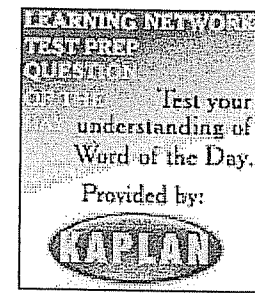


supercilious · \-'si-lē-əs, -'sil-yəs\ · (adj.)

DEFINITION
PROVIDED BY



maintenance (n)

EXAMPLE FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES
The word **supercilious** has appeared in 13 Times articles over the past year, most recently in "Showing a Confidence, in Prepared Answers" on September 12, 2008.

Ms. Palin didn't look rattled or lose her cool in her first interview with Mr. Gibson, the network anchor, on Thursday night, but she skittered through with general answers, sticking to talking points that flowed out quickly and spiritedly, a little too much by rote to satisfy her interviewer that she was giving his questions serious consideration. When Ms. Palin seemed not to know exactly what the Bush doctrine is, Mr. Gibson made a point of explaining it -- pre-emptive self-defense -- and demanded that she tell him whether she agreed with it...

...His was a tricky course to navigate. If Mr. Gibson were too soft, Democrats would accuse him of being afraid of the Republican news-media-bashing machine, which has been scouring the press and Senator Barack Obama's speeches for any hint of sexism or elitism. If his questions were too tough, he would be very likely to stir up charges of sexism or elitism. While his questions were trenchant, they were fair game; he was careful in the first day of interviews not to ask anything too frivolous (there were no questions

about lipstick, pigs or juggling family and career). But his attitude was at times **supercilious**: He asked if a nuclear Iran posed an "existential threat" to Israel, as if it were the land of Sartre, not Sabras...

TEST PREP Question OF THE DAY

Questions provided by Kaplan.com

BACK
Words

Today's Test Prep Question of the Day is a sentence completion

DIRECTIONS: Select the lettered word or set of words that best completes the sentence.

Click here for strategies for answering this type of question.

Dr. Fobbish was extremely ----- with all people regardless of their age or class, earning her the ----- of everyone she came across; she was even dubbed "Snobbish Fobbish" by the tabloids during her trial for mail fraud and tax evasion.

- (A) haughty . . ire
- (B) polite . . disdain
- (C) sympathetic . . distrust
- (D) evasive . . chagrin
- (E) supercilious . . admiration

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