acquire

(vb.) to come into possession of

The captive dolphin has acquired a taste for freshwater perch, a fish not found in its normal habitat.

Word Forms: acquirable, acquirability, acquirement, acquiree
Related Word: acquisition

aesthetic

(adj.) relating to beauty

Alaina chose this church for her wedding because of its aesthetic qualities; it was the most beautiful chapel she had ever seen.

Word Forms: aesthetically, aesthetics (n.), aestheticize, aesthetic, aesthetician
Antonym Form: unesthetic
Related Word: amicable

amiable

(adj.) friendly

The amiable celebrity was known for his willingness to sign autographs and visit with his fans.

Word Forms: amiably, amiability, amiableness
Antonym Form: unamiable
Related Word: amicable

antagonize

(vb.) to provoke or display hostility

Annie antagonized her little brother by knocking over his tower of toy bricks.

Word Forms: antagonizable, antagonistic, antagonistically, antagonism, antagonist
Antonym Forms: protagonism, protagonist

arrogant

(adj.) having feelings of excessive pride and self-worth

The arrogant soccer player thought he was too important to waste time meeting his fans.

Word Forms: arrogantly, arrogance, arrogancy

aspiration

(n.) a desire to succeed

The military medic had aspirations of becoming a doctor after his tour of duty.

Word Forms: aspirational, aspire, aspiringly, aspirer

astute

(adj.) intelligent and clever

An astute student figures out his English teacher’s favorite novel and then reads it for his book report.

Word Forms: astutely, astuteness

autonomy

(n.) independence

The Confederate states fought to gain autonomy from the Union during the Civil War.

Word Forms: autonomous, autonomously, autonomist

avid

(adj.) enthusiastic

Alvin is an avid baseball card collector, having amassed over ten thousand cards.

Word Forms: avidly, avidness
Related Word: avidious

benevolent

(adj.) charitable; kind

The benevolent nun spent her entire life working with the poor.

Word Forms: benevolently, benevolentness, benevolence
Related Words: benefactor, benefit

bewilder

(vb.) to puzzle

Bea was bewildered by the puzzle; no matter how hard she concentrated, she could not find a solution.

Word Forms: bewilderedly, bewilderingly, bewilderness, bewilderment

callous

(adj.) insensitive; emotionally hardened

The senator’s callous indifference to the suffering of the people in the war-torn country cost him re-election to a second term.

Word Forms: callously, callousness
Related Word: callus

amiable, acquire, aesthetic, antagonize, arrogant, aspiration, astute, autonomy, avid, benevolent, bewilder, callous
camaraderie

(n.) friendship

The camaraderie among the soldiers lasted long after the end of the second World War; the men kept in touch and met for reunions for over forty years.

Related Word: comrade

Word Forms: candidly, candidness

candid

(adj.) open and straightforward

Much to my surprise, Candace was quite candid when talking about the private traumas of her childhood.

Word Forms: cantankerously, cantankerousness

cantankerous

(adj.) ill-tempered and unwilling to cooperate

The cantankerous old man took the little boy’s sucker and refused to give it back, even when the child’s mother threatened to call the police.

Word Forms: capriciously, capriciousness

capricious

Cane’s capricious personality made him a fun friend but a terrible boss; social spontaneity was exciting but workplace unpredictability was frustrating.

Word Forms: capriciously, capriciousness, caprice

censure

(n.) strong disapproval

High school teachers voiced their censure of the new novel, citing mature themes as their main reason for leaving it off the summer reading list.

Word Forms: censure (vb.), censureless, censurable, censurably, censurer

coherent

(adj.) clear and logical

Kobe decided to start recycling when his daughter made a coherent argument about the money, energy, and environment he would save.

Word Forms: coherently, coherence, coherency

Antonym Forms: incoherent, incoherently, incoherence

Related Words: cohesive, cohesion

collaborate

(vb.) to work together

Colleen and Curtis collaborated on the book; Colleen wrote the stories and Curtis illustrated the scenes.

Word Forms: collaboration, collaborative, collaboratively, collaborator

complacent

(adj.) contented to a fault with oneself or one’s actions

After twenty five years of teaching, Mr. Compton had become complacent, failing to keep up with new trends in education.

Word Forms: complacently, complacence, complacency, complacential

conciliate

(vb.) to win over; to make peace

The manager was able to conciliate the angry customer by offering her a fifty dollar gift certificate.

Word Forms: conciliable, conciliation, conciliatory, conciliatorily, conciliatoriness

Related Word: reconcile

concise

(adj.) expressing much in few words

Your essay should be concise; be sure to remove any unnecessary words and sentences.

Word Forms: concisely, conciseness, concision

condescend

Constance believed that her wealth permitted her to be rude and arrogant; she refused to condescend to speak to the bell boy at the upscale hotel.

Word Forms: condescending (adj.), condescendingly, condescension, condescensive, condescensively

Related Word: descend

convoluted

(adj.) complicated

Connor was unable to finish the seventeenth-century novel due to the convoluted language of the period.

Word Forms: convolutely, convolutedness

Related Word: involuted
diligent
dearth
cynical
cunning
disparate
disingenuous
disillusion
diminish
elite
eccentric
dubious
dogmatic
cunning
(adj.) deceptive and sly
The cunning fox slipped into the henhouse when the farmer left the barn and went back to the house.

Word Forms: cunning (n.), cunningly, cunningness
Antonym Forms: uncunning, uncunningly, uncunningness

cynical
(adj.) distrusting and pessimistic
Cyni’s cynical attitude made it hard for her to believe in anyone’s good intentions.

Word Forms: cynically, cynicism, cynic
dearth
(n.) a lack in supply
During the Second World War, the dearth of male baseball players led to the creation of a women’s baseball league.

diligent
(adj.) detailed and persistent
The diligent editor was praised for her ability to find errors in even the most painstaking text.

Word Forms: diligently, diligence, diligency
Antonym Form: negligent
diminish
(vb.) to decrease in size, extent, or range
The loud music from the party next door diminished after the police showed up.

Word Forms: diminishable, diminishment
disillusion
(vb.) to free from false beliefs
As a young politician, Dane believed he could stop the corruption that ran through the county government, but he was quickly disillusioned by the extent of the illegal activity.

Word Forms: disillusionment, disillusive, disillusionize, disillusionist
disingenuous
(adj.) insincere
Denise’s disingenuous apology was just an attempt to get out of her punishment; she was not truly sorry for going to the concert without permission.

Word Forms: disingenuously, disingenuousness, disingenuity
Antonym Forms: ingenuous, ingenuously, ingenuousness
Related Word: genuine
disparate
(adj.) different and distinct
The mixture of three disparate styles—jazz, rock, and country—created a unique sound and a diverse audience.

Word Forms: disparately, disparateness
dogmatic
(adj.) characterized by assertion of unproved or unprovable principles
The dogmatic scientist continued to publish his theory, despite the fact that it was unproven.

Word Forms: dogmatically, dogmaticalness, dogmatize, dogmatism, dogmatist
Related Word: dogma
dubious
(adj.) doubtful; questionable
The candidate’s dubious past came back to haunt her in the election.

Word Forms: dubiously, dubiousness, dubitable
Antonym Forms: indubious, indubitably
Related Word: doubt
eccentric
(adj.) peculiar; odd
The eccentric woman often wore an angel halo and ballet tutu to the grocery store.

Word Forms: eccentric (n.), eccentricity, eccentrical, eccentrically
elitist
(adj.) selected as the best
The elite college only admitted students with the highest SAT scores.

Word Forms: elite (n.), elitist, elitism
emphatic
empathy
elucidate
eloquent
exasperate
exacerbate
erroneous
eradicate
gullible
frugal
flagrant
exploit
eloquent
(adj.) expressing oneself powerfully and effectively

The minister’s eloquent sermon stirred the members of the church.

Word Forms: eloquently, eloquence
Antonym Forms: ineloquent, ineloquently, ineloquence

elucidate
(vb.) to make clear by explanation

The story in the newspaper elucidated some of the details of the mystery that had previously raised questions.

Word Forms: elucidation, elucidative, elucidatory, elucidator
Related Word: lucid

empathy
(n.) the understanding of another’s feelings

Emma felt empathy for the victims of the earthquake, having lost her own home to a hurricane last year.

Word Forms: empathize, empathetic, empathetically
Related Words: sympathy, apathy

emphatic
(adj.) expressed with emphasis

The teacher was emphatic about the project’s due date; no late assignments would be accepted.

Word Forms: emphatically, emphaticalness
Antonym Forms: unemphatic, unemphatically
Related Words: emphasis, emphasize

eradicate
(vb.) to destroy

Since 1988, the worldwide effort to eradicate polio has reduced cases of the disease by over ninety-nine percent.

Word Forms: eradication, eradicative, eradicant, eradicator

erroneous
(adj.) mistaken; containing error

Erin’s erroneous identification of the purse snatcher led to the conviction of an innocent man.

Word Forms: erroneously, erroneousness
Related Word: error

exacerbate
(vb.) to increase the harshness or bitterness of

My headache was exacerbated by the child playing drums on the pots and pans.

Word Forms: exacerbatingly, exacerbation
Related Word: asperate
Note: exacerbate is often confused with exasperate (meaning to irritate).

exploit
(vb.) to use for one’s own advantage

The company was criticized for exploiting the workers by not paying a fair wage.

Word Forms: exploitable, exploitability, exploitative, exploitatory, exploitive, exploiter
Antonym Forms: unexploited
Related Word: exploit (n.)

flagrant
(adj.) shockingly obvious

When the referee did not call the flagrant foul, the announcer suggested the ref needed an eye exam.

Word Forms: flagrance, flagrancy, flagrantly

frugal
(adj.) characterized by the avoidance of excessive spending

A frugal shopper will always wait for items to go on sale or clearance before purchasing them.

Word Forms: frugally, frugalness, frugality

gullible
(adj.) easily deceived or tricked

The gullible little girl actually believed the magician made the woman disappear.

Word Forms: gullibly, gullibility
incompetent
inherent
modest
meticulous
impetuous
indulgent
incredulous
liberated
idiosyncrasy
incontrovertible
hierarchy
irrelevant
hierarchy
(n.) a ranking system
As the company’s newest employee, Hiram was at the bottom of the office hierarchy even though he had many more years of experience than his coworkers.
Word Forms: hierarchal, hierarchical, hierarchically, hierarchize, hierarch, hierarchist

idiosyncrasy
(n.) a characteristic that is peculiar to a specific person
Some people found Ida’s idiosyncrasy a source of humor, but I never made fun of her for wearing her shirt backwards.
Word Forms: idiosyncratic, idiosyncratically

impetuous
(adj.) impulsive
While at the airshow to see old war planes, Ivan made an impetuous decision to go skydiving.
Word Forms: impetuously, impetuousness, impetuosity
Related Word: impetus

incompetent
(adj.) incapable; not qualified
The incompetent driver failed to yield, which caused the oncoming car to swerve and crash.
Word Forms: incompetent (n.), incompetently, incompetence, incompetency
Antonym Forms: competent, competently, competence, competency

incontroversible
(adj.) unquestionable; impossible to deny
Protesters demanded the release of the imprisoned woman, saying there was incontroversible proof of her innocence.
Word Forms: incontroversibly, incontroversibility, incontroversibleness
Antonym Forms: controvertible, controvertibly, controvertibility, controvertibleness, controvert

incredulous
(adj.) skeptical; not willing to believe
The incredulous car buyer did not believe the dealer’s claim that the car was accident-free; he insisted on seeing a report on the car’s history.
Word Forms: incredulously, incredulousness, incredulity
Antonym Forms: credulous, credulously, credulousness, credulity
Related Word: incredible

indulgent
(adj.) yielding; lenient; tolerant
The indulgent mother gave her child everything he wanted.
Word Forms: indulgently, indulgence, indulgency, indulge

inherent
(adj.) existing as a natural and essential characteristic
The abused dog had an inherent distrust of men, so only female volunteers at the shelter could get close enough to bathe him.
Word Forms: inherently, inhere, inherence
Related Word: inherit

irrelevant
(adj.) unrelated; not connected
The purpose of the staff meeting is to discuss the issues with our health insurance; any other complaints are irrelevant and will not be discussed.
Word Forms: irrelevantly, irrelevance, irrelevancy
Antonym Forms: relevant, relevantly, relevance, relevancy
Related Words: irrelative, relative

liberated
(adj.) free; unrestrained
When the farmer accidentally left the stall door open, the liberated horse sprinted for the woods.
Word Forms: liberate, liberative, liberatory, liberation, liberator

meticulous
(adj.) extremely careful and precise with details
Miss Walter demanded meticulous essays; perfect spelling and punctuation were essential for a high grade.
Word Forms: meticulously, meticulousness, meticulousness

modest
(adj.) displaying a moderate or ordinary opinion of one’s own talents or abilities
Although Moe was a gifted athlete, he was very modest: he felt that his contribution to the team was no more extraordinary than any of his teammates’.
Word Forms: modestly, modesty
Antonym Forms: immodest, immodestly, immodesty
Related Word: moderate
notorious

negligent

naïve

mundane

overwhelming

orthodox

oppress

obsolete

phenomenon

petty

perpetuate

partisan
mundane
(adj.) ordinary and somewhat boring
While a trip to the beach had once been exciting, we went so often that it had become mundane.

Word Forms: mundanely, mundane, mundaneness, mundanity

naïve
(adj.) inexperience and gullible
Nan was naïve in thinking that no one looked at her online social page except her friends; her father was shocked by the pictures she posted last month.

Word Forms: naïvely, naivety, naïveté

negligent
(adj.) careless and negligent

The negligent babysitter was caught on the videotape ignoring the cries of the helpless infant.

Word Forms: negligently, negligence, negligible, negligibly
Related Word: neglect

antonym forms: diligent, diligently, diligence

notorious
(adj.) well-known for unfavorable reasons
The librarian is notorious for sending students to detention.

Word Forms: notoriously, notoriety, notoriousness, notoriety

obsolete
(adj.) no longer in use
The typewriter became obsolete when the personal computer was made affordable for the general public.

Word Forms: obsoletely, obsolescence, obsolesce

oppress
(vb.) to keep down
The dictator oppressed the lower classes by stripping them of their rights and depriving them of an income.

Word Forms: oppressively, oppressive, oppressor, oppression, oppressor
Related Words: suppress, repress

Orthodox
(adj.) customary; traditional
Maria and Bryan chose an orthodox ceremony with the standard wedding vows and the typical progression of events.

Word Forms: orthodoxly, orthodoxness, orthodox, orthodoxal, orthodoxy
Antonym Forms: unorthodox, heterodox

overwhelming
(adj.) overpowering; intense
The stench of burning popcorn was overwhelming, invading every room in the house and forcing us to evacuate to the porch.

Word Forms: overwhelmingly, overwhelm
Antonym Forms: underwhelming, underwhelm

Partisan
(adj.) tending to favor one group or one way of thinking
Gun control is a partisan issue; one party favors government management while the other party prefers individual authority.

Word Forms: partisanship, partisanry, partisan (n.)
Antonym Forms: nonpartisan, bipartisan
Related Word: party

perpetuate
(vb.) to cause to continue
Pacey could stop the rumor by refusing to repeat it, or perpetuate it by passing it on to his best friend.

Word Forms: perpetual, perpetually, perpetuation, perpetuity, perpetrator
propaganda

prominent

prevalent

precedent

reprehensible

prudent

provocative

provincial

rigorous

rhetoric

reticent

resilient
**precedent**

*(n.)* an example that is used to justify similar occurrences at a later time

When the supervisor allowed Priscilla to leave early every day, he set a precedent that he could not deny to other employees in her position.

Word Forms: preceded

Antonym Forms: unprecedented, precedentless

Related Word: precede

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**prevalent**

*(adj.)* widespread; commonly occurring

Small mouth bass are the most prevalent species of fish in the lake, accounting for more than half of all fish caught by anglers.

Word Forms: prevalently, prevalence, prevalentness, prevail

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**prominent**

*(adj.)* important; noticeable

The senator is a prominent woman who is well-known for fighting unfair labor practices.

Word Forms: prominently, prominence, prominency

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**propaganda**

*(n.)* information that is spread for the purpose of promoting some cause

The brochure about the new high school was propaganda intended to earn the community's support for the multi-million dollar project.

Word Forms: propagandism, propagandize, propagandistic, propagandically, propagandist

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**provincial**

*(adj.)* unsophisticated and limited; associated with the country

The officer judged Prescott by his provincial dress; she assumed he was unsophisticated just because he wore a straw hat and overalls.

Word Forms: provincially, provincialism, provincialize, provincialist

Related Word: province

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**provocative**

*(adj.)* tending to rouse feelings of excitement, irritation, or anger

At the press conference, the boxer made provocative remarks intended to anger his opponent.

Word Forms: provocatively, provocativeness, provoke, provocation, provocateur

Related Word: provoke

---

**prudent**

*(adj.)* careful and sensible

Perry made a prudent decision when he chose not to ride home with his friend who had been drinking.

Word Forms: prudently, prudence, prudency, prudential

Antonym Forms: imprudently, imprudence, imprudentially

Related Word: prude

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**reprehensible**

*(adj.)* deserving of punishment

It's a harsh punishment, but I do not feel sorry for you; stealing from a charity is a reprehensible crime.

Word Forms: reprehensibly, reprehensibility, reprehensibleness, reprehension

Related Word: reprehend

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**resilient**

*(adj.)* easily recovering or rebounding

Fire ants are resilient pests; even if you destroy their mound, they'll quickly rebuild just a few feet away.

Word Forms: resiliently, resilience, resiliency

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**reticent**

*(adj.)* inclined to keep quiet and private

Ironically, the actor once known for his outspoken behavior actually became reticent in his later years, refusing to grant interviews for the last twenty years of his life.

Word Forms: reticently, reticence, reticency

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**rhetoric**

*(n.)* skill in using language to persuade; empty talk

The real estate agent was well-versed in the rhetoric needed to sell the broken-down house.

Word Forms: rhetorical, rhetorically, rhetoricalness

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**rigorous**

*(adj.)* rigidly accurate; strict

Reggie started a rigorous weight loss plan that consisted of a strict diet and intense exercise schedule.

Word Forms: rigorously, rigorousness, rigor
spontaneous  somber  smug  scrupulous

tenacious  temperate  superfluous  superficial

tenacious  temperate  superfluous  superficial

tenacious  temperate  superfluous  superficial

tenacious  temperate  superfluous  superficial

vigor  venerated  tyranny  trivial
scrupulous
(adj.) abiding by morals or strict rules
The scrupulous executive would not let the advertisement run with the misleading information printed in it.
Word Forms: scrupulously, scrupulousness, scrupulosity
Antonym Forms: unscrupulous, unscrupulously, unscrupulousness, unscrupulosity
Related Word: scruples
(adj.) marked by excessive self-satisfaction
The smug senior thought that she had the homecoming election all wrapped up; however, she was beaten by a junior who was much more polite to the underclassmen.
Word Forms: smugly, smugness

smug
(adj.) gloomy and serious
I could tell by the somber look on my teacher’s face that something had gone terribly wrong.
Word Forms: somberly, somberness

somber
(adj.) unplanned; impulsive
When the soldier exited the airplane, the crowd at the gate broke into spontaneous applause.
Word Forms: spontaneously, spontaneousness, spontaneity

spontaneous
(adj.) on the surface; shallow; not significant
The officer was grazed by the bullet but luckily the wound was superficial and didn’t require stitches.
Word Forms: superficially, superficialness, superficiality, superficialize, superficialist
(adj.) having more than needed or wanted; excessive
The lawyer’s continuing arguments were superfluous, as the jury had already reached a verdict.
Word Forms: superfluously, superfluousness, superfluity
(adj.) moderate; not extreme
The plants prefer a temperate climate—not too hot and not too cold.
Word Forms: temperately, temperateness, temperance, temper (vb.)
Antonym Forms: intemperate, intemperately, intemperateness
(adj.) unyielding; stubborn
The tenacious defense refused to let the opponent score.
Word Forms: tenaciously, tenaciousness, tenacity

superficial
(adj.) on the surface; shallow; not significant
The documentary on poverty reminded my that my own financial issues are trivial compared to the concerns of the homeless people featured in the film.
Word Forms: trivially, trivialness, trivialize
Related Word: trivia
(adj.) small and of little importance
The officer was grazed by the bullet but luckily the wound was superficial and didn’t require stitches.
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(adj.) having more than needed or wanted; excessive
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(adj.) unyielding; stubborn
The tenacious defense refused to let the opponent score.
Word Forms: tenaciously, tenaciousness, tenacity

superfluous
(adj.) mild; moderate
The lawyer’s continuing arguments were superfluous, as the jury had already reached a verdict.
Word Forms: superfluously, superfluousness, superfluity

temperate
(adj.) highly respected
The venerated teacher had earned the respect of his students by helping them meet the high expectations he set for them.
Word Forms: venerate, venerable, venerably, venerability, veneration, veneratively, venerator

venerable
(adj.) highly respected
The venerated teacher had earned the respect of his students by helping them meet the high expectations he set for them.
Word Forms: venerate, venerable, venerably, venerability, veneration, veneratively, venerator

tenacious
(adj.) unyielding; stubborn
The tenacious defense refused to let the opponent score.
Word Forms: tenaciously, tenaciousness, tenacity

trivial
(adj.) small and of little importance
The documentary on poverty reminded my that my own financial issues are trivial compared to the concerns of the homeless people featured in the film.
Word Forms: trivially, trivialness, trivialize
Related Word: trivia

tyranny
(n.) dominance through threat of punishment and violence
The leader ruled by tyranny, threatening to imprison any people who spoke out against the government.
Word Forms: tyrannical, tyrannically, tyrannize, tyrannous, tyrant

venerated
(adj.) highly respected
The venerated teacher had earned the respect of his students by helping them meet the high expectations he set for them.
Word Forms: venerate, venerable, venerably, venerability, veneration, veneratively, venerator

vigor
(n.) healthy, energetic strength
The kitten attacked the ball of paper with vigor, powerfully batting it across the room.
Word Forms: vigorous, vigorously, vigorousness
Related Word: invigorate
allege
advocate
adversary
abstract
ambivalent
ambiguous
allude
alleviate
archeology
anthropology
anecdote
analogous
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>abstract</strong></th>
<th>(vb.) to draw or take away</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Even though Abby never mentioned her childhood, John abstracted from the conversation that she had a strict upbringing.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word Forms:</strong> abstract (n.), abstract (adj.), abstractly, abstraction, abstractness, abstracter</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>adversary</strong></th>
<th>(n.) an opponent or enemy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The character’s adversary plotted to embarrass her during the homecoming dance.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Word Forms:</strong> adversarial, adversarius, adversariness</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Related Words:</strong> adverse, adversity, adverse</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th><strong>advocate</strong></th>
<th>(vb.) to argue in favor of</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adam advocated for longer lunch hours when he was elected class president.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Word Forms:</strong> advocate (n.), advocacy, advocative, advocate, advocator</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>allege</strong></th>
<th>(vb.) to declare without proof</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher alleged that Allie cheated on the test, even though he had no proof.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Word Forms:</strong> allegeable, allegation, allegedly, alleged, allegier</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>alleviate</strong></th>
<th>(vb.) to provide relief; to make easier</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The medicine was created to alleviate headaches.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Word Forms:</strong> alleviation, alleviant, alleviative, alleviatory, alleviator</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>allude</strong></th>
<th>(vb.) to make an indirect reference to</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Alvarez alluded to a pop quiz on Monday, but would not confirm or deny its occurrence.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Word Forms:</strong> allusion, allusive, allusively</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>ambiguous</strong></th>
<th>(adj.) open to more than one interpretation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amber’s ambiguous reply left me wondering where she had been all night.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word Forms:</strong> ambiguously, ambiguousness, ambiguity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Antonym Forms:</strong> unambiguous, unambiguously, unambiguity</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th><strong>ambivalent</strong></th>
<th>(adj.) having mixed feelings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambrose is ambivalent about attending college, which is why his applications still aren’t completed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word Forms:</strong> ambivalently, ambivalence, ambivalency</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>analogous</strong></th>
<th>(adj.) corresponding; similar</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The analogous relationship between the brain and a computer has been the subject of many movies.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word Forms:</strong> analogously, analogousness, analogy, analogue, analogize, analogically, analogicalness, analogist</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>anecdote</strong></th>
<th>(n.) a short account of an amusing incident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The speaker used an anecdote about his dog to humorously illustrate why loyalty is important.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word Forms:</strong> anecdotal, anecdotally, anecdotical, anecdotically, anecdotist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related Word:</strong> anecdote</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>anthropology</strong></th>
<th>(n.) the study of the origins, behavior, and culture of human beings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In my anthropology class we studied the development of culture in ancient Egypt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word Forms:</strong> anthropologic, anthropological, anthropologically, anthropologist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<th><strong>archeology</strong></th>
<th>(n.) the study of prehistoric people and their cultures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>His interest in Native American archeology led to a large collection of arrowheads.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word Forms:</strong> archaeologic, archaeological, archaeologically, archaeologist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
assume
assert
ascertain
articulate
commend
bolster
belie
augment
contempt
constrain
condone
condemn
articulate

(adj.) clearly pronounced; well-spoken

The articulate carpenter clearly expressed his concerns to the architect.

Word Forms: articulate (vb.), articulately, articulation, articulateness, articulate, articulator
Antonym Forms: inarticulate, inarticulately, inarticulation, inarticulateness

ascertain

(vb.) to make certain

The detective was able to ascertain the suspect’s whereabouts on the night of the burglary through surveillance video.

Word Forms: ascertainable, ascertainable, ascertainer

assert

(vb.) to state confidently

Sam asserted his innocence when interviewed by the principal, swearing that he had nothing to do with the senior prank.

Word Forms: assertedly, assertion, assertional, assertible, asserter
Related Words: assertive, assertory

assume

(vb.) to accept as true without proof

Important Note: Assumptions made by an author are key components of reading questions. On the SAT, assumptions are unstated propositions that are accepted as true. You must be able to identify assumptions in order to form conclusions based on those assumptions. Consider the following sentence:

Mrs. Crawford will cancel the field trip next week if we continue to misbehave in class.

• Fact: We have previously misbehaved in class.
• Assumption: Field trips are fun.
• Assumption: Mrs. Crawford has the authority to cancel the trip.

augment

(vb.) to enlarge or increase

In an effort to augment her paper on William Faulkner, Audrey added three pages about the author’s childhood.

Word Forms: augmentation, augmentable, augmentative, augmentively, augmenter

believe

(vb.) to misrepresent

Her soft voice belies her aggressive demeanor.

Word Forms: belier
Related Word: lie

bolster

(vb.) to support and strengthen

The manager hoped to bolster the morale of his sales team by creating an incentive program.

Word Forms: bolster (n.), bolsterer
Related Word: recommend

condemn

(vb.) to express strong disapproval of

By 1800 slavery was condemned in many of the northern states.

Word Forms: condemningly, condemnable, condemnably, condemnation, condemnee, condemning, condemnor
Related Word: damn

condone

(vb.) to excuse, overlook, or make allowances for

The honor code states that you condone cheating by not reporting it to a teacher.

Word Forms: condonable, condonation, condonation, condoner

constrain

(vb.) to hold back

The size of the small aquarium will constrain the growth of the turtle.

Word Forms: constrainable, constrainably, constrainedly, constrainingly, constraint, constrainer
Related Word: strain

contempt

(n.) scorn or open disrespect

Connie was looked upon with contempt by her peers when she was discovered spreading rumors about them.

Word Forms: contemptible, contemptibly, contemptibleness, contemptuous, contemptuously, contemptuousness
Related Word: contemn
**conventional**

(adj.) following accepted customs and behaviors

Consuelo favored *conventional* wedding vows, while Callie wanted to break tradition and write her own.

Word Forms: conventionally, convention, conventionality, conventionary, conventionalize, conventionalist

Antonym Forms: unconventional, unconventionally, unconventionality

**corroborate**

(vb.) to confirm or support with evidence

Coral’s thesis was *corroborated* by three supporting paragraphs, each of which presented an example that proved her main idea.

Word Forms: corroborated, corroboration, corroborative, corroboratively, corroboratory, corroborant, corroborator

Antonym Form: uncorroborated

**debunk**

(vb.) to prove untrue

The reporter *debunked* the urban legend about the witch in the woods by revealing wild goats as the sources of the strange noises.

Word Form: debunker

**dectic**

(vb.) to lower someone’s spirits; make downhearted

The news of her father’s declining condition *dejected* Denise, as she had been sure his health was finally starting to improve.

Word Forms: dejected (adj.), dejectedly, dejectedness, dejectory, dejection

Related Words: reject, eject

**denounce**

(vb.) to openly speak out against

The sports reporter *denounced* the professional football team for raising ticket prices again.

Word Forms: denunciation, denunciate, denunciatory, denunciative, denunciation, denouncer

Related Words: depictive, depiction, depicter

**depict**

(vb.) to represent or show

The author *depicts* the historical figure as a charming but manipulative woman.

Word Forms: depictive, depiction, depicter

Related Words: depicture, picture

**deride**

(vb.) to ridicule

The unsupportive team captain *derided* Desiree’s attempts to make the volleyball squad.

Word Forms: deridingly, derision, derisible, derider

**differentiate**

(vb.) to mark as different

It is easy to *differentiate* between the twins; Daisy has blond hair and Daphne has red hair.

Word Forms: differentiation, differential, differentially

Antonym Form: undifferentiated

Related Word: different

**digress**

(vb.) to wander away, especially from the main subject of writing or speaking

When Diane was describing the floats in yesterday’s parade, she *digressed* into a story from her childhood.

Word Forms: digressingly, digression, digressional, digressory, digress

Related Word: progress (vb.)

**discern**

(vb.) to perceive or understand with sight or other senses

The captain *discerned* another ship in the fog.

Word Forms: discernible, discernibly, discernment, discernibility, discernableness, discerner

Antonym Forms: indiscernible, indiscernibly, indiscernibility, indiscernibleness

**disclose**

(vb.) to reveal or uncover

The teacher *disclosed* to her class the winner of the Homecoming contest before the announcement was made to the student body.

Word Forms: disclosed (adj.), disclosure, disclosable, disclosing

Antonym Forms: undisclosed, undiscoverable, undisclosable
elicit
dispute
disparage
disdain
epitome
endure
emulate
embellish
explicit
exemplary
evoke
equivocal
disdain

(n.) a lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike

The suspect was looked upon with disdain by the detectives who investigated the terrible crime.

Word Forms: disdain (vb.), disdainful, disdainfully, disdainfulness
Related Word: deign

disparage

(vb.) to belittle or criticize

My mom’s feelings were hurt when I disparaged her cooking skills.

Word Forms: disparagement, disparaging (adj.), disparagingly, disparager

dispute

(vb.) to question the truth of

The church disputes the theory of evolution, instead citing religious sources of creation.

Word Forms: dispute (n.), disputable, disputeless, disputant, disputation, disputer
Antonym Forms: indisputable, indisputably

elicit

(vb.) to call or bring out

The woman elicits sympathy from her audience by telling the story of her difficult childhood.

Word Forms: elicitation, elicitor
Related Word: solicit
Note: elicit is often confused with illicit, which means illegal

embellish

(vb.) to make better by adding details (especially false details)

When he saw the crowd losing interest in his tale, Emilio embellished the story by adding an adventure in a cave.

Word Forms: embellishment, embellisher
Antonym Forms: unembellished

emulate

(vb.) to imitate in order to match or excel

Emily hoped to emulate her older sister’s success on the tennis court.

Word Forms: emulative, emulatively, emulation, emulator

endure

(vb.) to continue despite difficulty

Enzo endured Mr. Smith’s extremely boring lecture on photosynthesis.

Word Forms: enduring (adj.), enduringly, enduringness, endurance, endurer

epitome

(n.) a perfect example

Paula is the epitome of a politician, with her good looks, bright smile, and charming personality.

Word Forms: epitomize, epitomical, epitomization, epitomizer

equivocal

(adj.) uncertain; open to multiple interpretations

The politician’s equivocal statement about the environment could support either side of the issue.

Word Forms: equivocality, equivocacy, equivocally, unequivocally
Antonym Forms: unequivocal, unequivocally, unequivocalness

evoke

(vb.) to call forth emotions, feelings, or responses

Evan’s stirring speech evoked a standing ovation from the audience.

Word Forms: evocable, evocation, evoker, evocator
Related Words: invoke, provoke, revoke

exemplary

(adj.) serving as a worthy example

The student’s exemplary attendance record was recognized at the awards ceremony.

Word Forms: exemplarily, exemplariness, exemplar, exemplariness
Related Words: example, exemplify

explicit

(adj.) clearly expressed or demonstrated

Mr. Jones left explicit directions for the substitute so he was surprised when they were not followed.

Word Forms: explicitly, explicitness
Antonym Forms: inexplicit, inexplicitly, implicit, implicitly, implicitness
futile
fundamental
foster
extol
implausible
illuminate
hostile
generalization
indifferent
improvise
imply
implicit
extol

(vb.) to praise highly

The critic extolled the works of Shakespeare, citing them as the most important contribution to the English language.

Word Forms: extollingly, extolment, extoller

foster

(vb.) to encourage or care for

The arts foundation hopes to foster art education in the schools by donating supplies and materials.

Word Forms: fostered (adj.), fosteringly, fosterer

fundamental

(adj.) essential; basic

The fundamental principle of the educational theory is that all students can learn.

Word Forms: fundamentally, fundamentality, fundamentalism, fundamentalness, fundamentalist

futile

(adj.) useless; unproductive

Forcing the students to abide by the dress code is futile; they will continue to wear whatever they want.

Word Forms: futilely, futility, futileness

generalization

(n.) an opinion or conclusion formed from only a few facts or examples

Saying that freshmen are younger than sophomores is a generalization that is usually—but not always—true.

Word Forms: generalize, generalizable, generalizer

Related Word: general

hostile

(adj.) openly opposed; showing ill-will

Several hostile threats against the suspect’s lawyer were made by unidentified callers.

Word Forms: hostily, hostility

illuminate

(vb.) to make clear; to supply light

The presentation on the artist was illuminating; I did not know that he was originally from China.

Word Forms: illumine, illuminatingly, illumination, illuminational

Related Words: luminary

implausible

(adj.) not believable

The teacher did not believe his implausible excuse for not completing the assignment.

Word Forms: implausibly, implausibility, implausibleness

Antonym Forms: plausible, plausibly, plausibility, plausibleness

implicit

(adj.) implied though not directly expressed

Although we never mentioned the fight, there seemed to be an implicit agreement not to talk about it.

Word Forms: implicitly, implicitness, implicity

Antonym Forms: explicit, explicitly, explicitness

imply

(vb.) to suggest without directly stating

Important Note: Authors frequently imply information in the reading comprehension passages. These implications usually result in multiple choice questions designed to test a student’s ability to understand such indirect suggestions. Consider an example:

When I arrived at school, I saw that all of the other students were wearing blue shirts too.

• Fact: All of the other students were wearing blue shirts.
• Implication: I am a student.
• Implication: I am wearing a blue shirt.

Word Forms: implicating, implication, implied, imply, imputation

improve

(vb.) to perform or manage without preparation or required materials

The recipe called for molasses, but because I didn’t have any I had to improvise with honey.

Word Forms: improvisation, improvisational, improvisionally, improver

indifferent

(adj.) showing lack of interest, concern, or bias

The writer produced an indifferent article about the two candidates by successfully suppressing her preference for one or the other.

Word Forms: indifferently, indifference
insight

infer

induce

indignant

nostalgia

mar

lament

invoke

perplex

parenthetical

obscure

objective
indignant

(adj.) displaying anger due to unfairness

The seniors were indignant over their disqualification in the homecoming contest, claiming that the decision was unfair.

Word Forms: indignantly, indignation

induce

(vb.) to lead or bring about

The presence of the washed up jellyfish induced a panic in the beachgoers, few of whom dared to venture into the water.

Word Forms: inducible, inducement, induction

Related Word: conduct, produce, seduce

infer

(vb.) to conclude based on reasoning or evidence

Important Note: The SAT reading section will require you to make several inferences based on the passages. You must reach these conclusions through reasoning. Consider an example:

Malia had a hard time maneuvering on her crutches while carrying the open umbrella in the pouring rain.

• Inference: Malia has an injury.
• Inference: Malia is trying to avoid getting wet.

insight

(n.) a clear understanding of a situation

Jane’s insight into the computer problem was the result of years of working with the computer system.

Word Forms: insightful, insightfully, insightfulness

invoke

(vb.) to summon into action or bring into existence

The psychic claimed that he could invoke the spirits in the house through an old-fashioned séance.

Word Forms: invocable, invocation, invocational, invoker

Related Words: evoke, provoke, revoke

lament

(vb.) to make imperfect; to disfigure

When Lamont left for college, his little sister lamented his absence for weeks.

Word Forms: lament (n.), lamentingly, lamentable, lamentantly, lamentant

Antonym Forms: unlamented

mar

(n.) a desire to return to the past

When I revisited my childhood home, I was surprised by the nostalgia that I felt.

Word Forms: nostalgic, nostalgically, nostalgist

objective

(adj.) not influenced by personal feelings or bias

It is important for a judge to be objective; he cannot let his personal beliefs affect his rulings.

Word Forms: objectively, objectiveness, objectivity

Antonym Forms: unobjective, subjective, subjectively, subjectiveness, subjectivity

obscure

(adj.) not clearly understood or expressed

Most of the movie audience did not understand the obscure reference to the other movie.

Word Forms: obscure (vb.), obscurely, obscurity, obscuredly, obscurity

parenthetical

(adj.) characterized by the use of parenthesis

A remark in parenthesis is called a parenthetical remark, which is usually used to qualify or explain the preceding part of the sentence.

Word Forms: parenthetic, parenthetically, parentheticalness

Related Word: parenthesis

perplex

(vb.) to puzzle or confuse

Percy was perplexed by the complex puzzle and distressed that he could not find a solution.

Word Forms: perplexed (adj.), perplexingly, perplexity, perplexer
pretense
rebut
pretend
reiterate
query
presume
refute
quell
pragmatic
reconcile
profound
pertinent
pertinent

(adj.) relevant

The professor distributed a list of articles and books that were pertinent to the discussions in his course.

Word Forms: pertinently, pertinence, pertinency
Antonym Forms: impertinent, impertinently, impertinence, impertinency
Related Word: pertain

pragmatic

(adj.) practical; guided by practice rather than theory

When her bobby pin broke, Penelope found a pragmatic solution; she used a paper clip to hold back her stray hair.

Word Forms: pragmatically, pragmatically, pragmaticalness, pragmatism, pragmaticist, pragmatist

prove

(vb.) to accept as true without proof

I presume that you are tired after your long drive today.

Word Forms: presumption, presumable, presumably, presumption, presumptive, presumptuous, presumer
Related Word: assume

pretense

(n.) a false act intending to deceive

He secured an interview using the pretense that he had a doctorate from Yale, but the hiring committee quickly discovered that this was not true.

Word Forms: pretenseful, pretension, pretentious, pretentiously
Antonym Forms: pretenseless, unpretentious
Related Word: pretend

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profound

(adj.) deep; intense

Her profound knowledge of electricity was showcased at the science fair, where she won first place for her project.

Word Forms: profoundly, profoundness, profundity

query

(vb.) to ask

The reporter queried the mayor about his role in the embezzlement scandal.

Word Forms: query (n.), queryingly, querier
Related Words: inquire, inquiry

rebut

(vb.) to prove false using evidence

The lawyer rebutted the witness’s testimony by providing contrary evidence.

Word Forms: rebuttable, rebuttal, rebutter
Related Word: but (conj.)

reconcile

(vb.) to make compatible; to bring into harmony

After years of separation due to an argument, the sisters reconciled when they both apologized.

Word Forms: reconcilement, reconcilingly, reconcilable, reconcilableness, reconciliation, reconciler
Antonym Form: irreconcilable
Related Word: conciliate

refute

(vb.) to prove to be false; to deny as true

The senator refuted claims that he was arrested for careless driving by publishing his flawless driving record in the state’s largest newspaper.

Word Forms: refutable, refutably, refutability, refutation, refutal, refuter
Antonym Forms: irrefutable, irrefutably, irrefutability
Related Word: iterate

reiterate

(vb.) to say again

Since you didn’t hear me the first time, let me reiterate the rules of the game.

Word Forms: reiterable, reiterative, reiteratively, reiteration, reiterator
Related Word: iterate

renounce

(vb.) to give up; to turn away from

The king renounced the thrown when he married a woman who was not accepted by the royal family.

Word Forms: renounceable, renunciation, renouncer
Related Words: announce, denounce

quell

(vb.) to put an end to

The coach quelled the rumor that he was taking another job by signing an extension of his current contract.

Word Forms: quellable, queller

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scorn

satire

sarcasm

revere

subsequent

subjective

skeptical

scrutinize

suppress

supplant

subtle

substantiate

revere
revere

(vb.) to regard with respect and awe

Paul Revere was one of many colonists who revered freedom and democracy.

Word Forms: revereable, reverent, reverently, reverence, reverential, reverer
Antonym Forms: irreverent, irreverently, irreverence
Related Word: reverend

sarcasm

(n.) cutting, ironic language intending to ridicule

When Sara said she liked Blake’s car, he knew she meant the exact opposite; her sarcasm was meant to make fun of his inexpensive automobile.

Word Forms: sarcastic, sarcastically, sarcasminess, sarcastical

satire

(n.) the use of ridicule or a work (such as an essay, play, or movie) intending to ridicule

The movie is a satire, making fun of all the teenage horror movies that came before it.

Word Forms: satiric, satirical, satirically, satiricalness, satirize, satirizable, satirization, satirizer

scorn

(n.) a lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike

Steve knew that he deserved the scorn of his teammates after he was caught cheating, but their reaction still saddened him.

Word Forms: scorn (vb.), scornful, scornfully, scornfulness, scorningly, scorer

scour

(n.) cutting, ironic language intending to ridicule

The movie is a satirical, making fun of all the teenage horror movies that came before it.

Word Forms: satiric, satirical, satirically, satiricalness, satirize, satirizable, satirization, satirizer

scrupulosity

(n.) a lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike

Steve knew that he deserved the scorn of his teammates after he was caught cheating, but their reaction still saddened him.

Word Forms: scorn (vb.), scornful, scornfully, scornfulness, scorningly, scorer

scrutinize

(vb.) to inspect carefully

Ruth scrutinized the classified ads, carefully reading each of the posted jobs.

Word Forms: scrutinizingly, scrutinization, scrutiny, scrutinizer

skeptical

(adj.) having doubt

Skip was skeptical of the car dealer’s promise of free oil changes, so he asked for the offer in writing.

Word Forms: skeptically, skepticalness, skepticism, skeptic

subjective

(adj.) influenced by personal feelings or bias

Suzanne felt that her evaluation was unfairly subjective because it was clear her supervisor had a grudge against her.

Word Forms: subjectively, subjectiveness, subjectivity

Antonym Forms: objective, objectively, objectiveness, objectivity

related words: sequel, sequence

subsequent

(adj.) coming later; following in order

You will need to remember this basic arithmetic formula for subsequent assignments later this year.

Word Forms: subsequently, subsequencness, subsequence

Related Words: sequel, sequence

substantiate

(vb.) to establish or strengthen

Her case against the insurance company was substantiated by other plaintiffs who suffered the same injustice.

Word Forms: substantiatable, substantiation, substantive, substantiator
Antonym Form: unsubstantiated
Related Word: substantial

subtle

(adj.) difficult to detect

The subtle irony throughout the novel is missed by most readers.

Word Forms: subtly, subtileness, subtilty
Antonym Forms: unsubtle, unsuubtly

supplant

(vb.) to replace or take the place of

In the early 1990s, compact discs supplanted long-playing records.

Word Forms: supplantation, supplanter

suppress

(vb.) to stop; to control

The news anchor suppressed a smile when the reporter fell down, but laughed hysterically as soon as they went off the air.

Word Forms: suppressedly, suppressible, suppressive, suppressively, suppression, suppressor

Related Word: oppress, repress
The 200 most commonly-occurring SAT words in Critical Readings questions and answer choices from a survey of over 60 real SAT tests.

The word that completes a Sentence Completion blank is always a perfect fit. Not only does the correct answer look right and sound right, but it also has a definition that perfectly meshes with the context of the sentence. While you do not need to know the definition of every word to get a perfect score on the SAT, a good vocabulary certainly helps make it easier to exceed your expectations.

PowerScore analyzed over 60 previous SAT tests to extract the most commonly-occurring vocabulary words. The words in this deck appeared on 10% to 50% of the tests we analyzed, making them prime Repeat Offenders that all test takers should know.
**sustain**

(vb.) to uphold as valid

The critic **sustained** that the performance was superb, even though his peers thought it fell short of expectations.

**Word Forms:** sustainable, sustainability, sustainably, sustaining, sustainment

**Related Word:** maintain

---

**undermine**

(vb.) to weaken

My argument for a soda machine in school was **undermined** by the ill-timed report on teenage obesity.

**Word Forms:** underminingly, underminer

---

**underscore**

(vb.) to emphasize

The recent dorm room fire **underscored** the need for fire extinguishers in every room.

**Word Forms:** underscore (n.)

**Related Word:** underline

---

**vindicate**

(vb.) to clear, justify, or prove

Vinnie’s victory in court **vindicated** his actions; it proved that he was allowed to build a privacy fence between the two houses.

**Word Forms:** vindication, vindicator

**Related Word:** vindictive

---

**vulnerable**

(adj.) capable of being wounded or attacked

Without their mother’s protection, the baby rabbits were **vulnerable** to attack by birds, rodents, and other small mammals.

**Word Forms:** vulnerably, invulnerability, invulnerableness

**Antonym Forms:** invulnerable, invulnerably, invulnerableness

---

**wary**

(adj.) watchful, distrustful

The children were taught to be **wary** of strangers.

**Word Forms:** waryly, wariness

**Antonym Forms:** unwary, unwarily, unwariness

---

**whimsical**

(adj.) characterized by carefree impulses

The babysitter’s **whimsical** personality meant that the kids were never bored; one minute they were making peanut butter cookies, and the next they were reenacting a scene from a famous play.

**Word Forms:** whimsically, whimsicality

**Related Words:** whim, whimsy

---

**zealous**

(adj.) enthusiastic and devoted

The **zealous** sports fan had a tattoo of his favorite team’s logo on his ankle.

**Word Forms:** zealously, zealouslyness, zealot

**Related Word:** zeal

---

**Top 200 Repeat Offenders (51-100)**

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  - Want an easier place to start? Try these easy words first.
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