



The 200 SAT Words You Need to Know

And How to Learn Them Best

By the PrepScholar Team



Vocabulary Builder Flashcards

Your mastery of vocabulary will be tested in the Reading section through Sentence Completion questions. If you don't know the definitions of the words, you'll be at a significant disadvantage in this section!

We've provided the following 200 words completely free for you to use. These words are the most commonly appearing words on the SAT. Read on for directions on how to print and use them.

Why Use These Words?

On each SAT, 30% of questions are Sentence Completion questions, accounting for up to 200 points of your Reading score.

If you take just 1 minutes to memorize each of these 200 words, that's just 3.5 hours of work.

You can improve by 50 points in just 3.5 hours of work!

Directions to Print:

These flashcards are designed for you to print on a double-sided printer, so that the word appears on one side and the definition appears on the back. For best results, make sure you choose the following settings:

-Duplex

-Scaling: None

How to Use these Flashcards

What does it mean for you to know the word? If you look at the word on a flashcard and can remember the definition, you'll know the basic meaning of the word.

The **wrong** way to study flashcards is to keep going from front to back, front to back. This is ineffective because you spend time on words you already know and not enough on words you have trouble with.

Here's how you can use your flashcards intelligently.

The strategy we recommend is to review the cards you have more problems with more often.

- Each day, start with a stack of 30 cards.
- Go through each card. Place the card into one of two stacks: Know it, or Struggled with it.
- For the Struggled with it stack, go through the entire stack once. Then, split it again, into a know it or struggled with it stacks.
- Repeat step 3 until you have no more Struggled with it stacks. You've now created a waterfall of stacks, where the stack at the end has the words that are hardest for you, and the stack at the beginning is easiest. Theoretically, you should know all the words now.
- Go back up the waterfall. Take the last stack, and

combine it with the next highest Know it stack. If you forgot any of the words in the stack, go through all of them again. If you remembered all the words in the stack, integrate the next highest Know it stack.

- When you've gone back to your first Know it stack and you have all the cards in one stack again, you should now know all the words very well.

Think of it like a series of waterfalls, where you keep filtering the cards by difficulty until you're left with the most difficult, hard to remember cards.

Now, go for it! Print out the rest of the pages using the settings we described, and master these common SAT vocab words!

AND NOW WHAT?

Through this guide, you've learned how important SAT vocabulary is for your score, and how to best study vocab to make the words stick.

You might now be wondering how to best study for the SAT. If so, check out our free Ebook on that topic! **We survey the advantages and disadvantages of different methods of test prep including self-study, classroom, and tutoring.**

[Click here to get our Ebook Comparing Test Prep Methods!](#)

or **call us** at **1(866) 811-5546**, where one of our Academic Advisers will walk you through the best options for you and your family.

We'd love to hear from you.

Finally, if you found this guide helpful, please share it with any other people who might benefit.

-The PrepScholar Team

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abstemious



acquiesce



acrimonious



admonish



adroit/ deft/ dexterous



aesthetic



affable/ amiable/ genial/
gregarious



aloof



Answer:
to comply



Answer:
moderate in eating and
drinking



Answer:
to earnestly caution



Answer:
great bitterness



Answer:
an appreciation of what is
beautiful or attractive



Answer:
skillful



Answer:
detached, reserved



Answer:
agreeable, friendly



amalgam

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ambiguous

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ambivalent

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anachronism

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analogy

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anguish

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anomaly/ atypical

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antecedent/ forerunner

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Answer:
unclear, not definitive



Answer:
a mixture, combination of
different elements



Answer:
not in the proper time
period



Answer:
having mixed feelings



Answer:
agonizing physical or
mental pain



Answer:
a similarity or likeness



Answer:
a preceding event



Answer:
a deviation from the norm



antipathy/ animosity



antithesis/ antipodal



archaic



ascetic



audacious



auspicious



automation



autonomous



Answer:
something that is the
direct opposite of another
thing



Answer:
strong dislike



Answer:
a person who leads a life
of self-denial



Answer:
out of date



Answer:
very favorable



Answer:
very bold; daring



Answer:
independent



Answer:
a person who acts in a
mechanical fashion, a
mindless follower



bane



belie



benefactor



beneficiary



boon



boorish/ uncouth



bowdlerize



bucolic/ rustic/ pastoral



Answer:
to give a false impression



Answer:
a source of harm



Answer:
a person who receives
benefits



Answer:
a person who gives gifts



Answer:
vulgar, crude



Answer:
a timely benefit



Answer:
charmingly rural



Answer:
to remove or delete
objectionable parts of a
book



bungler

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callous

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capricious/ mercurial

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charlatan

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chimerical

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

circuitous

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circumscribe

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circumspect/ prudent

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Answer:
insensitive



Answer:
a clumsy or inept person



Answer:
a fake, a fraud, a cheat



Answer:
fickle, constant shifting
moods



Answer:
circular and therefore
indirect



Answer:
a fantastic scheme,
unchecked imagination



Answer:
cautious, careful



Answer:
to narrowly restrict, to
limit action, to draw a line
around



circumvent



clairvoyant



clandestine/ surreptitious



confounded/ perplexed/
mystified



conjecture/ supposition



convoluted



copious



covet



Answer:
a person who uses
intuition to see into the
future



Answer:
to avoid by artful
maneuvering



Answer:
puzzled, confused



Answer:
secretive, not aboveboard,
covert



Answer:
twisted, intricate



Answer:
an inference



Answer:
to strongly desire; to crave



Answer:
abundant, a great amount



cryptic



curtail



dearth/ paucity



debunk



decry



deleterious



demagogue



demise



Answer:
to cut short or reduce



Answer:
mysterious, having a
hidden meaning



Answer:
to put down by exposing
false claims



Answer:
scarcity or shortage



Answer:
harmful, injurious



Answer:
to express strong
disapproval



Answer:
the final ending of
something, the downfall



Answer:
a speaker who appeals to
emotions, fear or
prejudices



denounce



deride



despondent/ forlorn



devoid



diatribe/ tirade



diffident



digress



dilettante



Answer:
to put down with
contemptuous jeering

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Answer:
to speak against

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Answer:
completely lacking in
something

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Answer:
feeling downcast, dejected

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Answer:
lacking self-confidence

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Answer:
a bitter denunciation

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Answer:
an amateur or dabbler

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Answer:
to depart from a subject

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diminutive



dirge



dismissive



disparage



disparity



dispel



dissembler/ prevaricator



draconian



Answer:
a funeral hymn, mournful
music



Answer:
very small



Answer:
belittle, slight



Answer:
to reject, disregard



Answer:
to drive away, scatter



Answer:
an inequality, an
imbalance



Answer:
very strict laws and rules



Answer:
a liar, deceiver



eccentric



elusive



enigmatic/ inscrutable



enumerate



equanimity



erroneous



evocation



exemplary



Answer:
out of reach, difficult to
catch

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Answer:
an odd, unconventional
person

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Answer:
to list, to tick off

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Answer:
mysterious; baffling

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Answer:
filled with errors, wrongs

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Answer:
calmness, composure

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Answer:
outstanding

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Answer:
an imaginative recreation

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exhort



exorbitant



expunge/ excise/
expurgate



extricate



fiasco/ debacle



fleeting/ ephemeral



fortitude



fortuitous



Answer:
unreasonably expensive



Answer:
to strongly encourage



Answer:
to get out of a difficult
situation



Answer:
delete, remove



Answer:
very brief, short lived



Answer:
a complete failure



Answer:
an accidental but
fortunate occurrence



Answer:
strength of mind



futile



galvanize



gerrymander



halcyon



haughty



hedonist



hypothetical



iconoclast



Answer:
to electrify, stir into
action



Answer:
doomed to failure



Answer:
idyllically calm and
tranquil



Answer:
to divide a district so as to
give one side an advantage



Answer:
seeker of pleasure



Answer:
proud or arrogant



Answer:
someone who attacks
cherished ideas and
institutions



Answer:
based on assumption,
supposed



impasse

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impeccable

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impecunious

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impetus

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implacable

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incoherent

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incontrovertible

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indifferent/ apathetic

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Answer:
faultless, perfect



Answer:
failure to reach an
agreement



Answer:
a stimulus or
encouragement



Answer:
poor, penniless, not
affluent



Answer:
lacking organization or
lock



Answer:
not capable of being
appeased



Answer:
lack of interest or concern



Answer:
indisputable, beyond
doubt



indigenous/ endemic



indignant



indulgent



inexorable



innocuous



innovator



innuendo



insurmountable



Answer:
outrage at something that
is unjust



Answer:
native to an area



Answer:
relentless, unstoppable



Answer:
overly tolerant



Answer:
a person who introduces
something new



Answer:
harmless



Answer:
not being capable of
overcome



Answer:
an indirect reference to
something else



intemperate



intrepid/ undaunted



irreverent



itinerant



jovial/ jocular



juggernaut



laconic



laud/ extol/ tout/ acclaim



Answer:
fearless, courageous



Answer:
lacking restraint,
excessive



Answer:
mobile, not sedentary



Answer:
lacking proper respect,
disrespectful



Answer:
an irresistible force



Answer:
good-humored, cheerful



Answer:
praise, applaud



Answer:
succinct, terse very
concise, brief



magnanimous



martinet



maudlin



maverick



mellifluous



mentor



misanthrope



mitigate/ mollify/
assuage/ alleviate



Answer:
a strict disciplinarian



Answer:
generous and forgiving



Answer:
an independent person



Answer:
excessively sentimental



Answer:
a teacher, a guide



Answer:
smooth and sweet flowing



Answer:
to ease, relieve, lessen



Answer:
a person who hates
humankind



momentous



morose/ despondent



nadir



naïve/ credulous



nebulous



nefarious



neophyte/ novice/
greenhorn



nonchalant



Answer:
very depressed



Answer:
of great importance



Answer:
unsophisticated



Answer:
the lowest point



Answer:
extremely wicked, vile



Answer:
vague, lacking a fully
developed form



Answer:
casual indifference



Answer:
a beginner



nostalgia

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obsolete

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ominous

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oracle

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ostracize

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painstaking/ meticulous/
exacting

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panache/ verve

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pandemic

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Answer:
no longer in use



Answer:
a sentimental longing for
the past



Answer:
a person who is a source
of wise counsel and
prophetic advice



Answer:
threatening and menacing



Answer:
highly detailed



Answer:
to deliberately exclude
from a group



Answer:
widespread epidemic



Answer:
dash and flamboyance



pandemonium

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paradox

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partisan

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penchant/ predilection

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placid/ serene

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plausible

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poignant

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polarize/ divisive

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Answer:
a seeming contradiction
that expresses a truth



Answer:
a wild uproar, tumult



Answer:
a preference for
something; inclination



Answer:
a person with biased
beliefs



Answer:
believable



Answer:
very clam, quiet



Answer:
to break into opposing
factions



Answer:
touching, heartrending



pompous

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pragmatic

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prattle

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presumptuous

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prodigious

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prodigy

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prognosticator

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proponent/ advocate

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Answer:
practical, sensible

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Answer:
pretentious, filled with
excessive self-importance

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Answer:
overbearing;
impertinently bold

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Answer:
to babble incessantly

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Answer:
a young genius

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Answer:
enormous, massive

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Answer:
a champion of a cause

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Answer:
a person who makes
predictions based upon
data

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prototype



provocative



prudent



pundit



quixotic



raconteur



reaffirm



rebuff



Answer:
provokes controversy



Answer:
an original model



Answer:
a professional
commentator



Answer:
careful, cautious



Answer:
a person who excels in
telling anecdotes



Answer:
foolishly impractical



Answer:
to repel or drive back, to
reject



Answer:
to assert again



recalcitrant/ obdurate



recluse



redundant



rejuvenate



relinquish



renegade



renovate



reproach/ censure



Answer:
a person who leads a
secluded solitary life

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Answer:
very stubborn, defiant

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Answer:
to make young again

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Answer:
doing or saying something
again and again

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Answer:
a disloyal person

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Answer:
to give something back

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Answer:
to scold, rebuke

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Answer:
to make new again

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reprobate



repudiate/ recant/
renounce



resilient



resurgent



reticent



rhetorician



sarcastic/ sardonic



serendipity



Answer:
to take back, disavow



Answer:
a morally unprincipled
person



Answer:
to rise again, surge back



Answer:
to bounce back



Answer:
an eloquent writer or
speaker



Answer:
to hold back one's
thoughts and feelings



Answer:
an accidental but
fortunate discovery



Answer:
derisive mocking
comments



skeptic

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sophistry

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Spartan/ austere

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stoic

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superficial

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sycophant/ obsequious

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tenacious

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thwart/ stymie

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Answer:
a deliberately misleading
argument



Answer:
a doubter



Answer:
a person who is impassive
and emotionless



Answer:
plain, simple



Answer:
a person who behaves in a
servile manner, a toady



Answer:
shallow, lacking depth



Answer:
to stop; frustrate



Answer:
showing great
determination



trite/ hackneyed/
pedestrian/
platitudinous/ banal

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ubiquitous/ prevalent

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unconventional/
unorthodox

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viable/ feasible

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voracious/ ravenous

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wry

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zealot

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zenith

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Answer:
everywhere, widespread,
prevalent



Answer:
commonplace



Answer:
possible



Answer:
not ordinary or typical



Answer:
dry humor



Answer:
huge appetite, cannot be
satisfied, insatiable



Answer:
and apex the highest point



Answer:
a very enthusiastic person

