

SAT VOCABULARY

PART 2

The new SAT's Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Test assesses your knowledge of college-level vocabulary—the kinds of words that you will need to know in order to understand academic writing about many different subjects. The vocabulary tested on the new SAT includes words that you are likely to see and use frequently in college courses, as well as words that have different meanings in different contexts.

Building your college-level vocabulary now will not only help you increase your score on the SAT, but also help you in your future studies. In this part, we've included a list of 250 college-level words, as well as lists of common word parts to help you learn new vocabulary.

WORD ROOTS, PREFIXES, AND SUFFIXES

Many words can be broken into basic parts. **Roots** carry the basic meaning of a word, **prefixes** come before roots and alter their meaning, and **suffixes** come after roots and alter either their meaning or their part of speech. Because English is related to French, German, Spanish, Latin, and Greek, many of these word parts will look familiar if you speak one of those languages.

The lists below contain some of the most common roots, prefixes, and suffixes that make up English words. Start learning these basic parts to help you break down unfamiliar vocabulary and speed up your vocabulary building process for the SAT.

Common Roots		
ag, act	do	action, activity, agent
ambul	walk, move	ambulance, ambulatory, amble
ami, amo	love	amiable, amorous
anim	mind, soul, spirit	animal, animate, unanimous
anthro	human	anthropology, philanthropy
aud, audit	hear	audible, auditorium, audience

auto	self	automobile, autobiography, autograph
belli	war	belligerent, rebellious, bellicose
ben	good	benefactor, beneficial, benevolence
biblio	book	bibliography, Bible
bio	life	biography, biology
carn	flesh, meat	carnivore, carnal, incarnate
chron	time	chronic, chronology, synchronize
cid, cis	cut, kill	incision, homicide, insecticide
civi	citizen	civilization, civilian, civil
corp	body	corporation, corporeal, corpse
dem	people	democracy, demographic
dic, dict	speak	dictate, contradict, prediction, verdict
domin	master	dominant, domain, domineering
err	wander	error, erratic, errand
eu	good, beautiful	eulogize, euphoria, euphemism
fall, fals	deceive	fallacious, infallible, falsify
fid	faith	fidelity, confide, confidence
graph, gram	writing	grammar, telegram, graphite
loqu, locut	talk	soliloquy, loquacious, elocution
luc	light	elucidate, lucid, translucent
magn	great	magnify, magnate, magnanimous
mal	bad	malevolent, malediction, malicious
mori, mort	die	mortuary, immortal, moribund
morph	shape, form	amorphous, metamorphosis
nat	born	innate, natal, nativity
nom	name	misnomer, nominal
nov	new	novice, innovate, renovate, novelty
omni	all	omniscient, omnipotent, omnivorous
pac, pas, pax	peace	pacify, pacific, pacifist, passive
path, pass	disease, feeling	pathology, sympathetic, apathy, antipathy
phil	love	philanthropist, philosophy, philanderer
port	carry	portable, porter, transport, export
poten	able, powerful	potential, omnipotent, potentate, impotent

psych	mind	psyche, psychology, psychosis, psychopath
reg, rect	rule	regicide, regime, regent, insurrection
sacr, secr	holy	sacred, sacrilegious, sacrament, consecrate
scribe, script	write	scribe, describe, script
somn	sleep	insomnia, somnolent, somnambulist
spec, spic	see, look	spectators, spectacles, retrospect, conspicuous
tang, tact, ting	touch	tactile, tangent, contact, contingent
terr	land	terrain, terrestrial, subterranean
urb	city	urban, urbane, suburban
vac	empty	vacation, vacuous, evacuate, vacant
ver	truth	veracity, verify, veracious
verb	word	verbose, verbatim, proverb
viv, vit	alive	revival, vivacious, vitality

Common Prefixes		
ambi, amphi	both	ambidextrous, ambiguous, ambivalent
an, a	without	anarchy, anemia, amoral
anti	against	antibody, antipathy, antisocial
circum	around	circumnavigate, circumspect, circumscribe
co, col, com, con	with, together	coauthor, collaborate, composition, commerce
contra, contro	against	contradict, contravene, controversy
di, dif, dis	not, apart	digress, discord, differ, disparity
dia	through, across	diagonal, diameter, dialogue
dys	abnormal, bad	dysfunction, dyslexia, dystopia
e, ex, extra, extro	out, beyond	expel, excavate, eject, extrovert
in, il, im, ir (1)	not	inefficient, inarticulate, illegible, irrepressible
in, il, im, ir (2)	in, upon	invite, incite, impression, illuminate
inter	between, among	intervene, international, interjection, intercept
intra	within	intramural, introvert, intravenous
mis	bad, hatred	misdemeanor, mischance, misanthrope
mono	one	monarchy, monologue, monotheism
pan	all, every	panacea, panorama, pandemic
peri	around, near	perimeter, periphery, periscope

poly	many	polygon, polygamist, polyglot
post	after	postpone, posterity, postscript, posthumous
pre	before	preamble, prefix, premonition, prediction
pro	forward, for, before	propulsive, proponent, prologue, prophet
re, retro	again, back	reiterate, reimburse, react, retrogress
sub, suc, sup, sus	under, less	subway, subjugate, suppress
super, sur	over, above	superior, supernatural, supervise, surtax
syn, sym, syl, sys	with, together	symmetry, synchronize, synthesize, sympathize
trans	across	transfer, transport, transpose
un	not	unabridged, unkempt, unwitting

Common Suffixes		
<i>able, ible</i>	ADJ: capable of	edible, presentable, legible
<i>ac, ic, ical</i>	ADJ: like, related	cardiac, mythic, dramatic, musical
<i>acious, icious</i>	ADJ: full of	malicious, audacious
<i>ant, ent</i>	ADJ/N: full of	eloquent, verdant
<i>ate</i>	V: make, become	consecrate, enervate, eradicate
<i>en</i>	V: make, become	awaken, strengthen, soften
<i>er (1)</i>	ADJ: more	bigger, wiser, happier
<i>er (2)</i>	N: a person who does	teacher, baker, announcer
<i>cy, ty, ity</i>	N: state of being	democracy, accuracy, veracity
<i>ful</i>	ADJ: full of	respectful, cheerful, wonderful
<i>fy</i>	V: to make	magnify, petrify, beautify
<i>ism</i>	N: doctrine, belief	monotheism, fanaticism, egotism
<i>ist</i>	N: dealer, doer	fascist, realist, artist
<i>ize, ise</i>	V: make	victimize, rationalize, harmonize
<i>logy</i>	N: study of	biology, geology, neurology
<i>oid</i>	ADJ: resembling	ovoid, anthropoid, spheroid
<i>ose, ous</i>	ADJ: full of	verbose, lachrymose, nauseous, gaseous
<i>osis</i>	N: condition	psychosis, neurosis, hypnosis
<i>tion, sion</i>	N: state of being	exasperation, irritation, transition, concession
<i>tude</i>	N: state of	fortitude, beatitude, certitude

VOCABULARY LIST

The vocabulary list below contains 250 words at the same difficulty level and of content areas that are most likely to appear on the SAT. Work your way through this list, using flashcards to learn words you don't know and looking up words that you're not sure how to use. To help you remember their meanings, see if you can break down any of these words into parts using the roots, prefixes, and suffixes charts above.

#	Word	Definition
1	accede	1. give in, agree to 2. take office
2	acclaim	praise
3	acquiesce	give in
4	affable (related: affability)	friendly
5	affected	1. influenced by something 2. artificial, trying to impress
6	affluent	wealthy
7	ailment	illness
8	ambivalence (related: ambivalent)	mixed feelings
9	amenable	1. cooperative, easily persuaded 2. receptive, responsive
10	animosity	hostility
11	anomalous (related: anomaly)	not normal, unusual
12	antecedent	what came before
13	antithesis	opposite
14	apathetic (related: apathy)	lacking interest
15	apparatus	device, equipment
16	arbitrary	random
17	archaic	old or old-fashioned
18	assail	attack
19	assuage	1. relieve, soothe 2. satisfy
20	atrophy	waste away
21	atypical	not normal
22	augment	enlarge, increase
23	auspicious	favorable, promising
24	aversion	dislike

25	banal	not original, common, boring
26	benevolent	generous
27	bog	marsh, swamp
28	buoyant	1. cheerful 2. floating 3. very active (in an economic context)
29	buttress	support
30	byzantine	excessively complex
31	cajole	persuade
32	callous	cruelly insensitive
33	capacity	ability
34	catalyst	something that triggers an event
35	caustic	1. bitter and sarcastic 2. acidic
36	cerebral	intellectual
37	charismatic	charming
38	circumscribe	restrict, limit
39	circumvent	overcome an obstacle
40	cite	1. quote as evidence 2. mention as an example
41	combustible	able to catch fire easily
42	compatible	1. able to co-exist peacefully, well-suited 2. consistent
43	compile	assemble, collect
44	comply	go along with rules
45	comprehensive	thorough
46	conducive	favorable to, likely to bring about a certain outcome
47	congenial	pleasant
48	conscientious	careful, hardworking
49	constraint	restriction, limitation
50	consummate	1. (verb) complete, make perfect 2. (adjective) highly skilled, perfect
51	contemporary	1. living or occurring at the same time 2. occurring in the present
52	contemptuous (related: contempt)	scornful, disrespectful
53	contingency	1. possibility 2. unforeseen event
54	convoluted	complicated, twisted
55	criterion	standard by which things are judged or measured
56	cursory	quick, hurried, not thorough
57	deficit	lack, shortage

58	definitive	absolute, authoritative
59	demure (related: demurrals)	overly modest, shy
60	denounce	declare to be wrong, criticize
61	depose	1. remove from power 2. testify or give evidence (in a legal context)
62	deprecate (related: deprecating)	disapprove of, criticize
63	derivative	not original
64	derogatory (related: derogate)	insulting, disrespecting
65	destitute	poor
66	deter	prevent, discourage
67	detrimental	damaging, harmful
68	devoid	lacking
69	diligent (related: diligence)	hardworking
70	diplomatic	1. having to do with foreign relations 2. tactful, sensitive, polite
71	dire	urgent, dreadful
72	discount (verb)	1. reduce in price 2. ignore, disregard
73	discourse	discussion
74	discredit	harm someone's reputation
75	discrepancy	difference, mismatch
76	discriminating	selective, having refined taste
77	disseminate	scatter or spread widely
78	domestic	relating to the home or the home country
79	dominant	most important or powerful
80	dormant	not active
81	eclectic	from a variety of sources
82	efface (related: effacement)	erase
83	effervesce (related: effervescent)	bubble, fizz
84	eloquence (related: eloquent)	flowing and persuasive speech or writing
85	elude	escape from, avoid
86	embitter (related: embittered)	cause someone to feel bitter
87	empirical	based on observation and experimentation

88	encompass	include, surround
89	endorse	approve, support
90	enigma (related: enigmatic)	mystery
91	equanimity	calmness
92	equitable	fair, even-handed
93	erroneous	incorrect
94	evince	show clearly
95	exacting	demanding, having severe requirements
96	exasperate	annoy
97	excise	remove
98	explicit	fully expressed, leaving nothing implied
99	exploit	1. (verb) benefit unfairly from something 2. (noun) bold or heroic deed
100	facile	1. shallow, simplistic 2. effortless
101	facilitate	help, make easier
102	faction	a small group within a larger group
103	fallacy	mistaken belief, faulty reasoning
104	fastidious	careful, painstaking
105	fathom	1. (verb) understand 2. a unit of depth, usually measuring water
106	flag	1. (noun) symbol of a country or institution 2. (verb) point out, signal, draw attention to 3. (verb) become tired or weak
107	florid (related: floridity)	1. having a red or flushed face 2. flowery, elaborate
108	folly	foolishness
109	furtive	sneaky
110	generic	general, not specific
111	germinate	begin or cause to grow
112	glacial	1. icy, related to glaciers 2. cold, unfriendly 3. extremely slow
113	gravity	seriousness
114	hail	1. (noun) pellets of ice 2. (verb) rain down with force 3. (verb) signal, greet, call out 4. (verb) praise
115	harbor	1. (noun) safe place or shelter, particularly for boats 2. (verb) keep or hold in mind 3. (verb) give a home to, shelter, or hide someone
116	hedonist	someone driven by pleasure
117	heresy (related: heretic)	belief that goes against the established opinion

118	hierarchy	ranking, classification
119	hospitable	welcoming, friendly
120	hypothesis (related: hypothetical)	theory, guess
121	iconoclast (related: iconoclastic)	someone who attacks traditional beliefs
122	ideology	system of ideas, way of thinking
123	idiosyncrasy (related: idiosyncratic)	unique personal trait
124	impeccable	perfect, flawless
125	impetuous	impulsive, spontaneous
126	impetus	motivation
127	incarnate	1. possessing a concrete, material form 2. in the flesh
128	incontrovertible	definitive, unable to be denied
129	incorrigible	incapable of being corrected or improved
130	incredulous (related: incredulity)	disbelieving, skeptical
131	indiscriminate	unselective, random
132	indisposed	1. ill 2. unwilling
133	induce	1. bring about, cause 2. arrive at a conclusion by logical reasoning
134	inert (related: inertia)	not moving or active
135	inherent	innate, inborn, natural
136	inhibit (related: inhibiting)	hold back, restrain, prevent
137	innocuous	harmless
138	innovate (related: innovation, innovative)	make something new, change, create
139	insidious	sneaky, stealthy, treacherous
140	insular	1. related to or similar to an island 2. narrow-minded, isolated
141	integrity	1. honesty, dignity 2. completeness
142	inundate	flood, overwhelm
143	irony (related: ironic)	difference between what is expected and what actually happens
144	laborious	involving hard work
145	lofty	1. tall 2. majestic, noble 3. arrogant
146	lucid	clear, easily understood
147	lurid	sensational, shocking

148	malign (related: malignant)	1. (adjective) evil 2. (verb) criticize, speak ill of
149	mar	hurt someone's appearance
150	meander	wander
151	mercenary	1. (adjective) motivated by money 2. (noun) soldier hired to fight for a foreign country
152	mercurial	unpredictable, inconsistent
153	mitigate (related: mitigation)	make less serious, reduce
154	muted	quiet, soft
155	myopic	1. nearsighted 2. unimaginative
156	nebulous	vague, cloudy
157	nonchalance (related: nonchalant)	lack of concern
158	notorious (related: notoriety)	famous for something bad
159	novelty	1. newness, originality 2. a trinket or toy
160	odoriferous	having a strong or unpleasant smell
161	opaque (related: opacity)	1. not transparent 2. hard to understand
162	opportunist (related: opportunistic)	a person who takes advantage of opportunities, often unethically
163	orthodox	conservative, traditional
164	oversight	mistake
165	parochial	1. relating to church 2. narrow-minded, unsophisticated
166	particular (related: particularity)	1. specific, individual 2. fussy, demanding
167	partisan	1. supporter of a party or a cause 2. someone who is prejudiced towards a certain cause
168	patronize	1. support financially 2. act superior, look down on
169	peremptory	bossy, commanding
170	perennial	long-lasting, continual
171	perfidious	untrustworthy, disloyal
172	perverse	1. unacceptable, unreasonable 2. unnatural, abnormal
173	pigment	substance that gives color
174	plebeian	common citizen
175	poignant	emotionally touching
176	pragmatic (related: pragmatism, pragmatist)	practical
177	precipitate	cause a sudden outcome

178	precocious	having early development in maturity and intelligence
179	prescribe	1. recommend, advise 2. command
180	presumption	1. assumption, guess 2. boldness, disrespect
181	pretense	1. make-believe, fake 2. false claim
182	prevalent	widespread
183	proclivity	natural tendency
184	procure	get or provide
185	profane	1. not sacred or religious 2. showing disrespect for religion
186	prohibitive (related: prohibit, prohibition)	1. forbidding or restricting 2. excessively high in price
187	prolific	1. productive, creative, fertile 2. plentiful
188	prospective	likely or expected to become
189	quagmire	1. complex, difficult situation 2. bog or swamp
190	qualified	1. competent, able 2. limited
191	quash	1. reject 2. put down, suppress
192	radical	extreme
193	recourse	the act of turning to someone or something for assistance
194	rectify (related: rectitude)	put right, correct
195	regressive	backward-looking, becoming less advanced
196	rejuvenate	make young again
197	remission	reduction or decrease, particularly of a debt or medical symptoms
198	remote	distant, far
199	renounce	reject, abandon
200	repudiate	reject entirely, deny
201	repugnant	offensive, disgusting
202	resign (related: resignation, resigned)	1. give in, surrender 2. step down from a position
203	rhetoric (related: rhetorical, rhetorician)	persuasive speech or writing
204	rudimentary	1. basic 2. undeveloped, incomplete
205	sanction	1. (noun) penalty for disobeying a law 2. (verb) punish, impose a penalty 3. (verb) formally approve
206	sanguine	cheerfully confident, optimistic
207	satire (related: satirical, satirize)	sarcastic imitation

208	saturate	soak, make completely full
209	scintillating	lively, effervescent
210	scope	1. range 2. opportunity, possibility
211	sensational	amazing, shocking, scandalous
212	servile	submissive, overly willing to please
213	shopworn	worn out, trite
214	simile	comparison
215	solicitous (related: solicitousness)	expressing care or concern, often too much
216	sparse	lacking, rare
217	spate	outbreak of similar events happening one after another
218	spurn	reject, turn down
219	stagnant (related: stagnation)	not moving
220	stark (related: starkness)	harsh, plain
221	staunch	strong, loyal
222	stock (adjective)	standard, usual, automatic
223	strain	1. (verb) stress, force, make an excessive effort 2. (noun) excessive stress, effort, or force 3. (verb) separate solids from a liquid
224	stupefy	amaze
225	subjugate	conquer, dominate, control
226	subordinate	lower in rank, inferior
227	subservient	1. obedient, yielding 2. less important
228	subtle	not obvious
229	supine	1. lying on one's back 2. not resisting
230	susceptible	easily influenced or affected
231	sustain	1. strengthen, support 2. maintain, carry on 3. experience, suffer
232	synthesis	combination of elements or ideas
233	tangent (related: tangential)	1. different or irrelevant line of thought 2. a line that touches a curve at a point (in math)
234	tempestuous	stormy
235	tenacious (related: tenacity)	stubborn, determined
236	thrive	grow, develop, prosper
237	transcend	go beyond, rise above
238	trite	unoriginal, common

239	unorthodox	not traditional
240	unprecedented	without any previous example
241	usurp	seize power without authority
242	vicarious	felt indirectly by imagining someone else's experiences
243	vindicate (related: vindication)	clear someone of blame, prove to be right
244	virulent	1. poisonous 2. bitter, harsh, hostile
245	vitiate	spoil, destroy
246	vocation	career
247	vulnerable	susceptible, exposed
248	wane	lessen, become weaker
249	wary	cautious
250	wry	having a clever or grim sense of humor