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Date _____

SAT Vocabulary Study List 1

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

1. feign (feyn) v. to put on a show of (a quality or emotion); pretend, to make up; invent

derivatives: feigner, feigningly

“Most of the confidences were unsought—frequently I have feigned sleep . . .” (5).

2. reproach (ri-prohch) v. to find fault with (a person, group, etc.); blame; censure; to upbraid.

derivatives: reproachable, reproachingly, unrepachable, “above reproach”

“His family was enormously wealthy—even in college his freedom with money was a matter for reproach . . .” (10).

3. supercilious (soo-per-sil-ee-uhs) adj. displaying arrogant pride, scorn

derivatives: superciliously, superciliousness

“Now he was a sturdy, straw haired man of thirty with a rather hard mouth and a supercilious manner” (11).

4. fractious (frak-shuhs) adj. irritable; unruly

derivatives: fractiously, fractiousness

“His speaking voice, a gruff husky tenor, added to the impression of fractiousness he conveyed” (11).

5. conscientious (kon-shee-en-shuhs) adj. involving or taking great care; painstaking; diligent

derivatives: conscientiously, conscientiousness

“The other girl, Daisy, made an attempt to rise—she leaned slightly forward with a conscientious expression—then she laughed, an absurd, charming little laugh, and I laughed too and came forward into the room” (13).

6. imperceptible (im-per-sep-tuh-buhl) adj. too slight, subtle, gradual, etc., to be perceived

derivatives: imperceptibility, imperceptibleness, imperceptibly

“At any rate Miss Baker’s lips fluttered, she nodded at me almost imperceptibly and then quickly tipped her head back again . . .” (13).

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7. complacent (kuhm-pley-suhnt) adj. pleased, esp. with oneself or one's merits, advantages, situation, etc., often without awareness of some potential danger or defect; self-satisfied

derivatives: complacently, noncomplacent

"There was something pathetic in his concentration as if his complacency, more acute than of old, was not enough to him any more" (18).

8. contemptuous (kuhn-temp-choo-uhs) adj. showing or expressing contempt or disdain; scornful.

derivatives: contemptuously, contemptuousness

"I knew now why her face was familiar—its pleasing contemptuous expression had looked out at me from many rotogravure pictures of the sporting life at Asheville and Hot Springs and Palm Beach" (23).

9. intimation (in-tuh-mey- shun) n. a hint or suggestion

derivative: intimate

"But I didn't call to him for he gave a sudden intimation that he was content to be alone . . ." (25).

10. incessant (in-ses-uhnt) adj. not ceasing; continual

derivatives: incessancy, incessantness, incessantly

"When she moved about there was an incessant clicking as innumerable pottery bracelets jingled up and down upon her arms" (34).

11. languid (lang-gwid) adj. without energy or spirit; without interest or enthusiasm;

sluggish; inactive

derivatives: languidly, languidness

"His wife was shrill, languid, handsome and horrible" (34).

12. permeate (pur-mee-yet) v. to penetrate or pervade

derivatives: permeation, permeative

"The bar is in full swing and floating rounds of cocktails permeate the garden outside until the air is alive with chatter and laughter and casual innuendo . . ." (44).

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13. erroneous (uh-roh-nee-uh s, e-roh-) adj. containing error; mistaken; incorrect; wrong
derivatives: erroneously, erroneousness

"... there was a burst of chatter as the erroneous news goes around that she is Gilda Gray's understudy from the 'Follies'" (45).

14. vehement (vee-uh-muhnt) adj. marked by intensity of feeling or conviction; emphatic; (of actions, gestures, etc.) characterized by great energy, vigor, or force; furious
derivatives: vehemence, vehemently

"... the two or three people of whom I asked his whereabouts stared at me in such an amazed way and denied so vehemently any knowledge of his movements that I slunk off in the direction of the cocktail table ..." (46).

15. innuendo (in-yoo-en-doh) n. an indirect or subtle reference, esp. one made maliciously or indicating criticism or disapproval; insinuation
derivatives: none

"There were three married couples and Jordan's escort, a persistent undergraduate given to violent innuendo and obviously under the impression that sooner or later Jordan was going to yield him up her person ..." (49).