

10th Grade SAT Word List

Word	Definition
abjure	to reject, abandon formally
abstract	theoretical; complex, difficult
abstruse	concealed; difficult to comprehend; obscure.
accretion	growth in size or increase in amount
acerbic	bitter; harsh; caustic.
acquiesce	to agree; comply quietly
acrimonious	sarcastic; caustic; angry; mordant.
acrimony	bitterness, animosity
adroit	dexterous; proficient; skillful.
adumbrate	to sketch, outline in a shadowy way
aesthete	person who cultivates beauty or art; connoisseur.
agnostic	one who doubts that God exists
altruism	unselfish concern for others' welfare
altruistic	concerned about the general welfare of others; charitable; generous.
ambidextrous	able to use both hands equally well
ambulatory	able to walk; not stationary.
amorphous	without structure; shapeless; nebulous.
anachronism	something chronologically inappropriate
analogous	comparable, parallel
anathema	ban, curse; something shunned or disliked
anodyne	something that calms or soothes pain
aphasia	inability to speak or use words
aphorism	old saying or short, pithy statement
apostrophe	an address to the reader or someone not present
approbatory	expressing approval.
ascetic	strict; austere.
assignation	appointment for a lovers' meeting; assignment
assonance	resemblance in sound, especially in vowel sounds; partial rhyme
astringent	harsh, severe, stern
augury	prophecy, prediction of events
auspicious	having favorable prospects, promising
austere	stern, strict, unadorned
autonomous	separate, independent
axiom	premise, postulate, self-evident truth
baleful	sorrowful; sinister; evil.
banal	trite; insipid; ordinary.
beleaguer	besiege; surround.
bellicose	warlike, aggressive
bemused	preoccupied by thought; bewildered; perplexed.

benighted	unenlightened
bevy	group
bilk	Defraud; deceive; hoodwink.
blasphemous	cursing, profane, irreverent
blithe	Happy; pleased; delighted.
bombastic	using high-sounding but meaningless language
bonhomie	good-natured geniality; atmosphere of good cheer
breach	act of breaking, violation
broach	Introduce; bring up; mention.
burgeon	to sprout or flourish
calumny	false and malicious accusation, misrepresentation, slander
capacious	large, roomy; extensive
capitulate	to submit completely, surrender
capricious	impulsive, whimsical, without much thought
celerity	Swift motion; speed; alacrity.
ensorious	Critical; attacking; denouncing.
chalice	goblet, cup
chary	Careful; cautious.
chicanery	trickery, fraud, deception
choleric	easily angered, short-tempered
circumlocution	roundabout, lengthy way of saying something
circumspect	cautious, wary
clairvoyant	having ESP, psychic
cogent	logically forceful, compelling, convincing
cognate	Related by blood; having the same origin.
complicity	knowing partnership in wrongdoing
concave	curving inward
conciliatory	overcoming distrust or hostility
concord	agreement
concordance	agreement; treaty; accord.
Confluence	nexus; union; meeting: conflux.
congenital	existing since birth
conscientious	governed by conscience; careful and thorough
constituent	component, part; citizen, voter
construe	to explain or interpret
contrite	penitent; apologetic; remorseful.
convalescence	gradual recovery after an illness
convoluted	twisted, complicated, involved
copious	plentiful; ample; profuse.
corporeal	having to do with the body; tangible, material
cosmopolitan	sophisticated, free from local prejudices
cucullate	hood-shaped.
cupidity	greed

cursory	hastily done, superficial
dearth	Paucity: shortage; deficiency.
debauch	to corrupt, seduce from virtue or duty; indulge
debilitate	to weaken, enfeeble
declivity	downward slope.
decry	to belittle, openly condemn
definitive	clear-cut, explicit or decisive
defunct	no longer existing, dead, extinct
deleterious	Destructive; poisonous; unhealthy.
delineate	Describe; outline; depict.
delineation	depiction, representation
denude	to make bare, uncover, undress
desultory	at random, rambling, unmethodical
dexterous	skilled physically or mentally
diaphanous	allowing light to show through; delicate
diatribe	Extreme, bitter, and abusive speech; vituperation; tirade.
dictum	authoritative statement; popular saying
differentiate	to distinguish between two items
diffidence	self-doubt; timidity; shyness.
diluvial	relating to a flood
disburse	to pay out
discretionary	subject to one's own judgment
discursive	circuitous; digressive; rambling.
disgorge	to vomit, discharge violently
dissonant	cacophonous; inharmonious; discordant; strident.
divination	prediction; prophecy; forecast.
doctrinaire	rigidly devoted to theories
dour	sullen and gloomy; stern and severe
ebullient	exhilarated, full of enthusiasm and high spirits
effervescent	lively; volatile.
effluvia	outpouring of gases or vapors
egregious	flagrant; glaring; outrageous.
emollient	having soothing qualities, especially for skin
endemic	belonging to a particular area, inherent
enjoin	to urge, order, command; forbid or prohibit, as by judicial order
ephemeral	transitory; fleeting; passing; temporary.
epitome	representative of an entire group; summary
epochal	very significant or influential; defining an epoch or time period
equivocal	ambiguous, open to two interpretations
equivocate	prevaricate; dodge; evade; hedge.
errant	straying, mistaken, roving
eschew	to abstain from, avoid

ethereal	incorporeal; intangible; airy.
euphemism	use of an inoffensive word or phrase in place of a more distasteful one
euphoria	feeling of well-being or happiness
exacerbate	to aggravate, intensify the bad qualities of
excommunicate	to bar from membership in the church
execrable	utterly detestable, abhorrent
exorbitant	extravagant, greater than reasonable
expurgate	remove erroneous or objectionable material; delete; edit.
exult	to rejoice
façade	face, front; mask, superficial appearance
facile	very easy
fallacious	wrong, unsound, illogical
farcical	absurd, ludicrous
fatuous	Ludicrous; inane; idiotic; silly.
fecund	prolific; productive; fruitful.
fervid	passionate, intense, zealous
foible	frailty; imperfection; weakness.
forestall	to prevent, delay; anticipate
forte	strong point, something a person does well
fraught	full of, accompanied by
frenzied	feverishly fast, hectic, and confused
frivolous	petty, trivial; flippant, silly
gambol	play; frolic; romp.
gamely	courageously
glower	to glare, stare angrily and intensely
gnarl	to make knotted, deform
grandiose	magnificent and imposing; exaggerated and pretentious
gratuitous	free, voluntary; unnecessary and unjustified
gustatory	relating to sense of taste
hackneyed	trite; common; overdone; banal.
harbinger	precursor, sign of something to come
harbor	preserve; conceal; secure; shelter.
harrowing	extremely distressing, terrifying
haughty	arrogant; disdainful; blatantly proud; contemptuous.
hearten	encourage; give strength.
hemicycle	semicircular form or structure
hermetic	tightly sealed
hidebound	excessively rigid; dry and stiff
hypothermia	abnormally low body temperature
ilks	type or kind
imbue	to infuse; dye, wet, moisten

immutable	incorruptible; enduring; unchanging.
impasse	blocked path, dilemma with no solution
impassive	showing no emotion
impertinent	rude
impetuous	hasty; rash; impulsive.
impound	to seize and confine
impressionable	easily influenced or affected
impudent	arrogant, audacious
incarnate	having bodily form
incendiary	combustible, flammable, burning easily
incense	to infuriate, enrage
inchoate	imperfectly formed or formulated
incipient	embryonic; developing; in the beginning stages.
incongruous	Inconsistent; unsuitable; contradictory.
incredulous	skeptical, doubtful
indefatigable	diligent; persistent; inexhaustible.
indelible	permanent, not erasable
inestimable	too great to be estimated
inexorable	inflexible, unyielding
inextricable	incapable of being disentangled
infiltrate	to pass secretly into enemy territory
infirmity	disease, ailment
ingress	entrance
innocuous	dull; harmless; innocent.
insentient	unfeeling, unconscious
insidious	sly, treacherous, devious
insolvent	bankrupt; unable to pay debts.
insular	isolated, detached
integral	central, indispensable
interdict	to forbid, prohibit
interject	to interpose, insert
interminable	endless
interpolate	to insert; change by adding new words or material
intonate	Speak or utter with a particular tone.
intractable	Unruly; disobedient.
intrinsic	Inherent; natural; innate.
inundate	to cover with water; overwhelm
invulnerable	safe from violation or assault
iridescent	showing many colors
irresolvable	unable to be resolved; not analyzable
jettison	Eliminate; discharge.
jocular	joyful, playful, humorous
juggernaut	huge force destroying everything in its path

lachrymose	Weepy; tearful.
lackadaisical	idle, lazy; apathetic, indifferent
laggard	dawdler, loafer, lazy person
lassitude	Fatigue; weariness; debility.
liberation	freedom, emancipation
limpid	clear, transparent
loquacious	talkative
machination	plot or scheme
macrocosm	system regarded as an entity with subsystems
maladroit	Clumsy; unskilled.
malediction	curse
malodorous	foul-smelling
megalomania	mental state with delusions of wealth and power
menagerie	various animals kept together for exhibition
mendicant	Almsman; beggar: leech: parasite.
meritorious	deserving reward or praise
microcosm	tiny system used as analogy for larger system
militate	to operate against, work against
misconstrue	to misunderstand, fail to discover
mollify	to calm or make less severe
mollusk	sea animal with soft body
monochromatic	having one color
monogamy	custom of marriage to one person at a time
monolith	large block of stone
monologue	dramatic speech performed by one actor
montage	composite picture
morbid	gruesome; relating to disease; abnormally gloomy
mores	customs or manners
mote	small particle, speck
motley	Multicolored; spotted: mixed.
mottle	to mark with spots
multifaceted	having many parts, many-sided
mundane	Boring; ordinary; typical; tedious.
munificent	Generous: extravagant; philanthropic.
myopic	nearsighted
nadir	Lowest point.
nefarious	Evil; vile; sinister; wicked.
negligent	careless, inattentive
negligible	not worth considering
neologism	Newly coined phrase or expression.
neophyte	novice, beginner
nether	located under or below
noisome	Noxious to health.

noxious	Harmful; malignant.
nuptial	relating to marriage
nutritive	relating to nutrition or health
obdurate	Stubborn; intractable.
obliterate	demolish, wipe out
obsequious	Servile; groveling.
obtrusive	pushy, too conspicuous
occlude	to shut, block
officious	Meddlesome.
omnipotent	having unlimited power
omnivorous	eating everything; absorbing everything
opulence	wealth
opulent	Affluent; well-to-do; plentiful.
ornithologist	scientist who studies birds
oscillate	to move back and forth
ostentatious	Conspicuous; showy.
ostracism	exclusion, temporary banishment
ostracize	Exclude; isolate; bar; shun.
paleontology	study of past geological eras through fossil remains
palisade	fence made up of stakes
palpable	Noticeable; obvious; apparent.
panegyric	Elaborate praise, public compliment.
pariah	Outcast; misfit; refugee.
parsimony	Miserliness; unusually excessive frugality.
partisan	Fan or supporter; enthusiast supporting a particular cause or issue.
paucity	Scarcity; shortage; dearth.
peculation	theft of money or goods
pedantic	Stuffy or dogmatic; meticulous; academic.
penchant	inclination
penitent	expressing sorrow for sins or offenses, repentant
penury	extreme poverty
perfidious	faithless, disloyal, untrustworthy
perfidy	Deliberate breach of faith or trust; treachery.
perjure	to tell a lie under oath
permeable	penetrable
perspicacious	Astute; keen; perceptive.
perusal	close examination
pestilence	epidemic, plague
posthumous	Arising or continuing after someone's death.
prescient	Showing foresight: predicting events before they occur.
presentment	premonition, sense of foreboding
presumptuous	rude, improperly bold

proclivity	Tendency; inclination; propensity.
prodigious	Exceptional; impressive; of huge quantity; immense.
progeny	Heir; descendant; offspring.
proliferation	propagation, reproduction; enlargement, expansion
propensity	inclination, tendency
prosaic	Common; routine; ordinary.
protagonist	main character in a play or story, hero
protean	Taking many forms; changeable; variable.
quadrilateral	four-sided polygon
querulous	Difficult; testy; disagreeable.
quiescence	inactivity, stillness
rancid	spoiled, rotten
raucous	Harsh; annoying; piercing; shrill.
ravage	to destroy, devastate
receptive	open to others' ideas; congenial
rectitude	moral uprightness
redress	relief from wrong or injury
refute	to contradict, discredit
reiterate	to say or do again, repeat
rejoinder	response
remission	lessening, relaxation
replicate	to duplicate, repeat
repose	relaxation, leisure
reprehensible	blameworthy, disreputable
reprise	repetition, esp. of a piece of music
reproach	to find fault with; blame
reprobate	Degenerate; person without morals.
respire	to breathe
respite	interval of relief
restive	Nervous; restless; uneasy.
restorative	having the power to renew or revitalize
retinue	group of attendants with an important person
retrograde	having a backward motion or direction
rhetoric	persuasive use of language
ribald	Lewd; obscene; irreverent.
sagacious	shrewd
salient	prominent or conspicuous
sardonic	cynical, scornfully mocking
satiate	to satisfy
savant	intellectual; scholar; philosopher.
scurrilous	vulgar, low, indecent
secant	straight line intersecting a curve at two points
sedentary	inactive, stationary; sluggish

sentient	aware, conscious, able to perceive
sequester	Separate; isolate; segregate.
seraphic	angelic, pure, sublime
serrated	saw-toothed, notched
sobriquet	nickname
solicitous	concerned, attentive; eager
soliloquy	literary or dramatic speech by one character, not addressed to others
sonorous	producing a full, rich sound
sophistry	deceptive reasoning or argumentation
sophomoric	immature and overconfident
soporific	Hypnotic; lethargic; causing sleep.
sportive	frolicsome, playful
sprightly	lively, animated, energetic
stark	bare, empty, vacant
stratagem	Plot; tactic; deception.
stultify	to impair or reduce to uselessness
subpoena	notice ordering someone to appear in court
succinct	terse, brief, concise
succulent	juicy; full of vitality or freshness
superannuated	too old, obsolete, outdated to be useful
supercede	to take the place of; replace
supercilious	Egotistic; proud; arrogant.
suppliant	one who asks humbly and earnestly
surmount	to conquer, overcome
surreptitious	Covert; furtive; acquired by stealthy means.
svelte	Graceful; slim.
swarthy	having a dark complexion
synopsis	plot summary
synthesis	blend, combination
synthetic	artificial, imitation
tableau	vivid description, striking incident or scene
tawdry	Gaudy; showy; loud.
temerity	Rashness; audacity; recklessness.
tempestuous	stormy, raging, furious
tensile	Pertaining to tension; stretchable; ductile.
toady	flatterer, hanger-on, yes-man
transcription	copy, reproduction; record
tremulous	trembling, quivering; fearful, timid
turgid	Swollen; bombastic; distended.
undulate	Move in a wavy manner.
unfathomable	Baffling; puzzling; incomprehensible.
unfrock	to strip of priestly duties
unheralded	unannounced, unexpected, not publicized

unsolicited	unrequested
unwarranted	groundless, unjustified
upbraid	Rebuke; scold; criticize.
uproarious	loud and forceful
usurp	to seize by force
veneration	adoration, honor, respect
verbatim	word for word
verbose	Wordy; talkative; profuse.
verdant	Lush; thick with vegetation; leafy.
verity	truthfulness; belief viewed as true and enduring
vernal	related to spring
virile	manly, having qualities of an adult male
vociferous	Clamorous; outspoken; noisy; vocal.
volley	flight of missiles, round of gunshots
voluble	Verbose; wordy; garrulous.
voluminous	Huge; immense; bulky.
voracious	1. Enthusiastic; overly eager. 2. Starving.
waver	Totter; fluctuate.
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