

The Princeton Review *Hit Parade*

The following are the most frequently tested words on the SAT, *in order of their frequency on the SAT*. The short definitions provided are not exactly like the one's you will find in the dictionary; they are the definitions of the words *as they are tested on the SAT*.

Keep in mind that these are not the *only* words you need to know on the SAT. They are the words that have been tested more frequently in the past—the words that ETS's question-writers tend to come back to over and over again. The words near the top of the list are more likely to turn up than the words near the bottom.

Some SAT's are absolutely loaded with Hit Parade words; others do not contain as many. One of the most important things the Hit Parade will teach you is the *level* of vocabulary on the test. Once you get a feel for this level, you will be able to spot other possible SAT words in your reading.

Freshmen Words

1. **Indifferent**—(adj.) not caring one way or another; lacking a preference; neutral
2. **Apathy**—(noun) lack of emotion or interest
3. **Obscure**—(adj.) unclear; clouded; partially hidden; hard to understand
4. **Ambiguous**—(adj.) having more than one meaning; vague
5. **Impartial**—(adj.) unbiased; neutral

6. **Objective**—(adj.) without bias (as opposed to subjective)
7. **Revere**—(verb) to worship; to honor
8. **Discriminate**—(verb) to differentiate; to make a clear distinction; to see the difference
9. **Denounce**—(verb) to speak out against; to condemn
10. **Innovate**—(verb) to be creative; to introduce something new

11. **Subtle**—(adj.) not obvious; hard to spot
12. **Stagnant**—(adj.) not moving
13. **Candid**—(adj.) honest; frank
14. **Discern**—(verb) to distinguish one thing from the other
15. **Hypocritical**—(adj.) insincere

16. **Disdain**—(noun) contempt; intense dislike (verb) despise
17. **Abstract**—(adj.) theoretical; lacking substance (the opposite of concrete)
18. **Valid**—(adj.) founded on fact or evidence
19. **Inevitable**—(adj.) unavoidable; bound to happen
20. **Eccentric**—(adj.) odd; unusual; quirky

21. **Provincial**—(adj.) narrow-minded; unsophisticated
22. **Inferred**—(verb) derived by reasoning; implied as a conclusion
23. **Diverse**—(adj.) varied
24. **Apprehensive**—(adj.) fearful; worried
25. **Vulnerable**—(adj.) capable of being harmed

Freshmen Words (cont.)

26. **Benevolent**—(adj.) kind; good-hearted; generous
27. **Pious**—(adj.) deeply religious
28. **Skeptical**—(adj.) doubting (the opposite of gullible)
29. **Resignation**—(noun) acceptance of a situation
30. **Illuminate**—(verb) to light up; to make clear

31. **Resolution**—(noun) determination; (or) a solution to a problem
32. **Servile**—(adj.) overly submissive; cringing; like a servant
33. **Refute**—(verb) to disprove
34. **Anarchy**—(noun) lack of government
35. **Virulent**—(adj.) very harmful (like a virus)

36. **Miser**—(noun) one who saves greedily
37. **Articulate**—(adj.) speaking well
38. **Discord**—(noun) disagreement
39. **Diligent**—(adj.) hard-working
40. **Perceptive**—(adj.) having a keen understanding; discerning

41. **Superficial**—(adj.) on the surface; shallow
42. **Contempt**—(noun) to think little of someone
43. **Lucid**—(adj.) clear; easy to understand
44. **Immune**—(adj.) safe from harm; protected
45. **Aesthetic**—(adj.) having to do with art or beauty

46. **Inclined**—(verb) tending toward one direction
47. **Prodigal**—(adj.) extravagant; wasteful
48. **Uniform**—(adj.) constant; without variety
49. **Assess**—(verb) to estimate the value of; to measure
50. **Censor**—(noun) one who deletes objectionable matter

51. **Complacent**—(adj.) smug; self-satisfied
52. **Eloquence**—(noun) expressiveness; fluency in speaking or writing
53. **Virtue**—(noun) moral excellence
54. **Guile**—(noun) cunning; deceitfulness
55. **Biased**—(adjective) not neutral; prejudiced

56. **Monotonous**—(adj.) without variety; tiresomely uniform
57. **Contemporary**—(adj.) living at the same time; modern
58. **Profound**—(adj.) deep; insightful (the opposite of superficial)
59. **Enhance**—(verb) to make better
60. **Deter**—(verb) to prevent; to stop; to keep from doing something

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Sophomore Words

1. **Enduring**—(adj.) lasting
2. **Phenomenon**—(noun) an observable fact or occurrence
3. **Solitude**—(noun) the state of being alone
4. **Tentative**—(adj.) not final
5. **Provocative**—(adj.) exciting; attracting attention

6. **Depravity**—(noun) moral corruption
7. **Adversary**—(noun) an opponent; enemy
8. **Gravity**—(adj.) seriousness **Grave**—(adj.) serious
9. **Banal**—(adj.) common; dull; ordinary
10. **Temper**—(verb) to moderate; to soften

11. **Extol**—(verb) to praise
12. **Erratic**—(adj.) irregular; without direction
13. **Euphony**—(noun) pleasant sound (opposite of cacophony)
14. **Advocate**—(verb) to speak in favor of; to support
15. **Insipid**—(adj.) bland; boring; tasteless

16. **Indulgent**—(adj.) pampering oneself; satisfying desires
17. **Antagonism**—(noun) opposition; hostility; resistance
18. **Austere**—(adj.) severe; without frills
19. **Expedite (expedient)**—(verb) to make faster or easier
20. **Heresy**—(noun) an opinion violently opposed to established beliefs

21. **Censure**—(verb) to blame; to criticize
22. **Arbitrary**—(adj.) subject to individual judgment
23. **Solicit**—(verb) to ask for; to seek
24. **Condescend**—(verb) to talk down to
25. **Irrational**—(adj.) unreasonable

26. **Fallacious (fallacy)**—(adj.) false
27. **Intangible**—(adj.) abstract; not able to be touched
28. **Arrogant**—(adj.) feeling superior to others
29. **Taciturn**—(adj.) quiet; saying little
30. **Compatible**—(adj.) able to co-exist; harmonious

Sophomore Words (cont.)

31. **Dubious**—(adj.) doubtful; unclear
32. **Elusive**—(adj.) tough to catch; hard to pin down
33. **Compromise**—(verb) to settle by concession or surrender
34. **Flagrant**—(adj.) shocking; outstandingly bad
35. **Static**—(adj.) stationary; not moving

36. **Ironic**—(adj.) satiric; unexpected
37. **Dogmatic**—(adj.) stubbornly opinionated
38. **Facilitate**—(verb) to make easier; to help
39. **Frivolous**—(adj.) not serious; trivial; silly
40. **Exhaustive**—(adj.) thorough; complete

41. **Infamous**—(adj.) notorious; scandalous
42. **Authoritarian**—(adj.) like a dictator
43. **Reticent**—(adj.) quiet; uncommunicative
44. **Redundant**—(adj.) extra; unnecessary; superfluous
45. **Deference**—(noun) respectful regard

46. **Vacillate**—(verb) to waver between choices
47. **Fervor**—(noun) passion; zeal
48. **Dispassionate**—(adj.) free from passion or spirit
49. **Pragmatic**—(adj.) practical
50. **Didactic**—(adj.) instructive

51. **Scanty**—(adj.) inadequate; minimal
52. **Alleviate**—(verb) to lighten or relieve
53. **Negligence**—(noun) carelessness; neglect; indifference
54. **Endorse**—(verb) to approve or give one's support to
55. **Conspicuous**—(adj.) easily seen; out in the open

56. **Relegate**—(verb) to dismiss to an inferior position
57. **Incessant**—(adj.) unceasing; never ending
58. **Condone**—(verb) to forgive; to overlook
59. **Tranquility**—(noun) calmness
60. **Dissent**—(noun) disagreement

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Junior Words

1. **Conciliate**—(verb) to soothe; to end a dispute; to reconcile
2. **Rigor**—(noun) harshness or severity
3. **Disparity**—(noun) inequality; difference
4. **Disparage**—(verb) to speak badly of; belittle
5. **Conventional**—(adj.) ordinary; customary

6. **Ephemeral**—(adj.) short-lived; fleeting; transitory
7. **Futile**—(adj.) hopeless; worthless; useless
8. **Prosaic**—(adj.) uninspired; dull; banal
9. **Profuse**—(adj.) flowing freely; generous; excessive
10. **Authentic**—(adj.) real; genuine

11. **Expedient**—(adj.) useful for effecting a desired result
12. **Fastidious**—(adj.) not easy to please; overly critical
13. **Philanthropy**—(noun) a desire to help people; gifts to charities
14. **Astute**—(adj.) perceptive; crafty
15. **Brevity**—(noun) the quality of being brief

16. **Languid**—(adj.) slow; tired; drooping; weak
17. **Novel**—(adj.) new; unusual
18. **Relevant**—(adj.) pertinent; important to know
19. **Mitigate**—(verb) to make milder or less severe
20. **Reprehensible**—(adj.) shameful; bad

21. **Engender**—(verb) to create; to produce
22. **Deride**—(verb) to ridicule; to make fun of
23. **Lethargic**—(adj.) tired; languid; weak
24. **Fanatic**—(noun) one who is extremely devoted to a cause or idea
25. **Solemn**—(adj.) serious; grave

26. **Acclaim**—(noun) praise; applause; admiration
27. **Augment**—(verb) to add; to increase; to make bigger
28. **Incoherent**—(adj.) jumbled; impossible to understand; chaotic
29. **Indolence**—(noun) laziness
30. **Ambivalent**—(adj.) undecided

Junior Words (cont.)

31. **Benign**—(adj.) harmless
32. **Amiable**—(adj.) friendly
33. **Tedious**—(adj.) boring
34. **Caustic**—(adj.) burning; uncomplimentary
35. **Laud**—(verb) to praise

36. **Acquiesce**—(verb) to agree finally
37. **Atrophy**—(verb.) to waste away from lack of use
38. **Instigate**—(verb) to start trouble
39. **Heed**—(verb) to listen to
40. **Virtuoso**—(noun) an accomplished musician

41. **Deplete**—(verb) to use up; reduce
42. **Compliant**—(adj.) submissive
43. **Inadvertent**—(adj.) lax; careless; without intention
44. **Extraneous**—(adj.) irrelevant; extra; unnecessary
45. **Levity**—(noun) humor

46. **Belittle**—(verb) to put down; disparage
47. **Digress**—(verb) deviate from main idea
48. **Predecessor**—(noun) one who comes before
49. **Scrutinize**—(verb) study carefully
50. **Concise**—(adj.) brief and to the point; short and clear

51. **Lax**—(adj.) loose; not strict or exact
52. **Esoteric**—(adj.) known to only a few; private
53. **Exemplary**—(adj.) serving as a pattern/example
54. **Exemplify**—(verb) to show by example
55. **Nostalgic**—(adj.) excessively sentimental; reminiscent

56. **Scrupulous**—(adj.) extremely careful; exact; punctilious
57. **Slander**—(noun) words used to malign or distort the truth
58. **Amass**—(verb) to pile up; to accumulate
59. **Pedestrian**—(noun) one who travels by foot
60. **Emulate**—(verb) to strive to excel over another

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Senior Words

1. **Universal**—(adj.) occurring or present everywhere
2. **Orthodox**—(adj.) conforming to the usual beliefs or established doctrines
3. **Immutable**—(adj.) unchangeable
4. **Marred**—(verb) scarred; marked
5. **Merger**—(noun) a joining together

6. **Neutral**—(adj.) in the middle; uninvolved; indifferent
7. **Hypothetical**—(adj.) based on theory rather than on fact
8. **Saccharine**—(adj.) too sweet
9. **Volatile**—(adj.) changeable; fickle
10. **Animosity**—(noun) hatred

11. **Trepidation**—(noun) fear
12. **Supercilious**—(adj.) haughty
13. **Appease**—(verb) to pacify; to calm
14. **Fickle**—(adj.) changeable
15. **Preclude**—(verb) to make impossible; to prevent

16. **Innocuous**—(adj.) harmless
17. **Cryptic**—(adj.) hidden or mysterious
18. **Incongruous**—(adj.) inconsistent; not conforming
19. **Rescind**—(verb) to revoke; to cancel
20. **Vilify**—(verb) to debase; to degrade; to defame

21. **Stanza**—(noun) a recurring unit in poetry or music
22. **Peripheral**—(adj.) around the outside; away from the center
23. **Amity**—(noun) friendly and peaceful relations
24. **Desecrate**—(verb) to deface; to defile
25. **Sage**—(noun) a very wise man; having wisdom

26. **Meander**—(verb) to wander; to ramble
27. **Furtive**—(adj.) sly; secretive; done by stealth
28. **Efface**—(verb) to blot out; to erase; to make inconspicuous
29. **Credulous**—(adj.) believable
30. **Innate**—(adj.) inborn; natural

Senior Words (cont.)

31. **Retract**—(verb) to draw back or in to; to withdraw
32. **Fundamental**—(adj.) basic
33. **Nullify**—(verb) to cancel out
34. **Jeopardy**—(noun) great danger; peril
35. **Hedonistic**—(adj.) following pleasure-seeking instincts

36. **Stringent**—(adj.) strict; severe
37. **Fortuitous**—(adj.) accidental
38. **Remorse**—(noun) sorrow caused by a sense of guilt
39. **Repress**—(verb) to hold back; to put down
40. **Ameliorate**—(verb) to improve

41. **Blasphemy**—(noun) irreverence toward anything sacred
42. **Sycophant**—(noun) one who seeks favor by flattering wealthy people; a boot licker
43. **Pretentious**—(adj.) showy; putting on airs to gain attention or admiration
44. **Contrite**—(adj.) humbly penitent; repentant
45. **Rejuvenate**—(verb) to renew; to revitalize

46. **Avarice**—(noun) greed
47. **Benefactor**—(noun) one who gives aid or does a good service
48. **Voluminous**—(adj.) of great volume or bulk; having many folds (as material)
49. **Vehement**—(adj.) acting with great force; furious
50. **Verbose**—(adj.) wordy

51. **Gullible**—(adj.) easily fooled
52. **Prodigious**—(adj.) wonderful; amazing; enormous
53. **Coalesce**—(verb) to combine items into one unit
54. **Hinder**—(verb) to obstruct; to impede; to block
55. **Prudent**—(adj.) wise

56. **Unprecedented**—(adj.) unheard-of; novel
57. **Blithe**—(adj.) joyous; glad
58. **Pivotal**—(adj.) crucial; turning; revolving
59. **Apocryphal**—(adj.) not genuine; false; counterfeit
60. **Hackneyed**—(adj.) made trite by overuse
61. **Assuage**—(verb) to calm; to lessen