

## SAT List 8

- cryptic adj.** secret; having a hidden meaning.
  - Polly's *cryptic* letter confused us as to her objectives.
  - F.B.I agents asked a university expert to try to decode the *cryptic* ransom demand.
  - The conspicuous, *cryptic* scribbling at the tomb's entrance puzzled the archaeologists.
- cursory adj.** without attention to details
  - A  *cursory* glance at the difficult homework assignment was enough to destroy Marco's composure.
  - The parole board's  *cursory* treatment of the prisoner's appeal made him pessimistic.
  - It requires more than  *cursory* attention for me to comprehend modern poetry.
- dearth adj.** shortage.
  - When they spoke of a "brain drain," they were referring to the  *dearth* of good physicists because of the relaxed emigration laws.
  - The  *dearth* of citrus fruits led to the host of illnesses.
  - There is a current  *dearth* of graduate mathematicians in the United States.
- debilitate v.** to weaken.
  - Some doctors will not condone sauna baths because they can  *debilitate* a person.
  - A tropical climate can quickly  *debilitate* those who are not used to it.
  - The cruel jailer starved his prisoners in order to  *debilitate* them.
- decadence n.** decay; decline.
  - Many sermons tend to focus on moral  *decadence* in our time.
  - The bestseller dealt with Western  *decadence* at the close of the twentieth century.
  - In traveling through the neighborhood, we saw copious examples of  *decadence*.
- deference n.** great respect.
  - Out of  *deference* to my father, we never smoked in the house.
  - In  *deference* to the famous novelist, the critics refrained from attacking his new book.
  - It was an act of  *deference* for the police commissioner to take the mayor's side in the controversy.
- deflate v.** to let the air out of; to reduce in size or importance.
  - Whenever my aunt feels important, my uncle steps in to  *deflate* her lofty impression of herself.
  - Before going on a long auto trip, I always  *deflate* my tires slightly.
  - Seeing that Rupert was swollen with importance, we agreed to  *deflate* that young man's opinion of his value to our company.
- delineate v.** to describe in words; to sketch.
  - When challenged to  *delineate* Sam's crass behavior, we were speechless.
  - The great painter would merely  *delineate* the outlines of the landscape, and his apprentices would fill in the details.
  - As the kindergarten teacher began to  *delineate* Alexa's performance, the little girl's parents lost their composure.
- demean n.** behavior.
  - When the twins adopted a conciliatory tone, Sal's  *demeanor* changed abruptly.
  - The teacher's criterion for acceptable  *demeanor* was totally compliance.
  - Unless your crass  *demeanor* is reformed, we'll never be compatible.
- denunciation n.** expression of strong disapproval made openly or publicly.
  - The Russian premier's  *denunciation* of Stalin was refreshingly unexpected.
  - We were astonished by the tobacco heir's  *denunciation* of smoking.
  - When his theory couldn't be corroborated, Professor Ludwig was open to  *denunciation* from his peers.



### SPOTLIGHT ON

**cryptic** In ancient days, burial places were often hidden, sometimes below a church floor, to protect the body and its accompanying valuables from grave robbers. The Greek word *kryptos* means "hidden." Anything with a hidden meaning today can be said to be cryptic.

**decadence** In Latin, *cadere* means "to fall." Therefore, *decadence* refers to a "falling-off," and from there to "decline" and "decay."

Bromberg, Murray, and Julius Liebb. *Hot Words for SAT I*. 2nd ed.. Hauppauge, NY: Barron's Educational Series, Inc., 1993.

**Lesson 8**  
**matching**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ period \_\_\_\_\_

	A		B
1.	cryptic	a)	hasty and inattentive
2.	cursory	b)	scarcity
3.	dearth	c)	to make feeble
4.	debilitate	d)	public condemnation
5.	decadence	e)	let the air out of
6.	deference	f)	manner
7.	deflate	g)	mysterious
8.	delineate	h)	portray
9.	demeanor	i)	decline
10.	denunciation	j)	shirk responsibility
		k)	honor

**Fill in the blank**

1. A police artist was asked to \_\_\_\_\_ the key features of the assailant's face.
2. The vandals planned to \_\_\_\_\_ each of the balloons in the Macy's parade.
3. Hosea's bitter \_\_\_\_\_ of his former law partner made the front pages of our papers.
4. We were unable to fathom the entertainer's \_\_\_\_\_ reference to "Mrs. Calabash"
5. Considering all of the agitating circumstances, Henrietta's calm \_\_\_\_\_ was truly remarkable.
6. Prices for the early Mickey Mantle baseball cards have skyrocketed because there is a \_\_\_\_\_ of them.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ review of the x-rays failed to detect the tumor.
8. Although some stick-in-the-muds would disagree, wearing skimpy bathing suits is hardly a sign of cultural \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Strenuous dieting may \_\_\_\_\_ you.
10. In a gesture of \_\_\_\_\_, the French athletes rose for our national anthem.

**True or False**

Based upon the way the new words are used, identify the following sentences as T (True) or F (False).

1. \_\_\_ By praising Edmund lavishly, we sought to deflate his ego.
2. \_\_\_ Although the librarian gave only cursory attention to the book, she seemed to know it intimately..
3. \_\_\_ The show closed on Saturday because of a dearth of ticket buyers..
4. \_\_\_ Cynthia was fond of making cryptic remarks that no one could understand..
5. \_\_\_ Reverend Forbes hoped that the decadence of Rome would be something our society could copy.