Words in Context

SAT Reading & Writing vocabulary, grouped by difficulty.

Easy

538 words

abrupt	sudden and unexpected; curt
accept	to receive willingly; to agree to
acceptable	good enough; satisfactory
accidental	happening by chance, not on purpose
accommodate	to make room for; to adapt to someone's needs
accuracy	freedom from error; exactness
acknowledged	admitted or recognized as true
acknowledges	admits or recognizes as true
acquired	gained or obtained
adapt	to change in order to fit new conditions
adjusted	changed slightly to fit better
admired	regarded with respect or approval
advances	forward progress or improvements
advertising	promoting a product publicly
advises	offers counsel or recommendation
affectionate	showing warmth and fondness
aggravate	to make worse; to annoy
agreements	arrangements accepted by all parties
alarmed	frightened or made anxious
amount	a quantity of something
amplify	to make larger, louder, or stronger
amusing	entertaining; mildly funny
analogous	similar in a way that allows comparison
announced	made known publicly
anticipate	to expect or look forward to
anticipated	expected in advance
apologize	to express regret for a wrong
application	the act of putting something to use
appreciated	valued or recognized gratefully
approved	officially accepted or agreed to

arbitrary	based on personal whim rather than reason
arriving	reaching a destination or conclusion
assemble	to gather together; to put together
assigned	given as a task or allotted
attached	fastened or joined to; emotionally connected
attractive	pleasing to look at; appealing
attributed	credited to a particular source or cause
available	able to be obtained or used
avoid	to keep away from; to prevent
avoided	kept away from; prevented
basic	forming an essential foundation; simple
beneficial	producing a good result; helpful
beneficially	in a helpful or advantageous way
bland	lacking strong flavor or interest; dull
blemish	a small flaw that spoils appearance
bold	confident and daring; striking
borrow	to take temporarily with intent to return
borrows	takes temporarily; adopts from another source
burdensome	difficult to bear; onerous
bypassed	went around; avoided
careful	taking pains to avoid error or harm
carelessly	without proper attention
carrying	transporting or supporting
case	a particular instance or situation
catalog	to list systematically
catastrophic	causing great damage or disaster
categorize	to sort into groups by type
celebrated	widely praised; honored
changed	made or became different
chaotic	completely disordered
characterization	the way something or someone is described
child	a young person
choose	to select from options
circumvents	finds a way around; evades
clinging	holding on tightly; refusing to let go

coated	covered with a layer
collaboration	the act of working jointly with others
collapse	to fall down suddenly; to fail
collected	gathered together; calm and composed
combined	joined together
comforting	providing relief from distress
command	authority or mastery; an order
commercialization	the act of turning something into a business
common	occurring often; shared by many
comparable	similar enough to be compared
complaining	expressing dissatisfaction
complaint	a statement of dissatisfaction
completed	finished entirely
complexity	the state of having many interrelated parts
compliance	the act of conforming to a rule or request
complicate	to make more difficult or involved
complicated	involving many confusing parts
complimented	praised or expressed admiration for
compose	to create or make up; to calm oneself
comprehend	to understand fully
conceptualize	to form an idea or concept of
concern	a matter of interest or worry
concerning	causing worry; relating to
concerns	matters of interest or worry
condition	a state of being; a requirement
conditions	circumstances affecting something
confident	sure of oneself or an outcome
confusing	hard to understand; unclear
consistent	unchanging over time; free of contradiction
constant	occurring continuously; unchanging
construct	to build or form
consulting	seeking advice or information from
contradicted	asserted the opposite of; denied
contributing	helping to bring about
contribution	something given to help a cause

controversial	causing public disagreement
converted	changed in form or purpose
convey	to communicate; to carry
correct	free from error; to fix
corrected	made free from error
costly	expensive; involving great loss
counting	determining a total number
create	to bring into existence
creating	bringing into existence
creative	showing imagination and originality
creativity	the ability to produce original ideas
criteria	standards used for judging
critical	expressing disapproval; crucially important
criticism	expression of disapproval; careful analysis
criticize	to point out faults in
critique	a detailed evaluation
dangerous	likely to cause harm
deciding	reaching a choice or judgment
decorate	to make more attractive by adding things
decorations	ornaments added for beauty
defended	protected; argued in support of
defends	protects; argues in support of
defied	openly resisted or challenged
definite	clearly stated; certain
delayed	made late; postponed
delegate	to assign a task to another
delicate	fragile; requiring careful handling
demanding	requiring much effort or attention
demands	insistent requests; requires urgently
demonstrate	to show clearly; to prove
demonstrating	showing clearly; proving
denied	declared untrue; refused
denying	declaring untrue; refusing
depended	relied on; was determined by
describe	to give an account of in words

described	gave an account of in words
destroying	ruining completely
determined	firmly resolved; established definitively
developed	grown or advanced
deviates	departs from the usual course
directed	aimed or guided; instructed
disagreed	held a different opinion
disagreement	a difference of opinion
disastrous	causing great harm; ruinous
disconcerting	unsettling; causing uneasiness
discover	to find or learn for the first time
discovery	something found or learned for the first time
discussed	talked about in detail
disguise	to alter appearance to conceal identity
dislike	to regard with distaste
dismiss	to reject as unworthy of consideration
disorganized	lacking order or method
displayed	shown or exhibited
dispute	to argue against; a disagreement
disregarded	ignored; paid no attention to
distant	far away; reserved in manner
distinct	clearly different; easily perceived
distracted	having attention drawn away
distressed	suffering anxiety or pain
distrusted	regarded with suspicion
dominance	commanding power or influence
doubts	feelings of uncertainty
drained	emptied of liquid; exhausted
drawn	pulled; attracted; sketched
dynamic	full of energy and change; forceful
easily	without difficulty
eclipses	surpasses so as to overshadow
effect	a result; to bring about
effective	producing the intended result
efficient	achieving results without wasted effort

elusive	hard to find, catch, or define
embraced	accepted willingly; hugged
empty	containing nothing
encountering	meeting or coming upon, often unexpectedly
encourage	to give support or confidence to
encouraged	given support or confidence
energetic	showing great activity and vitality
enhance	to improve the quality or value of
ensured	made certain of
ensuring	making certain of
entering	going into
enthusiasm	eager interest and enjoyment
establishes	sets up firmly; proves
evaluate	to judge the value or quality of
evidence	facts supporting a conclusion
exaggerate	to represent as greater than reality
examples	instances that illustrate a rule or type
excited	aroused with eagerness; stimulated
exemplifies	serves as a typical example of
expand	to increase in size or scope
expansions	increases in size or scope
expensive	costing a lot of money
experiment	a controlled test to discover something
explains	makes clear by describing in detail
exposure	the condition of being subjected to something
extend	to make longer or larger; to offer
extended	made longer or larger; prolonged
extensive	covering a large area or scope
fabricates	invents falsely; manufactures
factor	one element contributing to a result
faintly	in a weak or barely perceptible way
familiarize	to make acquainted with
featured	given special prominence
finishing	bringing to an end
followed	came after; obeyed or tracked

foolishly	in a way that lacks good sense
forfeiture	the loss of something as a penalty
forgetting	failing to remember
forgotten	no longer remembered
foundational	serving as a basis for everything else
fragile	easily broken or damaged
fulfills	carries out or satisfies fully
full	containing all it can hold; complete
gaining	getting more of; catching up
gathers	collects together
gentle	mild and kind; not harsh
genuine	authentic; sincere
get	to obtain or receive
guess	to estimate without sufficient information
habitual	done regularly as a habit
handmade	made by hand rather than machine
hard	difficult; firm and solid
harsh	unpleasantly rough or severe
hastily	hurriedly, often without due care
healthy	in good physical condition; beneficial
hearing	perceiving sound; a formal proceeding
held	kept in the hand; maintained
hibernation	a dormant state through winter
hidden	kept out of sight
hiding	keeping out of sight
hinder	to create difficulties for; to delay
hoard	to accumulate and hide away a supply
identified	recognized or established the identity of
ignore	to deliberately pay no attention to
ignored	deliberately paid no attention to
ignores	deliberately pays no attention to
illustrate	to clarify with examples or pictures
imaginable	able to be conceived of
imaginary	existing only in the mind; not real
imaginative	showing creativity and inventiveness

imagine	to form a mental picture of
imitated	copied the manner or appearance of
imitation	a copy of something else
imminent	about to happen very soon
immune	protected from or unaffected by
impartial	not favoring one side; unbiased
impede	to obstruct or slow the progress of
imperceptible	too slight to be noticed
implement	to put into effect
import	to bring in from abroad; significance
important	of great significance or value
impractical	not sensible or workable in reality
improved	made or became better
improvise	to create without preparation
inactive	not doing anything; dormant
inactivity	the state of doing nothing
inadequate	not sufficient for the purpose
incomplete	not finished; lacking parts
increases	becomes or makes greater
independent	not controlled by others; self-reliant
indicated	pointed out; showed
indications	signs that suggest something
indicator	a sign that points to a condition
indifference	lack of interest or concern
ineffective	not producing the desired result
inevitable	certain to happen; unavoidable
inexpensive	not costing much
inexperienced	lacking knowledge gained from practice
influence	the power to affect something; to affect
influenced	affected the character or behavior of
informal	relaxed; not official
infrequent	not occurring often
inherited	received from a predecessor or ancestor
insignificance	the state of being too small to matter
inspect	to examine closely

inspecting	examining closely
inspire	to fill with the urge to do something
inspired	filled with the urge to do something
instituting	establishing or setting in motion
intentional	done on purpose
interconnected	linked together mutually
interpret	to explain the meaning of
interpretation	an explanation of meaning
interrupt	to break the continuity of
interrupted	broke the continuity of
intriguing	arousing curiosity or interest
introduced	brought in or presented for the first time
invent	to create something new
invented	created something new
inventing	creating something new
investigated	examined systematically
investigations	systematic inquiries
inviting	attractive; tempting
involuntarily	without conscious control
involved	taking part in; complicated
isolate	to set apart from others
jarring	causing an unpleasant shock; discordant
joining	connecting or becoming a member of
judges	forms an opinion about; evaluates
justify	to show to be right or reasonable
liked	regarded with favor
limited	restricted in extent or amount
magnified	made to appear larger; intensified
makes	creates or causes
mandatory	required by rule; compulsory
match	to correspond to; an equal
measure	to determine the size or amount of
melodic	pleasant-sounding; tuneful
mimic	to imitate closely
mind	the faculty of thought; to object to

misinterpreted	understood incorrectly
mislead	to cause to believe something false
misrepresent	to describe falsely
moderation	avoidance of excess
mother	a female parent
motivation	the reason or drive to act
multifaceted	having many aspects or sides
multiplying	increasing greatly in number
neglect	to fail to care for properly
neglects	fails to care for properly
nervous	anxious or apprehensive
neutrality	the state of not taking sides
newfound	recently discovered or acquired
observable	able to be noticed or perceived
observant	quick to notice things
obstructed	blocked or hindered
obtain	to get or acquire
obtained	got or acquired
obvious	easily seen or understood
occupy	to take up space or time; to inhabit
occupying	taking up space or time; inhabiting
offended	caused to feel hurt or resentful
offered	presented for acceptance
offhand	without previous thought; casual
often	frequently
opinion	a personal view not based on certainty
opposed	against; in conflict with
optional	left to choice; not required
ordinary	normal; with no special features
organized	arranged in an orderly way
original	existing from the start; new and inventive
originate	to begin or come into being
originates	begins or comes into being
outgoing	sociable; departing
outmoded	no longer in fashion or use

overcome	to succeed in dealing with; to defeat
overlook	to fail to notice; to disregard
overlooked	failed to notice; disregarded
overreacts	responds more strongly than warranted
overwhelmed	overpowered; buried under too much
paradox	a statement that seems self-contradictory yet may be true
particular	specific; hard to please
partnership	an association of people working jointly
patterns	regular, repeated arrangements
perception	the way something is understood or sensed
persist	to continue firmly despite difficulty
persistent	continuing firmly; lasting
personal	relating to one particular individual
popularize	to make widely known or liked
possessions	things that are owned
postpone	to delay to a later time
pragmatic	dealing with matters practically
praise	to express warm approval of
praises	expresses warm approval of
predictable	able to be foreseen; unsurprising
predicted	said what would happen in advance
predicting	saying what will happen in advance
prediction	a statement about what will happen
prepared	made ready in advance
preserve	to keep safe from harm or change
preserving	keeping safe from harm or change
presume	to suppose to be true without proof
pretending	acting as if something is true when it is not
preventable	able to be stopped from happening
prevented	stopped from happening
priced	assigned a cost to
produced	made or brought into existence
produces	makes or brings into existence
promote	to further the growth of; to advertise
protect	to keep safe from harm

protective	intended to keep safe from harm
provide	to supply or make available
pulled	drew toward oneself with force
quantities	amounts or numbers of something
question	to ask about; to express doubt about
questioned	asked about; expressed doubt about
ranked	placed in order of importance
rarely	not often; seldom
realistic	representing things as they actually are
rebellion	open resistance to authority
rebuts	argues against by offering contrary evidence
receive	to be given or take delivery of
receptive	willing to consider new ideas
reciprocates	responds in kind; returns a favor
recognizable	able to be identified as familiar
recognize	to identify as known; to acknowledge
recommend	to advise as worthy of choice
recommended	advised as worthy of choice
reduce	to make smaller or less
reducing	making smaller or less
refer	to mention or direct attention to
reflect	to throw back; to think carefully; to show
reforms	changes made to improve something
refuse	to decline to do or accept
refusing	declining to do or accept
regret	to feel sorrow over something done
regulate	to control by rule; to adjust
rejecting	refusing to accept
rejection	the refusal to accept something
relate	to connect; to tell
released	set free; made available
relocate	to move to a new place
relying	depending on with confidence
remembered	recalled to mind
renounce	to formally give up a claim or belief

repetitive	involving tiresome repetition
replaced	put something new in the place of
replacing	putting something new in the place of
replenishes	fills up again; restores a supply
replicate	to reproduce exactly
reports	accounts given of a matter
representative	typical of a group; a person acting for others
represented	stood for; depicted
reproduction	a copy; the act of producing offspring
reputation	the general opinion held about someone
required	needed; demanded as necessary
requirement	something that is needed or demanded
requires	needs; demands as necessary
requiring	needing; demanding as necessary
reserve	to keep back for later use; restraint
reserved	kept back for later; restrained in manner
resilient	able to recover quickly from difficulty
resolved	settled definitively; firmly determined
respected	regarded with admiration
responsible	accountable; trustworthy
responsive	reacting readily to influence
restraint	self-control; a limiting influence
restricted	limited in extent or access
restrictive	imposing limits; confining
retaliates	returns an injury or attack
reunite	to bring together again
reveal	to make known; to uncover
reviewed	examined or assessed formally
rival	a competitor; to equal or match
rousing	stirring; exciting enthusiasm
running	moving quickly on foot; operating
satisfactory	good enough to meet requirements
scheduled	planned for a particular time
scholarly	involving serious academic study
scratchy	rough or irritating to the touch or ear

secretive	inclined to conceal information
seemed	appeared to be
selecting	choosing from a range
selects	chooses from a range
sensitive	quick to detect or be affected by
settled	resolved; established in a place
shapeless	lacking a definite form
shifting	changing position or nature
signaling	indicating or communicating a message
similar	resembling but not identical
similarities	ways in which things resemble each other
simple	easily understood; not complex
simply	in a plain way; merely
simulate	to imitate the conditions of
sitting	resting on a seat; located
skeptical	inclined to doubt; questioning
sketch	a rough drawing or outline
sketched	made a rough drawing or outline of
skilled	having ability gained through training
smoothly	evenly and without difficulty
sophisticated	highly developed and complex; refined
source	the place something comes from
spans	extends across
speculate	to form a theory without firm evidence
speculated	formed a theory without firm evidence
speculates	forms a theory without firm evidence
staged	arranged for effect; put on a performance
stained	discolored by a mark; tarnished
startle	to cause sudden surprise or alarm
still	not moving; even now; nevertheless
stimulated	encouraged activity or interest in
straightening	making straight or orderly
straightforward	easy to understand; honest and direct
strenuously	with great effort or energy
stretching	extending; reaching out

struggling	making forceful efforts against difficulty
sturdily	in a strong and solid way
substantial	large in amount or importance; solid
subtle	delicate; not obvious
successful	achieving the desired result
suggest	to put forward for consideration; to imply
suitable	right for the purpose or occasion
supplementary	added to complete or enhance
suppress	to hold back or put an end to
surpassed	exceeded; went beyond
surprise	an unexpected event; to astonish
surprising	causing astonishment; unexpected
surrendered	gave up; yielded control
suspect	to believe something without proof
suspicious	distrustful; arousing distrust
synchronization	the act of making things occur together in time
talk	to speak; a discussion
theory	a reasoned explanation of facts
time	the ongoing passage of events; a period
tolerate	to allow or endure without objection
trace	to find by following evidence; a small amount
traced	found by following evidence; copied by outlining
traditional	following long-established custom
tranquil	calm and peaceful
transformed	changed completely in form or nature
transparent	able to be seen through; open and honest
unbothered	not troubled or concerned
uncertain	not known or reliable; hesitant
uncertainty	the state of being unsure
undeniable	impossible to dispute
underestimated	judged as smaller or less capable than reality
underestimating	judging as smaller or less capable than reality
understandable	able to be comprehended; reasonable
uniform	the same throughout; unvarying
unintended	not planned or meant

uninterrupted	continuing without a break
universal	applying to all cases or people
unknown	not known or identified
unmistakable	impossible to confuse with anything else
unpredictable	not able to be foreseen
unsympathetic	not showing compassion
useless	serving no purpose
vague	not clearly expressed or defined
validate	to confirm the accuracy or worth of
verifying	checking the truth or accuracy of
vivid	strikingly bright or clear
warned	told of a possible danger
waste	to use carelessly; discarded material
watched	observed attentively
weaken	to make or become less strong
well	in a good manner; healthy
widespread	found or distributed over a large area
worried	anxious or troubled

Medium

230 words

acceptable	good enough; satisfactory
accessory	an additional item that supplements something else
accomplishment	something achieved through effort
account	a report or explanation of events
acquire	to get or obtain
acquired	gained or obtained
adhere	to stick fast to; to follow closely
admire	to regard with respect or approval
advantageous	providing a benefit; favorable
affinity	a natural liking or close connection
aggressive	forceful; ready to attack or confront
ambivalence	having mixed or conflicting feelings
analogous	similar in a way that allows comparison
analogy	a comparison highlighting similar features
animosities	strong feelings of hostility
anomaly	something that deviates from what is normal
anticipating	expecting or preparing for
antithetical	directly opposed; incompatible
apprised	informed or notified
asserted	stated firmly and confidently
attract	to draw toward; to arouse interest
atypical	not representative of a type; unusual
awkward	clumsy; causing discomfort
beneficiary	one who receives a benefit
calculation	the process of working something out mathematically
calibrations	precise adjustments to a measuring standard
catalyst	something that triggers or speeds a change
cause	to make something happen; a reason
challenged	questioned or disputed; tested
characteristic	a typical feature or quality
cited	quoted or referred to as evidence
coincidence	a striking co-occurrence without apparent cause
collaboration	the act of working jointly with others

come	to move toward or arrive
commonalities	features shared in common
compelling	strongly persuasive; captivating
competent	having adequate skill or ability
complementary	completing or enhancing each other
comprises	consists of; is made up of
conceal	to hide or keep secret
concede	to admit as true; to yield
confined	restricted within limits
confirm	to establish as true
conform	to comply with rules or norms
consensus	general agreement among a group
constraint	a limitation or restriction
contingent	dependent on something else
contradiction	a statement opposing another; an inconsistency
controversy	prolonged public disagreement
cordially	in a warm and friendly way
corroboration	supporting evidence that confirms
courtesy	polite and considerate behavior
created	brought into existence
criticize	to point out faults in
decision	a conclusion reached after consideration
decisive	settling an issue; able to decide quickly
deference	respectful yielding to another's judgment
deliberation	careful and lengthy consideration
denigrate	to criticize unfairly; to belittle
depleted	used up; reduced greatly
derived	obtained from a source
despise	to regard with contempt
determined	firmly resolved; established definitively
develop	to grow or cause to grow; to work out
developments	new events or stages of growth
diminish	to make or become smaller
disagreeable	unpleasant; bad-tempered
discovered	found or learned for the first time

dispute	to argue against; a disagreement
distort	to twist out of true shape or meaning
distraction	something that draws attention away
diversion	something that turns attention aside
dormant	temporarily inactive
doubted	felt uncertain about
enact	to make into law; to act out
encompass	to include comprehensively; to surround
encourages	gives support or confidence to
engulfs	swallows up completely
entrenching	establishing so firmly that change is hard
epitomize	to be a perfect example of
epitomizing	being a perfect example of
esteem	high regard; respect
evaluated	judged the value or quality of
evolving	developing gradually
exactitude	precision; strict accuracy
examination	a careful inspection or study
exceed	to go beyond a limit
exhaustive	thorough and complete; covering everything
existence	the state of being real
experiment	a controlled test to discover something
explicable	able to be accounted for
exploited	used to advantage; taken unfair advantage of
exposed	left uncovered; revealed
extol	to praise highly
extraordinary	far beyond what is usual or expected
feasible	capable of being done successfully
fluctuations	irregular rises and falls
follow	to come after; to obey or track
fruitful	producing good results; productive
fruitless	producing no useful result
grapple	to struggle with; to try hard to deal with
hampered	hindered; held back
haphazard	lacking plan or order; random

highlight	to draw attention to
homogeneous	uniform in composition throughout
hypothesis	a proposed explanation to be tested
imaginative	showing creativity and inventiveness
imitated	copied the manner or appearance of
imitation	a copy of something else
impenetrable	impossible to pass through or understand
implication	something suggested but not stated outright
implicit	implied though not directly expressed
improve	to make or become better
inadvertently	without intention; accidentally
incensed	made very angry
incentives	things that motivate or encourage action
incident	an event, often notable or troubling
inconspicuousness	the quality of not attracting attention
indecipherable	impossible to read or interpret
indecision	inability to make a choice
indisputable	impossible to doubt or deny
indistinct	not clearly seen or heard
individualistic	marked by independence from the group
indulge	to allow oneself a pleasure; to give in to
infallible	incapable of making mistakes
inhibited	restrained; held back
inspirational	providing encouragement or stimulating ideas
insurmountable	too great to be overcome
intangible	unable to be touched; hard to define
integral	essential to completeness
interchangeable	able to be substituted for one another
interest	curiosity or concern; a stake in something
intricate	having many small, complex parts
intriguing	arousing curiosity or interest
invalidate	to show to be untrue or void
invulnerable	impossible to harm
irrelevant	not connected to the matter at hand
lacking	missing or deficient in

legitimate	conforming to rules; genuine
lonely	sad from being alone; isolated
lucrative	producing a great deal of profit
manageable	able to be controlled or handled
marginalize	to push to the edge of importance
mastery	comprehensive skill or command
misconstrue	to interpret wrongly
misleading	giving a false impression
moderate	average in degree; to make less extreme
negating	nullifying; making ineffective
neglect	to fail to care for properly
neglected	failed to care for properly
nullify	to make legally void; to cancel out
obligated	morally or legally bound
obscure	unclear or little known; to hide
oddity	a strange or unusual thing
ongoing	continuing; still in progress
opinion	a personal view not based on certainty
ornamental	serving as decoration
overtly	openly; not secretly
perceive	to become aware of through the senses
praise	to express warm approval of
precariousness	the state of being unstable or insecure
precursors	things that come before and lead to others
prefiguring	foreshadowing; representing beforehand
premeditated	planned in advance
prestige	widespread respect based on achievement
prolong	to extend the duration of
proponent	a person who argues in favor of something
provokes	stirs up a reaction; incites
prudently	with careful good judgment
quantified	expressed as a measurable amount
question	to ask about; to express doubt about
react	to respond to something
receptive	willing to consider new ideas

recognizable	able to be identified as familiar
recognized	identified as known; acknowledged
rectify	to correct or put right
reduced	made smaller or less
redundant	unnecessary because it repeats something
refinements	small improvements that increase quality
reflected	threw back; thought carefully; showed
refute	to prove to be false
regrettable	giving cause for regret; unfortunate
reinforcing	strengthening or supporting
renunciation	the formal giving up of something
repeatable	able to be done again the same way
repressed	held back or suppressed
reprieve	a temporary relief from trouble
require	to need; to demand as necessary
reserved	kept back for later; restrained in manner
resigned	accepting something unpleasant; gave up a post
resilience	the ability to recover quickly from difficulty
responsiveness	readiness to react to influence
restored	brought back to a former condition
retain	to continue to hold or keep
reuse	to use again
risky	involving danger or the chance of loss
rudimentary	basic and undeveloped
saturated	thoroughly soaked; filled to capacity
scale	relative size or extent; to climb
significant	important enough to have an effect
sincerity	freedom from pretense; genuineness
sponsor	to fund or support an activity
standard	an accepted level of quality; usual
steadily	in a regular, unwavering way
subsequent	coming after in time or order
substantial	large in amount or importance; solid
substantiate	to support with evidence
substantiating	supporting with evidence

supplement	to add to in order to improve
supply	to provide what is needed; a stock
susceptible	easily influenced or harmed by
take	to seize, accept, or carry
tangential	only slightly connected; off the main point
tedious	tiresomely long or dull
theoretical	based on ideas rather than practice
thoughtfulness	careful consideration; consideration for others
transcending	going beyond the limits of
unassailable	impossible to attack or dispute
uncontroversial	not causing disagreement
underestimate	to judge as smaller or less capable than reality
underscore	to emphasize
uniform	the same throughout; unvarying
unnecessary	not needed
unremarkable	ordinary; not worth noticing
useful	able to be used for a purpose; helpful
validated	confirmed the accuracy or worth of
variable	likely to change; a changing quantity
vigilance	watchful attention to possible danger
waive	to give up a right or claim voluntarily
withdraw	to remove or take back; to retreat

Hard

241 words

abrasive	harsh or irritating in manner; rough enough to scrape
accessible	easy to reach, enter, or understand
adorn	to decorate or add beauty to
affection	fond or tender feeling
ambiguity	the state of having more than one possible meaning
ambiguous	open to more than one interpretation; unclear
ambivalent	having mixed or contradictory feelings
analogical	based on comparison between similar things
annotate	to add explanatory notes to a text
antagonistic	actively hostile or opposed
antecedent	a thing that came before another
appeasement	giving in to demands to avoid conflict
appraising	assessing the value or quality of
appropriate	suitable for the situation
approximate	close to but not exactly correct
arcane	understood by only a few; mysterious
arduous	requiring great effort; difficult
arguing	presenting reasons for or against; disputing
asserting	stating firmly; claiming
authenticated	proven to be genuine
authoritative	reliable and commanding respect
buttress	to support or strengthen
catalysts	things that trigger or speed change
categorize	to sort into groups by type
circumvent	to find a way around; to evade
cohesion	the state of sticking together as a unit
committed	dedicated; pledged to a course
commonplace	ordinary; not unusual
complementary	completing or enhancing each other
complicated	involving many confusing parts
composure	calm self-control
compound	to combine; to make worse by adding to
concealed	hidden from view

concentrated	gathered densely in one place; focused
conclude	to decide after reasoning; to end
conclusions	judgments reached by reasoning
conflated	wrongly merged two distinct things
conjectures	guesses based on incomplete evidence
consistent	unchanging over time; free of contradiction
constraint	a limitation or restriction
contemporary	belonging to the present time
contentious	causing or likely to cause argument
contrivances	artificial devices or schemes
contrived	artificially planned; not natural
controversial	causing public disagreement
corroborate	to confirm with supporting evidence
counteract	to act against so as to reduce an effect
counterfactual	contrary to the facts; hypothetical
curtailed	cut short; reduced
deceptive	misleading; giving a false impression
decisiveness	the quality of deciding firmly and quickly
decoupled	separated things previously linked
defunct	no longer existing or functioning
demarcated	marked the boundaries of
depleted	used up; reduced greatly
derived	obtained from a source
desultory	lacking plan or purpose; aimless
deterrents	things that discourage an action
dictate	to state authoritatively; to determine
disapproving	expressing an unfavorable opinion
discern	to perceive or recognize clearly
discernible	able to be perceived or recognized
discounted	reduced in price; dismissed as unimportant
discourage	to deter; to dishearten
discretion	good judgment; freedom to decide
disengage	to detach or withdraw from
disingenuously	in a way that is insincere or falsely candid
disorienting	causing confusion about place or direction

disparage	to speak of slightingly; to belittle
disparate	essentially different; not comparable
dispassionately	without emotion or bias
dispersed	scattered widely
disseminate	to spread widely
diverge	to move or differ in different directions
diverse	varied; showing much difference
dogmatic	asserting opinions as if unquestionable
dwindling	steadily growing smaller
earnest	sincere and serious in intention
elasticity	the ability to stretch and return to shape
empirical	based on observation or experiment
endorse	to publicly express support for
engendering	giving rise to; producing
evaluate	to judge the value or quality of
evasion	the act of avoiding something, often deceptively
exclusive	restricted to a select group; not shared
exemplifications	instances serving as examples
exhaustive	thorough and complete; covering everything
expediency	usefulness for a purpose, over what is right
exploit	to use to full advantage; to take unfair advantage of
exploited	used to advantage; taken unfair advantage of
exploiting	using to advantage; taking unfair advantage of
extraneous	irrelevant; coming from outside
facile	easy in a superficial way; glib
fecundity	fertility; the capacity to produce abundantly
foretells	predicts a future event
foster	to encourage the growth of
habituated	made accustomed through repetition
haphazard	lacking plan or order; random
heterogeneity	the quality of being diverse in content
homogeneous	uniform in composition throughout
hypothesized	proposed as an explanation to be tested
illustrated	clarified with examples or pictures
imaginative	showing creativity and inventiveness

imitated	copied the manner or appearance of
immature	not fully developed
impending	about to occur, often ominously
implement	to put into effect
impractical	not sensible or workable in reality
inconclusive	not leading to a firm conclusion
incongruous	out of place; not in harmony
inconsequential	unimportant; trivial
inconspicuousness	the quality of not attracting attention
independent	not controlled by others; self-reliant
inducement	something offered to persuade; an incentive
ineffectual	failing to produce any effect; futile
inertia	a tendency to remain unchanged or inactive
inevitable	certain to happen; unavoidable
inexplicable	impossible to explain
innocuous	harmless; unlikely to offend
innovative	introducing new methods or ideas
insensible	unaware; unresponsive to feeling
interchangeable	able to be substituted for one another
interjected	inserted a remark abruptly
intersect	to cross or overlap
inventive	able to create original things
irrelevant	not connected to the matter at hand
latent	present but not yet visible or active
localized	confined to a particular place
manifest	clear and obvious; to display plainly
mediated	brought about through an intermediary
misanthropic	disliking humankind
misgiving	a feeling of doubt or unease
mitigate	to make less severe
modest	not boastful; limited in size
modesty	the quality of being unassuming
monetizing	converting into a source of income
musical	relating to music; melodious
mystifying	bewildering; hard to explain

negligible	so small as to be not worth considering
notional	existing only as an idea; speculative
novel	new and original
nuanced	marked by subtle distinctions
obscure	unclear or little known; to hide
obviated	made unnecessary; prevented
opaque	not able to be seen through; hard to understand
operative	in effect; a key word or factor
optimistic	hopeful about the future
optimize	to make as effective as possible
outspoken	frank in stating opinions
outstrip	to surpass or exceed
overlooked	failed to notice; disregarded
overshadowed	made to seem less important
paradigm	a typical model or pattern of something
paucity	a scarcity; a very small amount
perceptible	able to be noticed
peripheral	of secondary importance; on the edge
perpetual	never ending; continuous
possession	ownership; a thing owned
powerful	having great strength or influence
predatory	preying on others; exploitative
predetermined	decided in advance
predictive	useful for forecasting outcomes
prescribed	officially laid down as a rule
presuppose	to assume beforehand as a basis
pretentious	trying to seem more important than one is
prevail	to prove superior; to be widespread
prioritize	to rank in order of importance
probability	the likelihood that something will occur
proclaims	announces publicly and emphatically
proficient	skilled and competent
profound	very deep in meaning or intensity
profusion	an abundant quantity
propensity	a natural inclination toward something

protracted	lasting longer than expected
providing	supplying or making available
proxies	substitutes that stand in for something else
prudent	showing careful good judgment
quarrel	an angry dispute
questionable	of doubtful truth or honesty
questioned	asked about; expressed doubt about
realized	became fully aware of; achieved
recalcitrant	stubbornly resistant to authority
recants	publicly withdraws a former statement
reciprocate	to respond in kind; to return a favor
reciprocity	mutual exchange for mutual benefit
recognition	identification as known; acknowledgment
reconstituted	restored to an original form
redefined	given a new meaning or scope
regretted	felt sorrow over something done
remember	to recall to mind
replicable	able to be reproduced with the same result
representative	typical of a group; a person acting for others
repudiates	rejects or disowns firmly
require	to need; to demand as necessary
resistance	opposition to something; refusal to yield
restrained	held back; showing self-control
retrospective	looking back on the past
routine	a regular course of action; ordinary
sanguine	cheerfully optimistic
satisfactory	good enough to meet requirements
satisfying	giving fulfillment or contentment
scheme	a systematic plan; a secret plot
scrutinized	examined closely and critically
select	to choose; carefully chosen
shrewd	showing sharp practical judgment
situated	located in a particular place
spurious	not genuine; based on false reasoning
straightforward	easy to understand; honest and direct

stymie	to block or thwart
substantial	large in amount or importance; solid
subsumed	absorbed into a larger category
subversive	seeking to undermine an established system
succinctly	briefly and clearly expressed
succumb	to yield to a force or illness
summations	summaries of what has been said
superficial	on the surface only; lacking depth
superseded	replaced by something newer
supplemental	added to complete or enhance
supposition	an assumption made without proof
surmised	guessed from slight evidence
surreptitiously	in a secretive, stealthy way
synopsis	a brief summary of a work
tenuous	very weak or slight; flimsy
transposed	reversed the order or position of
turnover	the rate at which things are replaced
ubiquitous	present everywhere at once
ubiquity	the state of being everywhere at once
unassuming	modest; not seeking attention
unbiased	free from prejudice; impartial
unimportant	lacking significance
unknown	not known or identified
unobtrusive	not conspicuous; not drawing attention
unoriginal	not new; derived from others
unpretentious	modest; without false display
unvarying	constant; never changing
unworkable	not practical; unable to succeed
validate	to confirm the accuracy or worth of
variable	likely to change; a changing quantity
verisimilitude	the appearance of being true or real
veritable	genuine; rightly so called
yield	to produce; to give way