

# SAT VOCABULARY

## PART 1: FROM A TO C

This is a list of terms that high school senior students are expected to know for the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test), a standardized test for college admissions in the United States.

It is interesting for anyone wishing to become bilingual in English to note that the following words are therefore NOT commonly used in an everyday conversation:

absorb	to take (something) in through or as through pores.
accelerate	to increase the speed of.
accessible	easily approached or entered.
accommodate	to do a favor or service for; oblige.
accord	to cause to conform or agree; bring into harmony.
acquire	to gain possession of.
advantageous	affording advantage; beneficial.
adversary	an opponent; an enemy.
aesthetic	of or concerning the appreciation of beauty.
affiliation	a social or business relationship.
agile	characterized by quickness and ease of movement.
agitate	to cause to move with violence or sudden force.
alleviate	to make (pain, for example) more bearable.
amplify	to make larger or more powerful; increase.
anticipate	to feel or realize beforehand; foresee.
ascertain	to discover with certainty, as through experimentation.
assertion	something declared or stated positively, often with no support or attempt at proof.
asylum	a place offering protection and safety; a shelter.
attain	to gain as an objective; achieve.
augment	to make (something already developed) greater.

austere	severe or stern in disposition or appearance; somber and grave.
awe	a mixed emotion of reverence, dread, and wonder.
balk	to refuse obstinately or abruptly.
barricade	something that serves as an obstacle; a barrier.
benefactor	one that gives aid, especially financial aid.
benevolent	characterized by or suggestive of doing good.
benign	having little or no detrimental effect; harmless.
bequeath	to pass (something) on to another; hand down.
berate	to rebuke or scold angrily and at length.
betray	to be false or disloyal to.
bewilder	to cause to lose one's bearings; disorient.
blaze	a brilliant burst of fire; a flame.
buffoonery	a person given to clowning and joking.
calamity	an event that brings terrible loss; a disaster.
calculating	shrewd; crafty.
cantankerous	ill-tempered and quarrelsome.
catalyst	one that precipitates a process or event.
catnap	a short nap; a light sleep.
censure	an expression of strong disapproval or harsh criticism.
circuitous	being or taking a roundabout, lengthy course.
clandestine	kept or done in secret.
cluttered	filled with a disorderly accumulation of objects or rubbish.
cognizant	fully informed; conscious.
colossal	of a size, extent, or degree that elicits awe or taxes belief.
compassion	deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it.
compensate	to offset. to serve as or provide a substitute.
complex	involved or intricate, as in structure; complicated.
composed	serenely self-possessed; calm.
comprehensive	so large in scope or content as to include much.
concoct	to devise, using skill and intelligence.
condolence	sympathy with a person who has experienced pain, grief, or

	misfortune.
conduit	a means by which something is transmitted.
confidante	a woman to whom secrets or private matters are disclosed.
confirm	to support or establish the certainty or validity of; verify.
conflict	a state of open, often prolonged fighting; a battle or war.
confound	to cause to become confused. to make (something bad) worse.
consensus	an opinion or position reached by a group as a whole.
consolation	a comfort in a time of sadness or distress.
contrite	feeling regret and sorrow for one's sins or offenses; penitent.
controversial	of, producing, or marked by controversy.
convenient	suited or favorable to one's comfort, purpose, or needs.
convergence	a meeting place. the property or manner of approaching a limit, such as a point, line, or value.
convey	to serve as a medium of transmission for.
crass	so crude and unrefined as to be lacking in discrimination and sensibility.
crude	being in an unrefined or natural state; raw.
culpable	deserving of blame or censure as being wrong or injurious.
cunning	marked by or given to artful subtlety and deceptiveness.