
100+ SAT Words to Study on the Go

abolish

to put an end to

*Abraham Lincoln is perhaps best known for his efforts to **abolish** slavery.*

abrupt

sudden or curt

*Although she was trying to be nice, her response was still **abrupt**.*

agitation

anxiety; the fast stirring of a liquid

*The night before the big game, I was in a state of **agitation**.*

alteration

change from a previous norm

*After we missed the bus the third time, our homeroom decided that serious **alterations** in the schedule were needed.*

ambiguous

open to more than one interpretation; unclear

*My teacher's instructions about the paper were **ambiguous**; nobody knew what to write.*

ambivalent

having mixed feelings

*Due to his ambiguous instructions, I had **ambivalent** feelings about my teacher despite his warm manner.*

arcane

difficult to understand

*I fell asleep moments after I opened the **arcane** and academic book.*

100+ SAT Words to Study on the Go by Magoosh

aromatic

having a pleasant smell

*Smelling **aromatic** oils can be a good way to reduce stress.*

assumption

an idea accepted as fact without proof

*My mother made the **assumption** that I wanted to go to State, but she hadn't talked to me first.*

begudging

to envy; to give reluctantly

*I **begudged** my sister her new laptop, since I hadn't had a new one in three years.*

belligerent

war-like, inclined to fight

*It is hard not to provoke my cat, who is **belligerent** with all other animals.*

bias

inclination for or against a group of people or a particular outcome

*The scientific study seemed compelling at first, but eventually scientists found that it showed numerous **biases**.*

characterize

describe distinctive features; to be typical of

*I shouldn't have been surprised that Jess was so spontaneous, since that was **characteristic** of her.*

condescension

disdain

*My father loves to deliver lectures at the dinner table, not realizing how **condescending** they can make him sound.*

consequently

as a result

*I got a C on the midterm; **consequently**, my final grade will not be higher than a B.*

conserve

protect

*The importance of **conserving** our natural environment has become increasingly clear.*

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contentious

controversial

*Rebecca would have become student body president if some of her proposals hadn't been so **contentious**.*

conventional

aligned with general beliefs

Jake, who won the election, had much more conventional beliefs, in line with what most students thought.

convey

express

*I tried to **convey** my disappointment to my parents without telling them directly.*

corroborate

confirm; support

*Lucy said that she'd been in the house all day, and her sister **corroborated** this statement.*

corrupt

dishonest for personal gain

Politicians are known for being corrupt, but I think some of them must have more altruistic goals.

counterargument

an argument opposing an idea set forth elsewhere

*While I thought I made a strong case, my debate opponent's **counterarguments** were just too good.*

curtail

cut short

*My neighbor had been talking for two hours and eventually, I had to **curtail** her.*

deplete

use up

*I was only two blocks from home when I realized that I had completely **depleted** my car's gas supply.*

dismay

disappointment and distress

*My father was **dismayed** that I wouldn't attend his alma mater, but I'm happy with my decision.*

100+ SAT Words to Study on the Go by Magoosh

ebullient

highly enthusiastic

*Luke laughs a lot at everything; he's always been **ebullient**.*

eloquent

well-spoken

*Very few presidents have been known for their **eloquence**, even though they give many speeches.*

emerging

beginning; new

*The **emerging** music scene had few followers at the beginning but soon became very popular.*

empathetic

feeling sympathy

*When I volunteered at the hospital, it was hard not to be **empathetic** to the patients there.*

engagement

participation; an appointment

*One component of our grades would be based on our **engagement** in class discussions.*

enigmatic

mysterious

*The **enigmatic** guy seemed compelling at first, but once the mystery was gone, so was my interest.*

entrenched

solidly established

*It can be difficult to get rid of deep-rooted, **entrenched** beliefs, since we often take them for granted.*

enumerate

to list

*I didn't think I was late that much, but my mother **enumerated** many occasions on which I had been.*

ephemeral

short-lived

*My interest in the boy band was embarrassing but thankfully **ephemeral**.*

100+ SAT Words to Study on the Go by Magoosh

equivocal

vague

*My mother's answer to my question about how she'd met my father was **equivocal**, and I could tell she was embarrassed by the story.*

esoteric

known only to a select group

*I thought I should have known the book they were discussing, but later I discovered it was **esoteric**.*

exertion

effort

*Running a marathon would take so much **exertion** that I just don't feel up to it.*

exhilarating

wildly exciting

*The day I got my college acceptance letters was **exhilarating**.*

exonerate

free from blame

*My aunt thought I'd taken the car until she saw me in the living room; I was then **exonerated**.*

fastidious

nit-picky, fussing over details

*There are some typos in my essay; I just hope the teacher isn't too **fastidious**.*

fluctuate

to change irregularly

*My grades **fluctuated** for a while when I was a freshman, but they're consistent now.*

foreshadow

to allude to coming events

*Looking back, my early interest in dancing **foreshadowed** my life in my teens.*

fundamentally

centrally

***Fundamentally**, I don't believe that certain human rights are up for debate.*

100+ SAT Words to Study on the Go by Magoosh

garner

gather

*Before submitting my applications, I had to **garner** several letters of recommendation.*

garrulous

talkative

*My grade would have been better but I was too **garrulous** in class; my best friend sat beside me and we could never shut up.*

gregarious

flocking, sociable

*Sometimes I wish I were more **gregarious**, but I prefer having one or two close friends instead.*

hasten

to do something quickly

*Realizing the deadline was the next day, I **hastened** to put together my application.*

hypothetical

based on a hypothesis; theoretical

***Hypothetically**, I'd love to travel the world, but I don't have the time or money right now.*

imperative

absolutely necessary

*The principal insisted that taking an interest in our classes was **imperative** to our success.*

indifferent

expressing no opinions on a matter

*The school newspaper reporter wanted to interview me about the issue, but I wasn't a good source because I was too **indifferent**.*

indigenous

native to a certain area

*Planting **indigenous** plants is one way to begin setting up a carbon sink.*

indiscriminate

without consideration

*There were so many random people at the party that it felt like Tom must have handed out invitations **indiscriminately**.*

100+ SAT Words to Study on the Go by Magoosh

indispensable

vital

*I've found that keeping my planner up to date is an **indispensable** practice.*

indistinct

unclear

*Her voice was **indistinct** and so I missed most of what she said.*

infrastructure

the organizational structures needed for the operation of a society or project

*One major challenge to foreign aid is distributing it, since **infrastructure**—including roads and local organizations to help with distribution—can be lacking in remote areas.*

keen

eager; incisive; to wail

*He had a **keen** wit, but sometimes his observations hit too close to home.*

magnanimous

kind-hearted, likely to forgive

*I'd really insulted her, but luckily she was **magnanimous** and we were soon friends again.*

malevolence

hostility

*I don't think that political campaigns have to be characterized by **malevolence**, even though many politicians see their opponents as enemies.*

melodramatic

exaggerated

*I wasn't sure how worried I should be, since his stories were always a little **melodramatic**.*

menacing

inspiring fear

*The grey sky was **menacing**, and I was sure it would rain later.*

modification

change

*I always revise my essays because I find that **modifications** are usually necessary to make my ideas clear.*

100+ SAT Words to Study on the Go by Magoosh

naïve

innocent; likely to believe anything

*I used to think it was easy to get into a top-10 school, but I was a little **naïve**.*

neglect

fail to care for

*I've never been able to keep a plant alive, mostly because I tend to **neglect** them.*

null

invalid; related to zero

*We spent years researching the problem only to find that our hypothesis was **null**.*

obsolete

no longer useful

*My dad thought I could use his old word processor without realizing that the technology was totally **obsolete**.*

omnipotence

having unlimited power

*David acted like his position as editor gave him **omnipotence** and was always a little mean to his "subordinates."*

opaque

not transparent

*I really prefer my tights to be **opaque**, because I hate how shiny the transparent ones can be.*

oppress

to keep in a state of hardship

*While we thought our allowances were low, it wasn't as though we were being **oppressed**.*

ornate

highly decorated

*My sister loves having a really **ornate** holiday season, but I think it's better to be more subdued.*

pantheon

the group of gods of a people

*I didn't know about the Greek **pantheon** until I read about legends containing Zeus.*

100+ SAT Words to Study on the Go by Magoosh

pending

awaiting decision

Even after three days, I could see that my status hadn't been decided and was still listed as "pending."

preclude

to prevent from happening

To preclude my tendency to procrastinate, I set aside the same hour every day to study.

profuse

excessive

She thanked me so profusely that it was embarrassing and, after a minute, I had to ask her to stop.

regression

return to an earlier state

My uncle saw my low grade as a regression, but I just saw it as a step in the learning process rather than a set-back.

reinforce

strengthen; back up

I studied for the SAT in different ways to reinforce my knowledge.

render

to provide; to make

I was on the fence about which school to attend until one offered me a full scholarship, rendering my indecision a thing of the past.

renounce

to declare the abandonment of something formally

After the club refused to let Julie in, I renounced my membership in it due to the unfairness of the decision.

repeal

to revoke

Our school tried to pass a strict dress code but soon repealed it when students ignored the guidelines.

repose

rest

When the competition was over, I was exhausted and in desperate need of repose.

100+ SAT Words to Study on the Go by Magoosh

reproach

express disapproval

*My mother's behavior is always perfect, completely beyond **reproach**.*

restorative

possessing characteristics that allow it to return health or well-being

*I felt so much better after the **restorative** massage.*

reticent

not saying much

*My cousin can be **reticent** sometimes, but I know his mind is going a mile a minute.*

revere

respect deeply

*I wouldn't say I **revere** my teacher, but I do like her a lot.*

sampling

a representative group

*It turned out that the three people we'd used weren't a representative **sampling** of the whole group.*

scope

the extent to which something is relevant

*The comments on my essay were all good except for one which called the evidence "out of **scope**."*

secession

formally withdrawing from membership

*The South's **secession** from the United States in the 19th century was unprecedented.*

selfless

unselfish

*My sister is entirely **selfless** and always helps me with anything I ask for.*

simulate

imitate

*The program was meant to **simulate** what it was like to be in space, but I didn't feel like I was there at all.*

100+ SAT Words to Study on the Go by Magoosh

soporific

causing sleep

*The arcane book was so boring that I found it **soporific**.*

spawn

produce, often in terms of offspring

*Her idea, while later disproven, **spawned** many more hypotheses that changed the face of science.*

spectacle

a visually impressive performance

*The play used red and black scenery covered in glitter, making the performance into more of a **spectacle** than a simple play.*

stimulate

build interest in

*The simulation was not at all realistic and failed to **stimulate** my interest in the subject.*

subsequent

following

*While I didn't do well on my first paper, I used my teacher's advice on the **subsequent** essays and got better grades.*

supremacy

predominance; the state of being in control of all others

*Our principal was so kind that nobody ever challenged her **supremacy** in the school.*

synchronized

occurring at the same time

*Our answers were **synchronized**, as though we'd practiced speaking together.*

tenacious

not giving in easily

*I knew that to get into the school of my dreams, I'd have to work long and hard; I'd have to be **tenacious**.*

undermine

make less effective

*Her argument seemed compelling, but when I left her house I thought of six examples that would **undermine** it.*

100+ SAT Words to Study on the Go by Magoosh

urbane

refined, of the city

*Going to college in New York seemed like a great idea; I thought I'd come back more sophisticated and **urbane**.*

venerable

deserving of respect

My grandfather didn't speak much, but he was wise when he did, making him a venerable figure in our family.

verbose

using too many words

*If you used all these words in the same sentence, you would definitely be **verbose**.*

vitality

being strong and energetic

*I was exhausted and weak, but a nap soon restored my **vitality**.*

warrant

justification; to justify

*Andrew didn't think the punishment was **warranted** and argued against it successfully.*

yield

to produce; to give way

*The apple crop was great this year and **yielded** way more than we thought it would.*

Happy studying!