

PRINCETON REVIEW TOP 100 SAT WORDS

Most frequently occurring words on the SAT listed in order of decreasing importance

enigma	a mystery; hard to understand or explain	desecrate	to show disrespect or to deface something sacred
apathy	lack of emotion or interest		
indifferent	having no preference	euphonious	melodious; pleasant sounding
revere	to worship; to honor	cacophonous	harsh sounding
candor	frankness; honesty	guile	cunning; deceitfulness
reticent	restrained; uncommunicative	immutable	unchanging; permanent
aesthetic	concerning art or beauty	incessant	non-stop
ascetic	without indulgence or luxuries	static	unchanging; not moving
autonomy	self-rule; independence	bastion	a stronghold; a fort
disdain	contempt	benign	kindly; good-natured
innocuous	harmless; insignificant	credulous	gullible; ready to believe without proof
banal	commonplace; dull; ordinary	disparage	to speak poorly of
ambiguous	unclear; undecided	eccentric	odd; out of the ordinary; quirky
anarchy	lack of government; chaos	philanthropist	someone who benefits mankind
ameliorate	to improve	squander	to waste
atrophy	to waste away from lack of use	virulent	harmful
innovate	to make changes; to modernize	zeal	enthusiasm
servile	overly submissive; cringing	acuity	sharpness of perception or mind
extol	to praise	affable	friendly; agreeable
augment	to add to; increase	assuage	to reduce pain
benevolent	kindly; to wish well	avarice	greed
derision	contempt; ridicule	dissonance	lack of agreement or harmony
disparity	inequality	listless	without energy or enthusiasm
flagrant	glaringly wrong; conspicuously faulty	philistine	one who lacks culture or taste
indolence	laziness	scrupulous	concerned; conscientious; proper
acquiesce	to give in; agree	tentative	not final; uncertain
prodigal	extravagant; wasteful	adulation	adoration
capricious	whimsical; unpredictable	dogmatic	stubbornly opinionated
prosaic	commonplace; uninspired; dull	futile	hopeless; without effect
austere	severe; strict	languid	slow and listless
complacent	smug; self-satisfied	pious	religious; devout
compliance	conforming to a request or demand	ponderous	weighty; heavy
dubious	doubtful	protracted	drawn out; lengthy
ephemeral	short-lived; fleeting	deference	a show of respect
inevitable	unavoidable; bound to happen	heretic	someone who goes against acceptable religious beliefs
insipid	bland; boring		
obscure	unclear; clouded; partially hidden	paucity	scarcity
depravity	corruption; wickedness	profuse	very abundant; flowing
discern	to distinguish one thing from another	conciliate	to soothe anger
expedite	to quicken	contrite	thoroughly sorry
peripheral	on the edge; unimportant	didactic	intending to teach
taciturn	quiet; uncommunicative; silent	diffident	shy; lacking confidence
apprehensive	fearful; worried	digression	straying from a topic
expedient	advantageous; convenient	dissent	disagreement
fastidious	finicky; overly critical	elucidate	to explain; to make clear
novel	new; interesting	gullible	overly trusting
parsimony	stinginess	strut	a self-important walk
provincial	narrow-minded; unsophisticated	denounce	to speak against publicly
respite	a break; a rest	laud	to praise
anecdote	a brief, humorous story	surreptitious	secret
drone	to talk on and on in a dull way	astute	clever; shrewd; ready-witted
pedestrian	commonplace; ordinary	blasphemy	irreverent talk about God
		censure	severely criticize; blame

