

1. Golden Dozen

appealing to the sense of beauty

*Some cell phones are designed more for their **aesthetic** appeal than for their functionality.*

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2. Golden Dozen

choosing from a variety of sources

*A person with **eclectic** taste in music would like Joss Stone, Alicia Keys, Shania Twain, and Mozart.*

Copyright © 2006

3. Golden Dozen

a puzzle; a riddle

*Mona Lisa's **enigmatic** smile has puzzled art lovers for centuries.*

Copyright © 2006

4. Golden Dozen

deviating from a general rule; out of place; incongruous

*In the movie Legally Blonde, Elle originally stands out because she is an **anomaly** among the students enrolled at Harvard Law School.*

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5. Golden Dozen

biting; stinging; cutting; scathing

*Simon is famous for his caustic and **vitriolic** criticism of "American Idol" contestants.*

Copyright © 2006

6. Golden Dozen

a seemingly contradictory statement that nonetheless expresses a truth

*In their song "Tearin' Up My Heart," the boys from *NSYNC express a classic **paradox**: "It's tearin' up my heart when I'm with you. But when we are apart, I feel it too."*

Copyright © 2006

7. Golden Dozen

to scold sharply

*In the movie Billy Madison, Ms. Vaughn **castigates** Billy for making fun of a third-grade student who is having trouble reading.*

Copyright © 2006

8. Golden Dozen

to relieve; to lessen

*Do you ever take Aleve to **alleviate** a headache?*

Copyright © 2006

9. Golden Dozen

sharp criticism; bitter speech

*In the movie The Nutty Professor, Dean Richmond is **livid** and launches into a lengthy **diatribe** at Professor Klump for alienating the college's wealthy donors.*

Copyright © 2006

10. Golden Dozen

very perceptive; astute; penetrating

*In Star Wars: The Phantom Menace, Yoda is **perspicacious** when he perceives that young Anakin Skywalker has a dark side that could transform him into the villainous Darth Vader.*

Copyright © 2006

11. Golden Dozen

to praise

*"Everwood" is **lauded** by many as one of the top television shows.*

Copyright © 2006

12. Golden Dozen

**blunt in manner or speech,
often to the point of being rude**

*On the show "The Apprentice," Donald Trump is curt and even **brusque** when he tells each week's losing apprentice, "YOU'RE FIRED!"*

Copyright © 2006

13. Interesting People

a loyal follower or adherent

*A **stalwart** shows great loyalty. The Trojan armies were stalwart supporters of Prince Hector in Troy. But many female viewers preferred to be stalwart supporters of the Greek hero Achilles (Brad Pitt)!*

Copyright © 2006

14. Interesting People

an expert; authority

*In the movie Legally Blonde, Elle is a **connoisseur** of high fashion.*

Copyright © 2006

15. Interesting People

**a person who is known for
his/her wisdom; a wise person**

*In Star Wars Yoda is a perspicacious **sage** who is known for his wisdom.*

Copyright © 2006

16. Interesting People

**a person who opposes laws and
government**

*An **anarchist** therefore opposes order. Sacco and Vanzetti were two very famous anarchists who were executed because of their alleged terrorist acts.*

Copyright © 2006

17. Interesting People

**a person with great talent;
a young genius**

*Prince, Doogie Howser MD and U.S. swimming sensation Michael Phelps are all **prodigies**. Several of the fifth graders in the School of Rock were musical prodigies.*

Copyright © 2006

18. Interesting People

both are people who wander

*In the movie The Lion King, Simba becomes a **vagabond** after Mufasa is killed.*

Copyright © 2006

19. Interesting People

**a person who is devoid of
feeling or acts in a mechanical
way**

*Many of the Nazis who committed genocide during the Holocaust behaved like unthinking **automatons**.*

Copyright © 2006

20. Interesting People

**a person who elicits trust and
then betrays that trust; a con
man or con woman; someone
who defrauds**

*In the movie Thelma and Louise, Brad Pitt plays the character of **swindler** J.D., who befriends the women and then steals their money.*

Copyright © 2006

21. Interesting People

an advisor; teacher; guide

*Obi-Wan Kenobi was Luke Skywalker's **mentor** as Luke became a Jedi knight. In Mean Girls, Regina George was supposedly a mentor who showed Cady how to dress and act like a Plastic.*

Copyright © 2006

22. Interesting People

a person with great artistic talent

*A **virtuoso** is very skilled. Everyone agrees that Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling is the work of a virtuoso.*

Copyright © 2006

23. Interesting People

an ardent follower, supporter, or enthusiast

*In School of Rock, Dewey Finn was an ardent, passionate **devotee** of rock music.*

Copyright © 2006

24. Interesting People

a person who is rude and insensitive

*A **boor** lacks refinement and civility. In the movie Animal House, Bluto was such a **boor** that one person described him as a P-I-G pig!*

Copyright © 2006

25. Interesting People

a person who leads a secluded or solitary life; a hermit

*Shrek was a **recluse** who preferred to live alone.*

Copyright © 2006

26. Interesting People

a person who is practical and thus not given to flights of fancy

*A **pragmatic** senior should always have a "safety school" when applying to college.*

Copyright © 2006

27. Interesting People

a beginner

*Cody Banks was a **neophyte** secret agent. Patch Adams was a **neophyte** intern when he began using humor as a way to help his patients.*

Copyright © 2006

28. Interesting People

a person who has doubts

*A **skeptic** asks questions and lacks faith. In the movie Men in Black, Edwards was originally a **skeptic**, who did not believe that aliens were living in New York City. In the movie Bruce Almighty, Bruce was originally **skeptical** that the man he met really was God.*

Copyright © 2006

29. Interesting People

literally someone who smashes icons or established images

*An **iconoclast** opposes tradition. Eminem's fans argue that he is an iconoclast who has made fun of pop icons such as Carson Daly, Britney Spears, and Moby.*

Copyright © 2006

30. Interesting People

a fake; fraud; cheat

*In The Wizard of Oz, the Wizard turns out to be a **charlatan**, not a real wizard.*

Copyright © 2006

31. Interesting People

an authority who expresses his/her opinions on topics

*Political **pundits** are already making their predictions about the next presidential election.*

Copyright © 2006

32. Interesting People

a person who tries to win favor by flattery

*In "The Simpsons" Smithers is a **sycophant** who uses flattery to gain influence with Mr. Burns.*

Copyright © 2006

33. "Lack of" Words

lacking conviction (strong belief) because of mixed feelings

*In the movie Gladiator, Emperor Commodus is **ambivalent** about giving the order to kill Maximus in the Coliseum. He wants to eliminate a rival, but he also wants to please the crowd.*

Copyright © 2006

34. "Lack of" Words

of little value; trifling, and therefore lacking significance

*The convicted criminal's **paltry** apology did little to lessen his victim's pain.*

Copyright © 2006

35. "Lack of" Words

unclear; not certain

*The meaning of Juliet's line "Wherefore art thou Romeo?" is **ambiguous** to students who do not know that "wherefore" means "why." She is asking, "Why are you Romeo?" (enemy of her family), not "Where are you, Romeo?"*

Copyright © 2006

36. "Lack of" Words

lacking organization

*Remember Cher's **incoherent** speech at the beginning of the movie Clueless? She starts out talking about Haitian immigrants and then abruptly changes the topic to her father's birthday party.*

Copyright © 2006

37. "Lack of" Words

neutral and thus lacking a bias

*Although Judge Judy often becomes irritated with the guests on her show, she remains **disinterested** when it comes to looking at the facts and handing down a judgment.*

Copyright © 2006

38. "Lack of" Words

cruel and therefore lacking in compassion

*In the movie Shrek, Lord Farquaad is a **merciless** tyrant who threatens to eat the Gingerbread Man's gumball buttons.*

Copyright © 2006

39. "Lack of" Words

lacking sensitivity, concern and solicitude

*Dennis Hopper plays **callous** bomber Howard Payne in the movie Speed.*

Copyright © 2006

40. "Lack of" Words

lacking in energy, vitality, and vigor

*Video games such as Dance Dance Revolution are a good way to get **lethargic** individuals off the couch and exercising while having fun at the same time.*

Copyright © 2006

41. "Lack of" Words

lack of respect; contempt

*Napoleon Dynamite feels **disdain** for his lazy Uncle Rico and threatens to call the police to have him arrested. Uncle Rico tells him, "Well then do it! Go on!" Napoleon replies, "Maybe I will. GOSH!"*

Copyright © 2006

42. "Lack of" Words

acting in a rash, hasty manner without fully considering the consequences

*In the movie Finding Nemo, Nemo **impulsively** swims out into the ocean toward the diving ship.*

Copyright © 2006

43. "Lack of" Words

brave and therefore lacking fear

*In Pirates of the Caribbean: the Curse of the Black Pearl, the British ship is named the **Dauntless**.*

Copyright © 2006

44. "Lack of" Words

lacking stability

*In the movie Dirty Dancing, Baby balances **precariously** on a log as she learns how to dance.*

Copyright © 2006

45. "Lack of" Words

shallow and therefore lacking depth

*The movie Shallow Hal could have been called "**Superficial Hal**" because at first he judged people solely on physical appearance.*

Copyright © 2006

46. "Lack of" Words

lacking self-confidence

*Both Alex (Flashdance) and Sarah (Save the Last Dance) were originally **diffident** about their dancing abilities.*

Copyright © 2006

47. "Lack of" Words

immature and therefore lacking maturity or sophistication

*In the movie Billy Madison, Adam Sandler plays a character who is initially very **sophomoric** and **callow**.*

Copyright © 2006

48. "Lack of" Words

excessive and therefore lacking restraint

*In Home Alone 2, Kevin's father thinks Kevin's \$967 hotel room service bill is **extravagant**.*

Copyright © 2006

49. "Lack of" Words

showing little or no feeling or emotion; spiritless; lacking emotion

*In the movie The Wizard of Oz, the **apathetic** Tin Man joins Dorothy and the Scarecrow in hopes that the Wizard will give him a heart.*

Copyright © 2006

50. "Lack of" Words

lacking consistency

*Be sure to give plenty of space to drivers who are driving **erratically** and not paying attention to the road.*

Copyright © 2006

51. "Lack of" Words

commonplace; ordinary and therefore lacking originality; humdrum

*Students should use fresh, original sentences in their writing instead of **trite** expressions such as "as pretty as a picture."*

Copyright © 2006

52. Prefix De-

to put down by condemning or criticizing

*The student council **denounced** the decision to close the campus at lunchtime.*

Copyright © 2006

53. Prefix De-

to criticize; denounce; condemn

*The mayor **decried** the deplorable living conditions of the citizens on the outskirts of town.*

Copyright © 2006

54. Prefix De-

to go down in value

*In a bear market, stocks **depreciate**.*

Copyright © 2006

55. Prefix De-

all mean feeling very down and discouraged

*In the movie The Lion King, Simba is **despondent** when he is unable to save his father.*

Copyright © 2006

56. Prefix De-

things are going down in the sense of being harmful, hurtful and detrimental

*Smoking cigarettes is **deleterious** to your health.*

Copyright © 2006

57. Prefix Be-

to make someone feel really little; to put someone down; to disparage

*Simon often **belittles** contestants on "American Idol" if they sing poorly.*

Copyright © 2006

58. Prefix Be-

to lie in the sense of contradicting

*In the movie 10 Things I Hate About You, the words in Kat's poem actually **belie** her true feelings about Patrick.*

Copyright © 2006

59. Law and Order

believable; credible

*Although the plot of Jurassic Park may seem unlikely at first, author Michael Crichton makes the story sound **plausible** by explaining how dinosaur DNA could be extracted from amber.*

Copyright © 2006

60. Law and Order

incapable of being reformed

*Bart Simpson is an **incorrigible** rascal.*

Copyright © 2006

61. Law and Order

an abusive attack on a person's reputation

*Hollywood stars sue for **defamation** not as a means of making money but to clear their names in the press and punish the tabloids that print the incorrect information.*

Copyright © 2006

62. Law and Order

a veiled hint or insinuation, especially a negative reflection on a person's character or reputation

*The gossip column was filled with **innuendo** about famous actors.*

Copyright © 2006

63. Law and Order

a miscarriage of justice; a distortion of proper procedure

*When the judge dismissed the case against the obviously guilty defendant, the townspeople called it a **travesty**.*

Copyright © 2006

64. Law and Order

both mean to free from blame; to declare innocent

*In the movie My Cousin Vinny, Marisa Tomei's character, Lisa, uses her expert automotive knowledge on the witness stand to **exonerate** the two youths.*

Copyright © 2006

65. Law and Order

to make up or invent a story

*Dr. Doolittle's family thought he had **fabricated** the story about being able to talk to animals.*

Copyright © 2006

66. Law and Order

without previous example

*Lance Armstrong has won the Tour de France an **unprecedented** seven times.*

Copyright © 2006

67. Law and Order

of no importance; irrelevant and therefore lacking significance

*Her testimony was **immaterial** and was, therefore, not admitted into evidence.*

Copyright © 2006

68. Law and Order

not open to question; indisputable

*The videotape of the robbery provided **incontrovertible** evidence against the suspect—he was obviously guilty.*

Copyright © 2006

69. Degree

very skillful; adroit

*Coach Bombay's innovative teaching techniques helped the Mighty Ducks become more **adept** at playing hockey.*

Copyright © 2006

70. Degree

very difficult to accomplish

*Harry Potter has the **arduous** task of defeating a dragon in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.*

Copyright © 2006

71. Degree
**very compassionate;
very sympathetic**

*In the movie Freaky Friday, Tess and Anna learn to be **empathetic** when they are forced to walk in one another's shoes, ultimately gaining respect and understanding for the other's point of view.*

Copyright © 2006

72. Degree
very diligent; very persistent

*You should **assiduously** study each word on this list.*

Copyright © 2006

73. Degree
very secretive; very stealthy

*On "Survivor," contestants make **clandestine** plans to sabotage one another in order to get others voted off the show.*

Copyright © 2006

74. Degree
**very thoughtful; meditative;
pensive**

*Hamlet is **contemplative** as he tries to decide if his life is worth living.*

Copyright © 2006

75. Degree
great fear

*Dorothy and her friends are filled with **trepidation** as they approach the Wizard of Oz.*

Copyright © 2006

76. Degree
very poor; indigent

*In the movie Trading Places, Eddie Murphy plays a character who is originally **destitute** but becomes wealthy.*

Copyright © 2006

77. Degree
very distressed; very worried

*Marlin was **distraught** when Nemo was captured by a diver.*

Copyright © 2006

78. Degree
vile; very contemptible

*The Green Goblin is a **despicable** villain who commits horrible crimes.*

Copyright © 2006

79. Degree
very irritated; very annoyed

*Avril Lavigne is **exasperated** with her boyfriend when she demands to know why he is making things so complicated.*

Copyright © 2006

80. Degree
feeling great happiness

*Contestants are usually **ecstatic** when they see the results of their extreme home makeover.*

Copyright © 2006

81. Degree

excessively vivid in color

*Television home makeover shows do an excellent job of turning **garish**, tacky rooms into tastefully decorated living spaces.*

Copyright © 2006

82. Degree

**fond of conspicuous display;
pompous; pretentious**

*Some **ostentatious** celebrities try to attract attention with their glittering jewels and flashy cars.*

Copyright © 2006

83. Degree

very watchful

*The officers aboard the Titanic were not **vigilant**.*

Copyright © 2006

84. Degree

very large; vast; huge

*The earthquake triggered a tsunami that sent **prodigious** waves across the island.*

Copyright © 2006

85. Degree

very generous

*Oprah is known for bestowing **munificent** gifts on members of her studio audience.*

Copyright © 2006

86. Degree

very stingy; miserly

*Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife Melinda are NOT **parsimonious**. They donate millions of dollars every year in an effort to improve health and education around the world.*

Copyright © 2006

87. Degree

fond of social interaction

*In Renoir's famous painting Luncheon of the Boating Party, the **convivial** host and his guests are enjoying a pleasant afternoon lunch.*

Copyright © 2006

88. Degree

friendly

*The hostess was the life of the party because she was so **affable**.*

Copyright © 2006

89. Degree

very optimistic; hopeful

*President Reagan was renowned for his **sanguine** outlook on life.*

Copyright © 2006

90. Degree

**too smooth; too suave and thus
giving a false sense of
earnestness**

*In the movie School of Rock, the **unctuous** Dewey Finn tries to persuade his principal to give him permission to take his class on a "field trip."*

Copyright © 2006

91. Degree
**making a show of being
devout and thus giving a
sense of false piousness**

*A **sanctimonious** person comes across as being “holier than thou.” In School of Rock, Patty (Ned’s wife) is a sanctimonious busybody, who reveals Dewey’s true identity.*

Copyright © 2006

92. Degree
very profitable

*Both the Spider-Man 2 and Shrek 2 franchises are **lucrative**.*

Copyright © 2006

93. Degree
**to very closely or very carefully
examine a person or thing**

*On Oscar night, the press loves to **scrutinize** outfits of stars such as Nicole Kidman, Halle Berry, and Jennifer Lopez as they walk the red carpet.*

Copyright © 2006

94. Degree
showing great anger and rage

*In the movie Mean Girls, the junior girls at North Shore High School were **livid** when they read what the Plastics said about them in the “Burn Book.”*

Copyright © 2006

95. Degree
**very cautious; very careful;
prudent**

*A **circumspect** person looks before leaping.*

Copyright © 2006

96. History and Geography
to reject; disavow

*The Hollywood couple **repudiated** claims in the press that their marriage was over; however, a month later they filed for divorce.*

Copyright © 2006

97. History and Geography
**a person or event that is
chronologically in the wrong
time**

*The Back to the Future movies contain a number of amusing **anachronisms**.*

Copyright © 2006

98. History and Geography
an agreement

*In the movie Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl, Captain Jack Sparrow and Will reach an **accord**: Will agrees to free Sparrow and Sparrow will help Will find Elizabeth.*

Copyright © 2006

99. History and Geography
to surrender; to give up

*In her defiant song “White Flag,” Dido refuses to **capitulate**:
Well, I will go down with this ship
And I won’t put my hands up and surrender
There will be no white flag above my door
I’m in love and always will be*

Copyright © 2006

100. History and Geography
**to inform; instruct; illuminate
and thus remove ignorance**

*Writers such as Voltaire **enlightened** European society by urging people to use science and reason instead of blindly following their prejudices.*

Copyright © 2006

101. History and Geography

giving in to someone's demands

*Great Britain and France **appeased** Hitler at the Munich Conference.*

Copyright © 2006

102. History and Geography

to specify; set forth

*The contract with the decorator **stipulates** the maximum amount he can charge.*

Copyright © 2006

103. History and Geography

an excuse; an alleged reason

*In Dr. Seuss' book The Cat in the Hat Comes Back, the Cat talks his way into the children's house under the **pretext** that he would like to come in to get out of the snow.*

Copyright © 2006

104. History and Geography

a turning point; an event that is of critical importance

*President Truman's decision to drop the atomic bomb was a **watershed** event in 20th century history.*

Copyright © 2006

105. History and Geography

self-rule; independence

*In the movie Men in Black, the MIB is an **autonomous** government organization.*

Copyright © 2006

106. History and Geography

a public declaration of beliefs

*Published in 1848, the Communist **Manifesto** publicly declared the radical economic beliefs of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.*

Copyright © 2006

107. History and Geography

favoring peace

*During the Vietnam War, America was divided between **Hawks** who supported the war and **Doves** who opposed it.*

Copyright © 2006

108. History and Geography

to grant voting rights

*The Voting Rights Act of 1965 **enfranchised** African-Americans.*

Copyright © 2006

109. History and Geography

any powerful ruler; sovereign

*Hitler was a brutal **potentate**.*

Copyright © 2006

110. Science

pertaining to the stars

*The Hubble Telescope enables astronomers to view **celestial** bodies over 12 billion light years away.*

Copyright © 2006

111.

Science

pertaining to trees

Arbor Day is tree appreciation day.

Copyright © 2006

112.

Science

an agent that provokes or speeds significant change or action

*Gasoline can act as a **catalyst** for spreading fire.*

Copyright © 2006

113.

Science

movement of a solvent through a semipermeable membrane

*Osmosis is a process of gradual absorption. It would be easy if students could learn SAT vocabulary words through **osmosis** instead of diligent studying.*

Copyright © 2006

114.

Science

combination or fusion of different elements

*The scientist **synthesized** the new medication in the laboratory.*

Copyright © 2006

115.

Science

airtight

*Be sure to create a **hermetic** seal when storing food in the freezer.*

Copyright © 2006

116.

Science

native to an area

*Cardinals are **indigenous** to the East Coast. The buffalo is indigenous to the Great Plains.*

Copyright © 2006

117.

Science

a chain of islands

*Hawaii is an **archipelago**.*

Copyright © 2006

118.

Science

a small stream

*Several **rivulets** feed into the Potomac River.*

Copyright © 2006

119.

Language Arts

a collection of poems and stories

*Your literature textbook is an **anthology**.*

Copyright © 2006

120.

Language Arts

a closing section added to a novel or play

*A writer may use an **epilogue** to provide additional information about what happens to the characters after the end of the story.*

Copyright © 2006

121. Language Arts

an introductory section added to a poem, novel, or story

*In the **prologue** to Romeo and Juliet, the chorus introduces the story of the star-crossed lovers.*

Copyright © 2006

122. Language Arts

a literary work that ridicules and derides human vices and weaknesses

*Authors use **satire** to make fun of situations they feel are unjust.*

Copyright © 2006

123. Language Arts

short story; brief sketch

*Earl Woods told an **anecdote** about the time he unstrapped his ten-month-old son Tiger from his high chair. Tiger then toddled over to a putter, picked it up, and hit a ball into a net.*

Copyright © 2006

124. Language Arts

a lengthy story about the heroic deeds of a legendary hero

*Compared with Homer's **epic** poem The Iliad, Wolfgang Petersen's movie Troy seems to be more like a vignette.*

Copyright © 2006

125. Language Arts

a humorous, comical show; a comedy

*The Monty Python movies are excellent examples of **farce** because they use satire and improbable situations.*

Copyright © 2006

126. Language Arts

a person skilled at telling a story

*Homer was a blind poet who was a renowned **raconteur**.*

Copyright © 2006

127. Language Arts

an autobiography; personal journal

*Bill Clinton's **memoir** has had record-breaking sales.*

Copyright © 2006

128. The Toughest Words on the SAT

tireless

*You must be **indefatigable** and unflagging as you prepare for the upcoming SAT.*

Copyright © 2006

129. The Toughest Words on the SAT

invincible; incapable of being conquered

*You must have an **indomitable** will as you take the SAT.*

Copyright © 2006

130. The Toughest Words on the SAT

to waver; hesitate; swing back and forth; be indecisive

*Hamlet **vacillates** over which course of action to follow: "To be, or not to be."*

Copyright © 2006

131. The Toughest Words on the SAT

exaggerated pride; arrogance

*In Greek tragedy, **hubris** is often the hero's tragic flaw, which causes his downfall.*

Copyright © 2006

132. The Toughest Words on the SAT

to denounce scathingly

*In the movie The Nutty Professor, Dean Richmond **excoriates** Professor Klump for alienating all of the college's wealthy donors.*

Copyright © 2006

133. The Toughest Words on the SAT

harmless; inoffensive

*In The Wizard of Oz we learn that water is **innocuous** to scarecrows but toxic to wicked witches.*

Copyright © 2006

134. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**very changeable; fickle;
constantly shifting moods**

*Marie knew she could not depend on her **capricious** little sister because she constantly changed her mind.*

Copyright © 2006

135. The Toughest Words on the SAT

to take the place of

*Happy Gilmore **supplants** Shooter McGavin as the biggest star on the golf tour.*

Copyright © 2006

136. The Toughest Words on the SAT

very brief; concise

*In the poem "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe, the raven gives a **laconic** one-word answer, "Nevermore," to all of the narrator's questions.*

Copyright © 2006

137. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**present everywhere at once;
omnipresent; prevalent;
widespread**

*The popularity of portable digital music has made the iPod **ubiquitous**.*

Copyright © 2006

138. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**obsolete; old-fashioned; out-of-date
and thus not "in," "with it," or
contemporary**

*The students felt that their school's dress code was **archaic** and outdated.*

Copyright © 2006

139. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**shared and expressed by
both sides; mutual**

*In the movie Rush Hour, Carter shows Lee how to move with the music. Lee then **reciprocates** by showing Carter some new karate moves.*

Copyright © 2006

140. The Toughest Words on the SAT

great speed; promptness

*In the movie The Waterboy, Bobby is eager to help the team and responds with **alacrity** to the coach's invitation to play.*

Copyright © 2006

141. The Toughest Words on the SAT

incapable of being appeased

*In the movie Rocky III, Rocky and Clubber Lang are **implacable** enemies.*

Copyright © 2006

142. The Toughest Words on the SAT

using lofty, pompous language

*The Munchkin mayor made a **grandiloquent** speech when he welcomed Dorothy and thanked her for killing the Wicked Witch.*

Copyright © 2006

143. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**very different;
very heterogeneous**

*The variety of outfits worn by the Continental Army soldiers gave them a **motley** appearance compared with the British soldiers, who dressed uniformly.*

Copyright © 2006

144. The Toughest Words on the SAT

to place side by side

*In television makeover shows, before-and-after pictures are **juxtaposed** to highlight the dramatic changes.*

Copyright © 2006

145. The Toughest Words on the SAT

obscure; mysterious; esoteric

*Shania Twain sings about being unimpressed with men who bore her with **arcane** facts.*

Copyright © 2006

146. The Toughest Words on the SAT

very worldly; sophisticated

*Constantinople was a very **cosmopolitan** city as a result of its location at the crossroads of trade.*

Copyright © 2006

147. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**incapable of being put into
words; indescribable**

*In the movie Jerry McGuire, Rod's feelings are **ineffable** when he finds out that he has just been offered an \$11.2 million contract.*

Copyright © 2006

148. The Toughest Words on the SAT

to fill with water; flood

*The flood waters from Hurricane Katrina **inundated** many communities. (It can also mean to overwhelm or saturate.)*

*The visiting astronaut was **inundated** with speaking invitations. The students were **inundated** with homework.*

Copyright © 2006

149. The Toughest Words on the SAT

basic; elementary

*Harry Potter learns that levitation is one of a wizard's **rudimentary** skills.*

Copyright © 2006

150. The Toughest Words on the SAT

to make amends; make up for

*Patrick **atones** for hurting Kat in the movie 10 Things I Hate About You by buying her a guitar.*

Copyright © 2006

151. The Toughest Words on the SAT

crafty schemes

*In the movie The Lion King, Simba is at first unaware of Scar's evil **machinations** to get rid of Mufasa and make himself king.*

Copyright © 2006

152. The Toughest Words on the SAT

a dilemma; predicament

*Spider-Man finds himself in a **quandary**: should he save the woman he loves or the tram filled with innocent children?*

Copyright © 2006

153. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**very injurious; destructive;
deadly**

*Doctors were able to discover the cause of the **pernicious** disease.*

Copyright © 2006

154. The Toughest Words on the SAT

to lie

*In the movie Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl, Will thinks Jack is **prevaricating** when he tells him that Will's father was a pirate.*

Copyright © 2006

155. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**a difficult, precarious position;
a predicament**

*In the movie Orange County, Shaun finds himself in a **quagmire** when he isn't accepted at Stanford because his counselor sent in the wrong transcript and he has not applied to any "safety schools."*

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156. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**the positive energy that results
when two different elements are
combined**

*There was surprising **synergy** when Aerosmith and Run DMC combined to perform the song "Walk This Way."*

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157. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**to abstain from; avoid; engage
in abstinence**

*People on the Atkins diet **eschew** foods high in carbohydrates.*

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158. The Toughest Words on the SAT

sparkling; dazzling; brilliant

*Melissa Etheridge gave a **scintillating** rendition of Janis Joplin's classic "Piece of My Heart" at the Grammy Awards show.*

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159. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**belittling; disparaging; putting
someone down**

*Jay Leno often makes **pejorative** remarks about politicians in his opening monologue on "The Tonight Show."*

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160. The Toughest Words on the SAT

a short, concise wise saying

*The **maxim** "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today" is good advice for those studying for the SAT!*

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161. The Toughest Words on the SAT

a general agreement

*After much discussion, the members of the senior class advisory committee reached a **consensus** on the location of the Senior Ball.*

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162. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**expressing remorse, regret,
sorrow for misdeeds**

*Although Denise said she was sorry, she did not act **contrite**.*

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163. The Toughest Words on the SAT

hatefully evil; abominable

*In the movie The Patriot, the British officer commits a **heinous** act when he burns down the church.*

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164. The Toughest Words on the SAT

to remove; delete; censure

*The producer **excised** three scenes from his movie in order to receive a PG-13 rating.*

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165. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**doomed to failure and therefore
pointless**

*In "Star Trek" the Borg always announced, "Resistance is **futile**" before conquering a new planet.*

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166. The Toughest Words on the SAT

poise; confidence; self-assurance

*Kelly, Reuben, and Clay all became American Idols because they had talent and performed with **aplomb**.*

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167. The Toughest Words on the SAT

a model of thought

*In the geocentric **paradigm**, the earth is the center of the solar system. But in the heliocentric **paradigm**, the sun is the center of the solar system.*

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168. The Toughest Words on the SAT

inborn; present at birth

*Linguists believe that humans have an **innate** ability to learn language.*

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169. The Toughest Words on the SAT

a preference or liking

*The people of Belgium have a **penchant** for chocolate.*

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170. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**to become accustomed to
accept something undesirable**

*The pioneers became **inured** to the hardships of living on the frontier.*

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171. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**to hold in high esteem; respect;
honor**

*In the movie Hitch, Albert **venerates** Will Smith's character, Alex, because Alex teaches him how to win the affection of the rich and beautiful Allegra.*

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172. The Toughest Words on the SAT

fascinated; spellbound

*The audience was **enthralled** with the special effects in the movie The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King.*

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173. The Toughest Words on the SAT

slight; delicate; elusive

*There is a big difference between a drastic change which most people will oppose and a **subtle** change which most people will barely notice.*

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174. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**very splendid; luxurious;
magnificent**

*Shrek and Fiona eat a **sumptuous** meal at her parents' royal palace. The Hall of Mirrors is the most **ornate** room in the Versailles Palace.*

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175. The Toughest Words on the SAT

emotionally cleansing

*In the movie Mean Girls, the teachers encouraged the junior girls to do a **cathartic** exercise to release their negative feelings toward one another.*

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176. The Toughest Words on the SAT

trickery; fraud; deception

*Napoleon Dynamite's dishonest Uncle Rico uses **chicanery** to sell his defective products.*

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177. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**a forewarning; hunch; feeling
ahead of an event**

*In the movie Star Wars, Leia has a **premonition** that Luke is in danger.*

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178. The Toughest Words on the SAT

thought provoking

*The teacher wrote the senator's **provocative** statement on the board in order to start a class discussion.*

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179. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**to denounce; defame; turn into
a villain**

*Darth Vader is **vilified** by the Rebel Alliance in the Star Wars movies.*

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180. The Toughest Words on the SAT

learned and authoritative

*In the Harry Potter books, Dumbledore serves as the **magisterial** headmaster of Hogwarts.*

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181. The Toughest Words on the SAT

unaware

*In the movie Freaky Friday, Ryan is **oblivious** to the fact that mom Tess and daughter Anna have switched bodies.*

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182. The Toughest Words on the SAT

very stubborn

*In the movie 10 Things I Hate About You, a remake of Shakespeare's play The Taming of the Shrew, Julia Stiles plays the bitter, **obstinate** Katarina.*

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183. The Toughest Words on the SAT

constant; continuous; unceasing

*On road trips young children often drive their parents crazy by **incessantly** asking, "Are we there yet?"*

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184. The Toughest Words on the SAT

to coax or entice someone into doing something

*SpongeBob always tries to **cajole** Squidward into going jellyfishing.*

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185. The Toughest Words on the SAT

commonplace; ordinary

*Critics blasted the new play, calling it **pedestrian** and **undistinguished**.*

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186. The Toughest Words on the SAT

done on the spur of the moment without preparation

*In the beginning of School of Rock, Dewey's lessons were all **improvised**: they lacked preparation.*

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187. The Toughest Words on the SAT

capable of being perceived

*There was a **palpable** air of excitement as Olympic swimming fans awaited the showdown between Michael "The Shark" Phelps and the Australian "Thorpedo" Ian Thorpe.*

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188. The Toughest Words on the SAT

verbal abuse; a tongue-lashing; severe scolding

*Her simple mistake hardly merited such **vituperation**.*

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189. The Toughest Words on the SAT

an article of faith; a belief

*Charity is a **tenet** of many religions.*

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190. The Toughest Words on the SAT

relentless; unstoppable

*Gollum has an **inexorable** desire to regain the ring in The Lord of the Rings *trilogy*.*

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191. The Toughest Words on the SAT

**evenness of mind, especially
under stress**

*Driving instructors must handle their jobs with **equanimity** if they are to survive the stress of teaching young people to drive.*

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192. The Toughest Words on the SAT

to make better; improve

*In the movie Remember the Titans, Denzel Washington's character, Coach Boone, works hard to **ameliorate** the poor relationship that exists between the players on his football team.*

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