

Vocabulary List

Compiled word list with definitions and example sentences, organized by month.

June 2026

1. **eschew** — to deliberately avoid or stay away from something.

"He chose to eschew social media during exam season."

"The chef eschewed complicated methods and focused on simple ingredients."

2. **unaware** — not knowing about something.

"She was unaware that the meeting had been moved to another room."

"He went to the bathroom, tragically unaware that his microphone was still on."

3. **inane** — silly and lacking real sense or meaning.

"The interview was full of inane questions about celebrity gossip."

"They broke up once they each finally got tired of the other's inane chatter."

4. **idiosyncratic** — having unusual or distinctive personal traits or habits.

"Her idiosyncratic writing style made her essays easy to recognize."

"The professor had an idiosyncratic habit of lecturing in complete darkness."

5. **extoll** — to praise highly.

"The review extolled the novel's originality and emotional depth."

"Supporters extolled the mayor's efforts to improve public transit."

6. **spurious** — false or not genuine.

"The website made spurious claims about a miracle cure."

"He tried to support his argument with spurious evidence."

7. **repertory** — the stock of works, skills, or performances a person or group is prepared to present; repertoire.

"The theater company expanded its repertory to include modern plays."

"The pianist's repertory includes both Mozart and contemporary composers."

(Least certain how this was used on the SAT.)

8. **counterintuitive** — contrary to what seems natural or expected.

"It may seem counterintuitive, but slowing down can help you finish faster."

"The study reached a counterintuitive conclusion that screen time actually increased attention."

9. **tantamount** — equivalent in effect or meaning.

"Refusing to answer his teacher was tantamount to admitting guilt."

"For the smaller school, losing that grant was tantamount to disaster."

10. **resilient** — able to remain unaffected by or recover quickly from difficulty.

"The town proved resilient after the storm destroyed many homes."

"She is resilient and usually recovers quickly from setbacks."

11. **neglect** — to fail to give proper care or attention to something.

"If you neglect your plants, they will soon die."

"The report accused the company of neglecting basic safety rules."

12. **extrapolate** — to guess something by extending known information.

"Scientists can sometimes extrapolate future trends from present data."

"It is risky to extrapolate too much from a single example."

13. **unequivocal** — completely clear and leaving no doubt.

"The coach gave an unequivocal answer: the game would go on."

"Her support for the proposal was unequivocal."

14. **correspondence** — (1) communication by letters or messages. (2) correlation, a close similarity or match.

"The historian studied their private correspondence from the 1920s."

"There was little correspondence between his promises and his actions — he says one thing and does another constantly."

15. **disparate** — very different from each other.

"The committee had to unite several disparate groups around one plan."

"The book draws together disparate ideas from science, art, and politics."

16. **precarious** — unstable, uncertain, or dangerous.

"The climbers were standing on a precarious ledge."

"Many workers found themselves in a precarious financial position after they lost their jobs."

17. **undermine** — to weaken or damage.

"Constant criticism can undermine a student's confidence."

"The scandal undermined public trust in the government."

18. **indecipherable** — impossible or very difficult to understand or read.

"His handwriting was almost indecipherable."

"The note was smudged and indecipherable by the time it arrived."

19. **oblique** — indirect or not stated openly; also slanting.

"She made an oblique reference to the argument without naming it directly."

"The painter used oblique lines to suggest movement."

20. **to this end** — for this purpose; in order to achieve this goal.

"The school wants to improve reading scores; to this end, it added extra tutoring sessions."

"The company hopes to cut waste, and to this end, it has changed its packaging."

21. **homogenous** — made of the same kind throughout.

"The village remained culturally homogenous for many generations."

"The mixture looked smooth and homogenous after several minutes of stirring."

22. **ubiquitous** — present or found everywhere.

"Smartphones are now so ubiquitous that most students carry one."

"By the late 1990s, email had become ubiquitous in many offices."

23. **restitution** — the act of returning something or paying for damage or loss.

"The court ordered restitution to the victims of the fraud."

"The museum agreed to make restitution for the artwork stolen during the war."

24. **latitude** — (1) the distance of a place north or south of the equator. (2) freedom to act or make choices.

"Istanbul is at a lower latitude than Moscow."

"The teacher gave us a lot of latitude in choosing our research topics."

25. **itemize** — to list things one by one.

"Please itemize your expenses at the bottom of the page."

"The report itemized every cost involved in the project."

 100% Free Digital SAT Prep

Wanna practice with a flashcard instead?

DSAT16 is a 100% free Digital SAT prep platform. Plus, it has a built-in flashcard optimized for space repetition and lexical inference.

Start Practicing Free →

www.dsat16.com

26. **activate** — to make something start working or become active.

"Press this button to activate the alarm."

"The medicine can activate the body's immune response."

27. **deter** — to discourage someone from doing something.

"The high fines are meant to deter reckless driving."

"A strong security system can deter burglars."

deterrence — the act of preventing something by making the consequences seem serious.

"Nuclear deterrence — the idea that if you attack me, I will nuke you — has prevented war between the Great Powers."

"Harsh penalties are often used as a form of deterrence."

28. **encryption** — the process of changing information into a secret code.

"The app uses encryption to protect private messages."

"Without encryption, online banking would be much less secure."

29. **proxy** — a person or thing that acts in place of others.

"The voters sent proxies to the meeting to represent them."

"In the experiment, researchers used particulate matter, which is easy to measure, as a proxy for all air pollution."

30. **simulation** — an imitation of a real situation or process.

"The students practiced flying in a computer simulation."

"The training program includes a simulation of an emergency landing."

31. **auxiliary** — giving extra help or support.

"The hospital brought in auxiliary staff during the crisis."

"An auxiliary battery supplied power when the main one failed."

32. **parameters** — limits, rules, or measurable conditions that shape something.

"The teacher gave clear parameters for the essay."

"The scientist adjusted the parameters of the experiment."

33. **indispensable** — absolutely necessary.

"A map was indispensable on the long hike."

"She became indispensable to the team because of her experience."

34. **resolute** — firm and determined.

"Despite criticism, she remained resolute in her decision."

"The mayor sounded resolute when announcing the new policy."

35. **discrepancy** — a difference between things that should match, a mismatch.

"The accountant noticed a discrepancy between the two totals, which led to uncovering massive fraud."

"There was a discrepancy between his story and the video evidence, so the police arrested him."

36. **perfunctory** — done with little care or effort; done as a formality.

"The kid gave the room a perfunctory cleaning, just shoving everything under his bed."

"Her perfunctory apology did not sound sincere."

37. **discontinuous** — not connected; having gaps or breaks.

"Wild flowers grew in a spotty, discontinuous pattern across the mountainside, dappling it with spots of red, pink, and gold."

"Because of the missing pages, the story felt discontinuous."

38. **meticulously** — in a very careful and detailed way.

"She meticulously checked every line of the contract."

"The model ship was meticulously built by hand."

39. **anachronistic** — out of its proper historical time.

"The movie was criticized for its anachronistic costumes, like sunglasses on Roman soldiers."

"Putting a smartphone in a story about the Victorian Era would be anachronistic."

40. **paradoxically** (transition) — surprisingly, in a way that seems contradictory.

"After the attack, the government made a complex warning system of terrorist threats. Paradoxically, the warning system made the students feel more secure."

"He had trained for years, but paradoxically, he performed better after taking a break from training because it let him stop overthinking."

41. **refurbish** — to repair, renovate, or otherwise improve something to make it look new again.

"The city plans to refurbish the old library instead of tearing it down."

"He decided his retirement project would be refurbishing an old Ferrari that hadn't run since 1987."

May 2026

42. **efface** — to erase or make less noticeable.

"Time did little to efface the memory of the accident."

"The new paint failed to efface the stain on the wall."

Special use: **self-effacing** — extremely modest, humble, inconspicuous, or unobtrusive. "He tried to efface himself during the meeting."

43. **attenuate** — to weaken or reduce in force.

"The thick curtains helped attenuate the noise from the street."

"Though strong at first, we expect the effect to attenuate over time."

44. **accentuate** — to make more noticeable or emphasize.

"The dark frame helps accentuate the bright colors in the painting."

"She wore shoes that accentuated her height."

45. **incredulity** — an inability or unwillingness to believe something.

"As she gave excuse after excuse, her teacher was increasingly incredulous."

"Her claim was met with laughter and incredulity."

46. **dearth** — a lack or shortage of something.

"There is a dearth of affordable housing in the city."

"The team struggled because of a dearth of experienced players."

47. **foreground** (verb) — to place special attention on something; opposite of background.

"The documentary foregrounds the voices of ordinary workers."

"The novel foregrounds questions of class and ambition."

48. **gratification** — pleasure or satisfaction.

"She felt a sense of gratification after finishing the project."

"The job offered little immediate emotional gratification, but at least it paid well."

49. **gratify** — to please or satisfy.

"It gratified him to hear that his students had succeeded."

"Winning the award gratified years of effort."

Special use: **gratify a desire** — to fulfill a desire. "He suffers from an inability to delay gratification. He's always getting distracted from his work."

50. **substantiate** — to provide evidence or proof for.

"The journalist could not substantiate the rumor with reliable sources."

"Scientists need data to substantiate their claims."

51. **encompass** — to include or contain.

"The course encompasses both history and literature."

"Her responsibilities encompass hiring, training, and scheduling."

52. **supersede** — to replace something older or less effective.

"Email quickly superseded many printed memos."

"The new policy will supersede the previous one next month."

53. **contrived** — artificial or too obviously planned.

"The dialogue sounded contrived rather than natural."

"The movie's happy ending felt contrived."

54. **amend** — to change or improve something, especially formally, usually by adding.

"The committee voted to amend the proposal."

"She apologized and promised to amend her behavior."

55. **archetypal** — being a very typical example of something.

"He is the archetypal absent-minded professor."

"The story follows the archetypal hero's journey."

56. **replica** — an exact copy of something.

"The museum displayed a replica of the ancient sword."

| March 2026

57. **substantiate** — provide evidence or proof for.

"His teachers said he stole the test, but they were never able to substantiate their claims."

58. **multifarious** — diverse; varied.

"The museum featured a multifarious collection of ancient tools, paintings, and maps."

"Her interests were multifarious, ranging from chemistry to filmmaking."

59. **ubiquitous** — present or found everywhere.

"Coffee shops are so ubiquitous in the city that you can find one on nearly every block."

60. **untenable** — impossible to defend or maintain.

"Once the facts were checked, his argument became untenable."

"The team realized their position was untenable and decided to change strategies."

61. **iconoclasm** — attacking or rejecting traditional beliefs.

"The writer's iconoclasm made her popular with readers who disliked old conventions."

"Madonna was an iconoclast, and changed how musical artists used their sexuality."

62. **misconstrue** — to misunderstand the meaning of something.

"Do not misconstrue her silence as anger; she is just tired."

"He misconstrued the teacher's joke as a serious warning."

63. **refute** — to prove that something is wrong.

"The scientist used new data to refute the earlier theory."

"She refuted the rumor by showing everyone the original message."

64. **annihilate** — destroy completely.

"The general threatened to annihilate the enemy's defenses before dawn."

"Years of drought nearly annihilated the region's crops."

65. **halt** — to stop or cause something to stop.

"The guards yelled, 'Halt!' to the approaching protesters."

"There was a problem with the new medicine, so the company decided to halt production immediately."

66. **counterfactual** — based on something that did not actually happen.

"The historian explored a counterfactual scenario in which the empire never fell."

"Her essay considered the counterfactual question of what might have happened if the law had failed."

67. **perfunctory** — done without real care or effort, just going through the motions.

"He gave the room a perfunctory cleaning and left dust on the shelves."

"Her apology sounded perfunctory rather than sincere."

68. **modesty** — not bragging about yourself or your abilities.

"Despite winning the prize, she spoke with modesty about her success."

"His modesty made him more respected by his teammates."

Second meaning: dressing or behaving so as not to draw attention to one's body. "She covered her hair following Islamic modesty laws." "She thought it would be immodest to spend the night in an unrelated man's house."

69. **retrospect** — a way of looking back on the past.

"In retrospect, quitting the club was the right decision."

"The mistake seemed obvious in retrospect."

70. **entanglement** — a complicated or difficult involvement.

"The lawsuit dragged the company into a legal entanglement."

"He tried to avoid emotional entanglement by keeping his distance."

71. **ubiquity** — present or found everywhere.

"The ubiquity of smartphones has changed the way people communicate."

"Because of the ubiquity of cameras, public events are often recorded from many angles."

72. **cryptic** — mysterious or hard to understand.

"He left a cryptic note on the desk and disappeared."

"Her cryptic reply only made us more curious."

73. **unequivocal** — completely clear and leaving no doubt.

"The principal gave an unequivocal warning that cheating would not be tolerated."

"Her support for the plan was unequivocal."

74. **haughty** — acting as if you are better than other people.

"The actor's haughty attitude annoyed the interviewers."

"She gave him a haughty look and walked away."

75. **pertinent** — directly related to the matter being discussed.

"Please keep your comments pertinent to the topic of the debate."

"The lawyer asked a pertinent question about the missing evidence."

76. **amenable** — willing to agree or cooperate.

"The manager was amenable to changing the schedule."

"At first he resisted the idea, but eventually he became amenable to it."

December 2025

77. **to typify** — to be a typical example, a representative example.

"Michael Jordan's near psychopathic competitiveness typifies the obsessiveness required to reach the pinnacle of any field."

"The gaudy, gold-painted decor typifies how nouveau riche pursue elegance but often fail to find it."

78. **evince** — to show, to provide evidence.

"His fighting style evinces a familiarity with kung fu and Brazilian jujitsu."

79. **eschew** — to purposefully not use.

"Hemingway's writing eschews big words in favor of simple, direct speech."

"He purposefully eschews modern technology and writes everything with pen and paper."

80. **characteristic** (adj) — something typical of a specific kind of thing or style.

"Trump began the speech with a characteristic attack on illegal immigration."

"The housing problems are characteristic of major American cities."

81. **manifest** — to show, to make obvious.

"He's beginning to manifest early signs of Alzheimer's."

"He's manifestly the best candidate for the job! You have to hire him!"

82. **convene** — to gather, to call together or start a meeting.

"The crowd convened on the village green."

"We will take a break for lunch and this meeting will re-convene at 13:00."

83. **established** — several meanings: a long-lasting, traditional practice; to found or start; to prove.

"This school was established in 1881."

"According to legend, Columbus established that the world was round."

84. **subtle** — not obvious, low key.

"She tried to give him subtle signals that she liked him, like brushing her hand against his or finding any excuse to sit next to him, but he missed all of her signals."

85. **to salvage** — to take or reuse something valuable that was thrown away, ruined, or abandoned (originally used with wrecked ships); to save or rescue something in a similar way.

"Okay, this first draft is pretty bad, but let's see what we can salvage for a strong second draft."

"There's currently a salvage operation to retrieve the ship's cargo."

86. **an amalgam of** — a mixture of (originally used with mixtures of specific metals).

"The show was a wonderful amalgam of dance, music and drama."

"The report presented an amalgam of views, such that it represented none of the authors perfectly."

| November 2025

87. **implicate** — two meanings: (1) to show someone was involved in a crime, (2) to imply something without directly saying it.

"He's been implicated in a money laundering scheme that cost taxpayers 10 million dollars."

"She implied that she might be interested in a romantic relationship, but never said anything directly."

88. **expound (on)** — to explain, usually a theory or idea, in detail.

"He's always expounding on what's wrong with the world, but never had an idea to fix it."

"He spent three hours expounding on his theory."

89. **eschew** — to deliberately avoid, not use, abstain from.

"The activist begged the crowd to eschew violence."

"To maintain their friendship, they decided to eschew all political discussions."

90. **iconoclastic** — breaking established rules or norms, often creating new beliefs in the process; usually a good thing.

"Madonna was an iconoclast in her era, changing the rules of both how artistic and how sexy a pop star could be."

"The iconoclastic filmmaker is known for his difficult films that win awards."

91. **prescient** — knowing something in advance.

"With extraordinary prescience, some investors were able to predict the 2008 Financial Crisis and make tremendous money off the housing crisis."

"Many find 1984 to be an incredibly prescient book, but Brave New World may better predict our current, post-Cold War era."

92. **equivocal** (verb: equivocate) — ambiguous, open to more than one interpretation.

"Given the equivocal nature of the evidence, you must find my client not guilty."

"The other politicians in this debate are equivocating about their positions, waiting to see what's popular, but now is not the time to be equivocal."

93. **calculating** — scheming, planning in a ruthlessly determined, emotionless way; generally negative.

"He was a cold, calculating killer, choosing his victims with ruthless efficiency and leaving no trace."

"He was a calculating businessman, always looking for where he could wring an extra dollar out of the deal."

94. **caricature** — an exaggerated, usually negative, depiction (like a political cartoon).

"This court no longer seeks justice, it's just a caricature of justice."

"The comedian caricatured the president's mannerisms and behavior."

95. **ambivalent** — hesitant, unsure, reluctant because stuck between two options.

"Some loved her, some hated her, but few were ambivalent towards her."

"I'm feeling a little ambivalent about her lately. She wants to get more serious, and I think we might need to break up."

96. **proclivity** — a tendency, inclination, or habit of doing something.

"He's got a proclivity to start talking your ear off once he's had a few beers."

"We all have certain tastes and proclivities that we'd rather not make public."

97. **sagacity** — wisdom, especially from age and experience.

"I always turn to her for sage words of advice."

"The sagacity of the 1960 California Master Plan for Higher Education has been proven again and again."

98. **clandestine** — secret, not out in the open.

"It turns out that he'd carried on a clandestine affair with his secretary for years."

"The CIA conducted a clandestine operation that overthrew the government."

| October 2025

99. **forsake** — abandon, leave, renounce, or give up.

"I will not forsake my sacred vows!"

"Don't forsake me in my hour of need!"

100. **opaque** — not see-through, not translucent or transparent; hard to understand (for ideas).

"The opaque language of the regulation made the rules hard to follow, even if he wanted to."

"His face was opaque. She couldn't tell what he was thinking."

101. **Words noted, not yet defined:**

enumerate, intermingled with, indices of, redundancy, incongruence, reprisal, abridge, proxy, contrivance, abate, abut

| September 2025

102. **ubiquitous** — found everywhere.

"Smartphones are a ubiquitous part of modern life."

"He followed every trend. He even had one of those ubiquitous broccoli haircuts."

103. **copious** — a large amount, many.

"She took copious notes in class."

"After consuming a copious amount of drugs, Mark thought it would be a good idea to jump off the roof of the house."

104. **unambiguous** — clear, without another possible interpretation.

"The results of the test were unambiguous: she was pregnant."

"As a teacher, I try to give clear, unambiguous instructions for all my assignments."