Master 700 of the most commonly occurring SAT words.
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Welcome!

Welcome to PowerScore's free e-book featuring 700 of the most commonly occurring SAT words. These words were first published in the PowerScore SAT Reading Bible, but we have provided them free to our students and potential customers to help streamline your study and make the time you invest more effective.

After each SAT administration, we compile a list of vocabulary words that appear in both Sentence Completion and Passage-Based Reading questions and answer choices. Then we compare those words to the words on our Repeat Offender lists. The results reveal that we consistently prepare students for 40% to 50% of the words tested on any given SAT. This is an extremely high rate of return compared to other similar products on the market, but we're the only company providing these words for free.

The vocabulary lists in this book were created from the analysis of over 60 previously administered SAT and PSAT tests. The most commonly-occurring words were then sorted and organized first by their frequency, then by their difficulty or concept. We recommend you learn the words from these lists in the following order:

1. PowerScore's Top 200 Repeat Offenders
2. PowerScore's Top 100 Easy Repeat Offenders
3. PowerScore's Top 100 Medium Repeat Offenders
4. PowerScore's Top 100 People Repeat Offenders
5. PowerScore's Top 100 Hard Repeat Offenders
6. PowerScore's Top 100 Extreme Repeat Offenders

Only study the words that are unfamiliar to you. Once you know a word, remove it from your list to avoid redundant studying.

These words are also available in printable form, as both a book and flash cards, on our website at www.powerscore.com/satreadingbible.

If you have any questions about the Repeat Offenders or one of PowerScore's highly-rated courses or publications, please do not hesitate to contact us at sat@powerscore.com.
PowerScore Strategies for Studying Vocabulary Words

1. Write out the words and their meanings.
   Transferring the words and their definitions to paper helps transfer the information into your long-term memory.

2. Write new sentences for each word.
   Similarly, using the word in context helps cement its meaning.

3. Draw a picture representing the word.
   Pictures can create a connection to the definition, and students who are visual learners are sure to prefer this method of vocabulary study.

4. Type the words and definitions.
   Type each word list into a word processing document or spreadsheet. Then try to define them without looking at the definitions.

5. Write a short story using 10 or 20 vocabulary words.
   Trying to create a context for each word is sure to help you remember its definition on test day.

6. Read the word aloud and say it in a sentence.
   Some audio learners find it easier to learn when they hear information. Record yourself for later playback.

7. Analyze the roots, prefixes, and suffixes.
   Can you find words that have the same suffix? If so, do they mean the same thing in both words? Learning to associate words with related words can help you solve even the toughest test questions.

8. Group words by meaning.
   Many SAT words have similar meanings. Organize your words or flashcards or your lists so that you associate a meaning, such as “lacking money” or “friendly” with all of the words in the group.

9. Have someone quiz you.
   Ask a friend or parent to quiz you using your list or flashcards.

10. Write your own vocabulary quizzes.
    Experts believe people learn best when they teach, so here is your chance! Write your own vocabulary quizzes and then take them a week or two later.

Everyone has unique learning styles and some methods are more efficient than others. Select the strategy or strategies from this list that have been most successful for you in the past. The more ways you learn the words, the more likely you will retain the definitions.
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

PowerScore's Top 200 Repeat Offenders

In the survey of previously administered SATs and PSATs, these words appeared on 10% to 50% of all tests.

abstract: (vb) to draw or take away
Although Abby never mentioned her childhood, John abstracted from the conversation that she had a strict upbringing.

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, acquirer, acquiree
Related Words: acquisition

adversary: (n) an opponent or enemy
The character’s adversary plotted to embarrass her during the homecoming dance.
Word Forms: adversarial, adversarious, adversariness
Related Words: adverse, adversity, averse

advocate: (vb) to argue in favor of
Adam advocated for longer lunch hours when he was elected class president.
Word Forms: advocate (n.), advocacy, advocative, advocacy, advocate

aesthetic: (adj) relating to beauty
Alaina chose this church because of its aesthetic qualities; it was the most beautiful wedding chapel she had ever seen.
Word Forms: aesthetically, aesthetics (n.), aestheticize, aesthete, aesthetician
Antonym Forms: unaesthetic

allege: (vb) to declare without proof
The teacher alleged that Allie cheated on the test, even though he had no proof.
Word Forms: allegeable, allegation, alleged, allegedly, alleger

alleviate: (vb) to provide relief; to make easier
The medicine was created to alleviate headaches.
Word Forms: alleviation, alleviant, alleviative, alleviatory, alleviator

allude: (vb) to make an indirect reference to
Mrs. Alvarez alluded to a pop quiz on Monday, but would not confirm or deny its occurrence.
Word Forms: allusion, allusive, allusively

ambiguous: (adj) open to more than one interpretation
Amber’s ambiguous reply left me wondering where she had been all night.
Word Forms: ambiguous, ambiguousness, ambiguity
Antonym Forms: unambiguous, unambiguously, unambiguity

ambivalent: (adj) having mixed feelings
Ambrose is ambivalent about attending college, which is why his applications still aren’t completed.
Word Forms: ambivalently, ambivalence, ambivalency

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 Forms: unamiably
Related Words: amicable

**analogous** (adj) corresponding; similar
The analogous relationship between the brain and a computer has been the subject of many movies.
Word Forms: analogously, analogousness, analogy, analogue, analogize, analogic, analogically, analogicalness, analogist

**anecdote** (n) a short account of an amusing incident
The speaker used a anecdote about his dog to humorously illustrate why loyalty is important.
Word Forms: anecdotal, anecdotally, anecdotical, anecdotically, anecdotist
Related Words: anecdotage

**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

**anthropology** (n) the study of the origins, behavior, and culture of human beings
In my anthropology class we studied the development of culture in ancient Egypt.
Word Forms: anthropologic, anthropological, anthropologically, anthropologist

**archaeology** (n) the study of prehistoric people and their cultures
His interest in Native American archaeology led to a large collection of arrowheads.
Word Forms: archaeologic, archaeological, archaeologically, archaeologist

**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

**articulate** (adj) clearly pronounced; well-spoken
The articulate carpenter clearly expressed his concerns to the architect.
Word Forms: articulate (vb.), articulately, articulation, articulateness, articulative, 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, ascertainableness, ascertainably, ascertainment, ascertainer

**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

**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.
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

• Assumption: Mrs. Crawford has the authority to cancel the trip.

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

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, augmentatively, augmenter

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 Words: avidious

belie: (vb) to misrepresent
Her soft voice belies her aggressive demeanor.
Word Forms: belier
Related Words: lie

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, bewilderment

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

callous: (adj) insensitive; emotionally hardened
The senator’s callous indifference to the suffering of the people in the war-torn country cost him reelection.
Word Forms: callously, callousness
Related Words: callus

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 Words: comrade

candid: (adj) open and straightforward
Much to my surprise, Candace was quite candid when talking about the private traumas of her childhood.
Word Forms: candidly, candidness

cantankerous: (adj) ill-tempered and unwilling to cooperate
The cantankerous old man took the little boy’s sucker and refused to give it back.
Word Forms: cantankerously, cantankerousness

capricious: (adj) apt to change suddenly
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 novel, citing several reasons for leaving it off the summer reading list.
Word Forms: censure (vb.), censureless, censurable, censurably, censurability, censurer
Related Words: censor

cohesive: (adj) clear and logical
Kobe began recycling when his daughter made a coherent argument about the money and energy he would save.
Word Forms: coherently, cohere, 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

commend: (vb) to praise
Corey was commended for returning the wallet he found at the mall.
Word Forms: commendable, commendably, commendingly, commendableness, commendation, commendatory, commender
Related Words: recommend

complacent: (adj) contented to a fault with oneself or one’s actions
After twenty 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 Words: 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

condemn: (vb) to express strong disapproval of
By 1800, slavery was condemned in many of the northern states.
Word Forms: condemningly, condemnable, condemnably, condemnation, condemner, condemnor
Related Words: damn

condescend: (vb) to behave as if lowering oneself to an inferior level
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, condescendingly
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

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, condonance, 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 Words: 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, contemptibility, contemptibleness, contemptibility, contemptuous, contemptuously, contemptuousness
Related Words: 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

convoluted: (adj) complicated
Connor was unable to finish the seventeenth-century novel due to the convoluted language of the period.
Word Forms: convolutedly, convolutedness
Related Words: involuted

corroborate: (vb) to confirm or support with evidence
Coral’s thesis was corroborated by three supporting paragraphs, each presenting an example that proved her main idea.
Word Forms: corroborated, corroboration, corroborative, corroboratively, corroboratory, corroborant, corroborator
Antonym Forms: uncorroborated

cunning: (pos) 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
Cyndi’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.

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 noises.
Word Forms: debunker

decry : (vb) to express strong disapproval of
The politician decryed the injustices suffered by the people of the nation.
Word Forms: decrier, decrinal
Related Words: cry
deject: (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 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: denouncement, denunciate, denunciatory, denunciative, denunciation, denouncer
Related Words: announce, pronounce, renounce

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, derisive, 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, digressionary, digresser
Related Words: progress (vb.)
diligent: (adj) detailed and persistent
The diligent editor was praised for her ability to find errors in even the most pain-staking text.
Word Forms: diligently, diligence, diligency
Antonym Forms: 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

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.
Word Forms: disclosed (adj.), disclosure, disclosable, discloser
Antonym Forms: undisclose, undisclosed, undisclosable

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 Words: deign

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

**Disgenuous:** (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 Words:** genuine

**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

**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

**Related Words:** disparity

**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, disputation, disputer

**Antonym Forms:** indisputable, indisputably

**Related Words:** doubt

**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 Words:** dogma

**Doubtful:** (adj) doubtful; questionable
The candidate's dubious past came back to haunt her in the election.

**Word Forms:** dubiously, dubiousness, dubitable

**Antonym Forms:** indubious, indubiously

**Related Words:** 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

**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 Words:** solicit

**Note:** elicit is often confused with illicit, which means illegal

**Elite:** (adj) selected as the best
The elite college only admitted students with the highest SAT scores.

**Word Forms:** elite (n.), elitist, elitism

**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 Words: lucid

embellish: (vb) o 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, embilisher
Antonym Forms: unembellished

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
Antonym Forms: antipathy, antipathetic, antipathetically
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

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, unequivoalness
Antonym Forms: unequivocal, unequivocally, unequivocalness

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 Words: error

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
**Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders**

Related Words: invoke, provoke, revoke

**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 Words: acerbate
Note: exacerbate is often confused with exasperate (meaning to irritate).

**exasperate**: (vb) to intensely irritate
The airline passenger was exasperated by the last minute cancellation of his flight.
Word Forms: exasperatedly, exasperatingly, exasperation, exasperator
Related Words: asperate
Note: exasperate is often confused with exacerbate (meaning to increase).

**exemplary**: (adj) serving as a worthy example
The student’s exemplary attendance record was recognized at the awards ceremony.
Word Forms: exemplarily, exemplariness, exemplarity, exemplar
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

**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, exploitative, exploitive, exploiter
Antonym Forms: unexploited
Related Words: exploit (n.)

**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

**flagrant**: (adj) shockingly obvious
When the referee did not call the flagrant foul, the announcer suggested the ref needed a eye exam.
Word Forms: flagrance, flagrancy, flagrantness

**fost er**: (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

**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

**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, futile

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 Words: general

gullible: (adj) easily deceived or tricked
The gullible little girl actually believed the magician made the woman disappear.
Word Forms: gullibly, gullibility

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

hostile: (adj) openly opposed; showing ill-will
Several hostile threats against the suspect's lawyer were made by unidentified callers.
Word Forms: hostilely, hostility

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

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

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 Words: impetus

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 are wearing blue shirts.
  • Implication: I am a student.
  • Implication: I am wearing a blue shirt.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>improvise</strong>: (vb) to perform or manage without preparation or required materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The recipe called for molasses, but because I didn’t have any I had to improvise with honey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Forms: improvisation, improvisational, improvisationally, improviser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>incompetent</strong>: (adj) incapable; not qualified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The incompetent driver failed to yield, which caused the oncoming car to swerve and crash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Forms: incompetent (n.), incompetently, incompetence, incompetency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonym Forms: competent, competently, competence, competency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>incontrovertible</strong>: (adj) unquestionable; impossible to deny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protesters demanded the release of the imprisoned woman, saying there was incontrovertible proof of her innocence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Forms: incontrovertibly, incontrovertibility, incontrovertibleness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonym Forms: controvertible, controvertibly, controvertibility, controvertibleness, controvert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>incredulous</strong>: (adj) skeptical; not willing to believe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Forms: incredulously, incredulousness, incredulity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Word: incredible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonym Forms: credulous, credulously, credulousness, credulity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>indifferent</strong>: (adj) showing lack of interest, concern, or bias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The writer produced an indifferent article about the two candidates by successfully suppressing her preference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Forms: indifferently, indifference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>indignant</strong>: (adj) displaying anger due to unfairness</td>
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<tr>
<td>The seniors were indignant over their disqualification in the homecoming contest, claiming that the decision was unfair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Forms: indignantly, indignation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>induce</strong>: (vb) to lead or bring about</td>
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<tr>
<td>The presence of the washed up jellyfish induced a panic in the beachgoers, few of whom dared to venture into the water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Forms: inducible, inducement, induction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Words: conduce, produce, seduce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>indulgent</strong>: (adj) yielding; lenient; tolerant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The indulgent mother gave her child everything he wanted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Word Forms: indulgently, indulgence, indulgency, indulge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>infer</strong>: (vb) to conclude based on reasoning or evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malia had a hard time maneuvering on her crutches while carrying the open umbrella in the pouring rain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inference: Malia has an injury.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inference: Malia is trying to avoid getting wet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>inherent</strong>: (adj) existing as a natural and essential characteristic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The abused dog had an inherent distrust of men, so only female volunteers at the shelter could get close to him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Forms: inherently, inhere, inherence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Words: inherit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>insight</strong>: (n) a clear understanding of a situation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane’s insight into the computer problem was the result of years of working with the computer system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Forms: insightful, insightfully, insightfulness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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

**irrelevant** (adj) unrelated; not connected
We will address 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

**lament** (vb) to express grief; to mourn
When Lamont left for college, his little sister lamented his absence for weeks.
Word Forms: lament (n.), lamentingly, lamentable, lamentably, lamenter
Antonym Forms: unlamented

**liberate** (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

**mar** (vb) to make imperfect; to disfigure
My nearly-perfect report card was marred by a low grade in speech class.
Word Forms: mar (n.), marred (adj.)
Antonym Forms: unmarred

**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, meticulosity

**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 acted as if his contribution was average at best.
Word Forms: modestly, modesty
Antonym Forms: immodest, immodestly, immodesty
Related Word: moderate

**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, mundanity

**naïve** (adj) inexperienced and gullible
Nan was naïve in thinking that no one looked at her online social page except her friends; her father looked at it daily.
Word Forms: naively, naivety, naiveté

**negligent** (adj) careless and neglectful
The negligent baby-sitter was caught on the videotape ignoring the cries of the helpless infant.
Word Forms: negligently, negligence, negligible, negligibly
Antonym Forms: diligent, diligently, diligence
Related Word: neglect

**nostalgia** (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, nostalgic
**Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders**

**notorious**: (adj) well-known for unfavorable reasons
The librarian is notorious for sending students to detention.
Word Forms: notoriously, notoriousness, notoriety

**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, obscureness, obscuredly, obscurity

**obsolete**: (adj) no longer in use
The typewriter became obsolete when the personal computer was made affordable for the general public.
Word Forms: obsoletely, obsoleteness, 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: oppressingly, oppressible, oppressive, 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: orthodoxy, orthodoxness, orthodoxal, orthodoxical, orthodoxy
Antonym Forms: unorthodox, unorthodoxical, heterodox

**overwhelming**: (adj) overpowering; intense
The stench of burning popcorn was overwhelming, forcing us to evacuate to the porch.
Word Forms: overwhelmingly, overwhelm
Antonym Forms: underwhelming, underwhelmingly, underwhelm

**parenthetical**: (adj) characterized by the use of parenthesis
A remark in parenthesis is called a parenthetical remark, which is usually used to explain the sentence.
Word Forms: parenthetic, parenthetically, parentheticalness
Related Words: parentheses

**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 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, perpetuator

**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

**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

**petty** (adj) of little importance; minor
Pete and I had a petty argument about which way the toilet paper should be put on the holder.
Word Forms: pettily, pettiness

**phenomenon** (n) an occurrence, often which is impressive or unusual
Echolocation is a sensory phenomenon that is used by some animals to locate objects in their environment.
Word Forms: phenomenal, phenomenally, phenomenalize, phenom

**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: pragmatical, pragmatically, pragmaticalness, pragmatism, pragmatistic, pragmatist

**precedent** (n) an example that is used to justify similar occurrences at a later time
When I allowed Priscilla to leave early every day, I set a precedent that he could not deny to other employees.
Word Forms: preceded
Antonym Forms: unprecedented
Related Word: precede

**presume** (vb) to accept as true without proof
I presume that you are tired after your long drive today.
Word Forms: presumption, presumable, presumably, presumedly, presumptive, presumptuous, presumer
Related Word: assume

**pretense** (n) a false act intending to deceive
He got an interview with the pretense that he had a doctorate from Yale, but the interviewer quickly discovered the lie.
Word Forms: pretenseful, pretension, pretentious, pretentiously
Antonym Forms: pretenseless, unpretentious
Related Word: pretend

**prevalent** (adj) widespread; commonly occurring
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

**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

**prominent** (adj) important; noticeable
The senator is a prominent woman who is well-known for fighting unfair labor practices.
Word Forms: prominently, prominence, prominency

**propaganda** (n) information that is spread for the purpose of promoting some cause
The brochure was propaganda intended to earn the community’s support for the multi-million dollar project.
Word Forms: propagandism, propagandize, propagandistic, propagandistically, propagandist

**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 overalls.
Word Forms: provincially, provincialism, provincialize, provincialist
Related Word: province
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: imprudent, imprudently, imprudence, imprudential
Related Word: prude

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

query: (vb) to ask
The reporter queried the mayor about his role in the embezzlement scandal.
Word Forms: query (n.), queryingly, quierer 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 he was arrested for careless driving by publishing his flawless driving record in the paper.
Word Forms: refutable, refutably, refutability, refutation, refuter
Antonym Forms: irrefutable, irrefutably, irrefutability

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, renouncement, renouncer Related Words: announce, denounce

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

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.
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

Word Forms: resiliently, resilience, resiliency

**reticent** (adj) inclined to keep quiet and private
Ironically, the actor once known for his outspoken behavior became reticent in later years, refusing to grant interviews.
Word Forms: reticently, reticence, reticency

**revere** (vb) to regard with respect and awe
Paul Revere was one of many colonists who revered freedom and democracy.
Word Forms: reverable, reverent, reverently, reverence, reverential, reverer
Antonym Forms: irreverent, irreverently, irreverence
Related Word: reverend

**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

**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

**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, sarcasticness, 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 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, scorners

**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

**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

**smug** (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
somber: (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

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

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

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, subsequeintness, 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: substantiateable, substantiation, substantiative, 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, subtleness, subtlety
Antonym Forms: unsubtle, unsubtly

superficial: (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

superfluous: (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

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, but laughed hysterically as soon as she went off the air.
Word Forms: suppressedly, suppressible, suppressive, suppressively, suppression, suppressor
Related Word: oppress, repress

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, sustainedly, sustainingly, sustainment
Related Word: maintain

temperate: (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
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 those of others.
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

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 underscores the need for fire extinguishers in every room.
Word Forms: underscore (n.)
Related Word: underline

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

vindicate: (vb) to clear, justify, or prove
Vinnie’s victory in court vindicated his actions; it proved 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 are vulnerable to attack by birds, rodents, and other small mammals.
Word Forms: vulnerably, vulnerability, invulnerability, invulnerable
Antonym Forms: invulnerable, invulnerably, invulnerability, invulnerableness

wary: (adj) watchful; distrustful
The children were taught to be wary of strangers.
Word Forms: warily, wariness
Antonym Forms: unwary, unwarily, unwariness

whimsical: (adj) characterized by carefree impulses
The baby-sitter’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, zealousness, zealot
Related Word: zeal
PowerScore's Top 100 Easy Repeat Offenders

In the survey of previously administered SATs and PSATs, these basic vocabulary words appeared frequently.

accessible: (adj) easy to approach, obtain, or use
   The restaurant failed because it wasn’t in an accessible location; many customers complained about how difficult it was to get there.
   Word Forms: access, accessibly, accessibility
   Antonym Forms: inaccessible, inaccessibly, inaccessibility

adhere: (vb) to stick to; to follow through
   Once you sign the athletic code of conduct, you must adhere to school rules in order to be eligible for the team.
   Word Forms: adherable, adherence, adherent, adherer
   Antonym Form: inadherent
   Related Words: adhesive, adhesion:

alienate: (vb) to create hostility or indifference
   Allen alienated his classmates by insulting them and refusing to participate in group activities.
   Word Forms: alienation, alienative, alienator
   Related Word: alien

animated: (adj) lively and spirited
   The storyteller used animated gestures to help tell the exciting tale.
   Word Forms: animate, animately, animateness, animatingly, animation
   Antonym Forms: inanimate, inanimately

apt: (adj) intelligent
   The apt student scored a 780 on the math section of the SAT.
   Word Forms: aptly, aptness
   Antonym Forms: inapt, inaptly, inaptness
   Related Words: aptitude, inaptitude

arbitrate: (vb) to judge or decide
   The teacher arbitrated the dispute between the juniors and seniors concerning prom decorations.
   Word Forms: arbitrative, arbitrator, arbiter
   Related Word: arbitrary

atypical: (adj) not typical
   Mr. Ericksen was an atypical teacher; he never gave homework or used textbooks.
   Word Forms: atypically, atypicality
   Antonym Forms: typical, typically, typicality

audible: (adj) able to be heard
   Audrey’s murmur was just audible enough for Ms. Frank to have heard.
   Word Forms: audibly, audibility, audibleness
   Antonym Forms: inaudible, inaudibly, inaudibility, inaudibleness

aversion: (n) a feeling of intense dislike
   Ava’s aversion to dogs stemmed from an incident in her childhood when she was bit by a stray terrier.
   Word Forms: aversive, aversively, averse, aversely
   Related Word: adverse, avert

avert: (vb) to turn away or to prevent
I knew my sister was lying because she averted her eyes when I asked her about the rip in my shirt.  
Word Forms: avertable, avertedly, averter  
Related Word: aversion

awestruck: (adj) filled with an overwhelming feeling of wonder  
Unable to speak or move, I was awestruck in the presence of the rock star.  
Word Form: awestricken  
Related Words: awe, awesome

baffle: (vb) to confuse or puzzle  
Unable to find the solution, Buffy was baffled by the puzzle.  
Word Forms: bafflement, baffling (adj.), baffingly, bafflingness, baffler  
Antonym Form: unbaffled

caricature: (n) a representation of a person that is exaggerated for comic effect  
At the amusement park, Caroline had a caricature drawn in which the artist gave her a big head on a little body.  
Word Forms: caricature (vb.), caricaturable, caricatural, caricaturist

catastrophic: (adj) extremely harmful; disastrous  
The hurricane was catastrophic, destroying hundreds of homes and causing millions of dollars in damage.  
Word Forms: catastrophical, catastrophically, catastrophe

circumscribed: (adj) restricted  
Her driving privileges are circumscribed by the state; she is only allowed to drive at night if she is returning from work.  
Word Forms: circumscribable, circumscriber  
Related Word: circle

clarity: (n) clearness  
Clarence could recall the woman with clarity; she was short, with blond hair and a small birthmark on her right temple.  
Related Words: clarify

commemorate: (vb) to honor the memory of, usually with a ceremony or memorial  
The mayor commemorated the fallen soldiers by renaming the town park in their honor.  
Word Forms: commemorable, commemoration, commemorative, commemoratively, commemorator  
Related Word: memory

concord: (n) agreement  
There was complete concord among all the jury members that the defendant was guilty.  
Word Forms: concordial, concordance, concordant, concordantly  
Antonym Form: discord  
Related Word: concur, accord, cordial

conducive: (adj) favorable; contributing to  
Plenty of water and sunlight are conducive to a healthy garden.  
Word Forms: conduciveness, conduce, conducive, conducingly  
Antonym Forms: inconducive  
Related Word: conduct

conformity: (n) behavior that agrees with standards  
The man was never one to live in conformity, which is why he refused to follow the neighborhood rules.  
Word Forms: conformist  
Related Word: conform
**Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders**

**consensus** (n) agreement reached by a group as a whole
The town council members had to reach a consensus in order to pass the new ordinances. Related Word: consent

**console** (vb) to give support and comfort during sadness or disappointment
Few people could console Consuela when her dog died. Word Forms: consolingly, consolable, consoler
Antonym Forms: inconsolable, inconsolability, inconsolableness
Related Word: consolation

**curative** (adj) tending to cure or restore to health
Many of the villagers believed that the plant had curative powers after it appeared to heal the boy's wound. Related Word: cure

**decisive** (adj) deciding without dispute or hesitation
During the War, the lawmakers of Missouri cast a decisive vote to stay with the Union; they had no interest in seceding. Word Forms: decisively, decisiveness
Antonym Forms: indecisive, indecisively, indecisiveness
Related Words: decide, decision

**defer** (vb) to delay or postpone
Daphne deferred her first year of college in order to travel across Europe. Word Forms: deferrable, deferment, deferral

**deliberate** (vb) to carefully consider
Del spent several hours deliberating whether or not he would accept the job offer. Word Forms: deliberate (adj.), deliberately, deliberation, deliberateness, deliberative

**demeanor** (n) behavior
Deana's quiet demeanor was often mistaken for unfriendliness.

**derivative** (n) something that came from an original
The Pilates exercise system is a derivative of the ancient Indian practice of yoga. Word Forms: derivative (adj.), derivatively, derivativeness, derive, derivation

**detract** (vb) to take away
Although many found Detta beautiful, most would agree that her wickedness detracted from her good looks. Word Forms: detractingly, detraction, detractive, detractory, detractor
Antonym Forms: attract, attraction, attractive
Related Words: distract, retract, extract

**devoid** (adj) completely wanting or lacking
Devin is devoid of all social skills; she cannot even make eye contact or engage in small talk. Related Words: void

**diplomatic** (adj) skillful in handling sensitive situations
When the two men got into a heated disagreement, Diana's diplomatic negotiation skills defused the situation. Word Forms: diplomatical, diplomatically, diplomacy, diplomat

**discredit** (vb) to cause to be distrusted or disbelieved
The prosecuting attorney was able to discredit the witness by proving he lied about the alibi. Word Forms: discredit (n.), discreditability, дискредитабельный, дискредитабельно, дискредитор Related Word: credit
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

**discreet:** (adj) careful or moderate, especially concerning privacy
Dennis revealed his secret to Jane because he knew she was discreet and wouldn’t tell anyone.
Word Forms: discreetly, discreetness, discretion

**discrepancy:** (n) a difference or inconsistency
I found a discrepancy with the balance of my checking account; the bank shows I have $50 less than I actually do.
Word Forms: discrepant, discrepantly, discrepancy

**disgruntled:** (adj) in a state of sulky dissatisfaction
The disgruntled customer stormed out after his steak was undercooked and his salad had the wrong dressing.
Word Forms: disgruntle, disgruntlement

**dispel:** (vb) to drive away
The teacher dispelled any rumors that he was retiring by volunteering to coach next year’s swim team.
Word Forms: dispellable, dispeller
Related Words: compel, impel, expel, propel, repel

**disperse:** (vb) to scatter, spread, or drive away
When the police showed up, the crowd that had been watching the fight quickly dispersed.
Word Forms: dispersedly, dispersible, dispensability, dispersal, dispersion, disperser

**divert:** (vb) to turn away from a course
Traffic was diverted through side streets in order to avoid an accident on the main road.
Word Forms: divertedly, diversion, divertible
Related Words: invert, convert, revert

**domestic:** (adj) relating to the home or relating to the home country
Mom said that Dad must share in domestic duties, which is why he helps with the cooking and cleaning each week.
Word Forms: domestically, domesticity, domesticate

**encompass:** (vb) to surround or to include
The author’s works encompassed nearly every genre, from poetry to theater to fiction.
Word Form: encompassment
Related Word: compass (vb.)

**esteemed:** (adj) highly respected
The esteemed designer has been asked to participate in an exclusive fashion show to highlight his fall collection.
Word Forms: esteem (vb.), esteem (n.), esteemable

**estrangement:** (n) separation resulting from hostility
The family’s estrangement resulted from an argument at Thanksgiving; the family members hadn’t spoken in months.
Word Forms: estrange (vb.), estranger
Related Words: strange, stranger

**eulogy:** (n) a formal expression of praise (often delivered at funerals)
The director delivered a eulogy about the center’s most helpful volunteer, praising her for helping the needy.
Word Forms: eulogize, eulogist

**extravagant:** (adj) excessively high or expensive
The restaurant’s extravagant prices attracted a wealthy clientele.
Word Forms: extravagantly, extravagancntness, extravagance
Related Word: extravaganza
**fabricated**: (adj) constructed to deceive
Fabian knew that he would be punished for going to the party so he told a fabricated story about studying at the library.
Word Forms: fabricate, fabrication, fabricative, fabricator
Antonym Form: unfabricated

**fallible**: (adj) capable of making a mistake
Fallon knew that her boyfriend was fallible, but she was still disappointed to learn that he had lied to her.
Word Forms: fallibly, fallibility, fallibleness
Antonym Forms: infallible, infallibly, infallibility, infallibleness
Related Word: fall

**feasible**: (adj) possible
Student loans are a feasible source of tuition for most incoming college students.
Word Forms: feasibly, feasibility, feasibleness
Antonym Forms: infeasible, infeasibly, infeasibility, infeasibleness

**fortify**: (vb) to make stronger
The army fortified the area by adding security guards and a large chain link fence.
Word Forms: fortified (adj.), fortifiable, fortifyingly, fortifier
Antonym Form: unfortified

**humble**: (adj) not arrogant or prideful; modest
The humble athlete preferred to talk about the team’s accomplishments rather than his stellar individual contribution.
Word Forms: humbly, humbleness, humblyingly, humbler
Related Word: humility

**humility**: (n) the condition of not being arrogant or prideful; the quality of being humble
Heather showed humility when she chose not to tell her parents about her scholarship until after her sister’s wedding.
Related Words: humble

**idealism**: (n) the practice of seeing things in an ideal form
Even after all of the drama and conflict Ida witnessed, her idealism still remained; she still believed that she could bring harmony to the warring neighborhood.
Word Forms: idealize, idealist
Related Word: ideal

**illusory**: (adj) creating illusions; deceiving
The illusory sweepstakes isn’t really a contest at all; “winners” think they have won a free cruise, but the trip actually costs several hundred dollars and requires attendance at marketing seminars.
Word Forms: illusorily, illusoriness, illusive
Related Word: illusion

**inconsequential**: (adj) not important
The blown tire turned out to be inconsequential to the race results, as the driver still managed to come in first.
Word Forms: inconsequentially, inconsequent, inconsequentialness
Antonym Forms: consequential, consequent, consequentially, consequentialness
Related Word: consequence

**ingenious**: (adj) clever and inventive
Jeannie invented an ingenious device for the beach that combined a cooler, radio, and portable fan.
Word Forms: ingeniously, ingeniousness, ingenuity
Related Word: genius
inhibit: (vb) to limit; to hold back
Inez wanted to go camping with her friends, but she was inhibited by her fear of spiders and snakes.
Word Forms: inhibited (adj.), inhibitory, inhibitable, inhibitive, inhibiter, inhibition
Antonym Forms: uninhibited, uninhibitive

innovative: (adj) creative or the condition of being something new and unseen
The first touch-screen computer was praised for its innovative monitor.
Word Forms: innovatively, innovativeness, innovate, innovation, innovator
Related Word: novel (adj.)

inquisitive: (adj) showing curiosity; asking questions
The inquisitive little boy at the zoo wanted to know why the penguins had wings if they couldn’t fly.
Word Forms: inquisitively, inquisitiveness, inquisitor
Antonym Form: uninquisitive
Related Words: inquisition, inquire, quiz

interrogate: (vb) to question
The suspect was interrogated by the police at the station.
Word Forms: interrogable, interrogatingly, interrogative, interrogation, interrogee, interrogator

intuitive: (adj) knowing through feelings rather than from reasoning or observation
Tony is a very intuitive teacher, often sensing when one of the kids is having difficulty even if the child does not indicate her confusion.
Word Forms: intuitively, intuitiveness
Related Word: intuition

invigorate: (vb) to give life or energy to
The cold shower invigorated me after the long, tiring drive.
Word Forms: invigoratingly, invigoration, invigorative, invigoratively, invigorator
Related Words: vigor, vigorous

legitimate: (adj) lawful; in accordance with accepted standards; genuine
Leah had a legitimate complaint when the dry cleaning company failed to remove the stain from her coat.
Word Forms: legitimately, legitimize, legitimation, legitimateness, legitimacy
Antonym Form: illegitimate

longevity: (n) length of life
Mr. Long’s longevity in teaching was celebrated with a cake in honor of his 40th anniversary at the school.
Word Forms: longevityous
Antonym Form: brevity
Related Word: long

mandate: (vb) to require (often by law)
The governor mandated school uniforms for all public school systems in the state.
Word Forms: mandate (n.)
Related Word: mandatory

mediocre: (adj) moderate to inferior in quality
Mia’s hamburger was just mediocre; the sandwiches she had previously at the restaurant had been a lot tastier.
Word Forms: mediocrity

melodrama: (n) an exaggerated drama
The play was a melodrama, focusing more on over-the-top plot lines than on the qualities of the characters.
Word Forms: melodramatic, melodramatically, melodramatize, melodramatist
monarch: (n) a ruler, such as a king or queen
The monarch was remembered for listening to the people when making and reforming laws.
Word Forms: monarchy, monarchal, monarchial, monarchist

nonchalant: (adj) coolly casual and unconcerned
Nina acted nonchalant about attending Charlie’s party, but I could tell that she was secretly excited to be invited.
Word Forms: nonchalantly, nonchalance

opaque: (adj) not clear; not allowing light to pass through
The glass on the bathroom shower has an opaque layer that prevents people from seeing through it.
Word Forms: opaquely, opaqueness, opacity

opportune: (adj) favorable or happening at a favorable time
Porter looked for an opportune moment to ask Tamara to prom.
Word Forms: opportune, opportuneness
Antonym Forms: inopportune, inopportunely, inopportuneness
Related Word: opportunity

ornamentation: (n) decoration
The elegant ornamentation of the cathedral was in direct contrast to the plainness of the rural church.
Related Words: ornament

pacify: (vb) to calm; to bring peace
The babysitter used a teething ring to pacify the crying baby.
Word Forms: pacifiable, pacifyingly, pacific, pacifier, pacifist

parasite: (n) something or someone who attaches to another being for personal gain
Polly was like a parasite, following me around in the hopes that she could become friends with the people I knew.
Word Form: parasitic
Antonym Form: nonparasitic

periphery: (n) the outside boundary
To keep our dogs from running away, my dad built a fence along the periphery of our property.
Word Forms: peripheral, peripherally

popularize: (vb) to make popular
The Foxtrot, a ballroom dance style invented in 1914, was popularized by an actor named Harry Fox.
Word Forms: popularization, popularizer
Related Words: popular, popularity

prolong: (vb) to lengthen in time
Although the class ended at noon, Mr. Probst prolonged our exit by droning on about binomials for another ten minutes.
Word Forms: prolongable, prolongableness, prolongably, prolongment, prolonger
Related Word: long

prophetic: (adj) predictive of future events
Mrs. Probert’s warnings about speeding proved to be prophetic when her son got in a ticket as a result of going too fast.
Word Forms: prophetical, prophetically, propheticalness, propheticality
Antonym Form: unprophetic
Related Words: prophet, prophecy

protagonist: (n) the main character in a fictional work
The protagonist of the story is a young girl who returns home to find three bears in her bed.
**Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders**

Word Form: protagonism
Antonym Forms: antagonist, antagonism, antagonize:

**quantitative** (adj) relating to the measurement of quantity
The cost of publishing a book is directly influenced by the quantitative requirements of your order; the fewer pages required and the more copies you order, the less money you pay per book.
Word Forms: quantitatively, quantitativeness
Related Words: quantity, qualitative

**redundant** (adj) having ideas that are repeated unnecessarily
The first two months of sophomore French class seemed redundant, as we had already covered the material as freshmen.
Word Forms: redundantly, redundancy
Related Word: redone

**reminiscence** (n) recalling of the past; a memory
Grandpa would often share his reminiscences at family gatherings, relating stories about Grandma when she was young.
Word Forms: reminisce, reminiscent

**remorse** (n) a feeling of deep regret (usually for some misdeed)
Ramona felt such deep remorse after smashing the children’s jack-o-lantern that she replaced their holiday pumpkin.
Word Forms: remorseful, remorsefully, remorsefulness
Antonym Forms: remorseless, remorselessly, remoreselessness

**renown** (n) fame
Ren quickly gained renown throughout the city after throwing the winning touchdown pass on Friday night.
Word Forms: renowned (adj.), renownedly, renownful, renownedness
Antonym Form: renownless

**resolute** (adj) firm and determined
I faced a resolute opponent in my last wrestling match; he refused to lose.
Word Forms: resolutely, resoluteness
Antonym Forms: irresolute, irresolutely, irresoluteness
Related Words: resolution, resolve

**scarce** (adj) lacking in supply
Spices were scarce in Europe in the 1400s, which is why explorers searched for shorter routes to the Spice Islands.
Word Forms: scarcely, scarceness, scarcity

**sentimental** (adj) characterized by tender feelings, such as love and nostalgia
Sandy kept a box filled with ticket stubs, love notes, and other sentimental items that reminded her of Tim.
Word Forms: sentimentally, sentimentalize, sentimentality
Antonym Form: unsentimental
Related Word: sentiment

**serene** (adj) calm and peaceful
The sea was usually choppy and turbulent but without the wind today it was flat and serene.
Word Forms: serenely, sereneness, serenity

**speculative** (adj) based on careful consideration or contemplation rather than fact
Local theories about the girl’s disappearance were all speculative; only she herself knew what really happened.
Word Forms: speculatively, speculativeness, speculate, speculation, speculator

**stifle** (vb) to stop or hold back
I stifled a yawn so Grandpa wouldn’t know that I was bored by his story.
Word Forms: stiflingly, stiffer

**susceptible**: (adj) easily affected
Because of her vulnerable immune system, Susie is susceptible to colds and flu.
Word Forms: susceptibly, susceptibleness, susceptibility
Antonym Form: unsusceptible

**tedious**: (adj) long, boring, and tiring
Creating these SAT flashcards was a tedious process that involved carefully reading 60 tests, sorting over 6000 terms, and defining the 700 selected words.
Word Forms: tediously, tediousness, tedium

**Therapeutic**: (adj) tending to cure or restore to health
Thea took a therapeutic bath of honey and buttermilk which she believed would cure her cold.
Word Forms: therapeutically, therapeutist
Antonym Form: nontherapeutic
Related Word: therapy

**thwart**: (vb) to hinder or prevent
The high winds and isolated thunderstorms thwarted the space shuttle launch.
Word Forms: thwartedly, thwartingly, thwarter

**tranquil**: (adj) calm and peaceful
Walking through the tranquil countryside each evening helps me release the tension from my busy day in the bustling city.
Word Forms: tranquilly, tranquillity

**treacherous**: (adj) untrustworthy or unstable
The treacherous footing threatened to give out while I was rock climbing.
Word Forms: treacherously, treacherousness, treachery, treacher

**turmoil**: (n) a scene of great commotion, confusion, and disorder
The school board meeting descended into turmoil when three hundred students arrived to protest the new uniform rules.

**vengeance**: (n) the act of taking revenge
When the police failed to arrest the arson suspect, the victim sought vengeance by setting fire to the suspect’s house.
Word Forms: vengeful, vengefully, vengefulness
Related Word: revenge

**vigilant**: (adj) on the lookout for possible danger
The vigilant guard carefully searched the horizon for approaching vehicles.
Word Forms: vigilantly, vigilance
Antonym Form: unvigilant
Related Words: vigil, vigilante

**vulgar**: (adj) tastelessly indecent
Vance was sent to detention for using vulgar language in front of his teacher
Word Forms: vulgarly, vulgarness, vulgarize, vulgarity, vulgarian

**warrant**: (vb) to authorize or justify
My dad says that my car accident warrants punishment; he’s taking the car away for six months.
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

Word Forms: warrant (n.), warrantable
Antonym Forms: warrantless, unwarranted, unwarrantable

**weary (adj)** tired
After working on the farm all day, I was weary and worn out.
Word Forms: weary (vb.), wearily, weariness, wearingly
Antonym Forms: weariless, unweary
Note: weary is often confused with wary, which means distrustful
PowerScore's Top 100 Medium Repeat Offenders

In the survey of previously administered SATs and PSATs, these intermediate vocabulary words appeared frequently.

**abhorr** (vb) to hate; to regard as horrible
Abigail loves to garden, but she abhors snakes so she has given up her passion for fear of finding a snake while weeding.
Word Forms: abhorrent, abhorrently, abhorrence, abhorrer
Related Word: horror

**acute** (adj) sharp
(1) The patient complained of acute pain in his lower right abdomen, leading the doctor to test for appendicitis.
(2) The acute student quickly solved the difficult puzzle.
Word Forms: acutely, acuteness

**adept** (adj) highly skilled
The adept juggler was able to juggle a golf ball, an orange, a volleyball, and a bowling ball all at the same time.
Word Forms: adept (n.), adeptly, adeptness

**adroit** (adj) highly skilled, especially with one’s hands
The adroit mechanic was able to fix Addy’s old car, even though six other mechanics said it couldn’t be repaired.
Word Forms: adroitly, adroitness

**affable** (adj) friendly
In the fable, the affable princess was adored by all except for her three stepsisters who were angered by her friendliness.
Word Forms: affably, affability, affableness
Antonym Forms: inaffable, inaffibility

**agile** (adj) moving quickly and lightly
The agile monkey entertained the onlookers by effortlessly swinging from tree to tree in the enclosure.
Word Forms: agilely, agileness, agility

**apathy** (n) an absence of emotion or enthusiasm
The teacher was disappointed in the students’ apathy toward the field trip; she had mistakenly believed that this trip would finally excite them about learning.
Word Forms: apathetic, apathetical, apathetically, apathist
Related Words: sympathy, empathy, antipathy

**archaic** (adj) so extremely old as seeming to belong to an earlier period
The college cannot have sorority or fraternity houses because of an archaic town law that does not allow unmarried people to live together.
Word Forms: archaically, archaism, archaistic, archaist
Related Word: archaeology

**ardor** (n) intense passion
Mrs. Armstrong, my English teacher, is known for her ardor for the literature William Faulkner; last summer she even visited his hometown in Mississippi in order to better visualize the settings of his books.

**arid** (adj) dry; lacking rainfall
My grandmother claims that Arizona’s arid climate helps her arthritis, while Alabama’s humidity makes her hands swell.
Word Forms: aridity, aridness, aridly
belligerent: (adj) characteristic of an enemy or one eager to fight
The belligerent student seemed to enjoy arguing with the teacher.
Word Forms: belligerently, belligerence
Antonym Forms: nonbelligerent

cajole: (vb) to influence by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering
Caleb cajoled his mother into letting him borrow the car by telling her how young and pretty she looked today.
Word Forms: conjoinement, conjolingly, conjolery, conjoler

ciaustic: (adj) burning or stinging
Cathy's caustic remark stung Kent; he could handle criticism about his job, but her bitter words were personal.
Word Forms: caustically, causticy, causticness, causticity

cerebral: (adj) involving intelligence rather than emotions or instinct
Although Sarah was so angry that she wanted to quit her job, she decided to take a cerebral approach and weigh the costs before making a decision.
Word Form: cerebrally
Related Word: cerebrum

circumvent: (vb) to go around; to avoid
I circumvented the construction on the highway by taking the bypass that goes around the city.
Word Forms: circumvention, circumventive, circumventer
Related Word: circle, circumference

concession: (n) the act of giving in or the actual thing that was given up
When the principal revoked our privilege to eat lunch off campus, she made a concession and allowed pizza to be delivered to the school once a week.
Word Forms: concessional, concessionary
Related Word: concede

confound: (vb) to confuse
Conan was confounded by the difficult SAT question.
Word Forms: confoundable, confoundedly, confoundingly, confounder

conspicuous: (adj) obvious
The realtor put the "For Sale" sign in a conspicuous spot in the front yard so that people in traffic could easily see it.
Word Forms: conspicuously, conspicuousness, conspicuity
Antonym Forms: inconspicuous, inconspicuously, inconspicuousness

conspire: (vb) to work together, often in secret, to commit wrongful behavior
A small group of students conspired to steal the rival school's mascot, but their plan was foiled by the police.
Word Forms: conspiringly, conspiracy, conspiratory, conspiritorial, conspirator, conspirer

consummate: (adj) perfect and complete
Constantine is the consummate host; he greets his guest, makes sure they are comfortable and enjoying themselves, and introduces new friends to everyone.
Word Forms: consummate (vb.), consummately, consummatory, consummation, consummator

cordial: (adj) friendly and polite
When I met Cordell, he was very cordial; he properly introduced himself and politely asked questions about my family and schooling.
Word Forms: cordially, cordialness, cordality
Antonym Form: uncordial
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

**curtail**: (vb) to cut short or restrict
The public service message is intended to curtail drinking and driving.
Word Forms: curtailedly, curtailment, curtailer,

**daunt**: (vb) to cause to lose courage
Don had finally worked up the courage to ride the roller coaster when he was daunted by the pale faces of the riders who had just completed the ride.
Word Forms: dauntingly, dauntingness
Antonym Forms: dauntless, dauntlessly, dauntlessness, unaunted, unaundedly, unauntedness

**deliberate**: (vb) to make weak
Debbie was debilitated by the unusual virus; she had difficulty sitting up and was too weak to walk.
Word Forms: debilitant, debilitation, debilitative, debility
Related Words: habilitate, rehabilitate

**decimate**: (vb) to destroy a large portion of
In the fourteenth century, the plague decimated the population of Europe.
Word Forms: decimation, decimator

**delineate**: (vb) to outline
In her speech, Delilah clearly delineated her plans for changing several policies should she be elected class president.
Word Forms: delineable, delineative, delineation, delineament, delineatory, delineator
Antonym Form: undelineated

**despondent**: (adj) feeling or expressing hopelessness
Dessa became despondent when she received her rejection letter from the college.
Word Forms: despondently, despondence, despond, despondingly, desponder

**destitute**: (adj) completely wanting or lacking (usually money, food, and shelter)
The homeless man wasn’t always destitute; he once had a job, but poor money management led to bankruptcy.
Word Forms: destitutely, destitution

**discord**: (n) disagreement
The school board’s refusal to accept the terms of the contract created discord among the administrators and teachers.
Word Forms: discordance, discordant, discordantly
Antonym Forms: concord, accord

**dissent**: (vb) to express a difference of opinion
Most of the class agreed that dogs could feel sadness, but Dionne dissented; she believed that dogs did not experience human emotions.
Word Forms: dissent (n.), dissentingly, dissension, dissentious, dissenter
Antonym Forms: assent, assentingly, assentation, assenter

**docile**: (adj) easily taught or managed
Although the tiger cub is docile, he will grow into a 600 pound beast that is difficult to manage and impossible to trust.
Word Forms: docilely, docility
Antonym Forms: indocile, indocility

**doctrine**: (n) a belief that is taught, usually by a church or government
The religion’s doctrine teaches that the good of the community is a higher personal priority than self satisfaction.
Word Forms: doctrinal, doctrinally, doctrinality, doctrinarian
Related Word: indoctrinate

**earnest**: (adj) serious; sincere
The earnest student took the SAT seriously; he bought several study guides, and dedicated two hours a day to practice.
**Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders**

**effusive**: (adj) excessive enthusiasm or emotion
Effie's effusive praise was so excessive and over-the-top that it almost seemed insincere.
Word Forms: effusively, effusiveness
Related Word: effuse, infuse

**embroil**: (vb) to bring into an argument or negative situation
Emory is embroiled in a lawsuit with his former landlord over the condition of the apartment when he moved out.
Word Forms: embroilment, embroiler

**erratic**: (adj) unpredictable or inconsistent
Ericka's attendance was erratic; there was no clear pattern between the days she went to school and the days she missed.
Word Forms: erratical, erratically, erraticism
Antonym Form: inerratic

**expedient**: (adj) serving a purpose or personal interest
It was expedient to flatter Mrs. Jameson; it was rumored that the more compliments you paid her, the higher your semester grade would be.
Word Forms: expedient (n.), expeditiously, expediency, expeditious, expeditiously
Antonym Forms: inexpedient, inexpeditiously, inexpedience

**extraneous**: (adj) not relevant or essential
When studying for the SAT, be sure to ignore the extraneous information in the book, such as the history of the test.
Word Forms: extraneously, extraneousness
Related Word: extra

**fallacy**: (n) a false idea
Many textbooks teach the fallacy that George Washington cut down a cherry tree; it is widely believed that an author made up that story to increase the sales of his book.
Word Forms: fallacious, fallaciously, fallaciousness

**flippant**: (adj) disrespectful; lacking seriousness
Floyd was grounded for making flippant remarks about the new rules his father set for him.
Word Forms: flippantly, flippantness, flippancy

**florid**: (adj) excessively decorated; flowery
Flora's penmanship is florid; she uses a lot of swirls and waves to decorate each letter.
Word Forms: floridly, floridity
Related Word: flower, Florida:

**flourish**: (adj) to do well or grow well
When I moved the plants to the windowsill, they suddenly began to flourish; the lack of direct sunlight must have really inhibited their growth.
Word Forms: flourish (n.), flourishingly, flourisher
Related Word: flower

**formidable**: (adj) causing fear due to powerful strength
Forrest is a formidable opponent on the tennis court; he has not lost a set in his last twenty games.
Word Forms: formidably, formidableness, formidabilty

**frivolous**: (adj) not serious; silly
The author's new novel is a frivolous look at life in the city; although it lacks the serious tones of his previous novels, it's a fun and enjoyable story.
Word Forms: frivolously, frivolousness, frivolity, frivoler
**Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders**

**furtive**: (adj) sneaky
Frank devised a furtive plan in which he would sneak onto the rival's campus and steal their school flag.
Word Forms: furtively, furtiveness

**genial**: (adj) polite and friendly
It's important for a kindergarten teacher to be genial; young children respond positively to a friendly adult.
Word Forms: genially, genialness, geniality
Related Word: congenial

**guile**: (n) a skillful deception
The sneaky woman used guile to get close to the withdrawn millionaire; she pretended to have known his brother who died in the war.
Word Forms: guileful, guilefully, guilefulness
Antonym Forms: guileless, guilelessly, guilelessness
Related Word: guise, disguise

**imperceptible**: (adj) difficult or impossible to sense
The differences between the real money and the counterfeit money are imperceptible, so it was no surprise that the cashier did not notice the fake bill.
Word Forms: imperceptibly, imperceptibleness, imperceptibility
Antonym Forms: perceptible, perceptibility, perceptibleness, perceptibility
Related Word: perceive, perceptive

**indictment**: (n) an accusation of wrongdoing
Ingrid made an indictment against Tony, claiming that he purposely miscounted the votes for Prom Queen.
Word Forms: indict, indictable, indictably

**insular**: (adj) narrow-minded; isolated
The culture is criticized for its insular ideas, such as the belief that women should not be allowed to attend school.
Word Forms: insularly, insularism, insularity

**inundate**: (vb) to flood
After the newspaper ran the controversial story, the editor was inundated with calls from hundreds of angry subscribers.
Word Forms: inundation, inundatory, inundator

**itinerant**: (adj) traveling from place to place to work
The itinerant pastor was transferred to our church from a ministry in Ohio; he will stay with us for six months before going to New Hampshire.
Word Forms: itinerant (n.), itinerantly, itinerate, itineration
Related Word: itinerary

**jaded**: (adj) having become dull or worn out from overexposure
Jackson had become jaded throughout his travels as a child; he had visited so many countries that new cultures no longer seemed interesting.
Word Forms: jade (vb.), jadedly, jadedness

**laud**: (vb) to praise, glorify, or honor
Landon was lauded for his achievements at the laboratory; he had made more progress in a year than most scientists had made in a decade.
Word Forms: laudable, laudably, laudation, laudative, laudatory, laudator

**lavish**: (adj) very generous or extravagant
The lavish wedding reception had a steak and lobster dinner, several intricate ice sculptures, and a famous jazz band.
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

Word Forms: lavishly, lavishness, lavishment, lavisher

**lucid:** (adj) clear; easy to understand
If your directions had been more lucid, I might have made it to the party on time.
Word Forms: lucidly, lucidness, lucidity
Related Word: elucidate

**malice:** (n) a desire to make others suffer
Malika’s sharp comment was delivered with malice; she knew that her words would hurt her mother’s feelings.
Word Forms: malicious, maliciously, maliciousness
Antonym Form: unmalicious

**mitigate:** (vb) to make less intense or severe
Mitch was grounded for a week when he broke curfew, but his mom mitigated his punishment by several days when she learned that he had been late because he was taking a sick friend to the hospital.
Word Forms: mitigable, mitigatedly, mitigation, mitigative, mitigatory, mitigator
Antonym Forms: immitigable, immitigably, immitigability, unmitigable, unmitigated, unmitigatedly

**monotony:** (n) tiresome routine; lack of variety
Monica was bored with the monotony of her job; every day was the same, from emails she sent to data she entered.
Word Forms: monotonous, monotonously, monotonousness
Related Word: monotone

**nuance:** (n) a subtle difference
The nuances between the two fonts are often missed by the untrained graphic designer.
Word Forms: nuanced

**obstinate:** (adj) extremely stubborn
Mr. O’Brien was obstinate about eating at the bistro; he refused to eat anywhere else.
Word Forms: obstinately, obstinateness, obstinace, obstinacy

**ominous:** (adj) threatening or foreshadowing evil
The dark clouds in the distance were ominous and threatened to ruin the picnic.
Word Forms: ominously, ominousness
Related Word: omen

**oration:** (n) a formal speech
The political candidate delivered an oration about the benefits of her universal health care plan.
Word Forms: orate, oratorical, orator

**ornate:** (adj) highly decorated
The ornate palace had colorful paintings and intricate wood carvings in every room.
Word Forms: ornately, ornateness
Related Word: ornament

**overt:** (adj) open and observable; not secret or hidden
The candidate’s overt support of stem cell research was unusual; he made it clear that if elected, he would work to increase research efforts.
Word Forms: overtly, overtness
Antonym Forms: covert, covertly, covertness

**paradox:** (n) a statement that contradicts itself but nevertheless may still be true
Parker said, “I always lie,” but this is a paradox; if the statement is true, then he must be lying.

**Word Forms:** paradoxal, paradoxical, paradoxically, paradoxicalness, paradoxicality, paradoxology

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### Paragon

**Definition:** (n) a perfect example

Parmida is a paragon of professionalism; she arrives on time, treats co-workers with respect, and refrains from gossip.

**Word Forms:** paragon (vb.), paragoned

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### Parody

**Definition:** (n) a humorous imitation

The awards show opened with a parody of a movie; all of the characters were played by monkeys dressed like the actors.

**Word Forms:** parody (vb.), parodiable, parodic, parodist

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### Patronize

**Definition:** (vb) to treat someone as if they are not as intelligent or important

Patrick was constantly patronizing me during the movie; he kept pausing it to explain what happened in a scene, even though I understood it as well as he did.

**Word Forms:** patronizable, patronizingly, patronization, patronizer

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### Penchant

**Definition:** (n) a strong liking

Penny has a penchant for poetry; she has filled two notebooks with poems and poetic lines.

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### Penitent

**Definition:** (adj) feeling or expressing remorse for misdeeds

The penitent criminal asked for forgiveness from the family he had robbed.

**Word Forms:** penitently, penitence

**Antonym Forms:** impenitent, impenitently, impenitence

**Related Words:** repentant, penance, penitentiary

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### Peril

**Definition:** (n) danger

Our planet is in peril of running out of certain natural resources if something is not done to conserve them.

**Word Forms:** perilous, perilously, perilousness

**Related Words:** imperil

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### Pervasive

**Definition:** (adj) spreading or spread throughout

The pervasive odor of garlic quickly spread throughout the entire house.

**Word Forms:** pervasively, pervasiveness, pervade, pervadingly, pervadingness, pervasion, pervader

**Related Words:** invade, invasive

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### Placid

**Definition:** (adj) calm

When the wind died down, the lake became placid, with hardly a ripple disturbing the surface.

**Word Forms:** placidly, placidness, placidity

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### Pliant

**Definition:** (adj) capable of being bent or capable of being influenced

The pliant plastic can be easily molded into any shape, size, or design.

**Word Forms:** pliantly, plianthness, pliancy

**Related Word:** pliable

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### Precipitate

**Definition:** (vb) to bring about abruptly

Prescott’s sudden decision to move to a smaller apartment was precipitated by the loss of his job.

**Word Forms:** precipitate (adj.), precipitately, precipitateness, precipitative, precipitator

**Related Word:** precipitous

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### Prolific

**Definition:** (adj) highly productive

The prolific author had written over 60 books during her career.

**Word Forms:** prolifically, prolificness, prolificity, prolificacy

**Antonym Form:** improlific
**Vocabulary:** Repeat Offenders

**propensity:** (n) a natural tendency
Mrs. Petty loved to talk to friends and neighbors, so it was no surprise that she had a propensity to gossip.

**raze:** (vb) to tear down
The old abandoned buildings were razed in preparation for the construction of the new baseball stadium.
Word Forms: razer

**rebuke:** (vb) to sharply criticize or reprimand
The principal rebuked the three students who wandered away from their chaperone on the field trip.
Word Forms: rebuke (n.), rebukingly, rebukable, rebuker

**remiss:** (adj) careless and neglectful
Rebekkah was criticized for being remiss in her work; she had made many careless mistakes this week.
Word Forms: remissly, remissness

**reproach:** (vb) to blame; to express criticism towards
The board of directors reproached the company president for falling profits and decreased revenue.
Word Forms: reproach (n.), reproachingly, reproachable, reproachableness, reproachably
Antonym Forms: irreproachable, unreproachable, reproachless
Related Word: reproachful

**sanction:** (vb) to approve
The school board sanctioned the new elementary school playground, so construction will begin next week.
Word Forms: sanction (n.), sanctionable, sanctionative, sanctioner
Antonym Forms: unsanctioned, sanctionless

**scoff:** (vb) to laugh at and show open disrespect
Scott scoffed at the skate park rules; after the park closed, he hopped the fence and continued to skate until dark.
Word Forms: scoff (n.), scoffingly, scoffer

**solemn:** (adj) intensely serious
Saul was angry that his cousin would make jokes at such a solemn event as their grandmother’s memorial service.
Word Forms: solemnly, solemnness, solemnity, solemnify, solemnize

**stagnant:** (adj) not moving, flowing, or progressing
When the feeder creek ran dry, the small pond became stagnant; algae began to thrive in the motionless water.
Word Forms: stagnantly, stagnance, stagnancy, stagnate, stagnation, stagnatory

**stymie:** (vb) to stump or hinder
The warden was stymied by the escape; the prisoners' cell doors were still locked, and there were no holes in the walls.
Word Form: stymie (n.)

**subversive:** (adj) supporting the overthrowing of a government
The subversive group was arrested when one of the members told of the group’s plot to overthrow the king.
Word Forms: subversive (n.), subversively, subversiveness, subversivism, subvert, subversion

**sully:** (vb) to make dirty or unpure
Mrs. Sullivan’s reputation was sullied by accusations that she was embezzling money from the PTA.
Word Form: sulliable
Antonym Form: unsullied

**tact:** (n) consideration in dealing with others and avoiding giving offense
When breaking a commitment, such as a date or a dinner party, it is important to use tact to avoid hurting feelings.
Word Forms: tactful, tactfully, tactfulness
Antonym Forms: tactless, tactlessly, tactlessness, untactful

tactile: (adj) having to do with the sense of touch
Braille is a tactile code; you must touch it in order to decipher it.
Word Forms: tactilely, tactility

transcend: (vb) to rise above or exceed the limits
Beethoven transcended his deafness to become one of the most famous composers of all time.
Word Forms: transcendingly, transcendence, transcendent, transcendental
Related Word: ascend, descend

transient: (adj) passing quickly or staying briefly
The most transient years of your life are those spent in high school; someday when you realize how quickly your time there passed, you’ll wish you had spent more time enjoying your youth.
Word Forms: transient (n.), transiently, transientness, transience
Antonym Form: intransient
Related Word: transitory

trite: (adj) repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse
Be sure to avoid trite expressions in your essay; instead of writing clichés like "I learned my lesson the hard way," choose original sentences such as "It was a difficult lesson to learn."
Word Forms: tritely, triteness

vacillate: (vb) to waver or move back and forth
Vanessa vacillated between the two universities; one minute she was attending the in-state school, and the next she was going to the college three states away.
Word Forms: vacillatingly, vacillation, vacillant, vacillator
Related Word: oscillate

vanquish: (vb) to defeat
In the debate, Vanna vanquished her opponent by successfully pointing out the weaknesses in the other girl’s examples.
Word Forms: vanquishable, vanquishment, vanquisher
Antonym Forms: unvanquished, unvanquishable

verbose: (adj) using or containing too many words
At the graduation ceremony, the valedictorian gave a verbose speech that caused many people to fall asleep.
Word Forms: verbosely, verboseness, verbosity
Related Words: verbal

vicarious: (adj) experienced through another person
Although Vicki had never been on a roller coaster, she experienced a vicarious thrill when Zach described the descent down the big hill.
Word Forms: vicariously, vicariousness, vicariism

wane: (vb) to grow smaller
Wayne’s interest in basketball began to wane after he played hockey; he even sold his basketball shoes to buy skates.
Antonym: wax
Note: These two words are often used to describe the fullness of the moon.

wistful: (adj) expressing longing or yearning
Willie gave the car one last wistful look before he left the dealership; if wished he had the money to buy it.
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

Word Forms: wistfully, wistfulness
PowerScore's Top 100 People Repeat Offenders

In the survey of previously administered SATs and PSATs, these vocabulary words naming people appeared frequently.

agnostic: (n) a person who believes the existence of God is impossible to prove
Agatha is an agnostic; she doesn’t deny the existence of a god, but she doesn’t believe in one, either.
Word Forms: agnostic (adj.), agnostical, agnostically, agnosticism

amateur: (n) a person who pursues a study or sport as a pastime rather than as a profession
Amos was a great golfer, but he was still just an amateur; he had no interest in pursuing the sport professionally.
Word Forms: amateur (adj.), amateurish, amateurishly, amateurishness, amateurism, amateurship

anarchist: (n) a person who encourages revolt against established laws or government
On campus, the anarchist preached against the university’s government, advocating revolt by the students.
Word Forms: anarchist, anarchistic, anarchic, anarchical, anarchically, anarch

aristocrat: (n) a person who belongs to the highest or most privileged class in a society
As an aristocrat, Ari was used to preferential treatment in the most expensive hotels and restaurants in the city.
Word Forms: aristocracy, aristocratic, aristocratical, aristocratically, aristocraticness

ascetic: (n) a person who practices self-denial as a spiritual discipline
To prove his devotion to the religion, the ascetic did not own anything that might provide comfort or pleasure, such as a mattress or television set.
Word Forms: ascetic (adj.), ascetical, ascetically, asceticism

authoritarian: (n) a person who expects unquestioned obedience
The timid girl’s father was an authoritarian; she was expected to obey his every order without question or hesitation.
Word Forms: authoritarian (adj.), authoritarianism
Related Words: authority, authoritative

autocrat: (n) a person who rules with complete power and authority
The autocrat was an oppressive ruler, dictating all laws and rules for the citizens of the nation.
Word Forms: autocratic, autocratical, autocratically, autocracy
Antonym Forms: democrat, democratic, democratical, democratically, democracy

avenger: (n) a person who seeks justice or revenge
Ava saw herself as an avenger, the only person who could find justice for the little boy injured in the fire.
Word Forms: avenge, avengeful, avengingly
Related Words: vengeance, revenge

bard: (n) a poet
The bard recited several of his poems at the book signing.
Word Forms: bardic, bardish, bardlike, bardship
Note: William Shakespeare is referred to as the bard.

belittler: (n) a person who takes away the importance of another person or situation
Bella is using her natural tendency as a belittler to win the science fair; by criticizing the other projects, she hopes to draw attention to her own.
Word Forms: belittle, belittlement
Related Word: little
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

**benefactor**: (n) a person who helps people or institutions (especially with financial help)
The museum was supported by an anonymous benefactor who donated money for its upkeep.
Word Forms: benefaction, benefactive, benefactress
Antonym Forms: malefactor, malefaction, malefactress
Related Words: benefit, beneficial, beneficiary

**beneficiary**: (n) a person or group that receives funds or other benefits
The old man selected his alma mater as the beneficiary of his estate; someday the university will inherit millions of dollars through his will.
Related Words: benefit, beneficial, benefactor

**boor**: (n) a person who is rude, clumsy, and lacking social manners
Boris was a boor at the dinner party; after telling the host that her house was cheaply decorated, he ate his steak with his fingers and burped during the meal.
Word Forms: boorish, boorishly, boorishness
Note: Be careful not to confuse a boor (a rude person) with a bore (a boring person).

**bourgeois**: (n) a person who belongs to the middle class
Brody considered himself a bourgeois, with middle class values and goals, even though his promotion qualified him for membership in the upper class.
Word Forms: bourgeois (adj.), bourgeoisie, bourgeoisify, bourgeoisification

**buffoon**: (n) a person who amuses others by joking or clowning around
In the movie, the buffoon lightens the more serious scenes by making jokes about the main character’s predicament.
Word Forms: buffoonish, buffoonery

**bureaucrat**: (n) an official in a government or other administrative group (often who is concerned with details and order)
Although I told the clerk I was in a hurry, she was a bureaucrat and insisted I complete every field on the form, even though she already had my information.
Word Forms: bureaucratic, bureaucracy, bureaucratism

**cartographer**: (n) a person who makes maps
Amerigo Vespucci was one of the first cartographers to create a map of North America.
Word Forms: cartography, cartograph, cartographic, cartographical, cartographically

**cavalier**: (n) a man who is chivalrous and gallant
The young cavalier was rewarded for his gallant behavior when he was chosen to escort the princess to the ball.
Word Forms: cavalier (adj.), cavalierly, cavalierliness, cavalierism

**charlatan**: (n) a person who falsely claims to possess skills or knowledge; an imposter
The charlatan tricked the unsuspecting customers out of money by pretending to be able to predict the future.
Word Forms: charlatanic, charlatanish, charlatanical, charlatanically, charlatanistic, charlataney, charlatanism

**chronicler**: (n) a person who keeps a record of events
The reporter was hired by the army to serve as a chronicler during the war; without his employment, we would never have known the true order of events during the conflict.
Word Forms: chronicle
Related Word: chronological

**clairvoyant**: (n) a person who can see the supernatural, such as spirits or the future
The carnival had a clairvoyant, who predicted that I would marry a red-head and have three red-headed children.
Word Forms: clairvoyant (adj.), clairvoyantly, clairvoyance


**colleague:** (n) a person that one works with in the same field or profession
The doctor was afraid that her colleagues would disagree with her diagnosis.
Word Form: colleagueship
Related Word: college

**combatant:** (n) a person who fights
The referee was forced to separate the combatants at the end of the third round of fighting.
Word Forms: combat, combatative, combatatively, combatativeness, combatable

**compatriot:** (n) a person from your own country
While traveling through Italy, I met a compatriot from Michigan and we promised to keep in touch after returning home.
Word Forms: compatriotic, compatriotism
Related Word: patriot

**connoisseur:** (n) a person who is an expert critic in a certain field
Having earned a masters degree in art history, Connor is a connoisseur of historical paintings.
Word Form: connoisseurship

**constituent:** (n) a citizen who is represented in a government by an elected official
The senator knew that his constituents were counting on him to lower the sales tax.
Word Forms: constitute, constituency
Related Words: constitute, constitution

**courtier:** (n) a member of a royal court or a person who seeks favor through excessive flattery
The homecoming queen had several courtiers, who helped her put on her tiara and velvet robe.
Related Words: court, courtly

**curator:** (n) a person who manages a museum
The curator arranged a special exhibit for the local school children who visited the museum.
Word Forms: curate, curatorial, curatorship

**defector:** (n) a person who deserts a country or group in order to join another country or group
The defector fled the Confederate army and joined the Union forces when he realized the strength of the northern enemy.
Word Forms: defect, defectible, defectibility, defective, defection

**demagogue:** (n) a political leader who seeks support by appealing to popular passions and prejudices
Hitler was a demagogue who gained power by exploiting religious prejudices in Germany.
Word Forms: demagoguery, demagogism, demagogic, demagogical, demagogically

**derelict:** (n) a person without a home, job, or property
The derelict spent his days begging on the street corner and his nights sleeping in the alley.
Word Forms: derelict (adj.), derelictly, dereliction, dereliction
Related Word: relinquish

**despoiler:** (n) a person who steals goods
The despoilers from the pirate ship stripped the village members of all their possessions.
Word Forms: despoil, despoilment
Related Word: spoils (n.)

**despot:** (n) a ruler with complete power
The despot was a harsh ruler who imposed outrageous taxes and unreasonable restrictions against his subjects.
Word Forms: despotic, despotical, despotically, despotism
devotee: (n) an ardent follower and admirer
Devon is a devotee of professional football; she follows her favorite team every weekend and knows more player statistics than most other fans.
Related Words: devote, devotedness

dignitary: (n) a person who has a high-ranking position
The foreign dignitary was meeting with the President to discuss improving relations between the two countries.
Word Form: dignitarial
Related Words: dignify, dignity

dilettante: (n) a person who engages in an activity (such as art) without serious intentions or inquiry
Although Dylan started painting, he was merely a dilettante; his paintings were amateur attempts at a part-time hobby.
Word Forms: dilettantish, dilettanteism

disserbmer: (n) a person who conceals his real feelings by professing false beliefs
The dissembler pledged allegiance to the rebel group, but he was really working undercover for the opposing army.
Word Forms: dissemble, dissemblingly, dissemblance
Related Words: resemble, semblance

egotist: (n) a person who is conceited, boastful, and self-centered
Igor is an egotist; he brags about every aspect of his life, but has no interest in hearing similar stories from his friends.
Word Forms: egotistic, egotistical, egotistically, egotism
Related Words: ego, egoist, egoistic, egomania

emancipator: (n) a person who frees others from bondage
Once freed, the hostages felt a great appreciation for their emancipators, who risked their lives to save strangers.
Word Forms: emancipate, emancipative, emancipatory, emancipation, emancipationist

emissary: (n) a person sent on a mission to represent the interests of someone else
The general sent an emissary to the enemy's camp to inquire about the terms of surrender.
Related Words: emission, emissive, emit

entrepreneur: (n) a person who organizes a business venture and assumes the risk for it
Andrea was an entrepreneur; by the age of thirty, she had already started three successful businesses.
Word Forms: entrepreneurial, entrepreneurially, entrepreneurialism, entrepreneurialism, entrepreneurship
Related Word: enterprise

expatriate: (n) a person who lives outside his own country, often to renounce allegiance
The little village in Costa Rica is filled with American expatriates who moved there for a more relaxed lifestyle.
Word Forms: expatriate (vb.), expatriation
Related Word: patriot

explicator: (n) a person who explains or interprets
My attorney was an excellent explicator; he clearly interpreted each clause of the legal contract.
Word Forms: explicate, explication, explicative, explicatively, explication
Related Word: explicit

glutton: (n) a person who eats too much or who has an extreme capacity for something
Glenn was a glutton at the buffet; he ate two hamburgers, three slices of pizza, six cookies, and four slices of cake.
Word Forms: glutony, glutonize, gluttonous, glutonously, glutonousness, glut

gourmand: (n) a person who enjoys eating good food
A gourmand all his life, it was only natural that Goren became a professional food critic after culinary school.
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

Word Forms: gourmandism, gourmandize
Related Word: gourmet

hedonist: (n) a person dedicated to the pursuit of pleasure
After working for years as a hospice nurse, Heidi had no respect for the hedonist who lived next door; by only seeking pleasure, he left the more unpleasant activities to caretakers like Heidi.
Word Forms: hedonist (adj.), hedonistic, hedonistically, hedonism, hedonic, hedonically

iconoclast: (n) a person who who attacks cherished ideas or traditional institutions
Many religious leaders accused the author of being an iconoclast for presenting evidence that contrasted with the religion’s long-standing beliefs.
Word Forms: iconoclastic, iconoclastically, iconoclasm

ingenue: (n) an artless, innocent young girl (especially as portrayed on the stage)
The young actress will play the part of the ingenue, an innocent girl who becomes caught up in the plot in Act II.
Related Word: ingenuous

insinuator: (n) a person who gives hints or suggestions in a sly manner
After rumors surfaced of Chad’s cheating on the SAT, Kelly acted as an insinuator and told his parents that most students found the test much more difficult than Chad did.
Word Forms: insinuate, insinuative, insinuatively, insinuatory, insinuatingly, insinuation

interlocutor: (n) a person who takes part in a conversation
At the apartment complex, the two interlocutors continued to debate the merits of television outside my bedroom window until well after midnight.
Word Forms: interlocution, interlocutory, interlocutorily
Related Words: locution, eloquent

layperson: (n) a person who is not a member of the clergy or a particular profession
Doctors need to remember that a layperson cannot understand medical jargon, so they must speak in simple terms.
Word Forms: layman, laywoman

lobbyist: (n) a person who persuades legislators to vote in favor of a specific cause
The environmental company hired several lobbyists to pursue the senators to vote in favor of the energy bill.
Word Forms: lobby (n.), lobbyism

martinet: (n) a person who rigidly demands that rules are followed; a strict disciplinarian
Marty realized that the drill sergeant was a martinet, so his best course of action was to closely follow all the rules.
Word Forms: martinetish, martinetism

matriarch: (n) the female head of a family
As the matriarch of the family, Grandma sat at the head of the Thanksgiving dinner table.
Word Forms: matriarchal, matriarchic, matriarchalism, matriarchy
Antonym Forms: patriarch, patriarchal, patriarchic, patriarchalism, patriarchy
Related Words: ma, maternal

maverick: (n) a person who chooses to be independent in behavior or thought
Even though the other ranchers were branding their cattle, Sam was a maverick who believed he did not need to follow the rules set by his associates.
Word Form: maverick (adj.)

mediator: (n) a person who negotiates or settles disagreements between parties
Megan and Melody brought in a peer mediator to settle their fight over the purple sweater.
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

Word Forms: mediatorship, mediate, mediately, mediateness, mediation
Related Word: medium (n.)

mercenary: (n) a person hired to fight for a country other than his own
During the American Revolution, Great Britain hired thousands of German mercenaries to fight against the colonists.
Word Forms: mercenary (adj.), mercenarily, mercenariness

misanthrope: (n) a person who hates and distrusts mankind
The main character is a bitter misanthrope who learns to trust again through her friendship with the children next door.
Word Forms: misanthropist, misanthropic, misanthropical, misanthropically, misanthropy

miscreant: (n) a person who is evil or villainous
The miscreant came to town with the intention of creating strife and commotion, as he enjoyed watching others argue.
Word Forms: miscreant (adj.), miscreance, miscreancy

miser: (n) a stingy person who lives in miserable conditions in order to save money
The old miser lives in a rat-infested apartment even though he has more than enough money to live in a nice home.
Related Words: miserly, miserliness

missionary: (n) a person who is sent on a religious or charitable mission
During the expansion of the United States, missionaries were sent west to spread Christianity to the native peoples.
Word Forms: missionary (adj.), missioner, missionize
Related Word: mission

narcissist: (n) a person who has excessive love or admiration of himself
Nancy is a narcissist who is unable to love her husband or her children as much as she loves herself.
Word Forms: narcist, narcissism, narcistic, narcissistic, narcissistically

naysayer: (n) a person who always expresses a negative attitude
Although the forecast for the day was good, Nathan was a naysayer and predicted the ceremony would be ruined by rain.
Word Form: naysay

nomad: (n) a person without a permanent home, who wanders from place to place
Norman was a nomad, moving from city to city and finding short-term jobs to fund his travels.
Word Forms: nomadism, nomadic, nomadically, nomadize

obstructionist: (n) a person who purposely blocks progress
Alberta worried that obstructionists would interfere with her environmental bill, ending her efforts to save the eagles.
Word Forms: obstructionistic, obstructionism
Related Words: obstruct, obstruction, obstructive

oracle: (n) a person who can see the future
In the ancient civilization, warriors could consult the oracle to learn their fate in the conflict before going off to war.
Word Forms: oracular, oracularly, oracularity, oracularness
Related Word: orate
pariah: (n) a person who is rejected; an outcast
Pamela became the pariah of the company when he was caught stealing money from his co-workers.
Word Forms: pariahdom, pariahism

patriarch: (n) the male head of a family
As the oldest of the seven, Uncle Pat was the patriarch of the family and thus gave the toasts at all family gatherings.
Word Forms: patriarchal, patriarchic, patriarchalism, patriarchy
Antonym Forms: matriarch, matriarchal, matriarchic, matriarchalism, matriarchy
Related Words: pa, paternal

patron: (n) a customer
The waiter looked forward to noon, when his favorite patron always came in for lunch.
Word Forms: patronal, patronly, patronage, patrondom, patronship, patronize

philanthropist: (n) a person who makes charitable donations intended to increase human well-being
As a young philanthropist, Phillip used to donate his allowance to the homeless shelter.
Word Forms: philanthropy, philanthropic, philanthropical, philanthropically

popularizer: (n) a person who makes something popular with the general public
Edward Lear, the popularizer of the limerick, published his first book of the five-lined poems in 1846.
Word Forms: popularize, popularization
Related Words: popular, popularity

populist: (n) a person who supports the rights and powers of the common people
The candidate is a populist who believes in promoting the causes of the working classes.
Word Forms: populist (adj.), populistic, populism

prig: (n) a person regarded as arrogant and annoying
Prissy was a prig who found fault with the landscaping of all of her neighbors' homes.
Word Forms: priggish, priggishly, priggishness, priggery, priggism

prodigy: (n) a person, often a child, who is extraordinarily gifted or talented
The musical prodigy could play the most complicated Mozart composition on a piano by the time he was five years old.
Related Word: prodigious

proponent: (n) a person who supports a cause; an advocate
The senator, a proponent of alternative fuels, created a bill which would help decrease dependency on oil.
Antonym Form: opponent
Related Words: propone, propose

proprietor: (n) the owner of a business
The proprietor had owned the inn for sixty years and had the honor of serving many celebrity guests over the years.
Word Forms: proprietorial, proprietorially, proprietorship, proprietary
Related Word: property

protégé: (n) a person who receives training, protection, or care from an influential person
The successful businessman chose his niece as a protégé in order to teach her about the family business.
Word Form: protégée

prude: (n) a person who is excessively concerned about proper behavior
Prudence is a prude so it is unlikely that she will be willing to sneak into the neighbor's pool for a late night swim.
Word Forms: prudelike, prudish, prudishly, prudishness, prudery
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

**Pugilist:** (n) a person who fights with his fists; a boxer
The two pugilists entered the ring for the first round of the boxing match.
Word Forms: pugilistic, pugilistically, pugilism

**Pundit:** (n) a critic or expert
The political pundits are employed by newspapers and television networks to evaluate the actions of the President.
Word Forms: punditic, punditically, punditry, punditocracy

**Reactionary:** (n) a person who is extremely conservative; an opponent of progress or liberalism
The congressman was a reactionary who favored the laws of the “good ol’ days,” when there was less gun control and more censorship.
Word Forms: reactionist, reactionism, reactionarism

**Recluse:** (n) a person who withdraws from society to live in seclusion
The recluse lived in a home deep in the forest, far away from the town and its inhabitants, where he preferred to be alone.
Word Forms: recluse (adj.), reclusive, reclusively, reclusiveness, reclusion
Related Words: secluded, seclusion

**Reformer:** (n) a person who favors reform
The school board hired a reformist as the new principal, hoping he could change the negative image of the high school.
Word Forms: reformist (adj.), reformistic, reformism, reform, reformer

**Reviler:** (n) a person who uses abusive language
Reva’s husband was a reviler who constantly criticized her appearance and behavior.
Word Forms: revile, revilement, revilingly
Related Word: vile

**Ruffian:** (n) a tough, violent person
The police were on the lookout for a gang of ruffians who had robbed several people downtown.
Word Forms: ruffianly, ruffianism

**Rumormonger:** (n) a person who spreads rumors and gossip
Rachel was a rumormonger who hoarded gossip and spread rumors about everyone in school.
Related Words: rumor, monger

**Sage:** (n) a person who is very wise
Villagers who have seemingly unsolvable problems often seek the advice of the sage.
Word Forms: sage (adj.), sagely, sagesness
Related Words: sagacious

**savant:** (n) a person who has learned extensive knowledge
When it comes to math, Savannah is a savant; she can solve complicated equations that stump most mathematicians.
Note: In recent times, savant is often used to refer to a person who has diminished mental capabilities while at the same time exhibiting a special intellectual skill or ability. However, the definition here applies to the SAT.

**Scribe:** (n) a journalist or other writer
The police chief was interviewed by a scribe who wanted details about the arrest of the suspect for tomorrow’s story.
Word Forms: scribe (vb.), scribal
Related Words: inscribe, prescribe, describe, scribble

**Sycophant:** (n) a person who flatters others in order to gain personal favor; a brown-noser
Sidney is a sycophant who compliments our English teacher in order to get a better grade on his assignments.
Word Forms: sycophantic, sycophantical, sycophonically, sycophantish, sycophantishly, sycophantism
toady: (n) a person who flatters others in order to gain personal favor; a brown-noser
The professional athlete has several toadies who play to his ego in order to enjoy the perks of being in his entourage.
Word Forms: toady (vb.), toadyish, toadyism

totalitarian: (n) a leader of a government that has total control and authority over the people
The leader of the small country is a totalitarian who has complete control over his people, from the types of cars they can drive to the jobs they can retain.
Word Forms: totalitarian (adj.), totalitarianism, totalitarianist, totalitarianize
Related Words: total, authoritarian

troubadour: (n) a traveling singer
The troubadour traveled from city to city, entertaining people with his folk songs about life on the road.

understudy: (n) an actor able to replace a regular performer when required
The understudy learned the dialogue for three different roles in case any of the three actors could not perform.
Word Form: understudy (vb.)

usurper: (n) a person who wrongfully or illegally seizes and holds the place of another
The usurper overthrew the reigning queen in a bloody rebellion and took power immediately.
Word Forms: usurp, usurpingly, usurpation, usurpatory

utilitarian: (n) a person who believes that the value of something depends on its usefulness
As a strict utilitarian, Mr. Utley had no use for the horse with the limp; even though she was his favorite horse, he would not keep her if she couldn’t help with the plowing.
Word Forms: utilitarian (adj.), utilitarianism
Related Word: utility

utopian: (n) a person who believes (often impractically) in an ideal society achieved through social reform
As a utopian, Eunice believes that she can end homelessness by teaching money management to homeless people.
Word Forms: utopian (adj.), utopia, utopianism, utopianist

virtuoso: (n) a person who has mastered a certain skill or field
Tonight I am attending a free concert in the park that features a young virtuoso on the violin.
Word Forms: virtuoso (adj.), virtuosic, virtuosically, virtuosity
Related Words: virtue, virtuous
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

PowerScore's Top 100 Hard Repeat Offenders

In the survey of previously administered SATs and PSATs, these higher-level vocabulary words appeared frequently.

**abstruse**: (adj) hard to understand
Mr. Abbott tried to teach us how to solve an abstruse math problem, but it was too complicated for us to understand.
Word Forms: abstrusely, abstruseness, abstrusity

**adulation**: (n) excessive admiration
Adele's adulation of the television star began to worry her parents when she started sending him letters every day.
Word Forms: adulate, adulatory, adulator

**alacrity**: (n) liveliness and eagerness
Alaina impressed her new boss by accepting the task with alacrity; she was both eager and excited to get started.
Word Form: alacritous

**ameliorate**: (vb) to make better
Amelia was an outstanding caregiver; she could ameliorate a patient's discomfort just by smiling kindly.
Word Forms: ameliorable, ameliorableness, ameliorant, ameliorative, amelioratory, ameliorator

**anachronistic**: (adj) out of chronological order
Today's announcement about the impending demolition of the baseball stadium is anachronistic; the stadium was razed early last week.
Word Forms: anachronistically, anachrony, anachronic, anachronism, anachronous, anachronously
Related Word: chronological, chronology

**arboreal**: (adj) relating to trees
The emerald tree boa is an arboreal snake; it spends all of its life in the trees of the Amazon rainforest.
Word Forms: arboreally, arboreous
Related Word: arbor

**assiduous**: (adj) constant and attentive
Ashley is an assiduous researcher; she was able to find articles on the poet that even the librarian could not locate.
Word Forms: assiduously, assiduousness, assiduity

**auspicious**: (adj) favorable; fortunate
Austin waited for an auspicious time to ask his father to borrow the car; he finally had his chance on the day that his dad received a sizable raise at work.
Word Forms: auspiciously, auspiciousness

**austere**: (adj) 1. strict; disciplined; serious  2. simple; undecorated
Mr. Aston is the most austerer teacher at school; he does not tolerate any talking nor does he accept late assignments.
Word Forms: austerely, austereness, austerity

**avarice**: (n) extreme greed for material wealth
Avery amassed million-dollar homes, luxury cars, and exquisite jewelry to satisfy her avarice, but still wanted more.
Word Forms: avaricious, avariciously, avariciousness

**banal**: (adj) repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse
The plot of the movie is banal; everything that takes place in this film has happened in a dozen other movies.
Word Forms: banally, banalize, banality
**bombast:** (n) pompous or pretentious talk or writing  
Be sure that your speech isn’t pretentious or inflated, as the audience has no time to listen to bombast.  
Word Forms: bombastic, bombastically, bombaster

**castigate:** (vb) to criticize or punish severely  
Cassie was castigated by her parents and the school principal for her role in the cheating scam.  
Word Forms: castigation, castigative, castigatory, castigator

**cataclysm:** (n) a violent upheaval  
The political uprising against the dictator is a cataclysm that will hopefully result in a more democratic regime.  
Word Forms: cataclysmic, cataclysmically, cataclysmal  
Related Word: catastrophe

**cathartic:** (adj) inducing a release of tense emotions  
Painting was a cathartic exercise for Cathy; through her paintings she was able to release anger and fear.  
Word Forms: cathartically, catharticalness

**clandestine:** (adj) secret  
The school administrators held clandestine meetings about the school uniform policy; they were afraid that if the public knew they were contemplating a new policy, the outcry would squash the issue.  
Word Forms: clandestinely, clandestineness, clandestinity

**conflagration:** (n) a destructive fire  
The fire department determined that the conflagration in the old warehouse was a result of faulty wiring.  
Word Forms: conflagrative, conflagrate, conflagrant

**conscientious:** (adj) characterized by extreme care and great effort  
Connie was the most conscientious student in class; her project was free of mistakes and turned in on time.  
Word Forms: conscientiously, conscientiousness  
Antonym Form: unconscientious  
Related Word: conscience

**contrite:** (adj) feeling guilty and remorseful  
The contrite criminal broke into sobs as he apologized to the victim’s family for the suffering he had caused.  
Word Forms: contritely, contriteness, contrition

**dalliance:** (n) the deliberate act of delaying and playing instead of working  
Dalton’s dalliance at the basketball court kept him from working on the term paper that was due tomorrow.  
Word Forms: dally, dallyingly, dallier  
Related Word: dilly-dally

**decorous:** (adj) proper and dignified  
The decorous host made sure that she had proper table settings; each was arranged correctly for the five-course meal.  
Word Forms: decorously, decorousness  
Antonym Forms: indecorous, indecorously, indecorousness  
Related Word: decorum

**deleterious:** (adj) harmful  
The deleterious effects of cigarette smoking, such as lung cancer, are highlighted in the public service campaign.  
Word Forms: deleteriously, deleteriousness  
Related Word: delete

**denigrate:** (vb) to damage the reputation of  
The candidate hoped to denigrate his opponent’s character by exposing the embezzlement scandal.
Word Forms: denigration, denigrative, denigratory, denigrator

didactic: (adj) educational
The children's book is not only entertaining, but also didactic; the story teaches the dietary habits of marine animals.
Word Forms: didactical, didactically, didacticism, didact
Related Words: autodidactic, autodidact

dilatory: (adj) intending to delay
Dillon asked nearly twenty dilatory questions at the start of class in an attempt to postpone the scheduled math test.
Word Forms: dilatorily, dilatoriness
Related Word: delay

disseminate: (vb) to spread widely
The police hoped the information about the suspect would disseminate quickly; the more people who knew, the better chances of apprehending the wanted man.
Word Forms: dissemination, disseminative, disseminator

ebullient: (adj) extremely excited or enthusiastic
The ebullient child clapped her hands and jumped up and down as she waited to ride the pony at the party.
Word Forms: ebulliently, ebullience

eclectic: (adj) made up of choices from diverse sources
Mrs. Eckert has an eclectic music collection; her albums span from classic jazz to hip hop to disco.
Word Forms: eclectically, eclecticist
Related Word: select

efficacious: (adj) effective
The pest repellent was efficacious in keeping the mosquitoes away; none of the guests were bothered by the bugs.
Word Forms: efficaciously, efficaciousness, efficacy, efficacity
Antonym Forms: inefficacious, inefficaciously, inefficaciousness, inefficacy, inefficacity
Related Words: effect, effective

eminent: (adj) distinguished and prominent
The eminent professor has taught at distinguished colleges, which is why he is such a remarkable addition to the faculty.
Word Forms: eminently, eminence
Note: eminent is often confused with imminent, which means about to occur.

empirical: (adj) resulting from an experiment
As a scientist, Emmie relied on empirical data every day, which is why it was hard for her to trust her intuition.
Word Forms: empirically, empiricalness

enervated: (adj) lacking strength or vigor
After an entire weekend of moving furniture, Enrico was enervated; he would need to rest to get his strength back.
Word Forms: enervate (vb.), enervation, enervative, enervator

enigma: (n) a puzzle
The dog’s escape from the pen is an enigma; no one can figure out how she broke out of the locked enclosure.
Word Forms: enigmata (plural), enigmatic, enigmatical, enigmatically

equanimitiy: (n) steadiness of mind under stress
Eva made an excellent emergency room doctor because she handled trauma with equanimity; she was clear-headed during the most stressful situations.
Word Forms: equanimous, equanimously, equanimousness
Related Word: longanimity

equivocate: (vb) to be deliberately ambiguous or unclear in order to mislead or withhold information
When asked whether there were any arrests, the sheriff equivocated by saying that the suspect has been located.
Word Forms: equivocatingly, equivocation, equivocatory, equivocator
Related Word: equivocal

esoteric: (adj) intended for a select group of people; secret or confidential
Esteban was the member of an esoteric club, whose membership consisted strictly of men over fifty who lived in the city.
Word Forms: esoterically, esotericism, esotericist
Antonym Forms: exoteric, exoterically, exotericism

espouse: (vb) to adopt or marry (such as an idea or cause)
Although Esmerelda had never practiced a formal religion, she espoused her fiancé’s faith in order to join his church.
Word Forms: espousal, espouser
Related Word: spouse

evanescent: (adj) vanishing
Many people believe that youth is evanescent, quickly vanishing before it can be truly appreciated.
Word Forms: evanescently, evanesce, evanescence
Related Word: vanish

exonerate: (vb) to clear from blame
The use of DNA helped exonerate the innocent man; twenty years after he was sent to prison, he was released.
Word Forms: exoneration, exonerative, exonerator

exorbitant: (adj) greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation
I am forced to stop shopping at that grocery store until the owners lower the exorbitant prices on meats and produce.
Word Forms: exorbitantly, exorbitance

exuberant: (adj) overflowing, especially with joy
The young wife was exuberant when her husband returned safely from the military after a year-long tour of duty.
Word Forms: exuberantly, exuberance, exuberate

facetious: (adj) not intended to be taken seriously
Fatima, who hated getting her teeth cleaned, was being facetious when she said, “I love going to the dentist!”
Word Forms: facetiously, facetiousness

fastidious: (adj) giving careful attention to detail; hard to please
Mrs. Foster, my teacher, is a fastidious grader; she deducts points for any error in grammar, punctuation, or spelling.
Word Forms: fastidiously, fastidiousness
Antonym Forms: unfastidious

felicity: (n) pleasing and appropriate style
The book review highlighted both the felicities and the imperfections of the novel.
Word Forms: felicitous, felicitously, felicitousness
Antonym Forms: infelicity, infelicitous, infelicitously

garrulous: (adj) excessively talkative or wordy
The garrulous hairdresser talked the entire time he cut my hair.
Word Forms: garrulously, garrulousness, garrulity
**Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders**

**gratuitous:** (adj) free; given without reason  
On Monday, our supervisor announced that all employees were receiving two gratuitous tickets to this weekend’s concert.  
Word Forms: gratuitously, gratuitousness, gratuity

**gregarious:** (adj) sociable  
Greg is a gregarious student who finds it difficult to avoid socializing during class.  
Word Forms: gregariously, gregariousness  
Antonym Forms: ungregarious

**hackneyed:** (adj) repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse  
Instead of relying on hackneyed clichés in your essay, try to create original metaphors and similes.  
Word Forms: hackney (vb.)

**harangue:** (n) a long, pompous speech  
At the assembly, the principal delivered a harangue on the merits of perfect attendance and good behavior.  
Word Forms: harangue (vb.), harangueful, haranguer

**impervious:** (adj) not capable of being affected  
Ima was impervious to Jack’s insults; nothing he said seemed to affect her.  
Word Forms: imperviously, imperviousness, impervious  
Antonym Forms: pervious, perviously, perviousness

**impugn:** (vb) to attack as false or wrong  
The candidate impugned his opponent’s voting record, proving that she voted against reform she now supported.  
Word Forms: impugnable, impugnability, impugnment, impugner  
Related Word: oppugn

**incongruity:** (n) the quality of disagreeing; being unsuitable and inappropriate  
Inga’s incongruity made it difficult to reason with her; she seemed to find fault with every logical position.  
Word Forms: incongruent, incongruently, incongruen, incongruous, incongruousness  
Antonym Forms: congruity, congruent, congruently, congruence, congruous, congruously, congruousness

**incorrigible:** (adj) incapable of being corrected or punished  
The incorrigible child continued to throw his vegetables even after the mother threatened to send him to his room.  
Word Forms: incorrigibly, incorrigibleness, incorrigibility  
Antonym Forms: corrigible, corrigibly, corrigibleness, corrigibility

**indigenous:** (adj) native to  
Although the flower can now be found all over the eastern United States, it is indigenous to Florida.  
Word Forms: indigenously, indigenousness, indigent, indigene

**ineffable:** (adj) incapable of being put into words  
Effie’s joy at being reunited with her long-lost brother was ineffable; words could not explain her happiness.  
Word Forms: ineffably, ineffableness, ineffability  
Antonym Form: effable

**innocuous:** (adj) harmless  
No one had to be evacuated after the tanker spill, as the gas released was innocuous.  
Word Forms: innocuously, innocuousness, innocuity  
Antonym Forms: nocuous, nocuously, nocuousness  
Related Word: inoculate
insipid: (adj) bland, dull, or uninteresting
When I left for college, the insipid cafeteria food made me miss my father’s home-cooked meals.
Word Forms: insipidly, insipidness, insipidity
Antonym Forms: sipid, sipidity

insolence: (n) rudeness
The headmaster said that insolence would not be tolerated; rude behavior towards a teacher would result in suspension.
Word Forms: insolent (n.), insolently, insolence

intransigent: (adj) refusing to yield or compromise
When it came to Edgar’s hunting trophies, Enid was intransigent; she refused to hang the deer heads on the wall.
Word Forms: intransigent (n.), intransigently, intransigence, intransigency

juxtapose: (vb) to place side by side
When Justin’s picture was juxtaposed with his father’s picture, the resemblance between the two was remarkable.
Word Forms: juxtaposition
Related Word: pose

machination: (n) a crafty plot
The fairy tale follows the machinations of an evil stepsister who is out to steal the prince from the heroine.
Word Forms: machinate, machinator

magnanimous: (adj) noble and generous in spirit
The magnanimous donor has given over ten million dollars to children’s charities in the city.
Word Forms: magnanimously, magnanimousness, magnanimity

malevolent: (adj) evil
The malevolent old man plotted the demise of his neighbor’s barking dog.
Word Forms: malevolently, malevolence, malevolency

malleable: (adj) capable of being shaped or influenced
Mallory worried that her malleable son would learn inappropriate behavior from the older boys he played with at school.
Word Forms: malleably, malleableness, malleability
Antonym Forms: unmalleable, unmalleability

mendacious: (adj) lying, false, or untrue
The mendacious girl said that she didn’t take her mother’s lipstick, but the bright red evidence was all over her face.
Word Forms: mendaciously, mendaciousness, mendacity

meritocracy: (n) a form of social system in which power goes to those with superior abilities
Critics argue that a meritocracy cannot be fairly created, as intelligence and ability are difficult to measure accurately.
Word Form: meritocratic
Related Word: merit

morose: (adj) gloomy
After his girlfriend moved away, Morris became morose and depressed.
Word Forms: morosely, moroseness, morosity

nefarious: (adj) extremely wicked
In the novel, the nefarious character plotted to financially destroy the hero.
Word Forms: nefariously, nefariousness
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

**obdurate:** (adj) stubborn
The obdurate child refused to eat his vegetables and sat at the dinner table with the untouched broccoli until bedtime.
Word Forms: obdurately, obduracy
Related Word: indurate

**obsequious:** (adj) overly flattering or obedient
The new employee was distrusted by his co-workers because of his obsequious behavior; he agreed with everything the boss said and laughed at all of her bad jokes.
Word Forms: obsequiously, obsequiousness, obsequious

**opulent:** (adj) rich and luxurious
The opulent kitchen had marble counter tops and solid gold fixtures.
Word Forms: opulently, opulence, opulency

**ostensible:** (adj) pretended
Austin’s ostensible excuse for missing school was that his grandmother was in the hospital; the real reason, however, was that he went to the beach.
Word Forms: ostensibly, ostensible
Related Word: ostentatious

**pedagogical:** (adj) relating to education or teaching
The course for new teachers taught the pedagogical principal that all children could learn.
Word Forms: pedagogy, pedagogic, pedagogically, pedagogism, pedagogy, pedagogish, pedagogue

**pedantic:** (adj) overly focused on small details while teaching or learning
It was difficult to be Penny’s partner because she was pedantic about recording every single step of the scientific method.
Word Forms: pedantical, pedantically, pedanticalness, pedanticism, pedantism, pedantry, pedant, pedantesque

**perspicacity:** (n) intelligence manifested by being astute
My accountant’s perspicacity saved me thousands of dollars on my tax returns because he found hidden rebates.
Word Forms: perspicacious, perspicaciously, perspicaciousness
Related Words: perspicuity, perspicuous

**petulant:** (adj) easily irritated over small issues
The petulant actress stormed off the set when she discovered that her dressing room did not have bottled water.
Word Forms: petulantly, petulance, petulancy
Related Word: petty

**precocious:** (adj) advanced in development or maturity (especially in mental aptitude)
The precocious little boy was able to solve the algebraic equation without any help from his teacher.
Word Forms: precociously, precociousness, precocity

**pristine:** (adj) pure, clean, or unused
The interior of the old car was in pristine condition; the upholstery was spotless and the equipment worked perfectly.

**proliferate:** (vb) to grow rapidly
The franchise has proliferated; there were just two restaurants ten years ago, but now there are more than two hundred.
Word Form: pristinely

**prosaic:** (adj) dull and lacking excitement
Pam claimed the movie was predictable and prosaic, causing her to fall asleep halfway through.
Word Forms: prosaical, prosaically, prosaicness, prosaicism
querulous: (adj) complaining
Quentin’s querulous tone irritated Nina; he always found something about which to complain.
Word Forms: querulously, querulousness

quiescent: (adj) being quiet or still or inactive
When the mine closed, the once-bustling town became quiescent and forlorn.
Word Forms: quiescently, quiescence, quiescency
Related Word: quiet

rancorous: (adj) showing deep-seated resentment
In the fairy tale, the rancorous stepmother is jealous of the young maiden’s beauty, youth, and innocence.
Word Forms: rancor, rancorously, rancorousness
Related Word: rancid

raucous: (adj) unpleasantly loud and harsh
Rachel’s raucous laughter often drove people away.
Word Forms: raucously, raucousness, raucity

repudiate: (vb) to reject
The celebrity repudiated claims that she had undergone plastic surgery.
Word Forms: repudiable, repudiative, repudiation, repudiatory, repudiator

repugnant: (adj) offensive
The spoiled eggs that had sat in the hot car for several weeks offered the most repugnant smell I had ever experienced.
Word Forms: repugnantly, repugnance, repugnancy

sagacious: (adj) acutely insightful and wise
The sagacious teacher was quickly able to pinpoint Sarah’s learning disability, and thus tailor lessons to better help the child comprehend the material.
Word Forms: sagaciously, sagaciousness, sagacity
Related Word: sage

sanctimonious: (adj) being hypocritically religious or righteous
The principal gave me a sanctimonious lecture about my tardiness, even though he was late to our last two meetings.
Word Forms: sanctimoniously, sanctimoniousness, sanctimony, sanctimonial
Related Words: sanctity, sanctify

sanguine: (adj) confidently optimistic and cheerful
Dr. Sanchez enjoyed working with Sandy, his most sanguine patient; she was always confident that her test results would be good, and if they weren’t, she was optimistic about her treatment.
Word Forms: sanguinely, sanguineness, sanguinity

scintillating: (adj) brilliantly clever or flashy and exciting
The animated movie has been praised for its scintillating dialogue, which is intended more for adults than children.
Word Forms: scintillatingly, scintillate, scintillant, scintillantly, scintillation

sedulous: (adj) marked by care and persistent effort
Siera was impressed by Wayne’s sedulous pursuit of a date; every day for the last three weeks, he had sent her a flower.
Word Forms: sedulously, sedulousness, sedulity

solicitous: (adj) anxious, eager, or worried
The solicitous applicant was forced to wait three months before he received a response from the college.
Word Forms: solicitously, solicitousness
spurious: (adj) false; not legitimate
The applicant made spurious claims about attending a prestigious private school, but when the college learned the truth, they denied his application.
Word Forms: spuriously, spuriousness

subterfuge: (n) something intended to deceive
Susan used the subterfuge of homework to avoid going to her grandmother’s house with the rest of her family.
Related Word: fugitive

surreptitious: (adj) stealthy and secret
Before the colonists declared independence, they held a series of surreptitious meetings to secretly discuss their plan.
Word Forms: surreptitiously, surreptitiousness

tacit: (adj) unspoken and implied
Although she never commented on our performance, the principal gave her tacit approval of our band by asking us to play at the next school function.
Word Forms: tacitly, tacitness
Related Word: taciturn

tenuous: (adj) very thin; lacking substance
“The dog ate my homework,” is a tenuous excuse that no teacher will believe.
Word Forms: tenuously, tenuousness, tenuity

truculence: (n) brutal cruelty and aggressiveness
After the fight in school, Truman was expelled; the school board said that his truculence was a danger to the others.
Word Forms: truculent, truculently, truculency

tumultuous: (adj) characterized by unrest, commotion, or agitation
Tommy’s and Gina’s relationship had always been tumultuous; they often broke up after explosive arguments, only to get back together hours later.
Word Forms: tumultuously, tumultuousness, tumult, tumultuary

vociferous: (adj) marked by loud outcry
When the newspaper ran an article on the benefits of a dress code, there were vociferous complaints from the students.
Word Forms: vociferously, vociferousness, vociferate, vociferation, vociferant, vociferator
Related Word: voice
PowerScore's Top 100 Extreme Repeat Offenders

In the survey of previously administered SATs and PSATs, these vocabulary words were among the most difficult.

**abstemious**: (adj) sparing in consumption, especially of food and drink
Abby’s emaciated figure was the result of her abstemious lifestyle; she never ate breakfast or lunch, and rarely ate dinner.
Word Forms: abstemiously, abstemiousness
Related Word: abstinent

**amalgamation**: (n) a combination
Amy’s new dance routine is an amalgamation of styles, including ballet and jazz.
Word Forms: amalgam, amalgamate, amalgamable, amalgamative, amalgamator

**analgesic**: (adj) capable of relieving pain
Although Andy was in the most painful stages of the disease, his daughter’s visit was analgesic; he was so happy to see her that his pain was significantly reduced.
Word Forms: analgesic (n.), analgetic
Related Word: analgesia

**anthropocentrism**: (n) theory that regards humans as the central element of the universe
People who support the theory of anthropocentrism have a difficult time believing in intelligent life on other planets.
Word Forms: anthropocentric, anthropocentrically, anthropocentricity
Related Word: anthropology

**avuncular**: (adj) resembling an uncle in kindness or indulgence
Mr. Avery developed an avuncular affection for his neighbor’s children after having spent so many years next door.
Word Forms: avuncularly, avuncularity
Related Word: uncle

**bromide**: (n) a common saying
As true as the old bromides are, such as “It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all,” none of them are much comfort to a newly-broken heart.
Word Forms: bromidic, bromidically

**byzantine**: (adj) highly complex or intricate
In a home loan, the byzantine language and unfamiliar terminology can be intimidating to a first-time home buyer.

**cacophony**: (n) harsh, jarring sound
On the first day of school, the band’s output was a cacophony of trumpets and horns; however, by the end of the year, the horn section blended well with the rest of the ensemble.
Word Forms: cacophonous, cacophonously

**calumny**: (n) a false statement intended to harm someone’s reputation
Callie delivered the calumny about Brittany to an audience in the cafeteria; she hoped the lie would keep the other girl from becoming Prom queen.
Word Forms: calumniate, calumniation, calumnious, calumniately, calumniatory, calumniator

**canonical**: (adj) authorized or accepted
Pluto is no longer a canonical planet; due to its small mass, it was reclassified as a “dwarf planet” in 2006.
Word Forms: canonically, canon, canonic
Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders

Antonym Forms: uncanonical, uncanonically

chicanery: (n) the use of tricks to deceive someone
The con artist relied on chicanery to get his victims to reveal their Social Security numbers; he promised them a tropical vacation for simply listing their personal information.
Word Forms: chicane, chicaner

churlish: (adj) rude and vulgar
Cheryl did not think the man’s churlish jokes were appropriate, and asked that he apologize for his vulgarity.
Word Forms: churlishly, churlishness, churl

circumlocution: (n) an indirect way of expressing something
Sergio hoped that his circumlocution would stall the reporters long enough to think of a better answer to their question.
Word Forms: circumlocutory, circumlocutorily, circumlocutional, circumlocutionary

concomitant: (adj) existing or occurring at the same time
Building a home can be an exciting process, but it also has concomitant stress associated with difficult decisions.
Word Forms: concomitant (n.), concomitantly, concomitance

corpulent: (adj) excessively fat
The corpulent man purchased two adjacent airline seats in order to have a more comfortable flight.
Word Forms: corpulently, corpulence, corpulency

cumbersome: (adj) clumsy, awkward, and heavy
The old television set was cumbersome, making it difficult to move into the other room.
Word Forms: cumbersomely, cumbersomeness
Related Words: cumber, encumber

demarcate: (vb) to set, mark, or draw the boundaries of something
The twins demarcated the room after their fight; Demarcus was only allowed access to the right side of their room, while Demonte had to stay on the left side.
Word Forms: demarcation, demarcator

disenfranchise: (vb) to deprive of voting rights
American citizens who are convicted of a felony are disenfranchised, losing their right to vote in any election.
Word Forms: disenfranchisement, disfranchise
Antonym Forms: enfranchise, franchise

draconian: (adj) harsh and severe
In the novel, the king used draconian forms of punishment—such as torture or starvation—on any one caught plotting against the monarchy.
Word Forms: draconic, draconically

egalitarian: (adj) characterized by the belief in equal rights for all people
Edgar’s egalitarian beliefs made him an excellent husband; he divided the housework equally, helping his wife with cooking, cleaning, and childcare.
Word Forms: egalitarian (n.), egalitarianism, egality
Related Word: equality

egregious: (adj) outrageously bad or offensive
Edie made the egregious mistake of asking the slightly overweight woman if she were expecting a baby.
Word Forms: egregiously, egregiousness
**emollient**: (n) having a softening or soothing effect, especially to the skin
Emmaline applied an emollient lotion to the rough calluses on her hands.
Word Forms: emollience

**ephemeral**: (adj) lasting a very short time
Effie's sadness over her breakup is ephemeral; she will quickly find a new boyfriend to help her forget the last.
Word Forms: ephemeral (n.), ephemeral, ephemeralness, ephemerality, ephemeros, ephemeron

**epistolary**: (adj) relating to letters
The couple has an epistolary relationship; although they have never met, they communicate regularly through letters.
Word Forms: epistle, epistolatory, epistolic, epistolical, epistolize, epistoler, epistolist

**erudition**: (n) knowledge gained from study
Erik's erudition is sure to help him win a lot of money on the trivia-based quiz show.
Word Forms: eruditional, erudite, eruditely, eruditeness

**exculpate**: (vb) to clear from blame
The arson suspect was exculpated when forensics revealed that the fire had been the result of faulty wiring.
Word Forms: exculpable, exculpation, exculpatory
Related Words: culpable, culprit
Antonym Forms: inculpate, inculpable, inculpation, inculpably, inculpatory, inculpability, inculpableness

**exegesis**: (n) an explanation or critical interpretation (especially of the Bible)
The minister is delivering an exegesis on the first two books of the Bible, where he will interpret the lessons from Genesis and Exodus and apply them to modern times.
Word Forms: exegetic, exegetical, exegetically, exegete, exegetist

**flotsam**: (n) 1. floating wreckage  2. useless, discarded items
In the filthy city, the gullies are filled with flotsam that finds its way into the sewer after a heavy rain.
Related Word: jetsam
Note: Flotsam originally referred to the floating wreckage of a boat, while jetsam referred to the items discarded by a ship in distress. Both are loosely used today to refer to useless, discarded items.

**foible**: (n) a minor flaw or weakness of character
Foster's only foible is his inability to make a decision.
Related Word: feeble

**fomentation**: (n) a push for trouble or rebellion
The juniors would not have participated in skip day if it weren’t for the fomentation of their senior friends.
Word Forms: foment, fomenter

**foppish**: (adj) affecting extreme elegance in dress and manner
The foppish fellow wore a three piece suit and a top hat to the wedding.
Word Forms: foppishly, foppishness, foppery, fop

**gustatory**: (adj) relating to the sense of taste
The restaurant provides a gustatory experience by offering skewers of beef, pork, and poultry marinated in exotic oils.
Word Forms: gustatorily, gustation, gustative, gustativeness

**halcyon**: (adj) joyful, peaceful, or prosperous
During the company's halcyon days, the employees were making higher than average wages and enjoying benefits unmatched by other corporations.
Word Forms: halcyonian, halcyonic
**Vocabulary: Repeat Offenders**

**histrionic**: (adj) overly dramatic
The histrionic patient pretended to faint when he saw the needle used for the vaccination.
Word Forms: histrionic (n.), histrionics, histronical, histriconically

**ignominious**: (adj) disgraceful and shameful
Izzy’s ignominious crime brought shame and embarrassment to her entire family.
Word Forms: ignominiously, ignominiousness, ignominy

**impious**: (adj) lacking respect or devotion, usually for a god or religion
Imogene had a difficult time convincing her impious husband to attend church with the family.
Word Forms: impiously, impiousness
Antonym Forms: pious, piously, piousness

**impute**: (vb) to attribute or credit to
The doctors imputed her sudden weight loss to a problem with her thyroid gland.
Word Forms: imputable, imputably, imputative, imputatively, imputativeness, imputedly, imputer
Related Word: putative

**inchoate**: (adj) in the early stages of development
Your inchoate plan for the fund-raiser has a lot of potential, but we need to discuss some details before moving forward.
Word Forms: inchoately, inchoateness, inchoation, inchoative, inchoatively

**inimical**: (adj) harmful or hostile
Oscar cast an inimical sneer at Melissa when she took credit for his idea.
Word Forms: inimically, inimicalness, inimicality, inimicable
Related Word: enemy

**insidious**: (adj) intended to entrap, deceive, or harm
Sid devised an insidious plan to get the witness to admit he hadn’t really witnessed the crime.
Word Forms: insidiously, insidiousness

**invidious**: (adj) intended to hurt, offend, or discriminate
Ivan’s invidious remarks to his wife shocked their guests; they had no idea that he could be so cruel.
Word Forms: invidiously, invidiousness

**irascible**: (adj) quickly aroused to anger
The irascible old lady caused a scene at the restaurant by yelling at the manager when her hamburger was overcooked.
Word Forms: irascibly, irascibleness, irascibility
Related Word: ire

**lexicography**: (n) he act of writing dictionaries
Noah Webster’s career in lexicography developed from his dissatisfaction with British school books; he wrote his first dictionary to help his elementary students learn to spell.
Word Forms: lexicographic, lexicographical, lexicographically, lexicographer
Related Words: lexicon, dyslexic

**loquacious**: (adj) extremely talkative
Lance was disappointed in his loquacious date; she talked so much that she never had time to listen to any of his stories.
Word Forms: loquaciously, loquaciousness, loquacity
Related Words: eloquent, ventriloquist, soliloquy

**lugubrious**: (adj) excessively mournful; sad and gloomy
Lucy’s lugubrious behavior has started to annoy her friends; it has been two months since her breakup with Josh, but she
is still as gloomy as if it had happened yesterday.
Word Forms: lugubriously, lugubriousness, lugubriosity

**malediction**: (n) a curse
The members of the team feared that the old woman had placed a malediction upon their season because they hadn’t won a game since accidentally shattering her windshield with a foul ball.
Word Forms: maledictive, maledictory, maledict
Antonym Forms: benediction, benedictive, benedictory
Related Words: diction, dictate, dictionary

**malodorous**: (adj) having an unpleasant smell
My malodorous shoe smelled so terrible that my mom threw it away.
Word Forms: malodorously, malodorousness
Related Words: odor, odorously

**melange**: (n) a mixture
Melanie’s walls are decorated with a mélange of surfing posters and beach photographs.

**mendicant**: (adj) begging
In the poverty-stricken country, mendicant children approach tourists to ask for food and money.
Word Forms: mendicancy, mendicity

**morass**: (n) 1. a swamp 2. a difficult situation
After Morgan accepted Jill’s invitation to the dance, he found himself in a morass; his friend offered him a ticket to a concert that he really wanted to see, but it happened to be on the same night as the dance.

**moratorium**: (n) suspension of an ongoing activity
When many students were late returning from lunch, the principal placed a moratorium on off-campus lunch privileges.
Word Forms: moratory

**munificent**: (adj) very generous
The munificent donor gave the hospital enough money to build a specialized center for heart patients.
Word Forms: munificently, munificentness, munificence

**myopic**: (adj) lacking long-term vision
Maya has a myopic outlook when it comes to investment; she complains about the money she is investing now, rather than focusing on the money she will make in the future.
Word Forms: myopically, myopia

**nascent**: (adj) being born or beginning
The nascent hockey team did not have much experience, as this was their first year in the league.
Word Forms: nascence, nascency

**neophyte**: (n) a beginner
Neil is a neophyte at downhill skiing, so he should stick to the smaller hills today.
Word Forms: neophytic, neophytish, neophytism

**nihilism**: (n) belief in the rejection of rules and the destruction of social and political order
During the rebellion, the followers of nihilism were the first to break the laws in the city.
Word Forms: nihilistic, nihilistically, nihility, nihilist

**obfuscate**: (vb) to confuse or make unclear
If a solution to a math question requires units to be in inches, the test makers may obfuscate the question by using feet.

Word Forms: obfuscatory, obfuscation

**obstreperous:** (adj) noisily defiant or aggressive
The obstreperous students crowded the school board meeting to protest the new dress code.

Word Forms: obstreperously, obstreperousness, obstreperosity

**panacea:** (n) a cure for all diseases, or a solution to all problems
The manager believed the new software was a panacea for all of the company’s computer problems, but Pam was skeptical of its ability to improve the entire system.

Word Form: panacean

**parsimonious:** (adj) extremely reluctant to spend money; frugal and stingy
The parsimonious woman told her grandchildren that the gumballs in the candy machine were too expensive.

Word Forms: parsimoniously, parsimoniousness, parsimony

**paucity:** (n) an insufficient quantity or number
Pam realized there was a paucity of hamburger buns.

**penurious:** (adj) extremely reluctant to spend money; stingy and frugal or extremely poor
The penurious old man refused to donate his spare change to the charity.

Word Forms: penuriously, penuriousness, penury

**perfidious:** (adj) tending to betray
The perfidious soldier was selling classified secrets to the army’s enemies.

Word Forms: perfidiously, perfidiousness, perfidy

**pernicious:** (adj) exceedingly harmful
The pernicious rumor could ruin several lives if permitted to spread.

Word Forms: perniciously, perniciousness

**perquisite:** (n) a payment or benefit in addition to one’s regular pay
While working at the marina, my perquisites included free boat storage, a discount at the tackle shop, and daily tips.

**picayune:** (adj) small and of little importance
The man is a fool to let a picayune argument destroy his friendship with his neighbor.

Word Forms: picayunish, picayunishly, picayunishness

**polyglot:** (adj) able to speak, read, or write in many languages
The polyglot woman was an asset to the company; she could speak with customers in Japan, Germany, Spain, and Italy.

Word Forms: polyglot (n.), polyglotism
Related Word: monoglot

**potentate:** (n) a powerful ruler
The potentate was born into the power of the monarchy; his family had ruled the country for over six hundred years.

Related Word: potent

**progenitor:** (n) a direct ancestor or originator
Although dogs now come in all shapes, sizes, and temperaments, the progenitor of their species was the wild wolf.

Word Forms: progenitorial, progenitorship
Related Word: genitor
**proletarian** (adj) of the working class
Education is an important proletarian value; working class parents believe that a college degree will offer their children many more career choices.
Word Forms: proletarian (n.), proletarianly, proletarianness, proletarianism, proletary, proletariat

**proselytize** (vb) to convert someone to another belief, religion, party, or cause
Prewitt spent the summer proselytizing for the governor’s re-election campaign.

**pugnacious** (adj) tending to quarrel or fight easily
Paul cannot walk his pugnacious dog in the park because she always starts fights with the other dogs.
Word Forms: pugnaciously, pugnaciousness, pugnacity
Related Word: pugilistic

**punctilious** (adj) marked by precise accordance with details
Mr. Putnam is punctilious about punctuation; all of his students must correctly use periods, commas, and semicolons.
Word Forms: punctiliously, punctiliousness, punctilio
Related Word: punctual

**quixotic** (adj) not sensible about practical matters; idealistic and unrealistic
I let Quincy make his quixotic plans for our summer vacation; he would soon realize that his itinerary was too expensive and unrealistic.
Word Forms: quixotical, quixotically, quixotism, quixote
Related Name: Don Quixote

**raiment** (n) clothes
Raymond brought a change of raiment with him so that he could shower and dress after basketball practice.
Related Word: array

**recalcitrant** (adj) stubbornly resistant to authority or control
The recalcitrant protesters were not fazed by the presence of the campus security officer, and only a handful of them disbanded when the police arrived.
Word Forms: recalcitrant (n.), recalcitrance, recalcitrancy, recalcitrate, recalcitation

**remuneration** (n) payment
Each of the workers received remuneration for helping Remy paint his house.
Word Forms: remunerate, remunerable, remunerability, remunerably, remunerative, remunerativeness, remuneratory, remunerator

**rhapsodize** (vb) to talk with great enthusiasm
The saleswoman rhapsodized about the benefits of her company’s product.
Word Forms: rhapsody, rhapsodic, rhapsodical, rhapsodically, rhapsodist

**schism** (n) division of a group into opposing factions
The disagreement in the teacher’s lounge created two schisms in the school: teachers who approved of the rule change, and those who opposed it.
Word Forms: schismatic, schismatically, schismaticalness, schismatize, schismatic
Antonym Form: schismless

**sentient** (adj) experiencing sense perception and consciousness
In the film, the robot becomes sentient, experiencing human emotions and senses.
Word Forms: sentiently, sentience, sentiency
Antonym Forms: insentient, insentience, insentiency
sibilant: (adj) having a hissing sound
The patient’s respiration was weak and sibilant, the result of smoking for so many years.
Word Forms: sibilantly, sibilance, sibilancy

somnolent: (adj) sleepy or drowsy
The somnolent truck driver had been awake all night and was anxious to find a rest area so she could sleep.
Word Forms: somnolently, somnolence, somnolency, somnolescent
Antonym Forms: insomnia, insomnolent, insomnolently, insomnolence, insomnolency

sonorous: (adj) full and loud and deep, as a sound
The sound from the sonorous bell echoed throughout the cathedral.
Word Forms: sonorously, sonorousness, sonority
Antonym Form: insonorous

sophistry: (n) a false argument meant to trick someone
The mayor used sophistry to trick most of the town residents into believing that the property tax increase was necessary.
Word Forms: sophism, sophist, sophister

soporific: (adj) tending to make sleepy or drowsy
Sophie sang the soporific lullaby to help her young daughter fall asleep.
Word Forms: soporifically, soporiferous, soporiferously, soporiferousness
Related Words: soporose, soporous

specious: (adj) 1. plausible but false 2. deceptively pleasing
The merits of the diet are specious; while we want to believe we can eat unlimited protein, there are many health risks associated with the high-cholesterol plan.
Word Forms: speciously, speciousness, speciosity

stevedore: (n) a laborer who loads and unloads vessels in a port
Before the ship left port, the stevedores loaded it with nearly four tons of food and supplies for the long voyage.
Word Form: stevedore (vb.)

stricture: (n) a criticism
The film critic made several strictures about the movie’s poor dialogue.
Word Form: strictured

stultify: (vb) to make one appear foolish, stupid, or useless
The high school student stultified herself by insisting that Pittsburgh was in Tennessee.
Word Forms: stultifyingly, stultification, stultifier

supercilious: (adj) arrogantly disdainful
Sue, who always wore designer clothes, glanced at my generic shoes with a supercilious sneer.
Word Forms: superciliously, superciliusness

temerity: (n) fearless daring
Tim jumped from the plane with temerity; he seemed so fearless and relaxed that it was difficult to tell that this was his first skydiving experience.
Word Forms: temerarious, temerariously, temerariousness

tinder: (pos) easily combustible material used for starting a fire
The scout leader found dried grass and dried leaves to use as tinder when starting the camp fire.
Word Forms: tindery
Related Word: tinderbox
**treacly:** (adj) overly sweet or sentimental
The movie is treacly, with several emotional scenes; it should be viewed with a box of tissues instead of a box of popcorn.
Word Forms: treacle

**truncated:** (adj) shortened by cutting off a part
The author published a truncated version of the original novel, as he knew most people would not want to read a book with so many pages.
Word Forms: truncate, truncately, truncation
Related Word: trunk

**turpitude:** (n) vile, shameful behavior
In the play, the character’s turpitude exceeds the villainous behavior exhibited by typical antagonists.

**unctuous:** (adj) unpleasantly and excessively suave
The unctuous salesman winked at the ladies and flashed his college football ring at the men; ironically, his “charm” chased most customers away.
Word Forms: unctuously, unctuousness, unctuosity

**vainglorious:** (adj) feeling excessive self-importance or pride for one’s own accomplishments
The vainglorious actor brushed aside the reporter’s question about the charity event in order to talk about the oscar he won.
Word Forms: vaingloriously, vaingloriousness, vainglory
Related Word: vain:

**verisimilitude:** (n) the appearance of truth; the quality of seeming to be true
Even though the movie was based on a true story, the film lacked verisimilitude.
Word Forms: verisimilitudinous, verisimilar, verisimilarly
Related Words: veracity, similitude

**vitiate:** (vb) to make imperfect; to corrupt
The king was vitiated by power; soon after his coronation, he began to abuse his subjects and destroy the fair laws his father had enacted.
Word Forms: vitiable, vitiation, vitiator

**vitriolic:** (adj) harsh or corrosive in tone
The orchestra teacher’s vitriolic criticism stung Victoria; she had practiced all week only to be harshly critiqued in front of the entire class.
Word Forms: vitriolically, vitriol