

Note: These are the 100 most frequently occurring words on the SAT listed in order of decreasing importance. The "+/-" indicate whether the word is usually positive or negative.

enigma	a riddle
- apathy	lack of emotion or interest
indifferent	having no preference
+ revere	to worship; to honor
candor	frankness; honesty
reticent	restrained; uncommunicative
aesthetic	concerning art or beauty
ascetic	without indulgence or luxuries
autonomy	self-rule; independence
- disdain	contempt
innocuous	harmless; insignificant
- banal	commonplace; dull; ordinary
ambiguous	unclear; undecided
- anarchy	lack of government; chaos
+ ameliorate	to improve
- atrophy	to waste away from lack of use
+ innovate	to make changes; to modernize
- servile	overly submissive; cringing
+ extol	to praise
augment	to add to; to increase
+ benevolent	kindly; to wish well
- derision	contempt; ridicule
disparity	inequality
- flagrant	glaringly wrong; conspicuously evil
- indolence	laziness
acquiesce	to give in; to agree
- prodigal	extravagant; wasteful
capricious	whimsical; unpredictable
- prosaic	commonplace; uninspired; dull
austere	severe; strict
- complacent	smug; self-satisfied
compliance	conforming to a request or demand
- dubious	doubtful
ephemeral	short-lived; fleeting
inevitable	unavoidable; bound to happen
- insipid	bland; boring
obscure	unclear; clouded; partially hidden
- depravity	corruption; wickedness
discern	to distinguish one thing from another
expedite	to quicken
peripheral	on the edge; unimportant
taciturn	quiet; uncommunicative; silent
- apprehensive	fearful; worried
expedient	advantageous; convenient
fastidious	finicky; overly critical
+ novel	new; interesting
- parsimony	stinginess
- provincial	narrowminded; unsophisticated
respite	a break; a rest
anecdote	a brief, humorous story
- drone	to talk on and on in a dull way

- desecrate	to show disrespect or to deface something sacred
+ euphonious	melodious; pleasant sounding
- cacophonous	harsh sounding
guile	cunning; deceitfulness
immutable	unchanging; permanent
incessant	non-stop
static	unchanging; not moving
bastion	a stronghold; a fort
+ benign	kindly; good-natured
credulous	gullible; ready to believe without proof
- disparage	to speak poorly of
eccentric	odd; out of the ordinary; quirky
philanthropist	someone who benefits mankind
- squander	to waste
- virulent	harmful
+ zeal	enthusiasm
+ acuity	sharpness of perception or mind
+ affable	friendly; agreeable
+ assuage	to reduce pain
- avarice	greed
- dissonance	lack of agreement or harmony
- listless	without energy or enthusiasm
- philistine	one who lacks culture or taste
+ scrupulous	concerned; conscientious; proper
tentative	not final; uncertain
+ adulation	adoration
dogmatic	stubbornly opinionated
- futile	hopeless; without effect
- languid	slow and listless
+ pious	religious; devout
ponderous	weighty; heavy
protracted	drawn out; lengthy
+ deference	a show of respect
- heretic	someone who goes against accepted religious beliefs
paucity	scarcity
profuse	very abundant; flowing
+ conciliate	to soothe anger
contrite	thoroughly sorry
didactic	intending to teach
diffident	shy; lacking confidence
digression	straying from a topic
- dissent	disagreement
elucidate	to explain; to make clear
- gullible	overly trusting
strut	a self-important walk
- denounce	to speak against publicly
+ laud	to praise
surreptitious	secret
+ astute	clever; shrewd; ready-witted
- blasphemy	irreverent talk about God
- censure	severely criticize; blame
- pedestrian	commonplace; ordinary