

8th Grade SAT Word List

Word	Definition
abeyance	Suspension of an activity; postponement.
abhor	to loathe, detest
abrogate	to abolish or invalidate by authority
abscond	to depart secretly
accede	to express approval; agree to
accolade	Embrace; award; commendation.
accost	to approach and speak to someone
acid	harsh, bitter
adage	old saying or proverb
adamant	uncompromising, unyielding
adhere	to cling or follow without deviation
admonish	Caution; reprove mildly; reprimand.
adversarial	antagonistic, competitive
aerial	having to do with the air
affable	friendly, easy to approach
aggregate	collective mass or sum; total
aggrieve	to afflict, distress
aligned	precisely adjusted; committed to one side
alleviate	to relieve, improve partially
aloof	detached, indifferent
ambiguous	uncertain; subject to multiple interpretations
ambivalence	Uncertainty; doubt; indecisiveness.
amiable	Cordial: of pleasant disposition; friendly.
amicable	friendly, agreeable
anecdote	short, usually funny account of an event
animosity	hatred, hostility
anomaly	Abnormality; deviation from the general rule; irregularity.
anonymity	condition of having no name or an unknown name
apathetic	indifferent, unconcerned
aphelion	point in a planet's orbit that is farthest from the sun
arbitrary	depending solely on individual will; inconsistent
arbitrator	mediator, negotiator
arduous	extremely difficult, laborious
articulate	well spoken, expressing oneself clearly
ascribe	to attribute to, assign
aspersion	false rumor, damaging report, slander
assent	to express agreement

assert	to affirm, arrest
asunder	into different parts
atrocious	monstrous, shockingly bad, wicked
atrophy	Waste away from lack of use; degenerate.
attest	to testify, stand as proof of, bear witness
audacity	Boldness or adventurousness; gall.
auxiliary	supplementary, reserve
avenge	to retaliate, take revenge for an injury or crime
avert	to turn (something) away; prevent, hinder
avow	Affirm; assert; declare; acknowledge.
awry	crooked, askew, amiss
becalm	to make calm or still; keep motionless by lack of wind
becloud	to confuse; darken with clouds
beguile	to deceive; mislead, charm
belated	Tardy; overdue.
belfry	bell tower, room in which a bell is hung
belie	to misrepresent; expose as false
bequeath	to give or leave through a will; to hand down
bestial	bestialy, animal-like
bonanza	extremely large amount; something profitable
boor	crude person, one lacking manners or taste
brevity	Briefness; succinctness; terseness.
brusque	rough and abrupt in manner
callow	Inexperienced; immature; naive.
canvass	to examine thoroughly; conduct a poll
caustic	biting, sarcastic; able to burn
cede	to surrender possession of something
cession	act of surrendering something
chagrin	shame, embarrassment, humiliation
circumnavigate	to sail completely around
clamor	Loud noise or complaint; commotion; din.
clarity	clearness; clear understanding
claustrophobia	fear of small, confined places
cloister	Convent; monastery; religious place.
cloister	to confine, seclude
collusion	collaboration, complicity, conspiracy
commensurate	Equal in measure; of the same duration or size.
commission	fee payable to an agent; authorization
compelling	having a powerful and irresistible effect
compliant	submissive and yielding
compulsive	obsessive, fanatic
concerto	musical composition for orchestra and one or

	more soloists
condone	to pardon or forgive; overlook, justify, or excuse a fault
conflagration	big, destructive fire
consign	to commit, entrust
consolidate	to combine, incorporate
consonant	consistent with, in agreement with
Constrict	Squeeze; pinch; obstruct; block.
corroborate	to confirm, verify
countermand	to annul, cancel, make a contrary order
credible	plausible, believable
cryptic	Enigmatic; obscure; secret; puzzling.
culmination	climax, final stage
curt	abrupt, blunt
curtail	to shorten
debunk	to discredit, disprove
decahlon	athletic contest with 10 events
decorous	proper, tasteful, socially correct
decorum	Appropriate conduct; polite or proper behavior, protocol.
defile	to dirty, spoil; disgrace, dishonor
demur	to express doubts or objections
depreciate	to lose value gradually
deter	to discourage; prevent from happening
devoid	totally lacking
dilapidated	in disrepair, run down, neglected
disaffected	Disillusioned; dissatisfied; discontented.
discordant	harsh-sounding, badly out of tune
discredit	to dishonor or disgrace
discredited	disbelieved, discounted; disgraced, dishonored
discrepancy	difference between
disheveled	untidy, disarranged, unkempt
dispel	to drive out or scatter
dispense	to distribute, administer
dispense with	to suspend the operation of, do without
disperse	to break up, scatter
dissipate	to scatter; to pursue pleasure to excess
dissociate*	to separate; remove from an association
divine	to foretell or know by inspiration
doleful	sad, mournful
dolt	Cretin; fool; dimwit; idiot.
dotard	Senile person.
doting	excessively fond, loving to excess
dyspeptic	suffering from indigestion: gloomy and

	irritable
ebb	to fade away, recede
eloquence	fluent and effective speech
emaciated	skinny, scrawny, gaunt, esp. from hunger
eminent	celebrated, distinguished; outstanding, towering
emotive	appealing to or expressing emotion
empathize	Identify with; understand.
encumber	to hinder, burden, restrict motion
entail	to involve as a necessary result, necessitate
enthrall	Mesmerize; captivate; thrill.
entity	something with its own existence or form
enumerate	to count, list, itemize
epicure	Person devoted to luxurious living; person with refined tastes.
epilogue	concluding section of a literary work
escapade	Adventurous conduct; unusual behavior.
espouse	Embrace: defend: support.
exhume	to remove from a grave; uncover a secret
expedient	convenient, efficient, practical
expedite	Speed up matters; accelerate; quicken.
exponent	one who champions or advocates
extol	Praise; laud; hail; glorify.
fabricate	to make or devise; construct
fabricated	constructed, invented; faked, falsified
fallible	Faulty; imperfect.
feckless	ineffective, careless, irresponsible
feign	to pretend, give a false impression; to invent falsely
feisty	excitable, easily drawn into quarrels
fetid	Possessing an offensive smell; malodorous: foul; gamey.
fitful	intermittent, irregular
flippant	Nonchalant; frivolous, superficial; light.
fluctuate	to alternate, waver
foreboding	dark sense of evil to come
foreclose	to rule out; to seize debtor's property for lack of payments
fragmentation	division, separation into parts, disorganization
fulsome	Loathsome; excessive.
garble	Confuse; scramble; distort.
gargantuan	giant, tremendous
girth	distance around something
glib	fluent in an insincere manner; offhand, casual

grovel	Act in a servile way; cringe; kneel.
gullible	easily deceived
hamper	Hinder; frustrate; impede.
hedge	Enclose; surround; fence.
hilarity	Boisterous merriment; enjoyment.
hindsight	perception of events after they happen
holistic	emphasizing importance of the whole and interdependence of its parts
hydrate	to add water to
hygienic	clean, sanitary
hyperventilate	to breathe abnormally fast
hypothetical	theoretical, speculative
illicit	illegal, improper
illustrious	famous, renowned
immaculate	spotless; free from error
immerse	to bathe, dip; to engross, preoccupy
impeccable	flawless, without fault
implausible	improbable, inconceivable
implicate	to involve in a crime, incriminate
impose	to inflict, force upon
inane	foolish, silly, lacking significance
inaudible	Faint; soft; hard to hear.
inception	beginning
incessant	continuous, never ceasing
incumbent	holding a specified office, often political
indefensible	inexcusable, unforgivable
indicative	showing or point out, suggestive of
indigent	very poor
indulge	to give in to a craving or desire
infatuated	strongly or foolishly attached to, inspired with foolish passion, overly in love
ingenuous	Genuine; open; candid; frank.
ingrate	ungrateful person
injunction	command, order
innuendo	indirect and subtle criticism, insinuation
insinuate	to suggest, say indirectly, imply
inter	to bury
intercede	Intervene; negotiate.
interloper	trespasser; meddler in others' affairs
interrogate	to question formally
introvert	someone given to self-analysis
intuitive	instinctive, untaught
invoke	to call upon, request help
itinerant	wandering from place to place, unsettled
itinerary	route of a traveler's journey

jubilee	special anniversary
judicious	Logical; reasonable; clever.
laceration	cut or wound
laconic	Concise; terse; curt.
languid	lacking energy, indifferent, slow
languish	Decline; diminish; weaken.
latent	present but hidden; potential
laudable	Commendable; admirable; exemplary.
levity	Lightness; frivolity.
liberal	tolerant, broad-minded, generous, lavish
linguistics	study of language
ludicrous	Outlandish; silly; ridiculous.
lurid	Shockingly vivid; horrifying; sensational.
lurk	to prowl, sneak
magnitude	extent, greatness of size
malcontent	discontented person, one who holds a grudge
malnutrition	undernourishment
manifest	obvious
manifold	diverse, varied, comprised of many parts
marginal	barely sufficient
meander	Twist; bend; zigzag.
meddler	person interfering in other's affairs
mentor	experienced teacher and wise advisor
mercenary	motivated only by greed
mercenary	soldier for hire in foreign countries
meticulous	Precise; scrupulous; particular.
minuscule	very small
mire	Mud; slime; muck.
misapprehend	to misunderstand, fail to know
munitions	ammunition
narrative	account, story
nocturnal	pertaining to night; active at night
nomadic	moving from place to place
notoriety	unfavorable fame
nullify	to make legally invalid; to counteract the effect of
oblique	indirect, evasive; misleading, devious
obsessive	preoccupying, all-consuming
obsolete	no longer in use
obtuse	insensitive, stupid, dull
opaque	Impenetrable by light; dull; dark; obscure.
opportune	appropriate, fitting
opportunist	one who takes advantage of circumstances
optimum	Peak or prime; ideal.

orb	spherical body; eye
orchestrate	to arrange music for performance; to coordinate, organize
overwrought	agitated, overdone
pacific	calm, peaceful
pacifist	one opposed to war
pacify	to restore calm, bring peace
pall	to lose strength or interest
pall (n)	covering that darkens or obscures; coffin
paltry	Minor; petty; insignificant.
panorama	broad view; comprehensive picture
paradox	contradiction, incongruity; dilemma, puzzle
paradoxical	self-contradictory but true
paragon	Model or standard of excellence.
paramount	supreme, dominant, primary
pathos	pity, compassion
patrician	aristocrat
pauper	very poor person
pedestrian	commonplace
pediatrician	doctor specializing in children and their ailments
peerless	unequaled
peevish	Irritable; grouchy; ill-tempered.
penance	voluntary suffering to repent for a wrong
perennial	present throughout the years; persistent
perpetual	endless, lasting
pertinent	applicable, appropriate
phobia	exaggerated, illogical fear
phonetics	study of speech sounds
piety	devoutness
pilfer	to steal
platitude	1. Triteness. 2. Cliché; trivial remark.
plaudit	Enthusiastic expression.
poignant	Intense; powerful; biting; piercing.
porous	Permeable; absorbent; having holes.
pragmatic	practical; moved by facts rather than abstract ideals
prattle	Gab; babble.
prattle	meaningless, foolish talk
precarious	uncertain
precipice	edge, steep overhang
precipitate	to throw down from a height; to cause to happen
precision	state of being precise
precocious	Showing premature development.

preposterous	absurd, illogical
primeval	Belonging to a primitive age.
primordial	Belonging to a primitive age; first in time.
pristine	untouched, uncorrupted
procrastinate	Postpone; stall; defer.
procrastinator	one who continually and unjustifiably postpones
prognosis	prediction of disease outcome; any prediction
proponent	advocate, defender, supporter
prostrate	lying face downward, lying flat on ground
protocol	ceremony and manners observed by diplomats
prude	one who is excessively proper or modest
pugnacity	Eagerness to fight; belligerence.
pulverize	Grind; crush; smash.
punitive	having to do with punishment
purge	to cleanse or free from impurities
quell	to crush or subdue
rail	to scold with bitter or abusive language
rapproach	relationship of trust and respect
rapt	deeply absorbed
reactionary	Opposing progress; characterized by reaction.
rebuff	blunt rejection
reconciliation	Settlement or resolution.
recount	to describe facts or events
reflection	image, likeness; opinion, thought, impression
regress	to move backward; revert to an earlier form or state
relegate	to assign to a class, esp. an inferior one
renegade	traitor, person abandoning a cause
renege	to go back on one's word
renounce	to give up or reject a right, title, person, etc.
repentant	apologetic, guilty, remorseful
repress	to restrain or hold in
requiem	hymns or religious service for the dead
resolve	to conclude, determine
resolve	determination, firmness of purpose
resuscitate	to revive, bring back to life
retiring	shy, modest, reserved
retract	to draw in or take back
retrench	to regroup, reorganize
retrieve	to bring, fetch; reclaim
revere	to worship, regard with awe
revert	to backslide, regress

revulsion	strong feeling of repugnance or dislike
rife	widespread, prevalent; abundant
rostrum	stage for public speaking
rudiment	Beginning; foundation or source.
ruffian	Brutal person; cruel and sadistic person.
ruminare	Contemplate; think about.
salutation	greeting
saunter	to amble; walk in a leisurely manner
scabbard	sheath for sword or dagger
secluded	isolated and remote
serenity	calm, peacefulness
serpentine	serpent-like; twisting, winding
simper	to smirk, smile foolishly
singe	to burn slightly, scorch
skeptical	doubtful, questioning
slough	to discard or shed
snippet	tiny part, tidbit
sobriety	seriousness
sodden	thoroughly soaked; saturated
sojourn	visit, stay
solace	comfort in distress; consolation
solidarity	unity based on common aims or interests
somber	dark and gloomy; melancholy, dismal
sovereign	having supreme power
speculation	contemplation; act of taking business risks for financial gains
speculative	involving assumption; uncertain; theoretical
staid	self-restrained to the point of dullness
stratify	to arrange into layers
stricture	something that restrains; negative criticism
stylize	to fashion, formalize
stymie	to block or thwart
subdued	suppressed, stifled
subjugate	to conquer, subdue; enslave
subterranean	hidden, secret; underground
subvert	to undermine or corrupt
sufferable	bearable
superficial	shallow and phony
supplant	replace, substitute
surmise	to make an educated guess
syllabus	outline of a course
symposium	meeting with short presentations on related topics
taciturn	Reserved; shy: uncommunicative.
tangible	able to be sensed, perceptible, measurable

tantamount	Indistinguishable; equivalent.
taxonomy	science of classification
tenable	defensible, reasonable
terminal	concluding, final; fatal
testament	statement of belief; will
testimonial	statement testifying to a truth; something given in tribute to a person's achievement
theoretical	abstract
therapeutic	medicinal
thesaurus	book of synonyms and antonyms
timorous	timid, shy, full of apprehension
translucent	partially transparent
transpire	to happen, occur; become known
travesty	parody, exaggerated imitation, caricature
trifling	of slight worth, trivial, insignificant
upshot	Final result; conclusion; end.
urbane	courteous, refined, suave
utopia	perfect place
variegated	Multicolored; polychromatic; varied.
versatile	adaptable, all-purpose
vie	to compete, contend
vignette	decorative design; short literary composition
virtuoso	someone with masterly skill; expert musician
wallow	to indulge oneself excessively, luxuriate
wary	careful, cautious
wayward	erratic, unrestrained, reckless
whimsy	playful or fanciful idea
windfall	sudden, unexpected good fortune
withdrawn	unsociable, aloof; shy, timid
zoologist	scientist who studies animals