

Northwood High School

SAT Vocabulary List

From the Triumph College Admissions Study Guide for the SAT, ACT, and PSAT. Use your student login and password (drop the zero on the front if you are from the class of 08 or 09) to log in at the link below.

https://www.tcaprep.com/php2/login.php?school_code=1628135275

First the bad news: your vocabulary cannot be improved with a simple one-night crash course. The good news: you **can** boost your vocabulary in the next few weeks, **if** you follow our student-tested advice.

Every week, for the next three to five weeks (depending upon how much time you have before your SAT) you should do the following:

Use Flashcards – [CLICK HERE to print the FRONT of the card](#)

Reload the paper in your printer blank side up and [CLICK HERE to print the BACK of the card](#)

Flashcards really do work—in fact, nearly 90 percent of students at top colleges use flashcards to help them learn new material.

Review your flashcards at least once a day. Do a few at a time whenever you have a spare moment, such as on the bus, in line at the cafeteria, when you get to class a minute early, etc.

After you have mastered the words on your flashcards start taking the vocabulary skill quizzes, to test how well you know each word. When you miss a word, put an asterisk next to the word on your flashcard so you'll be sure to review that word a little harder.

Another Tip:

Sometimes, look at the word and try to guess the definition; sometimes, look at the definition and try to guess the word. Doing it both ways helps the words sink in faster.

For vocabulary work on prefixes [CLICK HERE](#)

The Golden Dozen

1. aesthetic – appealing to the sense of beauty

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

2. eclectic – choosing from a variety of sources

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

3. enigma – a puzzle; a riddle

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

4. anomalous – 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.

5. caustic; vitriolic – biting; stinging; cutting; scathing

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

6. paradox – 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."

7. reprimand; castigate – to scold sharply

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

8. alleviate; mitigate; mollify; assuage – to relieve; to lessen

Do you ever take Aleve to alleviate a headache?

9. tirade; diatribe – 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.

10. insightful; discerning; perspicacious – 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.

11. laud; extol; acclaim – to praise

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

The Golden Dozen cont.

12. **brusque; curt** – 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!"*

You Meet the Most Interesting People on the SAT

13. **stalwart** – 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)!*

14. **connoisseur** – an expert; authority

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

15. **sage** – 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.*

16. **anarchist** – 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.*

17. **prodigy** – 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 School of Rock were musical **prodigies**.*

18. **itinerant; vagabond** – both are people who wander

Do you remember these lyrics from The Lion King?

And can you feel the love tonight?

It is where we are

It's enough for this wide-eyed wanderer

That we got this far

And can you feel the love tonight

How it's laid to rest?

*It's enough to make kings and **vagabonds***

Believe the very best

19. **automaton** – a person who is devoid of feeling; mechanical

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

20. **swindler** – 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.*

You Meet the Most Interesting People on the SAT cont.

21. **mentor** – 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.*
22. **virtuoso** – 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**.*
23. **devotee** – an ardent follower, supporter, or enthusiast
*In School of Rock, Dewey Finn was an ardent, passionate **devotee** of rock music.*
- 24 **boor** – 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!*
25. **recluse** – a person who leads a secluded or solitary life; a hermit
*Shrek was a **recluse** who preferred to live alone.*
26. **pragmatist** – 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.*
27. **neophyte; novice; greenhorn** – 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.*
28. **skeptic** – 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.*
29. **iconoclast** – 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.*
30. **charlatan** – a fake; fraud; cheat
*In The Wizard of Oz, the Wizard turns out to be a **charlatan**, not a real wizard.*

You Meet the Most Interesting People on the SAT cont.

31. **pundit** – an authority who expresses his/her opinions on topics
*Political **pundits** are already making their predictions about the next presidential election.*
32. **sycophant** – 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.*
33. **ambivalent** – 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.*
34. **paltry** – of little value; trifling, and therefore lacking significance
*The convicted criminal's **paltry** apology did little to lessen his victim's pain.*
35. **ambiguous** – 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?"*
36. **incoherent** – 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.*
37. **disinterested** – 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.*
38. **merciless; ruthless** – cruel and therefore lacking in compassion
*In the movie Shrek, Lord Farquaad is a **merciless** tyrant who threatens to eat the Gingerbread Man's gumdrop buttons.*
39. **callous** – lacking sensitivity, concern and solicitude
*Dennis Hopper plays **callous** bomber Howard Payne in the movie Speed.*
40. **lethargic; anemic; languid; slothful** – 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.*

You Meet the Most Interesting People on the SAT cont.

41. **disdain** – 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!"*

42. **impulsive; impetuous; precipitous** – acting in a rash, hasty manner without fully considering the consequences

*In the movie Pirates of the Caribbean, Captain Jack Sparrow repeatedly urges Will to stop being so **impulsive** and wait for the opportune moment. In the movie Finding Nemo, Nemo **impulsively** swims out into the ocean toward the diving ship.*

43. **intrepid; dauntless** – brave and therefore lacking fear

*In Pirates of the Caribbean, the British ship is named the "**Dauntless**." Spider-Man is **intrepid** in Spider-Man 2 when he places himself between an out-of-control train and the end of the tracks.*

44. **precarious** – lacking stability

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

45. **superficial** – shallow and therefore lacking in depth

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

46. **diffident** – lacking self-confidence

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

47. **sophomoric; callow** – immature and therefore lacking maturity or sophistication

*In the movie Billy Madison, Adam Sandler plays a character who is initially very **sophomoric** and **callow**. And in Mall Rats, Holden's girlfriend calls him "**callow**" in a letter ending their relationship. But Holden thinks "**callow**" is a compliment until a friend tells him "Dude, **callow** is not good!"*

48. **extravagant** – excessive and therefore lacking restraint

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

You Meet the Most Interesting People on the SAT cont.

49. **apathetic** – 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.*

50. **erratic** - *lacking consistency*

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

51. **trite, cliché** – commonplace; ordinary and therefore lacking originality; humdrum

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

The Mighty Prefix De- (De is going down!)

52. **denounce** – to put down by condemning or criticizing

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

53. **decry** – to criticize; denounce; condemn

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

54. **depreciate** – to go down in value

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

55. **despondent; dejected; depressed** – all mean to feel very down and discouraged

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

56. **deleterious** – things are going down in the sense of being harmful, hurtful and detrimental

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

Be- (Really Important Prefix)

57. **belittle** – to make someone feel really little; to put someone down; to disparage

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

58. **belie** – to lie in the sense of contradicting

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

Law and Order cont.

59. **plausible** – 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.*

60. **incorrigible** – incapable of being reformed

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

61. **defamation** – 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.*

62. **innuendo** - 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.*

63. **travesty** – 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**.*

64. **exculpate; exonerate** – 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.*

65. **fabricate** – to make up or invent a story

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

66. **unprecedented** – without previous example

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

67. **immaterial** – of no importance; irrelevant and therefore lacking significance

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

68. **incontrovertible** – not open to question; indisputable

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

Degree

69. **adept** – very skillful; adroit

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

70. **arduous** – very difficult to accomplish

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

71. **empathetic** – 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.*

72. **assiduous** – very diligent; very persistent

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

73. **furtive; clandestine** – very secretive; very stealthy

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

74. **contemplative** – very thoughtful; meditative; pensive

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

75. **trepidation** – great fear

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

76. **destitute** – very poor; indigent

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

77. **distraught; inconsolable** – very distressed; very worried

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

78. **despicable** – vile; very contemptible

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

79. **exasperated** – very irritated; very annoyed

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

80. **ecstatic; exuberant; elated; euphoric** – feeling great happiness

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

Degree cont.

81. **garish** – excessively vivid in color

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

82. **ostentatious** – fond of conspicuous display; pompous; pretentious

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

83. **vigilant** – very watchful

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

84. **prodigious** – very large; vast; huge

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

85. **munificent** – very generous

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

86. **parsimonious** – 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.*

87. **convivial** – 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.*

88. **affable** – friendly

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

89. **sanguine** – very optimistic; hopeful

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

90. **unctuous** – 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."*

91. **sanctimonious** – 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.*

Degree cont.

92. **lucrative** – very profitable

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

93. **scrutinize** – 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.*

94. **irate; livid** – 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."*

95. **circumspect** – very cautious; very careful; prudent.

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

History and Geography

96. **repudiate** – to reject; disavow

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

97. **anachronism** – a person or event that is chronologically in the wrong time

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

98. **accord** – 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.*

99. **capitulate** – 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*

100. **enlighten** – 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.*

101. **appeasement** – giving in to someone's demands

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

102. **stipulate** – to specify; set forth

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

103. **pretext** – an excuse; an alleged reason

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

104. **watershed** – 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.*

105. **autonomy** – self-rule; independence

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

History and Geography cont.

106. **manifesto** – a public declaration of beliefs

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

107. **dovish** – favoring peace

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

108. **enfranchise** – to grant voting rights

*The Voting Rights Act of 1965 **enfranchised** African-American voters.*

109. **potentate** – any powerful ruler; sovereign

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

Science

110. **astral; celestial** – pertaining to the stars

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

111. **arboreal** - pertaining to trees

Arbor Day is tree appreciation day.

112. **catalyst** – an agent that provokes or speeds significant change or action

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

113. **osmosis** – movement of a solvent through a semi-permeable 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.*

114. **synthesis; amalgam; conglomeration** – combination or fusion of different elements

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

115. **hermetic** – airtight

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

116. **indigenous** – native to an area

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

117. **archipelago** – a chain of islands

*Hawaii is an **archipelago**.*

118. **rivulet** – a small stream

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

Language Arts

119. **anthology** – a collection of poems and stories
*Your literature textbook is an **anthology**.*

120. **epilogue** – 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.*

121. **prologue** – 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.*

122. **satire** – a literary work that ridicules and derides human vices and weaknesses
*Authors use **satire** to make fun of situations they feel are unjust.*

123. **vignette; anecdote** – short story; brief sketch
*Earl Woods tells 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.*

124. **epic** – 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 more like a vignette.*

125. **farce** – a humorous, comical show; a comedy
*The Monty Python movies are excellent examples of **farce** because they use satire and improbable situations.*

126. **raconteur** – a person skilled at telling a story
*Homer was a blind poet who was a renowned **raconteur**.*

127. **memoir** – an autobiography; personal journal
*Bill Clinton's **memoir** has had record-breaking sales.*

The Toughest Words on the SAT

128. **indefatigable; unflagging** – tireless

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

129. **indomitable** – invincible; incapable of being conquered

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

130. **vacillate** – to waver; hesitate; swing back and forth; be indecisive

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

131. **hubris** – exaggerated pride; arrogance

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

132. **excoriate** – to denounce scathingly

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

133. **innocuous** – harmless; inoffensive

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

134. **capricious; mercurial** – very changeable; fickle; constantly shifting moods

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

135. **supplant** – to take the place of

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

136. **laconic; succinct** – 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.*

137. **ubiquitous** – present everywhere at once; omnipresent; prevalent; widespread

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

138. **archaic** – 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.*

The Toughest Words on the SAT cont.

139. **reciprocal** – 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.*

140. **alacrity** – 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.*

141. **implacable** – incapable of being appeased
*In the movie Rocky III, Rocky and Clubber Lang are **implacable** enemies.*

142. **grandiloquent** – using lofty, pompous language
*The Munchkin mayor made a **grandiloquent** speech when he welcomed Dorothy and thanked her for killing the Wicked Witch.*

143. **motley** – 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.*

144. **juxtapose** – to place side by side
*In television makeover shows, before-and-after pictures are **juxtaposed** to highlight the dramatic changes.*

145. **arcane** – obscure; mysterious; esoteric
*Shania Twain sings about being unimpressed with men who bore her with **arcane** facts.*

146. **cosmopolitan** – very worldly; sophisticated
*Constantinople was a very **cosmopolitan** city as a result of its location at the crossroads of trade.*

147. **ineffable** – 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.*

148. **inundate** – 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.*

149. **rudimentary** – basic; elementary
*Harry Potter learns that levitation is one of a wizard's **rudimentary***

SAT Vocabulary List – from <https://www.tcaprep.com>
skills.

The Toughest Words on the SAT cont.

150. **atone** – 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.*
151. **machinations** – 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.*
152. **quandary** – a dilemma; predicament
*Spider-Man finds himself in a difficult **quandary**: should he save the woman he loves or the tram filled with innocent children?*
153. **pernicious** – very injurious; destructive; deadly
*Doctors were able to discover the cause of the **pernicious** disease.*
154. **prevaricate** – 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.*
155. **quagmire** – 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."*
156. **synergy** – 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."*
157. **eschew** – to abstain from; avoid; engage in abstinence
*People on the Atkins diet **eschew** foods high in carbohydrates.*
158. **scintillating** – sparkling; dazzling; brilliant
*Melissa Etheridge gave a **scintillating** rendition of Janis Joplin's classic "Piece of My Heart" at the Grammy Awards show.*
159. **pejorative** – belittling; disparaging; putting someone down
*Jay Leno often makes **pejorative** remarks about politicians in his opening monologue on "The Tonight Show."*
160. **maxim** – 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!*

The Toughest Words on the SAT cont.

161. **consensus** – a general agreement

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

162. **contrite; penitent** – expressing remorse, regret, sorrow for misdeeds

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

163. **heinous** – hatefully evil; abominable

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

164. **excise; expurgate** – to remove; delete; censure

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

172. **enthralled** – fascinated; spellbound

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

173. **subtle** – 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.*

174. **sumptuous; ornate** – 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.*

175. **cathartic** – 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.*

176. **chicanery; disingenuousness** – trickery; fraud; deception

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

177. **premonition** – a forewarning; hunch; feeling ahead of an event

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

178. **provocative** – thought provoking

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

179. **vilify** – to denounce; defame; turn into a villain

SAT Vocabulary List – from <https://www.tcaprep.com>

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

The Toughest Words on the SAT cont.

180. **magisterial** – learned and authoritative

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

181. **oblivious** – unaware

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

182. **obstinate; adamant; obdurate** – 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.*

183. **incessant** – constant; continuous; unceasing

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

184. **cajole; coerce** – to coax or entice someone into doing something

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

185. **pedestrian** – commonplace; ordinary

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

186. **improvised; impromptu** – 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.*

187. **palpable; tangible** – 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.*

188. **vituperation; invective** – verbal abuse; a tongue-lashing; severe scolding

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

189. **tenet** – an article of faith; a belief

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

190. **inexorable** – relentless; unstoppable

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

191. **equanimity** – 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.*

The Toughest Words on the SAT cont.

192. **ameliorate** – 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.*