

# Ivy League Mentors Presents



## Essential Vocab

for the

## Digital SAT

This guide is an excerpt from our textbook, *DSAT Reading & Writing: The Ultimate Guide*. If you found it helpful, you can purchase the full version here and use the promo code SAT25 at checkout for 25% off your purchase:

<https://ivyleaguementorsprep.com/sat/digital-sat-reading-writing-the-ultimate-guide/>

Contents include:

- Specialized strategies for approaching every question type within every domain on the Reading & Writing Section of the Digital SAT, along with realistic practice questions to help you get comfortable applying them.
- Guides to all the important grammar and punctuation concepts covered on the test, along with realistic practice questions to help you master them
- Guides to difficult text types, including poetry and texts with graphics, along with realistic practice questions to help you approach them more effectively
- A carefully curated list of high impact words, along with additional tips to help you develop your vocabulary
- 4 full-length practice modules with comprehensive answer explanations for additional practice and self-assessment

## Essential Vocab for the Digital SAT

Although there are strategies you can use to guess around unfamiliar vocabulary on the test, a topic we dive into more in another chapter, in some cases, you simply need to know the words. There is a strong correlation between a student's vocabulary and performance on the test—if you don't know a lot of words, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to earn a high score. Vocabulary is not just important on questions that test it directly, such as Words in Context Questions. It's also essential if you hope to understand the questions, answer choices, and texts. This list of high-impact words was created based on our meticulous analysis of official practice tests and questions from leaked previous versions of the Digital SAT, and it should be a must learn for anyone who hopes to achieve a high score on the test.

### About this List

Q: Are these all the words that I will need to know for the SAT?

A: No. If you want a list of all the words you might need to know for the SAT, we suggest memorizing the dictionary. But for students who don't have the time to memorize close to a million words, we've decided to help by carefully curating a list of high-impact words: ones that come up often and are important to know if you hope to understand the questions, answer choices, and texts that you will encounter on the test.

Q: Aren't some of these words too easy?

A: First of all, there's no such thing as easy and hard words. There's words that you know and words that you don't know. So if you think some of the words on this list are too easy, what you probably mean is that you know them already. And that would make sense, because this isn't supposed to be a list of obscure words—it's a list of words that come up often on the test. Could you find a vocab list that is full of obscure words that you've never seen before? Of course. Just search "SAT vocab list" on Google, and you'll find a ton of them. However, memorizing those lists is probably not going to help you much because if a vocab list is full of words you've never seen before, it probably means those words are not very common, and therefore, unlikely to come up on the test.

Q: I thought I knew these words, but the definitions on this list are different. Why?

A: Many words in English have two more meanings. The ones listed here are the ones that tend to come up most often on the test, but they may not be the ones you are most familiar with. Therefore, make sure to learn the meanings given here, even if you are already familiar with other meanings of a particular word.

Q: What do the stars mean next to certain words?

A: The stars indicate that the meaning provided on this list is probably not the meaning you are most familiar with. Most words in English have multiple meanings, and sometimes you will need to know secondary or tertiary meanings to answer questions on the test. The secondary and tertiary meanings included on this list are ones that have come up a lot on past tests, so be sure to take note of these definitions.

Q: What should I do after I master these words?

A: You're off to a great start, but if you still have time before the test, you'll probably want to keep developing your vocabulary. Check out the chapter **Vocab Acquisition Strategies** for more advice on how to do that.

## Essential Vocab: The List

### Abolish

(v): To prohibit or put an end to a system or practice, especially slavery.

*Reformers like Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison dedicated their lives to abolishing slavery.*

Related words: **abolition** (n): the act of abolishing something; **abolitionist** (n): someone involved in the abolition movement.

### Abundant

(adj): existing or available in large quantities.

*The region's abundant natural resources have made it a focal point of economic development.*

### Accentuate

(v): to emphasize or make more noticeable

*The designer used bold colors to accentuate the artwork's key features.*

### Accessible

(adj): easy to approach, reach, or understand.

*The study was written in accessible language, making it suitable for a general audience.*

### Acknowledge

(v): to accept or admit the existence or truth of something.

*The scientist acknowledged the limitations of her study in the final report.*

Related words: **acknowledgment** (n): the act of accepting or admitting something.

### Acquiesce

(v): to accept something reluctantly but without protest.

*The minority group ultimately acquiesced to the revised framework despite earlier reservations.*

### Acquire

(v): to gain or come into possession of.

*Over time, students acquire a deeper understanding of the subject matter.*

### Adapt

(v): to adjust to new conditions or environments.

*Over time, species evolve to adapt to changes in their ecosystems, increasing their chances of survival.*

### \*Address

(v): to deal with or focus on.

*The paper addresses the ethical implications of genetic modification.*

**Adept**

(adj): very skilled or proficient at something.

*Nathan Greenberg is not only an incredible teacher, but also an adept jazz guitarist.*

**Adequate**

(adj): sufficient or acceptable in quality or quantity.

The experimental design was deemed adequate to yield statistically meaningful results.

**Adhere**

(v): to stick firmly to a surface or to follow a practice or belief closely.

*The students must adhere to the school's dress code.*

Related words: adherence (n): the act of sticking to or following closely.

**\*Advance**

(v): to propose or support (an idea or theory).

*The author advances a compelling argument for policy reform.*

**Adverse**

(adj): harmful or unfavorable.

*The adverse weather conditions caused the event to be postponed.*

Related words: **adversity** (n): difficulties or misfortune.

**Advocate**

1 (v): to support or argue in favor of something.

*The author advocated for greater freedom of press.*

2 (n): one who publicly supports something.

*Allenby was a firm advocate for women's rights.*

**Aesthetic**

(adj): concerned with beauty or appearance.

*The architect's aesthetic choices reflect a minimalist philosophy that values simplicity and form.*

**\*Afford**

(v): to provide or allow.

*The new policy affords greater flexibility to public institutions.*

**Affluent**

(adj): having a great deal of money; wealthy.

*Affluent communities often demonstrate higher educational attainment and better health outcomes.*

**Aggravate**

(v): to worsen or intensify a situation.

*Increased deforestation aggravates the effects of climate change.*

### **Alleviate**

(v): to make something less severe or intense.

*The medicine helped to alleviate her headache.*

### **Alter**

(v): to change or modify.

*The findings may alter prevailing theories in neuroscience.*

### **Altruistic**

(adj): showing a selfless concern for the well-being of others.

*The organization's altruistic initiatives contributed significantly to improving local public health.*

### **Ambiguous**

(adj): open to more than one interpretation; unclear or inexact in meaning.

*The painting's ambiguous symbolism invites viewers to draw their own conclusions about its meaning and intent.*

### **Ambivalent**

(adj): having mixed feelings

*Due to the excitement about productivity increases, as well as fears of human job loss, many are ambivalent about AI.*

Related words: **ambivalence** (n): the state of being ambivalent.

### **Ample**

(adj): more than enough; sufficient.

*The evidence presented was ample to support the hypothesis.*

### **Analogous**

(adj): similar, comparable in certain respects.

*The events of Orwell's Animal Farm are analogous to those of the Russian Revolution.*

Related words: **analogy** (n): a comparison, typically for the purpose of explanation or illustration.

### **Anecdote**

(n): a brief story, often one of a personal or informal nature.

*The speaker used an anecdote about her childhood to connect with the audience.*

### **Anomaly**

(n): something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected.

*The anomaly in the data set required further investigation.*

Related words: **anomalous** (adj): deviating from the norm.

**Anticipate**

(v): to predict or expect.

*The effect was stronger than the researchers had anticipated.*

Related words: **anticipation** (n): the state of anticipating something.

**Apathetic**

(adj): showing or feeling little or no interest or enthusiasm.

*The study attributes low civic engagement to the apathetic attitudes prevalent among young voters.*

**Appease**

(v): to pacify or placate by acceding to demands.

*In an effort to appease stakeholders, the university implemented several key policy changes.*

**Apprehend**

(n): to understand or comprehend.

*She couldn't apprehend how someone could believe such an obvious lie.*

**Apprehensive**

(adj): concerned, anxious.

*Many students feel apprehensive about the SAT.*

**Arbitrary**

(adj): based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system.

*The judge's arbitrary decision left many people confused.*

**Arduous**

(adj): requiring great effort or labor; difficult.

*The fieldwork involved an arduous journey through remote terrain to gather primary data.*

**Arrogant**

(adj): having an exaggerated sense of one's own importance or abilities.

*The critic described the artist's statement as arrogant, noting its dismissive tone toward differing interpretations of the work.*

**Articulate**

(v): to express thoughts, ideas, or feelings clearly and effectively.

*In her presentation, the student articulated a compelling argument about the social impact of urban design.*

**Ascertain**

(v): to find out or learn something with certainty.

*The scientist conducted several experiments to ascertain the cause of the unexpected reaction.*

### **Ascribe**

(v): to attribute something (to a cause).

*Many historians ascribe the downfall of the Ottoman Empire to a combination of internal strife and external invasions.*

### **Aspire**

(v): to seek to attain or accomplish a particular goal, often one of high value or ambition.

Many students aspire to careers in medicine, driven by a desire to help others and advance scientific knowledge.

Related words: **aspiration** (n): a goal

### **Assertion**

(n): a confident and forceful claim.

*The speaker's assertion that we need stricter gun control was met by applause.*

Related words: **assert** (v): to make an assertion.

### **Assess**

(v): to evaluate or estimate the nature, ability, or quality of.

*The professor assesses student performance through both exams and projects.*

### **Assume**

1 (v): to take for granted without proof. *The author assumes the audience is familiar with the historical context of the event.*

2 (v) to take on a role, responsibility, or position. *After the resignation of the director, the assistant assumed leadership of the project.*

### **Astute**

(adj): having or showing sharp judgment and the ability to understand things clearly and quickly.

*The astute investor recognized the potential of the emerging market before others did.*

### **Attribute**

1 (v): to regard something as being caused by (someone or something).

*The app's popularity has been attributed to its ease of use and powerful editing features.*

2 (n): a quality or characteristic that is inherent in or ascribed to someone or something.

*Patience is often considered an important attribute of a successful teacher.*

### **Atypical**

(adj): not typical; not representative of a group, situation, or category.

*The patient's atypical symptoms made the diagnosis more challenging for the medical team.*

**Authentic**

(adj): genuine; real or true, not fake or copied.

*Archaeologists confirmed the artifact was authentic, dating it back to the early Bronze Age.*

Related words: **authenticity** (n):

**Averse**

(adj): having a strong dislike or opposition to something.

*Most people are averse to taking unnecessary risks.*

Related words: **aversion** (n): a strong dislike or disinclination.

**Avid**

(adj): enthusiastic or showing great interest and eagerness.

*She is an avid reader who finishes several books every month.*

**Beneficiary**

(n): one who benefits from something.

*The main beneficiaries of the new tax cut will be large corporations.*

**Benign**

(adj): harmless or kind.

*The biopsy confirmed that the tumor was benign.*

**Bias**

(n): prejudice in favor of or against a thing, person, or group, usually in a way considered to be unfair.

*Some have accused top universities of having a bias against Asian students.*

Related words: **biased** (adj): the state of having bias.

**Blatant**

(adj): completely lacking in subtlety; obvious.

*The findings reveal a blatant discrepancy between policy rhetoric and implementation.*

**Bolster**

(v): to strengthen or provide support.

*The author bolsters her argument with demographic data drawn from twelve countries over a period of three decades.*

**Candid**

(adj): open and straightforward; honest and sincere.

*The artist gave a candid interview about the challenges of the creative process.*

**Captivate**

(v): to attract and hold the attention of someone.

*The documentary captivated its audience with stunning visuals and compelling storytelling.*

**\*Capture**

(v): to represent or describe accurately.

*The graph captures the fluctuations in unemployment rates.*

**Catalyst**

(n): a person or thing that precipitates an event or change.

*The publication served as a catalyst for broader discussions on academic freedom.*

**\*Cause**

(n): a principal, goal, or movement that one is prepared to defend or advocate.

*She devoted her life to the cause of deaf people.*

**\*Challenge**

(v): to dispute the truth or validity of something.

*The author challenged the assumption that early humans evolved exclusively in Africa.*

**\*Champion**

(v): to support, defend, or advocate for a cause or person.

*She championed environmental reforms throughout her career.*

**Chronicle**

(v): to record events in the order in which they occurred.

*The historian chronicled the rise and fall of the ancient empire in meticulous detail.*

**Coerce**

(v): to persuade someone to do something by force or threats.

*The paper explores how authoritarian regimes coerce compliance through media control.*

**Cognizant**

(adj): having knowledge or awareness.

Scholars must remain cognizant of historical context when analyzing contemporary political developments.

**Coherent**

(adj): clear and logical; easy to understand because ideas are well connected.

*The essay presented a coherent argument that convinced the readers of its validity.*

Related words: **incoherent** (adj): not coherent

**Cohesive**

(adj): forming a united whole; logically connected and consistent.

The essay was praised for its cohesive structure, with each paragraph clearly supporting the central argument.

### **Cohort**

(n): a group, often in the context of an experiment.

*The study followed a cohort of college students over four years to track their career development.*

### **Coincide**

(v): to happen at the same time or to match in position or character.

*Major population migrations often coincide with periods of political instability or environmental change.*

### **Collaborate**

(v): to work together with one or more people to achieve a common goal.

*The scientists collaborated on the research project to develop a new vaccine.*

### **Commend**

(v): to praise or express approval of someone or something.

*The teacher commended the student for her thorough research and clear presentation.*

### **\*Common**

(adj): shared or public.

*Moths and butterflies share several common traits.*

### **Comparable**

(adj): similar.

*Medieval Japan was comparable to Europe in that both had a hierarchical feudal system.*

### **Compelling**

(adj): convincing or persuasive.

*The new discovery provides compelling evidence that the early settlers of North America arrived via a land bridge from Asia.* Related words: **compel** (v): to force or oblige.

### **Competent**

(adj): capable, having sufficient ability.

*The study found that employees who asked questions were evaluated as more competent by their peers.*

### **Complacent**

(adj): showing smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements.

*After a decade of economic growth, the firm became complacent and stopped funding research and development.*

### **Comprehensive**

(adj): complete; including all or nearly all elements or aspects of something.

*Ivy League Mentors founder Nathan Greenberg has provided hundreds of students with comprehensive support on their college applications.*

### **\*Compromise**

(v): to weaken or undermine.

*The lack of a strong federal government compromised the power of the United States under the Articles of the Confederation.*

### **Concede**

(v): to admit that something is true or valid, especially an opposing argument or counterpoint.

*The author conceded that genetically modified foods are probably no more dangerous than organic foods.*

Related terms: **concession** (n): an acknowledgement of a limitation or counterpoint to one's argument

### **Conceivable**

(adj): capable of being imagined or believed

*It is conceivable that future technology could eliminate many current environmental problems.*

Related terms: **inconceivable** (adj): not capable of being imagined or believed; **conceive** (v): to think of or form an idea in the mind.

### **Concise**

(adj): giving a lot of information clearly and in a few words; brief but comprehensive.

*The instructions were concise and easy to follow.*

### **Conclusive**

(adj): decisive or convincing; serving to prove a case.

*Though scientists believe that the moon was formed by fragments of the earth dislodged in a collision, the evidence remains inconclusive.*

Related terms: **inconclusive** (adj): not conclusive; **conclude** (v): to arrive at a decision or determine the answer to a question.

### **Concrete**

(adj): real, solid, or definite; not abstract or vague.

*The scientist provided concrete evidence to support the theory.*

### **Concur**

(v): to agree.

*The two research teams concurred that the settlement was most likely occupied in the late 1500s.*

### **Condemn**

(v): to express complete disapproval of something, typically in public. *The candidate condemned her opponent as racist and sexist.*

Related words: **condemnation** (n): strong disapproval or criticism of something.

### **Conducive**

(adj): making a certain outcome likely or possible.

*The structured environment proved conducive to high levels of academic performance.*

### **Confirm**

(v): to establish the truth or correctness of.

*The second experiment confirmed the initial results.*

### **Conform**

(v): to match or follow, generally to rules, conventions, or expectations.

*The results did not conform to his expectations.*

Related terms: **conformity** (n): a state of matching or following others.

### **Consensus**

(n): a state of agreement.

*The consensus among modern paleontologists is that birds are descendants of dinosaurs.*

### **Consequential**

(adj): significant, important, or having serious consequences.

*The court's decision was consequential for the future of environmental law.*

Related words: **inconsequential** (adj): not important or significant.

### **Conspicuous**

(adj): easily seen or noticed; attracting attention.

*The bright red bird was conspicuous against the green leaves.*

### **Contend**

(v): to assert.

*Feldman contends that the findings are consistent with his theory.*

Related words: **contention** (n): an assertion.

### **Contentious**

(adj): causing or likely to cause disagreement or controversy.

*The article provides a balanced perspective on the contentious debate over standardized testing.*

### **Control**

(n): an element that remains unchanged and is used as a benchmark or a point of comparison in an experiment.

*The plants in the one group were exposed to mites, while those in the control group were not.*

### **Converge**

(v): to come together.

*Opinions on the matter have begun to converge.*

### **Conventional**

(adj): common or traditional.

*The conventional view that Columbus was the first European to set foot in the New World was debunked by the discovery of Viking artifacts in Canada.*

Related words: **convention** (n): a tradition or common way of doing things.

### **Convey**

(v): to communicate or express.

*The author conveys a sense of urgency throughout the passage.*

### **Copious**

(adj): abundant in supply or quantity.

*The researchers amassed copious amounts of ethnographic data over the course of the study.*

### **Correlate**

(v): to have a mutual relationship or connection. *Studies show that stress levels correlate with heart disease.*

Related words: **correlation** (n): a mutual relationship or connection between two or more things.

### **Corroborate**

(v): to confirm or give support.

*His students' high test results corroborated Nathan's assertion that he is the best teacher ever.*

### **Counteract**

(v): to act against something in order to reduce its force or neutralize it.

*The medication was designed to counteract the effects of the toxin in the body.*

### **Counterclaim**

(n): a claim that goes against the main claim or argument.

*His argument about the efficiency of nuclear power was met with a counterclaim about concerns regarding its safety.*

### **Credible**

(adj): believable; able to be trusted as true or reliable.

*The scientist presented credible evidence to support her theory, earning the respect of her peers.*

**\*Critical**

(adj): important, vital.

*The hippocampus plays a critical role in memory.*

**Critique**

(v): to evaluate or analyze critically.

*The article critiques the methodology used in prior studies.*

**Cynical**

(adj): believing that people are motivated primarily by self-interest; distrustful.

*His cynical attitude made him doubt the politician's promises.*

**Daunting**

(adj): seeming difficult to deal with in anticipation; intimidating.

*The prospect of writing a dissertation appeared daunting to many students.*

**Dearth**

(n): a scarcity or lack of something.

*There was a dearth of evidence to support the claim.*

**Debilitate**

(v): to weaken or impair the strength of.

Chronic underfunding has debilitated the capacity of public institutions to meet societal needs.

**Debunk**

(v): to prove that a belief, idea, or claim is false or mistaken.

*The scientist debunked the myth that vaccines cause illness.*

**Deceptive**

(adj): dishonest or misleading.

*The argument that illegal immigrants steal jobs is deceptive; in fact, the majority of illegal immigrants take low-paying and dangerous jobs that citizens don't want.*

Related words: **deceive** (v): to lie or mislead.

**Decipher**

(v): to uncover the meaning of something that is in code or difficult to understand.

*The archaeologist managed to decipher the ancient script.*

**Decisive**

(adj): conclusive or final; settling an issue.

*Decisive evidence has emerged, ending the debate about the origins of the fossil.*

**Decline**

(v): to gradually decrease or become smaller.

*The study showed that bird populations declined over the past decade.*

**Deficient**

(adj): lacking in some essential quality or element.

*The initial draft was deficient in empirical evidence and theoretical grounding.*

**Degradate**

(v): to deteriorate, weaken, or lower in dignity.

*Government corruption degrades our democracy.*

**Deliberate**

1 (adj): done consciously and intentionally.

*The authors took a deliberate approach in framing their argument within a sociopolitical context.*

2 (v): to think about or discuss something carefully, especially before making a decision.

*The committee took several hours to deliberate before reaching a final verdict on the policy proposal.*

**Demeanor**

(n): a person's outward behavior, manner, or appearance.

*Despite the tense situation, the professor maintained a calm and composed demeanor throughout the discussion.*

**Demographic**

(n): a particular sector of a population.

*The survey targeted a broad demographic to ensure diverse representation in the findings.*

**Denounce**

(v): to publicly declare to be wrong or bad.

*Sanders denounced the U.S. military's use of chemical weapons on children in Cambodia and Vietnam.*

**Depict**

(v): to represent or show something visually or in words.

*The painting depicts a serene landscape at sunset.*

**Deprive**

(v): to take something away from someone or prevent them from having it.

*Prolonged drought can deprive entire ecosystems of the water they need to survive.*

Related words: **deprivation** (n): the lack or denial of something necessary for well-being.

**Derive**

(v): to come from or obtain from a specified source.

*The word 'coffee' derives from the Turkish word 'kahve.'*

### **Despondent**

(adj): depressed, sad, in low spirits.

*After she failed to get into Brown, Sara was despondent.*

### **Detract**

(v): to reduce or take away the worth or value of something.

*Minor typographical errors did not significantly detract from the overall impact of the manuscript.*

### **Detrimental**

(adj): harmful.

*Excessive smartphone usage is detrimental to sleep.*

### **Deviate**

(v): to depart from an established course or norm.

*The pilot had to deviate from the planned route due to bad weather.*

Related words: **deviation** (n): the action of departing from an established course or accepted standard.

### **Devoid**

(adj): completely lacking or free from something.

*The essay was well-organized but devoid of original analysis, which weakened its overall impact.*

### **Differentiate**

(v): to recognize or show the differences between two or more things.

*The biological study differentiates between the genetic traits of two closely related species.*

### **Digress**

(v): to leave the main subject temporarily in speech or writing.

*Although the author digresses briefly, the central thesis remains coherent and well-supported.*

Related words: **digression** (n): a temporary departure from the main subject in speech or writing

### **Diligent**

(adj): showing care and conscientiousness in one's work or duties.

*The research assistant demonstrated diligent attention to detail in compiling the literature review.*

### **Diminish**

(v): to reduce in size, importance, or intensity.

*The scientist noted that the species' population began to diminish due to habitat loss and pollution.*

### **Discern**

(v): to perceive, notice, or distinguish between things.

*Only experts are able to discern the difference between a genuine Vermeer and works by his apprentices.*  
Related words: **discernable** (adj): able to be perceived.

### **Disclose**

(v): to make (secret or new information) known.

*The company refused to disclose the details of the settlement.*

Related words: **disclosure** (n): the action of making new or secret information known.

### **Discredit**

(v): to prove false; to damage the reputation of someone or something.

*The author aimed to discredit the theory that the manuscript was written by Ortega.*

### **Discrepancy**

(n): a lack of agreement or consistency between two or more facts or versions.

Researchers noted a discrepancy between the reported data and the results of the follow-up experiment.

### **\*Discuss**

(v): to talk about or examine in detail.

*The essay discusses the implications of the legislation.*

### **Disdain**

(n): contempt or strong disapproval.

*In Guernica, Picasso expressed disdain for the violence of the Franco Regime.*

### **\*Dismiss**

(v): to ignore or reject, often without serious consideration.

*The press dismissed the president's claims of voter fraud.*

Related words: **dismissal** (n): the act of ignoring or rejecting, often without serious consideration.

### **Disparage**

(v): to regard as being of little worth or inferior.

*Nathan disparaged the old SAT textbook, which was full of mistakes and bad advice.*

### **Disparate**

(adj): different or distinct.

*The group consisted of individuals from disparate backgrounds, each bringing unique perspectives and experiences to the discussion.*

Related words: **disparity** (n): a noticeable difference or inequality between things.

### **Display**

(v): to show or exhibit.

*The chart displays population trends over time.*

**\*Dispute**

(v): to question or argue against the truth or validity of something.

*The scientist disputed the earlier findings, presenting new evidence that challenged the original conclusion.*

**Dissent**

(n): the expression or holding of opinions at variance with those commonly or officially held.

*The article highlights academic dissent regarding the prevailing economic model.*

**Distinction**

(n): a difference or contrast between similar things or people.

*Many people are unaware of the important distinctions between alligators and crocodiles.*

Related terms: **distinguish** (v): to notice distinctions; **distinct** (adj) the state of being different or having distinctions.

**Distort**

(v): to twist or misrepresent.

*The article distorts the original findings of the study.*

**Diverge**

(v): to separate from another route or opinion and go in a different direction.

*The two schools of thought began to diverge in their interpretations of the data.*

**Dormant**

(adj): temporarily inactive or not growing, but capable of becoming active later.

*The volcano had been dormant for centuries before signs of activity began to emerge again.*

**Dubious**

(adj): hesitating or doubting; not to be relied upon.

*The results of the experiment were dubious at best.*

**Eclectic**

(adj): deriving ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources.

*Her music taste is eclectic, ranging from classical to hip-hop.*

**Efficacy**

(n): the ability to produce a desired or intended result.

*The clinical trial evaluated the efficacy of the treatment across various age groups.*

**\*Elaborate**

(v): to develop or present in detail.

*The author elaborated on the proposal in her manifesto.*

**Elicit**

(v): to evoke or draw out (a response or reaction) from someone.

*The teacher's question elicited a thoughtful response from the student.*

**Eloquent**

(adj): fluent and persuasive in speaking or writing.

*The speaker gave an eloquent speech that moved the audience and clearly conveyed the importance of climate action.*

**Elusive**

(adj): difficult to find or achieve.

*A cure for Alzheimer's disease has remained elusive to researchers.*

Related words: **elude** (v): to avoid or escape detection.

**Embrace**

(v): to accept or welcome something eagerly or with enthusiasm.

*The scientific community quickly embraced the new theory, recognizing its potential to revolutionize the field.*

**\*Employ**

(v): to use.

*The researchers employed an innovative technique to track the migrations of monarch butterflies.*

**Emulate**

(v): to imitate or strive to equal or surpass someone or something.

*The young artist sought to emulate the techniques of the Renaissance masters in her paintings.*

**Endorse**

(v): to express support or approval of.

*Multiple peer-reviewed journals endorsed the use of open-access publishing models.*

**Endure**

(v): to continue or persist through hardship or difficulty.

*The ancient trees have endured harsh winters and strong storms for centuries.*

**Enfranchise**

(v): to give the right to vote.

*The 15th Amendment enfranchised black Americans.*

Related terms: **disenfranchised** (adj): lacking the right to vote.

### **Engender**

(v): to cause or give rise to a feeling, situation, or condition.

*The new policy engendered widespread support among the community.*

### **Enhance**

(v): to improve something.

*The new software is designed to enhance the performance of the computer.*

Related words: **enhancement** (n): an improvement.

### **Enigmatic**

(adj): mysterious or difficult to understand.

*The philosopher's enigmatic statements continue to spark debate among scholars.*

### **Entail**

(v): to involve or require as a necessary part.

Implementing the new curriculum would entail extensive teacher training and resource development.

### **Entrenched**

(adj): firmly established; difficult or unlikely to change.

*The notion that some races were naturally inferior was deeply entrenched in 19th century society.*

### **Enumerate**

(v): to list or mention things one by one.

The article enumerates several policy recommendations based on the study's findings.

### **Ephemeral**

(adj): lasting for a very short time; fleeting or temporary.

*The artist's installation was intentionally made of ice and leaves, emphasizing the ephemeral nature of beauty.*

### **Epitomize**

(v): to be a perfect example of something.

*The works of Gabriel Garcia Marquez are said to epitomize the genre known as magical realism.*

Related words: **epitome** (n): a person or thing that is a perfect example of something.

### **Equivocal**

(adj): open to more than one interpretation; ambiguous.

*His equivocal response left everyone in the room confused.*

Related words: **unequivocal** (adj): not equivocal.

**Eradicate**

(v): to completely destroy or eliminate something.

*Scientists aim to eradicate certain diseases through widespread vaccination programs.*

**Erratic**

(adj): not even or regular in pattern or movement; unpredictable.

*The subject's erratic behavior complicated the interpretation of the psychological assessment.*

**Erroneous**

(adj): incorrect or based on a mistake.

*The scientist retracted her claim after discovering that the data was based on an erroneous assumption.*

**Esoteric**

(adj): intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge.

*The paper's esoteric language limits its accessibility to a broader academic audience.*

**Establish**

1 (v): To set up or create something on a firm or permanent basis.

*The researchers worked together to establish a new laboratory for climate studies.*

2 (v): To show something to be true or certain through evidence or argument.

*The study established a clear connection between air pollution and respiratory illness.*

**Evince**

(v): to show or demonstrate clearly; to make evident.

Her speech evinced a strong commitment to social justice.

**Evoke**

(v): to call forth emotions, feelings, or responses.

*The painting evokes a sense of nostalgia and longing in its viewers.*

**Exacerbate**

(v): to make a situation, problem, or condition worse.

*Her comments only served to exacerbate the tension between the two colleagues.*

**Excerpt**

(n): a short extract from a text.

*The analysis includes an excerpt from Tocqueville's Democracy in America to illustrate the argument.*

**Explicit**

(adj): stated clearly and directly.

*The journalist's criticism of the president was implicit rather than explicit: the president's name was not even mentioned in the article, but it was not difficult to read between the lines.*

### **Exploit**

(v): to use something or someone for one's own advantage, often unfairly or unethically.

*The company was criticized for exploiting natural resources without regard for environmental consequences.*

### **\*Explore**

(v): to investigate or study.

*The researchers explored new methods of energy storage.*

### **Extol**

(v): to praise highly or enthusiastically.

*The researcher extolled the benefits of the new vaccine, calling it a breakthrough in public health.*

### **Fabricate**

(v): to invent or make up, often in a dishonest way.

*The defendant fabricated an excuse.*

### **Facilitate**

(v): to cause, encourage, or make easier.

*The internet has facilitated communication between diverse populations.*

### **Feasible**

(adj): possible to do easily or without an unreasonable amount of effort.

*Nathan's students complained that it wasn't feasible to learn every term on this list.*

### **Flimsy**

(adj): weak, light, or insubstantial.

*The evidence presented in court was deemed flimsy.*

### **Fluctuate**

(v): to rise and fall or change, usually irregularly or unpredictably.

*My score on the practice tests fluctuates from day to day.*

### **\*Former**

(n): the first item in a list of two.

*There is a difference between lying and failing to disclose the full truth. The former is punishable by impeachment, while the latter is merely frowned upon.*

### **Formulate**

(v): to devise or develop methodically.

*The scientists formulated a new hypothesis based on the data.*

### **Foster**

(v): to encourage or promote the development (of something).

*It has been argued that free trade fosters peace, as countries with a mutually-beneficial trading relationship are less likely to attack one another.*

### **Frank**

(adj): honest, direct, and blunt.

*The doctor gave a frank assessment and did not attempt to hide the seriousness of her patient's condition.*

### **Fundamental**

(adj): basic or essential.

*The fundamental structure of the human brain is similar to that of other primates.*

### **Futile**

(adj): incapable of producing any useful result; pointless.

*Despite their efforts, the team realized that further attempts to repair the damaged data were futile.*

### **Generalization**

(n): a broad statement or conclusion.

*The article warns against making sweeping generalizations based on a limited set of data.*

### **Genuine**

(adj): real, authentic, or sincere.

*After extensive analysis, experts confirmed that the medieval manuscript was genuine, not a modern forgery as some had suspected.*

### **Hierarchy**

(n): a system in which people, groups, or things are ranked one above the other according to status or authority.

*The organization's strict hierarchy determined decision-making power at every level.*

### **Highlight**

(v): to emphasize or draw attention to.

*The article highlights disparities in access to education.*

### **Homogeneous**

(adj): consisting of parts or elements that are all the same or very similar.

*The laboratory created a homogeneous mixture to ensure consistent results in the chemical reaction.*

### **Hypothetical**

(adj): imagined or suggested, but perhaps not true or really happening.

*The economist presented a hypothetical model to predict inflation under varying fiscal conditions.*

### **Idealistic**

(adj): involving noble or high-minded principles, but often not practical or realistic.

*The notion that most billionaires will use their wealth and power to benefit society was mocked as idealistic.*

Related terms: **idealist** (n): someone with idealistic views; **ideal** (n): a noble or high-minded principle, generally one regarding how things should be; **ideal** (adj): as good as possible.

### **Illuminate**

(v): to make something clear or easier to understand; to shed light on a subject.

*The professor's explanation helped illuminate the complex theory for the students.*

### **Imminent**

(adj): about to happen.

*The scientists warned of imminent ecological collapse unless conservation efforts intensified.*

### **Impair**

(v): to weaken or damage something, especially a function or ability.

*Exposure to loud noise over time can impair a person's hearing.*

### **Impartial**

(adj): unbiased; fair.

*A judge should remain impartial in his or her decisions.*

### **Impede**

(v): to block, hinder, or restrain.

*The heavy traffic on the highway impeded our progress and caused a significant delay in reaching our destination.*

### **Impending**

(adj): about to happen, likely to happen soon.

*The author fled his country due to fears of impending war.*

### **Implication**

(n): a possible consequence or result.

*The findings have significant implications for educational equity and resource allocation.*

### **Implicit**

(adj): not stated clearly and directly; implied.

*The journalist's criticism of the president was implicit rather than explicit: the president's name was not even mentioned in the article, but it was not difficult to read between the lines.*

### **Improvise**

(v): to create or perform something spontaneously without preparation.

*When the projector failed, the lecturer had to improvise using only a whiteboard and marker.*

### **Incongruous**

(adj): not in harmony or keeping with the surroundings or other aspects.

*The incongruous imagery disrupted the otherwise cohesive narrative.*

Related words: **congruous** (adj): in harmony or keeping with the surroundings or other aspects

### **Incredulous**

(adj): unwilling or unable to believe something; skeptical.

*The researcher gave an incredulous look when presented with data that contradicted well-established findings.*

### **Incremental**

(adj): increasing gradually by regular degrees or additions.

*The authors advocate for an incremental policy shift rather than sweeping reform.*

### **Indispensable**

(adj): absolutely necessary or essential.

*Reliable data is indispensable for informed policymaking.*

Related words: **dispensable** (adj): able to be replaced or done without

### **Indifference**

(n): a lack of interest, opinion, or concern.

*Martin Luther King Jr. maintained that we should never regard the suffering of others with indifference.*

Related words: **indifferent** (adj): characterized by indifference.

### **Indignation**

(n): anger or annoyance provoked by what is perceived as unfair treatment.

*The separation of migrant children from their parents under the Trump regime was met with indignation by human rights organizations.*

Related words: **indignant** (adj): having indignation.

### **Induce**

(v): to lead to or bring about a particular state or action.

*The study found that certain environmental factors can induce stress responses in laboratory animals.*

### **Inept**

(adj): having or showing no skill; clumsy.

*The official's inept response to the crisis eroded public confidence.*

### **Inevitable**

(adj): certain to happen; unavoidable.

*The authors argue that demographic shifts make urban expansion inevitable.*

### **Infallible**

(adj): incapable of making mistakes or being wrong.

*The renowned mathematician was known for his infallible calculations, as he never made errors in his complex equations.*

### **Infer**

(v): to deduce or conclude from evidence and reasoning.

*Based on the results, one can infer a positive correlation between literacy and civic participation.*

### **Influx**

(n): the arrival or entry of a large number of people or things.

*The city saw an influx of tourists during the festival season, boosting local businesses.*

### **Inherent**

(adj): existing as a natural or essential part of something.

*The inherent risks of the surgery were thoroughly explained.*

### **Inhibit**

(v): to hinder, restrain, or prevent.

*Cold inhibits plant growth.*

Related words: **inhibition**: restraint, prevention, or hesitancy.

### **Innate**

(adj): inborn; arising naturally.

*Humans possess an innate propensity for music.*

### **Innocuous**

(adj): not harmful or offensive.

*Though the reporter's question was innocuous, the politician blushed with discomfort.*

### **Innovative**

(adj): introducing new ideas or methods; creative and original.

*The scientist's innovative approach to renewable energy has the potential to revolutionize the industry.*

### **Insight**

(n): a clear and deep understanding of a situation or problem.

*The researcher gained valuable insight into human behavior through extensive fieldwork.*

### **Insinuate**

(v): to suggest or hint something in an indirect and often unpleasant way.

*The editorial insinuated that the funding source may have biased the research outcomes.*

### **Instinctive**

(adj): done naturally or without conscious thought; arising from an inner impulse.

*The bird's instinctive migration patterns guide it thousands of miles each year.*

### **Integral**

(adj): essential or necessary to make something complete.

*Data visualization has become an integral component of modern scientific communication.*

### **Interchangeable**

(adj): capable of being exchanged or substituted, often due to their similarities.

*The interchangeable parts in the machine allowed for easy replacement and maintenance.*

### **Intermittent**

(adj): occurring at irregular intervals; not continuous or steady.

*The pain was intermittent, coming and going throughout the day.*

### **Intricate**

(adj): highly complicated or detailed.

*The artist's masterpiece was a painting filled with intricate details, showcasing his exceptional skill and attention to every delicate element.*

### **Intuitive**

(adj): based on what one feels to be true without conscious reasoning.

*She had an intuitive understanding of the complex situation.*

Related words: **intuition** (n): the ability to understand something immediately, without the need for conscious reasoning.

### **Invaluable**

(adj): extremely useful or indispensable.

*The professor's guidance proved invaluable to the students completing their research projects.*

### **Invoke**

(v): to summon into action or bring into existence.

*The politician invoked the spirit of unity during the speech to inspire the crowd.*

**Irreconcilable**

(adj): unable to coexist; unable to be resolved.

*The notion of time travel is irreconcilable with our current laws of physics.*

Related words: **reconcile** (v): to reach a compromise or a solution to an apparent paradox.

**Ironic**

(adj): contrary or opposite to expectations.

*It's ironic that so many farmers support barriers to free trade, given that such barriers cost them billions in lost revenue.*

Related words: irony (n): the state of being ironic.

**Ivy League Mentors**

(n): A useful resource for students. This one won't appear on the test, but it will help you do better!

*Nathan Greenberg founded Ivy League Mentors to share his experience with students all around the world.*

**Justify**

(v): to show or prove to be right.

*The author justifies the conclusions with ample evidence.*

**Juxtapose**

(v): to place side by side for comparison or contrast.

*The author juxtaposes narratives from two distinct historical periods to underscore their thematic similarities.*

**Lament**

(v): to express grief or sorrow; to mourn.

*The community lamented the loss of the historic landmark after the fire.*

**Latent**

(adj): hidden or undeveloped, but potentially present.

*The study explores the latent consequences of early childhood trauma.*

**Latter**

(n): The second item in a list of two.

*There is a difference between lying and failing to disclose the full truth. The former is punishable by impeachment, while the latter is merely frowned upon.*

**Lucid**

(adj): expressed clearly; easy to understand.

*The article provides a lucid explanation of complex economic theories for undergraduate readers.*

**Lucrative**

(adj): profitable.

*For those who amass millions of followers, posting content on social media platforms like YouTube and TikTok can be very lucrative.*

**\*Maintain**

(v): to assert.

*The senator maintains that legalization of recreational drugs will increase tax revenue.*

**Malleable**

(adj): easily influenced or pliable.

*The young student's mind was malleable and open to new ideas.*

**Mar**

(v): to spoil or damage, and thus render less perfect.

*Her happiness was marred by regret.*

**Meticulous**

(adj): extremely careful and precise with details.

*The artist was meticulous in painting every tiny brushstroke to ensure a perfect portrait.*

**Mimic**

(v): to imitate or copy the actions, speech, or appearance of someone or something.

*The talented comedian could mimic the voices of various celebrities.*

**Misconception**

(n): an incorrect belief or attitude.

*It is a misconception that Columbus was the first European to reach the Americas. In fact, the Vikings reached North America hundreds of years before him.*

**Misconstrue**

(v): to interpret something wrongly.

*His silence was misconstrued as agreement.*

**Mitigate**

(v): to make less severe, serious, or painful.

*The recession was mitigated by government policies to assist poor families.*

**\*Modest**

(adj): small or not impressive.

*The writer achieved modest success with her first novel, receiving positive reviews but limited sales.*

**Mundane**

(adj): lacking interest or excitement; dull.

*The study reveals how seemingly mundane routines shape long-term behavior.*

**Myriad**

(adj): a countless or extremely great number.

*The analysis accounted for a myriad of variables influencing public opinion.*

**Naive**

(adj): showing a lack of experience, wisdom, or judgment; overly trusting or innocent.

*His naive approach to business caused him to overlook potential risks.*

**Nebulous**

(adj): vague, unclear, or ill-defined.

*The philosopher's argument was compelling in tone but ultimately based on nebulous concepts that lacked concrete evidence.*

**\*Neglect**

(v): to fail to do something.

*The researchers neglected to consider how variations in soil acidity might affect plant growth.*

**Negligible**

(adj): so small or unimportant as to be not worth considering; insignificant.

*The error in measurement was negligible and did not affect the outcome of the experiment.*

**Nostalgic**

(adj): feeling a sentimental longing for the past.

*The old photographs made her feel nostalgic for her childhood summers spent at the lake.*

**\*Novel**

(n): new or innovative.

*The researchers used a novel approach to extract the genome.*

**Notorious**

(adj): well-known for unfavorable reasons.

*The town was notorious for its frequent floods and unreliable infrastructure.*

**Nuanced**

(adj): characterized by subtle and often complex distinctions.

*The nuanced argument presented in the debate showed a deep understanding of the issue.*

Related words: **nuance** (n): a subtle distinction.

## **Obscure**

(adj): not clear or not well known.

*The author's obscure references made the text difficult to comprehend.*

Related words: **obscure** (v): to conceal or make difficult to see or understand; **obscenity** (n): the state of being unknown, inconspicuous, or unimportant.

## **Obsolete**

(adj): no longer useful.

*The advent of the computer made the typewriter obsolete.*

## **Objective**

(adj): based on pure facts rather than on personal opinions or feelings.

*It is difficult to be objective when evaluating art: a work of art that one person finds beautiful, another person might find hideous.*

## **Omit**

(v): to leave out or exclude.

*The authors chose to omit irrelevant data to maintain clarity in their presentation.*

## **Opaque**

(adj): not transparent; difficult to understand or explain.

*The scientist criticized the report's opaque language, arguing that it hindered clear communication of the findings.*

## **Optimism**

(n): the belief or expectation that an outcome will be positive, favorable, or desirable.

*Sara expressed optimism about her score on the SAT, saying that she expected to achieve her target score.*

Related words: **optimistic** (adj): characterized by optimism.

## **Orthodox**

(adj): customary; traditional.

*The community follows orthodox practices that have been passed down for generations.*

Related words: **unorthodox** (adj): not orthodox.

## **Outspoken**

(adj): frank in stating one's opinions, especially if they are critical or controversial.

*The reporter was outspoken in her criticism of the president.*

## **Overlook**

(v): to ignore or not pay attention (to something).

*Johnson overlooked a key factor in his analysis of the situation.*

## Overt

(adj): done or shown openly; plainly or readily apparent, not secret or hidden.

*The United States viewed Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor as an overt act of war.*

## Paradox

(n): a seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition that, when investigated, may prove to be well-founded or true.

*The idea that excessive sleep can make an individual more tired may be viewed as a paradox.*

## Partisan

(adj): tending to favor one group or one way of thinking, often without considering other perspectives.

*The debate became increasingly partisan, with each side refusing to listen to the other.*

## Paucity

(n): a lack or deficiency.

*It can be difficult to learn about prehistoric cultures due to the paucity of surviving evidence.*

## Perceive

(v): to become aware or conscious of something; to come to realize or understand.

*She perceived a change in his behavior.*

Related words: **perception** (n): the ability to see, hear, or become aware of something through the senses; **perceptive** (adj): able to perceive well.

## Perpetuate

(v): to cause something to continue indefinitely.

*Spreading misinformation can perpetuate false beliefs within a society.*

## Persist

(v): to continue to exist; to continue to do something.

*Though she took the medication, her symptoms persisted.*

## Pervasive

(adj): widespread or common, often in a negative context.

*Cheating has become more pervasive since the development of Chat GPT.*

## Pessimism

(n): the belief or expectation that an outcome will not be positive, favorable, or desirable.

*Sara expressed pessimism about her score on the SAT, saying that she expected to fail.*

Related words: **pessimistic** (adj): characterized by pessimism.

## Plateau

(v): to reach a stable level after a period of growth or progress.

*After several weeks of rapid improvement, the patient's recovery began to plateau, showing little further change.*

### **Plausible**

(adj): seeming reasonable or probable.

*The detective found the suspect's story plausible.*

Related words: **plausibility** (n): the quality of seeming reasonable or probable.

### **Posit**

(v): to pose, predict, or hypothesize.

*The researchers posited that increased carbon dioxide would inhibit plant growth.*

### **Potent**

(adj): powerful or effective; having a strong influence or impact.

*The novel's potent imagery left a lasting impression on its readers.*

### **Pragmatic**

(adj): dealing with things sensibly and realistically in a way that is based on practical rather than theoretical considerations.

*Although it would be great to completely eliminate world hunger, we need to be pragmatic and focus on the areas in which we can make the greatest impact.*

### **Predate**

(v): to come before in time.

*The ruins predicated the rise of the Roman Empire, indicating an even earlier civilization once inhabited the region.*

### **Precarious**

(adj): dangerously unstable, uncertain, or insecure.

*The archaeologists crossed a precarious rope bridge to reach the newly discovered ruins on the cliffside.*

### **Precede**

(v): to come before in time.

*Many speculate that the decline of the Aztec Empire preceded the arrival of the Spanish.*

Related words: **precedence** (n): the condition of being considered more important than someone or something else; **precedent** (n): an earlier event or action that is regarded as an example or guide to be considered in subsequent similar circumstances; **unprecedented** (adj): never done or known before; without previous example.

### **Precclude**

(v): to prevent or render impossible.

*Helen Keller's physical disabilities precluded the possibility of a normal life.*

### **Predecessor**

(n): a person or thing that came before another in a job, role, or time.

*The new president promised to reverse several unpopular policies put in place by her predecessor.*

### **Presume**

(adj): suppose that something is the case, generally because it is probable.

*I presume that my sister will arrive late because she often runs behind schedule.*

### **Prevalent**

(adj): widespread in a particular area at a particular time.

*The flu was prevalent throughout the winter season.*

Related words: **prevalence** (n): the fact or condition of being prevalent.

### **Pristine**

(adj): in its original, unspoiled condition; clean and untouched.

*Archaeologists were thrilled to discover a pristine burial chamber, its contents undisturbed for thousands of years.*

### **\*Profess**

(v): to claim that one has (a quality or feeling), especially when this is not the case.

*Despite professing that he was not racist, the governor advocated for voting restrictions that systematically disenfranchised black voters.*

### **Profound**

(adj): deep or intense.

*Hemingway's experience in WWI had a profound impact on his writing.*

### **Prominent**

(adj): important, famous, or noticeable.

*The scientist is a prominent figure in the field of genetics.*

### **Pronounced**

(adj): very noticeable or marked; conspicuous.

*There has been a pronounced increase in gun violence in recent decades.*

### **Proponent**

(n): a person who supports or advocates for a particular idea, cause, or theory.

*The environmentalist was a passionate proponent of renewable energy, tirelessly advocating for its adoption to combat climate change.*

### **Provoke**

(v): to stimulate or incite someone to do or feel something.

*His comments were intended to provoke a reaction from the audience.* Related words: provocative (adj): something that provokes.

### **Proxy**

(n): a person or thing that acts or stands in for someone or something else.

*Scientists often use tree rings as a proxy to study historical climate conditions.*

**Prudence** (n): careful and wise judgment that helps avoid risks or mistakes.

*Her prudence in financial decisions helped the company avoid costly errors.*

Related words: **prudent** (adj): characterized by prudence.

### **\*Qualify**

(v): to limit or modify a statement, especially by acknowledging a counterargument or different perspective.

*The doctor qualified her endorsement of the allergy medication by acknowledging that it caused side effects in some patients.*

Related words: **qualification** (n): something that qualifies.

### **Question**

(v): to express doubt about or challenge the truth or accuracy of something.

*The scientist questioned the validity of the experiment's results.*

### **Rebuke**

(v): to criticize sharply.

*The editorial rebukes the government for its failure to act decisively.*

### **Rebut**

(v): to challenge or prove false using evidence or argument.

*The lawyer effectively rebutted the witness's claims with video footage that contradicted his testimony.*

### **Recall**

(v): to remember or evoke.

*In the memoir, the author recalled a childhood encounter with her grandmother.*

### **Receptive**

(adj): willing to consider or accept new suggestions and ideas.

*The team was receptive to the manager's feedback.*

Related words: **receptiveness** (n): the quality of being willing to consider or accept new suggestions and ideas.

### **Rectify**

(v): to correct or fix something that is wrong or problematic.

*The committee implemented new procedures to rectify inconsistencies in the data collection process.*

### **Redress**

(v): to set right, remedy, or correct a wrong or grievance.

*The company offered to redress the customer's complaint by providing a full refund.*

### **Reductive**

(adj): tending to oversimplify complex ideas or issues, often in a way that distorts their true meaning.

*Critics argued that the documentary offered a reductive portrayal of the conflict, ignoring its deep historical and cultural roots.*

### **Refrain**

(v): to stop oneself from doing something.

*Though he was on a diet, Tom couldn't refrain from eating another piece of cake.*

### **Refute**

(v): to prove false.

*The theory that Mars lacks water was refuted by findings from the new mission, which provided strong evidence of a subglacial lake.*

### **Reiterate**

(v): to say again, often for emphasis or clarity.

*The professor reiterated the importance of citing credible sources in academic writing.*

### **\*Relate**

(v): to tell a story or give an account.

*The author related an anecdote about her experiences in South Africa.*

### **Reluctant**

(adj): hesitant or unwilling to do something.

*Many people are reluctant to try new foods.*

Related words: **reluctance** (n): unwillingness or disinclination to do something.

### **Repudiate**

(adj): to reject or renounce.

*The minister repudiated policies associated with previous party leaders and steered the nation in a new direction.*

Related words: **repudiation** (n): the rejection or renunciation of something.

### **\*Reservations**

(n): hesitation or doubt about the appropriateness of an action. Note, in this usage, the word is always plural.

*Some generals voiced reservations about making air strikes on civilian neighborhoods.*

### **\*Resignation**

(n): the acceptance of something undesirable but inevitable.

*He expressed resignation about his loss in the upcoming election.*

Related words: **resign** (v): to accept something undesirable but inevitable.

### **Resilient**

(adj): able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions.

*The resilient community rebuilt their homes after the hurricane.*

Related words: **resilience** (n): the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties.

### **Resolute**

(adj): firm and determined; unwavering in purpose or belief.

*Despite the harsh conditions, the explorers remained resolute in their mission to reach the summit.*

### **Respectively**

(adv): in the order previously mentioned.

*The two species are native to Asia and South America, respectively, reflecting their distinct evolutionary paths.*

### **Revere**

(v): to deeply respect or idolize.

*Though condemned by the elite, Andrew Jackson was revered by uneducated farmers.*

Related words: **reverence** (n) deep respect or admiration for someone or something.

### **Robust**

(adj): strong and effective in all or most situations; sturdy or well-developed.

*The scientist presented a robust set of data that supported her hypothesis across multiple experiments.*

### **Satire**

(n): a literary or artistic form that uses humor, irony, or exaggeration to criticize or expose flaws in individuals, institutions, or society.

*The novel employs satire to highlight the absurdities of political bureaucracy.*

Related words: **satirical** (adj): using humor, irony, or exaggeration to criticize or expose flaws

### **Scarce**

(adj): limited in quantity or availability; hard to find.

*During the drought, clean drinking water became increasingly scarce across the region.*

## **Scrutinize**

(v): to examine carefully and critically, often in search of flaws.

*The investigator scrutinized the suspects tax records, but could find no proof of criminal activity.*

Related words: **scrutiny** (n): careful and critical examination.

## **Shift**

1 (n): a change in position, direction, or approach.

*The scientist noted a significant shift in public opinion about climate change following the release of new data.*

2 (v): to change or move from one position, direction, or focus to another.

*As food became scarce, the wolves shifted their hunting patterns to new territory.*

## **Shortage**

(n): a situation in which there is not enough of something that is needed.

*The economic report highlighted a severe shortage of skilled labor in the technology sector.*

**Skepticism** (n): doubt or disbelief. Given the preponderance of fake news, it is good to view shocking headlines with a degree of skepticism.

Related words: **skeptical** (adj): having doubt or disbelief; **skeptic** (n): one who is skeptical.

## **Somber**

(adj): gloomy and serious in tone or mood.

*The documentary adopts a somber tone as it recounts the aftermath of the natural disaster.*

## **Speculate**

(v): to make a guess or prediction.

*Yang speculates that in the future, AI will render human labor obsolete.*

Related words: **speculation** (n): guess or prediction.

## **Spontaneous**

(adj): performed or occurring as a result of a sudden inner impulse or without premeditation.

*The study documented a spontaneous genetic mutation in the organism, which led to an unexpected change in coloration.*

## **Sporadic**

(adj): occurring at irregular intervals or only in a few places.

*Sporadic cases of the disease were reported across the country.*

## **Stagnate**

(v): to cease developing, progressing, or moving; to become inactive.

*Without fresh ideas, the company's growth began to stagnate, losing its competitive edge.*

**Staple**

(n): a basic or essential item.

*Wheat is a dietary staple examined in the study's analysis of food security.*

**Status quo**

(n): the existing state of affairs, especially regarding social or political issues.

*Southern politicians argued that desegregation would threaten the status quo and lead to chaos.*

**Strenuous**

(adj): requiring or using great effort or exertion.

*Strenuous activity can improve cardiovascular health.*

**Subjective**

(adj): based on personal opinions or feelings rather than on pure facts.

*Art is mostly subjective: a work of art that one person finds beautiful, another person might find hideous.*

**Subsequent**

(adj): coming later; following in order or time.

*The subsequent ruler of the ancient civilization implemented reforms that reversed many of his predecessor's policies.*

**Subside**

(v): become less intense, violent, or severe.

*The storm gradually subsided, leaving behind clear skies.*

**Subsist**

(v): maintain or support oneself, especially at a minimal level. *Many families in the village subsist on farming.*

Related words: **subsistence** (n): the action or fact of maintaining or supporting oneself at a minimal level.

**Substantial**

(adj): large or significant.

*The impact of burning fossil fuels on the climate is substantial.*

**Substantiate**

(v): to support, often with evidence.

*Katz offered no evidence to substantiate his claim.* Related words: **substantiated** (adj): supported by evidence.

**Subtle**

(adj): not obvious; delicate or precise.

*The painting's subtle symbolism invites varied interpretations.*

**Subvert**

(v): to undermine or overthrow something established, such as a system, authority, or belief.

*The revolutionary group aimed to subvert the corrupt regime by spreading dissent and encouraging civil disobedience.*

**Susceptible**

(adj): likely or liable to be influenced or harmed by a particular thing.

*Children are particularly susceptible to the disease.*

Related words: **susceptibility** (n): the state or fact of being likely or liable to be influenced or harmed by a particular thing.

**Suffrage**

(n): the right to vote.

*Many feel that suffrage should be extended to sixteen-year-olds.*

**Superficial**

(adj): on the surface; shallow; not significant.

*The historian criticized the report for providing only a superficial analysis of the ancient artifact, ignoring its deeper cultural meaning.*

**Superfluous**

(adj): more than is needed or necessary; unnecessary.

*The report included superfluous details that distracted from the main argument.*

**Supplant**

(v): to replace or take the place of.

*Digital technology has largely supplanted traditional methods of communication in modern society.*

**Surmise**

(v): to suppose that something is true.

*Biologists have surmised that habitat destruction could be accelerating evolutionary changes.*

**Surpass**

(v): to go beyond in amount, quality, or achievement.

*The novel's unexpected popularity and critical acclaim allowed it to surpass all previous sales records in the publishing house's history.*

**Surplus**

(n): an amount that is more than what is needed or used.

*The government stored the agricultural surplus in preparation for future shortages.*

## **Sustain**

(v): to maintain or keep something going over time.

*The ancient irrigation system sustained the farmland through long periods of drought.*

## **Synthesize**

(v): to combine (a number of things) into a coherent whole.

*The researcher synthesized the data from multiple studies.*

Related words: **synthesis** (n): the combination of components or elements to form a connected whole; **synthetic** (adj): created (by humans) rather than existing naturally.

## **Tangential**

(adj): only slightly relevant or related.

*Her remarks were tangential to the main point of the discussion.*

## **Tedious**

(adj): tiresome, boring, or monotonous due to being repetitive or lengthy.

*The data entry task was incredibly tedious, requiring hours of mind-numbingly repetitive work.*

## **Tenable**

(adj): able to be defended or maintained against attack or objection.

*The scientist presented a tenable theory that withstood intense peer review.*

Related words: **untenable** (adj): not able to be defended or maintained against attack or objection

## **Tentative**

(adj): not certain or fixed.

*Until more studies can be conducted, the findings are only tentative.*

## **Tenuous**

(adj): very weak or slight.

*Researchers have found only a tenuous link between IQ and emotional intelligence.*

## **Thwart**

(v): to prevent someone from accomplishing something; to oppose successfully.

*A technical error thwarted the researcher's plans to accurately analyze the samples.*

## **Trivial**

(adj): small or of little importance.

*The debate focused on trivial details rather than the main issue.*

## **Ubiquitous**

(adj): present, appearing, or found everywhere.

*Surveillance technologies have become ubiquitous in modern urban environments.*

**Unanimous**

(adj): fully in agreement; showing complete unity in opinion or decision.

*The committee reached a unanimous decision to fund the proposed environmental study.*

**Undermine**

(v): to weaken or go against something, such as an argument or theory.

*The new evidence undermined traditional assumptions about language acquisition.*

**Underscore**

(v): to emphasize.

*The author underscored the need for bipartisanship.*

**Understate**

(v): describe or represent (something) as being smaller or less important than it actually is.

*The report understated the severity of the problem.*

**Unfounded**

(adj): having no basis in fact; unsupported by reason or logic.

*The beliefs of flat-earthers are completely unfounded.*

**Uniform**

(adj): remaining the same in all cases and at all times; unchanging in form or character.

*The scientist recorded uniform results across multiple trials, strengthening the reliability of the findings.*

**Unique**

(adj): one of a kind; unlike anything else.

*The artist's unique style made her paintings instantly recognizable in the gallery.*

**Universal**

(adj): existing everywhere or applying to all.

*Some believe that the government should provide universal healthcare to its citizens.*

**Uphold**

(v): to support or maintain, especially over time.

*Many indigenous communities continue to uphold ancient traditions, passing them down from one generation to the next.*

**Viable**

(adj): capable of working successfully or surviving.

*The proposal outlines a viable alternative to traditional energy sources.*

Related words: **viability** (n): the ability to work successfully or to survive.

**Validate**

(v): to prove or confirm.

*The results of the experiment validated the researcher's hypothesis.*

Related words: **invalidate** (v): to disprove.

**Venerate**

(v): to regard with deep respect or reverence.

*Many cultures venerate their ancestors through special ceremonies and rituals.*

**Verify**

(v): to prove or determine something is true.

*His conclusions have been verified by further experiments.*

**Vindicate**

(v): to clear from blame, justify, or prove.

*New evidence helped vindicate the scientist's controversial theory.*

**Violate**

(v): to break or fail to comply with a rule, law, or agreement.

*The company was fined after it violated environmental regulations by dumping waste improperly.*

**Virtuous**

(adj): having or showing high moral standards.

*She was known for her virtuous conduct and integrity.*

Related words: **virtue** (n): a good quality, especially one related to morals.

**Vulnerable**

(adj): susceptible to physical or emotional attack or harm.

*Children are particularly vulnerable to the disease.*

Related words: **vulnerability** (n): the quality or state of being exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed.

**Wary**

(adj): cautious or careful about possible dangers or problems.

*Scientists remain wary of the new drug's side effects until further testing is completed.*

**Widespread**

(adj): found or distributed over a large area or number of people.

*The widespread use of smartphones has changed how people communicate.*

**Wither**

(v): become dry and shriveled.

*The plants withered in the heat of the sun.*

### **Zeal**

(n): great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective.

*His zeal for the project was infectious.*

Related words: **zealous** (adj): having or showing zeal.

### **Zenith**

(n): the peak or the time at which something is most successful.

*The empire was at its zenith during the third century BCE.*