FREE RESOURCE · BCAT ENGLISH

Vocabulary Builder: 1328 Words

High-frequency academic words for reading-based English tests such as the IBA test and the SAT, in A–Z order. Learn ten a day: say the word, read the meaning, then write your own sentence with it. n = noun · v = verb · adj = adjective · adv = adverb.

abandon	v	to leave behind completely
abate	v	to become less intense
abdicate	v	to give up a position or responsibility
aberrant	adj	departing from what is normal
aberration	n	a departure from what is normal
abet	v	to help or encourage someone to do wrong
abeyance	n	a state of temporary inactivity
abhor	v	to hate strongly
abject	adj	extremely bad or hopeless
abolish	v	to formally put an end to
abrasive	adj	rough; harsh in manner
abridge	v	to shorten a text without losing its meaning
abrupt	adj	sudden and unexpected
absolve	v	to free from blame or guilt
abstain	v	to choose not to do something
abstract	adj	existing as an idea, not physically
absurd	adj	wildly unreasonable or illogical
abundant	adj	existing in large quantities
abysmal	adj	extremely bad
accede	v	to agree to a demand or request
accentuate	v	to make more noticeable
accessible	adj	easy to reach, use or understand
acclaim	n	enthusiastic public praise
accolade	n	an award or expression of praise
accommodate	v	to provide room for; to adapt to
accumulate	v	to gather or build up over time
accurate	adj	correct in all details
acerbic	adj	sharp and forthright in speech
acknowledge	v	to accept or admit that something exists
acquiesce	v	to accept something without protest
acrimony	n	bitterness or ill feeling
acumen	n	the ability to make good judgments quickly
adamant	adj	refusing to change one's mind
adapt	v	to change to suit new conditions
adept	adj	very skilled
adequate	adj	enough for a particular need
adhere	v	to stick to; to follow a rule or belief
adjacent	adj	next to or near
admire	v	to regard with respect
admonish	v	to warn or scold firmly
adorn	v	to decorate
adroit	adj	clever or skillful
adulation	n	excessive admiration
advent	n	the arrival of something important
adversary	n	an opponent
adverse	adj	harmful or unfavorable
adversity	n	difficulty or misfortune
advocate	v	to publicly support

aesthetic	adj	concerned with beauty
aesthetics	n	the study or appreciation of beauty
affable	adj	friendly and easy to talk to
affirm	v	to state firmly that something is true
affliction	n	a cause of pain or suffering
affluent	adj	wealthy
aggravate	v	to make a problem worse
aggregate	n	a total formed by combining parts
agile	adj	able to move or think quickly
agitate	v	to disturb or make anxious
alacrity	n	eager and quick readiness
alienate	v	to make someone feel isolated
allay	v	to reduce fear or worry
allege	v	to claim without proof
alleviate	v	to make pain or a problem less severe
allocate	v	to give out for a particular purpose
allude	v	to refer to indirectly
aloft	adv	up in the air
aloof	adj	distant and not friendly
alter	v	to change
alternative	n	another possible choice
altruism	n	unselfish concern for others
amass	v	to gather a large amount
ambiguous	adj	open to more than one interpretation
ambivalent	adj	having mixed feelings
ameliorate	v	to make something better
amenable	adj	willing to agree or be persuaded
amend	v	to make changes to improve
amenity	n	a useful or pleasant feature
amiable	adj	pleasant and friendly
amicable	adj	friendly and without disagreement
amorphous	adj	without a clear shape or form
ample	adj	more than enough
amplify	v	to make larger or stronger
anachronism	n	something out of its proper time
analogous	adj	similar in some way
analogy	n	a comparison that shows a similarity
anarchy	n	absence of government or order
ancillary	adj	providing support; additional
anecdote	n	a short personal story
animosity	n	strong dislike or hostility
annex	v	to add or take over territory
annotate	v	to add notes to a text
annual	adj	happening once a year
anomalous	adj	different from what is normal
anomaly	n	something that differs from what is standard
antagonist	n	an opponent
antagonize	v	to make someone hostile
anticipate	v	to expect or predict
antidote	n	a remedy that counteracts a poison
antipathy	n	a strong feeling of dislike
antiquated	adj	old-fashioned or out of date
antithesis	n	the direct opposite
apathy	n	lack of interest or concern
apex	n	the highest point
apparent	adj	clearly seen or understood
appease	v	to calm someone by giving in to demands
appraise	v	to assess the value or quality of
apprehensive	adj	anxious that something bad may happen
apprise	v	to inform
appropriate	adj	suitable for a situation
approximate	adj	close to the actual but not exact
apt	adj	suitable; quick to learn
aptitude	n	a natural ability

arbiter	n	a person who settles a dispute
arbitrary	adj	based on random choice rather than reason
arbitrate	v	to settle a dispute as a neutral judge
archaic	adj	very old or no longer in use
ardent	adj	very enthusiastic or passionate
arduous	adj	very difficult and tiring
aristocracy	n	the highest social class
arrogant	adj	having an exaggerated sense of one's importance
articulate	adj	able to express ideas clearly
artifact	n	an object made by humans, especially historical
ascend	v	to go up
ascertain	v	to find out for certain
ascribe	v	to regard as the cause of
aspire	v	to aim to achieve something
assail	v	to attack violently or with criticism
assent	n	agreement or approval
assert	v	to state firmly
assess	v	to evaluate
assiduous	adj	showing great care and persistence
assimilate	v	to absorb and understand fully
assuage	v	to make an unpleasant feeling less intense
assume	v	to suppose without proof; to take on
assure	v	to tell someone something positively to remove doubt
astute	adj	quick to notice and understand things
atrophy	v	to waste away from lack of use
attain	v	to achieve
attest	v	to provide evidence of
attribute	v	to regard as caused by
atypical	adj	not typical
audacious	adj	bold and willing to take risks
audible	adj	able to be heard
augment	v	to increase in size or amount
augur	v	to be a sign of a future event
auspicious	adj	suggesting future success
austere	adj	severe or very plain
authentic	adj	genuine; not a copy
authoritarian	adj	demanding strict obedience to authority
autonomy	n	the right to govern oneself; independence
avarice	n	extreme greed for wealth
avert	v	to prevent; to turn away
avid	adj	very keen
awry	adj	away from the expected course; wrong
baffle	v	to confuse completely
banal	adj	boring because it is so common
barren	adj	unable to produce crops or fruit
barrier	n	an obstacle
belligerent	adj	hostile and aggressive
benefactor	n	a person who gives help, especially money
benevolent	adj	kind and well-meaning
benign	adj	gentle; not harmful
bequeath	v	to leave property to someone in a will
berate	v	to scold angrily
bewilder	v	to confuse
bias	n	an unfair preference for or against something
bland	adj	lacking strong flavor or interest
blatant	adj	done openly and unashamedly
blight	n	something that spoils or damages
bluster	v	to talk loudly without much effect
boisterous	adj	noisy and lively
bolster	v	to support or strengthen
bombastic	adj	high-sounding but with little meaning
boon	n	a helpful thing; a benefit
boundary	n	a line marking a limit
bountiful	adj	large in quantity; generous

breach	n	a break in a rule or agreement
brevity	n	the use of few words; shortness
brisk	adj	quick and energetic
brittle	adj	hard but easily broken
brusque	adj	abrupt in manner
buoyant	adj	able to float; cheerful and optimistic
bureaucracy	n	a system of government with many officials and rules
burgeon	v	to grow rapidly
cacophony	n	a harsh mixture of sounds
cajole	v	to persuade by flattery
calamity	n	a disaster
calibrate	v	to adjust precisely
callous	adj	showing no concern for others
camaraderie	n	friendship and trust among a group
candid	adj	truthful and straightforward
candidate	n	a person applying for a job or position
candor	n	the quality of being open and honest
capacious	adj	having a lot of space inside
capitulate	v	to stop resisting; to surrender
capricious	adj	given to sudden changes of mood or behavior
captivate	v	to attract and hold interest
cardinal	adj	of the greatest importance
castigate	v	to criticize severely
casual	adj	relaxed and informal
catalyst	n	something that causes a change
categorical	adj	absolute and clear
caustic	adj	sarcastic in a hurtful way; able to burn chemically
cautious	adj	careful to avoid danger
cease	v	to stop
celebrated	adj	famous and praised
censure	v	to criticize formally
cerebral	adj	intellectual rather than emotional
chaos	n	complete disorder
charismatic	adj	having charm that inspires others
chide	v	to scold mildly
chronic	adj	lasting a long time or recurring
chronological	adj	arranged in order of time
circumspect	adj	careful to consider all risks
circumvent	v	to find a way around
clandestine	adj	done secretly
clarify	v	to make clear
clemency	n	mercy shown in punishment
coalesce	v	to come together to form one whole
coerce	v	to force someone to do something
cogent	adj	clear, logical and convincing
cognizant	adj	having knowledge or awareness
coherent	adj	logical and consistent
cohesive	adj	forming a united whole
coincide	v	to happen at the same time
collaborate	v	to work together
collateral	adj	additional but less important
colloquial	adj	used in ordinary conversation
commemorate	v	to honor the memory of
commend	v	to praise formally
commensurate	adj	corresponding in size or degree
commodity	n	a product that can be bought and sold
compassion	n	sympathy for the suffering of others
compatible	adj	able to exist or work together
compel	v	to force
compelling	adj	convincing; demanding attention
compensate	v	to make up for a loss
competent	adj	having the necessary ability
compile	v	to collect into one list or book
complacent	adj	too satisfied to notice danger or problems

complement	v	to complete or go well with
complex	adj	made of many connected parts
complicit	adj	involved with others in wrongdoing
comply	v	to act according to a rule or request
component	n	a part of a larger whole
composure	n	the state of being calm
comprehend	v	to understand
comprehensive	adj	including everything; complete
compromise	n	an agreement where each side gives up something
compulsory	adj	required by law or rule
conceal	v	to hide
concede	v	to admit that something is true
conceit	n	excessive pride in oneself
conceive	v	to form an idea; to imagine
concession	n	something given up to settle a dispute
conciliatory	adj	intended to make peace
concise	adj	giving much information in few words
conclusive	adj	settling a question; final
concord	n	agreement or harmony
concur	v	to agree
condescending	adj	showing that one feels superior
conditional	adj	depending on a condition
condone	v	to accept or allow behavior that is wrong
conducive	adj	making a certain outcome likely
confer	v	to discuss; to give a title or honor
confide	v	to tell someone a secret
confidential	adj	intended to be kept secret
conflagration	n	a large destructive fire
conform	v	to follow rules or standards
confound	v	to confuse or surprise
confront	v	to face and deal with directly
congenial	adj	pleasant and friendly
congregate	v	to gather into a crowd
conjecture	n	an opinion formed without full information
connoisseur	n	an expert judge in matters of taste
conscientious	adj	careful to do one's work well
consecutive	adj	following one after another
consensus	n	general agreement
consequence	n	a result or effect
conservative	adj	resistant to change
considerable	adj	large in size or amount
consistent	adj	unchanging over time
consolidate	v	to combine or make stronger
conspicuous	adj	clearly visible; attracting attention
conspire	v	to plan secretly to do wrong
constituent	n	a part of a whole; a voter
constrain	v	to limit or restrict
construe	v	to interpret
consummate	adj	showing great skill; complete
contemplate	v	to think about carefully
contemporary	adj	living or happening at the same time; modern
contempt	n	the feeling that someone is worthless
contend	v	to struggle; to argue
contentious	adj	likely to cause disagreement
context	n	the circumstances that form a setting
contingent	adj	depending on something else
contradict	v	to say the opposite of
contrite	adj	feeling sorry for wrongdoing
controversial	adj	causing public disagreement
convene	v	to come together for a meeting
conventional	adj	based on what is usually done
converge	v	to come together from different directions
convey	v	to communicate or carry
conviction	n	a firm belief; a declaration of guilt

convoluted	adj	extremely complex and hard to follow
copious	adj	plentiful
cordial	adj	warm and friendly
cornerstone	n	an essential part on which something is built
correlate	v	to have a mutual relationship
corroborate	v	to confirm or support with evidence
corrode	v	to destroy slowly by chemical action
counteract	v	to act against and reduce the effect of
covert	adj	secret; not openly shown
covet	v	to strongly desire something belonging to another
crave	v	to have a strong desire for
credence	n	belief in something as true
credible	adj	able to be believed
credulous	adj	too ready to believe things
criterion	n	a standard used to judge something
crucial	adj	extremely important
cryptic	adj	mysterious or hard to understand
culminate	v	to reach a final or highest point
culpable	adj	deserving blame
cultivate	v	to develop or improve
cumbersome	adj	large, heavy or slow to use
cumulative	adj	increasing by successive additions
curb	v	to restrain or keep in check
cursory	adj	hasty and not thorough
curtail	v	to reduce or limit
cynical	adj	believing people act only from self-interest
daunting	adj	seeming difficult to deal with
dauntless	adj	showing fearlessness
dearth	n	a lack or shortage
debacle	n	a sudden and complete failure
debase	v	to lower in quality or value
debate	n	a formal discussion of opposing views
debilitate	v	to make very weak
decadent	adj	in a state of moral or cultural decline
decipher	v	to work out the meaning of
decisive	adj	settling an issue; able to decide quickly
decline	v	to decrease; to refuse politely
decorum	n	proper and polite behavior
decree	n	an official order
deduce	v	to reach a conclusion by reasoning
defer	v	to postpone; to yield to another's judgment
deference	n	polite respect
deficient	adj	lacking something needed
definitive	adj	final and authoritative
deft	adj	quick and skillful
defunct	adj	no longer existing or working
degrade	v	to lower in quality or respect
deity	n	a god or goddess
dejected	adj	sad and depressed
delegate	v	to give a task to someone else
deleterious	adj	harmful
deliberate	adj	done on purpose; careful
delineate	v	to describe precisely; to outline
delude	v	to deceive
demeanor	n	outward behavior or manner
demise	n	death; the end of something
demolish	v	to pull down; to destroy
demonstrate	v	to show clearly
denote	v	to be a sign of; to mean
denounce	v	to publicly declare to be wrong
dense	adj	closely packed; slow to understand
dependable	adj	trustworthy and reliable
depict	v	to show or represent
deplete	v	to use up

deplore	v	to strongly disapprove of
deprecate	v	to express disapproval of
deprive	v	to take something away from
deride	v	to mock
derive	v	to obtain from a source
designate	v	to appoint or name officially
desolate	adj	empty and bleak
despondent	adj	in low spirits; without hope
destitute	adj	extremely poor
deter	v	to discourage someone from acting
deteriorate	v	to become worse
detrimental	adj	causing harm
devastate	v	to destroy or ruin
deviate	v	to depart from a usual course
devious	adj	dishonest; indirect
devise	v	to plan or invent
devoid	adj	completely lacking
devout	adj	deeply religious; sincere
dexterity	n	skill in using the hands or mind
diagnose	v	to identify the nature of a problem
dichotomy	n	a division into two opposing parts
dictate	v	to give orders; to say words to be written down
didactic	adj	intended to teach
differentiate	v	to recognize the difference between
diffident	adj	shy and lacking confidence
digress	v	to move away from the main subject
dilapidated	adj	in a state of disrepair
dilemma	n	a difficult choice between two options
diligent	adj	showing care and effort in work
dilute	v	to make weaker by adding liquid
diminish	v	to make or become less
discard	v	to throw away
discern	v	to recognize or perceive
disclose	v	to make known
discord	n	disagreement
discourse	n	written or spoken communication
discredit	v	to harm the reputation of
discreet	adj	careful not to attract attention
discrepancy	n	a difference between things that should match
discretion	n	the freedom to decide; carefulness
disdain	n	a feeling that something is not worthy of respect
disinterested	adj	not influenced by personal advantage
dismal	adj	gloomy; very poor in quality
dismantle	v	to take apart
disparage	v	to speak of as having little worth
disparity	n	a great difference
dispel	v	to make a doubt or feeling disappear
dispense	v	to distribute
disperse	v	to scatter in different directions
disposition	n	a person's natural character
disrupt	v	to interrupt or disturb
disseminate	v	to spread widely
dissent	n	disagreement with an official view
dissipate	v	to disappear or scatter
distinct	adj	clearly different; clear
distort	v	to twist out of shape; to misrepresent
diverge	v	to separate and go in different directions
diverse	adj	showing great variety
divert	v	to turn aside from a course
divulge	v	to reveal information
docile	adj	quiet and easy to control
doctrine	n	a set of beliefs taught by a group
document	v	to record in written or other form
dogmatic	adj	insisting that one's beliefs are true without question

domain	n	an area of knowledge or control
dominant	adj	most important or powerful
dormant	adj	temporarily inactive
dubiety	n	uncertainty
dubious	adj	doubtful; not to be relied on
duplicity	n	deceitfulness
durable	adj	able to last a long time
dwindle	v	to become gradually smaller
dynamic	adj	full of energy and change
earnest	adj	serious and sincere
eccentric	adj	unconventional and slightly strange
eclectic	adj	drawing from many sources
economical	adj	giving good value; not wasteful
edify	v	to improve someone morally or intellectually
effective	adj	producing the desired result
efficacy	n	the ability to produce the intended result
efficient	adj	achieving results without waste
effusive	adj	expressing feelings in an unrestrained way
egalitarian	adj	believing all people are equal
egregious	adj	outstandingly bad
elaborate	adj	detailed and complicated
elated	adj	very happy
elementary	adj	basic
elevate	v	to raise
elicit	v	to draw out a response
eligible	adj	qualified to be chosen
eliminate	v	to remove completely
eloquent	adj	fluent and persuasive in speaking or writing
elude	v	to escape from
elusive	adj	difficult to find, catch or achieve
emancipate	v	to set free
embark	v	to begin a journey or project
embellish	v	to decorate; to add details to a story
embody	v	to represent in a visible form
eminent	adj	famous and respected
empathy	n	the ability to share another's feelings
emphasize	v	to give special importance to
empirical	adj	based on observation or experience
emulate	v	to try to equal by imitating
enact	v	to make into law; to act out
encompass	v	to include comprehensively
encounter	v	to meet unexpectedly
encroach	v	to intrude gradually
endeavor	n	an earnest attempt
endorse	v	to declare public approval of
endure	v	to suffer patiently; to last
energetic	adj	full of energy
enervate	v	to weaken; to drain of energy
engender	v	to cause or give rise to
enhance	v	to improve the quality of
enigma	n	a person or thing that is mysterious
enlighten	v	to give greater knowledge to
enmity	n	hostility
ensue	v	to happen as a result
entail	v	to involve as a necessary part
entice	v	to attract by offering something
entity	n	a thing with distinct existence
entrenched	adj	firmly established
enumerate	v	to list one by one
envision	v	to imagine as a future possibility
ephemeral	adj	lasting a very short time
epitome	n	a perfect example
equanimity	n	calmness, especially in difficulty
equitable	adj	fair and impartial

equivalent	adj	equal in value or meaning
equivocal	adj	ambiguous; uncertain
eradicate	v	to destroy completely
erode	v	to wear away gradually
erratic	adj	not even or regular
erroneous	adj	wrong; incorrect
erudite	adj	having great knowledge
escalate	v	to increase rapidly
esoteric	adj	understood by only a few people
essential	adj	absolutely necessary
estrange	v	to cause to become unfriendly
ethical	adj	morally right
evade	v	to escape or avoid
evaluate	v	to judge the value of
evasive	adj	avoiding direct answers
evident	adj	clearly seen
evoke	v	to bring a feeling or memory to mind
exacerbate	v	to make a problem worse
exacting	adj	demanding great effort
exaggerate	v	to overstate
exasperate	v	to irritate intensely
excavate	v	to dig out
exceed	v	to go beyond a limit
excerpt	n	a short extract from a text
exclusive	adj	restricted to a group; not shared
exemplary	adj	serving as a good example
exemplify	v	to be a typical example of
exempt	adj	free from an obligation
exhaustive	adj	thorough; covering everything
exhilarate	v	to make very happy
exodus	n	a mass departure
exonerate	v	to clear from blame
exorbitant	adj	unreasonably high, especially of price
expansive	adj	covering a wide area; open and friendly
expedient	adj	convenient though not always right
expedite	v	to make something happen faster
expenditure	n	the spending of money
explicate	v	to explain in detail
explicit	adj	stated clearly and in detail
exploit	v	to use unfairly; to make full use of
expound	v	to explain in detail
extant	adj	still in existence
extensive	adj	large in area or scope
extenuating	adj	making a wrong seem less serious
extol	v	to praise highly
extraneous	adj	not relevant
extricate	v	to free from a difficulty
exuberant	adj	full of energy and excitement
fabricate	v	to make up something false; to construct
facade	n	the front of a building; a false appearance
facetious	adj	treating serious issues with humor
facile	adj	too simple; achieved without effort
facilitate	v	to make easier
faction	n	a small group within a larger one
fallacy	n	a mistaken belief or faulty reasoning
fallible	adj	capable of making mistakes
falter	v	to lose strength or momentum
fanatic	n	a person with excessive enthusiasm
fastidious	adj	very attentive to detail
fathom	v	to understand after much thought
fatigue	n	extreme tiredness
feasibility	n	the state of being practical or possible
feasible	adj	possible and practical
feign	v	to pretend

felicity	n	great happiness; apt expression
fertile	adj	able to produce abundantly
fervent	adj	showing strong feeling
fickle	adj	changing often, especially in loyalty
fidelity	n	faithfulness
finite	adj	having limits
flagrant	adj	obvious and shocking
flamboyant	adj	very confident and showy
flaunt	v	to display proudly
flexible	adj	able to bend; adaptable
flimsy	adj	weak and thin
florid	adj	too elaborate; reddish
flourish	v	to grow or develop well
fluctuate	v	to rise and fall irregularly
foible	n	a minor weakness
foment	v	to stir up trouble
forbear	v	to hold back from doing
foremost	adj	most important
foresight	n	the ability to predict future needs
forfeit	v	to lose as a penalty
forgo	v	to go without
formidable	adj	inspiring respect through size or power
forsake	v	to abandon
forthright	adj	direct and honest
fortify	v	to strengthen
fortitude	n	courage in pain or difficulty
fortuitous	adj	happening by chance
fortunate	adj	lucky
foster	v	to encourage the development of
fragile	adj	easily broken
fraudulent	adj	dishonest; obtained by deception
frenetic	adj	fast and energetic in an uncontrolled way
frequent	adj	happening often
frivolous	adj	not serious; silly
frugal	adj	careful with money or resources
fruitful	adj	producing good results
frustrate	v	to prevent from succeeding
fundamental	adj	basic and essential
furtive	adj	secretive
futile	adj	producing no useful result
gainsay	v	to deny or contradict
galvanize	v	to shock or excite into action
garrulous	adj	excessively talkative
gauge	v	to measure or estimate
generalize	v	to make a general statement
generic	adj	general; not specific
genial	adj	friendly and cheerful
genuine	adj	real; sincere
gist	n	the main point
glean	v	to gather information bit by bit
glib	adj	fluent but insincere
gloat	v	to take pleasure in one's success or another's failure
gracious	adj	courteous and kind
grandiose	adj	impressive in a pretentious way
graphic	adj	clear and vivid
gratuitous	adj	done without good reason
grave	adj	serious
gregarious	adj	fond of company; sociable
grievance	n	a complaint about unfair treatment
grueling	adj	extremely tiring
guile	n	clever but deceitful intelligence
gullible	adj	easily tricked
habitual	adj	done as a habit
hackneyed	adj	overused and unoriginal

hamper	v	to hinder or restrict
harbinger	n	a sign of something to come
harmonious	adj	forming a pleasing whole; friendly
harsh	adj	cruel or severe
hasten	v	to hurry
haughty	adj	arrogant and proud
hazardous	adj	dangerous
heed	v	to pay attention to
heinous	adj	utterly wicked
heresy	n	a belief against accepted views
heritage	n	traditions passed down
hesitant	adj	slow to act because of uncertainty
heterogeneous	adj	made of different kinds
hierarchy	n	a system of ranking
hinder	v	to make difficult; to delay
hinge	v	to depend on
holistic	adj	dealing with the whole rather than parts
homogeneous	adj	of the same kind
hostile	adj	unfriendly; opposed
humane	adj	showing kindness
humble	adj	modest
hyperbole	n	deliberate exaggeration
hypocrisy	n	claiming beliefs one does not act on
hypothesis	n	a proposed explanation to be tested
hypothetical	adj	based on an assumed situation
iconoclast	n	a person who attacks accepted beliefs
idealistic	adj	believing in perfect standards
identical	adj	exactly the same
ideology	n	a system of ideas and ideals
idiosyncrasy	n	a peculiar habit or feature
ignominious	adj	deserving or causing public disgrace
illicit	adj	forbidden by law
illuminate	v	to light up; to make clear
illusion	n	a false idea or perception
illustrate	v	to explain using examples
illustrious	adj	well known and respected
imitate	v	to copy
immense	adj	extremely large
imminent	adj	about to happen
immutable	adj	unchanging
impair	v	to weaken or damage
impartial	adj	treating all sides equally
impartiality	n	the quality of treating all sides equally
impasse	n	a situation with no progress possible
impeach	v	to charge an official with misconduct
impeccable	adj	without fault
impede	v	to delay or block progress
impending	adj	about to happen
imperative	adj	extremely important; essential
imperceptible	adj	too small to be noticed
imperious	adj	arrogant and domineering
impervious	adj	not affected by; not allowing passage
impetuous	adj	acting quickly without thought
implausible	adj	not likely to be true
implement	v	to put into effect
implicate	v	to show to be involved
implicit	adj	suggested but not directly stated
imply	v	to suggest without stating directly
impose	v	to force something on someone
impoverished	adj	very poor
impromptu	adj	done without planning
improvise	v	to create without preparation
impudent	adj	not showing due respect
impulsive	adj	acting without thinking

inadvertent	adj	not intentional
inanimate	adj	not alive
incapacitate	v	to prevent from functioning
incentive	n	something that motivates action
inception	n	the beginning
incessant	adj	never stopping
incidental	adj	occurring as a minor part
incisive	adj	clear and sharp in thinking
incite	v	to encourage violent or unlawful behavior
inclination	n	a tendency or preference
incoherent	adj	unclear and confused
incompatible	adj	unable to exist together
incongruous	adj	not in harmony; out of place
inconsequential	adj	not important
incorporate	v	to include as part of a whole
incorrigible	adj	unable to be corrected
increment	n	an increase, especially regular
incumbent	n	the current holder of an office
indefatigable	adj	tireless
indict	v	to formally accuse of a crime
indifferent	adj	having no particular interest or concern
indigenous	adj	native to a place
indignant	adj	angry at unfair treatment
indispensable	adj	absolutely necessary
indolent	adj	lazy
induce	v	to cause or persuade
indulge	v	to allow oneself pleasure
industrious	adj	hard-working
ineffable	adj	too great to be described in words
inept	adj	lacking skill
inequity	n	unfairness
inevitable	adj	certain to happen
inexorable	adj	impossible to stop
infamous	adj	well known for something bad
infer	v	to conclude from evidence
infinite	adj	without limits
inflate	v	to fill with air; to increase excessively
influx	n	an arrival of large numbers
infringe	v	to break a rule; to limit someone's rights
ingenious	adj	clever and original
ingenuity	n	the quality of being clever and inventive
inhabit	v	to live in
inherent	adj	existing as a natural part
inhibit	v	to hold back or prevent
initiate	v	to begin
innate	adj	inborn; natural
innocuous	adj	harmless
innovation	n	a new method or idea
innovative	adj	introducing new ideas or methods
inquisitive	adj	curious
insatiable	adj	impossible to satisfy
inscrutable	adj	impossible to understand
insightful	adj	showing deep understanding
insinuate	v	to suggest something unpleasant indirectly
insipid	adj	lacking flavor or interest
insolent	adj	rude and disrespectful
instigate	v	to bring about or start
instill	v	to gradually establish an idea or attitude
integral	adj	necessary to make a whole complete
integrate	v	to combine into a whole
integrity	n	honesty and strong moral principles
intensify	v	to make more intense
interim	adj	temporary
intermittent	adj	stopping and starting at intervals

interpret	v	to explain the meaning of
intervene	v	to come between to change a result
intimidate	v	to frighten
intractable	adj	hard to control or solve
intransigent	adj	refusing to change one's views
intrepid	adj	fearless
intricate	adj	very detailed and complicated
intrinsic	adj	belonging naturally; essential
intuitive	adj	based on feeling rather than reasoning
inundate	v	to flood; to overwhelm
invaluable	adj	extremely useful
invariably	adv	always
inverse	adj	opposite in position or order
investigate	v	to examine carefully
inveterate	adj	having a long-established habit
invigorate	v	to give energy to
invoke	v	to call on; to cite as support
irate	adj	very angry
irony	n	expression of meaning using language that normally means the opposite
irreconcilable	adj	impossible to bring into agreement
irrefutable	adj	impossible to prove wrong
irrelevant	adj	not connected or important
irreverent	adj	showing a lack of respect
irrevocable	adj	impossible to change or reverse
itinerant	adj	traveling from place to place
jargon	n	special words used by a group
jeopardize	v	to put in danger
jovial	adj	cheerful and friendly
jubilant	adj	feeling great joy
judicious	adj	showing good judgment
justify	v	to show to be right or reasonable
juxtapose	v	to place side by side for comparison
kindle	v	to light a fire; to arouse
laborious	adj	requiring a lot of effort
labyrinth	n	a maze
lackluster	adj	lacking energy or brightness
laconic	adj	using very few words
lament	v	to express sorrow
latent	adj	existing but not yet developed
laudable	adj	deserving praise
lavish	adj	rich and generous
legacy	n	something handed down from the past
legible	adj	clear enough to read
legitimate	adj	lawful; reasonable
leisure	n	free time
lenient	adj	not strict
lethal	adj	deadly
lethargic	adj	sluggish and lacking energy
levity	n	lack of seriousness
liberal	adj	open to new ideas; generous
linger	v	to stay longer than necessary
literal	adj	taking words in their usual meaning
litigation	n	the process of taking legal action
loathe	v	to hate
lofty	adj	very tall; noble
longevity	n	long life
loquacious	adj	very talkative
lucid	adj	clear and easy to understand
lucrative	adj	producing much profit
luminous	adj	giving off light
lure	v	to tempt
magnanimous	adj	generous and forgiving
magnitude	n	great size or importance
maintain	v	to keep in existence; to claim

malevolent	adj	wishing harm to others
malicious	adj	intending to harm
malleable	adj	easily shaped or influenced
mandate	n	an official order or authority
mandatory	adj	required by rule
manifest	v	to show clearly
manipulate	v	to handle skillfully; to control unfairly
marginal	adj	small and not important; at the edge
maverick	n	an independent-minded person
maxim	n	a short statement of a general truth
meager	adj	small in amount
mediate	v	to help settle a dispute
mediocre	adj	only average in quality
melancholy	n	deep, lasting sadness
mentor	n	an experienced adviser
mercenary	adj	motivated only by money
merit	n	the quality of deserving praise
methodical	adj	done in an orderly way
meticulous	adj	showing great attention to detail
migrate	v	to move from one place to another
militant	adj	aggressively active for a cause
mimic	v	to imitate
minuscule	adj	extremely small
misconception	n	a mistaken belief
mitigate	v	to make less severe
mitigating	adj	making something seem less serious
moderate	adj	average in amount; not extreme
modest	adj	not boastful; limited in size
mollify	v	to calm or soothe
momentous	adj	of great importance
monotonous	adj	dull and repetitive
moral	adj	concerned with right and wrong
morose	adj	sullen and gloomy
motivate	v	to give a reason to act
multitude	n	a large number
mundane	adj	ordinary; dull
municipal	adj	relating to a town or city government
mutable	adj	able to change
mutual	adj	shared by two or more
myriad	n	a very large number
naive	adj	lacking experience or judgment
narrate	v	to tell a story
nascent	adj	just beginning to develop
negate	v	to cancel the effect of
negligent	adj	failing to take proper care
negligible	adj	so small it is not worth considering
negotiate	v	to discuss to reach an agreement
neutral	adj	not supporting either side
nocturnal	adj	active at night
nomadic	adj	moving from place to place
nominal	adj	in name only; very small
nonchalant	adj	calm and casual
norm	n	a usual standard
nostalgia	n	a sentimental longing for the past
notable	adj	worthy of attention
noteworthy	adj	interesting or important
notorious	adj	famous for something bad
nourish	v	to provide with food; to support
novel	adj	new and original
novice	n	a beginner
noxious	adj	harmful or poisonous
nuance	n	a subtle difference
nullify	v	to make invalid
nurture	v	to care for and encourage growth

obdurate	adj	stubbornly refusing to change
obedient	adj	willing to obey
objective	adj	not influenced by personal feelings
oblique	adj	slanting; indirect
obliterate	v	to destroy completely
oblivious	adj	unaware
obscure	adj	not well known; unclear
obsequious	adj	too eager to please
observe	v	to notice; to follow a rule
obsolete	adj	no longer in use
obstinate	adj	stubborn
obstruct	v	to block
obtain	v	to get
obtuse	adj	slow to understand; (angle) greater than 90°
occult	adj	supernatural; hidden
odious	adj	extremely unpleasant
offset	v	to counterbalance
omen	n	a sign of a future event
ominous	adj	suggesting that something bad will happen
omit	v	to leave out
omnipotent	adj	all-powerful
omniscient	adj	knowing everything
onerous	adj	burdensome
onset	n	the beginning
opaque	adj	not transparent; hard to understand
opportune	adj	well-timed
oppress	v	to treat cruelly and unjustly
optimal	adj	best; most favorable
optimism	n	hopefulness about the future
opulent	adj	rich and luxurious
orator	n	a skilled public speaker
ordain	v	to order officially
orthodox	adj	following accepted beliefs
oscillate	v	to swing back and forth
ostentatious	adj	showy, designed to impress
outspoken	adj	frank in stating opinions
overt	adj	done openly
overwhelm	v	to overpower
pacify	v	to calm
palatable	adj	pleasant to taste; acceptable
palpable	adj	able to be felt; obvious
panacea	n	a solution for all problems
paradox	n	a statement that seems contradictory but may be true
paragon	n	a model of excellence
parallel	adj	side by side; similar
paramount	adj	more important than anything else
paraphrase	v	to express in other words
parity	n	equality
parochial	adj	having a narrow outlook
parsimonious	adj	very unwilling to spend
partial	adj	incomplete; favoring one side
partisan	adj	strongly supporting one side
passive	adj	accepting without active response
pathos	n	a quality that evokes pity
paucity	n	scarcity
pedantic	adj	too concerned with minor details
penchant	n	a strong liking
penitent	adj	feeling sorry for wrongdoing
perceive	v	to become aware of
perceptive	adj	quick to notice and understand
perennial	adj	lasting a long time; recurring
perfunctory	adj	done without care or interest
perilous	adj	full of danger
peripheral	adj	on the edge; of minor importance

periphery	n	the outer edge
permeate	v	to spread throughout
pernicious	adj	harmful in a gradual way
perpetrate	v	to commit a crime or wrong
perpetual	adj	never ending
perplex	v	to confuse
persevere	v	to keep trying despite difficulty
persistent	adj	continuing firmly
perspective	n	a point of view
persuade	v	to convince
pertinent	adj	relevant
pervasive	adj	spreading widely throughout
pessimistic	adj	expecting the worst
petulant	adj	childishly bad-tempered
phenomenon	n	an observable event
philanthropy	n	helping others, especially with money
pinnacle	n	the highest point
pious	adj	deeply religious
pivotal	adj	of crucial importance
placate	v	to make less angry
placid	adj	calm
plagiarism	n	copying another's work as one's own
plausible	adj	seeming reasonable or likely
plethora	n	an excess or large amount
plight	n	a difficult situation
poignant	adj	deeply moving
polarize	v	to divide into opposing groups
ponder	v	to think carefully
portray	v	to depict
posterity	n	future generations
postulate	v	to suggest as a basis for reasoning
potent	adj	powerful
potential	n	possibility for future development
practical	adj	concerned with actual use
pragmatic	adj	dealing with things in a practical way
precarious	adj	not secure; dangerous
precedent	n	an earlier event used as an example or guide
precise	adj	exact
preclude	v	to prevent from happening
precocious	adj	developing abilities earlier than usual
predecessor	n	a person who held a position before
predicament	n	a difficult situation
predict	v	to say what will happen
predominant	adj	most common or strongest
preeminent	adj	better than all others
prejudice	n	an unfair opinion formed beforehand
preliminary	adj	coming before the main part
premature	adj	happening too early
premise	n	a statement on which an argument is based
preoccupied	adj	absorbed in thought
prerequisite	n	something required beforehand
prerogative	n	a special right
preserve	v	to keep safe
prestige	n	respect based on achievement
presumptuous	adj	going beyond what is proper
pretentious	adj	trying to appear more important than one is
prevail	v	to prove more powerful; to be widespread
prevalent	adj	widespread
prevaricate	v	to avoid telling the truth directly
primary	adj	main; first
pristine	adj	in original condition; clean
probe	v	to investigate
procrastinate	v	to delay doing something
prodigious	adj	remarkably large or impressive

prodigy	n	a young person with exceptional ability
proficient	adj	skilled
profound	adj	very great; showing deep insight
proliferate	v	to increase rapidly
prolific	adj	producing much
prominent	adj	important; easily noticed
promote	v	to support; to raise in rank
prompt	adj	done without delay
propagate	v	to spread
propensity	n	a natural tendency
prophetic	adj	correctly predicting the future
proponent	n	a person who supports an idea
prosaic	adj	ordinary and unimaginative
proscribe	v	to forbid
prospect	n	a possibility of a future event
prosperous	adj	successful, especially financially
protagonist	n	the main character
protocol	n	official rules of procedure
provisional	adj	temporary
provocative	adj	causing a strong reaction
proximity	n	nearness
prudence	n	careful good judgment
prudent	adj	acting with care for the future
pseudonym	n	a false name used by an author
pugnacious	adj	eager to fight
punctual	adj	on time
pungent	adj	having a sharp smell or taste
punitive	adj	intended as punishment
quaint	adj	attractively old-fashioned
qualify	v	to meet requirements; to limit a statement
quandary	n	a state of uncertainty about what to do
quell	v	to put an end to
querulous	adj	complaining
quintessential	adj	being the most typical example
radical	adj	far-reaching; extreme
ramification	n	a consequence
rampant	adj	spreading uncontrollably
rancor	n	bitter resentment
random	adj	without a pattern
rapport	n	a friendly relationship
ratify	v	to approve formally
rational	adj	based on reason
rationale	n	the reasons for a decision
raucous	adj	loud and harsh
rebuke	v	to criticize sharply
recede	v	to move back or decrease
reciprocate	v	to respond in the same way
reckless	adj	without care for danger
recluse	n	a person who avoids others
reconcile	v	to restore friendly relations; to make consistent
reconnaissance	n	a survey to gather information
recount	v	to tell a story
recourse	n	a source of help
rectify	v	to put right
recuperate	v	to recover
redundant	adj	no longer needed or useful
refine	v	to improve by small changes
reform	v	to improve by change
refrain	v	to stop oneself from doing
refute	v	to prove wrong
regress	v	to return to an earlier, worse state
reinforce	v	to strengthen
reiterate	v	to say again
rejuvenate	v	to make young or fresh again

relegate	v	to move to a lower position
relevant	adj	closely connected to the matter
relinquish	v	to give up
reluctant	adj	unwilling and hesitant
remedy	n	a cure or solution
remiss	adj	careless in one's duty
remorse	n	deep regret
remote	adj	far away
renounce	v	to formally give up
renovate	v	to restore to good condition
repel	v	to drive back
repercussion	n	an unintended consequence
replenish	v	to fill up again
replete	adj	filled
reprehensible	adj	deserving blame
reprimand	v	to scold formally
reproach	v	to express disapproval
repudiate	v	to refuse to accept
repugnant	adj	extremely unpleasant
requisite	adj	necessary
rescind	v	to cancel officially
resent	v	to feel bitter about
reside	v	to live in a place
resignation	n	acceptance of something unpleasant; quitting a job
resilient	adj	able to recover quickly from difficulty
resolute	adj	determined
resolve	n	firm determination
resonate	v	to produce a deep sound; to strike a chord
respite	n	a short rest
restitution	n	compensation for loss
restore	v	to bring back
restrain	v	to hold back
retain	v	to keep
retaliate	v	to strike back
reticent	adj	not revealing one's thoughts easily
retract	v	to withdraw a statement
retrospect	n	looking back on the past
revere	v	to respect deeply
reverence	n	deep respect
revoke	v	to cancel
rhetoric	n	persuasive speaking or writing
ridicule	v	to mock
rift	n	a serious break in a relationship
rigid	adj	stiff; not flexible
rigorous	adj	thorough and strict
robust	adj	strong and healthy
ruminate	v	to think deeply
ruthless	adj	without pity
sabotage	v	to deliberately damage
sagacious	adj	wise
salient	adj	most noticeable or important
sanction	n	official permission; a penalty
sanctuary	n	a place of safety
sanguine	adj	optimistic
satiate	v	to satisfy fully
saturate	v	to soak completely
savvy	adj	shrewd and knowledgeable
scant	adj	barely enough
scapegoat	n	a person blamed for others' wrongs
scarce	adj	in short supply
scenario	n	a possible sequence of events
scorn	n	contempt
scrupulous	adj	very careful to do things correctly
scrutinize	v	to examine closely

secular	adj	not religious
sedentary	adj	involving much sitting
segregate	v	to separate
semblance	n	an outward appearance
sentiment	n	a feeling or opinion
sequential	adj	following in order
serene	adj	calm and peaceful
severe	adj	very serious; strict
shrewd	adj	having sharp judgment
significant	adj	important; meaningful
simulate	v	to imitate
sincere	adj	genuine and honest
skeptic	n	a person who questions accepted opinions
skeptical	adj	not easily convinced; having doubts
slander	n	a false spoken statement that damages a reputation
sluggish	adj	slow-moving
sober	adj	serious; not drunk
solemn	adj	serious and formal
solicit	v	to ask for
solidarity	n	unity among a group
solitary	adj	alone
somber	adj	dark; gloomy
sophisticated	adj	complex; experienced in the world
sovereign	adj	having supreme power
sparse	adj	thinly scattered
specific	adj	clearly defined
speculate	v	to form a theory without evidence
spontaneous	adj	done without planning
sporadic	adj	occurring at irregular intervals
spurious	adj	false; not genuine
squander	v	to waste
stable	adj	firmly fixed; not likely to change
stagnant	adj	not flowing or developing
stamina	n	the ability to sustain effort
static	adj	not moving or changing
staunch	adj	very loyal
steadfast	adj	firm and unwavering
steep	adj	sharply sloping; very high in amount
stimulate	v	to encourage activity
stipulate	v	to state as a requirement
stoic	adj	enduring hardship without complaint
strategy	n	a plan to achieve a goal
strenuous	adj	requiring great effort
strident	adj	loud and harsh
stringent	adj	strict
subdue	v	to bring under control
subjective	adj	based on personal feelings
sublime	adj	of great beauty or excellence
submissive	adj	ready to obey
subordinate	adj	lower in rank
subsequent	adj	coming after
subsidize	v	to support financially
subsidy	n	financial help from a government
substantial	adj	large in size or importance
substantiate	v	to provide evidence to support
subtle	adj	delicate; not obvious
subversive	adj	seeking to undermine authority
succinct	adj	brief and clear
succumb	v	to give way to a force
sufficient	adj	enough
superficial	adj	on the surface only; shallow
superfluous	adj	more than is needed; unnecessary
supersede	v	to replace
supplant	v	to take the place of

supplement	v	to add to
suppress	v	to put an end to by force; to hold back
surmount	v	to overcome
surpass	v	to exceed
surplus	n	an amount more than needed
surreptitious	adj	kept secret
surveillance	n	close observation
susceptibility	n	the state of being easily affected
susceptible	adj	easily influenced or affected
sustain	v	to keep going; to support
sycophant	n	a person who flatters to gain advantage
symbiotic	adj	mutually beneficial
symmetry	n	balanced proportions
synopsis	n	a brief summary
synthesis	n	the combination of parts into a whole
taciturn	adj	saying little
tactful	adj	showing sensitivity in dealing with others
tactic	n	an action to achieve a specific goal
tangential	adj	only slightly relevant
tangible	adj	able to be touched; real
tantamount	adj	equivalent in effect
tarnish	v	to damage a reputation; to dull
tedious	adj	long and boring
temerity	n	excessive boldness
temperate	adj	mild; showing self-control
temporal	adj	relating to time
tenable	adj	able to be defended
tenacious	adj	persistent; not giving up easily
tenet	n	a principle or belief
tentative	adj	not certain or fixed
tenuous	adj	very weak or slight
terminate	v	to end
terse	adj	brief and abrupt
theoretical	adj	based on theory rather than practice
thrive	v	to grow well
thwart	v	to prevent from succeeding
timid	adj	lacking courage
tolerant	adj	accepting views different from one's own
torpid	adj	inactive; sluggish
tranquil	adj	calm and peaceful
transcend	v	to go beyond the limits of
transform	v	to change completely
transgression	n	a violation of a law or rule
transient	adj	lasting only a short time
transition	n	a change from one state to another
transparent	adj	see-through; open and honest
traverse	v	to travel across
treacherous	adj	disloyal; dangerous
trepidation	n	fear about what may happen
trivial	adj	of little importance
truculent	adj	eager to argue or fight
turbulent	adj	disorderly; unstable
turmoil	n	great confusion
typify	v	to be a typical example of
tyranny	n	cruel and unjust rule
ubiquitous	adj	present everywhere
ultimate	adj	final; best
unanimous	adj	agreed by everyone
unassuming	adj	modest
uncanny	adj	strange in an unsettling way
underlying	adj	basic; hidden beneath
undermine	v	to weaken gradually
underscore	v	to emphasize
uniform	adj	the same throughout

unilateral	adj	done by one side only
unique	adj	being the only one of its kind
universal	adj	applying to all
unkempt	adj	untidy
unprecedented	adj	never done or known before
unwarranted	adj	not justified
unwieldy	adj	hard to handle because of size or shape
uphold	v	to support or maintain
urbane	adj	polite and sophisticated
usurp	v	to take power illegally
utilitarian	adj	designed to be useful rather than attractive
utilize	v	to make use of
utopia	n	an imagined perfect place
vacillate	v	to be undecided between options
vacuous	adj	showing a lack of thought
vague	adj	unclear
vain	adj	too proud of oneself; useless
valid	adj	logically sound; officially acceptable
validate	v	to confirm or prove valid
valor	n	great courage
vanquish	v	to defeat thoroughly
variable	adj	likely to change
vast	adj	very large
vehement	adj	showing strong feeling
venerable	adj	respected because of age or wisdom
venerate	v	to respect deeply
venture	n	a risky undertaking
veracity	n	truthfulness
verbose	adj	using more words than needed
verify	v	to confirm as true
versatile	adj	able to adapt to many uses
vestige	n	a trace of something that no longer exists
vex	v	to annoy
viable	adj	capable of working successfully
vigilant	adj	watchful
vigor	n	strength and energy
vilify	v	to speak badly of
vindicate	v	to clear of blame; to prove right
virtue	n	moral excellence
virulent	adj	extremely harmful; bitterly hostile
visionary	adj	thinking about the future with imagination
vital	adj	absolutely necessary
vivid	adj	producing clear images; bright
vocation	n	a strong feeling of suitability for a career
vociferous	adj	loud and forceful in expressing opinions
volatile	adj	liable to change rapidly and unpredictably
voracious	adj	wanting great quantities
vouch	v	to confirm or guarantee
vulnerable	adj	exposed to harm
wane	v	to decrease gradually
wanton	adj	deliberate and without reason
warrant	v	to justify
wary	adj	cautious
whimsical	adj	playfully unusual
wield	v	to hold and use; to have power
wily	adj	clever and cunning
wistful	adj	having a sad longing
witty	adj	cleverly amusing
wrath	n	extreme anger
yearn	v	to have a strong desire
yield	v	to produce; to give way
zeal	n	great energy for a cause
zealous	adj	full of enthusiasm
zenith	n	the highest point