**Frequently Assessed SAT Vocabulary**

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| **Word** | **Definition** | **Example Sentence** |
| Abate | *v.* to become less active, less intense, or less in amount | As I began my speech, my feelings of nervousness quickly **abated.** |
| Abstract | *adj.* existing purely in the mind; not representing actual reality | Julie had trouble understanding the appeal of the **abstract** painting. |
| Abysmal | *adj.* extremely bad | I got an **abysmal** grade on my research paper! |
| Accordingly | *adv.* in accordance with | All students must behave **accordingly.** |
| Acquisition | *n.* the act of gaining a skill or possession of something | Language **acquisition** is easier for kids than it is for adults. |
| Adapt | *v.* to make suit a new purpose  *v.* to accommodate oneself to a new condition, setting, or situation | The US has **adapted** many foreign foods to better suit the tastes of Americans.  Dogs are known for their ability to quickly **adapt** to their environments. |
| Adept | *adj.* having knowledge or skill (usu. in a particular area) | Beth loves playing the piano, but she’s especially **adept** at the violin. |
| Adequate | *adj.* having sufficient qualifications to meet a specific task or purpose | Though his resume was **adequate,** the company doubted whether he’d be a good fit. |
| Advent | *n.* the arrival or creation of something (usu. historic) | The world has never been the same since the **advent** of the light bulb. |
| Adversarial | *adj.* relating to hostile opposition | An **adversarial** attitude will make you many enemies in life. |
| Advocate | *n.*someone who promotes or defends something  *v.* to defend or promote something (usu. a belief, theory, opinion, etc.) | I am an **advocate** for free higher education.  Environmental protesters often**advocate**for cleaner energy practices. |
| Aesthetic | *adj.* relating to beauty or refined taste | The **aesthetic** decorations at the wedding reception made you feel as if you were a character in a fairy tale. |
| Afford | *v.* to be able to buy  *v.* to be able to spare | He’s saving money so he can **afford** to buy a new car.  I can’t **afford** to lose any more pencils! |
| Agitate | *v.* to promote something (usu. a cause) | They’re **agitating** for better health care. |
| Allow | *v.* to permit or consent to | US law **allows** citizens to speak freely. |
| Allude | *v.* to make a secretive mention of something | She **alluded** to the problem at hand but didn’t say anything more about it. |
| Altercation | *n.* a noisy argument or confrontation | Greg got into an **altercation** with a stranger at the bar. |
| Ambiguous | *adj.* unclear or vague in meaning | Her **ambiguous** statement made me question whether she could be trusted. |
| Ambitious | *adj.* having a powerful desire for success or achievement | Penny is so **ambitious,** she wants to be president someday. |
| Ambivalence | *n.* the state of being uncertain or stuck between two or more options | His **ambivalence** prevented him from immediately signing the contract. |
| Analogous | *adj.* similar but not identical | Green onions are considered **analogous** to spring onions. |
| Annihilate | *v.* to destroy or cause devastating destruction | The dictator sent orders to **annihilate** the group of rebels. |
| Anomaly | *n.* something different from the norm | This result is an **anomaly** and very rarely happens. |
| Anticipate | *v.* assume to be likely to happen | The party was just as fun as I had **anticipated** it would be. |
| Antipathy | *n.* a strong feeling of dislike | Her**antipathy** toward the professor was obvious: she rolled her eyes whenever he entered the classroom. |
| Apex | *n.* the highest point of something | The spring play was the **apex** of our school year. |
| Apprehension | *n.* fearful expectation of something | Her **apprehension** to leave her house resulted in her missing the train. |
| Articulate | *v.* to clearly express in words | She **articulated** her opinion on the price of the house. |
| Artificial | *adj.* something made; not occurring naturally | Many candies use**artificial** flavors to make them taste fruity. |
| Assertion | *n.* a strong declaration | His **assertion** that sharks are mammals made everyone laugh. |
| Austere | *adj.* extremely plain  *adj.* stern and forbidding  *adj.* relating to self-denial | He lived in a small, **austere** cabin in the middle of the woods.  My boss had an **austere** expression on her face.  An **austere** lifestyle, like that of monks, isn’t for everybody. |
| Authenticity | *n.* the quality of being real and true instead of fake and contrived | The police officer doubted the **authenticity**of the suspect’s story. |
| Avenue | *n.* an intangible path or approach to something | The company has decided to pursue other **avenues.** |
| Avid | *adj.* actively interested in or enthusiastic about something | Gerald is an **avid** soccer fan. |
| Basic | *adj.* relating to the foundation or basis of something | You have to start with **basic** Russian before you can move on to the advanced level. |
| Bear | *v.* to have as a characteristic  *v.* to have (a child)  *v.* to bring forth  *v.* to put up with | She **bears** a strong resemblance to your mother.  Judy will**bear** her first child last year.  My garden is going to **bear** pumpkins this year.  I can’t **bear** her complaining any longer! |
| Benevolent | *adj.*kind, generous | Many cultures believe in**benevolent** spirits. |
| Bias | *n.* a preconception that prevents objectivity | It’s important to avoid **bias** when investigating a crime. |
| Bittersweet | *adj.* tinged with a feeling of sadness | The ending of the romance movie was **bittersweet.** |
| Bolster | *v.* to support, strengthen, or fortify | If we work together, we should be able to lift and then**bolster** the couch. |
| Boost | *n.*an increase or growth  *v.* to increase or make grow | The **boost** in profits was a welcome change.  In order to **boost** profits, you need to cater to your customers. |
| Brawl | *n.* an intense, loud fight  *v.* to fight loudly and disruptively | A **brawl** broke out at school today after one student accused another of cheating.  The two students **brawled** for an hour. |
| Brevity | *n.* the quality of being brief or terse | The **brevity** of their time together made it all the more romantic. |
| Candid | *adj.*direct, blunt | Josh is**candid** about his desire to become an actor. |
| Candor | *n.* the trait of being honest and frank | I admire her **candor,** especially when nobody else bothers to speak up. |
| Capitalize | *v.* to use to your advantage | I’d like to**capitalize** on your math skills by having your work the cash register. |
| Capture | *v.* to trap or take possession of  *v.* to successfully represent or imitate  *v.* to captivate, mesmerize  *v.* to catch or seize | The spy was **captured** by the enemy.  Your painting beautifully **captures** the ephemerality of life.  I was **captured** by her beauty.  The cops **captured** the criminal three days after the incident. |
| Civic | *adj.* relating to the city or citizens | Voting is a**civic** duty. |
| Clinical | *adj.* emotionally unattached (usu. used in medical or scientific setting) | Her **clinical** approach to situations allows her to handle them more effectively. |
| Clout | *n.* special advantage or power | Children of rich and famous people often believe they have a lot of **clout.** |
| Coarse | *adj.* indicating a rough texture  *adj.* lacking refinement or sophistication | The horse’s mane was **coarse,** as if it had never been washed.  The queen’s **coarse** way of speaking surprised the other members of royalty. |
| Coincide | *v.* to happen at the same time | It wasn’t until after I booked my ticket that I realized the concert **coincided** with my finals. |
| Commission | *n.* the use of payment to request something (e.g., a service or product) | This painting was **commissioned** by a rich merchant in 1589. |
| Comparable | *adj.* able to be compared | This novel is **comparable** to *Huckleberry Finn.* |
| Competent | *adj.* sufficiently qualified | We need to hire a **competent** web developer to create a good website for our company. |
| Complacent | *adj.* satisfied, with no desire to change or improve | Though he had never won any awards or even been published, he was**complacent**with his life as a poet. |
| Complement | *v.* to make perfect or complete | This wine perfectly **complements** this platter of gourmet cheese. |
| Concede | *v.* to be forced to agree or surrender  *v.* to admit to a transgression | With no chance of winning the battle, the army at last **conceded.**  Dan **conceded** to pranking his sister. |
| Conceive | *v.*to imagine or come up with | The plan to build the city was originally **conceived** in the early 1900s. |
| Condone | *v. t*o overlook, approve, or allow | She couldn't **condone** her daughter's rebellious behavior. |
| Conducive | *adj.* able to bring about or be suitable for | The noisy students hardly made the campus library **conducive** to studying. |
| Conduct | *v.* to control or manage  *v.* to behave a certain way | The group **conducted** their research abroad last year.  Be sure to **conduct** yourself accordingly. |
| Confide | *v.* to share something secretive with someone | She **confided** all of her biggest secrets in her best friend. |
| Confine | *v.* to put limits on; to restrict | We are going to **confine** the use of this drinking fountain. |
| Consensus | *n.* overall agreement | After weeks of debating, the panel finally came to a **consensus.** |
| Constitute | *v.* to form or compose (part of) something | The desire for equality **constituted** the civil rights movement. |
| Contemplate | *v.* to think deeply about | She **contemplated** telling her teacher about the cheating student. |
| Contend | *v.* to maintain or assert (an opinion) | The president **contends** that the US government will not negotiate with terrorists. |
| Contradict | *v.* to be in contrast with | The camera footage **contradicts** his alibi. |
| Controversial | *adj.* highly debatable and causing contention | Millions of viewers watched the **controversial** debate take place. |
| Conventional | *adj.* abiding by accepted standards | She lives a **conventional** life in the suburbs. |
| Convey | *v.* to pass on or transfer (information) | I have trouble **conveying** my thoughts in French. |
| Conviction | *n.*a firm belief in something | Her religious **convictions** prevent her from eating meat. |
| Corroborate | *v.* to provide evidence for; to back up (a claim) | The note signed by her father **corroborates**her claim that she was absent from class that day. |
| Counteract | *v.* to work in opposition to | This ingredient seems to **counteract** the other ones. |
| Counterargument | *n.* an argument used to criticize or dismantle another argument | Make sure to include a **counterargument**in your essay so that you can show you’ve considered the topic from all perspectives. |
| Counterproductive | *adj.* hindering the achievement of a goal | Bill’s idea to take a shortcut was ultimately **counterproductive:** it took us twice as long to get to the train station. |
| Culmination | *n.* the final act or climax | The **culmination** of the performance was unforgettable. |
| Cultivate | *v.* to foster the growth of | Teachers don’t just pass on new information to students—they**cultivate** their academic potential. |
| Decree | *v.* to declare formally and with authority | The president **decreed** that Halloween would henceforth be a national holiday. |
| Deference | *n.* respect; regard | Her **deference** to the elderly makes her the perfect candidate for an internship at the retirement center. |
| Deficient | *adj.* not enough in degree or amount | I feel as though the sources for my paper are **deficient.** |
| Demonstrate | *v.* to do as an example  *v.* gives evidence for | Could you **demonstrate** the dance move for me?  This book’s use of words such as “grim” and “bleak” **demonstrates** the author’s mournful tone. |
| Demur | *v.*to object to | She **demurred** at my request to transfer to a different department. |
| Deplete | *v.* to (over)use over time (usu. resources) | The lost campers quickly**depleted** their supply of food. |
| Desolate | *adj.*bare, barren, empty | The moon is one giant, **desolate** landscape. |
| Devise | *v.* to come up with (a plan) | Lana**devised** a plan to make herself famous. |
| Dilemma | *n.* a problem, usually requiring a choice between two options | The main **dilemma** is whether to pay for a commercial or not. |
| Diligence | *n.* conscientiousness; the quality of being committed to a task | **Diligence** and confidence will get you far in life. |
| Diminish | *v.* to become smaller in scope or degree | The itchiness of mosquito bites usually starts to **diminish** after a few days. |
| Dire | *adj.* hopeless and dangerous or fearful | When the police didn’t explain what was happening right away, Jane knew that the situation must be **dire.** |
| Discord | *n.*disagreement | Disputes over money caused intense **discord**in the family. |
| Disdain | *n.* a lack of respect and strong dislike (toward something or someone) | He looked at me with such **disdain** that I immediately knew the job wouldn’t work out. |
| Dismay | *n.* hopelessness, stress, or consternation  *v.* to fill with woe or apprehension | To Nick’s **dismay,** he got an F on the test.  Many were **dismayed** by the town’s implementation of metered parking. |
| Disparage | *v.*to belittle or speak down to | A good boss is stern but never **disparages**his or her employees. |
| Dispatch | *v.* to send off a message or messenger | The mother **dispatched** her daughter to their neighbor’s house. |
| Diversification | *n.* the act of becoming diverse | Lately, there’s been noticeable **diversification** of students at higher institutions. |
| Doctrine | *n.* a principle, theory, or position, usu. advocated by a religion or gov’t | Devoutly religious people often live their lives according to their **doctrines.** |
| Dominion | *n.* power and authority (usu. over a territory)  *n.* a legal territory | The country claimed to have **dominion** over parts of Russia.  Puerto Rico is a **dominion** of the US. |
| Dreary | *adj.* sad, gloomy, dull | The gray clouds in the sky made the day feel **dreary.** |
| Dubious | *adj.* doubtful, questionable | The man’s claims to the throne were **dubious** since nobody knew where he’d come from. |
| Eccentric | *adj.* peculiar or odd; deviating from the norm | She’s a little **eccentric** but still fun to be around. |
| Egregious | *adj.* extremely bad | After cheating on the exam, Emily began to feel as though she’d made an **egregious**mistake. |
| Eloquent | *adj.* having refined or expressive communication skills (in speaking or writing) | His speech was not only **eloquent** but also extremely compelling. |
| Eminent | *adj.* superior or distinguished; high in position or status | Our town made news when the **eminent**magician came to perform at our local theater. |
| Emit | *v.* to discharge, give forth, or release | Plants consume carbon dioxide and **emit**oxygen. |
| Emphatic | *adj.* very expressive; using emphasis | Her **emphatic** smile told me she was excited to ride the roller coaster. |
| Empirical | *adj.* derived from experience, observation, or an experiment | You need **empirical** evidence to support your claim. |
| Endow | *v.* to equip or bestow (usu. a quality or ability) | According to the myth, the gods **endowed**him with the gift of healing. |
| Endure | *v.* to withstand, sustain, or hold out against | I can’t **endure** this wait any longer. Will Stanford accept or reject me? |
| Entail | *v.* to involve or include | A doctoral program **entails** long nights and a heavy workload. |
| Entrenched | *adj.* firmly established | Her face will forever be **entrenched** in my memory. |
| Enumerate | *v.* to specify or count | I can’t **enumerate** how many times I’ve had to remind my students when their papers are due. |
| Envy | *n.* excessive jealousy  *v.* to admire and be jealous of | His **envy** of her is quite obvious.  She**envies** her coworker's social skills. |
| Erratic | *adj.* having no fixed course; deviating from the norm | The car became **erratic** after slipping on ice. |
| Establish | *v.* to enact  *v.* to found (a business, group, school, etc.) | They **established** a law that made it illegal to drive after drinking any amount of alcohol.  Our group**established** a new branch in Chicago. |
| Evoke | *v.* to draw forth or call up | Horror movies are great at **evoking** fear. |
| Exacerbate | *v.* to make worse or increase the severity of | The doctor told me not to run as it can **exacerbate** my knee injury. |
| Excel | *v.* to do something extremely well or to be superior in | She was a well-rounded student but **excelled** especially in science. |
| Exert | *v.* to put into use (usu. as effort) | Don’t **exert** all of your energy at once. |
| Exhilarating | *adj.* invigorating, stimulating, or exciting | The music playing at the club was catchy and **exhilarating.** |
| Expend | *v.* to use up (as in energy or money) | Be careful not to**expend** all your energy in the first half of a marathon. |
| Exploit | *v.* to use selfishly or for profit | The shoddy company **exploited** its workers by paying them extremely low wages. |
| Facilitate | *v.*to aid the progress of | In grad school, advisors **facilitate** students’ research and offer constructive criticism. |
| Feasibility | *n.* the practicality or possibility of something | The **feasibility** of her project was doubtful; she’d have to go all the way to Antarctica and back before the school year ended. |
| Ferocity | *n.* viciousness, violence | The lion is just one wild animal known for its **ferocity.** |
| Fiscal | *adj.*related to (government) money | **Fiscal** policy is how the government uses money to influence the economy. |
| Flourish | *v.* to prosper, grow, or make fast progress | After one year, the tiny plants had **flourished** into a breathtaking garden. |
| Fluctuate | *v.* to be unstable; to rise and fall | Stocks can **fluctuate** on a daily basis, making it difficult to determine when to buy or sell one. |
| Foment | *v.*to stir up | The civilians accused their leader of **fomenting** political unrest. |
| Foreseeable | *adj.* capable of being predicted or anticipated | I can't imagine aliens visiting us in the **foreseeable** future. |
| Frankly | *adv.* directly, clearly | I**frankly** don’t see the point in learning to drive. |
| Freewheeling | *adj.* carefree | His **freewheeling** attitude often got him in trouble at work. |
| Fundamental | *adj.* the most essential or most basic part | A thesis is arguably the most **fundamental**part of an essay. |
| Galvanizing | *adj.* thrilling, exciting, stimulating | The **galvanizing** performance left everyone spellbound. |
| Geriatric | *adj.* relating to old age | I became interested in **geriatric** medicine shortly after my grandfather passed away from cancer. |
| Hostile | *adj.* harmful, dangerous | The voices around the corner sounded angry, **hostile** even. |
| Hypothetical | *adj.* supposed; related to a hypothesis | For my physics homework, I must come up with a **hypothetical** situation. |
| Ignominious | *adj.*publicly shameful or humiliating | The politician's expensive campaign ultimately ended in **ignominious** defeat. |
| Impart | *v.* to transmit, bestow, or disclose | Parents must**impart** common sense to their children. |
| Impartiality | *n.* the equal and objective treatment of opposing views | To ensure **impartiality,** we require everyone to follow these general guidelines. |
| Imposing | *adj.* impressive (esp. in size or appearance) | The old mansion was **imposing** in its huge size and gothic architecture. |
| Imposition | *n.* an unnecessary burden | If it’s not too much of an **imposition,** could you proofread my paper? |
| Imprudent | *adj.* not cautious or prudent; rash | Backpacking abroad can be fun, but don’t be **imprudent** about money. |
| Incite | *v.* to encourage or stir up | Her hateful words **incited** anger in the crowd. |
| Indifference | *n.* apathy, emotional detachment | The girl’s **indifference** toward her brother upset their parents. |
| Indiscriminately | *adv.* randomly; with little or no distinction | Lottery winners are chosen **indiscriminately.** |
| Indulge | *v.* to give into; to satisfy or gratify | My friend loves to**indulge** in cheesy romance movies. |
| Infer | *v.* to guess, conclude, or derive by reasoning | You can **infer** from this quotation that the writer didn’t care for “pretty” language. |
| Innovative | *adj.* novel or new (esp. as an idea or invention) | Her invention was incredibly **innovative**and won her multiple awards. |
| Insatiable | *adj.* can’t be satisfied | A vampire’s thirst for blood is said to be **insatiable.** |
| Inversion | *n.* a reversal | The culture’s norms were an **inversion** of our own. |
| Invoke | *v.* to call on; to appeal to (e.g., a higher power) | The shaman attempted to **invoke** a demon. |
| Irreconcilable | *adj.*incapable of being in harmony or agreed upon | The couple’s differences were ultimately **irreconcilable,** giving them no choice but to break up. |
| Lament | *v.* to feel sorrow for; to mourn | Susan **lamented** her missed chance at going to Europe with her high school class. |
| Locomotion | *n.* movement | Physics involves the study of **locomotion.** |
| Lucrative | *adj.* capable of making a lot of money; profitable | Writing books isn’t a particularly **lucrative**career, unless you’re J.K. Rowling. |
| Malicious | *adj.* harmful, spiteful | The **malicious** spirit drove out the inhabitants from their home. |
| Malleable | *adj.* capable of being molded or changed | Children’s minds are **malleable** but only for so long. |
| Materialistic | *adj.* superficial; focus on material possessions | Many people accuse Americans of being **materialistic.** |
| Melodramatic | *adj.* extravagant or exaggerated (as of a melodrama) | The**melodramatic** play was well liked by the audience. |
| Modest | *adj.* simple and humble  *adj.* small in size or amount | They moved into a**modest** house in the countryside.  I received a **modest** sum of money for my help at the company event. |
| Modify | *v.* to change, alter, or tweak | Dr. Nguyen**modified** the gene so that it wouldn’t carry the disease. |
| Momentous | *adj.* historically significant | Her win in the election was **momentous.** |
| Novel | *adj.* new, innovative | We are looking for**novel** ways to approach the project. |
| Nuance | *n.*a subtle difference in meaning | Body-language experts even understand the **nuances** of facial expressions. |
| Null | *adj.* legally void and ineffective | The government declared their marriage **null.** |
| Objectivity | *n.* judgment based on observations instead of emotions or opinions | In scientific research, **objectivity** is of utmost importance. |
| Obsolete | *adj.* no longer used; rare or uncommon | Historians assumed record players would be **obsolete** by now, but in fact they’re making a huge comeback. |
| Omnipotent | *adj.* almighty and all powerful | Gods are **omnipotent** beings who can control human destiny. |
| Onset | *n.* the beginning or early stages | At the **onset** of her career as a lawyer, things were looking up. |
| Opine | *v.* to openly express an opinion | The new employee**opined** at the company meeting. |
| Ornate | *adj.* highly detailed and decorated | That **ornate** silverware must be worth thousands of dollars! |
| Oust | *v.* to remove or force out of (usu. a position or office) | Sick and tired of putting up with his bad moods, the pirates **ousted** their captain. |
| Paramount | *adj.* predominant, superior, most important | Our **paramount** concern is the safety of our employees. |
| Peculiar | *adj.* strange, bizarre | Upon entering the abandoned house, Kate experienced a **peculiar** feeling, as if someone was watching her. |
| Perish | *v.* to die; to pass away | According to the news, nobody **perished** in the fire. |
| Persecute | *v.* to cause suffering to | They will **persecute** anyone who doesn’t agree with their views of the world. |
| Petulant | *adj.*cranky, pouty, irritable | **Petulant** children are especially difficult to care for. |
| Pinnacle | *n.* highest level or degree | Many believe that composers such as Beethoven and Mozart represent the **pinnacle** of classical music. |
| Pitiable | *adj.* deserving pity | The frail-looking dog was **pitiable,** so I gave it some food and took it inside to care for it. |
| Plausible | *adj.* reasonable and possibly true | Her story is**plausible,** but that doesn’t mean she’s telling the truth. |
| Postulate | *v.* to assert | The literary critic **postulates** that romanticism and naturalism are actually interconnected. |
| Potent | *adj.* having great influence  *adj.* having a strong, chemical effect | The bald eagle is a**potent** symbol of the US.  The potion was definitely **potent**—it healed my wounds immediately! |
| Pragmatic | *adj.* practical, useful | It’s not necessarily more **pragmatic** to study engineering than it is to study philosophy. |
| Precedent | *n.* an example or subject from earlier in time | This change in law is without historical **precedent.** |
| Predecessor | *n.*  someone who comes before you (usu. in position or office) | My **predecessor** gave me many tips for running the office. |
| Prescribe | *v.* to command orders  *v.* to issue authorization for medications | The directions for our essay **prescribe** a length of at least ten pages.  A doctor must **prescribe** you this medication before you can begin taking it. |
| Principle | *n.* basic truth, assumption, or rule | Remember the universal **principle:** treat others as you want them to treat you. |
| Prohibit | *v.* to command against, to outlaw | Alcohol was **prohibited** in the US in the 1920s. |
| Prompt | *adj.* punctual, on time  *n.* a cue to begin something; instructions  *v.* to incite, propel, or cause to act | She is always **prompt** when it comes to turning in her homework.  I had to write an essay based on a **prompt.**  The possibility of a scholarship**prompted**him to apply to Harvard. |
| Promulgate | *v.* to put into law or formally declare | The ruler will at last**promulgate** an amnesty with the neighboring countries. |
| Prosecute | *v.* to bring criminal action against someone (in a trial) | The suspect was **prosecuted** yesterday. |
| Provocative | *adj.* intending to provoke, inspire, or arouse | Her nude paintings are considered quite **provocative.** |
| Qualitative | *adj.* involving qualities of something (features and content) | I noticed a **qualitative** change in her paintings. |
| Quantitative | *adj.* involving quantities (numbers and amounts) | We must conduct a **quantitative** analysis. |
| Quirk | *n.* a strange habit | His biggest **quirk** is his love of old marbles. |
| Ramify | *v.* to split into two or more branches | Cars **ramified** throughout the world in the twentieth century. |
| Rash | *adj.* without attention to danger or risk | Her **rash** decision to pass the car nearly resulted in a crash. |
| Raw | *adj.* unrefined  *adj.* not processed; uncooked (as in food) | He’s got **raw** talent as a singer, but he needs to work on his performance skills.  In some countries, such as Japan, it is normal to eat **raw** fish. |
| Readily | *adv.* right away and without difficulty | Water was **readily** available at different points in the race. |
| Reconsideration | *n.* thinking again about a previously made choice | The judges’ **reconsideration** of her performance resulted in her victory. |
| Reform | *n.* a change for the better; improvement  *v.* to improve via change | The **reform** made it so that only those 18 and older can legally drive.  The government **reformed** its vague policies on marijuana use. |
| Refute | *v.* to prove to be untrue, unfounded, or incorrect | The student **refuted** the professor’s claim in class. |
| Reinforce | *v.* to strengthen or add support to | We can use these pipes to **reinforce** the structure. |
| Reluctantly | *adv.* somewhat unwillingly | Max **reluctantly** agreed to see the horror movie with his friends. |
| Renounce | *v.* to give up (usu. power or a position)  *v.* to cast off | Our CEO **renounced** her position yesterday.  He **renounced**his friend after he caught her stealing money from him. |
| Reproach | *v.* to criticize | The mother **reproached** her daughter’s school for making students come in during a blizzard. |
| Repudiate | *v.* to refuse to recognize as true  *v.* to cast off | The father **repudiated** his son’s marriage.  She **repudiated** her son once she found out he’d married someone without telling her. |
| Retention | *n.* the act of keeping something | Water **retention** can make you weigh more on certain days. |
| Satiated | *adj.* satisfied (usu. in hunger) | I felt **satiated** after eating a snack. |
| Savvy | *adj.* having practical intelligence or knowledge | My brother is not very **savvy** when it comes to using public transportation. |
| Scandalous | *adj.* morally offensive, often causing damage to one’s reputation | The **scandalous** politician decided it was best to resign from office. |
| Scorn | *v.* to look down on with disdain | It’s difficult for me not to**scorn** those who use improper grammar. |
| Scrupulous | *adj.* paying great attention to detail | I am a **scrupulous** proofreader and never miss an error. |
| Scrutinize | *v.* to examine carefully and critically | The teacher **scrutinized** her students’ essays. |
| Secrete | *v.* to produce or release (a substance) | Trees **secrete** a sticky substance called sap. |
| Sentiment | *n.* opinion  *n.* a tender or moving gesture | I am of the **sentiment** that you should never give out your passwords to anyone.  Even though I’m not a big fan of porcelain dolls, I appreciated the **sentiment.** |
| Sheer | *adj.* so thin that light can shine through | The curtains on the window were so **sheer**you could clearly see inside the house. |
| Simple | *adj.* easy; not complex  *adj.* undecorated | This math problem is so **simple** even a first grader can solve it.  The **simple** beauty of the ocean is what makes it memorable. |
| Sinister | *adj.* ominous, evil | Medieval peasants believed **sinister**demons could harm humans. |
| Solidarity | *n.* the joining of commonalities or common purposes among a group | I stood in **solidarity** with other female students by refusing to wear the school’s sexist uniform. |
| Sparingly | *adv.* insufficiently, meagerly, or in a restricted manner | Due to my condition, I must eat salt **sparingly.** |
| Spawn | *v.* to release eggs  *v.* to call forth or generate | Frogs typically **spawn** in ponds.  The topic **spawned** an ongoing debate among his family members. |
| Spur | *v.* to stimulate or incite | Her bravery **spurred** others to act. |
| Squalid | *adj.* run-down, sordid, or sleazy | The **squalid** cabin needed a new roof and an exterminator. |
| Stark | *adj.* very plain; devoid of any details or features | Looking out at the **stark** landscape, I felt a keen sense of isolation. |
| Static | *adj.* motionless  *adj.* changeless | The ball is **static.**  Her life has been**static** for the past three years. |
| Subordinate | *adj.* lower in rank  *n.* someone lower in rank  *v.* to make dependent on or put at a lower rank | The **subordinate** officers work every day.  My **subordinate** will check you in.  You aren’t my boss—you can’t **subordinate**me to the role of receptionist! |
| Subsequently | *adv.* happening later or after something | I **subsequently** went home. |
| Substantial | *adj.* very large in amount or degree | I was shocked to find a **substantial** amount of money beneath the park bench. |
| Substantiate | *v.* to strengthen with new evidence or facts | It is important for scientists to **substantiate**their theories whenever possible. |
| Subtle | *adj.* hard to detect or analyze | I detected in her expression a **subtle** hint of irritation. |
| Sufficient | *adj.* enough; just meeting a requirement | These boxes should be **sufficient** for our move. |
| Surly | *adj.* unfriendly; inclined to anger | The bartender was a **surly** fellow who wasn’t afraid to start a fight. |
| Surmount | *v.* to get on top of or overcome | They managed to **surmount** the language barrier by using a translation app. |
| Susceptible | *adj.* to be vulnerable (to something) | Children are more **susceptible** to certain illnesses than adults are. |
| Tactful | *adj.* skilled at dealing with people | Her **tactful** attitude toward our class made her one of my favorite teachers. |
| Taut | *adj.* pulled tight | The rubberband was **taut** and ready to be fired. |
| Teeming | *adj.* abundantly filled (usu. with living organisms) | Doorknobs are not as clean as they look and are often**teeming** with germs. |
| Temperament | *n.* usual mood or feelings | She had a hostile **temperament,** making her intimidating to most people. |
| Tentative | *adj.* not yet finalized | We haven’t made any official arrangements yet, but the **tentative** location for our wedding is Hawaii. |
| Transparent | *adj.* see-through; so thin that light can shine through  *adj.* truthful or easy to perceive | Stained window glass isn’t as **transparent**as regular window glass is.  She was **transparent** about her plans to end her marriage. |
| Treacherous | *adj.* dangerous and unstable | The journey was becoming **treacherous,**but they continued on regardless. |
| Tremendous | *adj.* very large, good, or bad in degree or size | **Tremendous** news! You don’t have to repay your loans! |
| Ubiquitous | *adj.*being everywhere at once | Cell phones are **ubiquitous** these days. |
| Unadorned | *adj.* undecorated, plain | Though the dress was cheap and **unadorned,** it was by far her favorite one on the rack. |
| Undermine | *v.* to weaken or subvert (usu. gradually or secretly) | Parents should take care not to constantly **undermine** their children. |
| Underscore | *v.* to emphasize or give additional weight to | This sentence seems to **underscore** the overall meaning of the passage. |
| Undulate | *v.* to move as ripples or in a wavy pattern | Belly dancers are known for their ability to skillfully **undulate** their stomachs. |
| Unilateral | *adj.* one-sided | The **unilateral** decision was deemed unfair by the other party involved. |
| Unjust | *adj.* unfair; not justified | The court’s decision is **unjust**—he should not go free. |
| Unmitigated | *adj.* downright, utter, total | My speech was an **unmitigated** disaster! |
| Unprecedented | *adj.* completely new and never having happened before; historic | The number of protestors was **unprecedented.** |
| Unveil | *v.* to make visible; to reveal | We plan to **unveil** our plans for the new company project on Sunday. |
| Urge | *n.*desire or impulse  *v.* to encourage or persuade | He had the **urge** to tell his parents about his acceptance to Columbia but decided against it.  She**urged** her sister to apply to Stanford. |
| Validate | *v.*to prove or declare valid | Your selfish actions do not **validate** your feelings for me. |
| Viability | *n.* ability to be done in a practical or useful way | The **viability** of the solution is questionable. |
| Vital | *adj.* urgently necessary | It is **vital** that you respond by the deadline. |
| Vow | *v.* to promise | My brother quickly broke his **vow** to never eat chocolate again. |
| Warrant | *v.* to prove to be reasonable | Wanting to look cool in front of your friends doesn’t **warrant** breaking the law. |
| Yield | *n.*production of an amount  *v.* to give way to or surrender to  *v.* to produce or supply | The farmer’s annual pumpkin **yield** exceeded 10,000.  Cars turning right on red must **yield** to oncoming traffic.  Our experiment **yielded** many unique-looking vegetables. |