

Words are listed with a sample part of speech and definition or possible synonym.
Note that denotative and connotative usages of words may be used on tests.

1. **acerbic** (*adj.*) bitter in tone or taste
2. **adage** (*n.*) wise saying; proverb
3. **adulterate** (*v.*) make impure by mixing with baser substances
4. **allocate** (*v.*) distribute, set aside
5. **altruistic** (*adj.*) unselfishly generous
6. **amicable** (*adj.*) friendly
7. **amorphous** (*adj.*) without definite shape or type
8. **analogous** (*adj.*) comparable
9. **anemic** (*adj.*) lacking force, vitality, spirit, interest, taste, or substance
10. **Anglo-** (*prefix*) of England or Britain
11. **annotate** (*v.*) comment; make explanatory notes
12. **anticlimax** (*n.*) letdown in thought or emotion
13. **apothegm** (*n.*) pithy, compact saying
14. **arbiter** (*n.*) a person with power to decide a dispute
15. **arraign** (*v.*) charge in court; indict
16. **array** (*v.*) dress or decorate in splendid attire
17. **ashen** (*adj.*) ash-colored
18. **astronomical** (*adj.*) enormously large or extensive
19. **augury** (*n.*) omen; prophecy
20. **avert** (*v.*) prevent; turn away
21. **ballast** (*n.*) heavy substance used to add stability or weight
22. **battlement** (*n.*) parapet with open spaces that surmounts a wall and is used for defense or decoration
23. **bauble** (*n.*) trinket; trifle
24. **beholder** (*n.*) person who sees or observes something
25. **benediction** (*n.*) blessing
26. **bicker** (*v.*) quarrel
27. **blasé** (*n.*) attitude of indifference or nonchalance
28. **blunder** (*v.*) make a mistake
29. **bungle** (*v.*) spoil by clumsy behavior
30. **calumniate** (*v.*) slander
31. **caprice** (*n.*) sudden impulse
32. **carillon** (*n.*) set of bells capable of being played
33. **carte blanche** (*n.*) unlimited authority or freedom
34. **caustic** (*adj.*) capable of destroying by chemical; marked by sharp sarcasm
35. **cauterize** (*v.*) burn with hot iron or caustic
36. **chafe** (*v.*) warm by rubbing; make sore by rubbing
37. **charlatan** (*n.*) quack; pretender of knowledge
38. **clientele** (*n.*) body of customers
39. **communal** (*adj.*) held in common; of a group of people
40. **commute** (*v.*) exchange; convert; alter
41. **comport** (*v.*) bear one's self; behave
42. **composure** (*n.*) mental calmness
43. **concise** (*adj.*) brief and compact
44. **confidant** (*n.*) trusted friend
45. **conjure** (*v.*) invent; imagine
46. **connivance** (*n.*) pretense of ignorance of something wrong; permission to offend
47. **conscientiously** (*adv.*) carefully
48. **construe** (*v.*) explain; interpret
49. **contrive** (*v.*) create or form in an artistic or ingenious manner
50. **convex** (*adj.*) curving outward
51. **convoluted** (*adj.*) coiled around; involved; intricate
52. **cordons** (*v.*) form a protective or restrictive line



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53. **coruscate** (*v.*) sparkle; be brilliant or showy in technique or style
54. **crass** (*adj.*) very unrefined; grossly insensible
55. **crimson** (*n.*) deep purplish red
56. **critical** (*adj.*) careful judgment, esp. severely and unfavorably
57. **culpable** (*adj.*) deserving blame
58. **cursory** (*adj.*) rapidly and superficially performed or produced
59. **deadpan** (*adj.*) marked by impassive matter-of-fact manner, style, or expression
60. **decrepit** (*adj.*) worn out by age
61. **deign** (*v.*) deem worthy of notice or account; stoop
62. **deliberation** (*n.*) discussion or consideration by a group of persons of the reasons for or against a measure
63. **denounce** (*v.*) condemn; criticize
64. **deprive** (*v.*) take something away from; withhold something from
65. **derby** (*n.*) stiff felt hat with dome-shaped crown and narrow brim
66. **desecrate** (*v.*) violate the sanctity of
67. **despair** (*n.*) utter hopelessness and despondency
68. **detraction** (*n.*) slandering; aspersion
69. **devotee** (*n.*) enthusiastic follower
70. **dilapidated** (*adj.*) deteriorated or partially ruined through neglect or misuse
71. **dirge** (*n.*) slow, solemn, mournful piece of music, esp. one intended to accompany a funeral
72. **disarray** (*n.*) disorderly or untidy state
73. **disdain** (*v.*) treat with scorn or contempt
74. **disinter** (*v.*) dig up, unearth
75. **dispel** (*v.*) scatter; drive away; cause to vanish
76. **disseminate** (*v.*) spread or distribute information or ideas widely
77. **distinguish** (*v.*) mark or perceive as separate or different
78. **distraught** (*adj.*) upset; distracted by anxiety
79. **dolt** (*n.*) stupid person
80. **drench** (*v.*) wet thoroughly; fill or cover completely
81. **drift** (*v.*) go with the flow
82. **duplex** (*adj.*) having two parts
83. **effeminate** (*adj.*) having womanly traits
84. **egregious** (*adj.*) noticeably bad
85. **elucidate** (*v.*) explain; enlighten
86. **emblazon** (*v.*) deck in brilliant colors
87. **embroidered** (*adj.*) ornamented with or formed by decorative needlework
88. **eminence** (*n.*) position of prominence or superiority
89. **emphatic** (*adj.*) spoken with special emphasis
90. **engross** (*v.*) occupy fully
91. **ennui** (*n.*) [ahn-WEE] boredom
92. **entreat** (*v.*) plead; ask earnestly
93. **epoch** (*n.*) memorable event or date; time period
94. **espy** (*v.*) keep close watch
95. **etymology** (*n.*) study of word parts
96. **exclude** (*v.*) shut out purposely or forcibly
97. **expedite** (*v.*) hasten; accelerate the process or progress of; execute promptly
98. **extricate** (*v.*) free; disentangle
99. **facetious** (*adj.*) humorous; jocular; joking



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100. **falter** (*v.*) walk unsteadily; totter; stammer; hesitate
101. **ferment** (*n.*) agitation; commotion
102. **ferret** (*v.*) drive or hunt out of hiding
103. **fetter** (*v.*) shackle
104. **filch** (*v.*) steal
105. **foresee** (*v.*) discern beforehand
106. **forte** (*n.*) strong point or special talent
107. **fractious** (*adj.*) unruly
108. **Franco-** (*prefix*) of France
109. **fringed** (*adj.*) having a border with short straight or twisted threads
110. **frisk** (*v.*) search a person for something; leap, skip, or dance in a lively or playful way
111. **frizzle** (*v.*) scorch; fry until crisp and curled
112. **fruition** (*n.*) fulfillment; realization
113. **fustian** (*adj.*) pompous; bombastic
114. **gall** (*v.*) annoy; chafe
115. **gamut** (*n.*) entire range
116. **garb** (*n.*) clothing
117. **gazette** (*n.*) official periodical publication
118. **gibber** (*v.*) speak foolishly
119. **glib** (*adj.*) without forethought; lacking depth or substance
120. **glut** (*v.*) fill to excess
121. **gossamer** (*adj.*) extremely light, delicate, or tenuous
122. **Greco-** (*prefix*) of Greece
123. **grueling** (*adj.*) exhausting
124. **gruff** (*adj.*) rough-mannered
125. **haphazard** (*adj.*) random; by chance
126. **hilarity** (*n.*) boisterous mirth
127. **hubbub** (*n.*) confused uproar
128. **hurtle** (*v.*) move rapidly or forcefully
129. **imminent** (*adj.*) impending; near
130. **imperious** (*adj.*) marked by arrogant assurance
131. **imperturbable** (*adj.*) calm; placid
132. **imposition** (*n.*) uncalled for requirement or burden
133. **inadvertently** (*adv.*) carelessly; unintentionally; by oversight
134. **inanimate** (*adj.*) lifeless
135. **incur** (*v.*) bring upon oneself
136. **inept** (*adj.*) not fit or suitable
137. **inevitable** (*adj.*) impossible to avoid
138. **infirmity** (*n.*) weakness, frailty
139. **inkling** (*n.*) hint
140. **insinuate** (*v.*) hint; imply
141. **interloper** (*n.*) intruder in a place
142. **intrinsic** (*adj.*) inherent; essential
143. **invalidate** (*v.*) weaken; destroy
144. **invert** (*v.*) turn upside down or inside out
145. **invidious** (*adj.*) designed to create ill will
146. **iridescent** (*adj.*) exhibiting changing rainbow-colors due to the interference of light
147. **irresolute** (*adj.*) uncertain how to act; weak
148. **irresistible** (*adj.*) impossible to resist
149. **jostle** (*v.*) shove; bump
150. **jugular** (*adj.*) pertaining to the throat
151. **laden** (*adj.*) carrying a load or burden
152. **latitude** (*n.*) freedom from narrow limitations
153. **lave** (*v.*) wash
154. **libelous** (*adj.*) defamatory; injurious to the good name of a person
155. **livid** (*adj.*) enraged
156. **loathe** (*v.*) detest; dislike greatly
157. **lode** (*n.*) metal-bearing vein
158. **loll** (*v.*) lounge about
159. **ludicrous** (*adj.*) laughable through obvious absurdity, exaggeration, or eccentricity



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160. **luxuriant** (*adj.*) abundant, rich, and lush
161. **magistracy** (*n.*) office entrusted with administration of laws
162. **malingerer** (*n.*) one who feigns illness to escape duty
163. **marauder** (*n.*) raider; intruder
164. **martial** (*adj.*) warlike; of or related to war
165. **melee** (*n.*) fight
166. **mentor** (*n.*) teacher
167. **metropolis** (*n.*) large city
168. **migratory** (*adj.*) wandering
169. **minion** (*n.*) servile dependent
170. **minutiae** (*n.*) petty details
171. **misconstrue** (*v.*) interpret incorrectly; misjudge
172. **mitigate** (*v.*) appease
173. **monolith** (*n.*) any structure or sculpture in stone formed of a single piece
174. **moratorium** (*n.*) legal delay of payment
175. **morn** (*n.*) dawn; sunrise
176. **mundane** (*adj.*) worldly as opposed to spiritual; commonplace
177. **nadir** (*n.*) lowest point
178. **nebulous** (*adj.*) vaguely defined; cloudy
179. **negation** (*n.*) denial
180. **Nippo-** (*prefix*) of Japan
181. **nominal** (*adj.*) in name only; trivial
182. **objective** (*adj.*) not influenced by emotions
183. **obliterate** (*v.*) destroy completely
184. **obtrude** (*v.*) push into prominence
185. **obviate** (*v.*) remove a need or difficulty; prevent
186. **omnivorous** (*adj.*) eating both plant and animal food; devouring everything
187. **oratorio** (*n.*) dramatic poem set to music
188. **ossify** (*v.*) change or harden into bone
189. **paddock** (*n.*) saddling enclosure at a race track
190. **pallet** (*n.*) small, poor bed
191. **pallid** (*adj.*) deficient in color; dull
192. **pandemonium** (*n.*) wild tumult
193. **parapet** (*n.*) low wall at edge of roof or balcony
194. **paraphernalia** (*n.*) equipment; odds and ends
195. **parvenu** (*n.*) upstart; newly rich person
196. **pendulous** (*adj.*) hanging; suspended
197. **penetrable** (*adj.*) capable of being entered or pierced
198. **persiflage** (*n.*) flippant conversation; banter
199. **pinion** (*v.*) restrain
200. **podium** (*n.*) pedestal; raised platform
201. **precipitate** (*v.*) cause to happen suddenly, unexpectedly, or prematurely
202. **preclude** (*v.*) make impossible; eliminate
203. **precursor** (*n.*) one that precedes or indicates the approach of another
204. **prestige** (*n.*) impression produced by achievements or reputation
205. **prevalent** (*adj.*) widespread
206. **pristine** (*adj.*) pure; fresh; clean
207. **prod** (*v.*) poke; stir up
208. **proscenium** (*n.*) part of the stage between the curtain and the orchestra
209. **prune** (*v.*) cut away; trim
210. **pundit** (*n.*) authority on a subject
211. **putative** (*adj.*) commonly accepted or supposed; reputed; assumed to exist or have existed
212. **quay** (*n.*) wharf or artificial landing-place on the shore of a harbor
213. **quibble** (*v.*) evade the point of an argument by raising trivial objections
214. **rankle** (*v.*) irritate; fester



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215. **rapine** (*n.*) act of seizing property by superior force; pillage
216. **reconcile** (*v.*) restore friendly relationship between; make one account consistent with another
217. **rectify** (*v.*) correct
218. **relish** (*v.*) savor; enjoy
219. **repine** (*v.*) fret; complain
220. **resigned** (*adj.*) feeling or showing acceptance that something unwanted or unpleasant will happen or cannot be changed
221. **resurgent** (*adj.*) rising again after defeat
222. **reticence** (*n.*) reserve; uncommunicativeness; inclination to be silent
223. **retreat** (*v.*) withdraw, esp. from what is difficult, dangerous, or disagreeable
224. **retrench** (*v.*) cut down; economize
225. **retrograde** (*v.*) cause to deteriorate or move backward
226. **rickety** (*adj.*) unstable
227. **rigid** (*adj.*) strictly observed; inflexible
228. **risqué** (*adj.*) verging on improper; offcolor
229. **ruse** (*n.*) trick; stratagem
230. **Russo-** (*prefix*) of Russia
231. **sacrosanct** (*adj.*) most sacred; inviolable
232. **sally** (*v.*) leap out or burst forth suddenly
233. **salvation** (*n.*) deliverance from the power and effects of sin
234. **sapient** (*adj.*) wise; shrewd
235. **saturate** (*v.*) soak
236. **saunter** (*v.*) walk about in an idle or leisurely manner
237. **savoir faire** (*n.*) capacity for appropriate action, esp. a polished sureness in social behavior
238. **scanty** (*adj.*) meager; insufficient
239. **scrutinize** (*v.*) examine closely
240. **scuttle** (*v.*) sink
241. **seine** (*n.*) net for catching fish
242. **selectman** (*n.*) one of a board of officials elected in towns in New England
243. **seminal** (*adj.*) original; important
244. **sententious** (*adj.*) terse; concise
245. **shoal** (*n.*) shallow place
246. **shod** (*adj.*) equipped with shoes
247. **singular** (*adj.*) odd; peculiar
248. **Sino-** (*prefix*) of China
249. **skulk** (*v.*) move furtively and secretly
250. **slattern** (*n.*) untidy or slovenly person
251. **snivel** (*v.*) run at the nose; whine
252. **solitary** (*adj.*) single and isolated; saddened by isolation
253. **solvent** (*adj.*) able to pay all debts
254. **soporific** (*adj.*) sleep producer
255. **spurn** (*v.*) reject; scorn
256. **stoic** (*n.*) person who is indifferent to pleasure or pain
257. **stymie** (*v.*) present an obstacle
258. **sublime** (*adj.*) exalted; noble; uplifting
259. **sunder** (*v.*) separate; part
260. **supposition** (*n.*) hypothesis; assumption
261. **surly** (*adj.*) rude; cross
262. **sward** (*n.*) portion of ground covered in grass
263. **symmetry** (*n.*) arrangement of parts so that balance is obtained
264. **taper** (*v.*) diminish gradually; become progressively smaller toward one end



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265. **tapestry** (*n.*) heavy handwoven textile used for curtains and upholstery with complicated designs
266. **tarn** (*n.*) small mountain lake
267. **tenacious** (*adj.*) holding fast
268. **tessellated** (*adj.*) inlaid; mosaic
269. **testator** (*n.*) maker of a will
270. **theocracy** (*n.*) government of a community by religious leaders
271. **throng** (*n.*) large number of people
272. **timbre** (*n.*) quality of a musical tone produced by an instrument
273. **traduce** (*v.*) expose to slander
274. **transcribe** (*v.*) copy
275. **transient** (*adj.*) passing especially quickly into and out of existence
276. **trek** (*n.*) travel; journey
277. **trenchant** (*adj.*) caustic; keen; penetrating
278. **tunic** (*n.*) simple, loose-fitting garment, worn from the shoulders down to between the hips and the knees
279. **ultimate** (*adj.*) final; last in a series
280. **unfeigned** (*adj.*) genuine; real
281. **vague** (*adj.*) without precise meaning; not clearly felt, sensed, or understood
282. **validate** (*v.*) confirm; ratify
283. **venal** (*adj.*) capable of being bribed; corruptible
284. **vendetta** (*n.*) blood feud
285. **venue** (*n.*) location
286. **verbalize** (*v.*) put into words
287. **vernal** (*adj.*) pertaining to spring
288. **viable** (*adj.*) capable of maintaining life
289. **vilify** (*v.*) speak or write about in an abusively disparaging manner
290. **virile** (*adj.*) masculine; energetic or vigorous
291. **vitreous** (*adj.*) pertaining to or resembling glass
292. **vociferous** (*adj.*) making a loud outcry
293. **volition** (*n.*) act of making a conscious choice
294. **wan** (*adj.*) sickly; dim or faint
295. **wane** (*v.*) decrease; diminish
296. **wax** (*v.*) increase; grow
297. **wheddle** (*v.*) deceive by flattery; cajole
298. **wizened** (*adj.*) withered; shriveled
299. **wraith** (*n.*) ghost; phantom of a living person
300. **yen** (*n.*) longing; urge

