

9th Grade SAT Word List

Word	Definition
abatement	decrease, reduction
abdicate	to give up a position, right, or power
acumen	sharpness of insight
adherent	Believer; supporter; devotee.
adjunct	1. Attachment; appendage. 2. Subordinate or auxiliary capacity.
aesthetic	pertaining to beauty or art
aggrandize	Make more powerful; amplify; increase.
allegory	symbolic representation
allusion	indirect reference
allusiveness	quality of making many indirect references
ameliorate	Make better; improve.
amenable	agreeable, cooperative
amoral	unprincipled, unethical
amorous	strongly attracted to love; showing love
ancillary	accessory; subordinate; helping
antipathy	Feeling of opposition or repugnance: aversion; dislike.
antiquated	outdated, obsolete
antiquity	ancient times; the quality of being old or ancient
antithesis	exact opposite or direct contrast
aperture	Gap; opening; orifice.
approbation	praise; official approval
arcane	secret, obscure, known only to a few
ardor	great emotion or passion
ascendancy	state of rising, ascending; power or control
ascertain	to determine, discover, make certain of
assiduous	diligent, persistent, hard-working
assimilation	act of blending in, becoming similar
attenuate	to make thin or slender; weaken
audacious	bold, daring, fearless
audit	formal examination of financial records
augment	to expand, extend
avarice	Extreme desire for wealth; greed; acquisitiveness.
aversion	intense dislike
avouch	Guarantee; take responsibility for: affirm.
belabor	to insist repeatedly or harp on
bemuse	to confuse, stupefy; plunge deep into thought
benefactor	someone giving aid or money
beseech	to beg, plead, implore
betoken	to indicate, signify, give evidence of
blanch	to pale; take the color out of

blatant	glaring, obvious, showy
boorish	Ill-mannered; rude; gauche.
brigand	bandit, outlaw
buffet	to toss about
buffoon	clown or fool
bulwark	defense wall; anything serving as defense
bursar	treasurer
buttress	to reinforce or support
buttress	Truss; foundation; support.
cajole	to flatter, coax, persuade
calamitous	disastrous, catastrophic
carnal	of the flesh
carouse	Drink to excess; live it up.
carp	to find fault, complain constantly
castigate	to punish, chastise, criticize severely
cavalier	carefree, happy; with lordly disdain
cavort	to frolic, frisk
certitude	assurance, certainty
cessation	temporary or complete halt
champion	to defend or support
chasten	Castigate; punish; reprove.
chastise	to punish, discipline, scold
cherubic	Sweet; kind; innocent.
churlish	Selfish; rancorous; surly.
circumscribe	to encircle; set limits on, confine
citadel	fortress or stronghold
clandestine	Furtive; surreptitious; secret.
Coalesce	Combine; incorporate; merge.
cognition	mental process by which knowledge is acquired
collateral	accompanying
commodious	roomy, spacious
compatriot	fellow countryman
compensate	to repay or reimburse
complacent	self-satisfied, smug
compunction	feeling of uneasiness caused by guilt or regret
concede	to yield, admit
conceptualize	to envision, imagine
concur	to agree
conduit	tube, pipe, or similar passage
congenial	similar in tastes and habits
conjecture	speculation, prediction
Conjugal	Matrimonial; nuptial; marital.
constrained	forced, compelled; confined, restrained
constraint	something that forces or compels; something that

	restrains or confines
consummate	accomplished, complete, perfect
consummate	to complete, fulfill
contentious	Argumentative; pugnacious; quarrelsome.
conundrum	Mystery; puzzle.
convene	to meet, come together, assemble
conventional	typical, customary, commonplace
corrugate	to mold in a shape with parallel grooves and ridges
cosmography	science that deals with the nature of the universe
credence	acceptance of something as true or real
credulous	Gullible; unsuspecting; naive.
culpable	guilty, responsible for wrong
cumulative	resulting from gradual increase
cynic	person who distrusts the motives of others
daunt	to discourage, intimidate
debutante	young woman making debut in high society
decapitate	to behead
deferential	respectful and polite in a submissive way
deflation	decrease, depreciation
demystify	to remove mystery from, clarify
deplore	to express or feel disapproval of; regret strongly
deploy	to spread out strategically over an area
deride	to mock, ridicule, make fun of
destitute	very poor, poverty-stricken
diffract	to cause to separate into parts, esp. light
diligent	Assiduous: studious; hard-working.
dirge	funeral hymn
disbar	to expel from legal profession
disconcerting	bewildering, perplexing, slightly disturbing
disengaged	disconnected, disassociated
dishearten	Dismay; daunt; depress.
disinclined	averse, unwilling, lacking desire
disinterment	Exhumation; removal of a body from a grave.
disoblige	Slight or offend.
dispassionate	Imperturbable; unemotional; calm; composed.
dissemble	Disguise; conceal; mask; camouflage.
disseminate	to spread far and wide
Dissension	Conflict; disagreement; strife.
dissuade	Obstruct; hinder; deter.
divisive	creating disunity or conflict
dogmatic	rigidly fixed in opinion, opinionated
dowry	money or property given by a bride to her husband
dross	waste produced during metal smelting; garbage
dubious	Irresolute; uncertain; moot.

edifice	building
efface	Cancel; delete; obliterate.
efficacious	effective, efficient
effigy*	Mannequin; likeness; image.
elucidate	interpret; define; clarify; explain.
encipher	to translate a message into code
enervate	Exhaust or weaken; debilitate.
engender	Generate; produce; cause.
enigmatic	Cryptic; baffling; mysterious.
ensconce	to settle comfortable into a place
enshroud	to cover, enclose with a dark cover
epigram	short, witty saying or poem
epigraph	quotation at the beginning of a literary work
epithet	Word used to describe or characterize a person or thing.
erudite	learned, scholarly
erudition	Learning; knowledge; enlightenment.
euphonic	Agreeable to the ear.
euphony	pleasant, harmonious sound
euthanasia	mercy killing; intentional, easy, and painless death
evince	to show clearly, display, signify
evoke	to inspire memories; to produce a reaction
excruciation	agonizing, intensely painful
exhort	to urge or incite by strong appeals
expatriate	Send into exile; renounce one <small>될</small> own country.
expound	to elaborate; to expand or increase
expunge	Obliterate; remove; erase; exterminate.
extradite	Transfer a person to another jurisdiction for possible prosecution for an alleged offense.
extraneous	irrelevant, unrelated, unnecessary
facilitate	to aid, assist
facility	aptitude, ease in doing something
fastidious	Meticulous; exacting.
felicitous	suitable, appropriate; well-spoken
felicity	Great happiness; bliss.
filch	to steal
flaccid	limp, flabby, weak
flagrant	outrageous, shameless
flamboyant	flashy, garish; exciting, dazzling
flounder	to falter, waver; to muddle, struggle
flout	Ridicule; scoff; mock; scorn.
forethought	anticipation, foresight
forswear	Repudiate; forsake; eschew.
foster	to nourish, cultivate, promote

founder	to fall helplessly; sink
frenetic	wildly frantic, frenzied, hectic
furtive	Clandestine; secretive; surreptitious; covert.
fusion	process of merging things into one
garish	Gaudy; ostentatious; excessive.
garner	Collect; receive; attain; acquire.
garrulous*	very talkative
gratis	free, costing nothing
gratuity	something given voluntarily, tip
gregarious	outgoing, sociable
grievous	causing grief or sorrow; serious and distressing
gross	total before deductions
guile	Wiliiness; deceit; cunning.
haggle	Dicker; barter; make a deal.
hallow	Make holy; consecrate; sanctify.
headstrong	reckless; insisting on one's own way
heathen	pagan; uncivilized and irreligious
hemorrhage	heavy bleeding
hemorrhage	to bleed heavily
herald	Announce; broadcast; report.
hiatus	Interruption; pause; gap.
hoary	Frosted; grey; grizzled.
hyperbole	Exaggeration; fanciful statement; enhancement.
hypochondria	unfounded belief that one is often ill
illimitable	limitless
immunological	relating to immune system
impassioned	with passion
impeach	to charge with misdeeds in public office; accuse
impecunious	Poor; destitute; penniless.
implacable	inflexible, incapable of being pleased
implicit	implied, not directly expressed
importune	to ask repeatedly, beg
imposing	dignified, grand
impromptu	Makeshift; spontaneous.
improvident	Reckless: rash.
incarcerate	to put in jail; to confine
incarceration	imprisonment
incognito	to disguise, concealing one's identity
incoherent	Illogical; inconsistent.
inconsequential	unimportant, trivial
indecorous	Inappropriate; indelicate; unseemly.
indict	to accuse formally, charge with a crime
indignant	angry, incensed, offended
inebriated	drunk, intoxicated

inebriation	Drunkenness; intoxication.
inept	clumsy, awkward
inevitable	certain, unavoidable
infallible	incapable of making a mistake
infamy	reputation for bad deeds
ingratiate	to bring oneself purposely into another's good graces
inhibit	to hold back, prevent, restrain
insatiable	never satisfied
inscrutable	Mysterious; perplexing.
insipid	Dull; banal; tasteless.
insolent	insulting and arrogant
insoluble	not able to be solved or explained
insubstantial	modest, insignificant
intimation	clue, suggestion
intransigent	uncompromising, refusing to be reconciled
introspective	contemplating one's own thoughts and feelings
invective	verbal abuse
invincible	invulnerable, unbeatable
irascible	Testy; touchy; irritable.
jaded	tired by excess or overuse; slightly cynical
jollity	Gaiety; merriment.
junction	Joint; seam; intersection; joining.
juxtapose	Place side by side.
juxtaposition	side-by-side placement
knave	A dishonest, deceitful person; a rogue.
knell	sound of a funeral bell; omen of death or failure
lament	to deplore, grieve
lamentation	Complaint; moan.
lethargy	Idleness; listlessness; passivity.
licentious	immoral; unrestrained by society
lien	right to possess and sell the property of a debtor
lionize	to treat as a celebrity
lissome	easily flexed, limber, agile
lithe	Flexible; agile; mobile; bendable.
livid	discolored from a bruise; reddened with anger
loathe	to abhor, despise, hate
loutish	Clumsy; idiotic; buffoonlike.
luminary	bright object; celebrity; source of inspiration
luminous	bright, brilliant, glowing
luxuriance	elegance, lavishness
maelstrom	whirlpool; turmoil; agitated state of mind
malady	illness
malefactor	evil-doer; culprit

malingering	Feign illness to escape work: shirk.
mannered	artificial or stilted in character
mar	to damage, deface; spoil
marred	Having blemishes; damaged; defaced.
masquerade	disguise; action that conceals the truth
maudlin	Overemotional; mushy.
melancholy	sadness, depression
mirth	frivolity, gaiety, laughter
misanthrope	person who hates human beings
missive	note or letter
mitigate	to soften, or make milder
mnemonic	relating to memory; designed to assist memory
naive	Foolishly simple; childlike.
natal	relating to birth
nebulous	Unclear; vague; indefinite.
nemesis	Just punishment; retribution.
neutrality	disinterest, impartiality
neutralize	to balance, offset
nicety	elegant or delicate feature; minute distinction
nomenclature	terms used in a particular science or discipline
nondescript	lacking interesting or distinctive qualities; dull
oblivious	unaware, inattentive
obscure	dim, unclear; not well known
obscurity	a state of being obscure
obviate	Make unnecessary.
odious	Detestable; loathsome: revolting; sickening.
ominous	menacing, threatening, indicating misfortune
oracle	person who foresees the future and gives advice
palatial	like a palace, magnificent
palette	board for mixing paints, range of colors
pallid	lacking color or liveliness
parch	to dry or shrivel
pare	to trim
parochial	Religious; restricted.
parry	to ward off or deflect
partisan	biased in favor of
partisan	strong supporter
pathogenic	causing disease
pedant	uninspired, boring academic
pediment	triangular gable on a roof or facade
pejorative	Degrading: derogatory; negative.
pensive	thoughtful
perfunctory	done in a routine way; indifferent
personification	act of attributing human qualities to objects or

restitution	act of compensating for loss or damage
retort	cutting response
retroactive	applying to an earlier time
retrospection	Contemplation of past things.
revile	to criticize with harsh language, verbally abuse
revitalize	to renew; give new energy to
rhapsody	emotional literary or musical work
risqu ♦	bordering on being inappropriate or indecent
robust	strong and healthy; hardy
rotund	round in shape; fat
sallow	sickly yellow in color
sanction	permission, support; law; penalty
sanctuary	haven, retreat
sanguine	ruddy; cheerfully optimistic
scale	to climb to the top of
scathing	harshly critical; painfully hot
scenario	plot outline; possible situation
scrupulous	restrained; careful and precise
sedition	behavior promoting rebellion
sensual	satisfying or gratifying the senses
sequel	anything that follows
servile	submissive, obedient
soluble	capable of being solved or dissolved
sordid	filthy; contemptible and corrupt
stagnant	immobile, stale
stasis	motionless state; standstill
stipend	allowance; fixed amount of money paid regularly
strident	Discordant; harsh; piercing.
stringent	imposing severe, rigorous standards
stultify	Inhibit; make ineffective; cripple.
sublime	awe-inspiring; of high spiritual or moral value
submissive	tending to be meek and submit
subterfuge	trick or tactic used to avoid something
superfluous	extra, more than necessary
surfeit	Overabundance; excess; surplus.
tenuous	Attenuated; flimsy; thin.
tinge	to color slightly
tinge	slight amount
torpor	Lethargy; apathy; dormancy.
tottering	barely standing
transmute	to change in appearance or shape
truant	Indolent; absent; idle.
undulating	moving in waves
vacillate	Hedge; waver; fluctuate.

vagrant	poor person with no home
vestige	trace, remnant
vindicate	to clear of blame; support a claim
vindication	clearance from blame or suspicion
vindictive	spiteful, vengeful, unforgiving
viscous	thick, syrupy, and sticky
vivacious	lively, spirited
volition	free choice, free will; act of choosing
vulnerable	defenseless, unprotected; innocent, naive
winsome	charming, happily engaging
wizened	withered, shriveled, wrinkled