ACT/SAT Most Common Words 365

**A**

* **Abdicate -** *(verb)* to cast off or relinquish
* **Aberration -** *(noun)* a state or condition markedly different from the norm
* **Abject -** *(adj.)* sunk to a low condition or in miserable circumstances
* **Abolish -** *(verb)* do away with
* **Abridge -** *(verb)* lessen, diminish, or curtail; reduce in scope while retaining essential elements
* **Abstemious -** *(adj.)* sparing in consumption of especially food and drink; marked by temperance
* **Accent -** *(verb)* put stress on; utter with an accent; to stress, single out as important
* **Accolade -** *(noun)* a tangible symbol signifying approval or distinction
* **Acquiesce -** *(verb)* to agree or express agreement; rest satisfied
* **Acrimonious -** *(adj.)* caustic, biting or rancorous in language or expression
* **Acumen -** *(noun)* shrewdness shown by keen insight
* **Affable -** *(adj.)* friendly; outgoing disposition
* **Affirmation -** *(noun)* a statement asserting the existence or the truth of something
* **Alacrity -** *(noun)* liveliness and eagerness; youthful energy
* **Alleviate -** *(verb)* provide physical relief, as from pain; make easier
* **Aloof -** *(adj.)* remote in manner; distant
* **Amass -** *(verb)* collect or gather; get or gather together
* **Ambiguous -** *(adj.)* having more than one possible meaning; often misleading
* **Ambivalence -** *(noun)* mixed feelings or emotions
* **Ambulatory -** *(adj.)* relating to or adapted for walking; able to walk about
* **Ameliorate -** *(verb)* get better; to make better
* **Amity -** *(noun)* a cordial disposition; a state of friendship and cordiality
* **Anchor -** *(noun)* a central cohesive source of support and stability
* **Anchor -** *(verb)* fix firmly and stably
* **Antagonize -** *(verb)* provoke the hostility of; act in opposition to
* **Antediluvian -** *(adj.)* so extremely old as seeming to belong to an earlier period; of or relating to the period before the biblical flood
* **Antediluvian -** *(noun)* a very old person
* **Apathy -** *(noun)* the trait of lacking enthusiasm for or interest in things generally; an absence of enthusiasm
* **Apocryphal -** *(adj.)* of doubtful authenticity
* **Arcane -** *(adj.)* requiring secret or mysterious knowledge
* **Ascendancy -** *(noun)* the state that exists when one person or group has power over another
* **Atrophy -** *(noun)* any weakening or degeneration
* **Augment -** *(verb)* enlarge or increase; grow or intensify
* **Avuncular -** *(adj.)* like an uncle in kindness or indulgence; being or relating to an uncle

**B**

* **Bane -** *(noun)* something causes misery or death
* **Belie -** *(verb)* represent falsely; be in contradiction with
* **Belittle -** *(verb)* lessen the authority, dignity, or reputation of; express a negative opinion of; cause to seem less serious;
* **Bellicose -** *(adj.)* having or showing a ready disposition to fight
* **Belligerence -** *(noun)* hostile or warlike attitude or nature; a natural disposition to be hostile
* **Benign -** *(adj.)* pleasant and beneficial in nature or influence; kindness of disposition or manner; not dangerous to health
* **Bizarre -** *(adj.)* conspicuously or grossly unconventional or unusual
* **Blatant -** *(adj.)* noisy in a vulgar or offensive manner
* **Blunder -** *(noun)* an embarrassing mistake; verb utter impulsively; make one's way clumsily or blindly
* **Brevity -** *(noun)* the attribute of being brief or fleeting; the use of brief expressions
* **Bucolic -** *(adj.)* relating to shepherds or herdsmen or devoted to raising sheep or cattle; used of idealized country life
* **Bucolic -** *(noun)* a short descriptive poem of rural or pastoral life
* **Bungle -** *(verb)* spoil by behaving clumsily or foolishly; make a mess of, destroy or ruin
* **Bungle -** *(noun)* an embarrassing mistake
* **Burgeon -** *(verb)* grow and flourish

**C**

* **Cajole -** *(verb)* to deceive or persuade with false pretenses
* **Callous -** *(verb)* make insensitive or callous; deaden feelings or morals
* **Callous -** *(adj.)* emotionally hardened
* **Candid -** *(adj.)* openly straightforward and direct without reserve or secretiveness; informal or natural
* **Cantankerous -** *(adj.)* having a difficult and contrary disposition; stubbornly obstructive and unwilling to cooperate
* **Capitulate -** *(verb)* surrender under agreed conditions
* **Capricious -** *(adj.)* determined by chance or impulse or whim rather than by necessity or reason; changeable
* **Censure -** *(noun)* harsh criticism or disapproval; the state of being excommunicated
* **Censure -** *(verb)* rebuke formally
* **Chagrin -** *(noun)* strong feelings of embarrassment
* **Chagrin -** *(verb)* cause to feel shame; hurt the pride of
* **Charlatan -** *(noun)* a quack or one showing false pretenses
* **Chicanery -** *(noun)* the use of tricks to deceive someone
* **Churlish -** *(adj.)* having a bad disposition; surly; rude and boorish
* **Clairvoyant -** *(noun)* someone who has the power of clairvoyance
* **Clairvoyant -** *(adj.)* foreseeing the future
* **Clemency -** *(noun)* leniency and compassion shown toward offenders of rule or law
* **Coalesce -** *(verb)* fuse or cause to grow together; mix together different elements
* **Cohere -** *(verb)* cause to form a united, orderly, and aesthetically consistent whole; come in close contact
* **Complacent -** *(adj.)* contented to a fault with oneself or one's actions
* **Compress -** *(verb)* squeeze or press together; make more compact by or as if by pressing
* **Compress -** *(noun)* a folded cloth or pad applied so as to press upon a body part
* **Confide -** *(verb)* reveal in private; tell confidentially; confer a trust upon
* **Confound -** *(verb)* mistake one thing for another; be confusing or perplexing to
* **Congeal -** *(verb)* to change from a liquid to solid state
* **Congenial -** *(adj.)* used of plants; suitable to your needs or similar to your nature
* **Contaminant -** *(noun)* a substance that violates the purity of an item
* **Converge -** *(verb)* come together so as to form a single product; move or draw together at a certain location
* **Convivial -** *(adj.)* occupied with or fond of the pleasures of good company
* **Copious -** *(adj.)* large in number or quantity; affording an abundant supply
* **Corroborate -** *(verb)* support with evidence or authority or make more certain or confirm; establish or strengthen as with new evidence or facts
* **Corrugated -** *(adj.)* shaped into alternating parallel grooves and ridges
* **Corrupt -** *(verb)* alter from the original
* **Corrupt -** *(adj.)* lacking in integrity
* **Cowardice -** *(noun)* lacking courage
* **Credence -** *(noun)* the attitude that something is believable and should be accepted as true
* **Cryptic -** *(adj.)* having a puzzling terseness; of an obscure nature; having a secret or hidden meaning
* **Cupidity -** *(noun)* greed and strong desire for wealth
* **Cursory -** *(adj.)* hasty and without attention to detail; not thorough

**D**

* **Daunt -** *(verb)* cause to lose courage
* **Dauntless -** *(adj.)* invulnerable to fear or intimidation
* **Debilitate -** *(verb)* make weak
* **Decorous -** *(adj.)* dignified in conduct, manners or disposition
* **Delusion -** *(noun)* deception by creating illusory ideas; a mistaken or unfounded opinion or idea
* **Deplete -** *(verb)* use or exhaust resources
* **Derelict -** *(adj.)* abandoned duty or neglected by owner or occupant
* **Deviate -** *(verb)* to stray from the norm or standard
* **Dictum -** *(noun)* an authoritative declaration; an opinion voiced by a judge on a point of law not directly bearing on the case in question and therefore not binding
* **Didactic -** *(adj.)* designed or intended to teach; making moral observations
* **Discrepancy -** *(noun)* a difference between conflicting facts or claims or opinions; an event that departs from expectations
* **Disdain -** *(noun)* lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike
* **Disdain -** *(verb)* reject with contempt
* **Disentangle -** *(verb)* smoothen and neaten; free from involvement
* **Disingenuous -** *(adj.)* not straightforward or candid; giving a false appearance of frankness
* **Distend -** *(verb)* swell from or as if from internal pressure; cause to expand as it by internal pressure
* **Docile -** *(adj.)* easily handled or managed; ready and willing to be taught
* **Drawback -** *(noun)* the quality of being a hindrance
* **Dubious -** *(adj.)* not convinced; fraught with uncertainty or doubt; open to doubt or suspicion

**E**

* **Edict -** *(noun)* a proclamation having the force of law
* **Efface -** *(verb)* make inconspicuous; remove completely from recognition or memory
* **Effervescent -** *(adj.)* marked by high spirits or excitement; bubbly and engaging
* **Eloquent -** *(adj.)* marked for forceful or fluent expression; well-spoken
* **Enhance -** *(verb)* increase; make better or more attractive
* **Enigmatic -** *(adj.)* resembling an oracle in obscurity of thought; not clear or understandable
* **Entourage -** *(noun)* the group following and attending to some important person
* **Ephemeral -** *(adj.)* lasting a very short time
* **Ephemeral -** *(noun)* anything short-lived
* **Epitome -** *(noun)* a brief abstract in a book or journal; a standard or typical example
* **Equilibrium -** *(noun)* a stable, balanced system
* **Equivocate -** *(verb)* be deliberately ambiguous or unclear in order to mislead or withhold information
* **Erudite -** *(adj.)* well read or esteemed for knowledge
* **Eschew -** *(verb)* to avoid or shun
* **Eulogy -** *(noun)* praise; a speech full of praise at a funeral
* **Euphonious -** *(adj.)* having a pleasant sound; pleasing in sound; not harsh or strident
* **Evacuate -** *(verb)* excrete or discharge from the body; empty completely;
* **Evanescent -** *(adj.)* tending to vanish like vapor
* **Exacerbate -** *(verb)* exasperate or irritate; make worse
* **Exclude -** *(verb)* prevent from being included or considered or accepted; prevent from entering
* **Exculpate -** *(verb)* to clear from fault or guilt
* **Expedite -** *(verb)* process fast and efficiently; speed up the progress of; facilitate
* **Expendable -** *(adj.)* able to be spent or done away with;
* **Extol -** *(verb)* praise, glorify, or honor

**F**

* **Facilitate -** *(verb)* make easier; increase the likelihood of (a response); be of use
* **Fallow -** *(noun)* cultivated land that is not seeded for one or more growing seasons
* **Fallow -** *(adj.)* undeveloped but potentially useful; left unplowed and unseeded during a growing season
* **Famished -** *(adj.)* extremely hungry
* **Fastidious -** *(adj.)* giving careful attention to detail; hard to please; excessively concerned with cleanliness; having complicated nutritional requirements; especially growing only in special artificial cultures
* **Fathom -** *(noun)* understanding or comprehension; also a unit of length equal to 6 cubic feet
* **Fathom -** *(verb)* to penetrate to the meaning or nature of; comprehend;to determine the depth of; sound
* **Fertile -** *(adj.)* capable of reproducing; marked by great fruitfulness; bearing in abundance especially offspring; intellectually productive
* **Fidelity -** *(noun)* the quality of being faithful
* **Flourish -** *(verb)* grow stronger; move or swing back and forth; gain in wealth
* **Foible -** *(noun)* a behavioral attribute that is distinctive and peculiar to an individual
* **Foster -** *(verb)* help develop, help grow
* **Fraudulent -** *(adj.)* intended to deceive
* **Frugal -** *(adj.)* avoiding waste; spendthrift
* **Fruitful -** *(adj.)* productive or conducive to producing in abundance; productive of profit
* **Fruitless -** *(adj.)* unproductive of success
* **Furtive -** *(adj.)* marked by quiet and caution and secrecy; taking pains to avoid being observed; secret and sly or sordid
* **Futile -** *(adj.)* producing no result or effect; unproductive of success

**G**

* **Garner -** *(verb)* store grain; assemble or get together; acquire or deserve by one's efforts or actions
* **Garner -** *(noun)* a storehouse for threshed grain or animal feed
* **Gaudy -** *(adj.)* marked by conspicuous display; tastelessly showy
* **Generic -** *(noun)* any product that can be sold without a brand name
* **Generic -** *(adj.)* applicable to an entire class or group
* **Genre -** *(noun)* a class of art having a characteristic form or technique; a kind of literary or artistic work
* **Germane -** *(adj.)* relevant or appropriate
* **Glean -** *(verb)* gather, as of natural products; to pick over in search of relevant materials
* **Glib -** *(adj.)* artfully persuasive in speech; having only superficial plausibility; marked by lack of intellectual depth
* **Gluttony -** *(noun)* eating to excess; habitual eating to excess
* **Grandiose -** *(adj.)* impressive because of unnecessary largeness or grandeur; used to show disapproval
* **Gratuitous -** *(adj.)* without cause; unnecessary and unwarranted; costing nothing
* **Gregarious -** *(adj.)* enjoying of other peoples’ company or discourse
* **Grotto -** *(noun)* a small cave
* **Guile -** *(noun)* the use of tricks to deceive someone; the quality of being deceitful
* **Gullible -** *(adj.)* easily tricked because of being too trusting; naive and easily deceived or tricked
* **Gusto -** *(noun)* vigorous and enthusiastic enjoyment

**H**

* **Hackneyed -** *(adj.)* repeated too often; over familiar through overuse
* **Harbinger -** *(noun)* an indication of the approach of something or someone
* **Harbinger -** *(verb)* foreshadow or presage
* **Haughty -** *(adj.)* blatantly and disdainfully proud
* **Hefty -** *(adj.)* of considerable weight and size; large in amount or extent or degree; rugged and powerful
* **Hiatus -** *(noun)* a missing piece; an interruption in time
* **Hideous -** *(adj.)* so extremely ugly as to be terrifying; grossly offensive to decency or morality; causing horror
* **Hilarity -** *(noun)* great merriment or enjoyment
* **Hinder -** *(verb)* put at a disadvantage
* **Hone -** *(verb)* make perfect or complete
* **Humane -** *(adj.)* marked or motivated by concern with the alleviation of suffering
* **Husbandry -** *(noun)* the practice of cultivating the land or raising stock
* **Hybrid -** *(noun)* mixed offspring; produced by cross-breeding; mixture of words
* **Hyperbole -** *(noun)* extravagant exaggeration
* **Hypocritical -** *(adj.)* professing feelings or virtues one does not have

**I**

* **Iconoclast -** *(noun)* someone who attacks cherished ideas or traditional institutions; a destroyer of images used in religious worship
* **Idiosyncratic -** *(adj.)* peculiar to the individual
* **Imperial -** *(adj.)* belonging to or befitting a supreme ruler; befitting or belonging to an emperor or empress
* **Impudent -** *(adj.)* marked by casual disrespect; improperly forward or bold
* **Inchoate -** *(adj.)* only partly in existence; imperfectly formed
* **Incite -** *(verb)* to provoke
* **Inconspicuous -** *(adj.)* not prominent or readily noticeable
* **Incorrigible -** *(adj.)* impervious to correction by punishment
* **Indignant -** *(adj.)* angered at something unjust or wrong
* **Indolent -** *(adj.)* slow to heal or develop and usually painless; disinclined to work or exertion; lazy
* **Ineffable -** *(adj.)* too sacred to be uttered; defying expression or description
* **Innocuous -** *(adj.)* producing no injury; harmless
* **Insolent -** *(adj.)* unrestrained by convention or propriety; marked by casual disrespect
* **Intuition -** *(noun)* instinctive knowing
* **Invocation -** *(noun)* the act of appealing for help; an incantation used in conjuring or summoning a devil; a prayer asking God's help as part of a religious service; calling up a spirit or devil
* **Irascible -** *(adj.)* characterized by anger; quickly aroused to anger
* **Ironic -** *(adj.)* characterized by often poignant difference or incongruity between what is expected and what actually is; humorously sarcastic or mocking
* **Irrefutable -** *(adj.)* impossible to deny or disprove

**J**

* **Jargon -** *(noun)* specialized technical terminology; a characteristic language of a particular group
* **Jeopardize -** *(verb)* to expose to danger or risk
* **Jettison -** *(verb)* throw as from an airplane; throw away
* **Jocular -** *(adj.)* characterized by jokes and good humor
* **Jocular -** *(adv.)* with humor
* **Judicious -** *(adj.)* marked by the exercise of good judgment or common sense in practical matters
* **Juxtapose -** *(verb)* place side by side

**K**

* **Kindle -** *(verb)* cause to start burning; catch fire; call forth
* **Kinetic -** *(adj.)* characterized by motion; relating to the motion of material bodies and the forces associated therewith; supplying motive force
* **Kudos -** *(noun)* an expression of approval and commendation

**L**

* **Lackadaisical -** *(adj.)* idle or indolent especially in a dreamy way; lacking spirit or liveliness
* **Laconic -** *(adj.)* brief and to the point; without many words
* **Languid -** *(adj.)* lacking spirit or liveliness
* **Laud -** *(verb)* to give praise or highly approve
* **Lax -** *(adj.)* emptying easily or excessively; lacking in rigor or strictness; not taut or rigid
* **Leniency -** *(noun)* lightening a penalty or excusing from a chore by judges or parents or teachers; a disposition to yield to the wishes of someone; mercifulness as a consequence of being lenient or tolerant
* **Levitate -** *(verb)* be suspended in the air, as if in defiance of gravity
* **Levity -** *(noun)* a manner lacking seriousness; feeling an inappropriate lack of seriousness
* **Listless -** *(adj.)* lacking zest or vivacity; marked by low spirits; showing no enthusiasm
* **Loquacious -** *(adj.)* full of trivial conversation
* **Lucid -** *(adj.)* having a clear mind; transparently clear; easily understandable; transmitting light; able to be seen through with clarity; capable of thinking and expressing yourself in a clear and consistent manner
* **Lugubrious -** *(adj.)* excessively mournful

**M**

* **Magnanimous -** *(adj.)* generous and understanding and tolerant; noble and generous in spirit
* **Maladroit -** *(adj.)* clumsy; lacking dexterity or physical coordination
* **Malleable -** *(adj.)* capable of being shaped or bended
* **Maxim -** *(noun)* a general truth or proverbial statement
* **Mellifluous -** *(adj.)* pleasing to the ear; flowing in nature
* **Mendacious -** *(adj.)* lying or deceitful demeanor
* **Mendicant -** *(noun)* a beggar
* **Mercurial -** *(adj.)* liable to sudden unpredictable change
* **Mettle -** *(noun)* the courage to carry on
* **Misanthrope -** *(noun)* a person who hates or distrusts humankind
* **Miscreant -** *(noun)* a person without moral scruples
* **Mitigate -** *(verb)* make less severe or harsh; to lessen the seriousness or extent of
* **Mobile -** *(adj.)* capable of changing quickly from one state or condition to another; moving or capable of moving
* **Mollify -** *(verb)* make less rigid or softer; make more temperate, acceptable, or suitable by adding something else
* **Morbid -** *(adj.)* suggesting an unhealthy mental state; caused by or altered by or manifesting disease or pathology; suggesting the horror of death and decay
* **Motley -** *(verb)* make something more diverse and varied
* **Motley -** *(adj.)* consisting of a haphazard assortment of different kinds
* **Mundane -** *(adj.)* ordinary, often boring
* **Munificent -** *(adj.)* very generous; giving
* **Myopic -** *(adj.)* lacking foresight; narrow-minded
* **Myriad -** *(noun)* a large indefinite number
* **Myriad -** *(adj.)* too numerous to be counted

**N**

* **Nadir -** *(noun)* an extreme state of adversity; the lowest point of anything
* **Narcissistic -** *(adj.)* characteristic of those having an inflated idea of their own importance; often selfish
* **Nebulous -** *(adj.)* lacking definition or definite content; lacking definite form or limits
* **Nefarious -** *(adj.)* extremely wicked
* **Negligible -** *(adj.)* so small as to be meaningless; insignificant; not worth considering
* **Nepotism -** *(noun)* favoritism shown to relatives or close friends by those in power, usually for jobs
* **Nexus -** *(noun)* a connected series or group; the means of connection between things linked in series
* **Nomad -** *(noun)* noun an individual who roams about without purpose or residence
* **Nonchalant -** *(adj.)* marked by blithe unconcern
* **Nostalgia -** *(noun)* longing for something past; a longing, retrospective view
* **Nullify -** *(verb)* make ineffective by counterbalancing the effect of; show to be invalid; declare invalid

**O**

* **Obdurate -** *(adj.)* showing unfeeling resistance to tender feelings; stubbornly persistent in wrongdoing
* **Oblivion -** *(noun)* the state of being disregarded or forgotten; total forgetfulness
* **Obscure -** *(verb)* make difficult to perceive by sight
* **Obscure -** *(adj.)* not clearly understood or expressed
* **Obsequious -** *(adj.)* attentive in an ingratiating or servile manner; attempting to win favor from influential people by flattery
* **Obtuse -** *(adj.)* lacking sharpness or intellectual ability
* **Odyssey -** *(noun)* a long wandering and eventful journey; a Greek epic poem (attributed to Homer) describing the journey of Odysseus after the fall of Troy
* **Onerous -** *(adj.)* not easily borne; wearing
* **Onus -** *(noun)* an onerous or difficult concern
* **Opacity -** *(noun)* the degree to which something reduces the passage of light; more obscure
* **Opaque -** *(adj.)* not clear; not transmitting or reflecting light or radiant energy; not clearly understood or expressed
* **Opulent -** *(adj.)* rich and superior in quality
* **Oscillate -** *(verb)* move or swing from side to side regularly; be undecided about something; waver between conflicting positions or courses of action
* **Ostentatious -** *(adj.)* intended to attract notice and impress others; of a display that is tawdry or vulgar
* **Overt -** *(adj.)* open and observable; not secret or hidden

**P**

* **Pacify -** *(verb)* fight violence and try to establish peace; cause to be more favorably inclined; gain the good will of
* **Palpable -** *(adj.)* capable of being perceived by the senses or the mind; especially capable of being handled or felt
* **Panacea -** *(noun)* a cure-all; a remedy for all difficulties
* **Pander -** *(verb)* arrange for sexual partners for others; yield (to); give satisfaction to
* **Parity -** *(noun)* equality or equal status
* **Parsimony -** *(noun)* extreme care in spending money; reluctance to spend money unnecessarily; extreme stinginess
* **Patent -** *(noun)* a document granting an inventor sole rights to an invention; an official document granting a right or privilege
* **Patent -** *(verb)* make open to sight or notice
* **Patent -** *(adj.)* open; affording free passage
* **Paucity -** *(noun)* an insufficient quantity or number
* **Pedantic -** *(adj.)* marked by a narrow focus on or display of learning especially its trivial aspects
* **Pejorative -** *(adj.)* derogatory or demeaning
* **Penchant -** *(noun)* a strong liking or fondness
* **Penury -** *(noun)* a state of extreme poverty or destitution
* **Perfidy -** *(noun)* betrayal of a trust; an act of deliberate betrayal
* **Perfunctory -** *(adj.)* hasty and without attention to detail; not thorough; as a formality only
* **Peripatetic -** *(adj.)* often moving or wandering from place to place
* **Peripheral -** *(adj.)* the outer area; related to the key issue but not of central importance
* **Petulant -** *(adj.)* easily irritated or annoyed
* **Pilfer -** *(verb)* make off with belongings of others; steal
* **Placate -** *(verb)* to soothe or mollify
* **Placid -** *(adj.)* free from disturbance; living without undue worry; taking life easy; not easily irritated
* **Precise -** *(adj.)* sharply exact or accurate or delimited
* **Premeditated -** *(adj.)* characterized by deliberate purpose and some degree of planning
* **Pretentious -** *(adj.)* making claim to or creating an appearance of importance or distinction; intended to attract notice and impress others; of a display that is tawdry or vulgar
* **Prevalent -** *(adj.)* widely accepted, favored or practiced
* **Probity -** *(noun)* complete and confirmed integrity; having strong moral principles
* **Proclivity -** *(noun)* a natural inclination
* **Prodigal -** *(noun)* a recklessly extravagant consumer
* **Prodigal -** *(adj.)* marked by rash extravagance; very generous
* **Prodigious -** *(adj.)* so great in size or force or extent as to elicit awe; far beyond what is usual
* **Profuse -** *(adj.)* produced or growing in extreme abundance
* **Provoke -** *(verb)* provide the needed stimulus for; evoke or provoke to appear or occur; call forth emotions or feelings
* **Proximity -** *(noun)* the property of being close together
* **Prudence -** *(noun)* discretion in practical affairs; knowing how to avoid embarrassment or distress
* **Puerile -** *(adj.)* juvenile and immature
* **Pugnacious -** *(adj.)* ready and able to resort to force or violence; tough and callous by virtue of experience
* **Pulverize -** *(verb)* make into a powder by breaking up or cause to become dust; destroy completely

**Q**

* **Quagmire -** *(noun)* in a tough position; mired with difficulty
* **Queasy -** *(adj.)* causing or fraught with or showing anxiety; feeling nausea; feeling about to vomit
* **Querulous -** *(adj.)* habitually complaining
* **Quip -** *(noun)* witty remark
* **Quip -** *(verb)* make jokes
* **Quirk -** *(noun)* a strange habit
* **Quirk -** *(verb)* twist or curve abruptly
* **Quixotic -** *(adj.)* foolishly impractical; often unpredictable

**R**

* **Rant -** *(verb)* talk in a noisy, excited, or declamatory manner
* **Rant -** *(noun)* pompous or pretentious talk or writing
* **Recalcitrant -** *(adj.)* marked by stubborn resistance to authority; stubbornly resistant to authority or control
* **Recant -** *(verb)* formally reject or disavow a formerly held belief, usually under pressure
* **Reciprocal -** *(adj.)* shared or felt on both sides
* **Reclusive -** *(adj.)* providing privacy or seclusion; withdrawn from society; seeking solitude
* **Remedy -** *(noun)* a medicine or therapy that cures disease or relieve pain; act of correcting an error or a fault or an evil
* **Remedy -** *(verb)* provide relief for; set straight or right
* **Replete -** *(verb)* fill to satisfaction
* **Replete -** *(adj.)* filled or permeated; filled to satisfaction with food or drink
* **Rescind -** *(verb)* annul by recalling or rescinding
* **Reserve -** *(noun)* the trait of being uncommunicative; not volunteering anything more than necessary; something kept back or saved for future use or a special purpose;
* **Resolute -** *(adj.)* firm in purpose or belief; characterized by firmness and determination
* **Respite -** *(noun)* a pause from doing something; a pause for relaxation; the act of reprieving
* **Rhetoric -** *(noun)* study of the technique and rules for using language effectively; using language effectively to please or persuade; loud and confused and empty talk; high-flown style; excessive use of verbal ornamentation
* **Ruffle -** *(verb)* pleat or gather into a ruffle; disturb the smoothness of; erect or fluff up; trouble or vex
* **Rupture -** *(noun)* the act of making a sudden noisy break; a personal or social separation

**S**

* **Saccharine -** *(adj.)* overly sweet
* **Salubrious -** *(adj.)* favorable to health of mind or body; promoting health; healthful
* **Sardonic -** *(adj.)* disdainfully or ironically humorous; scornful and mocking
* **Scrutinize -** *(verb)* examine carefully for accuracy with the intent of verification; to look at critically or searchingly, or in minute detail
* **Seditious -** *(adj.)* in opposition to a civil authority or government; arousing to action or rebellion
* **Sedulous -** *(adj.)* marked by care and persistent effort
* **Skepticism -** *(noun)* doubt about the truth of something; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge
* **Somber -** *(adj.)* grave or even gloomy in character; lacking brightness or color; dull
* **Sovereign -** *(noun)* a nation's ruler or head of state usually by hereditary right
* **Sovereign -** *(adj.)* greatest in status or authority or power; not controlled by outside forces
* **Sparse -** *(adj.)* not dense; not thickly settled
* **Specify -** *(verb)* decide upon or fix definitely; be specific about; determine the essential quality
* **Spontaneous -** *(adj.)* happening or arising without apparent external cause; said or done without having been planned or written in advance
* **Spurn -** *(verb)* reject with contempt
* **Squander -** *(verb)* spend extravagantly; spend thoughtlessly; throw away or waste
* **Stimulus -** *(noun)* any stimulating information or event; acts to arouse action
* **Stringent -** *(adj.)* demanding strict attention to rules and procedures
* **Stymie -** *(noun)* a thwarting and distressing situation
* **Stymie -** *(verb)* hinder or prevent the progress or accomplishment of
* **Subtle -** *(adj.)* faint and difficult to analyze; able to make fine distinctions
* **Succinct -** *(adj.)* briefly giving the gist of something
* **Summary -** *(noun)* a brief statement that presents the main points in a concise form
* **Summon -** *(verb)* call in an official matter, such as to attend court; ask to come; gather or bring together
* **Sumptuous -** *(adj.)* rich and superior in quality
* **Sycophant -** *(noun)* a servile, self-seeking flatterer
* **Symbiotic -** *(adj.)* used of organisms living together but not necessarily in a relation beneficial to each; cooperative relationship

**T**

* **Taciturn -** *(adj.)* disinclined to talk or speak
* **Tangent -** *(noun)* often unrelated; a straight line or plane that touches a curve or curved surface at a point but does not intersect it at that point
* **Tantamount -** *(adj.)* being essentially equal to something
* **Tawdry -** *(adj.)* cheap and shoddy; tastelessly showy
* **Tenacious -** *(adj.)* sticking together; good at remembering; stubbornly unyielding
* **Tenuous -** *(adj.)* very thin in gauge or diameter; having thin consistency; having little substance or significance
* **Tranquil -** *(adj.)* free from agitation or worry; calm
* **Transient -** *(noun)* in Physics, a short-lived oscillation in a system caused by a sudden change of voltage or current or load; lasting a very short time
* **Truculence -** *(noun)* obstreperous and defiant aggressiveness
* **Truncate -** *(verb)* to shorten
* **Turbulence -** *(noun)* unstable flow of a liquid or gas; a state of violent disturbance and disorder; instability

**U**

* **Ubiquitous -** *(adj.)* omnipresent, existing everywhere at the same time
* **Urbane -** *(adj.)* polite and refined
* **Usurp -** *(verb)* to seize or hold in possession by force without right

**V**

* **Venality -** *(noun)* prostitution of talents or offices or services for reward; associated with bribery
* **Venerable -** *(adj.)* impressive by reason of age; profoundly honored
* **Venturesome -** *(adj.)* disposed to venture or take risks
* **Verbose -** *(adj.)* using or containing too many words
* **Vex -** *(verb)* to bring trouble to, or annoy
* **Viable -** *(adj.)* capable of life or normal growth and development; capable of being done with means at hand and circumstances as they are
* **Vibrancy -** *(noun)* having the character of a loud deep sound; the quality of being resonant
* **Vilification -** *(noun)* a rude expression intended to offend or hurt; slanderous defamation
* **Virulence -** *(noun)* extreme hostility; extreme harmfulness

**W**

* **Wane -** *(verb)* to decrease in size
* **Wanton -** *(noun)* lewd or lascivious woman
* **Wanton -** *(verb)* behave extremely cruelly and brutally
* **Wary -** *(adj.)* marked by keen caution and watchful prudence; openly distrustful and unwilling to confide
* **Whet -** *(verb)* make keen or more acute; sharpen by rubbing
* **Whittle -** *(verb)* cut small bits or pare shavings from
* **Willful -** *(adj.)* habitually disposed to disobedience and opposition; done by design
* **Wily -** *(adj.)* marked by skill in deception
* **Wont -** *(noun)* a pattern of behavior acquired through frequent repetition; an established custom
* **Zany -** *(noun)* a buffoon in one of the old comedies
* **Zealot -** *(noun)* a fervent and even militant proponent of something
* **Zenith -** *(noun)* the point above the observer that is directly opposite the nadir on the imaginary sphere against which celestial bodies appear to be projected
* **Zephyr -** *(noun)* (Greek mythology) the Greek god of the west wind; a slight refreshing wind
* **Zest -** *(verb)* add herbs or spices to
* **Zest -** *(noun)* vigorous and enthusiastic enjoyment