

# **The Black Cat**

**by Edgar Allan Poe**

## **Definitions**



# The Black Cat

## Definitions



|     |  |   |   |
|-----|--|---|---|
| 1.  | <b>allusion</b>  | uh LOO shun   | implied or indirect reference; hinting at                           |
|     | Synonyms >>  |   | Antonym >>  |
|     | Her allusion to the literary figure made the point she wanted.   |   |   |
|     | Derivatives >>   | allusions, allude, alluded  |   |
| 2.  | <b>anomalous</b>   | uh NAHM uh lus  | out of place, abnormal  |
|     | Synonyms >>  |   | Antonym >> fitting a pattern  |
|     | Seeing a Toyota in the background of that World War II movie was anomalous.                                |   |   |
|     | Derivatives >>   | anomalously, anomalousness, anomaly, anomalies  |   |
| 3.  | <b>aversion</b>  | uh VER shun   | strong disinclination, disliking                                    |
|     | Synonyms >>  | hesitance, loathing, reluctance   | Antonym >> inclination  |
|     | I have an aversion to getting married.   |   |   |
|     | Derivatives >>   | averseness, aversely, averse  |   |
| 4.  | <b>chimera</b>   | kuh MEER uh   | a fantasy; a horrible creature of the imagination                   |
|     | Synonyms >>  | fantasy , vision  | Antonym >> gentle creature  |
|     | He is not the chimera your fears have made him in your mind.   |   |   |
|     | Derivatives >>   | chimerical, chimeric, chimerically  |   |
| 5.  | <b>conflagration</b>   | kon fluh GRAY shun  | a large fire  |
|     | Synonyms >>  |   | Antonym >> small flame  |
|     | Some believe that the earth will be destroyed by a large conflagration.                                    |   |   |
|     | Derivatives >>   | conflagrations, conflagrant, conflagrate, conflagrator, conflagratory                                     |   |
| 6.  | <b>debauchery</b>  | deh BAH chuh ree  | moral corruption  |
|     | Synonyms >>  | abasement, corruption, debasement, depravity, perversion,   | Antonym >> temperance   |
|     | Certainly a minister would say that group sex is an example of debauchery.                                 |   |   |
|     | Derivatives >>   | debauch, debaucher, debauchment, debauchee  |   |
| 7.  | <b>docile</b>  | DOS ul  | easily managed, obedient, passive                                   |
|     | Synonyms >>  | amenable, tractable   | Antonym >> unruly; unmanageable                                     |
|     | The dog was docile until the doorbell rang.  |   |   |
|     | Derivatives >>   | docible, docibility, docilely, docility   |   |
| 8.  | <b>equivocal</b>   | eh KWIV uh kul  | ambiguous (usually intended to mislead)                             |
|     | Synonyms >>  | abstruse, ambiguous, cryptic, enigmatic, obscure, recondite   | Antonym >> clear; straightforward                                   |
|     | His speech was difficult to understand because of all his equivocal statements.                            |   |   |
|     | Derivatives >>   | equivocacy, equivocality, equivocally, equivocalness, equivocate, equivocation, equivocator, equivocality |   |
| 9.  | <b>expedient</b>   | ik SPEE dee unt   | appropriate for a purpose but not necessarily moral, right, or just |
|     | Synonyms >>  |   | Antonym >> disadvantageous  |
|     | In trying to increase political support, the candidate found it expedient to change his stand on taxation. |   |   |
|     | Derivatives >>   | expediate, expedience, expediency, expediential, expedientist, expediently                                |   |
| 10. | <b>felicitous</b>  | feh LIS eh tus  | happy or delightful   |
|     | Synonyms >>  |   | Antonym >> sad; gloomy; morose                                      |
|     | Her marriage was a felicitous occasion.  |   |   |
|     | Derivatives >>   | felicitate, felificic, felicitation, felicitously, felicitousness, felicity                               |   |
| 11. | <b>forbearance</b>   | fore BARE uns   | patience, lenience  |
|     | Synonyms >>  |   | Antonym >> impatience   |
|     | Because he is so young, we must have forbearance in dealing with him.                                      |   |   |
|     | Derivatives >>   | forbear, forbearant, forbearer, forbearing, forbearingly, forbearingness, forbore                         |   |

|     |  |   |  |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 12. | <b>homely</b>  | HOME lee  | plain or unattractive in appearance                                      |
|     | Synonyms >>  |   | Antonym >> pretty; attractive  |
|     | The girl was rather homely, but she had a wit and an intellect that could not be matched.          |   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>   | homeliness, homlier, homliest                                 |  |
| 13. | <b>infamous</b>  | IN fuh mus  | having a reputation of the worst kind, vicious, notoriously bad          |
|     | Synonyms >>  | disreputable, ignominious                                     | Antonym >> illustrious   |
|     | The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was an infamous act.   |   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>   | infamously, infamy, infamies                                  |  |
| 14. | <b>inscrutable</b>   | in SKROO tuh bul  | difficult to understand; mysterious                                      |
|     | Synonyms >>  |   | Antonym >> clear; readable; understandable                               |
|     | He had us all confused with his inscrutable smile.   |   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>   | inscrutableness, inscrutably, inscrutability                  |  |
| 15. | <b>intemperance</b>  | in TEM pur uns  | lack of moderation (usually relating to drinking alcohol)                |
|     | Synonyms >>  |   | Antonym >> temperance; moderation  |
|     | Some fraternity members are known for their intemperance.  |   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>   | intemperate, intemperancy, intemperately, intemperateness     |  |
| 16. | <b>loathe</b>  | LOETH   | to detest  |
|     | Synonyms >>  | abhor, abominate  | Antonym >> to adore  |
|     | The fact that I loathe your brother does not mean that we cannot be friends.                       |   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>   | loathful, loathing, loathingly, loathness, loathsome          |  |
| 17. | <b>malevolence</b>   | muh LEV uh lens   | ill will or evil intentions  |
|     | Synonyms >>  | malice, malignity, spite, spleen                              | Antonym >> benevolence   |
|     | The old man's malevolence was obvious when he removed the girl from his will.                      |   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>   | malevolent, malevolently                                      |  |
| 18. | <b>odious</b>  | OH dee us   | deserving hate or contempt   |
|     | Synonyms >>  |   | Antonym >> respectable   |
|     | Pornography is an odious business.   |   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>   | odiously, odiousness, odium                                   |  |
| 19. | <b>peevish</b>   | PEE vish  | fretful, obstinate   |
|     | Synonyms >>  |   | Antonym >> tranquil; peaceful  |
|     | With a peevish gesture, Jane slammed the book shut.  |   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>   | peevishly, peevishness, peeve, peevied                        |  |
| 20. | <b>perpetuate</b>  | pur PECH oo ate   | to prolong the existence of something                                    |
|     | Synonyms >>  |   | Antonym >> to destroy  |
|     | The Audubon Society works to perpetuate the species of many threatened birds.                      |   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>   | perpetuation, perpetuator, perpetuity, perpetual, perpetually |  |
| 21. | <b>pertinacity</b>   | pur tuh NAS eh tee  | stubborn persistence or act of refusing to yield on an opinion or belief |
|     | Synonyms >>  |   | Antonym >> vacillation   |
|     | Because of his pertinacity, the fighter was able to go the entire twelve rounds and win the fight. |   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>   | pertinacious, pertinaciously, pertinaciousness                |  |
| 22. | <b>sagacious</b>   | suh GAY shus  | wise, shrewd, very discerning  |
|     | Synonyms >>  | astute, perspicacious   | Antonym >> ignorant; uninformed; undiscerning                            |
|     | The sagacious freshman knew not to buy an elevator pass from the senior attempting a clever ruse.  |   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>   | sagaciate, sagaciously, sagaciousness, sagacity               |  |
| 23. | <b>scrupulous</b>  | SKROO pyuh lus  | very principled, very careful and conscientious                          |
|     | Synonyms >>  | meticulous, punctilious                                       | Antonym >> unprincipled  |
|     | The scrupulous police officer never took a bribe, and he ceaselessly tried to prevent crime.       |   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>   | scruple, scrupulosity, scrupulousness, scrupulously           |  |
| 24. | <b>solicitous</b>  | suh LIS eh tus  | worried, concerned   |
|     | Synonyms >>  |   | Antonym >> unconcerned   |
|     | He was very solicitous about the health of his ill grandmother.                                    |   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>   | solicitously, solicitousness, solicitude                      |  |
| 25. | <b>succinct</b>  | suk SINGKT  | brief, compact   |
|     | Synonyms >>  | compendious, concise, laconic, pithy, summary, terse          | Antonym >> frequently digressing   |
|     | Because her comments were succinct and to the point the ceremony was brief.                        |   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>   | succinctly, succinctness                                      |  |

|            |   |  |  |
|------------|---|--|--|
| <b>26.</b> | <b>unfathomable</b>   | un FATH um uh bul                          | not capable of being understood        |
|            | <b>Synonyms &gt;&gt;</b>  |  | <b>Antonym &gt;&gt;</b> understandable |
|            | The solution to the my stery was unfathomable in the beginning. |  |  |
|            | <b>Derivatives &gt;&gt;</b>                                     | unfathomableness, unfathomably, unfathomed |  |

# **The Black Cat**

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These words which appear in "**The Black Cat**" have been identified as words that SAT has used in past tests. They are listed here in order of appearance in the short story.

- |                 |                   |                    |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. homely       | 9. peevish        | 18. odious         |
| 2. solicit      | 10. malevolence   | 19. aversion       |
| 3. succinctly   | 11. debauch       | 20. pertinacity    |
| 4. docility     | 12. equivocal     | 21. chimeras       |
| 5. sagacious    | 13. perpetual     | 22. expedient      |
| 6. allusion     | 14. unfathomable  | 23. forbore        |
| 7. intemperance | 15. conflagration | 24. felicity       |
| 8. scruple      | 16. infamy        | 25. inscrutability |
|                 | 17. loathing      | 26. anomalous      |

These words which appear in "**The Black Cat**" have been identified as words that have appeared on past SAT tests. They appear here in alphabetical order.

- |                  |                    |                  |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. allusion      | 9. expedient       | 18. odious       |
| 2. anomalous     | 10. felicity       | 19. peevish      |
| 3. aversion      | 11. forbore        | 20. perpetual    |
| 4. chimeras      | 12. homely         | 21. pertinacity  |
| 5. conflagration | 13. infamy         | 22. sagacious    |
| 6. debauch       | 14. inscrutability | 23. scruple      |
| 7. docility      | 15. intemperance   | 24. solicit      |
| 8. equivocal     | 16. loathing       | 25. succinctly   |
|                  | 17. malevolence    | 26. unfathomable |

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## Vocabulary Test

**Directions:** Match the word in the left column with the correct definition in the right column.

### Exercise A

- |       |     |               |    |  |
|-------|-----|---------------|----|--|
| _____ | 1.  | allusion      | a. | appropriate for a purpose but not necessarily moral      |
| _____ | 2.  | anomalous     | b. | imaginary, fantasy; horrible creature of the imagination |
| _____ | 3.  | aversion      | c. | happy or delightful                                      |
| _____ | 4.  | chimera       | d. | easily managed, obedient, passive                        |
| _____ | 5.  | conflagration | e. | implied or direct reference, hinting at                  |
| _____ | 6.  | debauch       | f. | plain or unattractive in appearance                      |
| _____ | 7.  | docile        | g. | a very large fire  |
| _____ | 8.  | equivocal     | h. | patience, lenience                                       |
| _____ | 9.  | expedient     | i. | strong disinclination, disliking                         |
| _____ | 10. | felicitous    | j. | tending to be ambiguous with intention to mislead        |
| _____ | 11. | forbearance   | k. | to morally corrupt                                       |
| _____ | 12. | homely        | l. | having a reputation of the worst kind, disgraceful       |
| _____ | 13. | infamous      | m. | out of place, abnormal                                   |
| _____ | 14. | inscrutable   | n. | difficult to understand; mysterious                      |

### Exercise B

- |       |     |              |    |   |
|-------|-----|--------------|----|---|
| _____ | 15. | intemperance | o. | stubborn persistence in refusing to yield on an opinion |
| _____ | 16. | loathe       | p. | deserving hate or contempt                              |
| _____ | 17. | malevolence  | q. | not capable of being understood                         |
| _____ | 18. | odious       | r. | briefly, compactly                                      |
| _____ | 19. | peevish      | s. | lack of moderation (usually relating to alcohol)        |
| _____ | 20. | perpetuate   | t. | fretful, obstinate                                      |
| _____ | 21. | pertinacity  | u. | worried, concerned                                      |
| _____ | 22. | sagacious    | v. | detest  |
| _____ | 23. | scrupulous   | w. | very principled, very careful and conscientious         |
| _____ | 24. | solicitous   | x. | act of wishing ill will or evil on someone              |
| _____ | 25. | succinctly   | y. | prolong the existence of something                      |
| _____ | 26. | unfathomable | z. | wise, shrewd, very discerning                           |

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## Vocabulary Test

- |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. e  | 2. m  | 3. i  | 4. b  | 5. g  | 6. k  | 7. d  |
| 8. j  | 9. a  | 10. c | 11. h | 12. f | 13. l | 14. q |
| 15. s | 16. v | 17. x | 18. o | 19. t | 20. y | 21. n |
| 22. z | 23. w | 24. u | 25. r | 26. p |       |       |