



100 Most Common SAT Words

The Critical Reading Section of the SAT has both a reading comprehension component and an SAT vocabulary component. The sentence completion questions, which ask you to select a word from a multiple choice list, test your knowledge of the definition of common words. Certain SAT vocabulary words are tested over and over again in the sentence completion questions. By learning these frequently tested words, you are increasing the odds of knowing the vocabulary required of you on test day. The 100 words below are a great starting point to help improve your SAT vocabulary words. Remember, though, the more words you know the better you will do.

1. [abate](#): reduce or lessen
2. abdicate: give up a position
3. aberration: something unusual, different from the norm
4. abhor: to really hate
5. abstain: to refrain from doing something
6. adversity: hardship, misfortune
7. aesthetic: pertaining to beauty
8. amicable: agreeable
9. anachronistic: out of the context of time, out of date
10. arid: very dry
11. asylum: sanctuary, place of safety
12. [benevolent](#): friendly, helpful
13. bias: a prejudice towards something or against something
14. boisterous: enthusiastic, loud
15. brazen: bold
16. brusque: short, rude
17. [camaraderie](#): togetherness, trust, group dynamic of trust
18. canny: careful
19. capacious: very large, spacious
20. capitulate: surrender
21. clairvoyant: can predict the future
22. collaborate: work together
23. compassion: sympathy
24. compromise: meeting in the middle, settling differences
25. condescending: patronizing
26. conditional: contingent upon something else, contingent upon

27. conformist: someone who follows the majority
28. convergence: coming together
29. deleterious: harmful
30. [demagogue](#): rabble-rousing leader
31. digression: straying from main point
32. diligent: hard-working, dedicated
33. discredit: dishonor someone, prove something untrue
34. disdain: to regard with scorn
35. divergent: moving apart, going in different directions
36. empathy: feeling someone else's feeling
37. emulate: following someone else's example
38. enervating: tiring
39. ephemeral: fleeting, temporary
40. [evanescent](#): not lasting long
41. exemplary: outstanding
42. extenuating: something that makes the situation not as bad
43. florid: ornate
44. forbearance: patience, restraint
45. fortitude: strength
46. fortuitous: lucky
47. foster: promote, aid
48. fraught: filled with
49. frugal: thrifty
50. hackneyed: clichéd
51. haughty: being arrogant, talking down to people
52. hedonist: person who acts in pursuit of pleasure
53. hypothesis: unproven theory, educated guess
54. impetuous: rash, impulsive
55. impute: to assign or attribute to someone
56. inconsequential: without consequence, trivial, doesn't matter
57. inevitable: unavoidable, definitely going to happen
58. intrepid: fearless
59. intuitive: knowing something by instinct
60. jubilation: extreme happiness, joy
61. lobbyist: person who takes one side or the other, and persuades government officials
62. longevity: long (particularly long life)
63. mundane: boring, ordinary
64. nonchalant: casual, calm, at ease
65. opulent: wealthy
66. orator: speaker
67. ostentatious: flaunting wealth

68. parched: freed from water, dried up
69. [perfidious](#): disloyal
70. pragmatic: practical
71. precocious: gifted/talented beyond one's years
72. pretentious: being self important, thinking you are better than others
73. procrastinate: to delay, often unnecessarily
74. prosaic: ordinary
75. prosperity: wealth
76. provocative: causes a fuss, inflammatory, likely to get people riled up
77. prudent: careful, wise
78. [querulous](#): irritable, prone to argument
79. rancorous: hateful, unpleasant
80. reclusive: hermit, withdrawn
81. reconciliation: coming back together after a disagreement
82. renovation: being new, being redone
83. restrained: controlled, not free
84. reverence: deep respect
85. sagacity: wisdom
86. scrutinize: to look at carefully
87. spontaneous: being impulsive, acting without thinking
88. spurious: false, untrue
89. submissive: mild, meek
90. substantiate: to confirm, prove
91. subtle: shy, small, not showy
92. superficial: shallow
93. superfluous: unnecessary, too much
94. surreptitious: secret
95. tactful: polite
96. tenacious: persistent stubborn
97. transient: temporary, impermanent
98. venerable: respectable because of its age
99. vindicate: to free from blame
100. wary: careful, watchful

Tips for Learning SAT Vocabulary Words

Learning SAT vocabulary words can be difficult. Here are some tips to help learn these 100 words, and any other SAT vocabulary words you may come across in the future.

- Make flashcards with unfamiliar words
- Use new vocabulary words in a sentence
- Make a tape recording of yourself reading the word and the definition
- List the words in groups of positive, negative and related words.

