

Vocabulary Booster for SAT/ACT

1. **Ambivalent** - Doubtful/unsure/mixed feelings/ in a quandary/ on the horns of a dilemma

Synonyms/Phrases - vacillating, irresolute

Sample Sentence - I am ambivalent about getting a haircut: on one hand, it is nice to sport a new look, but on the other hand, I don't want to lose my long burnished blonde tresses.

2. **Elude** - Escape/ avoid/ evade/ avert/ outrun/abstain

Synonyms/Phrases - beat around the bush/ pass the buck/steer clear of

Sample Sentence - By living in the woods and foraging for food, the escaped convict successfully eluded capture for a month.

3. **Corroborate** - Verify/ confirm/ substantiate/ validate/ Support/ prove

Sample Sentence - 1) We now have new evidence to corroborate the defendant's story.
2) If you're going to be my witness, your story must corroborate my story.

4. **Innate** - Inborn/ natural/ inherent/ intrinsic/ Inbred

Synonyms/Phrases - deep-seated

Sample Sentence - 1) It was an innate character trait.
2) Luckily, she had an innate ability to quickly judge people- if they were honest, loyal, tricksters or leeches.
3) To her eye, Ferraris were masterpieces of elegantly understated design, with fine lines and an innate animal grace.

5. **Repudiate** - Rejecting/ renouncing/ abjure/ rebuff

Sample Sentence - 1) The team repudiated her idea.
2) For we repudiate war and violence.

6. **Despondent** - Discouraged/ Sad/ Crestfallen/ Low/ downhearted/ wretched/ hopeless

Synonyms/Phrases - down in the dumps/singing the blues

Sample Sentence - 1)Diana took the criticism to heart, avidly read what was being said about her and became depressed and despondent.
2)When my husband died, I lived in a state of despondency for over a year

7. **Appraise** - Evaluate/ assess the value of something

Synonyms/Phrases - Judge/estimate /take account of

Sample Sentence - 1) After the house was gut-renovated and modernized, it was appraised at nearly twice its original value.

2) An employer should appraise the ability of his employees.

8. **Apprise** - Inform/ notify/ advising/ to keep up to speed

Synonyms/Phrases - Enlighten

Sample Sentence - 1) The doctors will apprise you of your husband's progress.

2) I shall not fail to apprise you of my arrival.

9. **Exacerbate** - Aggravate/ to make something worse/ to compound the problem

Synonyms/Phrases - Infuriate/feed the fire/push one's button

Sample Sentence - 1) We already have a global population problem: do we really want to exacerbate it?

2) In a developing country, however, a number of additional nuances may exacerbate these issues.

10. **Implausible** - unreasonable/ dubious/ doubtful/unconvincing

Synonyms/Phrases - flimsy/ farfetched/improbable

Sample Sentence - 1) Implausible though it may seem, insurance companies also provide a social service.

2) Jill says she can earn \$50,000 from the job, but this is a blatantly implausible claim.

11. **Mar** - ruin/ spoil/ opposite of adorn

Synonyms - impair/tarnish/scar

Sample Sentence - 1) Electricity cables and oil pipelines mar many of the world's most beautiful landscapes.

2) One scabbed sheep will mar a whole flock.

12. **Censure** - Punish/ blame/ criticise/ condemn/ rebuking formally

Sample Sentence -1) After it was reported that the senator had used campaign funds for his personal expenses, he was censured by his colleagues.

2) You must not censure him until you know the whole story.

13. **Concede** - admit/ confess/ to give in

Synonyms/Phrases - hold out the olive branch/ bury the hatchet - making peace

Sample Sentence - 1) I was forced to concede that she might be right.

2) He kept on arguing and wouldn't concede defeat.

3) I'm willing to concede that I have hurt her, but that's not my real intention.

14. **Arrant** - utter/ absolute/ out and out/ blatant/ downright/ stark

Sample Sentence -1) Most of his theories are arrant nonsense.

2) Don't trust him; he is an arrant hypocrite.

15. **Bolster** - support/ help/ strengthen/ cushion/ buttress/ shore up/ padded

Sample Sentence -1) Pillars bolster the roof.

2) The author uses an array of statistical evidence to bolster his argument.

3) The high-interest rates helped to bolster up the economy.

16. **Averse** - to express dislike/ to oppose/ disinclined/ hostile/ reluctant/ unwilling / antagonistic/ antipathetic

Sample Sentence -1) He seems to be averse to hard work.

2) We are averse to such noisy surroundings.

17. **Earnest** - sincere/ heartfelt/ marked by deep sincerity and serious intent/ passionate/ devoted/ serious minded/ resolute/ fervent

Synonyms/Phrases - committed to a cause

Sample Sentence - 1) The girl's earnest effort counterbalanced her slowness at learning.

2) It is my earnest wish that you use this money to continue your study of music.

3) As an earnest of my good intentions, I will work overtime this week.

18. **Indifferent** -unconcerned/ lack of interest/ detached/ distant/ cool about anything

Sample Sentence - 1) People have become indifferent to the suffering of others.

2) It is quite indifferent to me whether you go or stay.

3) The government cannot afford to be indifferent to public opinion.

19. **Dismissive** -disregard/ unworthy of attention or consideration/ saying "whatever"/ disdainful/ scornful/ repudiative

Synonyms/Phrases -shrugging shoulders

Sample Sentence - 1) She might have been less dismissive of my talents if she could have seen my latest achievements.

2) The teacher asks the questions; the pupil supplies the answer; the teacher makes a confirming or dismissive comment or gesture.

3) We can not afford to be so self-indulgent and dismissive.

20. **Diligent** - earnest/ thorough/ industrious/ zealous/ assiduous/ persistent/ dexterous

Synonyms/Phrases - eager beaver

Sample Sentence - 1) Though he's not clever, he's a diligent worker and has often done well in the examinations.

2) Father keeps dinning (engrain or inculcate) into my ears the importance of being diligent.

3) Success always smiles upon people who