturbing the other patients that he had been moved, temporarily to a private ward.
9. Even the most _____ of the Hindi fanatics will have to, willy nilly, sooner or later, accept the logic of the situation: if they want to save the nation, they have to put up with English.
10. She is a classic instance of a social doctrinaire who believes beyond all argument that socialist doctrine is the _____ for all human ills.

Set 15

1. **paragon** [par-uh-gon, -guh-n]
(*n.*) a model of excellence or perfection (The mythical Helen of Troy was considered a paragon of female beauty.)
2. **pariah** [puh-rah-yuh]
(*n.*) an outcast (Following the discovery of his plagiarism, Professor Hurley was made a pariah in all academic circles.)
3. **parsimony** [pahr-suh-moh-nee]
(*n.*) frugality, stinginess (Many relatives believed that my aunt's wealth resulted from her parsimony.)
parsimonious (*adj.*)
4. **pathos** [pey-thos, -thohs]
(*n.*) an emotion of sympathy (Martha was filled with pathos upon discovering the scrawny, shivering kitten at her door.)
5. **paucity** [paw-si-tee]
(*n.*) an insufficiency; scarcity; dearth (Gilbert lamented the paucity of twentieth-century literature courses available at the college.)
6. **pejorative** [pi-jawr-uh-tiv, -jor-]
(*adj.*) derogatory, uncomplimentary (The evening's headline news covered an international scandal caused by a pejorative statement the famous senator had made in reference to a foreign leader.)
7. **pellucid** [puh-loo-sid]
(*adj.*) easily intelligible, clear, transparent (Wishing his book to be pellucid to the common man, Albert Camus avoided using complicated grammar when composing *The Stranger*.)
8. **perfidious** [per-fid-ee-uhs]
(*adj.*) disloyal, unfaithful (After the official was caught selling government secrets to enemy agents, he was executed for his perfidious ways.)
9. **perfunctory** [per-fuhngk-tuh-ree]
(*adj.*) showing little interest or enthusiasm (The radio broadcaster announced the news of the massacre in a surprisingly perfunctory manner.)
10. **pernicious** [per-nish-uhs]
(*adj.*) extremely destructive or harmful (The new government feared that the Communist sympathizers would have a pernicious influence on the nation's stability.)
perniciousness (*n.*)

Practice Set 15A

**paucity perfunctory pathos parsimony paragon pernicious
pellucid perfidious pariah pejorative**

1. _____ (adj.) easily intelligible, clear, transparent
2. _____ (adj.) showing little interest or enthusiasm
3. _____ (adj.) extremely destructive or harmful
4. _____ (n.) an outcast
5. _____ (n.) an emotion of sympathy
6. _____ (adj.) disloyal, unfaithful
7. _____ (n.) smallness of quantity, scarcity, dearth
8. _____ (n.) frugality, stinginess
9. _____ (adj.) derogatory, uncomplimentary
10. _____ (n.) a model of excellence or perfection

Practice Set 15B

**pariah pernicious pejorative perfunctory parsimony paucity
paragon pellucid perfidious pathos**

1. If you describe someone as a _____, you mean that other people dislike her so much that they refuse to associate with her.
2. A _____ action is done quickly and carelessly, and shows a lack of interest in what you are doing.
3. _____ is extreme unwillingness to spend money.
4. If you refer to someone as a _____, you mean that she is perfect or has a lot of a good quality.
5. If you say that there is a _____ of something, you mean that there is not enough of it.
6. If you describe something as _____, you mean that it is very harmful.
7. A _____ word or expression is one that expresses criticism of someone or something.
8. Something that is _____ is extremely clear.
9. _____ is a quality in a situation, film, or play that makes people feel sadness and pity.
10. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that she has betrayed someone or cannot be trusted.

Practice Set 15C

**pathos parsimony pellucid paragon paucity pariah perfidious
perfunctory pejorative pernicious**

1. The evening's headline news covered an international scandal caused by a _____ statement the famous senator had made in reference to a foreign leader.
2. The quiet tone of _____ that ran through the novel never degenerated into the maudlin or the overly sentimental.
3. After the official was caught selling government secrets to enemy agents, he was executed for his _____ ways.
4. Furious because her father wouldn't let her buy out the clothing store, Annie accused him of _____.
5. The mythical Helen of Troy was considered a _____ of female beauty.
6. Following the discovery of his plagiarism, Professor Hurley was made a _____ in all academic circles.
7. They closed the restaurant because the _____ of customers made it uneconomical to operate.
8. Wishing his book to be _____ to the common man, Albert Camus avoided using complicated grammar when composing *The Stranger*.
9. The new government feared that the Communist sympathizers would have a _____ influence on the nation's stability.
10. Larry made a couple of _____ attempts at answering the questions on the test, but then he put down his pen and his head and slept.

Practice Set 15D

**paragon parsimony perfunctory pariah pathos perfidious
pellucid pernicious paucity pejorative**

1. The war had a special _____ for Lou, since fighting on each side was a country she felt to be her own.
2. Her unsparing devotion to her brother, her unstinted loyalty made her almost a _____.
3. Giving the tabletop only a _____ swipe with her dust cloth, Betty promised herself she would clean it more thoroughly tomorrow.
4. They treated Bute as if he were a _____ with whom no contact should be made.
5. Instead of criticizing Schwarzenegger's policies, the Democrats made _____ comments about his character.
6. After reading these stodgy philosophers, I find Bertrand Russell's _____ style very enjoyable.
7. When Caesar realized that Brutus had betrayed him, he reproached his _____ friend.
8. The parking valet's indifference toward the wishes of his clients was reflected in the _____ of his tips.
9. Beginning here, as though regretting her _____, Nature had spread his features with a lavish hand.
10. Crack cocaine has had a _____ effect on urban society: it has destroyed families, turned children into drug dealers, and increased the spread of violent crimes.

Practice Set 15E

**pellucid perfidiously pariah perfunctory pejorative paragon
parsimonious pernicious pathos paucity**

1. There was something _____ about the word, so that to some atonal music meant "non-music", or at least something ugly and unpleasant.
2. Sun glinted off the water and the golden light was so _____, so dazzling, that she felt in her bag for her sunglasses.
3. In the novel, Constanza is a _____ of virtue who would never compromise her reputation.
4. A horrific crime like the one at Radnor Walk makes a man an outcast, a _____ without friends.
5. The documentary film captured the _____ of the refugee's situation, and there was not a dry eye in the theater when the movie ended.
6. A _____ handshake with Mr Kennedy before the meeting betrayed Mr Kilfedder's disdain for the Conservative's presence.
7. Here they met with some of the "chivalry" of that noted pass, who received them in a friendly way, and set food before them; but, while they were satisfying their hunger, _____ seized their rifles.
8. So completely did I break with my _____ past that I sent word home to my mother to call in the boys of the neighborhood and give to them all my collections.
9. He gave me to understand that in that direction was some horrible danger, but just what the horrible danger was his _____ of language would not permit him to say.
10. The pursuit of standardization -- the failure to value a difference -- here goes beyond a mere passing mistake and becomes actively _____.

Practice Set 15F

**paragon pellucid parsimonious paucity perfidiously perfunctory
pathos pernicious pejorative pariah**

1. Gorbachev's address was greeted with barely five seconds of _____ applause, contrasting sharply with the thunderous standing ovations accorded to party leaders at previous congresses.
2. The sea was polished, was blue, was _____, was sparkling like a precious stone, extending on all sides, all round to the horizon--as if the whole terrestrial globe had been one jewel, one colossal sapphire, a single gem fashioned into a planet.
3. The truth about the American telephone girl is that she has become so highly efficient that we now expect her to be a _____ of perfection.
4. Mr Li accused Mr Patten of _____ and unilaterally designing his proposals to alter Hong Kong's election system in violation of the agreement on the 1997 handover.
5. Considering the _____ of members of the federated twelve villages and their primitive tools and methods, Bassett knew that the toil of a myriad generations could scarcely have made that enormous excavation.
6. Frank is educating Rita in this superb play which provides lots of humor as well as the underlying _____ of two people struggling with changes which mean their lives will never be the same again.
7. I'm too _____ to buy clothes that will only be worn once.
8. One day there will be a word for a woman without a husband or children that is not _____; a single word that conjures up the image of a strong, sexual and feminine woman who revels in her voluntary freedom.
9. The council has been ensuring that as many cases as possible are referred to the SMG, a _____ organization spewing out lies and propaganda in pursuance of their own ideological aims.
10. Even the Arab world, which had tried to prevent the UN turning Libya into an international _____, grudgingly acceded to the UN Security Council and cut off all air links.

Review of Sets 11 – 15

1. Pa considers her such a wonder, such a _____ of accomplishment, and such an acquisition to our family, that he is ready to get himself into a state of perfect infatuation with her at any moment.
(a) panacea
(b) pariah
(c) parsimony
(d) paragon
2. For a time I was occupied by exploded systems, mingling a thousand contradictory theories and floundering desperately in a very slough of _____ knowledge, guided by an ardent imagination and childish reasoning.
(a) licentious
(b) nefarious
(c) mendacious
(d) multifarious
3. She has her own occupations to attend to; besides, she is too old to run after a child, and he is too _____ to be tied to an elderly woman.
(a) myriad
(b) pellucid
(c) mercurial
(d) pernicious
4. Help was now guaranteed, by a treaty which was the triumph of Cecil's clear policy over Elizabeth's instinctive desire to _____ and temporize.
(a) juxtapose
(b) obfuscate
(c) palliate
(d) elucidate
5. These are some of the public events in an already crowded life, but there were also a _____ of smaller but no less official duties which he felt obliged to perform.
(a) palliation
(b) pariah
(c) myriad
(d) morass
6. If he has no special interest, his action nevertheless is that of an _____, though well-meaning, bystander who is not content merely to stand by.
(a) officious
(b) obdurate
(c) pernicious
(d) nefarious
7. After the official was caught selling government secrets to enemy agents, he was executed for his _____ ways.
(a) maudlin
(b) pejorative
(c) officious
(d) perfidious
8. Behind his seat was hung a scarlet cloth cloak lined with fur, and a cap of the same materials richly embroidered, which completed the dress of the _____ landholder when he chose to go forth.
(a) maudlin
(b) opulent
(c) nascent
(d) latent
9. Above his head the sky, _____, pure, stainless, arched its tender blue from shore to shore and over the bay, as if to envelop the water, the earth, and the man in the caress of its light.
(a) pellucid
(b) languid
(c) pallid
(d) latent
10. Although many people enjoy romantic comedies, I usually find them _____ and shallow.
(a) pallid
(b) laconic
(c) maudlin
(d) mendacious
11. The loss of confidence which set in after Stalingrad was not least a consequence of the totally misleading and outrightly _____ German propaganda which had preceded the catastrophe.

- (a) pallid
 - (b) mendacious
 - (c) parsimonious
 - (d) officious
12. Helen liked to be served by people who behaved as if they respected themselves; nothing irritated her more than an excessively _____ waiter or a fawning salesclerk.
- (a) obsequious
 - (b) licentious
 - (c) obstreperous
 - (d) odious
13. As long as they get some exposure to written language, most learners will acquire at least a _____ of literacy.
- (a) neophyte
 - (b) morass
 - (c) modicum
 - (d) myriad
14. Cora remained silent, for she knew not how to _____ this imprudent severity on the part of her father in a manner to suit the comprehension of an Indian.
- (a) palliate
 - (b) obfuscate
 - (c) juxtapose
 - (d) obdurate
15. The play is not as _____ as it sounds largely due to some fine acting but Elenya is ultimately too slow and lacking in true tension and surprise to make it as special as its juvenile lead.
- (a) oblique
 - (b) mawkish
 - (c) myriad
 - (d) nascent
16. Computer is no design _____: Computers, now universally used in design work, have facilitated the process, but are no substitute for creative hard graft.
- (a) pallid
 - (b) panacea
 - (c) nascent
 - (d) paragon
17. Crack cocaine has had a _____ effect on urban society: it has destroyed families, turned children into drug dealers, and increased the spread of violent crimes.
- (a) pernicious
 - (b) officious
 - (c) mendacious
 - (d) perfidiously
18. Because his job required that he work at night and sleep during the day, he had an exceptionally _____ complexion.
- (a) palliative
 - (b) nefarious
 - (c) pallid
 - (d) pellucid
19. Her whole soul was possessed by the fact that a fuller life was opening before her: she was a _____ about to enter on a higher grade of initiation.
- (a) neophyte
 - (b) palliation
 - (c) obtusion
 - (d) obdurateness
20. At all events, Hepzibah had fully satisfied herself of the impossibility of ever becoming wonted to this peevishly _____ little bell.
- (a) obstreperous
 - (b) obsequious
 - (c) obtuse
 - (d) ostensible
21. When the magic mirror revealed that Snow White was still alive, the wicked queen cried out in rage and uttered dreadful _____.
- (a) maledictions
 - (b) maelstroms
 - (c) modicums
 - (d) paucity
22. Considering the _____ of members of the federated twelve villages and their primitive tools

- and methods, Bassett knew that the toil of a myriad generations could scarcely have made that enormous excavation.
- (a) paucity
 - (b) palliation
 - (c) pariah
 - (d) malevolence
23. After 1949, Career Woman suddenly became _____, denoting a ball-busting, man-eating harpy, a miserable neurotic witch from whom man and child should flee for very life.
- (a) palliative
 - (b) opulent
 - (c) obdurate
 - (d) pejorative
24. He knew the nature of that good man to be so averse to any baseness or treachery, that the least attempt of such a kind would make the sight of the guilty person for ever _____ to his eyes, and his name a detestable sound in his ears.
- (a) perfidious
 - (b) oblique
 - (c) odious
 - (d) officious
25. He led a remarkably frugal existence but his idiosyncrasies, which embraced the recycling of cigar butts, were from preference rather than _____.
- (a) pariah
 - (b) paucity
 - (c) paragon
 - (d) parsimony
26. He was enabled to keep the Good Sport from falling and to assist Heinrich to rise from the _____ of glasses, knives, and pats of butter in which he was wallowing.
- (a) largess
 - (b) myriad
 - (c) morass
 - (d) obtusion
27. Kathy was unprepared for her trip to Quebec because of her _____ attempts to learn enough French.
- (a) limpid
 - (b) latent
 - (c) languid
 - (d) laconic
28. Often, the giver would toss in the money with nonchalant _____, hoping to cut a handsome figure by making a public demonstration of wealth, and of contempt for that wealth.
- (a) nascence
 - (b) manifold
 - (c) munificence
 - (d) malediction
29. Evans also suggests in his original diagram that some unscrupulous scientists proceed directly from _____ idea to the writing up, without carrying out the experimental phase.
- (a) opulent
 - (b) latent
 - (c) nascent
 - (d) licentious
30. For a moment they stood valiantly before his attack, but after two had grappled with him and been hurled headlong to the floor they gave up and rushed incontinently out into the _____ of the screaming tempest.
- (a) paragon
 - (b) malediction
 - (c) maelstrom
 - (d) pathos
31. In the earlier epochs of history, we find almost everywhere a complicated arrangement of society into various orders, a _____ gradation of social rank.
- (a) maudlin
 - (b) malevolent
 - (c) manifold
 - (d) mendacious
32. Beholding the scenery of the Antarctic seas, where at times by some infernal trick of _____ in the powers of frost and air, he views what seems a boundless church-yard grinning upon him.
- (a) largess

- (b) malediction
(c) legerdemain
(d) nadir
33. His subsequent career has been a switchback which reached its _____ five years ago, when Thomas Hearn produced a devastating right to the chin to knock him out and send him into retirement.
(a) pariah
(b) magnanimity
(c) mendacity
(d) nadir
34. Minton's _____ was attractive: Bernard still recollects how, at a time when he was earning £2 10s a week, in a timber yard off Greek Street, Minton astonished him with a gift of £10, in effect a month's wages.
(a) largess
(b) munificence
(c) morass
(d) obfuscation
35. The documentary film captured the _____ of the refugee's situation, and there was not a dry eye in the theater when the movie ended.
(a) palliation
(b) pathos
(c) paragon
(d) pariah
36. Despite Joe's trying to get a direct answer from his supervisor as to whether his taking vacation time would impair his chances of promotion, the supervisor's answers remained _____.
(a) oblique
(b) odious
(c) obstreperous
(d) obtuse
37. Perhaps the individuals involved were too _____ in applying conventional planning models with little regard for local feeling, and they may have been less than adroit in their handling of public opinion.
(a) pernicious
(b) obtuse
(c) mawkish
(d) odious
38. Many of the characters portrayed by Clint Eastwood are _____ types: strong men of few words.
(a) latent
(b) ostensible
(c) languid
(d) laconic
39. Lydia woke early the following morning and went out to wash in the stream, feeling it was brave and somewhat _____ of her after it had treated her so ill on the previous night.
(a) nefarious
(b) magnanimous
(c) mendacious
(d) pernicious
40. Throughout the negotiations, Arnulf was on hand, advising all sides on possible compromises, sometimes deploring Henry's intransigence and sometimes losing patience with the _____ Becket.
(a) nefarious
(b) obdurate
(c) pallid
(d) obtuse
41. A horrific crime like the one at Radnor Walk makes a man an outcast, a _____ without friends.
(a) pariah
(b) maelstrom
(c) myriad
(d) nadir
42. Immoral, _____, anarchical, unscientific -- call them by what names you will -- yet, from an aesthetic point of view, those ancient days of the Color Revolt were the glorious childhood of Art in Flatland.
(a) mercurial
(b) licentious

- (c) magnanimous
(d) obsequious
43. Some features can easily cause the annual review to be perceived as pointless drudgery, cause it to be prepared in as _____ a manner as possible and used as a device to obscure rather than reveal problems.
(a) parsimonious
(b) pernicious
(c) perfunctory
(d) pellucid
44. Although Dr. Meanman's _____ plot to melt the polar icecaps was terrifying, it was so impractical that nobody really worried about it.
(a) obsequious
(b) nefarious
(c) mendacious
(d) officious
45. The sad fact is that although the _____ reason for the dolphin kills was that dolphins were stealing and eating the commercial fish species, examination of their stomach contents showed that only the false killer whales were actually feeding on yellowtail.
(a) obsequious
(b) obtuse
(c) ostensible
(d) latent
46. This distinction can be _____ if the artist is directly interviewed, and the interview is verbatim; but there are problems of evidence with filming and tape recordings, as well as with interviews, since the viewer or reader is unlikely to know how they have been edited.
(a) perfidious
(b) languid
(c) pallid
(d) limpid
47. The horla became increasingly _____ towards inhabitants of the house, moving furniture and breaking crockery, and filling the house with a sense of dread.
(a) latent
(b) malevolent
(c) nascent
(d) opulent
48. She could not convince me at the time that anything bad could happen, now that I had finally 'solved' my eating problems, and for a short time I felt _____, relieved and ecstatic.
(a) latent
(b) jubilant
(c) nascent
(d) opulent
49. They attempt to capture the collision of present and past, thought processes which _____ all sorts of childhood memories and significances with an adult self awareness.
(a) maelstrom
(b) malediction
(c) juxtaposition
(d) parsimony
50. Hiding order beneath the cloak of disorder is simply a question of subdivision; concealing courage under a show of timidity presupposes a fund of _____ energy; masking strength with weakness is to be effected by tactical dispositions.
(a) nascent
(b) latent
(c) nefarious
(d) opulent

Set 16

1. **penurious** [per-noor-ee-uhs, -nyoor-]
(*adj.*) miserly, stingy (Stella complained that her husband's penurious ways made it impossible to live the lifestyle she felt she deserved.)
penury (*n.*)
2. **perspicacity** [pur-spi-kas-i-tee]
(*adj.*) shrewdness, perceptiveness (The detective was too humble to acknowledge that his perspicacity was the reason for his professional success.)
perspicacious (*adj.*)
3. **pertinacious** [pur-tn-ey-shuhs]
(*adj.*) stubbornly persistent (Harry's parents were frustrated with his pertinacious insistence that a monster lived in his closet. Then they opened the closet door and were eaten.)
pertinaciousness (*n.*) **pertinacity** (*n.*)
4. **petulance** [pech-uh-luhns]
(*n.*) rudeness, irritability (The nanny resigned after she could no longer tolerate the child's petulance.)
petulant (*adj.*)
5. **pithy** [pith-ee]
(*adj.*) concisely meaningful (My father's long-winded explanation was a stark contrast to his usually pithy statements.)
pithiness (*n.*)
6. **platitude** [plat-i-tood, -tyood]
(*n.*) an uninspired remark, cliché (After reading over her paper, Helene concluded that what she thought were profound insights were actually just platitudes.)
7. **plethora** [pleth-er-uh]
(*n.*) an abundance, excess (The wedding banquet included a plethora of oysters piled almost three feet high.)
8. **polemic** [puh-lem-ik, poh-]
(*n.*) an aggressive argument against a specific opinion (My brother launched into a polemic against my arguments that capitalism was an unjust economic system.)
9. **portent** [pawr-tent, pohr-]
(*n.*) an omen (When a black cat crossed my sister's path while she was walking to school, she took it as a portent that she would do badly on her spelling test.)
portend (*v.*)
10. **precocious** [pri-koh-shuhs]
(*adj.*) advanced, developing ahead of time (Derek was so academically precocious that by the time he was 10 years old, he was already in the ninth grade.)
precociousness (*n.*)

Practice Set 16A

**pertinacious perspicacity petulance precocious plethora pithy
portent polemic penurious platitude**

1. _____ (n.) an abundance, excess
2. _____ (adj.) shrewdness, perceptiveness
3. _____ (adj.) brief, forceful, and meaningful in expression
4. _____ (n.) rudeness, irritability
5. _____ (adj.) miserly, stingy; extremely poor
6. _____ (adj.) holding tenaciously to an opinion or purpose
7. _____ (n.) an uninspired remark, cliché
8. _____ (n.) an aggressive argument against a specific opinion
9. _____ (n.) an indication or omen of something about to happen
10. _____ (adj.) unusually advanced or mature in development

Practice Set 16B

**portent polemic platitude precocious Penury pertinacious
plethora pithy perspicacious Petulance**

1. A _____ child is more intelligent or behaves in a more developed way than you would expect for her age
2. A _____ is something that indicates what is likely to happen in the future.
3. A _____ is a very strong written or spoken attack on, or defense of, a particular belief or opinion.
4. _____ is the state of being extremely poor.
5. A _____ is a statement which is considered meaningless and boring because it has been made many times before in similar situations.
6. Someone who is _____ continues trying to do something difficult rather than giving up quickly.
7. Someone who is _____ notices, realizes, and understands things quickly.
8. A _____ of something is a large amount of it, especially an amount of it that is greater than you need, want, or can cope with.
9. _____ is unreasonable, childish bad temper over something unimportant.
10. A _____ comment or piece of writing is short, direct, and full of meaning.

Practice Set 16C

**platitudes plethora pertinacious polemic perspicacity
precocious petulance portend pithy penurious**

1. Stella complained that her husband's _____ ways made it impossible to live the lifestyle she felt she deserved.
2. My brother launched into a _____ against my arguments that capitalism was an unjust economic system.
3. He is bound to succeed because his _____ nature will not permit him to quit.
4. My father's long-winded explanation was a stark contrast to his usually _____ statements.
5. The detective was too humble to acknowledge that his _____ was the reason for his professional success.
6. Mathew was _____ enough to be taking college-level math courses while still in junior high school.
7. Today there is such a _____ of offers available in the stores that the average shopper gets overwhelmed and confused.
8. It was a deeply superstitious country, where earthquakes were commonly believed to _____ the end of dynasties.
9. The nanny resigned after she could no longer tolerate the child's _____.
10. After reading over her paper, Helene concluded that what she thought were profound insights were actually just _____.

Practice Set 16D

**penury petulant Polemics pertinacious perspicacious
precocious portent platitudes plethora pithy**

1. Staff at the brewery are bitter that a profitable business can be reduced to _____ by the financial crisis in its parent group.
2. At the end of any article it is normal to give conclusions, explaining what the article means in a short, _____ summary,
3. If you'd had hardly any sleep for three nights and people kept phoning and waking you up, you'd sound pretty _____.
4. His _____ grandfather had bought the land as an investment, guessing that there might be gold underground.
5. _____ is the skill or practice of arguing very strongly for or against a belief or opinion.
6. When a black cat crossed my sister's path while she was walking to school, she took it as a _____ that she would do badly on her spelling test.
7. A _____ of customers tried to get World Series tickets, and most of them had to be turned away.
8. Listening to the grown-up way the child discussed serious topics, we couldn't help remarking how _____ she was.
9. In giving advice to his son, old Polonius expressed himself only in _____; every word out of his mouth was a commonplace.
10. Like most successful politicians, she is _____ and single-minded in the pursuit of her goals.

Practice Set 16E

**pithy perspicacity penury pertinacious polemical precocious
portent platitudes petulant plethora**

1. Lexy was a master of _____ rhetoric; she should have worn a T-shirt with the slogan "Born to Debate."
2. Attentive consideration of the phenomena of vision has led to the invention of artificial aids by which the sight may be wonderfully strengthened and preserved, and man endowed at once with the _____ of the eagle or the minute scrutiny of the insect.
3. They remain friends, though she is quick to be _____ over telephone messages left unanswered and favors left undone.
4. Minton dashed out striking designs with astonishing facility, working with fierce concentration and a _____ resistance to interruptions.
5. The promises of Chapman's first season at Leeds were marred by a major blackspot, a shadowy _____ of the catastrophe to come.
6. People want to travel to pursue their hobbies, or try new ones, and the specialist tour operators have responded with a _____ of organized activities.
7. What would become of poetry if women became so sensible that they turned a deaf ear to the poetic _____ of love?
8. We can conjecture that some of the slaves had bought themselves to serfdom; that _____ had compelled the free to sell their freedom for bread.
9. Fortunately, journalist Brigid McConville was available to help tussle with the almost impossible task of distilling up to 1,000 pages of transcript and even more pages of documents into eight sides of _____ words.
10. Derek was so academically _____ that by the time he was 10 years old, he was already in the ninth grade.

Practice Set 16F

**plethora pithy petulance perspicacity precocious polemicist
pertinacious platitude penury portent**

1. It was a ghostly hand holding a lighted candle, and the luckless man who beheld it knew that it was a _____ of his death.
2. Anyone believing that the personal computer price wars have abated are in for a rude shock this week when Compaq Computer Corp brings out a _____ of new machines, including its first stab at a multimedia model, and cuts prices significantly on its existing products.
3. He had the appearance of a man from whom you would expect sound advice, moral sentiments, with perhaps a _____ or two thrown in on occasion, not from a desire to dazzle, but from honest conviction.
4. Politicians don't have time to read screeds, so you have to give them short, _____ things to look at.
5. Demi inherited a trifle of his sire's firmness of character, we won't call it obstinacy, and when he made up his little to have or to do anything, all the king's horses and all the king's men could not change that _____ little mind.
6. Their argument a few days ago was still hovering at the back of her mind, still had the power, in fact, to make her cringe with shame, and it lent an edge of _____ to all her answers to his questions.
7. Martin Luther King is remembered as a courageous and articulate _____ who fought indefatigably for minority civil rights
8. He showed considerable marital _____ in not introducing the new secretary to his wife for several weeks.
9. She blossomed from a _____ teenager in films like The Wizard Of Oz into a charismatically attractive woman with towering talent, able to sing, dance and act like no one before or since.
10. As a young man Uncle Leonard endured great _____, and though he later became a successful business owner, he never forgot the hardships of his youth.

Set 17

1. **prescient** [presh-uhnt]
(*adj.*) to have foreknowledge of events (Questioning the fortune cookie's prediction, Ray went in search of the old hermit who was rumored to be prescient.)
prescience (*n.*)
2. **primeval** [prahy-mee-vuhl]
(*adj.*) original, ancient (The first primates to walk on two legs, called *Australopithecus*, were the primeval descendants of modern man.)
3. **probity** [proh-bi-tee, pro-]
(*n.*) virtue, integrity (Because he was never viewed as a man of great probity, no one was surprised by Mr. Samson's immoral behavior.)
4. **proclivity** [proh-cliv-i-tee]
(*n.*) a strong inclination toward something (In a sick twist of fate, Harold's childhood proclivity for torturing small animals grew into a desire to become a surgeon.)
5. **promulgate** [prom-uhl-geyt, proh-muhl-geyt]
(*v.*) to proclaim, make known (The film professor promulgated that both in terms of sex appeal and political intrigue, Sean Connery's James Bond was superior to Roger Moore's.)
promulgation (*n.*)
6. **propitious** [pruh-pish-uhs]
(*adj.*) favorable (The dark storm clouds visible on the horizon suggested that the weather would not be propitious for sailing.)
propitiousness (*n.*)
7. **prosaic** [proh-zey-ik]
(*adj.*) plain, lacking liveliness (Heather's prosaic recital of the poem bored the audience.)
8. **proscribe** [proh-skrahyb]
(*v.*) to condemn, outlaw (The town council voted to proscribe the sale of alcohol on weekends.)
proscription (*n.*)
9. **protean** [proh-tee-uhn, proh-tee-]
(*adj.*) able to change shape; displaying great variety (Among Nigel's protean talents was his ability to touch the tip of his nose with his tongue.)
10. **prurient** [proor-ee-uhnt]
(*adj.*) eliciting or possessing an extraordinary interest in sex (David's mother was shocked by the discovery of prurient reading material hidden beneath her son's mattress.)
prurience (*n.*) **pruriency** (*n.*)

Practice Set 17A

**prosaic probity proclivity primeval prurient proscribe protean
propitious prescient promulgate**

1. _____ (adj.) original, ancient
2. _____ (n.) virtue, integrity
3. _____ (adj.) plain, lacking liveliness
4. _____ (v.) to condemn, outlaw; forbid
5. _____ (adj.) eliciting or possessing an extraordinary interest in sex
6. _____ (v.) to proclaim, make known
7. _____ (n.) a strong inclination toward something
8. _____ (adj.) able to change shape; displaying great variety
9. _____ (adj.) having foreknowledge of events
10. _____ (adj.) favorable

Practice Set 17B

**proscribed prosaic Probity primeval prescient prurient protean
propitious proclivity promulgated**

1. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that she has the ability to continually change her nature, appearance, or behavior.
2. _____ is a high standard of correct moral behavior.
3. You use _____ to describe things that belong to a very early period in the history of the world.
4. If something is _____ by people in authority, the existence or the use of that thing is forbidden.
5. If you say that someone was _____, you mean that she was able to know or predict what was going to happen in the future.
6. If something is _____, it is likely to lead to success.
7. A _____ is a tendency to behave in a particular way or to like a particular thing, often a bad way or thing.
8. Something that is _____ is dull and uninteresting.
9. If a new law is _____ by a government or national leader, it is publicly approved or made official.
10. If you describe something as _____, you mean that it shows or elicits too much interest in sexual matters.

Practice Set 17C

**probity prurient prosaic proclivity protean promulgated
propitious prescient proscribed primeval**

1. The first primates to walk on two legs, called Australopithecus, were the _____ descendants of modern man.
2. Because he was never viewed as a man of great _____, no one was surprised by Mr. Samson's immoral behavior.
3. In a sick twist of fate, Harold's childhood _____ for torturing small animals grew into a desire to become a surgeon.
4. Questioning the fortune cookie's prediction, Ray went in search of the old hermit who was rumored to be _____.
5. Aggressive threat and display are encouraged, whilst actual slaughter is _____.
6. A remarkably _____ actor, Alec Guinness could take on any role.
7. The dark storm clouds visible on the horizon suggested that the weather would not be _____ for sailing.
8. Though the ad writers came up with an original way to publicize the product, the head office rejected it for a more _____, ordinary slogan.
9. The film professor _____ that both in terms of sex appeal and political intrigue, Sean Connery's James Bond was superior to Roger Moore's.
10. David's mother was shocked by the discovery of _____ reading material hidden beneath her son's mattress.

Practice Set 17D

**primeval protean propitious prurient promulgate proclivities
proscribed prosaic Prescience probity**

1. However, when scientists first tried to work out how life on Earth got started, they had to perfect their understanding of the original _____ gases, and whether and how such gases changed their nature.
2. While it does not pretend to be comprehensive, The Spirit of the Letter manages to provoke many questions about the _____ and varied role of lettering, from typography to bravura calligraphy, public inscriptions to computer-generated letter forms.
3. With the economy in the worst recession for thirty years, it was scarcely the most _____ time to start up a company.
4. They go there to indulge their amphibian _____ in diving for small fish, and enjoying the cool depths of the water.
5. Despite his _____ appearance and generally practical walk of life, Father Brown was not without a certain streak of romance in his composition, though he generally kept his daydreams to himself, as many children do.
6. _____ is not unlike having a presage, except that it is a complete foreknowledge rather than just a sign.
7. When Moses came down from the mountaintop all set to _____ God's commandments, he freaked out on discovering his followers worshipping a golden calf.
8. Some decades later Pecquet asserted flatly that deceit in diplomacy was positively dangerous and that truth and _____ are the two qualities most essential to the success of a public minister.
9. Obscene material is material which deals with sex in a manner appealing to _____ interest.
10. The Athletics Federation have banned the runner from future races for using _____ drugs.

Practice Set 17E

**probity protean prosaic proscribed prurient propitious
promulgated primeval proclivities prescience**

1. He is a standing protest against the tyranny of the Commonplace, and sows the seeds of a noble discontent with _____ views of life and the dull uses to which it may be put.
2. The mayor was known for her _____ especially after the extended court case involving fair use of election funds.
3. The ship had sailed from Hamburg after the law had been _____; on the other hand, the landing permits had been issued earlier.
4. Unpredictable escape patterns of this kind have been called _____ defense systems because like the figure of Proteus in ancient Greek mythology they repeatedly change their shape.
5. In March 1967 Craig had announced a ban on the forthcoming commemorations of the 1867 Fenian Rising and had _____ the Republican Clubs.
6. With his son's reputation now unequivocally established Leopold may have regarded the time as _____ to secure a position for Mozart at the Viennese court.
7. On this second interpretation, Yahweh summons order out of a pre-existing _____ soup: when the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.
8. Given the current wave of Japan-bashing, it does not take _____ for me to foresee problems in our future trade relations with Japan.
9. To the mind of the ape-man, knowing as he did the _____ of the savages, there was but a single explanation -- Meriem had been killed and eaten.
10. He didn't like to make Viola completely naked -- it seemed too _____.

Practice Set 17F

**protean prescient primeval proscribed proclivity prurient
promulgate prosaic propitious probity**

1. Whilst it may have become commonplace in Western Europe and the United States for Turks or Mexicans to move north in response to economic opportunity, the Turkic populations of the USSR show no such _____.
2. Between him and destination lay a trackless wilderness of untouched _____ savagery where, doubtless in many spots, his would be the first human foot to touch the virgin turf.
3. The Council may also from time to time _____ Codes of Practice if it is of the opinion that such codes will further the objects of the Council.
4. Their headmistress had willfully departed from the scripture syllabus and her stories had stimulated a _____ interest in sex, thereby corrupting childhood innocence.
5. Romance and vicarious excitement are what the average reader wants; he has enough of what is drab, _____, and everyday.
6. When products and processes are so _____, companies grow or decline not with the market for some specific good, but with the creative and adaptive capacity of their workers.
7. The first few days of the voyage passed prosperously, amid favorable weather and _____ winds, and they soon came in sight of the great Andaman, the principal of the islands in the Bay of Bengal.
8. Connolly's observation is often taken to confirm him as a better judge of literature than of politics, but in many ways he was remarkably _____.
9. In honor-and-shame cultures like those of India and Pakistan, male honor resides in the sexual _____ of women, and the "shaming" of women dishonors all men.
10. Doubtless the number of victims of this particular form of surgical homicide would have been greater but for the American Food and Drug Administration, whose officials promptly and wisely _____ the procedure.

Set 18

1. **propensity** [pruh-pen-si-tee]
(*n.*) an inclination, preference (Dermot has a propensity for dangerous activities such as bungee jumping.)
2. **puerile** [pyoo-er-il, -uh-rahyl, pyoor-il, -ahyl]
(*adj.*) juvenile, immature (The judge demanded order after the lawyer's puerile attempt to object by stomping his feet on the courtroom floor.)
3. **pugnacious** [puhg-ney-shuhs]
(*adj.*) quarrelsome, combative (Aaron's pugnacious nature led him to start several barroom brawls each month.)
pugnacity (*n.*)
4. **pulchritude** [puhl-kri-tood, -tyood]
(*n.*) physical beauty (Several of Shakespeare's sonnets explore the pulchritude of a lovely young man.)
5. **punctilious** [puhngk-til-ee-uhs]
(*adj.*) eager to follow rules or conventions (Punctilious Bobby, hall monitor extraordinaire, insisted that his peers follow the rules.)
punctiliousness (*n.*)
6. **quagmire** [kwag-mahyuhr]
(*n.*) a difficult situation (We'd all like to avoid the kind of military quagmire characterized by the Vietnam War.)
7. **querulous** [kwer-uh-luhs]
(*adj.*) whiny, complaining (If deprived of his pacifier, young Brendan becomes querulous.)
querulousness (*n.*)
8. **quixotic** [kwik-sot-ik]
(*adj.*) idealistic, impractical (Edward entertained a quixotic desire to fall in love at first sight in a laundromat.)
9. **rancor** [rang-ker]
(*n.*) deep, bitter resentment (When Eileen challenged me to a fight, I could see the rancor in her eyes.)
rancorous (*adj.*)
10. **rebuke** [ri-byook]
(*v.*) to scold, criticize (When the cops showed up at Sarah's party, they rebuked her for disturbing the peace.)
rebuke (*n.*)

Practice Set 18A

**querulous punctilious rancor puerile rebuke quixotic
pulchritude quagmire propensity pugnacious**

1. _____ (adj.) whiny, complaining
2. _____ (adj.) juvenile, immature
3. _____ (adj.) idealistic, impractical
4. _____ (v.) to scold harshly; criticize severely
5. _____ (adj.) eager to follow rules or conventions
6. _____ (adj.) quarrelsome, combative
7. _____ (n.) great physical beauty and appeal
8. _____ (n.) a difficult situation; a bog
9. _____ (n.) an inclination, preference
10. _____ (n.) deep, bitter resentment

Practice Set 18B

**querulous propensity pulchritude quagmire pugnacious
punctilious rancor puerile rebuke quixotic**

1. Someone who is _____ is very careful to behave correctly.
2. You use _____ to describe great physical beauty and appeal, especially a woman's beauty.
3. If you _____ someone, you speak severely to her because she has said or done something that you do not approve of.
4. A _____ is a difficult, complicated, or unpleasant situation which is not easy to avoid or escape from.
5. A _____ person complains often and in a way that annoys other people
6. A _____ to do something or a _____ for something is a natural tendency that you have to behave in a particular way.
7. Someone who is _____ is always ready to quarrel or start a fight.
8. If you describe someone or something as _____, you mean that that person or thing is silly and childish.
9. _____ is a feeling of bitterness and anger.
10. If you describe someone's ideas or plans as _____, you mean that they are imaginative or hopeful but unrealistic.

Practice Set 18C

**pugnacious puerile propensity pulchritude rancor quagmire
querulous quixotic rebuked punctilious**

1. The judge demanded order after the lawyer's _____ attempt to object by stomping his feet on the courtroom floor.
2. Convinced of his own talent, Sol has an unfortunate _____ to belittle the talents of others
3. I do not envy the judges who have to select this year's Miss America from this collection of female _____.
4. Aaron's _____ nature led him to start several barroom brawls each month.
5. Percy is _____ about observing the rules of etiquette whenever Miss Manners invites him to stay
6. When Eileen challenged me to a fight, I could see the _____ in her eyes.
7. We'd all like to avoid the kind of military _____ characterized by the Vietnam War.
8. Even the most agreeable toddlers can begin to act _____ if they miss their nap.
9. Edward entertained a _____ desire to fall in love at first sight in a laundromat.
10. When the cops showed up at Sarah's party, they _____ her for disturbing the peace.

Practice Set 18D

**rebuked querulous puerile rancor pulchritude quixotic
propensity quagmire pugnacious punctilious**

1. The gardener finished trimming the roses and was waiting for the _____ Mr. Jones to inspect his work, knowing that the latter would find something wrong.
2. To his wife's amazement, his interest in feminine _____ gave way to fatigue and he was asleep before the final selection of the Miss Universe contest on TV.
3. Thirty years after the war, she could not let go of the past but was still consumed with _____ against the foe.
4. Constantly coming up with _____, unworkable schemes to save the world, Simon has his heart in the right place, but his head somewhere in the clouds.
5. Margaret Thatcher deserves some of the credit for this sudden silence: in her last cabinet reshuffle she replaced the _____ Kenneth Clarke with the patrician William Waldegrave.
6. Up to her knees in mud, Myra wondered how on earth she was going to extricate herself from this _____.
7. No matter how sharply Miss Watson _____ Huck for his misconduct, he never talked back but just stood there like a stump.
8. In 664 Cicero, who had just completed his sixteenth year, exchanged the _____ for the manly gown.
9. During the Falklands War, Mrs. Thatcher was _____ about keeping full Cabinet informed about major developments, and consulted them before implementing the bigger decisions.
10. Wartime discoveries of acute poverty among elderly people heightened awareness of their _____ to poverty.

Practice Set 18E

**pulchritude puerile rebuke propensity rancorous punctilious
quixotic quagmire querulous pugnacious**

1. For Glaucon, who is always the most _____ of men, was dissatisfied at Thrasymachus' retirement; he wanted to have the battle out.
2. In an instant Raffles had seized the clubs, and was whirling them about his gray head in a mixture of childish pique and _____ bravado which I should have thought him altogether above.
3. _____ is the mess which the country is in due to the failure to react to the worsening recession.
4. However much, privately, she may have hated seeing her husband drink, or hearing him swear, she would never _____ him in front of others.
5. Menzies was _____, an ache in the head was interfering with his thoughts.
6. Even employers who are _____ in consulting staff representatives sometimes fail to talk directly to the people whose jobs are at stake.
7. The sumptuous _____ of the mountains dressed in the hot fall colors of hardwood forests was more than Mortimer's camera could capture.
8. For more than a year, the Poles have been engaged in a brave, almost _____ attempt to transform a moribund command economy into a lively free market.
9. More commonly, however, it was ill health in conjunction with other factors, such as proximity to retirement age, which determined _____ to retire early.
10. There is no speech in the world so _____ and so stinging as the language the Jungle People use to show scorn and contempt.

Practice Set 18F

**quagmire pugnacious puerile pulchritude propensity quixotic
punctilious rancor rebuke querulous**

1. I reckon he wants my working-class experience to give his _____ political ideas some authenticity.
2. A man of great personal charm, he was yet stubborn and _____ towards those with whom he disagreed.
3. If each blow in the proper direction drives an evil _____ out, it follows that every thump in an opposite one knocks its quota of wickedness in.
4. They had liked each other, got on with remarkably little _____ and he had been genuinely upset, if principally in his pride, when she had left him
5. After two hours she no longer believed that ordinary delays were keeping her daughter, who was usually very _____ about telling her if she was going to be late and where she was going as she knew her mother worried.
6. On her way to her desk she tried to collect a beaker of iced water but the machine was empty and a knot of _____ men were standing around it demanding something be done.
7. He began to _____ her for a belief in the reality of Noah's Ark, which he referred to sarcastically as the Myth of the Deluge.
8. Cleopatra's _____ is said by historians to have been highly exaggerated; her desirability was based more on her personality than her physical features.
9. The Fifties was a great time for moral stands, at least on this subject, accompanied by high-level debate and _____, brave, sometimes eccentric gestures of persuasion.
10. While civil servants and directors wade through the legal _____ of whether to record unmet needs, many staff who have to implement the policy are already up to their necks in it.

Set 19

1. **recalcitrant** [ri-kal-si-truhnt]
(*adj.*) resisting authority or control; not obedient or compliant; refractory (Even when scolded, the recalcitrant young girl simply stomped her foot and refused to finish her lima beans.)
recalcitrance (*n.*); **recalcitrancy** (*n.*)
2. **rectitude** [rek-ti-tood, -tyood]
(*n.*) uprightness, extreme morality (The priest's rectitude gave him the moral authority to counsel his parishioners.)
3. **replete** [ri-pleet]
(*adj.*) full, abundant (The unedited version was replete with naughty words.)
replete (*v.*) **repleteness** (*n.*)
4. **reprobate** [rep-ruh-beyt]
(*adj.*) evil, unprincipled (The reprobate criminal sat sneering in the cell.)
(*v.*) condemn; (*n.*) a depraved, unprincipled, or wicked person
5. **reprove** [ree-proov]
(*v.*) to scold, rebuke (Lara reproved her son for sticking each and every one of his fingers into the strawberry pie.)
reproval (*n.*)
6. **repudiate** [ri-pyoo-dee-eyt]
(*v.*) to reject, refuse to accept (Kwame made a strong case for an extension of his curfew, but his mother repudiated it with a few biting words.)
repudiation (*n.*)
7. **rescind** [ri-sind]
(*v.*) to take back, repeal (The company rescinded its offer of employment after discovering that Jane's resume was full of lies.)
8. **restive** [res-tiv]
(*adj.*) resistant, stubborn, impatient (The restive audience pelted the band with mud and yelled nasty comments.)
9. **ribald** [rib-uhld]
(*adj.*) coarsely, crudely humorous (While some giggled at the ribald joke involving a parson's daughter, most sighed and rolled their eyes.)
ribaldry (*n.*)
10. **ruse** [rooz]
(*n.*) a trick (Oliver concocted an elaborate ruse for sneaking out of the house to meet his girlfriend while simultaneously giving his mother the impression that he was asleep in bed.)

Practice Set 19A

**rescind replete reprobate rectitude recalcitrant restive ribald
repudiate ruse reprove**

1. _____(n.) uprightness, extreme morality
2. _____(v.) to take back, repeal
3. _____(n.) a depraved, unprincipled, or wicked person
4. _____(adj.) full, abundant
5. _____(n.) a trick; a crafty stratagem; a subterfuge
6. _____(adj.) resisting authority or control; not obedient or compliant
7. _____(v.) to scold, rebuke
8. _____(v.) to reject, refuse to accept
9. _____(adj.) resistant, stubborn, impatient
10. _____(adj.) coarsely, crudely humorous

Practice Set 19B

**restive reprove rectitude reprobate recalcitrant repudiate
replete ribald rescinds ruse**

1. If you _____ something, you show that you strongly disagree with it and do not want to be connected with it in any way.
2. If you are _____, you are impatient, bored, or dissatisfied.
3. A _____ remark or sense of humor is rather rude and refers to sex in a humorous way.
4. If you _____ someone, you speak angrily or seriously to her because she has behaved in a wrong or foolish way.
5. A _____ is an action or plan which is intended to deceive someone.
6. _____ is a quality or attitude that is shown by people who behave honestly and morally according to accepted standards.
7. If a government or a group of people in power _____ a law or agreement, it officially withdraws it and states that it is no longer valid.
8. If you describe someone as a _____, you mean that they behave in a way that is not respectable or morally correct.
9. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that she is unwilling to obey orders or is difficult to deal with.
10. To be _____ with something means to be full of it.

Practice Set 19C

**ribald reprove rescinded ruse repudiated restive reprobate
recalcitrant replete rectitude**

1. He sang a _____ song that offended many of the more prudish listeners.
2. My _____ was successful, and the entire party of man-hunters raced headlong after me up one canyon while Ghak bore Perry to safety up the other.
3. An austere man of unquestioned moral _____, Nava inspired deep devotion in those who worked for him.
4. I cannot understand why he has so many admirers if he is the _____ you say he is.
5. Waiting impatiently in line to see Santa Claus, even the best-behaved children grow _____ and start to fidget.
6. He trusted to his comrade, brother, and partner not to hesitate to set him right, and to _____ his weakness.
7. The company _____ its offer of employment after discovering that Jane's resume was full of lies.
8. Even when scolded, the _____ young girl simply stomped her foot and refused to finish her lima beans.
9. The children were delighted to find that the costume trunk was _____ with dresses, hats, capes, and all sorts of props to play make-believe.
10. Kwame made a strong case for an extension of his curfew, but his mother _____ it with a few biting words.

Practice Set 19D

**recalcitrant ruse ribald rectitude restive repudiate reprobate
rescind reprove replete**

1. Someone who is _____ is not willing or able to keep still or be patient and is becoming difficult to control, especially because she is bored or dissatisfied.
2. Branson's role as Oldfield's manager was now made somewhat problematic by the musician's _____ attitude.
3. Because of the public outcry against the new taxes, the senator proposed a bill to _____ the unpopular financial measure.
4. Oliver concocted an elaborate _____ for sneaking out of the house to meet his girlfriend while simultaneously giving his mother the impression that he was asleep in bed.
5. Bad breath, or halitosis, is one of those ailments that often provokes _____ comments but it can cause intense embarrassment to the sufferer.
6. On separating from Tony, Tina announced that she would _____ all debts incurred by her soon-to-be ex-husband.
7. The entire separation of the States into thirteen unconnected sovereignties is a project too extravagant and too _____ with danger to have many advocates.
8. Presently he had occasion to _____ that same waiter for the slovenly manner in which the dinner was served.
9. We are all equally satisfied of the complete _____ of Miss Isabel's conduct, and we are all equally interested in the vindication of her good name.
10. Far from being the drunken _____ of popular legend, they found him punctual and hard-working.

Practice Set 19E

**repudiate reproved ruse ribald rectitude reprobated restive
rescinded recalcitrant replete**

1. What puzzled him was her reasons for meeting all expenses, and some absurd generousities, out of her capital, never opening her legendarily _____ jewel box to assuage them.
2. He preached before both Charles II and Cromwell and courageously _____ them for their sins.
3. There was a time when nepotism and fleecing the public purse were associated with Third World countries, while our government and civil service were held up as models of _____.
4. His _____ worked successfully, the lion passing him with not more than a side glance in his direction.
5. It is arguable that certain kinds of embryonic process are highly amenable to variation in certain directions, _____ to variation in others.
6. Vologsky shunned the _____ laughter of his fellows as they boasted about their sexual conquests.
7. The policy of charging air travelers for vegetarian meals proved unpopular and has already been _____.
8. The ancient Romans typically did not _____ the religious beliefs of their captured subjects, as long as the subjects continued to pay taxes to Rome.
9. He was officially _____ by his company for taking kickbacks under the table.
10. They would grow _____, perhaps even rebel, if the government allowed the human-rights movement to develop too fully.

Practice Set 19F

**restive rescind recalcitrant rectitude reproved reprobate ruse
replete ribald repudiate**

1. Now she would have to confront a horde of troublesome workmen lounging about the house, banging nails, screwing screws and making _____ comments.
2. There is still time for the alliance to _____ its decision of 1979 and turn its attention to more pressing defense priorities.
3. Today as undisputed, undefeated, universally-accepted champion of the world, I reject, renounce, _____ and totally dismiss the unfair, immoral, unethical and downright silly actions of the WBC and their president Jose Sulaiman.
4. He had dogged determination and was of undeviating _____, although this did not relate to any well-defined religious beliefs.
5. The more she thought of the matter, the more convinced she became that the recent telephone message might be but a _____ to keep them inactive until the boy was safely hidden away or spirited out of England.
6. I had not yet learned how contradictory is human nature; I did not know how much pose there is in the sincere, how much baseness in the noble, nor how much goodness in the _____.
7. The movie star's memoir was _____ with juicy details about the love life of half of Hollywood.
8. With the continuing stalemate in 1917 and early 1918 it was not surprising that the radical right became _____ and began to campaign both inside and outside the Unionist party for the removal of Lloyd George.
9. Employers brought maximum pressure to bear on workers in order to restore order: _____ strikers faced lockouts.
10. The first week I was at the school, I attempted to climb a tree, and was _____ by a horrified prefect.

Set 20

1. rife [rah-yf]

(*adj.*) abundant (Surprisingly, the famous novelist's writing was rife with spelling errors.)

2. sacrosanct [sak-roh-sangkt]

(*adj.*) holy, something that should not be criticized (In the United States, the Constitution is often thought of as a sacrosanct document.)

sacrosanctity (*n.*)

3. sagacity [suh-gas-i-tee]

(*n.*) shrewdness, soundness of perspective (With remarkable sagacity, the wise old man predicted and thwarted his children's plan to ship him off to a nursing home.)

sagacious (*adj.*)

4. salient [sey-lee-uhnt]

(*adj.*) significant, conspicuous (One of the salient differences between Alison and Nancy is that Alison is a foot taller.)

salience (*n.*)

5. sanguine [sang-gwin]

(*adj.*) optimistic, cheery (Polly reacted to any bad news with a sanguine smile and the chirpy cry, "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade!")

6. scurrilous [skur-uh-luhs]

(*adj.*) vulgar, coarse (When Bruno heard the scurrilous accusation being made about him, he could not believe it because he always tried to be nice to everyone.)

7. serendipity [ser-uhn-dip-i-tee]

(*n.*) luck, finding good things without looking for them (In an amazing bit of serendipity, penniless Paula found a \$20 bill in the subway station.)

serendipitous (*adj.*)

8. servile [sur-vil, -vahyl]

(*adj.*) subservient (The servile porter crept around the hotel lobby, bowing and quaking before the guests.)

9. solicitous [suh-lis-i-tuhs]

(*adj.*) concerned, attentive (Jim, laid up in bed with a nasty virus, enjoyed the solicitous attentions of his mother, who brought him soup and extra blankets.)

solicitude (*n.*)

10. solipsistic [sol-ip-sis-tik]

(*adj.*) believing that oneself is all that exists (Colette's solipsistic attitude completely ignored the plight of the homeless people on the street.)

solipsism (*n.*)

Practice Set 20A

**solipsistic sanguine sagacity salient servile scurrilous
solicitous serendipity rife sacrosanct**

1. _____ (adj.) holy, something that should not be criticized
2. _____ (adj.) optimistic, cheery
3. _____ (adj.) believing that oneself is all that exists
4. _____ (n.) luck, finding good things without looking for them
5. _____ (n.) shrewdness, soundness of perspective
6. _____ (adj.) vulgar, coarse
7. _____ (adj.) significant, conspicuous
8. _____ (adj.) worried, concerned, attentive
9. _____ (adj.) abundant
10. _____ (adj.) subservient, slavishly submissive or obsequious

Practice Set 20B

**solicitous solipsism salient scurrilous sacrosanct serendipity
servile sagacious rife sanguine**

1. A person who is _____ shows anxious concern for someone or something.
2. If you describe something as _____, you consider it to be special and are unwilling to see it criticized or changed.
3. _____ is the belief that only one's own experiences and existence can be known with certainty.
4. _____ accusations or stories are untrue and unfair, and are likely to damage the reputation of the person that they relate to.
5. The _____ points or features of something are the most important or most noticeable parts of it.
6. _____ is the luck some people have in finding or creating interesting or valuable things by chance.
7. A _____ person is intelligent and has the ability to make good decisions.
8. If you are _____ about something, you are cheerful and confident that things will happen in the way you want them to.
9. If you say that someone is _____, you disapprove of her because she is too eager to obey someone or do things for him.
10. If you say that something, usually something bad, is _____ in a place or that the place is _____ with it, you mean that it is very common.

Practice Set 20C

salient scurrilous solicitous solipsistic sagacious sanguine rife
sacrosanct servile serendipity

1. Jim, laid up in bed with a nasty virus, enjoyed the _____ attentions of his mother, who brought him soup and extra blankets.
2. Good readers quickly grasp the _____ and significant points of a passage; indeed, the ideas almost leap out at them, demanding their attention.
3. In the United States, the Constitution is often thought of as a _____ document.
4. Colette's _____ attitude completely ignored the plight of the homeless people on the street.
5. My father was a _____ judge of character: he could spot a phony a mile away.
6. Let's not be too _____ about the outcome of the election; we may still lose.
7. Surprisingly, the famous novelist's writing was _____ with spelling errors.
8. When Bruno heard the _____ accusation being made about him, he could not believe it because he always tried to be nice to everyone.
9. The _____ porter crept around the hotel lobby, bowing and quaking before the guests.
10. In an amazing bit of _____, penniless Paula found a \$20 bill in the subway station.

Practice Set 20D

sanguine serendipity servile sacrosanct scurrilous rife
solipsism solicitous sagacious salient

1. Dora was delicate, David knew, and he was very _____ about her health during her pregnancy.
2. Many scientific discoveries are a matter of _____: Newton was not sitting under a tree thinking about gravity when the apple dropped on his head.
3. A _____ person limits the amount of money he brings to the tables in a casino.
4. Constantly fawning on his employer, humble Uriah Heap was a _____ creature.
5. Eliot was himself less than _____ about his monumental reputation, and although he was pleased about the Nobel he was worried about its effects.
6. He had told her a lot the previous night, too much for her to take in, but the _____ points stuck out clearly in her mind.
7. Discontent was _____ among the early settlers, who had not foreseen the harshness of life in the New World.
8. If finally I become wholly submerged in this _____ there could be no other rational ethic for me than egoism.
9. Suggestions that we messed around are a _____ attack on the integrity, conduct and reputation of the Pakistan cricket team -- and they are unjustified.
10. Something that is _____ is considered to be so important that no one is allowed to criticize or change it

Practice Set 20E

**sacrosanctity sanguine serendipity salient solicitous scurrilous
sagacity servile rife solipsistic**

1. The coach remained _____ about his team's chances in the playoffs, even though his star player was injured.
2. Clarissa was particularly _____ to Charles because she saw that, having been very red in the face, he was now quite pale.
3. To Muslims, the _____ of the Dome of the Rock must not be violated by nonbelievers.
4. With remarkable _____, the wise old man predicted and thwarted his children's plan to ship him off to a nursing home.
5. He was just proud enough to demand the most debasing homage of the slave, and quite _____ enough to crouch, himself, at the feet of the master.
6. When dreams are recalled during the day, it would be the most _____ points that would be recalled, and the color detail will have been forgotten.
7. The article in the "Epoque" had so excited the populace that discussion was _____ everywhere even to the verge of blows.
8. Various _____ attacks were made on Constanze's honor, suggesting that during her frequent sojourns in Baden she had taken Mozart's pupil Süßmayr as a lover, and that her last child was his.
9. He was even more _____ than I was: self-centered as only a man constrained within his own view of what constituted his masculinity could be.
10. Discovering that alloying copper and tin made the hard metal bronze was a case of _____ for early man because the two rarely occurred together in nature.

Practice Set 20F

**servile serendipitous sagacious solipsism salient sanguine
solicitous scurrilous rife sacrosanct**

1. In China it is quite normal for ailing politicians to be filmed for the evening television news on their sick beds, perhaps receiving wishes for a speedy recovery from _____ friends.
2. Standing at this table, I became conscious of the _____ Pumblechook in a black cloak and several yards of hatband, who was alternately stuffing himself, and making obsequious movements to catch my attention.
3. Reading should be an adventure, a personal experience full of _____ surprises.
4. On Saturdays and Sundays she grew more _____, but the mood was dispersed on Monday morning with the prospect of enduring that place for another week.
5. One of the _____ differences between Alison and Nancy is that Alison is a foot taller.
6. The modernist novel thus tends to endorse the philosophical argument known as _____ that the only thing I can be sure exists is myself as a thinking subject.
7. For two weeks no word has come back from them, but rumors were _____ that they had met with a terrible disaster and that all were dead.
8. One who drinks alcoholic beverages and then drives is not _____.
9. The brash insurance salesman invaded the _____ privacy of the office of the president of the company.
10. We have a press that is free in one sense: it engages sometimes in the most _____ reporting and colors it up under the heading of a free press.

Review of Sets 15 – 20

1. Rural areas were now allowed more freedom of choice as to farming methods, and the peasants' _____ to more individualistic action was encouraged.
(a) probity
(b) propensity
(c) reprobation
(d) serendipity
2. They are not callow like the young of most birds, but more perfectly developed and _____ even than chickens.
(a) penurious
(b) pugnacious
(c) precocious
(d) propitious
3. At the closure of the session he suggested a number of measures to be undertaken to _____ and propagate the essence of the new laws, including the nationwide education of the people through study classes, and increased media coverage.
(a) reprobate
(b) repudiate
(c) rescind
(d) promulgate
4. He still love her well enough to forgive all the _____ and acrimony of her manner in rejecting him, and all the unjust accusations accompanying her rejection.
(a) ruse
(b) petulance
(c) repletion
(d) promulgation
5. Once creditors have approved the debtor entering into a voluntary arrangement the court may stay the bankruptcy proceedings and _____ the bankruptcy order.
(a) rescind
(b) proscribe
(c) reprove
(d) rectify
6. If a mother has been forced to resort to repetitious shouting, whining appeals and _____ nagging, the child can be said to have learned to "turn off" what is being said.
(a) querulous
(b) scurrilous
(c) prurient
(d) penurious
7. However much, privately, she may have hated seeing her husband drink, or hearing him swear, she would never _____ him in front of others.
(a) promulgate
(b) rebuke
(c) reprove
(d) portend
8. Although the Senate dared to criticize the National Film Board in this use, Senators would definitely not dare to do such a thing, given the _____ character of the media.
(a) sacrosanct
(b) sagacious
(c) salient
(d) prosaic
9. In an instant Raffles had seized the clubs, and was whirling them about his gray head in a mixture of childish pique and _____ bravado which I should have thought him altogether above.
(a) rife
(b) servile
(c) puerile
(d) querulous
10. Suggestions that we messed around are a _____ attack on the integrity, conduct and reputation of the our cricket team -- and they are unjustified.
(a) solicitous
(b) querulous
(c) penurious
(d) scurrilous
11. Human cultures prescribe and _____ the sexual actions of their members; both the action and

- the object are socio-culturally controlled.
- (a) rescind
 - (b) proscribe
 - (c) rescind
 - (d) portend
12. When products and processes are so _____, companies grow or decline not with the market for some specific good, but with the creative and adaptive capacity of their workers.
- (a) precocious
 - (b) primeval
 - (c) prosaic
 - (d) protean
13. Whilst religious traditions may prefer the theme of light as more poetic, their theologians find more _____ ways to represent the divine presence.
- (a) protean
 - (b) prosaic
 - (c) prurient
 - (d) petulant
14. The entire separation of the States into thirteen unconnected sovereignties is a project too extravagant and too _____ with danger to have many advocates.
- (a) repudiative
 - (b) restive
 - (c) reproving
 - (d) replete
15. His _____ worked successfully, the lion passing him with not more than a side glance in his direction.
- (a) pertinacity
 - (b) rebuke
 - (c) proclivity
 - (d) ruse
16. Questioning the fortune cookie's prediction, Ray went in search of the old hermit who was rumored to be _____.
- (a) punctilious
 - (b) prosaic
 - (c) prurient
 - (d) prescient
17. Telegraph and telephone worked his will, he saw all callers, a cigar in his mouth and flower in his buttonhole, perfectly at his ease, _____ and confident.
- (a) salient
 - (b) servile
 - (c) sanguine
 - (d) sagacious
18. His letters to Helen uncover the head for business, the _____ sense of irritable rightness, and the concomitant sudden bouts of self-distrust that marched alongside his desire for an extended life of idealized perfection.
- (a) penurious
 - (b) precocious
 - (c) propitious
 - (d) punctilious
19. Arnold, sacrificed to the _____ delicacy which forbids the bridegroom, before marriage, to sleep in the same house with the bride, found himself ruthlessly shut out from Sir Patrick's hospitality, and exiled every night to a bedroom at the inn.
- (a) salient
 - (b) prurient
 - (c) portent
 - (d) prescient
20. She became _____, insisted upon her rights, and finally announced her positive intention of going to a certain ball.
- (a) restive
 - (b) reproving
 - (c) rife
 - (d) petulant
21. In a manner rather respectful than submissive, he awaited the answer of the King,---like one who is conscious he may have given offense, yet is confident in the _____ of his motive.
- (a) serendipity
 - (b) pulchritude

- (c) platitude
(d) rectitude
22. While some giggled at the _____ joke involving a parson's daughter, most sighed and rolled their eyes.
(a) rebuke
(b) ribald
(c) rife
(d) scurrilous
23. Lessons have been analyzed according to descriptive schemes of different sorts based on the abstraction of what the researchers have considered to be the most _____ or significant features of classroom behavior.
(a) sanguine
(b) salient
(c) portent
(d) prurient
24. Reading should be an adventure, a personal experience full of _____ surprises.
(a) proclivity
(b) prescience
(c) repudiation
(d) serendipity
25. I "love" them for their witless _____, for their supernatural ability to bore, for their delightful asinine vanity, for their luxuriant fertility of imagination, for their startling, their brilliant, their overwhelming mendacity!
(a) platitudes
(b) rectitude
(c) pulchritude
(d) pertinacity
26. You'll need all your guile and _____ to help your owner over this tiresome period, but your efforts will be amply rewarded and appreciated.
(a) salient
(b) pertinacious
(c) sagacity
(d) sanguine
27. If you should marry the handsomest, and most superficially agreeable man in the world, you little know the misery that would overwhelm you if, after all, you should find him to be a worthless _____, or even an impracticable fool.
(a) reprobate
(b) reproval
(c) repudiation
(d) probity
28. My brother launched into a _____ against my arguments that capitalism was an unjust economic system.
(a) quagmire
(b) promulgation
(c) polemic
(d) sagacity
29. His first wife is remembered as open hearted and hospitable, in contrast to his stingy and _____ second wife.
(a) penurious
(b) pugnacious
(c) precocious
(d) prurient
30. The surgeon spoke with the fluency due to long practice and with the admirable _____ which distinguished him.
(a) propensity
(b) pertinacity
(c) rancor
(d) perspicacity
31. In a sick twist of fate, Harold's childhood _____ for torturing small animals grew into a desire to become a surgeon.
(a) proclivity
(b) pulchritude
(c) probity
(d) polemic
32. They did not want to _____ totally their previous policies, yet had to recognize the disaster of

- which they had been part.
(a) reprove
(b) portend
(c) promulgate
(d) repudiate
33. She paid close attention to the teaching of her assistants, and was always _____ about the welfare of her students.
(a) precocious
(b) propitious
(c) scurrilous
(d) solicitous
34. "If I tread too presumptuously into sacred places, _____ me," entreated the earl, with the submissive sweetness of a brand-new novice.
(a) promulgate
(b) reprove
(c) reprobate
(d) replete
35. He was, I think, even more _____ than I was: self-centered as only a man constrained within his own view of what constituted his masculinity could be.
(a) solipsistic
(b) solicitous
(c) polemic
(d) quixotic
36. Surprisingly, the famous novelist's writing was _____ with spelling errors.
(a) ribald
(b) penurious
(c) rife
(d) puerile
37. Whereas once the working class might have looked to the middle classes for an example of _____ and upright behavior, now the middle classes looked to the working class as the custodians of vanishing tradition and folk culture.
(a) probity
(b) propensity
(c) pithiness
(d) reprobate
38. His most notable purchase was the five-canvas series depicting the rise of ancient society from _____ times, to the development of agricultural and artistic skills, to over-prosperous decadence, to final ruins and desolation.
(a) primeval
(b) rife
(c) ribald
(d) protean
39. Chernobyl is a big reason why the Ukraine and Belorussia, in 1986 docile republics dominated by Brezhnevite Communists, now have mass strikes and increasingly _____ independence movements.
(a) pertinacious
(b) penurious
(c) pugnacious
(d) precocious
40. Even when scolded, the _____ young girl simply stomped her foot and refused to finish her lima beans.
(a) recalcitrant
(b) punctilious
(c) perspicacious
(d) salient
41. Standing at this table, I became conscious of the _____ Pumblechook in a black cloak and several yards of hatband, who was alternately stuffing himself, and making obsequious movements to catch my attention.
(a) restive
(b) rife
(c) puerile
(d) servile
42. The "worrier" is so concerned he might forget something that he struggles through airports with three huge suitcases and a _____ of hand baggage.
(a) repletion

- (b) pithiness
 - (c) platitude
 - (d) plethora
43. Whilst Vaughan labored slowly, working up his ideas through a series of studies, Minton dashed out striking designs with astonishing facility, working with fierce concentration and a _____ resistance to interruptions.
- (a) precocious
 - (b) penurious
 - (c) pertinacious
 - (d) pugnacious
44. Looking at museum sculptures, chubby but beautiful Cherry felt better about herself; apparently, for the ancients, female _____ could be equated with curvaceousness and a healthy appetite!
- (a) platitudes
 - (b) puerility
 - (c) rectitude
 - (d) pulchritude
45. When a black cat crossed my sister's path while she was walking to school, she took it as a _____ that she would do badly on her spelling test.
- (a) portent
 - (b) prurient
 - (c) protean
 - (d) salient
46. The rains arrived, in a stifling, continuous downpour, accompanied by shattering thunder, and the Rante was transformed into a red _____.
- (a) sagacity
 - (b) puerility
 - (c) quagmires
 - (d) polemic
47. His series of short, _____ quotations, mainly from the Unspoken Sermons, stimulated my heart and mind.
- (a) punctilious
 - (b) ribald
 - (c) pithy
 - (d) rife
48. For more than a year, the Poles have been engaged in a brave, almost _____ attempt to transform a moribund command economy into a lively free market, and they are now suffering the growing pains of a capitalism devoid of capital.
- (a) pithy
 - (b) prosaic
 - (c) quixotic
 - (d) polemic
49. The consciousness that the insult was not yet avenged, that his _____ was still unspent, weighed on his heart and poisoned the artificial tranquility which he managed to obtain in Turkey.
- (a) propensity
 - (b) pulchritude
 - (c) precocity
 - (d) rancor
50. The first few days of the voyage passed prosperously, amid favorable weather and _____ winds, and they soon came in sight of the great Andaman, the principal of the islands in the Bay of Bengal, with its picturesque Saddle Peak, two thousand four hundred feet high, looming above the waters.
- (a) punctilious
 - (b) propitious
 - (c) solicitous
 - (d) precocious

Set 21

1. sanctimonious [sang-k-tuh-moh-nee-uhs]

(*adj.*) pretending to be very holy or pious; feigning righteousness (The sanctimonious Bertrand delivered stern lectures on the Ten Commandments to anyone who would listen, but thought nothing of stealing cars to make some cash on the side.)

2. somnolent [som-uh-luhnt]

(*adj.*) sleepy, drowsy (The somnolent student kept falling asleep and waking up with a jerk.)

somnolence (*n.*)

3. spurious [spyoor-ee-uhs]

(*adj.*) false but designed to seem plausible (Using a spurious argument, John convinced the others that he had won the board game on a technicality.)

4. staid [steyd]

(*adj.*) sedate, serious, self-restrained (The staid butler never changed his expression no matter what happened.)

staidness (*n.*)

5. stolid [stol-id]

(*adj.*) expressing little sensibility, unemotional (Charles's stolid reaction to his wife's funeral differed from the passion he showed at the time of her death.)

stolidness (*n.*)

6. stupefy [stoo-puh-fahy, styoo-]

(*v.*) to astonish, make insensible (Veronica's audacity and ungratefulness stupefied her best friend, Heather.)

stupefaction (*n.*)

7. surfeit [sur-fit]

(*n.*) an overabundant supply or indulgence (After partaking of the surfeit of tacos and tamales at the All-You-Can-Eat Taco Tamale Lunch Special, Beth felt rather sick.)

8. surmise [ser-mahyz]

(*v.*) to infer with little evidence (After speaking to only one of the students, the teacher was able to surmise what had caused the fight.)

surmise (*n.*)

9. surreptitious [sur-uhp-tish-uhs]

(*adj.*) stealthy (The surreptitious CIA agents were able to get in and out of the house without anyone noticing.)

surreptitiousness (*n.*)

10. sycophant [sik-uh-fuhnt]

(*n.*) one who flatters for self-gain (Some see the people in the cabinet as the president's closest advisors, but others see them as sycophants.)

sycophantic (*adj.*)

Practice Set 21A

staid spurious somnolent surreptitious stupefy surfeit
sanctimonious sycophant stolid surmise

1. _____(adj.) expressing little sensibility; unemotional; impassive; dull
2. _____(adj.) sedate, serious, self-restrained
3. _____(adj.) pretending to be very holy or pious; feigning righteousness
4. _____(n.) an overabundant supply or indulgence
5. _____(adj.) false but designed to seem plausible; not genuine or authentic
6. _____(adj.) stealthy; secret; clandestine
7. _____(v.) to astonish, make insensible
8. _____(n.) one who flatters for self-gain
9. _____(v.) to infer with little evidence; conjecture; guess
10. _____(adj.) sleepy, drowsy

Practice Set 21B

sanctimonious surreptitious sycophantic spurious surmise
stupefies somnolent stolid surfeit staid

1. If you describe someone as _____, you disapprove of her because she flatters people who are more important and powerful than she is in order to gain an advantage for herself.
2. A _____ action is done secretly or quickly, in the hope that other people will not notice.
3. A _____ of something is an amount which is too large.
4. A _____ argument or way of reasoning is incorrect, and so the conclusion is probably incorrect.
5. If you say that someone or something is _____, you mean that that person or thing is serious, dull, and rather old-fashioned.
6. If you are _____, you feel sleepy.
7. If you _____ that something is true, you guess it from the available evidence, although you do not know for certain.
8. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that she does not show much emotion or is not very exciting or interesting.
9. If you say that someone is _____, you disapprove of her because you think that she is trying to appear morally better than other people.
10. If something _____ you, it shocks or surprises you so much that you cannot think properly for a while.

Practice Set 21C

**surfeited staid sanctimonious sycophants stupefy surmise
somnolent spurious surreptitious stolid**

1. The _____ student kept falling asleep and waking up with a jerk.
2. Mark Twain mocked pious hypocrites, calling one a _____ old iceberg who looked like he was waiting for a vacancy in the Trinity.
3. The wild parties at the fraternity house appealed to the jocks and slackers, but appalled the more _____ and serious students on campus.
4. Disapproving of drugs in general, Laura refused to take sleeping pills or any other medicine that might _____ her.
5. The _____ CIA agents were able to get in and out of the house without anyone noticing.
6. After speaking to only one of the students, the teacher was able to _____ what had caused the fight.
7. Some see the people in the cabinet as the president's closest advisors, but others see them as _____.
8. Every Thanksgiving we are _____ with an overabundance of holiday treats.
9. Charles's _____ reaction to his wife's funeral differed from the passion he showed at the time of her death.
10. The bargain diamond ring turned out to be _____, made not of diamond and gold but of glass and gold plate.

Practice Set 21D

**staid surmise stolid sycophantic spurious surreptitious
Sanctimonious stupefied somnolent surfeit**

1. The guests to Joanne's birthday celebration all received _____ invitations so as not to spoil the surprise.
2. If you say that a particular conclusion is _____, you mean that it is a guess based on the available evidence and you do not know for certain that it is true.
3. If a _____ or deficiency of electrons occurs, the atom becomes electrically charged, negative and positive.
4. You get very fed up with people being _____, toadying to you, as a symptom of success.
5. _____ is used for describing someone who tries to show that she has better moral or religious principles than other people.
6. Marianne wanted a romantic, passionate suitor like Willoughby, not a _____, unimaginative one like Colonel Brandon.
7. In an attempt to change its _____ image, the newspaper has created a new section aimed at younger readers.
8. The heavy meal and the overheated room made us all _____ and indifferent to the speaker.
9. Something that is _____ seems to be genuine, but is false.
10. We were so _____ by the news that we all sat in silence for a long time.

Practice Set 21E

**staid somnolent sanctimonious stolid spurious surmise
stupefied surfeit sycophantic surreptitious**

1. Rain said he was a very ordinary middle-aged journalist, a _____ sort of man who wrote about local government matters.
2. There was his clique of _____ friends, many of them middle-aged, who were too fawning and deferential.
3. In the heat of the afternoon, both armies lay quiet, _____ after the long hours of nervous exertion and the effects of the warmth and the food.
4. The concealment of the Greek soldiers inside the Trojan horse had to be _____ so the Trojans would not suspect anything.
5. The _____ Bertrand delivered stern lectures on the Ten Commandments to anyone who would listen, but thought nothing of stealing cars to make some cash on the side.
6. If you are nervous, console yourself with the thought that the initially nervous speaker often performs far better than the _____ chap with no nerves.
7. Natasha's claim to be the lost heir of the Romanoffs was _____: the only thing Russian about her was the vodka she drank!
8. The O'Neil family in the first row of the circle, who sat in _____ amazement, hardly believed what they had witnessed.
9. As to whether the rate has also increased proportionally is a matter that could only be determined empirically, although one could _____ that it has so increased.
10. Brad had to loosen his belt, having eaten a _____ of shrimp from the appetizer platters at Rose's wedding.

Practice Set 21F

**surmise surreptitiously surfeit stupefaction somnolent staid
stolid spurious sycophantic sanctimonious**

1. In the United States even those most _____ of institutions, the public utilities, offer a cash discount to those customers who pay for their water, electricity or gas on time.
2. The use of models helps to clarify the relationship between what we can see and what we can only _____.
3. My only hope seemed to lie in entering the city _____ under cover of the darkness, and once in, trust to my own wits to hide myself in some crowded quarter where detection would be less liable to occur.
4. He saw himself as a courtier only by profession and hated to find himself succumbing already to the _____ atmosphere of the Palace offices.
5. Hundreds of chartered accountants have been made redundant and with the _____ of candidates competing for vacancies, employers have been able to reduce salaries in some cases.
6. The spirit of the place was the spirit of the peace of the living, _____ with the easement and content of prosperity, and undisturbed by rumors of far wars.
7. Because of the drugs, he was in a state of _____ by the time we found him.
8. Once upon a time magistrates had been dull, _____ figures, worthy but uninspiring, above all remote and anonymous.
9. The note asking Linda's teacher to excuse her not having her homework turned out to be _____ and was written in Linda's poorly disguised handwriting.
10. Fred Flanders was extremely _____, until he was caught one day with his hand in the cookie jar.

Set 22

1. tacit [tas-it]

(*adj.*) understood without being openly expressed (I interpreted my parents' refusal to talk as a tacit acceptance of my request.)

2. taciturn [tas-i-turn]

(*adj.*) not inclined to talk; uncommunicative (Though Jane never seems to stop talking, her brother is quite taciturn.)

taciturnity (*n.*)

3. tantamount [tan-tuh-mount]

(*adj.*) equivalent in value or significance (When it comes to sports, fearing your opponent is tantamount to losing.)

4. temerity [tuh-mer-i-tee]

(*n.*) audacity, recklessness (Tom and Huck entered the scary cave armed with nothing but their own temerity.)

temerarious (*adj.*)

5. tenuous [ten-yoo-uhs]

(*adj.*) having little substance or strength (Your argument is very tenuous, since it relies so much on speculation and hearsay.)

tenuousness (*n.*)

6. timorous [tim-er-uhs]

(*adj.*) timid, fearful (When dealing with the unknown, timorous Tallulah almost always broke into tears.)

7. torpid [tawr-pid]

(*adj.*) lethargic, dormant, lacking motion (The torpid whale floated, wallowing in the water for hours.)

torpor (*n.*)

8. tractable [trak-tuh-buhl]

(*adj.*) easily controlled (The horse was so tractable, Myra didn't even need a bridle.)

9. transient [tran-shuhnt, -zee-uhnt]

(*adj.*) passing through briefly; passing into and out of existence (Because virtually everyone in Palm Beach is a tourist, the population of the town is quite transient.)

10. transmute [trans-myoot]

(*v.*) to change or alter in form (Ancient alchemists believed that it was possible to transmute lead into gold.)

Practice Set 22A

**tantamount taciturn torpid tacit transmute temerity transient
tenuous tractable timorous**

1. _____ (adj.) not inclined to talk; uncommunicative
2. _____ (adj.) equivalent in value or significance
3. _____ (adj.) easily controlled
4. _____ (adj.) understood without being openly expressed
5. _____ (v.) to change or alter in form
6. _____ (adj.) having little substance or strength
7. _____ (adj.) passing through briefly; passing into and out of existence
8. _____ (adj.) timid, fearful
9. _____ (adj.) lethargic, dormant, lacking motion
10. _____ (n.) audacity, recklessness

Practice Set 22B

**tractable transmute torpid timorous tacit transient tenuous
tantamount taciturn temerity**

1. If you say that a person or device is _____, you mean that the person or device can be easily controlled or dealt with.
2. If something _____s or is _____d into a different form, it is changed into that form.
3. If you refer to someone's _____ agreement or approval, you mean she is agreeing to something or approving it without actually saying so, often because she is unwilling to admit to doing so.
4. If you describe someone as _____, you mean that she is frightened and nervous of other people and situations.
5. If you say that one thing is _____ to a second, more serious thing, you are emphasizing how bad, unacceptable, or unfortunate the first thing is by comparing it to the second.
6. _____ is used to describe a situation that lasts only a short time or is constantly changing.
7. If you describe something such as a connection, a reason, or someone's position as _____, you mean that it is very uncertain or weak.
8. A _____ person does not say very much and can seem unfriendly.
9. If you say that a person has the _____ to do something, you are annoyed about something they have done which you think showed a lack of respect.
10. If you are _____, you are mentally or physically inactive, especially because you are feeling lazy or sleepy.

Practice Set 22C

**transmute temerity tenuous timorous taciturn tacit tantamount
transient tractable torpor**

1. Though Jane never seems to stop talking, her brother is quite _____.
2. Mark was shocked that only a week into skiing lessons, Allison had the _____ to tackle the giant slalom.
3. The allegiance of our allies is based on such _____ ties that we have little hope they will remain loyal.
4. In these times, killing a dolphin was _____ to killing a person, and both crimes were punished with the death penalty.
5. When dealing with the unknown, _____ Tallulah almost always broke into tears.
6. Ancient alchemists believed that it was possible to _____ lead into gold.
7. Throughout the winter, nothing aroused the bear from his _____: he would not emerge from hibernation until spring.
8. I interpreted my parents' refusal to talk as a _____ acceptance of my request.
9. A horse is most _____ when it is younger than two years of age.
10. Because virtually everyone in Palm Beach is a tourist, the population of the town is quite _____.

Practice Set 22D

**transmutation tacit temerity transient torpid taciturn timorous
tantamount tenuous tractable**

1. It is illegal for a politician to accept money in exchange for a political favor, but it's hard to prove guilt when the agreement is _____.
2. We now know, through modern chemistry, that the _____ of lead into gold is impossible.
3. Lexy's joy at finding the perfect Christmas gift for Phil was _____; she still had to find presents for the cousins and Uncle Bob.
4. Although Susan seemed a _____ young woman, she had a stubborn streak of independence that occasionally led her to defy the powers-that-be when she felt they were in the wrong.
5. A bear, while _____ after just having awakened from hibernation, soon after becomes much livelier.
6. If an action, suggestion, plan etc is _____ to something bad, it has the same effect or is almost as bad
7. If you describe someone's actions or decisions as _____, you are criticizing her for being too cautious or weak, because the person is not very confident and is worried about the possible consequences of her actions.
8. Nobody believed that North Vietnam would have the _____ to attack South Vietnam while it was under American protection, but we all know how that turned out.
9. His argument was not convincing in the debate, considering how _____ it was.
10. He talked very little, and seemed all the more mysterious for his _____ manner.

Practice Set 22E

**transmuted tractable temerity taciturn tenuous tantamount
transients tacit timorous torpid**

1. A quiet, reserved, almost _____ man, he was ill-equipped to cope with the bombardment of questions from the press and media reporters.
2. I felt him become suddenly _____ again like an animal, like a good-tempered horse when the object that scares him is removed.
3. The modern corporation is seen as _____ to a form of slavery because those who supply capital to the institution have almost total power, especially over employees.
4. There is no close accounting of who owes what to whom but there is a _____ understanding by all concerned that there is a moral obligation to balance things out over a period.
5. _____ are people who stay in a place for only a short time and then move somewhere else.
6. Mythology usually relates that those who dare to challenge the gods pay a stiff price for their _____.
7. Various parties pursued conflicting objectives, often making _____ alliances with each other for the sole purpose of expediency.
8. If they have a sudden loss of cabin pressure at 20 000 feet, passengers will become _____ and then lose consciousness.
9. Scientists _____ matter into pure energy and exploded the first atomic bomb.
10. It is quite fine for children to be _____ about talking to strangers.

Practice Set 22F

**tantamount transmute temerity tacit tenuous transients taciturn
tractable torpor timorous**

1. She knew it would be _____ to suicide to try to go in through the open doorway so she made her way cautiously around the side of the building, careful to duck low enough under the shattered windows to avoid detection.
2. Sir George stamped his conclusions so firmly on the subject that no one had the _____ to question them until the sixties.
3. After all, the medieval belief in the Philosopher's Stone which could _____ metals, has its counterpart in the accepted theory of metabolism which changes living tissue.
4. The original tenants were replaced by the _____ of the city, the peripatetic young.
5. While altruism by one individual towards another clearly involves some self-sacrifice, the _____ assumption by the donor is that such sacrifice will, in the long run, generate reciprocal support.
6. However _____ it may have become, once a marriage is under threat it can suddenly turn into a territory which has to be defended at all costs.
7. Grandmother always talked: to herself or to the Lord, if there was no one else to listen; but grandfather was naturally _____.
8. _____ is characteristic among those who spent hours before their TVs in the old days watching the political conventions from gavel to gavel.
9. He is more _____ now, and we are going to release him, for he has assured us that he will not permit his fellows to harm us.
10. He did what any _____ man in a panic would do, ran away and hid himself within the community, where he was known and respected.

Set 23

1. **trenchant** [tren-chuhnt]
(*adj.*) effective, articulate, clear-cut (The directions that accompanied my new cell phone were trenchant and easy to follow.)
2. **truculent** [truhk-yuh-luhnt]
(*adj.*) ready to fight, cruel (This club doesn't really attract the dangerous types, so why was that bouncer being so truculent?)
3. **turgid** [tur-jid]
(*adj.*) 1. swollen, excessively embellished in style or language (The haughty writer did not realize how we all really felt about his turgid prose.)
2. abnormally distended especially by fluids or gas (Not far away a turgid and fast moving river rushed southward in narrow gorges.)
turgidity (*n.*)
4. **turpitude** [tur-pi-tood, -tyood]
(*n.*) depravity, moral corruption (Sir Marcus's chivalry often contrasted with the turpitude he exhibited with the ladies at the tavern.)
5. **ubiquitous** [yoo-bik-wi-tuhs]
(*adj.*) existing everywhere, widespread (It seems that everyone in the United States has a television. The technology is ubiquitous here.)
ubiquity (*n.*) **ubiquitousness** (*n.*)
6. **umbrage** [uhm-brij]
(*n.*) resentment, offense (He called me a lily-livered coward, and I took umbrage at the insult.)
7. **unctuous** [uhngk-choo-uhs]
(*adj.*) smooth or greasy in texture, appearance, manner (The unctuous receptionist seemed untrustworthy, as if she was only being helpful because she thought we might give her a big tip.)
8. **undulate** [uhn-juh-leyt, uhn-dyuh-]
(*v.*) to move in waves (As the storm began to brew, the placid ocean began to undulate to an increasing degree.)
9. **upbraid** [uhp-breyd]
(*v.*) to criticize or scold severely (The last thing Lindsay wanted was for Lisa to upbraid her again about missing the rent payment.)
10. **usurp** [yoo-surp, -zurp]
(*v.*) to seize by force, take possession of without right (The rogue army general tried to usurp control of the government, but he failed because most of the army backed the legally elected president.)

Practice Set 23A

ubiquitous turpitude trenchant turgid undulate unctuous
truculent usurp umbrage upbraid

1. _____ (v.) to criticize or scold severely
2. _____ (adj.) sharp, to the point, vigorous, and effective; articulate
3. _____ (adj.) smooth or greasy in texture, appearance, manner
4. _____ (adj.) swollen, excessively embellished in style or language
5. _____ (adj.) ready to fight, cruel
6. _____ (n.) resentment, offense
7. _____ (v.) to seize by force, take possession of without right
8. _____ (n.) depravity, moral corruption
9. _____ (v.) to move in waves
10. _____ (adj.) existing everywhere, widespread

Practice Set 23B

undulates unctuous turgid trenchant usurps turpitude upbraid
umbrage ubiquitous truculent

1. If you _____ someone, you tell her that she has done something wrong and criticize her for doing it.
2. Something that _____ has gentle curves or slopes, or moves gently and slowly up and down or from side to side in an attractive manner.
3. If you describe someone as _____, you are critical of her because she seems to be full of praise, kindness, or interest, but is obviously insincere.
4. _____ is very immoral behavior.
5. If you say that someone _____ a job, role, title, or position, she takes it from someone when she has no right to do this.
6. If you describe something or someone as _____, you mean that the thing or person seems to be everywhere.
7. If you say that a person takes _____, you mean that she is upset or offended by something that someone says or does to her, often without much reason.
8. If you describe something such as a piece of writing or a film as _____, you think it is boring and difficult to understand.
9. If you say that someone is _____, you mean that she is bad-tempered and aggressive.
10. You can use _____ to describe something such as a criticism or comment that is very clear, effective, and forceful.

Practice Set 23C

**turgid usurp unctuous umbrage undulate ubiquitous turpitude
truculence trenchant upbraid**

1. The _____ receptionist seemed untrustworthy, as if she was only being helpful because she thought we might give her a big tip.
2. Tynan's reviews were noted for their caustic attacks and general tone of _____.
3. As we travel south, the countryside begins to _____ as the rolling hills sweep down to the riverbanks.
4. The rogue army general tried to _____ control of the government, but he failed because most of the army backed the legally elected president.
5. It seems that everyone in the United States has a television; the technology is _____ here.
6. The haughty writer did not realize how we all really felt about his _____ prose.
7. Sir Marcus's chivalry often contrasted with the _____ he exhibited with the ladies at the tavern.
8. The directions that accompanied my new cell phone were _____ and easy to follow.
9. He took _____ at the news that he was not to be the best man.
10. The last thing Lindsay wanted was for Lisa to _____ her again about missing the rent payment.

Practice Set 23D

**upbraided usurp undulated umbrage ubiquitous turgid unctuous
trenchant turpitude truculent**

1. Jones was a slender, mop-headed, _____ flame of an individual who seemed to go out of his way to insult his passengers.
2. Athos beheld the movement of his shoulders, which _____ convulsively; he heard the sobs which burst from his overcharged breast.
3. Hank was _____, reviled and screamed at, until, without uttering a word in retaliation, he took his jacket out of the hall alcove and strode silently out of the front door.
4. Leather is very much in fashion this season, as of course is the _____ denim.
5. The _____ river threatened to overflow the levees and flood the countryside.
6. It needed only one irascible minister to take _____ at some fancied slight or misdemeanor for there to be trouble.
7. The revolution ended when the victorious rebel general succeeded in his attempt to _____ the throne.
8. A visitor may be denied admittance to this country if she has been guilty of moral _____.
9. In David Copperfield, the _____ Uriah Heep is notable for his cloying humility and general insincerity.
10. With his _____ wit, Rich cuts straight to the heart of the matter, panning a truly dreadful play.

Practice Set 23E

**truculent umbrage undulating turpitude turgid trenchant
unctuous upbraided ubiquitous usurped**

1. Because Richard _____ the throne, his retinue is inevitably seen as inimical to the crown and therefore in an important sense independent of royal authority
2. I remember her bringing me up to a _____ and red-faced old gentleman covered all over with orders and ribbons, and hissing into my ear, in a tragic whisper which must have been perfectly audible to everybody in the room, the most astounding details.
3. Unfortunately, no one in Washington has a _____ plan that shows promise of success.
4. The Swedes are not alone in finding their language under pressure from the _____ spread of English.
5. His introduction contained such _____ flattery that I began to wonder whether anything else he said could be trusted.
6. Israel's prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, this week _____ his more garrulous cabinet colleagues for talking too doveishly about peace.
7. Ultimately it is lost in a quagmire of stylistic density and what could have been a startling book ends up feeling _____.
8. Despite having tenure, Seamus Allgood was dismissed from the university for intellectual _____.
9. On the shore the sailors were sitting, chatting and laughing; and at ten yards from them the boat was at anchor, _____ gracefully on the water.
10. He got on very well with the patients, and made them laugh without taking _____ when they laughed at him.

Practice Set 23F

**unctuous turgid truculent trenchant umbrage undulating upbraid
ubiquitous usurped turpitude**

1. The outrageous treatment of poor Tom had roused her still more, and she had followed Legree to the house, with no particular intention, but to _____ him for his brutality.
2. He not only fed the king's narcissism with _____ flattery, but worked in other ways to "smooth" or "flatten."
3. The crowd opened and closed again, _____ like a stormy sea, and the king imagined that he saw shining in the midst of this living wave the bright eyes of Athos.
4. Philander was too much relieved at the happy outcome to their adventure to take _____ at the professor's cruel fling.
5. The _____ divisions between right and wrong, honest and dishonest, respectable and the reverse, had left so little scope for the unforeseen.
6. That Christmas "The Little Drummer Boy" seemed _____; David heard the tune everywhere.
7. For several minutes Morse looked down at the turbid, _____ river; and his thoughts were as restless as the waters below him.
8. Since the First World War the railways in the developed world have been in decline, their role _____ by motor transport and in particular the car.
9. They did not look like the kind of people she usually associated with but seemed inimical, common, even savage, and with _____, peevish faces.
10. Moral _____ is a legal concept in the United States that refers to "conduct that is considered contrary to community standards of justice, honesty, or good morals".

Set 24

1. vacillate [vas-uh-leyt]

(v.) to fluctuate, hesitate (I prefer a definite answer, but my boss kept vacillating between the distinct options available to us.)

vacillation (n.)

2. vacuous [vak-yoo-uhs]

(adj.) lack of content or ideas, stupid (Beyoncé realized that the lyrics she had just penned were completely vacuous and tried to add more substance.)

3. vapid [vap-id]

(adj.) lacking liveliness, dull (The professor's comments about the poem were surprisingly vapid and dull.)

vapidity (n.)

4. variegated [vair-ee-i-gey-tid, vair-i-gey-]

(adj.) diversified, distinctly marked (Each wire in the engineering exam was variegated by color so that the students could figure out which one was which.)

variegation (n.); **variegate** (v.)

5. venerate [ven-uh-reyt]

(v.) to regard with respect or to honor (The tribute to John Lennon sought to venerate his music, his words, and his legend.)

veneration (n.)

6. veracity [vuh-ras-i-tee]

(n.) truthfulness, accuracy (With several agencies regulating the reports, it was difficult for Latifah to argue against its veracity.)

veracious (adj.)

7. verdant [vur-dnt]

(adj.) green in tint or color (The verdant leaves on the trees made the world look emerald.)

8. vex [veks]

(v.) to confuse or annoy (My little brother vexes me by poking me in the ribs for hours on end.)

vexation (n.)

9. vicarious [vahy-kair-ee-uhs, vi-]

(adj.) experiencing through another (All of my lame friends learned to be social through vicarious involvement in my amazing experiences.)

vicariousness (n.)

10. vicissitude [vi-sis-i-tood, -tyood]

(n.) event that occurs by chance; a change or variation (The vicissitudes of daily life prevent me from predicting what might happen from one day to the next.)

Practice Set 24A

**vacuous venerate vicarious vicissitude veracity vacillate
verdant vapid vex variegated**

1. _____(n.) event that occurs by chance; a change or variation
2. _____(adj.) lack of content or ideas, stupid
3. _____(adj.) green in tint or color; inexperienced; unsophisticated
4. _____(adj.) experiencing through another
5. _____(v.) to fluctuate, hesitate
6. _____(adj.) diversified, distinctly marked
7. _____(n.) truthfulness, accuracy
8. _____(v.) to confuse or annoy
9. _____(adj.) lacking liveliness, dull
10. _____(v.) to regard with respect or to honor

Practice Set 24B

**vacillate variegated venerate veracity verdant vicissitudes
vapid vacuous vexes vicarious**

1. If you describe a person or her comments as _____, you are critical of her because she lacks intelligent thought or ideas.
2. Something that is _____ consists of many different parts or types.
3. If you _____ someone or something, you feel great respect for her or value it.
4. _____ is the quality of being true or the habit of telling the truth.
5. If you describe a place as _____, you mean that it is covered with green grass, trees, and plants.
6. If you _____ between two alternatives or choices, you keep changing your mind.
7. A _____ pleasure or feeling is experienced by watching, listening to, or reading about other people doing something, rather than by doing it yourself.
8. If you describe something as _____, you are critical of it because it is dull and uninteresting.
9. You use _____ to refer to changes, especially unpleasant ones, that happen to someone or something at different times in their life or development.
10. If someone or something _____ you, that person or thing makes you feel annoyed, puzzled, and frustrated.

Practice Set 24C

**verdant vacuous vapid vicissitudes vacillating venerate
veracity vicarious vexes variegated**

1. The _____ of daily life prevent me from predicting what might happen from one day to the next.
2. The _____ remarks of the politician annoyed the audience, who had hoped to hear more than empty platitudes.
3. The professor's comments about the poem were surprisingly _____ and dull.
4. Each wire in the engineering exam was _____ by color so that the students could figure out which one was which.
5. With several agencies regulating the reports, it was difficult for Latifah to argue against its _____.
6. Temples and shrines were built to his memory, and a cult grew up to _____ him as founder of the Empire.
7. Monet's paintings of the _____ meadows were symphonies in green.
8. My little brother _____ me by poking me in the ribs for hours on end.
9. I prefer a definite answer, but my boss kept _____ between the distinct options available to us.
10. All of my lame friends learned to be social through _____ involvement in my amazing experiences.

Practice Set 24D

**vapid veracity vacuous vacillated variegation verdant venerate
vicarious vexing vicissitudes**

1. The bar was rundown and filthy, serving _____ beer and stale peanuts
2. The Hindus _____ oxen, and it is said that they actually drink the oxen's urine when they fall sick.
3. Richard Reeves is quite savagely critical, presenting Ford as a rather vain, ignorant and _____ man with no attachment to goals or principles, but a great talent for ingratiation.
4. Humbled by life's _____, the last emperor of China worked as a lowly gardener in the palace over which he had once ruled.
5. When Jill told Fran of her exciting ride down the rapids of the Colorado River, Fran experienced a _____ thrill.
6. Melissa found it _____ that two-year-old Sebastian listened carefully to what she wanted him to do, smiled at her, and then did whatever he wanted.
7. Doubts were cast on the _____ of her alibi after three people claimed to have seen her at the scene of the robbery.
8. _____ is the appearance of differently colored zones in the leaves, and sometimes the stems, of plants.
9. Uncertain which suitor she ought to marry, the princess _____, saying now one, now the other.
10. The _____ leaves on the trees made the world look emerald.

Practice Set 24E

**variegated vexes vacuous vapid verdant vicarious vacillate
veracity vicissitudes venerated**

1. Corfu, with its long sandy beaches, clear blue water and _____ mountain backdrop was one of the first places in Greece to be discovered.
2. Beyoncé realized that the lyrics she had just penned were completely _____ and tried to add more substance.
3. They saw a landscape with mountains and plains, lakes and rivers, very like those upon the earth's surface; but all the scene was splendidly colored by the _____ lights from the six suns.
4. She does have affection for him but is not over-impressed with his success as a writer and she speaks directly from her own experience rather than any _____ sensations.
5. "Bor-ing!" said Jessica, as she suffered through yet another _____ lecture about Dead White Male Poets.
6. After the shepherd boy falsely crying wolf five or six times, people were not inclined to believe the _____ of his seven call for help.
7. Three other officials of the Old Kingdom came to be _____ as gods because they had been wise, good and successful.
8. The big boss likes his people to be decisive: when he asks you for your opinion, whatever you do, don't _____.
9. Again and again I request you to be merry, if anything troubles your hearts, or _____ your souls, neglect and contemn it, let it pass.
10. A home, for any creature, is a place to live, to shelter, protected from at least some of the _____ of existing in this world.

Practice Set 24F

**vapid veracity verdant variegated vicarious vex vacillate
venerated vicissitudes vacuous**

1. Reading has essentially personal value as a source of enjoyment, as a stimulus to the imagination, as a means of gaining _____ experience, and as an agent in language development.
2. The response of a reader depends on the mood of the moment, so much so that a book may seem extremely interesting when read late at night, but might appear merely a lot of _____ verbiage in the morning.
3. In the absence of consciousness, language is merely _____ sound, rather than the rich varieties of meaning that are embodied in, for example, Shakespeare's texts.
4. The green sweep of the wooded hills on Morven and Mull gave us an impression of _____ lushness after the naked rock and brown moors of the Outer Isles.
5. To the Yogis he is _____ as the King of Serpents -- the possessor of the ultimate wisdom -- the Great Guru.
6. His _____ will be restored when the true thief is discovered.
7. It is not unusual for one's position on an issue to _____ as more and better information becomes available.
8. From this false start, their marriage had many more _____ until it has now reached a point where there now exists between them a thinly disguised mutual antipathy.
9. Ian questioned everything he was asked to do, just to _____ his parents.
10. The routine is never quite routine, so the vacuum in one's mind is never _____ enough to be filled.

Set 25

1. **vilify** [vil-uh-fahy]
(v.) to lower in importance, defame (After the Watergate scandal, almost any story written about President Nixon sought to vilify him and criticize his behavior.)
vilification (n.)
2. **viscous** [vis-kuhs]
(adj.) not free flowing; syrupy; sticky; thick; adhesive (The viscous syrup took three minutes to pour out of the bottle.)
viscosity (n.)
3. **vitriolic** [vi-tree-ol-ik]
(adj.) having a caustic quality (When angry, the woman would spew vitriolic insults.)
vitriol (n.)(v.)
4. **vituperate** [vahy-too-puh-reyt, -tyoo-, vi-]
(v.) to berate, rebuke or criticize harshly or abusively (Jack ran away as soon as his father found out, knowing he would be vituperated for his unseemly behavior.)
vituperative (adj.)
5. **wanton** [won-tn]
(adj.) undisciplined, lewd, lustful (Vicky's wanton demeanor often made the frat guys next door very excited.)
6. **winsome** [win-suhm]
(adj.) charming, pleasing (After such a long, frustrating day, I was grateful for Chris's winsome attitude and childish naiveté.)
7. **wistful** [wist-fuhl]
(adj.) full of yearning; musingly sad (Since her pet rabbit died, Edda missed it terribly and was wistful all day long.)
wistfulness (n.)
8. **wizened** [wiz-uhnd]
(adj.) dry, shrunken, wrinkled (Agatha's grandmother, Stephanie, had the most wizened countenance, full of leathery wrinkles.)
wizen (v.)
9. **zenith** [zee-nith, zen-]
(n.) the highest point, culminating point (I was too nice to tell Nelly that she had reached the absolute zenith of her career with that one hit of hers.)
10. **zephyr** [zef-er]
(n.) a gentle breeze (If not for the zephyrs that were blowing and cooling us, our room would've been unbearably hot.)

Practice Set 25A

**viscous vilify zenith winsome wistful vitriolic wanton
vituperate wizened zephyr**

1. _____ (adj.) not free flowing, syrupy
2. _____ (v.) to lower in importance, defame
3. _____ (v.) to berate, rebuke or criticize harshly or abusively
4. _____ (n.) the highest point, culminating point
5. _____ (adj.) full of yearning; musingly sad
6. _____ (adj.) charming, pleasing
7. _____ (adj.) having a caustic quality
8. _____ (adj.) undisciplined, lewd, lustful
9. _____ (adj.) dry, shrunken, wrinkled
10. _____ (n.) a gentle breeze

Practice Set 25B

**vilified zephyr wistful Vituperation winsome vitriolic wanton
viscous zenith wizened**

1. A _____ is a gentle wind.
2. If you are _____ by someone, she says or writes very unpleasant things about you, so that people will have a low opinion of you.
3. Someone who is _____ is rather sad because she wants something and know that she cannot have it.
4. A _____ action deliberately causes harm, damage, or waste without having any reason to.
5. If you describe someone's language or behavior as _____, you disapprove of it because it is full of bitterness and hate, and so causes a lot of distress and pain.
6. A _____ person is old and has a lot of lines on their skin.
7. The _____ of something is the time when it is most successful or powerful.
8. If you describe a person or her actions or behavior as _____, you mean that she is attractive and charming.
9. _____ is language that is full of hate, anger, or insults.
10. A _____ liquid is thick and sticky and does not flow easily.

Practice Set 25C

wanton wizened vitriolic vilify vituperated viscous winsome
zephyrs zenith wistful

1. The _____ syrup took three minutes to pour out of the bottle.
2. If someone describes a woman as _____, they disapprove of her because she clearly enjoys sex or has sex with a lot of men.
3. He launched a _____ attack on the prime minister, accusing him of shielding corrupt friends.
4. Jack ran away as soon as his father found out, knowing he would be _____ for his unseemly behavior.
5. After the Watergate scandal, almost any story written about President Nixon sought to _____ him and criticize his behavior.
6. Since her pet rabbit died, Edda missed it terribly and was _____ all day long.
7. If not for the _____ that were blowing and cooling us, our room would have been unbearably hot.
8. Agatha's grandmother, Stephanie, had the most _____ countenance, full of leathery wrinkles.
9. By her _____ manner, she made herself liked by everyone who met her.
10. I was too nice to tell Nelly that she had reached the absolute _____ of her career with that one hit of hers.

Practice Set 25D

zephyr vitriolic winsome wanton viscous zenith vituperation
vilify wistful wizened

1. Waging a highly negative campaign, the candidate attempted to _____ his opponent's reputation.
2. He looked less _____ and poetic now; his face was harder, with short hair, the cheekbones more pronounced.
3. When the sun was at its _____, the glare was not as strong as at sunrise and sunset.
4. They can thank whatever devils they happen to worship that I have much gentleness in my soul and am not given to _____ or excessive polemic.
5. It is all right for a man to be sexual but a woman behaving in the same way is still considered _____ and a tart.
6. One could argue that the poisonous atmosphere in rugby is a rather sad reflection of the _____ exchanges between politicians
7. His face was so dark and _____ that he reminded Corbett of a monkey he had once seen in the royal menagerie in the Tower of London.
8. With a last _____ glance at the happy couples dancing in the hall, Sue headed back to her room to study for her exam.
9. The _____ quality of motor oil is what causes it to adhere to engine parts and protect them against wear.
10. Dr Tariq, frail and looking as though the gentle _____ that came in off the Tigris might flatten him, could muster a savage temper when attacked.

Practice Set 25E

vitriol wistful vilified viscous zenith vituperative wanton
winsome wizened zephyr

1. Getting elected president must be the _____ of any politician's career.
2. His decent reticence is branded as hypocrisy, his circumlocutions are roundly called lies, and his silence is _____ as treachery.
3. He was a _____ old man with yellow skin and deep wrinkles.
4. The more _____ the lava, the more difficult it is to force it through a vent, and the vent may well become blocked with a slow-moving or stationary plug of lava.
5. During the course of a conversation, her voice would slowly fade away, and she would lapse into silence, staring away from him with blank eyes, a _____ smile on her face.
6. He said she was known to be _____ and had become pregnant after having sex with numerous teenage boys.
7. He became more _____ as he realized that we were not going to grant him his wish.
8. Her engaging smile, her _____ manner and her impeccable behavior soon endeared her to the public.
9. There was not even a _____ stirring; the dead noonday heat had even stilled the songs of the birds; nature lay in a trance that was broken by no sound but the occasional far-off hammering of a wood-pecker.
10. He is a writer who has often been criticized by the press but never before with such _____.

Practice Set 25F

wizened wanton wistful vilified vituperation zenith vitriolic
viscous zephyr winsome

1. From one open shop came the sound of blows and _____, and just as the officer came up to it a man in a gray coat with a shaven head was flung out violently.
2. He looked up; the old _____ face was gone, instead the man was young, sharp-eyed, with long black hair falling to his shoulders.
3. It was the time when the youthful Speranski was at the _____ of his fame and his reforms were being pushed forward with the greatest energy.
4. Early sociologists such as Ferdinand Tonnies and Émile Durkheim tended to bemoan the loss of community in the face of modern urbanism; there is a _____ longing for the past in aspects of their analysis of the modern world.
5. No group of women is more _____ than prostitutes, whose job exists precisely to cater to men's desires.
6. After such a long, frustrating day, I was grateful for Chris's _____ attitude and childish naiveté.
7. She lazed on the beach as a _____ teased and tangled her wayward hair.
8. Local radio stations have been flooded with _____ complaints about Cummins's exclusion, and the local press has strongly criticized the West Indian selectors.
9. Edward was ruthless where he needed to be; although his resolution sometimes involved treachery, this was a means to an end and never simply a _____ habit.
10. She moved as one in the throes of some hideous nightmare--slowly, painfully, as though each limb was hampered by a great weight, or as she were dragging her body through a _____ fluid.

Review of Sets 21 – 25

1. Melissa found it _____ that two-year-old Sebastian listened carefully to what she wanted him to do, smiled at her, and then did whatever he wanted.
 - (a) vile
 - (b) vitriolic
 - (c) verdant
 - (d) vexing
2. They saw a landscape with mountains and plains, lakes and rivers, very like those upon the earth's surface; but all the scene was splendidly colored by the _____ lights from the six suns.
 - (a) venerable
 - (b) vacillating
 - (c) variegated
 - (d) vapid
3. Johanna had become witless, her beautiful hair streaming down about a pallid face, her mouth slack, her eyes _____.
 - (a) tenuous
 - (b) vacuous
 - (c) viscous
 - (d) unctuous
4. Despite having tenure, Seamus Allgood was dismissed from the university for intellectual _____.
 - (a) surmise
 - (b) turgidity
 - (c) torpidity
 - (d) turpitude
5. I felt him become suddenly _____ again like an animal, like a good-tempered horse when the object that scares him is removed.
 - (a) taciturn
 - (b) vexing
 - (c) tractable
 - (d) transient
6. With several agencies regulating the reports, it was difficult for Latifah to argue against its _____.
 - (a) umbrage
 - (b) temerity
 - (c) veracity
 - (d) veneration
7. Fed up with the toadies and flunkies who made up his entourage, the star cried, "Get out, all of you! I'm sick of _____!"
 - (a) sycophants
 - (b) somnolence
 - (c) trenchancy
 - (d) vacillation
8. There were a few lines still left on her forehead, traced there by the troubles of past days, but she had a bright and _____ face.
 - (a) wizened
 - (b) winsome
 - (c) wanton
 - (d) wistful
9. She stared out of the car window where the wheat fields, blue-green in the sunshine, _____ towards the distant headstocks of a colliery.
 - (a) transmute
 - (b) usurp
 - (c) upbraid
 - (d) undulate
10. It is not unusual for one's position on an issue to _____ as more and better information becomes available.
 - (a) vacillate
 - (b) undulate
 - (c) stupefy
 - (d) variegate
11. The Works had now reached what was to be its _____ as regards workshops, covering an area of 80 acres of which 37 were workshops and offices, making it the largest in the UK solely

- devoted to carriage building and repair.
- (a) zephyr
 - (b) vexation
 - (c) transitory
 - (d) zenith
12. So much publicity is now given to the art of making love, what men and women need from each other, and how to please your partner, that there is little excuse for a dull, unimaginative sex life even in the supposedly _____ middle-aged.
- (a) tenuous
 - (b) vicarious
 - (c) wistful
 - (d) stolid
13. Wounded, the punks were stunned into silence as my _____ invective ricocheted around the stalls.
- (a) transitory
 - (b) stolid
 - (c) vicarious
 - (d) vitriolic
14. Edward was ruthless where he needed to be; although his resolution sometimes involved treachery, this was a means to an end and never simply a _____ habit.
- (a) wanton
 - (b) viscous
 - (c) taciturn
 - (d) winsome
15. Part of the trouble stemmed from a dislike of Sandys' refusal to heed professional advice, and from his propensity for allowing the senior civil servants in the Ministry of Defence to _____ the powers that properly belonged to the Chiefs of Staff.
- (a) usurp
 - (b) venerate
 - (c) vex
 - (d) undulate
16. The _____ river threatened to overflow the levees and flood the countryside.
- (a) turgid
 - (b) torpid
 - (c) ubiquitous
 - (d) staid
17. Several witnesses were called who had known her for many years, and they spoke well of her; but fear and hatred of the crime of which they supposed her guilty rendered them _____ and unwilling to come forward.
- (a) trenchant
 - (b) timorous
 - (c) vicarious
 - (d) viscous
18. I was prepared to be persuasive, touching, and hortatory, admonitory and expostulating, if need be _____ even, indignant and sarcastic; but what the devil does a mentor do when the sinner makes no bones about confessing his sin?
- (a) vituperative
 - (b) veracity
 - (c) unctuous
 - (d) venerated
19. The allegiance of our allies is based on such _____ ties that we have little hope they will remain loyal.
- (a) timorous
 - (b) vacuous
 - (c) tenuous
 - (d) unctuous
20. The note asking Linda's teacher to excuse her not having her homework turned out to be _____ and was written in Linda's poorly disguised handwriting.
- (a) surfeit
 - (b) vacuous
 - (c) vicarious
 - (d) spurious
21. One reason for the _____ of Dataease may be the ease with which well presented and reliable Databases can be set up.
- (a) ubiquity

- (b) temerity
(c) veracity
(d) vilification
22. With this high temperature, almost every beetle, several genera of spiders, snails, and land-shells, toads and lizards were all lying _____ beneath stones.
(a) turgid
(b) tantamount
(c) torpid
(d) tractable
23. Behind their perimeter walls lie freshly laundered flowers, _____ grass still sparkling from the last shower, yew hedges in an ecstasy of precision clipping.
(a) trenchant
(b) vexing
(c) verdant
(d) veracious
24. Recession is guaranteed for several months to come by higher taxes, higher interest rates and an exchange rate depressed both by a squeeze on the supply of local currency and by a _____ of dollars from the booming trade in cocaine paste.
(a) turgid
(b) vicissitude
(c) surfeit
(d) surmise
25. All at once our ship, which had the well-earned name of being without a rival for speed in light winds, seemed to us to have lost the power of motion, as if the sea, becoming _____, had clung to her sides.
(a) wistful
(b) viscous
(c) vacuous
(d) vicarious
26. If you can't get your own way or what you want by openly and honestly asking for it, don't use sly or _____ methods because they could backfire and land you in the soup.
(a) spurious
(b) surreptitious
(c) wizened
(d) sanctimonious
27. How little she really knew of her mother, and of how much was conjecture and _____, she was unaware; for it was through many years she had erected this mother-myth.
(a) surmise
(b) surfeit
(c) zenith
(d) turpitude
28. The spirit of the place was the spirit of the peace of the living, _____ with the easement and content of prosperity, and undisturbed by rumors of far wars.
(a) stolid
(b) truculent
(c) somnolent
(d) transient
29. The _____ divisions between right and wrong, honest and dishonest, respectable and the reverse, had left so little scope for the unforeseen.
(a) trenchant
(b) vitriolic
(c) verdant
(d) truculent
30. They did not look like the kind of people she usually associated with but seemed inimical, common, even savage, and with _____, peevish faces.
(a) somnolent
(b) truculent
(c) transient
(d) trenchant
31. Lexy's joy at finding the perfect Christmas gift for Phil was _____; she still had to find presents for the cousins and Uncle Bob.
(a) trenchant
(b) truculent
(c) winsome
(d) transient

32. The outrageous treatment of poor Tom had roused her still more; and she had followed Legree to the house, with no particular intention, but to _____ him for his brutality.
(a) upbraid
(b) vacillate
(c) usurp
(d) transmute
33. He looked up; the old _____ face was gone, instead the man was young, sharp-eyed, with long black hair falling to his shoulders.
(a) surreptitious
(b) spurious
(c) wizened
(d) winsome
34. Madame Reuter looked more like a joyous, free-living old Flemish fermiere, or even a maitresse d'auberge, than a _____, grave, rigid directrice de pensionnat.
(a) tacit
(b) staid
(c) spurious
(d) vapid
35. What these methods can do is to enhance the quality of life by helping us to _____ "stress" into positive challenges, thus preventing the onset of apathy or even depression.
(a) transmute
(b) surmise
(c) stupefy
(d) upbraid
36. He gave Doddie Weir a whack and he was _____ by the press for three weeks afterwards, some of them suggesting that he was not fit to be a policeman.
(a) undulated
(b) venerated
(c) vilified
(d) wizened
37. After a few moments of profound silence, he turned to Kennedy, who sat there no less _____.
(a) wanton
(b) vacuous
(c) taciturn
(d) tacit
38. To see land and water curving upward in the distance until it seemed to stand on edge where it melted into the distant sky required such a complete reversal of the perceptive and reasoning faculties as almost to _____ one.
(a) stupefy
(b) vilify
(c) vex
(d) vacillate
39. Nobody believed that North Vietnam would have the _____ to attack South Vietnam while it was under American protection, but we all know how that turned out.
(a) vicissitude
(b) temerity
(c) veracity
(d) veneration
40. The last project is an embarrassingly inappropriate tribute to a man who could not identify any plants, trees or birds that he saw on his journeys except by such _____ statements as "big and little birds of all sorts" and "trees very green."
(a) torpid
(b) staid
(c) vapid
(d) tacit
41. Three officials of the Old Kingdom came to be _____ as gods because they had been wise, good and successful.
(a) undulated
(b) venerated
(c) variegated
(d) vexed
42. Fearful for its own survival, the imperial house skilfully diverted the frenzy and hatred away from itself towards the foreign presence in China and gave the movement _____ encouragement.
(a) staid
(b) vapid

- (c) tacit
(d) taciturn
43. When her boyfriend leaves her for another woman, she takes _____, haunts the new love-nest night and day, makes abusive phone calls and eventually throws a stone through a window and gets herself arrested.
(a) umbrage
(b) viscosity
(c) upbraid
(d) undulation
44. From fifteen to seventeen she was in training for a heroine; she read all such works as heroines must read to supply their memories with those quotations which are so serviceable and so soothing in the _____ of their eventful lives.
(a) vacillation
(b) vicissitudes
(c) viscosity
(d) ubiquity
45. He not only fed the king's narcissism with _____ flattery, but worked in other ways to "smooth" or "flatten."
(a) trenchant
(b) unctuous
(c) tenuous
(d) viscous
46. During the course of a conversation, her voice would slowly fade away, and she would lapse into silence, staring away from him with blank eyes, a _____ smile on her face.
(a) viscous
(b) verdant
(c) vile
(d) wistful
47. Mark Twain mocked pious hypocrites, calling one a _____ old iceberg who looked like he was waiting for a vacancy in the Trinity.
(a) wanton
(b) sanctimonious
(c) unctuous
(d) timorous
48. In the film, we're drawn into _____ participation in a spectacular massacre, only for the camera to draw back and reveal the real carnage, suffering and shock that such an exercise of male power entails.
(a) spurious
(b) turgid
(c) vacuous
(d) vicarious
49. Permitting management to use their discretion to run a company for the public benefit may be _____ to encouraging them to run it according to their own moral and political views about what constitutes the public benefit.
(a) wanton
(b) transient
(c) tantamount
(d) tenuous
50. There was not even a _____ stirring; the dead noonday heat had even stilled the songs of the birds; nature lay in a trance that was broken by no sound but the occasional far-off hammering of a wood-pecker.
(a) zephyr
(b) zenith
(c) vexation
(d) vapidness

Sets Answer Keys

Set 01A

1. abjure
2. abrogate
3. acrimony
4. antipathy
5. adumbrate
6. alacrity
7. acumen
8. approbation
9. acerbic
10. anathema

Set 01B

1. anathema
2. Acerbic
3. Antipathy
4. alacrity
5. abrogates
6. Acrimony
7. Acumen
8. Approbation
9. To adumbrate
10. abjure

Set 01C

1. adumbrated
2. abjured
3. acumen
4. abrogate
5. antipathy
6. acrimony
7. anathema
8. alacrity.
9. approbation
10. acerbic

Set 01D

1. anathema
2. Abrogation
3. acrimony
4. alacrity
5. adumbrated
6. abjure
7. acumen
8. approbation
9. antipathies
10. acerbic

Set 01E

1. acerbic
2. antipathy
3. approbation

4. adumbrated
5. abjure
6. acrimony
7. acumen
8. abrogate
9. alacrity
10. anathema.

Set 01F

1. abrogate
2. antipathy
3. acumen
4. adumbrated
5. acerbic
6. acrimonious
7. abjure
8. anathema.
9. approbation.
10. alacrity

Set 02A

1. burnish
2. aspersion
3. assiduous
4. brusque
5. arrogate
6. blandish
7. boon
8. buffet
9. ascetic
10. buttress

Set 02B

1. boon
2. buttress
3. ascetic
4. Aspersion
5. assiduous
6. burnish
7. blandish
8. arrogates
9. buffeted
10. brusque

Set 02C

1. buttress
2. aspersions
3. assiduous
4. buffeted
5. brusque
6. boon
7. blandish
8. ascetic

9. arrogate
10. burnished

Set 02D

1. ascetic
2. assiduous
3. boon
4. burnish
5. buttress
6. aspersions
7. brusque
8. buffet
9. Blandishment
10. arrogate

Set 02E

1. arrogated
2. blandishments
3. ascetic
4. buttress
5. burnished
6. aspersion.
7. assiduous
8. boon
9. brusque
10. buffeted

Set 02F

1. ascetic
2. blandishment
3. buffet
4. boon.
5. assiduous
6. buttress
7. brusque
8. aspersions
9. arrogated
10. burnished

Set 03A

1. cajole
2. conundrum
3. calumny
4. clemency
5. cogent
6. capricious
7. concomitant
8. cacophony
9. conflagration
10. contrite

Set 03B

1. conflagration
2. cogent
3. cajole
4. capricious
5. clemency
6. contrite
7. Concomitant
8. cacophonous
9. calumny
10. conundrum

Set 03C

1. conundrum
2. capricious
3. contrite
4. conflagration
5. concomitant
6. cogent
7. clemency.
8. cacophony
9. calumny
10. cajole

Set 03D

1. conflagration
2. cajole
3. cacophonous
4. contrite
5. cogent
6. clemency
7. conundrum.
8. capricious
9. concomitant
10. calumny

Set 03E

1. conflagration
2. calumny
3. clemency
4. cajole
5. caprice
6. cogent
7. contrition
8. concomitant
9. cacophony
10. conundrum.

Set 03F

1. cajole
2. caprice
3. conflagration
4. cogent
5. concomitant
6. conundrum
7. clemency

8. contrite
9. cacophony
10. calumny

Set 04A

1. cursory
2. cupidity
3. decry
4. demure
5. deride
6. desecrate
7. deleterious
8. credulity
9. deprecate
10. defile

Set 04B

1. deride
2. Cupidity
3. cursory
4. deprecate
5. desecrates
6. demure
7. Credulity
8. defile
9. decries
10. deleterious

Set 04C

1. deprecated
2. deleterious
3. credulity
4. derided
5. defiled
6. demure
7. cupidity
8. decries
9. cursory
10. desecrate

Set 04D

1. deleterious
2. desecrated
3. credulity
4. demure
5. deprecated
6. cursory
7. cupidity
8. defile
9. decry
10. derided

Set 04E

1. deprecating
2. demure

3. cursory
4. deriding
5. credulity
6. deleterious
7. defiled
8. decry
9. cupidity
10. desecrated

Set 04F

1. credulity
2. derision
3. desecrate
4. deprecated
5. defile
6. demure
7. cupidity
8. cursory
9. deleterious
10. decry

Set 05A

1. egregious
2. diffident
3. discursive
4. diaphanous
5. ebullient
6. dither
7. effulgent
8. effrontery
9. desiccated
10. dissemble

Set 05B

1. dissemble
2. egregious
3. Effrontery
4. dithers
5. ebullient
6. discursive
7. Diaphanous
8. effulgent
9. diffident
10. Desiccated

Set 05C

1. discursive
2. ebullient
3. dithered
4. desiccate
5. egregious
6. diffident
7. dissembled
8. diaphanous
9. effulgent
10. effrontery

Set 05D

1. effulgent
2. effrontery
3. dithering
4. diaphanous
5. diffident
6. dessicated
7. ebullient
8. dissembling
9. discursive
10. egregious

Set 05E

1. diaphanous
2. diffident
3. desiccated
4. dither
5. discursive
6. egregious
7. effulgent
8. effrontery
9. dissemble
10. ebullient

Set 05F

1. dither
2. effulgent
3. ebullient
4. effrontery
5. diaphanous
6. discursive
7. dissemble
8. egregious
9. desiccated country
10. diffidence

Set 06A

1. ephemeral
2. expiate
3. enervate
4. eschew
5. exigent
6. evince
7. exculpate
8. execrable
9. expunge
10. extant

Set 06B

1. eschew
2. expiate
3. expunge
4. ephemeral
5. extant
6. exigent
7. exculpated

8. execrable
9. evinces
10. enervated

Set 06C

1. ephemeral
2. extant
3. eschews
4. evince
5. exculpated
6. exigent
7. enervates
8. execrable
9. expiate
10. expunge

Set 06D

1. exculpated
2. ephemeral
3. extant
4. expiating
5. eschew
6. execrable
7. exigency
8. evince
9. expunged
10. enervated

Set 06E

1. eschew
2. exculpate
3. expiate
4. ephemeral
5. enervated
6. expunge
7. extant
8. exigent
9. evince
10. execrable

Set 06F

1. expunge
2. extant
3. eschew
4. execrable
5. expiate
6. exculpate
7. Enervated
8. exigent
9. evince
10. ephemeral

Set 07A

1. fecund
2. extol

3. fetid
4. fastidious
5. fallacious
6. evanescent
7. fatuous
8. feral
9. fractious
10. florid

Set 07B

1. fastidious
2. fecund
3. fractious
4. florid
5. feral
6. fatuous
7. fallacious
8. evanescent
9. Fetid
10. extol

Set 07C

1. fastidious
2. fetid
3. florid
4. fractious
5. extolled
6. fecund
7. evanescent
8. fallacious
9. fatuous
10. feral

Set 07D

1. fallacious
2. fatuous
3. fastidious
4. evanescent
5. fractious
6. fetid
7. fecundity
8. florid
9. extolled
10. feral

Set 07E

1. evanescent
2. fecund
3. feral
4. fetid
5. fractious
6. extol
7. fastidious
8. fallacious
9. fatuous
10. florid

Set 07F

1. evanescent
2. fetid
3. feral
4. fecund
5. florid
6. extol
7. fastidious
8. fractious
9. fallacious
10. fatuous

Set 08A

1. grandiloquence
2. harangue
3. hackneyed
4. iconoclast
5. hegemony
6. ignominious
7. hapless
8. garrulous
9. gregarious
10. impassive

Set 08B

1. Grandiloquent
2. hackneyed
3. gregarious
4. garrulous
5. hapless
6. Hegemony
7. iconoclast
8. impassive
9. ignominious
10. harangues

Set 08C

1. gregarious
2. iconoclast
3. impassive
4. ignominious
5. hegemony
6. harangue
7. hackneyed
8. grandiloquent
9. hapless
10. garrulous

Set 08D

1. impassive
2. grandiloquence
3. hegemony
4. garrulous
5. Hackneyed
6. harangue
7. iconoclastic

8. hapless
9. gregarious
10. ignominy

Set 08E

1. gregarious
2. ignominious
3. grandiloquent
4. garrulous
5. hapless
6. hackneyed
7. hegemony
8. harangue
9. impassive
10. iconoclast

Set 08F

1. hapless
2. grandiloquence
3. hackneyed
4. ignominious
5. hegemony
6. gregarious
7. impassive
8. iconoclasts
9. garrulous
10. harangued

Set 09A

1. impertinent
2. indefatigable
3. impetuous
4. impinge
5. impervious
6. implacable
7. incontrovertible
8. ineffable
9. inchoate
10. imperious

Set 09B

1. impervious
2. impertinent
3. Incontrovertible
4. indefatigable
5. inchoate
6. implacable
7. impinges
8. imperious
9. ineffable
10. impetuous

Set 09C

1. impertinent
2. impinge

3. implacable
4. ineffable
5. impetuous
6. impervious
7. imperious
8. incontrovertible
9. inchoate
10. indefatigable

Set 09D

1. impertinent
2. imperious
3. indefatigable
4. implacable
5. ineffable
6. inchoate
7. impervious
8. impetuous
9. impinge
10. incontrovertible

Set 09E

1. impertinent
2. impetuous
3. indefatigable
4. incontrovertible
5. ineffable
6. impinge
7. implacable
8. imperious
9. impervious
10. inchoate

Set 09F

1. ineffable
2. impertinent
3. indefatigably
4. incontrovertible
5. imperious
6. inchoate
7. impinge
8. implacable
9. impetuous
10. impervious

Set 10A

1. inexorable
2. inure
3. inimical
4. inveterate
5. iniquity
6. insidious
7. intransigent
8. invective
9. ingenuous
10. impudent

Set 10B

1. inimical
2. inexorable
3. inured
4. iniquitous
5. impudent
6. Invective
7. ingenuous
8. intransigent
9. insidious
10. inveterate

Set 10C

1. invective
2. intransigent
3. iniquitous
4. inveterate
5. insidious
6. inimical
7. ingenuous
8. inexorability
9. impudent
10. inured

Set 10D

1. iniquity
2. inured
3. inexorable
4. insidious
5. inimical
6. inveterate
7. impudent
8. invective
9. intransigence
10. ingenuous

Set 10E

1. inveterate
2. invective
3. inexorable
4. intransigence
5. ingenuous
6. insidious
7. impudent
8. inimical
9. iniquitous
10. inured

Set 10F

1. impudent
2. ingenuous
3. insidious
4. inexorable
5. inveterate
6. iniquitous
7. inimical

8. intransigent
9. invective
10. inured

Set 11A

1. maelstrom
2. jubilant
3. laconic
4. languid
5. limpid
6. legerdemain
7. juxtaposition
8. licentious
9. largess
10. latent

Set 11B

1. Legerdemain
2. juxtaposition
3. maelstrom
4. languid
5. laconic
6. jubilant
7. Latent
8. licentious
9. limpid
10. Largess

Set 11C

1. licentious
2. limpid
3. laconic
4. largess
5. maelstrom
6. languid
7. juxtaposition
8. jubilant
9. legerdemain
10. latent

Set 11D

1. legerdemain
2. juxtapose
3. languid
4. latent
5. maelstrom
6. licentious
7. jubilant
8. laconic
9. largess
10. limpid

Set 11E

1. juxtaposition
2. languid

3. licentious
4. jubilant
5. legerdemain
6. latent
7. laconic
8. maelstrom
9. limpid
10. largess

Set 11F

1. legerdemain
2. licentious
3. Maelstrom
4. limpid
5. laconic
6. languidly
7. juxtaposition
8. jubilant
9. largess
10. latent

Set 12A

1. malediction
2. nadir
3. magnanimous
4. maudlin
5. mendacious
6. manifold
7. modicum
8. morass
9. mercurial
10. malevolent

Set 12B

1. Malediction
2. morass
3. maudlin
4. modicum
5. mendacious
6. magnanimous
7. nadir
8. mercurial
9. manifold
10. malevolent

Set 12C

1. morass
2. malevolent
3. maledictions
4. maudlin
5. mendacious
6. manifold
7. nadir
8. magnanimous
9. mercurial
10. modicum

Set 12D

1. morass
2. maledictions
3. mercurial
4. maudlin
5. modicum
6. malevolent
7. nadir
8. manifold
9. mendacious
10. magnanimous

Set 12E

1. morass
2. malediction
3. mendacious
4. magnanimous
5. malevolent
6. manifold
7. maudlin
8. mercurial
9. modicum
10. nadir

Set 12F

1. morass
2. nadir
3. mendacious
4. malevolent
5. malediction
6. manifold
7. maudlin
8. mercurial
9. magnanimous
10. modicum

Set 13A

1. multifarious
2. nefarious
3. nascent
4. neophyte
5. munificence
6. mawkish
7. obdurate
8. oblique
9. obfuscate
10. obsequious

Set 13B

1. Nascent
2. oblique
3. obfuscate
4. obdurate
5. obsequious
6. nefarious
7. multifarious
8. neophyte

9. munificent
10. mawkish

Set 13C

1. multifarious
2. nascent
3. nefarious
4. obdurate
5. neophyte
6. munificent
7. obfuscated
8. obsequious
9. mawkish
10. oblique

Set 13D

1. nascent
2. munificent
3. oblique
4. obdurate
5. nefarious
6. neophyte
7. obfuscate
8. multifarious
9. obsequious
10. mawkish

Set 13E

1. nefarious
2. multifarious
3. neophyte
4. obfuscation
5. obdurate
6. oblique
7. munificent
8. nascent
9. mawkish
10. obsequious

Set 13F

1. obdurate
2. munificent
3. nefarious
4. multifarious
5. neophyte
6. obsequious
7. oblique
8. obfuscate
9. nascent
10. mawkish

Set 14A

1. ostensible
2. obstreperous
3. officious

4. myriad
5. odious
6. opulent
7. obtuse
8. pallid
9. panacea
10. palliate

Set 14B

1. obtuse
2. odious
3. pallid
4. myriad
5. Ostensible
6. Opulent
7. officious
8. obstreperous
9. palliative
10. panacea

Set 14C

1. pallid
2. palliate
3. obstreperous
4. myriad
5. officious
6. panacea
7. ostensible
8. odious
9. opulent
10. obtuse

Set 14D

1. panacea
2. ostensibly
3. palliative
4. pallid
5. myriad
6. opulent
7. obstreperous
8. officious
9. odious
10. obtuse

Set 14E

1. obtuse
2. obstreperous
3. odious
4. officious
5. opulent
6. myriad
7. pallid
8. ostensible
9. palliative
10. panacea

Set 14F

1. opulent
2. myriad
3. pallid
4. ostensibly
5. palliate
6. odious
7. officious
8. obstreperous
9. obtuse
10. panacea

Set 15A

1. pellucid
2. perfunctory
3. pernicious
4. pariah
5. pathos
6. perfidious
7. paucity
8. parsimony
9. pejorative
10. paragon

Set 15B

1. pariah
2. perfunctory
3. Parsimony
4. paragon
5. paucity
6. pernicious
7. pejorative
8. pellucid
9. Pathos
10. perfidious

Set 15C

1. pejorative
2. pathos
3. perfidious
4. parsimony
5. paragon
6. pariah
7. paucity
8. pellucid
9. pernicious
10. perfunctory

Set 15D

1. pathos
2. paragon
3. perfunctory
4. pariah
5. pejorative
6. pellucid
7. perfidious

8. paucity
9. parsimony
10. pernicious

Set 15E

1. pejorative
2. pellucid
3. paragon
4. pariah
5. pathos
6. perfunctory
7. perfidiously
8. parsimonious
9. paucity
10. pernicious

Set 15F

1. perfunctory
2. pellucid
3. paragon
4. perfidiously
5. paucity
6. pathos
7. parsimonious
8. pejorative
9. pernicious
10. pariah

Set 16A

1. plethora
2. perspicacity
3. pithy
4. petulance
5. penurious
6. pertinacious
7. platitude
8. polemic
9. portent
10. precocious

Set 16B

1. precocious
2. portent
3. polemic
4. Penury
5. platitude
6. pertinacious
7. perspicacious
8. plethora
9. Petulance
10. pithy

Set 16C

1. penurious
2. polemic

3. pertinacious
4. pithy
5. perspicacity
6. precocious
7. plethora
8. portend
9. petulance
10. platitudes

Set 16D

1. penury
2. pithy
3. petulant
4. perspicacious
5. Polemics
6. portent
7. plethora
8. precocious
9. platitudes
10. pertinacious

Set 16E

1. polemical
2. perspicacity
3. petulant
4. pertinacious
5. portent
6. plethora
7. platitudes
8. penury
9. pithy
10. precocious

Set 16F

1. portent
2. plethora
3. platitude
4. pithy
5. pertinacious
6. petulance
7. polemicist
8. perspicacity
9. precocious
10. penury

Set 17A

1. primeval
2. probity
3. prosaic
4. proscribe
5. prurient
6. promulgate
7. proclivity
8. protean
9. prescient
10. propitious

Set 17B

1. protean
2. Probity
3. primeval
4. proscribed
5. prescient
6. propitious
7. proclivity
8. prosaic
9. promulgated
10. prurient

Set 17C

1. primeval
2. probity
3. proclivity
4. prescient
5. proscribed
6. protean
7. propitious
8. prosaic
9. promulgated
10. prurient

Set 17D

1. primeval
2. protean
3. propitious
4. proclivities
5. prosaic
6. Prescience
7. promulgate
8. probity
9. prurient
10. proscribed

Set 17E

1. prosaic
2. probity
3. promulgated
4. protean
5. proscribed
6. propitious
7. primeval
8. prescience
9. proclivities
10. prurient

Set 17F

1. proclivity
2. primeval
3. promulgate
4. prurient
5. prosaic
6. protean
7. propitious

8. prescient
9. probity
10. proscribed

Set 18A

1. querulous
2. puerile
3. quixotic
4. rebuke
5. punctilious
6. pugnacious
7. pulchritude
8. quagmire
9. propensity
10. rancor

Set 18B

1. punctilious
2. pulchritude
3. rebuke
4. quagmire
5. querulous
6. propensity
7. pugnacious
8. puerile
9. Rancor
10. quixotic

Set 18C

1. puerile
2. propensity
3. pulchritude
4. pugnacious
5. punctilious
6. rancor
7. quagmire
8. querulous
9. quixotic
10. rebuked

Set 18D

1. querulous
2. pulchritude
3. rancor
4. quixotic
5. pugnacious
6. quagmire
7. rebuked
8. puerile
9. punctilious
10. propensity

Set 18E

1. pugnacious
2. puerile

3. Quagmire
4. rebuke
5. querulous
6. punctilious
7. pulchritude
8. quixotic
9. propensity
10. rancorous

Set 18F

1. puerile
2. pugnacious
3. propensity
4. rancor
5. punctilious
6. querulous
7. rebuke
8. pulchritude
9. quixotic
10. quagmire

Set 19A

1. rectitude
2. rescind
3. reprobate
4. replete
5. ruse
6. recalcitrant
7. reprove
8. repudiate
9. restive
10. ribald

Set 19B

1. repudiate
2. restive
3. ribald
4. reprove
5. ruse
6. Rectitude
7. rescinds
8. reprobate
9. recalcitrant
10. replete

Set 19C

1. ribald
2. ruse
3. rectitude
4. reprobate
5. restive
6. reprove
7. rescinded
8. recalcitrant
9. replete
10. repudiated

Set 19D

1. restive
2. recalcitrant
3. rescind
4. ruse
5. ribald
6. repudiate
7. replete
8. reprove
9. rectitude
10. reprobate

Set 19E

1. replete
2. reproved
3. rectitude
4. ruse
5. recalcitrant
6. ribald
7. rescinded
8. repudiate
9. reprobated
10. restive

Set 19F

1. abrogate
2. antipathy
3. acumen
4. adumbrated
5. acerbic
6. acrimonious
7. abjure
8. anathema
9. approbation
10. alacrity

Set 20A

1. sacrosanct
2. sanguine
3. solipsistic
4. serendipity
5. sagacity
6. scurrilous
7. salient
8. solicitous
9. rife
10. servile

Set 20B

1. solicitous
2. sacrosanct
3. Solipsism
4. Scurrilous
5. salient
6. Serendipity
7. sagacious

8. sanguine
9. servile
10. rife

Set 20C

1. solicitous
2. salient
3. sacrosanct
4. solipsistic
5. sagacious
6. sanguine
7. rife
8. scurrilous
9. servile
10. serendipity

Set 20D

1. solicitous
2. serendipity
3. sagacious
4. servile
5. sanguine
6. salient
7. rife
8. solipsism
9. scurrilous
10. sacrosanct

Set 20E

1. sanguine
2. solicitous
3. sacrosanctity
4. sagacity
5. servile
6. salient
7. rife
8. scurrilous
9. solipsistic
10. serendipity

Set 20F

1. solicitous
2. servile
3. serendipitous
4. sanguine
5. salient
6. solipsism
7. rife
8. sagacious
9. sacrosanct
10. scurrilous

Set 21A

1. stolid
2. staid

3. sanctimonious
4. surfeit
5. spurious
6. surreptitious
7. stupefy
8. sycophant
9. surmise
10. somnolent

Set 21B

1. sycophantic
2. surreptitious
3. surfeit
4. spurious
5. staid
6. somnolent
7. surmise
8. stolid
9. sanctimonious
10. stupefies

Set 21C

1. somnolent
2. sanctimonious
3. staid
4. stupefy
5. surreptitious
6. surmise
7. sycophants
8. surfeited
9. stolid
10. spurious

Set 21D

1. surreptitious
2. surmise
3. surfeit
4. sycophantic
5. Sanctimonious
6. stolid
7. staid
8. somnolent
9. spurious
10. stupefied

Set 21E

1. staid
2. sycophantic
3. somnolent
4. surreptitious
5. sanctimonious
6. stolid
7. spurious
8. stupefied
9. surmise
10. surfeit

Set 21F

1. staid
2. surmise
3. surreptitiously
4. sycophantic
5. surfeit
6. somnolent
7. stupefaction
8. stolid
9. spurious
10. sanctimonious

Set 22A

1. taciturn
2. tantamount
3. tractable
4. tacit
5. transmute
6. tenuous
7. transient
8. timorous
9. torpid
10. temerity

Set 22B

1. tractable
2. transmute, transmute
3. tacit
4. timorous
5. tantamount
6. Transient
7. tenuous
8. taciturn
9. temerity
10. torpid

Set 22C

1. taciturn
2. temerity
3. tenuous
4. tantamount
5. timorous
6. transmute
7. torpor
8. tacit
9. tractable
10. transient

Set 22D

1. tacit
2. transmutation
3. transient
4. tractable
5. torpid
6. tantamount
7. timorous

8. temerity
9. tenuous
10. taciturn

Set 22E

1. taciturn
2. tractable
3. tantamount
4. tacit
5. Transients
6. temerity
7. tenuous
8. torpid
9. transmuted
10. timorous

Set 22F

1. tantamount
2. temerity
3. transmute
4. transients
5. tacit
6. tenuous
7. taciturn
8. torpor
9. tractable
10. timorous

Set 23A

1. upbraid
2. trenchant
3. unctuous
4. turgid
5. truculent
6. umbrage
7. usurp
8. turpitude
9. undulate
10. ubiquitous

Set 23B

1. upbraid
2. undulates
3. unctuous
4. Turpitude
5. usurps
6. ubiquitous
7. umbrage
8. turgid
9. truculent
10. trenchant

Set 23C

1. unctuous
2. truculence

3. undulate
4. usurp
5. ubiquitous
6. turgid
7. turpitude
8. trenchant
9. umbrage
10. upbraid

Set 23D

1. truculent
2. undulated
3. upbraided
4. ubiquitous
5. turgid
6. umbrage
7. usurp
8. turpitude
9. unctuous
10. trenchant

Set 23E

1. usurped
2. truculent
3. trenchant
4. ubiquitous
5. unctuous
6. upbraided
7. turgid
8. turpitude
9. undulating
10. umbrage

Set 23F

1. upbraid
2. unctuous
3. undulating
4. umbrage
5. trenchant
6. ubiquitous
7. turgid
8. usurped
9. truculent
10. turpitude

Set 24A

1. vicissitude
2. vacuous
3. verdant
4. vicarious
5. vacillate
6. variegated
7. veracity
8. vex
9. vapid
10. venerate

Set 24B

1. vacuous
2. variegated
3. venerate
4. Veracity
5. verdant
6. vacillate
7. vicarious
8. vapid
9. vicissitudes
10. vexes

Set 24C

1. vicissitudes
2. vacuous
3. vapid
4. variegated
5. veracity
6. venerate
7. verdant
8. vexes
9. vacillating
10. vicarious

Set 24D

1. vapid
2. venerate
3. vacuous
4. vicissitudes
5. vicarious
6. vexing
7. veracity
8. Variegation
9. vacillated
10. verdant

Set 24E

1. verdant
2. vacuous
3. variegated
4. vicarious
5. vapid
6. veracity
7. venerated

8. vacillate
9. vexes
10. vicissitudes

Set 24F

1. vicarious
2. vapid
3. variegated
4. verdant
5. venerated
6. veracity
7. vacillate
8. vicissitudes
9. vex
10. vacuous

Set 25A

1. viscous
2. vilify
3. vituperate
4. zenith
5. wistful
6. winsome
7. vitriolic
8. wanton
9. wizened
10. zephyr

Set 25B

1. zephyr
2. vilified
3. wistful
4. wanton
5. vitriolic
6. wizened
7. zenith
8. winsome
9. Vituperation
10. viscous

Set 25C

1. viscous

2. wanton
3. vitriolic
4. vituperated
5. vilify
6. wistful
7. zephyrs
8. wizened
9. winsome
10. zenith

Set 25D

1. vilify
2. winsome
3. zenith
4. vituperation
5. wanton
6. vitriolic
7. wizened
8. wistful
9. viscous
10. zephyr

Set 25E

1. zenith
2. vilified
3. wizened
4. viscous
5. wistful
6. wanton
7. vituperative
8. winsome
9. zephyr
10. vitriol

Set 25F

1. vituperation
2. wizened
3. zenith
4. wistful
5. vilified
6. winsome
7. zephyr
8. vitriolic
9. wanton
10. viscous

Review Answer Keys

Review of Sets 1 – 5

1. (d) decry
2. (b) defile
3. (c) diffident
4. (b) buffet
5. (a) abrogate
6. (b) clemency
7. (b) conundrums
8. (a) effulgent
9. (c) burnish
10. (c) acrimony
11. (a) contrite
12. (d) ebullient
13. (a) approbation
14. (c) abjure
15. (d) brusque
16. (d) discursive
17. (d) capricious
18. (c) acerbic
19. (d) deprecate
20. (d) concomitant
21. (c) dither
22. (a) anathema
23. (b) ascetic
24. (a) credulity
25. (b) cursory
26. (b) blandishment
27. (d) cupidity
28. (b) acumen
29. (a) effrontery
30. (d) adumbrate
31. (a) arrogate
32. (c) alacrity
33. (d) egregious
34. (b) dissemble
35. (b) diaphanous
36. (d) cajole
37. (a) deride
38. (c) aspersion
39. (c) defile
40. (a) boon
41. (c) conflagration
42. (b) deleterious
43. (a) desiccated
44. (a) antipathy
45. (c) cacophony
46. (b) cogent
47. (c) demure
48. (c) assiduous
49. (c) calumny

50. (b) buttress

Review of Sets 6 – 10

1. (b) iconoclasts
2. (d) exculpate
3. (b) imperious
4. (c) fetid
5. (b) inveterate
6. (b) gregarious
7. (a) hackneyed
8. (b) enervate
9. (b) grandiloquence
10. (d) ineffable
11. (a) inimical
12. (b) expunge
13. (c) evanescent
14. (b) expiate
15. (a) eschew
16. (b) impertinent
17. (c) implacable
18. (b) indefatigable
19. (d) inured
20. (d) inchoate
21. (b) exigent
22. (a) feral
23. (a) garrulous
24. (b) extol
25. (c) inexorable
26. (a) impervious
27. (d) impudent
28. (b) iniquity
29. (c) impetuous
30. (d) fecund
31. (c) florid
32. (b) ingenuous
33. (d) fastidious
34. (a) execrable
35. (a) ignominious
36. (a) fractious
37. (c) fallacious
38. (d) hegemony
39. (a) incontrovertible
40. (b) impinge
41. (d) intransigent
42. (d) invective
43. (d) hapless
44. (b) ephemeral
45. (a) extant
46. (c) fatuous
47. (d) insidious

48. (c) impassive
49. (d) harangues
50. (d) evince

Review of Sets 11 – 15

1. (d) paragon
2. (d) multifarious
3. (c) mercurial
4. (b) obfuscate
5. (c) myriad
6. (a) officious
7. (d) perfidiously
8. (b) opulent
9. (a) pellucid
10. (c) maudlin
11. (b) mendacious
12. (a) obsequious
13. (c) modicum
14. (a) palliate
15. (b) mawkish
16. (b) panacea
17. (a) pernicious
18. (c) pallid
19. (a) neophyte
20. (a) obstreperous
21. (a) malediction
22. (a) paucity
23. (d) pejorative
24. (c) odious
25. (d) parsimony
26. (c) morass
27. (c) languid
28. (c) munificence
29. (c) nascent
30. (c) maelstrom
31. (c) manifold
32. (c) legerdemain
33. (d) nadir
34. (a) largess
35. (b) pathos
36. (a) oblique
37. (b) obtuse
38. (d) laconic
39. (b) magnanimous
40. (b) obdurate
41. (a) pariah
42. (b) licentious
43. (c) perfunctory
44. (b) nefarious
45. (c) ostensible

- 46. (d) limpid
- 47. (b) malevolent
- 48. (b) jubilant
- 49. (c) juxtaposition
- 50. (b) latent

Review of Sets 16 – 20

- 1. (b) propensity
- 2. (c) precocious
- 3. (d) promulgate
- 4. (b) petulance
- 5. (a) rescind
- 6. (a) querulous
- 7. (b) rebuke
- 8. (a) sacrosanct
- 9. (c) puerile
- 10. (d) scurrilous
- 11. (b) proscribe
- 12. (d) protean
- 13. (b) prosaic
- 14. (d) replete
- 15. (d) ruse
- 16. (d) prescient
- 17. (c) sanguine
- 18. (d) punctilious
- 19. (b) prurient
- 20. (a) restive
- 21. (d) rectitude
- 22. (b) ribald
- 23. (b) salient
- 24. (d) serendipity
- 25. (a) platitudes
- 26. (c) sagacity
- 27. (a) reprobate
- 28. (c) polemic
- 29. (a) penurious

- 30. (d) perspicacity
- 31. (a) proclivity
- 32. (d) repudiate
- 33. (d) solicitous
- 34. (b) reprove
- 35. (a) solipsistic
- 36. (c) rife
- 37. (a) probity
- 38. (a) primeval
- 39. (c) pugnacious
- 40. (a) recalcitrant
- 41. (d) servile
- 42. (d) plethora
- 43. (c) pertinacious
- 44. (d) pulchritude
- 45. (a) portent
- 46. (c) quagmires
- 47. (c) pithy
- 48. (c) quixotic
- 49. (d) rancor
- 50. (b) propitious

Review of Sets 21 – 25

- 1. (d) vexing
- 2. (c) variegated
- 3. (b) vacuous
- 4. (d) turpitude
- 5. (c) tractable
- 6. (c) veracity
- 7. (a) sycophants
- 8. (b) winsome
- 9. (d) undulate
- 10. (a) vacillate
- 11. (d) zenith
- 12. (d) stolid
- 13. (d) vitriolic

- 14. (a) wanton
- 15. (a) usurp
- 16. (a) turgid
- 17. (b) timorous
- 18. (a) vituperative
- 19. (c) tenuous
- 20. (d) spurious
- 21. (a) ubiquity
- 22. (c) torpid
- 23. (c) verdant
- 24. (c) surfeit
- 25. (b) viscous
- 26. (b) surreptitious
- 27. (a) surmise
- 28. (c) somnolent
- 29. (a) trenchant
- 30. (b) truculent
- 31. (d) transient
- 32. (a) upbraid
- 33. (c) wizened
- 34. (b) staid
- 35. (a) transmute
- 36. (c) vilified
- 37. (c) taciturn
- 38. (a) stupefy
- 39. (b) temerity
- 40. (b) venerated
- 41. (c) venerated
- 42. (c) tacit
- 43. (a) umbrage
- 44. (b) vicissitudes
- 45. (b) unctuous
- 46. (d) wistful
- 47. (b) sanctimonious
- 48. (d) vicarious
- 49. (c) tantamount
- 50. (a) zephyr

Word List

abjure	effulgent	insidious
abrogate	egregious	intransigent
acerbic	enervate	inure
acrimony	ephemeral	invective
acumen	eschew	inveterate
adumbrate	evanescent	jubilant
alacrity	evince	juxtaposition
anathema	exculpate	laconic
antipathy	execrable	languid
approbation	exigent	largess
arrogate	expiate	latent
ascetic	expunge	legerdemain
aspersion	extant	licentious
assiduous	extol	limpid
blandish	fallacious	maelstrom
boon	fastidious	magnanimous
brusque	fatuous	malediction
buffet	fecund	malevolent
burnish	feral	manifold
buttress	fetid	maudlin
cacophony	florid	mawkish
cajole	fractious	mendacious
calumny	garrulous	mercurial
capricious	grandiloquence	modicum
clemency	gregarious	morass
cogent	hackneyed	multifarious
concomitant	hapless	munificence
contrite	harangue	myriad
conundrum	hegemony	nascent
credulity	iconoclast	nefarious
cupidity	ignominious	neophyte
cursorial	impassive	obdurate
decry	imperious	obfuscate
defile	impertinent	oblique
deleterious	impervious	obsequious
demure	impetuous	obstreperous
deprecate	impinge	obtuse
deride	implacable	odious
desecrate	impudent	officious
desiccated	inchoate	opulent
diaphanous	incontrovertible	ostensible
diffident	indefatigable	palliate
discursive	ineffable	pallid
dissemble	inexorable	panacea
dither	ingenuous	paragon
ebullient	inimical	pariah
effrontery	iniquity	parsimony

pathos	rebuke	torpid
paucity	recalcitrant	tractable
pejorative	rectitude	transient
pellucid	replete	transmute
penurious	reprobate	trenchant
perfidious	reprove	truculent
perfunctory	repudiate	turgid
pernicious	rescind	turpitude
perspicacity	restive	ubiquitous
pertinacious	ribald	umbrage
petulance	rife	unctuous
pithy	ruse	undulate
platitude	sacrosanct	upbraid
plethora	sagacity	usurp
polemic	salient	vacillate
portent	sanctimonious	vacuous
precocious	sanguine	vapid
prescient	scurrilous	variegated
primeval	servile	venerate
probity	solicitous	veracity
proclivity	solipsistic	verdant
promulgate	somnolent	vex
propensity	spurious	vicarious
propitious	staid	vicissitude
prosaic	stolid	vilify
proscribe	stupefy	viscous
protean	surfeit	vitriolic
prurient	surmise	vituperate
puerile	surreptitious	wanton
pugnacious	sycophant	winsome
pulchritude	tacit	wistful
punctilious	taciturn	wizened
quagmire	tantamount	zenith
querulous	temerity	zephyr
quixotic	tenuous	
rancor	timorous	