SAT READING & WRITING

plainprep

100 Essential SAT Words

The core vocabulary for Reading & Writing: definition and example sentence in context.

20 words per set • self-test • practice. Confusable pairs, final test and index at the end.

How to use this guide

Every word has its own card. Read the **definition** first, then **always read the example sentence**. Don't try to memorize a word from its definition alone: when you **work out the meaning yourself** from the sentence, your mind makes an effort and the word sticks. Cover the card, guess the meaning from the sentence, then check. If a question has a word you don't know, look at the **direction** of the sentence: positive or negative, increase or decrease? Match the answer choices to that direction.

The most important rule: you only know a word once you can **use it in your own sentence**. Write your own sentence with every word. Reading isn't enough; writing makes the word stay.

Contents

Set 1	Words 1–20	**corroborate** → **acknowledge** Prove · support · claim
Set 2	Words 21–40	**critique** → **erode** Interpret · infer · change
Set 3	Words 41–60	**fluctuate** → **hinder** Change · obstacle · ease
Set 4	Words 61–80	**preclude** → **skeptical** Affect · interpret · tone
Set 5	Words 81–100	**plausible** → **paradox** Quality · tone · contradiction

Each set ends with a self-test and practice; then confusable pairs, a final test and an alphabetical index.

Study this list online

I strongly recommend reviewing the words on Knowt or Quizlet; you need one of them to get the most from this guide. Knowt is completely free, and I used it myself while studying; it helped a lot. It has flashcards, **spaced repetition** (you see a word again just as you're about to forget it, so it sticks; the best-known and most widely used technique for learning words) and other study modes. Quizlet is the other well-known flashcard app, with the same list (some features may need a paid plan). Reading the page alone isn't enough; review the words there.

Study on Knowt → | Study on Quizlet →

Note: *This guide is independent. Its author has no partnership or collaboration with Knowt or Quizlet; the guide is not affiliated with or endorsed by either. The buttons and links lead to third-party websites with their own terms of use and privacy policies.*

Prefer another flashcard app?

All 100 cards are also on this guide's page on the plainprep website, in one block you can copy. In your app's import screen, paste the text and set custom separators: **::** between term and definition, and **\n\n** (a blank line) between cards. The **||** sign only separates the meaning from the example sentence. A card looks like this:

```
corroborate::to confirm a claim with more evidence || A second study corroborated the original findings.
```

Where do the 100 words come from?

First, here's what you should know.

How were they chosen? The SAT has no official word list. So common word lists made for Reading & Writing prep were scanned, and the number of lists each word appears in was counted. The words that appear in the most lists and fit “Words in Context” and tone questions best were selected. Verbs were prioritized, because in SAT passages an author is constantly supporting, weakening, emphasizing or softening something. Very rare words used only for memorizing were deliberately left out.

You will meet words you don't know on the exam. This list gathers words likely to appear, but it can't cover every word on the test. Even if you memorize all 100, you'll run into an unfamiliar word. That's normal. The SAT doesn't measure whether you know a word; it measures whether you can **work it out from the sentence**.

When you meet a word you don't know

1. Check the direction of the sentence: positive or negative, increase or decrease?
2. Look for context clues: *although, but, however* signal contrast; *because, so, therefore* signal cause and effect; a colon or comma often introduces an explanation.
3. Eliminate choices that don't match the direction, then pick the most logical one left.
4. Use the word's root or a similar word you know.

Helpful resource: Cambridge Dictionary

When a word still feels unclear, I recommend opening the Cambridge Dictionary. Its definitions and example sentences are very easy to understand, and seeing a word in more sentences helps its meaning stick. This is only my recommendation; I have no connection with Cambridge University Press.

Open Cambridge Dictionary →

The example sentences, practice and final test in this guide are written to train exactly this skill. While learning words, you're also learning to get meaning from a sentence.

SAT is a registered trademark of the College Board. This guide is not affiliated with or endorsed by the College Board. The translations in this guide were made with AI. English definitions and example sentences are original.

Set 1

Words 1–20 • Prove · support · claim. Read the example sentence along with the definition: try to work out the meaning from the sentence and let your mind make the effort.

01 **corroborate** VERB

To confirm a claim with more evidence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"A second study **corroborated** the original findings."*

02 **substantiate** VERB

To support a claim with proof

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"She **substantiated** her claim with census data."*

03 **validate** VERB

To show that something is correct or valid

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The results **validated** the researchers' hypothesis."*

04 **bolster** VERB

To support or strengthen

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"New evidence **bolstered** the argument."*

05 **reinforce** VERB

To make an idea or effort stronger

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The second example **reinforces** the author's point."*

06 **endorse** VERB

To publicly support or approve

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Several experts **endorsed** the proposal."*

07 **advocate** VERB

To publicly support a cause or person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The author **advocates** for stricter water regulations."*

08 **underscore** VERB

To stress that something is important

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The data **underscore** the need for more research."*

09 **highlight** VERB

To draw special attention to something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The report **highlights** a gap in funding."*

10 **exemplify** VERB

To be a typical example of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The painting **exemplifies** the style of the period."*

11 **undermine** VERB

To weaken something gradually

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The flawed method **undermines** the study's conclusion."*

12 **refute** VERB

To prove that something is wrong

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The experiment **refuted** the long-held theory."*

13 **contradict** VERB

To say or show the opposite of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The new data **contradict** the earlier claim."*

14 **dismiss** VERB

To reject something as unimportant

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Critics **dismissed** the idea as unrealistic."*

15 **denounce** VERB

To publicly condemn something as wrong

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The poet **denounced** the injustice of the law."*

16 **disparage** VERB

To speak of something as having little value

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"He **disparaged** the work of his rivals."*

17 **assert** VERB

To state something strongly as a fact

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The author **asserts** that the policy failed."*

18 **contend** VERB

To argue that something is true

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Historians **contend** that the treaty was rushed."*

19 **concede** VERB

To admit that something is true, often unwillingly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"She **conceded** that the results were limited."*

20 **acknowledge** VERB

To accept or admit that something exists or is true

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The author **acknowledges** a possible flaw in the data."*

Set 1 – Self-test

From the box below, pick the word that fits each definition and write it in. Answers are at the bottom.

acknowledge • advocate • assert • bolster • concede • contend • contradict • corroborate • denounce • dismiss • disparage • endorse • exemplify • highlight • refute • reinforce • substantiate • undermine • underscore • validate

1. To argue that something is true _____
2. To speak of something as having little value _____
3. To prove that something is wrong _____
4. To admit that something is true, often unwillingly _____
5. To stress that something is important _____
6. To publicly support a cause or person _____
7. To accept or admit that something exists or is true _____
8. To support or strengthen _____
9. To publicly condemn something as wrong _____
10. To confirm a claim with more evidence _____
11. To be a typical example of something _____
12. To publicly support or approve _____
13. To state something strongly as a fact _____
14. To draw special attention to something _____
15. To reject something as unimportant _____
16. To show that something is correct or valid _____
17. To support a claim with proof _____
18. To say or show the opposite of something _____
19. To make an idea or effort stronger _____
20. To weaken something gradually _____

Answers:

1 contend | 2 disparage | 3 refute | 4 concede | 5 underscore | 6 advocate | 7 acknowledge | 8 bolster | 9 denounce | 10 corroborate | 11 exemplify | 12 endorse | 13 assert | 14 highlight | 15 dismiss | 16 validate | 17 substantiate | 18 contradict | 19 reinforce | 20 undermine

Keep studying: open the full word list on Knowt or on Quizlet (independent, not affiliated with Knowt or Quizlet)

Set 1 – Practice

Use the words in sentences and in a passage.

Part A – Fill in the blank

Place the fitting word from the box. Use each word once.

substantiate • dismiss • undermine • exemplify • refute

1. She could only _____ her claim with receipts, photos and a signed letter.
2. Lab tests were used to _____ the claim that the water was unsafe, proving it false.
3. The manager chose to _____ the complaint as unimportant and never replied.
4. Spreading false stories about the company will _____ its reputation.
5. Her calm leadership seems to _____ what a good captain should be.

Part B – Short passage

Read the passage. For each bold word, choose the meaning that fits the context.

> Nadia has long **advocated** for a bike lane on Main Street. At the meeting, a shop owner **denounced** the plan as a waste of money, but Nadia calmly built her case with traffic data. Even her critics had to **concede** that the numbers were hard to argue with.

1. In the passage, **advocated** most nearly means:
   - **A)** argued against it
   - **B)** publicly supported it
   - **C)** quietly ignored it
2. In the passage, **denounced** most nearly means:
   - **A)** publicly condemned
   - **B)** carefully studied
   - **C)** warmly praised
3. In the passage, **concede** most nearly means:
   - **A)** admit as true
   - **B)** refuse to hear
   - **C)** change the subject

Part C – Your own sentence

Pick at least 5 words from this set and write **your own sentence** with each. Use the word for a situation from your own life. Don't skip this: it's how you really learn a word.

You don't have to write the sentences here; use your notebook, your phone or Knowt. What matters is that you write.

Answers:

Part A 1 substantiate · 2 refute · 3 dismiss · 4 undermine · 5 exemplify

Part B 1 B · 2 A · 3 A

Set 2

Words 21–40 • Interpret · infer · change. Read the example sentence along with the definition: try to work out the meaning from the sentence and let your mind make the effort.

21 **critique** VERB

To judge the good and bad points of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The essay **critiques** the use of standardized tests."*

22 **lament** VERB

To express sadness or regret about something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The narrator **laments** the loss of the old town."*

23 **elaborate** VERB

To explain something in more detail

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The second sentence **elaborates** on the first claim."*

24 **clarify** VERB

To make something easier to understand

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The footnote **clarifies** the term."*

25 **commemorate** VERB

To honor the memory of a person or event

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The statue **commemorates** the town's founders."*

26 **allude** VERB

To mention something without saying it directly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The poem **alludes** to an ancient myth."*

27 **attribute** VERB

To say that something was caused by or belongs to someone

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Scientists **attribute** the decline to habitat loss."*

28 **infer** VERB

To reach a conclusion from clues, not from direct statements

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Readers can **infer** that the narrator was nervous."*

29 **deduce** VERB

To reach a conclusion by careful reasoning

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"From the tracks, she **deduced** the animal's size."*

30 **imply** VERB

To suggest something without saying it directly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The tone **implies** that the author is disappointed."*

31 **interpret** VERB

To explain what something means

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Scholars **interpret** the poem as a critique of war."*

32 **hypothesize** VERB

To propose an explanation that can be tested

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Biologists **hypothesized** that the bird migrates at night."*

33 **speculate** VERB

To guess without having proof

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Critics **speculate** about the artist's intentions."*

34 **postulate** VERB

To suggest something as a starting assumption

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Einstein **postulated** that light has a constant speed."*

35 **perceive** VERB

To notice, understand or see something in a certain way

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Many readers **perceive** the narrator as unreliable."*

36 **mimic** VERB

To copy the way someone or something looks or sounds

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Some birds **mimic** human speech."*

37 **derive** VERB

To get something from a source

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The word **derives** from a Latin root."*

38 **encompass** VERB

To include or cover a wide range of things

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The survey **encompasses** ten countries."*

39 **diminish** VERB

To become or make smaller or less

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Rainfall **diminished** over the decade."*

40 **erode** VERB

To wear something away slowly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Constant criticism **eroded** her confidence."*

Set 2 – Self-test

From the box below, pick the word that fits each definition and write it in. Answers are at the bottom.

allude • attribute • clarify • commemorate • critique • deduce • derive • diminish • elaborate • encompass • erode • hypothesize • imply • infer • interpret • lament • mimic • perceive • postulate • speculate

1. To wear something away slowly _____
2. To notice, understand or see something in a certain way _____
3. To include or cover a wide range of things _____
4. To get something from a source _____
5. To suggest something without saying it directly _____
6. To suggest something as a starting assumption _____
7. To mention something without saying it directly _____
8. To copy the way someone or something looks or sounds _____
9. To explain what something means _____
10. To reach a conclusion by careful reasoning _____
11. To make something easier to understand _____
12. To explain something in more detail _____
13. To express sadness or regret about something _____
14. To judge the good and bad points of something _____
15. To become or make smaller or less _____
16. To say that something was caused by or belongs to someone _____
17. To honor the memory of a person or event _____
18. To guess without having proof _____
19. To propose an explanation that can be tested _____
20. To reach a conclusion from clues, not from direct statements _____

Answers:

1 erode | 2 perceive | 3 encompass | 4 derive | 5 imply | 6 postulate | 7 allude | 8 mimic | 9 interpret | 10 deduce | 11 clarify | 12 elaborate | 13 lament | 14 critique | 15 diminish | 16 attribute | 17 commemorate | 18 speculate | 19 hypothesize | 20 infer

Keep studying: open the full word list on Knowt or on Quizlet (independent, not affiliated with Knowt or Quizlet)

Set 2 – Practice

Use the words in sentences and in a passage.

Part A – Fill in the blank

Place the fitting word from the box. Use each word once.

elaborate • lament • deduce • encompass • mimic

1. The detective could _____ the thief's height from the size of the footprints.
2. Some parrots can _____ the sounds of a doorbell or a phone.
3. The tour will _____ five cities in seven days.
4. Please _____ on your answer; one word is not enough.
5. Many older residents _____ the closing of the town's only bookstore.

Part B – Short passage

Read the passage. For each bold word, choose the meaning that fits the context.

> When the old map was found, historians could only **speculate** about who had drawn it. One expert **postulated** that a sailor made it, while another **interpreted** the odd symbols as a secret code.

1. In the passage, **speculate** most nearly means:
   - **A)** guess without proof
   - **B)** prove with evidence
   - **C)** refuse to discuss
2. In the passage, **postulated** most nearly means:
   - **A)** denied firmly
   - **B)** copied exactly
   - **C)** suggested as a starting assumption
3. In the passage, **interpreted** most nearly means:
   - **A)** hid
   - **B)** explained the meaning of
   - **C)** forgot

Part C – Your own sentence

Pick at least 5 words from this set and write **your own sentence** with each. Use the word for a situation from your own life. Don't skip this: it's how you really learn a word.

You don't have to write the sentences here; use your notebook, your phone or Knowt. What matters is that you write.

Answers:

Part A 1 deduce | 2 mimic | 3 encompass | 4 elaborate | 5 lament

Part B 1 A | 2 C | 3 B

Set 3

Words 41–60 • Change · obstacle · ease. Read the example sentence along with the definition: try to work out the meaning from the sentence and let your mind make the effort.

41 **fluctuate** VERB

To rise and fall again and again

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Prices **fluctuated** throughout the year."*

42 **proliferate** VERB

To increase very quickly in number

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Small publishers **proliferated** after the invention."*

43 **stagnate** VERB

To stop growing or developing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The economy **stagnated** for years."*

44 **emerge** VERB

To come out or become visible

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"A new pattern **emerged** from the data."*

45 **evolve** VERB

To develop gradually over time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The language **evolved** over centuries."*

46 **adapt** VERB

To change in order to fit new conditions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The species **adapted** to colder climates."*

47 **intensify** VERB

To become stronger or more extreme

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Debate **intensified** after the announcement."*

48 **amplify** VERB

To make something stronger or louder

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Social media **amplified** the message."*

49 **enhance** VERB

To improve the quality or value of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The new lens **enhances** image quality."*

50 **supplement** VERB

To add something to make a whole complete

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"She **supplemented** her income with tutoring."*

51 **surpass** VERB

To go beyond or do better than something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Sales **surpassed** all expectations."*

52 **prevail** VERB

To win out, or to be the most common

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Old customs still **prevail** in the village."*

53 **deviate** VERB

To move away from the usual path or plan

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The results **deviate** from earlier trends."*

54 **diverge** VERB

To separate and go in different directions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The two paths **diverge** near the river."*

55 **mitigate** VERB

To make something less severe

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Trees **mitigate** the effects of urban heat."*

56 **alleviate** VERB

To make pain or a problem less severe

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The new policy **alleviated** traffic congestion."*

57 **ameliorate** VERB

To make a bad situation better

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Aid programs **ameliorated** living conditions."*

58 **exacerbate** VERB

To make a bad situation worse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Drought **exacerbated** the food shortage."*

59 **impede** VERB

To slow down or block progress

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Thick fog **impeded** the rescue."*

60 **hinder** VERB

To make it harder for something to happen

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Limited funding **hindered** progress."*

Set 3 – Self-test

From the box below, pick the word that fits each definition and write it in. Answers are at the bottom.

adapt • alleviate • ameliorate • amplify • deviate • diverge • emerge • enhance • evolve • exacerbate • fluctuate • hinder • impede • intensify • mitigate • prevail • proliferate • stagnate • supplement • surpass

1. To stop growing or developing _____
2. To make it harder for something to happen _____
3. To add something to make a whole complete _____
4. To come out or become visible _____
5. To move away from the usual path or plan _____
6. To become stronger or more extreme _____
7. To make a bad situation better _____
8. To slow down or block progress _____
9. To increase very quickly in number _____
10. To make something stronger or louder _____
11. To make a bad situation worse _____
12. To make pain or a problem less severe _____
13. To rise and fall again and again _____
14. To go beyond or do better than something _____
15. To separate and go in different directions _____
16. To change in order to fit new conditions _____
17. To develop gradually over time _____
18. To improve the quality or value of something _____
19. To win out, or to be the most common _____
20. To make something less severe _____

Answers:

1 stagnate | 2 hinder | 3 supplement | 4 emerge | 5 deviate | 6 intensify | 7 ameliorate | 8 impede | 9 proliferate | 10 amplify | 11 exacerbate | 12 alleviate | 13 fluctuate | 14 surpass | 15 diverge | 16 adapt | 17 evolve | 18 enhance | 19 prevail | 20 mitigate

Keep studying: open the full word list on Knowt or on Quizlet (independent, not affiliated with Knowt or Quizlet)

Set 3 – Practice

Use the words in sentences and in a passage.

Part A – Fill in the blank

Place the fitting word from the box. Use each word once.

fluctuate • stagnate • exacerbate • proliferate • impede

1. Temperatures in the desert _____ wildly between day and night.
2. Without new customers, the shop's sales began to _____.
3. After the rain, mosquitoes began to _____ near the pond.
4. Skipping sleep will only _____ your headache and make it worse.
5. A fallen tree began to _____ traffic on the only road into town.

Part B – Short passage

Read the passage. For each bold word, choose the meaning that fits the context.

> After the flood, volunteers worked to **mitigate** the damage. Opinions about the best repair plan began to **diverge**, but in the end the cautious plan **prevailed**.

1. In the passage, **mitigate** most nearly means:
   A) make less severe
   B) cause on purpose
   C) write down
2. In the passage, **diverge** most nearly means:
   A) become different
   B) become louder
   C) end completely
3. In the passage, **prevailed** most nearly means:
   A) was delayed
   B) won out
   C) was copied

Part C – Your own sentence

Pick at least 5 words from this set and write **your own sentence** with each. Use the word for a situation from your own life. Don't skip this: it's how you really learn a word.

You don't have to write the sentences here; use your notebook, your phone or Knowt. What matters is that you write.

Answers:

Part A 1 fluctuate 2 stagnate 3 proliferate 4 exacerbate 5 impede

Part B 1 A 2 A 3 B

Set 4

Words 61–80 • Affect · interpret · tone. Read the example sentence along with the definition: try to work out the meaning from the sentence and let your mind make the effort.

61 **preclude** VERB

To make something impossible

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The contract **precludes** sharing the data."*

62 **inhibit** VERB

To hold back or prevent growth or action

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Cold temperatures **inhibit** plant growth."*

63 **circumvent** VERB

To find a way around a rule or obstacle

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Engineers **circumvented** the problem with a new design."*

64 **counteract** VERB

To reduce the effect of something by acting against it

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Vitamins can **counteract** the deficiency."*

65 **stymie** VERB

To block someone's progress

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Red tape **stymied** the project."*

66 **foster** VERB

To encourage something to grow

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Schools **foster** curiosity in young learners."*

67 **facilitate** VERB

To make a process easier

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The app **facilitates** communication between teams."*

68 **suppress** VERB

To stop something by force or hold it back

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The government **suppressed** the report."*

69 **provoke** VERB

To cause a strong reaction

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The speech **provoked** a strong response."*

70 **overshadow** VERB

To make something seem less important

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"His fame **overshadowed** her work."*

71 **renounce** VERB

To give something up formally

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"He **renounced** his claim to the land."*

72 **reconcile** VERB

To make two different things fit together

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The author tries to **reconcile** two opposing views."*

73 **elicit** VERB

To draw out a response or information

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The question **elicited** a range of answers."*

74 **evoke** VERB

To bring a feeling or memory to mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The poem **evokes** a feeling of loneliness."*

75 **illuminate** VERB

To make something clear

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The letters **illuminate** her daily life."*

76 **ambiguous** ADJECTIVE

Having more than one possible meaning

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The ending of the story is deliberately **ambiguous**."*

77 **nuanced** ADJECTIVE

Showing small but important differences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The author offers a **nuanced** view of the issue."*

78 **subtle** ADJECTIVE

Not obvious; delicate and hard to notice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"There is a **subtle** shift in the narrator's tone."*

79 **pragmatic** ADJECTIVE

Focused on what works in practice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"She took a **pragmatic** approach to the problem."*

80 **skeptical** ADJECTIVE

Doubtful about whether something is true

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Scientists were **skeptical** of the claim."*

Set 4 – Self-test

From the box below, pick the word that fits each definition and write it in. Answers are at the bottom.

ambiguous • circumvent • counteract • elicit • evoke • facilitate • foster • illuminate • inhibit • nuanced • overshadow • pragmatic • preclude • provoke • reconcile • renounce • skeptical • stymie • subtle • suppress

1. To make something clear _____
2. To make two different things fit together _____
3. To encourage something to grow _____
4. To make a process easier _____
5. Doubtful about whether something is true _____
6. To cause a strong reaction _____
7. To make something seem less important _____
8. To draw out a response or information _____
9. Showing small but important differences _____
10. To find a way around a rule or obstacle _____
11. To give something up formally _____
12. To block someone's progress _____
13. Not obvious; delicate and hard to notice _____
14. To stop something by force or hold it back _____
15. To reduce the effect of something by acting against it _____
16. To make something impossible _____
17. Having more than one possible meaning _____
18. To bring a feeling or memory to mind _____
19. To hold back or prevent growth or action _____
20. Focused on what works in practice _____

Answers:

1 illuminate | 2 reconcile | 3 foster | 4 facilitate | 5 skeptical | 6 provoke | 7 overshadow | 8 elicit | 9 nuanced | 10 circumvent | 11 renounce | 12 stymie | 13 subtle | 14 suppress | 15 counteract | 16 precude | 17 ambiguous | 18 evoke | 19 inhibit | 20 pragmatic

Keep studying: open the full word list on Knowt or on Quizlet (independent, not affiliated with Knowt or Quizlet)

Set 4 – Practice

Use the words in sentences and in a passage.

Part A – Fill in the blank

Place the fitting word from the box. Use each word once.

elicit • foster • circumvent • preclude • provoke

1. Her fear of heights will _____ her from ever becoming a pilot.
2. Hikers took a side trail to _____ the flooded section of the path.
3. Over many years, good teachers _____ a love of reading in their students, helping it grow slowly.
4. The teacher's question was meant to _____ honest answers from the shy class.
5. Leaving the dog alone for hours may _____ it to chew the furniture.

Part B – Short passage

Read the passage. For each bold word, choose the meaning that fits the context.

> The new rule was **ambiguous**: it did not say whether students could use phones. The principal gave a **nuanced** answer that covered several cases. Maya noticed a **subtle** hint in his tone that he would not mind a little flexibility.

1. In the passage, **ambiguous** most nearly means:
   - **A)** open to more than one meaning
   - **B)** strongly worded
   - **C)** very long
2. In the passage, **nuanced** most nearly means:
   - **A)** careless and quick
   - **B)** showing small but important differences
   - **C)** angry
3. In the passage, **subtle** most nearly means:
   - **A)** not obvious
   - **B)** very loud
   - **C)** completely false

Part C – Your own sentence

Pick at least 5 words from this set and write **your own sentence** with each. Use the word for a situation from your own life. Don't skip this: it's how you really learn a word.

You don't have to write the sentences here; use your notebook, your phone or Knowt. What matters is that you write.

Answers:

Part A 1 preclude · 2 circumvent · 3 foster · 4 elicit · 5 provoke

Part B 1 A · 2 B · 3 A

Set 5

Words 81–100 • Quality · tone · contradiction. Read the example sentence along with the definition: try to work out the meaning from the sentence and let your mind make the effort.

81 **plausible** ADJECTIVE

Seeming reasonable and likely to be true

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The explanation is **plausible** but unproven."*

82 **credible** ADJECTIVE

Believable and trustworthy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The study cites **credible** sources."*

83 **implicit** ADJECTIVE

Suggested but not stated directly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The poem carries an **implicit** criticism."*

84 **explicit** ADJECTIVE

Stated clearly and directly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The rules give **explicit** instructions."*

85 **obscure** ADJECTIVE

Hard to understand, or little known

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The origin of the custom is **obscure**."*

86 **candid** ADJECTIVE

Honest and direct, even when it is uncomfortable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The memoir is **candid** about her failures."*

87 **ambivalent** ADJECTIVE

Having mixed or conflicting feelings

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"He felt **ambivalent** about leaving home."*

88 **impartial** ADJECTIVE

Fair and not favoring either side

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"A judge must remain **impartial**."*

89 **empirical** ADJECTIVE

Based on observation or experiment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The theory lacks **empirical** support."*

90 **peripheral** ADJECTIVE

Of minor importance; on the edge

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The detail is **peripheral** to the main argument."*

91 **prominent** ADJECTIVE

Important or easy to notice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"A **prominent** scientist led the study."*

92 **pervasive** ADJECTIVE

Spreading through every part of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Plastic is now **pervasive** in the oceans."*

93 **substantial** ADJECTIVE

Large in amount or importance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The study found a **substantial** increase."*

94 **inherent** ADJECTIVE

Existing as a natural, built-in part of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Risk is **inherent** in any experiment."*

95 **resilient** ADJECTIVE

Able to recover quickly after difficulty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Coral reefs can be surprisingly **resilient**."*

96 **ubiquitous** ADJECTIVE

Seeming to be present everywhere

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"Smartphones are now **ubiquitous**."*

97 **elusive** ADJECTIVE

Hard to find, catch or achieve

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The rare cat is **elusive**."*

98 **anomaly** NOUN

Something that differs from what is normal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The result was an **anomaly** in the data."*

99 **discrepancy** NOUN

A difference between things that should match

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"The two reports show a **discrepancy**."*

100 **paradox** NOUN

A statement or situation that seems to contradict itself but may be true

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*"It is a **paradox** that more choices can reduce satisfaction."*

Set 5 – Self-test

From the box below, pick the word that fits each definition and write it in. Answers are at the bottom.

ambivalent • anomaly • candid • credible • discrepancy • elusive • empirical • explicit • impartial • implicit • inherent • obscure • paradox • peripheral • pervasive • plausible • prominent • resilient • substantial • ubiquitous

1. Hard to understand, or little known _____
2. Seeming to be present everywhere _____
3. Honest and direct, even when it is uncomfortable _____
4. Seeming reasonable and likely to be true _____
5. Spreading through every part of something _____
6. Existing as a natural, built-in part of something _____
7. Stated clearly and directly _____
8. Believable and trustworthy _____
9. Hard to find, catch or achieve _____
10. Of minor importance; on the edge _____
11. Important or easy to notice _____
12. Fair and not favoring either side _____
13. Based on observation or experiment _____
14. Large in amount or importance _____
15. Suggested but not stated directly _____
16. Having mixed or conflicting feelings _____
17. A difference between things that should match _____
18. A statement or situation that seems to contradict itself but may be true _____
19. Something that differs from what is normal _____
20. Able to recover quickly after difficulty _____

Answers:

1 obscure · 2 ubiquitous · 3 candid · 4 plausible · 5 pervasive · 6 inherent · 7 explicit · 8 credible · 9 elusive · 10 peripheral · 11 prominent · 12 impartial · 13 empirical · 14 substantial · 15 implicit · 16 ambivalent · 17 discrepancy · 18 paradox · 19 anomaly · 20 resilient

Keep studying: open the full word list on Knowt or on Quizlet (independent, not affiliated with Knowt or Quizlet)

Set 5 – Practice

Use the words in sentences and in a passage.

Part A – Fill in the blank

Place the fitting word from the box. Use each word once.

elusive • ubiquitous • impartial • resilient • discrepancy

1. Smartphones have become so _____ that you see them in almost every hand.
2. The plant is _____ and grows back quickly after every storm.
3. The accountant found a _____ between the two reports and asked which was right.
4. A good referee must stay _____ and favor neither team.
5. The rare snow leopard is _____ and almost never seen by hikers.

Part B – Short passage

Read the passage. For each bold word, choose the meaning that fits the context.

> The scientist's claim seemed **plausible**, but it lacked **empirical** support. The result was an **anomaly** that no one in the lab could explain.

1. In the passage, **plausible** most nearly means:
   - **A)** believable
   - **B)** boring
   - **C)** dangerous
2. In the passage, **empirical** most nearly means:
   - **A)** based on observation or experiment
   - **B)** based on opinion
   - **C)** based on a rumor
3. In the passage, **anomaly** most nearly means:
   - **A)** a planned step
   - **B)** something that differs from what is normal
   - **C)** a final answer

Part C – Your own sentence

Pick at least 5 words from this set and write **your own sentence** with each. Use the word for a situation from your own life. Don't skip this: it's how you really learn a word.

You don't have to write the sentences here; use your notebook, your phone or Knowt. What matters is that you write.

Answers:

Part A 1 ubiquitous · 2 resilient · 3 discrepancy · 4 impartial · 5 elusive

Part B 1 A · 2 A · 3 B

Confusable pairs

Words that seem close in meaning but are used differently on the exam. If you see both among the choices, look at the difference between them.

infer

reader concludes

"From the muddy boots, we can infer that he walked home."

imply

writer suggests

"The author implies that the plan was rushed."

Tip: The reader infers (infer); the writer implies (imply).

refute

rejects with evidence

"The data refute the claim."

dismiss

waves off without evidence

"The senator dismissed the claim without a reply."

Tip: Refute comes with evidence; dismiss doesn't.

corroborate

adds evidence to a claim

"A second witness corroborated her story."

validate

shows something is valid

"The test validated the new method."

Tip: Corroborate: add evidence to a claim you already have. Validate: confirm something is correct or valid.

mitigate

reduces the effect

"Trees mitigate heat in cities."

exacerbate

makes worse

"Drought exacerbated the shortage."

Tip: Opposites: one eases the problem, the other grows it.

impede

slows or blocks

"Snow impeded the rescue."

preclude

makes impossible

"The contract precludes any refund."

Tip: Impede makes the path harder; preclude closes it completely.

concede

admits unwillingly

"The coach conceded that the team had lost."

acknowledge

admits neutrally

"The author acknowledges a limit in the data."

Tip: Concede carries a sense of backing down; acknowledge just admits.

deduce

concludes from evidence

"She deduced the answer from the clues."

speculate

guesses without evidence

"Critics speculated about his motives."

Tip: Deduce has logic and evidence; speculate doesn't.

subtle

slight but real

"There is a subtle change in tone."

ambiguous

can mean two things

"The ending is ambiguous."

Tip: Subtle: hard to notice. Ambiguous: open to different readings.

implicit
implied, unstated
"The criticism is implicit."

explicit
stated outright
"The rules are explicit."

Tip: Opposites: left unsaid and implied vs. written out openly.

plausible
believable (idea)
"Her explanation is plausible."

credible
trustworthy (person, source)
"A credible source confirmed it."

Tip: Plausible describes an idea; credible describes a source or person.

candid
speaks honestly
"He gave a candid answer."

impartial
takes no side
"A judge must be impartial."

Tip: Candid: saying it honestly. Impartial: not taking sides.

prominent
stands out
"A prominent scientist spoke."

peripheral
secondary, on the edge
"The detail is peripheral."

Tip: Opposites: the main point vs. a side detail.

foster
encourages growth
"Schools foster curiosity."

facilitate
makes the process easier
"The app facilitates teamwork."

Tip: Foster helps something grow (skill, feeling); facilitate clears the way.

elicit
draws out a response or info
"The question elicited honest answers."

evoke
brings a feeling or memory to mind
"The song evokes memories."

Tip: Elicit gets a reply; evoke brings something to mind.

anomaly
something that departs from normal
"One result was an anomaly."

discrepancy
a mismatch between things
"There was a discrepancy between the reports."

Tip: Anomaly is unusual on its own; discrepancy is a mismatch between two things. Paradox: a situation that seems self-contradictory but may be true.

Final test – 100 questions

One question per word. Choose the word that best completes the sentence. Read the clues in the sentence first, then look at the choices.

1. A lone tip from an informant is not enough; detectives need a second, independent source to _____ his story before they will make an arrest.
A) commemorate **B)** fluctuate **C)** corroborate **D)** lament

2. Anyone who accuses a company of fraud must be ready to _____ the charge with receipts, emails, or other hard proof.
A) substantiate **B)** lament **C)** commemorate **D)** advocate

3. Before releasing the app, the team ran hundreds of trials to _____ that the calculator gives correct answers every time.
A) validate **B)** denounce **C)** lament **D)** commemorate

4. After five straight losses, the team's confidence had slumped, so the coach hoped a surprise visit from a former champion would _____ it.
A) refute **B)** dismiss **C)** lament **D)** bolster

5. Teachers often repeat key ideas in homework and class discussion to _____ what students learned earlier in the week and help the lessons stick.
A) disparage **B)** denounce **C)** commemorate **D)** reinforce

6. The famous chef agreed to publicly _____ the new line of knives, appearing in advertisements to tell customers that she approves of them.
A) lament **B)** clarify **C)** endorse **D)** refute

7. Dr. Ruiz travels to school boards across the state to _____ longer lunch breaks, speaking in public in favor of the change.
A) advocate **B)** commemorate **C)** refute **D)** lament

8. A single dramatic photograph of the flooded town helped _____ the urgency of the drainage project, making the need hard for officials to ignore.
A) commemorate **B)** denounce **C)** underscore **D)** mimic

9. Using a yellow marker, she began to _____ the key dates in her history notes so that they would catch her eye during review.
A) refute **B)** highlight **C)** disparage **D)** renounce

10. The coach pointed to the relay squad as a team that can _____ good sportsmanship: every runner cheered for the rivals as well as for teammates.
A) disparage **B)** lament **C)** exemplify **D)** refute

11. Constant rumors about the manager's decisions began to _____ the staff's trust in her, week by week, until few people believed anything she said.
A) commemorate **B)** undermine **C)** elaborate **D)** endorse

12. Using dated records and original letters, the historian was able to _____ the rumor that the bridge was built in 1850, proving it false.
A) refute **B)** lament **C)** commemorate **D)** endorse

13. Her new testimony seemed to _____ what she told police yesterday, since the two versions said the opposite about who locked the door.
A) commemorate **B)** elaborate **C)** endorse **D)** contradict

14. The senator chose to _____ the complaint as trivial, refusing to give it even a moment of serious thought before moving to the next topic.
A) commemorate **B)** substantiate **C)** reinforce **D)** dismiss

15. At the rally, the speaker rose to _____ the dumping of chemicals in the river, calling it a shameful act that must be stopped at once.
A) clarify **B)** commemorate **C)** denounce **D)** bolster

16. A gracious champion will not _____ an opponent's effort by calling it worthless; instead, she praises the rival's skill after the match.
A) reinforce **B)** commemorate **C)** disparage **D)** clarify

17. Despite the evidence against her, the defendant continued to _____ her innocence, insisting firmly that she was telling the truth.
A) undermine **B)** assert **C)** commemorate **D)** disparage

18. Each lawyer will _____ that her client is innocent, building an argument meant to persuade the jury that the claim is true.
A) contend **B)** lament **C)** deduce **D)** clarify

19. Though he hated losing, the chess champion finally had to _____ defeat, admitting unwillingly that his young rival had played better.
A) elaborate **B)** bolster **C)** concede **D)** foster

20. The CEO was quick to _____ the shipping error and accept responsibility for it instead of blaming a supplier.
A) commemorate **B)** foster **C)** mimic **D)** acknowledge

21. Each Friday, students will _____ one another's drafts, naming what works well in each essay and what still needs revision.
A) commemorate **B)** undermine **C)** mimic **D)** critique

22. Older residents often _____ the closing of the town's only bookstore, saying with great sadness that nothing will ever replace it.
A) dismiss **B)** mimic **C)** lament **D)** bolster

23. When the judge pressed her, the witness agreed to _____ on her brief statement by adding specific details about what happened that night.
A) suppress **B)** mimic **C)** elaborate **D)** renounce

24. The instructions confused many customers, so the company posted a short video to _____ the steps and make them easier to follow.
A) suppress **B)** clarify **C)** endorse **D)** commemorate

25. Every November, the town holds a parade to _____ the soldiers who died in the war, honoring their memory with music and flowers.
A) dismiss **B)** commemorate **C)** refute **D)** mimic

26. The mayor never named the scandal outright, but in her speech she would _____ to "recent troubles" without offering a single detail.
A) allude **B)** evolve **C)** fluctuate **D)** adapt

27. Historians usually _____ the invention of movable type in Europe to Johannes Gutenberg, even though similar printing methods had existed earlier in Korea.
A) mimic **B)** erode **C)** attribute **D)** supplement

28. The detective had received no confession, yet from the muddy boots beside the door he could _____ the route the visitor had taken through the garden.
A) enhance **B)** mimic **C)** infer **D)** supplement

29. By carefully comparing the dates on the letters with the ship's published schedule, the historian was able to _____ the exact voyage the writer had taken.
A) deduce **B)** supplement **C)** enhance **D)** commemorate

30. The manager never said so aloud, yet her long sigh and crossed arms seemed to _____ disappointment in the team's first draft.
A) mimic **B)** imply **C)** supplement **D)** encompass

31. Written in a lost dialect, the inscription took scholars years to _____, but they finally explained what its symbols meant.
A) supplement **B)** amplify **C)** mimic **D)** interpret

32. Noticing that the plants near the window grew taller, the student decided to _____ an explanation for the difference and then designed an experiment to test it.
A) mimic **B)** intensify **C)** diminish **D)** hypothesize

33. Since the laboratory had released no data, reporters could only _____ about why the experiment failed, offering guesses instead of facts.
A) fluctuate **B)** proliferate **C)** speculate **D)** stagnate

34. Instead of trying to prove everything, the Greek mathematician chose to _____ a small set of basic assumptions from which all of his later proofs would follow.
A) postulate **B)** intensify **C)** erode **D)** mimic

35. Two people can look at the same painting and _____ it very differently: one sees a calm landscape, while the other sees a storm about to break.
A) erode **B)** perceive **C)** encompass **D)** supplement

36. Mockingbirds _____ the songs of other birds so accurately that listeners often cannot tell the copy from the original.
A) mimic **B)** encompass **C)** diminish **D)** supplement

37. Many small farms in the valley _____ most of their income from tourism rather than from selling crops.
A) derive **B)** mimic **C)** encompass **D)** supplement

38. The museum's collection is remarkably broad, since it will _____ everything from Bronze Age tools to modern digital art.
A) supplement **B)** encompass **C)** mimic **D)** erode

39. As more streetlights were installed along the highway, the number of nighttime accidents began to _____ steadily, falling lower every year.
A) fluctuate **B)** proliferate **C)** diminish **D)** intensify

40. Over thousands of years, the steady flow of the river will _____ the soft limestone, slowly carving a deep canyon.
A) erode **B)** enhance **C)** mimic **D)** supplement

41. Sales at the seaside cafe tend to _____ wildly, soaring each summer and plunging each winter, which makes it hard for the owner to plan a budget.
A) proliferate **B)** emerge **C)** fluctuate **D)** stagnate

42. With no natural predators on the island, the rabbits began to _____ rapidly, and within two years their population had grown from a dozen to several thousand.
A) stagnate **B)** fluctuate **C)** diminish **D)** proliferate

43. After the factory closed, the town's economy began to _____: no new businesses opened, wages stayed flat, and many young people moved away.
A) intensify **B)** stagnate **C)** proliferate **D)** emerge

44. After years underground, the cicadas will _____ from the soil at dusk and climb the nearest trees to shed their skins.
A) stagnate **B)** diminish **C)** fluctuate **D)** emerge

45. Whales did not appear overnight; fossils show that they had to _____ gradually, over millions of years, from small four-legged land animals.
A) evolve **B)** diminish **C)** stagnate **D)** fluctuate

46. When the pond dried up each summer, the frogs had to _____ to the harsh new conditions by burying themselves in mud until the rains returned.
A) adapt **B)** proliferate **C)** fluctuate **D)** stagnate

47. As the hurricane moved over warm ocean water, its winds began to _____, growing stronger by the hour until the storm reached the coast.
A) fluctuate **B)** diminish **C)** intensify **D)** stagnate

48. The concert hall's curved ceiling helps to _____ the sound of the violins, making even the quietest notes audible in the back row.
A) erode **B)** amplify **C)** mimic **D)** encompass

49. The restaurant planted herbs in its window boxes to _____ the dining room's appeal, hoping that the greenery and fragrance would attract more customers.
A) enhance **B)** mimic **C)** diminish **D)** erode

50. Her scholarship paid for tuition only, so she took a weekend job to _____ her income and cover the cost of books and rent.
A) supplement **B)** mimic **C)** diminish **D)** erode

51. Analysts expect the new factory to _____ last year's output by nearly twenty percent, producing more cars than the old plant ever managed.
A) hypothesize **B)** surpass **C)** commemorate **D)** renounce

52. Although the underdog team trailed for most of the match, its patience and teamwork helped it _____ in the final minutes and win the trophy.
A) allude **B)** disparage **C)** stagnate **D)** prevail

53. The pilot was told never to _____ from the approved flight path, even when the sky looked clear, because other planes were using nearby routes.
A) erode **B)** commemorate **C)** endorse **D)** deviate

54. The two friends walked together until the road split in two, and there their paths would _____, one heading north to the college and the other south to the port.
A) concede **B)** diverge **C)** fluctuate **D)** mimic

55. To _____ the damage from seasonal floods, the town built low walls along the river; the walls could not stop the water, but they reduced the harm.
A) allude **B)** mitigate **C)** mimic **D)** hypothesize

56. The nurse placed a cool cloth on the patient's forehead to _____ his headache, hoping the simple remedy would ease the pain until the doctor arrived.
A) stagnate **B)** proliferate **C)** refute **D)** alleviate

57. The city's new drainage system was designed to _____ the poor conditions in the old neighborhood, where flooded streets had long made daily life difficult.
A) commemorate **B)** ameliorate **C)** fluctuate **D)** deduce

58. Rather than calming the dispute, the manager's sarcastic email only served to _____ it, turning a small disagreement into a bitter feud.
A) exacerbate **B)** endorse **C)** clarify **D)** validate

59. Heavy snow began to _____ the rescue crews' progress, forcing the trucks to crawl along the highway at a fraction of their usual speed.
A) endorse **B)** hypothesize **C)** impede **D)** evoke

60. Without a reliable internet connection, students may find it hard to finish their research, and the lack of access will _____ their efforts all semester.
A) elicit **B)** hinder **C)** interpret **D)** commemorate

61. The contract's strict wording does not merely discourage outside work; it will actually _____ it, making any second job impossible for employees.
A) encompass **B)** preclude **C)** lament **D)** mimic

62. Scientists found that a chemical in the walnut tree's roots can _____ the growth of nearby plants, leaving the ground around the tree bare.
A) inhibit **B)** hypothesize **C)** endorse **D)** dismiss

63. Rather than wait in the long line at the main entrance, some visitors tried to _____ the rule by sneaking in through a side gate.
A) lament **B)** amplify **C)** advocate **D)** circumvent

64. Farmers plant clover between rows of crops because its roots add nitrogen to the soil, which helps _____ the loss of nutrients caused by years of growing corn.
A) commemorate **B)** speculate **C)** denounce **D)** counteract

65. Every time the inventor seemed close to a working prototype, a new shortage of funding would _____ her, forcing her to start the search for money all over again.
A) acknowledge **B)** commemorate **C)** stymie **D)** infer

66. The coach's goal is to _____ a spirit of cooperation on the team by rewarding players who help teammates and by encouraging everyone to share ideas.
A) deviate **B)** foster **C)** refute **D)** circumvent

67. A well-designed website can _____ the process of registering for classes, allowing students to sign up in minutes instead of standing in long lines.
A) postulate **B)** critique **C)** facilitate **D)** renounce

68. Authorities attempted to _____ the news by banning newspapers from printing it, but rumors spread quickly by word of mouth.
A) bolster **B)** highlight **C)** suppress **D)** corroborate

69. The politician's careless remark about teachers was meant as a joke, but it managed to _____ an angry response from thousands of listeners within hours.
A) exemplify **B)** renounce **C)** speculate **D)** provoke

70. Critics worried that the flashy costumes and bright lighting would _____ the singers themselves, drawing the audience's attention away from the music.
A) overshadow **B)** validate **C)** adapt **D)** infer

71. Upon becoming a monk, he chose to _____ all his property and wealth, formally giving up everything he owned before entering the monastery.
A) renounce **B)** amplify **C)** derive **D)** perceive

72. The author struggled to _____ her two competing goals, a desire for adventure abroad and a wish to stay near family, so that both could fit into one life plan.
A) proliferate **B)** reconcile **C)** denounce **D)** mimic

73. A good interviewer asks open-ended questions in order to _____ detailed answers from nervous candidates, rather than simple yes-or-no replies.
A) surpass **B)** concede **C)** elicit **D)** assert

74. The smell of fresh bread can _____ vivid memories of childhood, bringing back afternoons spent in her grandmother's kitchen.
A) circumvent **B)** evoke **C)** fluctuate **D)** refute

75. The teacher's simple analogy of a water pipe did more than any textbook paragraph to _____ how electric current works, making a confusing idea suddenly clear.
A) suppress **B)** erode **C)** commemorate **D)** illuminate

76. The contract's wording was so _____ that the two companies each read it differently, and both believed the terms favored them.
A) ambiguous **B)** peripheral **C)** resilient **D)** candid

77. Rather than calling the treaty a total success or a total failure, the historian offered a _____ account that weighed its small benefits against its hidden costs.
A) resilient **B)** peripheral **C)** nuanced **D)** ubiquitous

78. The difference between the two shades of green was so _____ that only a trained painter could notice it without a side-by-side comparison.
A) pervasive **B)** substantial **C)** prominent **D)** subtle

79. Instead of arguing over ideals, the mayor took a _____ approach and chose whichever repair plan was cheapest and could actually be finished before winter.
A) obscure **B)** pragmatic **C)** ambivalent **D)** impartial

80. Because the miracle cure had never been tested in a clinical trial, the doctor stayed _____ and refused to recommend it until she had seen the data.
A) skeptical **B)** peripheral **C)** ubiquitous **D)** inherent

81. The detective's theory was _____: it explained every clue found at the scene, although she still needed a witness to prove it.
A) explicit **B)** plausible **C)** resilient **D)** peripheral

82. Investors trusted the report because it came from a _____ source with a long record of accurate, carefully checked work.
A) elusive **B)** ubiquitous **C)** ambivalent **D)** credible

83. Although no one had ever written it down, the _____ rule in the office was that nobody scheduled meetings before nine in the morning.
A) ubiquitous **B)** implicit **C)** skeptical **D)** resilient

84. The teacher gave _____ instructions, stating exactly how many pages to write, which font to use, and when the essay was due.
A) explicit **B)** ambivalent **C)** peripheral **D)** obscure

85. The poet remained _____ for decades, known only to a handful of scholars, until a new anthology introduced her work to a wide audience.
A) pragmatic **B)** credible **C)** obscure **D)** prominent

86. Her _____ feedback stung at first, but the team came to appreciate that she always told them exactly what she thought.
A) peripheral **B)** pervasive **C)** empirical **D)** candid

87. Maya felt _____ about moving abroad: she was thrilled by the adventure but dreaded leaving her family behind.
A) resilient **B)** ambivalent **C)** substantial **D)** obscure

88. A judge must remain _____, ruling only on the evidence and never favoring either the defendant or the prosecutor.
A) elusive **B)** subtle **C)** ubiquitous **D)** impartial

89. The theory sounded elegant, but the scientists wanted _____ evidence, gathered through careful measurement, instead of clever arguments alone.
A) empirical **B)** peripheral **C)** candid **D)** ambivalent

90. The editor cut the paragraph about the author's hobbies because it was only _____ to the main argument of the biography.
A) skeptical **B)** resilient **C)** peripheral **D)** ambivalent

91. The new museum's glass tower is so _____ that visitors can spot it from several miles away across the flat plain.
A) impartial **B)** subtle **C)** obscure **D)** prominent

92. Smoke from the wildfires was _____, seeping into every room of the house and settling on every surface despite the closed windows.
A) plausible **B)** peripheral **C)** pervasive **D)** candid

93. The company's profits rose by a _____ margin, nearly doubling in a single year and far exceeding what analysts had predicted.
A) substantial **B)** peripheral **C)** candid **D)** subtle

94. Some degree of risk is _____ to every investment; no strategy, however careful, can remove what is built into the nature of the market.
A) impartial **B)** inherent **C)** skeptical **D)** candid

95. After the flood destroyed their shop, the family proved _____, reopening within a month and even expanding the business.
A) explicit **B)** implicit **C)** elusive **D)** resilient

96. Smartphones have become _____: you can see them in classrooms, on buses, in restaurants, and in nearly every pocket in town.
A) ubiquitous **B)** skeptical **C)** elusive **D)** obscure

97. The rare snow leopard is so _____ that researchers may spend months in the mountains without catching even a glimpse of one.

A) candid **B)** elusive **C)** ubiquitous **D)** resilient

98. The data followed a clear pattern except for one _____: a single day when the reading fell far outside the normal range and stood apart from all the others.

A) ceremony **B)** paradox **C)** harvest **D)** anomaly

99. The auditor noticed a _____ between the invoice, which listed 40 crates, and the warehouse record, which showed only 36 arriving.

A) ceremony **B)** paradox **C)** harvest **D)** discrepancy

100. The saying "less is more" sounds self-contradictory yet can turn out to be true, which is why people often call it a _____.

A) anomaly **B)** discrepancy **C)** paradox **D)** ceremony

Final test – Answers

Check your answer, then read why. Each card shows what the word means, the clue in the sentence, and what the other choices mean. Reread the word card of anything you missed.

1 **C** **corroborate** confirm with evidence
CLUE "a second, independent source"
OTHER CHOICES **commemorate** honor the memory of · **fluctuate** rise and fall · **lament** express regret

2 **A** **substantiate** back up with proof
CLUE "receipts, emails, or other hard proof"
OTHER CHOICES **lament** express regret · **commemorate** honor the memory of · **advocate** argue in favor of

3 **A** **validate** prove valid
CLUE "the calculator gives correct answers every time"
OTHER CHOICES **denounce** publicly condemn · **lament** express regret · **commemorate** honor the memory of

4 **D** **bolster** strengthen
CLUE "confidence had slumped"
OTHER CHOICES **refute** prove wrong · **dismiss** reject as unimportant · **lament** express regret

5 **D** **reinforce** strengthen, make firmer
CLUE "repeat key ideas"
OTHER CHOICES **disparage** belittle · **denounce** publicly condemn · **commemorate** honor the memory of

6 **C** **endorse** publicly support
CLUE "tell customers that she approves of them"
OTHER CHOICES **lament** express regret · **clarify** make clear · **refute** prove wrong

7 **A** **advocate** argue in favor of
CLUE "speaking in public in favor of the change"
OTHER CHOICES **commemorate** honor the memory of · **refute** prove wrong · **lament** express regret

8 **C** **underscore** emphasize
CLUE "making the need hard for officials to ignore"
OTHER CHOICES **commemorate** honor the memory of · **denounce** publicly condemn · **mimic** imitate

9 **B** **highlight** draw attention to
CLUE "catch her eye during review"
OTHER CHOICES **refute** prove wrong · **disparage** belittle · **renounce** give up formally

10 **C** **exemplify** be a typical example of
CLUE "every runner cheered for the rivals as well as for teammates"
OTHER CHOICES **disparage** belittle · **lament** express regret · **refute** prove wrong

11 **B** **undermine** weaken, damage
CLUE "until few people believed anything she said"
OTHER CHOICES **commemorate** honor the memory of · **elaborate** explain in more detail · **endorse** publicly support

12 **A** **refute** prove wrong
CLUE "proving it false"
OTHER CHOICES **lament** express regret · **commemorate** honor the memory of · **endorse** publicly support

13 **D** **contradict** conflict with
CLUE "the two versions said the opposite"
OTHER CHOICES **commemorate** honor the memory of · **elaborate** explain in more detail · **endorse** publicly support

14 **D** **dismiss** reject as unimportant
CLUE "as trivial, refusing to give it even a moment of serious thought"
OTHER CHOICES **commemorate** honor the memory of · **substantiate** back up with proof · **reinforce** strengthen

15 **C** **denounce** publicly condemn
CLUE "calling it a shameful act that must be stopped at once"
OTHER CHOICES **clarify** make clear · **commemorate** honor the memory of · **bolster** strengthen

16 **C** **disparage** belittle
CLUE "by calling it worthless"
OTHER CHOICES **reinforce** strengthen · **commemorate** honor the memory of · **clarify** make clear

17 **B** **assert** state strongly
CLUE "insisting firmly that she was telling the truth"
OTHER CHOICES **undermine** weaken · **commemorate** honor the memory of · **disparage** belittle

18 **A** **contend** argue, claim
CLUE "building an argument meant to persuade the jury"
OTHER CHOICES **lament** express regret · **deduce** reach by reasoning · **clarify** make clear

19 **C** **concede** admit reluctantly
CLUE "admitting unwillingly"
OTHER CHOICES **elaborate** explain in more detail · **bolster** strengthen · **foster** encourage

20 **D** **acknowledge** admit, recognize
CLUE "accept responsibility for it instead of blaming a supplier"
OTHER CHOICES **commemorate** honor the memory of · **foster** encourage · **mimic** imitate

21 **D** **critique** evaluate critically
CLUE "naming what works well in each essay and what still needs revision"
OTHER CHOICES **commemorate** honor the memory of · **undermine** weaken · **mimic** imitate

22 **C** **lament** express regret
CLUE "saying with great sadness"
OTHER CHOICES **dismiss** reject as unimportant · **mimic** imitate · **bolster** strengthen

23 **C** **elaborate** explain in more detail
CLUE "by adding specific details"
OTHER CHOICES **suppress** hold back · **mimic** imitate · **renounce** give up formally

24 **B** **clarify** make clear
CLUE "make them easier to follow"
OTHER CHOICES **suppress** hold back · **endorse** publicly support · **commemorate** honor the memory of

25 **B** **commemorate** honor the memory of
CLUE "honoring their memory"
OTHER CHOICES **dismiss** reject as unimportant · **refute** prove wrong · **mimic** imitate

26 **A** **allude** refer to indirectly
CLUE "never named the scandal outright"
OTHER CHOICES **evolve** develop gradually · **fluctuate** rise and fall · **adapt** adjust to change

27 **C** **attribute** credit to
CLUE "the invention of movable type in Europe to Johannes Gutenberg"
OTHER CHOICES **mimic** imitate · **erode** wear away · **supplement** add to

28 **C** **infer** conclude from clues
CLUE "from the muddy boots beside the door"
OTHER CHOICES **enhance** improve · **mimic** imitate · **supplement** add to

29 **A** **deduce** reach by reasoning
CLUE "comparing the dates on the letters with the ship's published schedule"
OTHER CHOICES **supplement** add to · **enhance** improve · **commemorate** honor the memory of

30 **B** **imply** suggest indirectly
CLUE "her long sigh and crossed arms"
OTHER CHOICES **mimic** imitate · **supplement** add to · **encompass** include

31 **D** **interpret** explain the meaning
CLUE "explained what its symbols meant"
OTHER CHOICES **supplement** add to · **amplify** make stronger or louder · **mimic** imitate

32 **D** **hypothesize** propose a testable explanation
CLUE "then designed an experiment to test it"
OTHER CHOICES **mimic** imitate · **intensify** become stronger · **diminish** make smaller

33 **C** **speculate** guess without proof
CLUE "offering guesses instead of facts"
OTHER CHOICES **fluctuate** rise and fall · **proliferate** increase rapidly · **stagnate** stop developing

34 **A** **postulate** assume as a basis
CLUE "a small set of basic assumptions"
OTHER CHOICES **intensify** become stronger · **erode** wear away · **mimic** imitate

35 **B** **perceive** notice, see as
CLUE "one sees a calm landscape, while the other sees a storm"
OTHER CHOICES **erode** wear away · **encompass** include · **supplement** add to

36 **A** **mimic** imitate
CLUE "listeners often cannot tell the copy from the original"
OTHER CHOICES **encompass** include · **diminish** make smaller · **supplement** add to

37 **A** **derive** obtain from a source
CLUE "most of their income from tourism"
OTHER CHOICES **mimic** imitate · **encompass** include · **supplement** add to

38 **B** **encompass** include, cover
CLUE "everything from Bronze Age tools to modern digital art"
OTHER CHOICES **supplement** add to · **mimic** imitate · **erode** wear away

39 **C** **diminish** make smaller, shrink
CLUE "falling lower every year"
OTHER CHOICES **fluctuate** rise and fall · **proliferate** increase rapidly · **intensify** become stronger

40 **A** **erode** wear away
CLUE "slowly carving a deep canyon"
OTHER CHOICES **enhance** improve · **mimic** imitate · **supplement** add to

41 **C** **fluctuate** rise and fall
CLUE "soaring each summer and plunging each winter"
OTHER CHOICES **proliferate** increase rapidly · **emerge** come into view · **stagnate** stop developing

42 **D** **proliferate** increase rapidly
CLUE "from a dozen to several thousand"
OTHER CHOICES **stagnate** stop developing · **fluctuate** rise and fall · **diminish** make smaller

43 **B** **stagnate** stop developing
CLUE "no new businesses opened, wages stayed flat"
OTHER CHOICES **intensify** become stronger · **proliferate** increase rapidly · **emerge** come into view

44 **D** **emerge** come into view
CLUE "After years underground"
OTHER CHOICES **stagnate** stop developing · **diminish** make smaller · **fluctuate** rise and fall

45 **A** **evolve** develop gradually
CLUE "gradually, over millions of years"
OTHER CHOICES **diminish** make smaller · **stagnate** stop developing · **fluctuate** rise and fall

46 **A** **adapt** adjust to change
CLUE "burying themselves in mud until the rains returned"
OTHER CHOICES **proliferate** increase rapidly · **fluctuate** rise and fall · **stagnate** stop developing

47 **C** **intensify** become stronger
CLUE "growing stronger by the hour"
OTHER CHOICES **fluctuate** rise and fall · **diminish** make smaller · **stagnate** stop developing

48 **B** **amplify** make stronger or louder
CLUE "making even the quietest notes audible in the back row"
OTHER CHOICES **erode** wear away · **mimic** imitate · **encompass** include

49 **A** **enhance** improve
CLUE "hoping that the greenery and fragrance would attract more customers"
OTHER CHOICES **mimic** imitate · **diminish** make smaller · **erode** wear away

50 **A** **supplement** add to
CLUE "Her scholarship paid for tuition only"
OTHER CHOICES **mimic** imitate · **diminish** make smaller · **erode** wear away

51 **B** **surpass** exceed
CLUE "producing more cars than the old plant ever managed"
OTHER CHOICES **hypothesize** propose a testable explanation · **commemorate** honor the memory of · **renounce** give up formally

52 **D** **prevail** win out, be widespread
CLUE "win the trophy"
OTHER CHOICES **allude** refer to indirectly · **disparage** belittle · **stagnate** stop developing

53 **D** **deviate** depart from a course
CLUE "the approved flight path"
OTHER CHOICES **erode** wear away · **commemorate** honor the memory of · **endorse** publicly support

54 **B** **diverge** move apart
CLUE "the road split in two"
OTHER CHOICES **concede** admit reluctantly · **fluctuate** rise and fall · **mimic** imitate

55 **B** **mitigate** make less severe
CLUE "the walls could not stop the water, but they reduced the harm"
OTHER CHOICES **allude** refer to indirectly · **mimic** imitate · **hypothesize** propose a testable explanation

56 **D** **alleviate** relieve
CLUE "would ease the pain"
OTHER CHOICES **stagnate** stop developing · **proliferate** increase rapidly · **refute** prove wrong

57 **B** **ameliorate** make better
CLUE "the poor conditions in the old neighborhood"
OTHER CHOICES **commemorate** honor the memory of · **fluctuate** rise and fall · **deduce** reach by reasoning

58 **A** **exacerbate** make worse
CLUE "turning a small disagreement into a bitter feud"
OTHER CHOICES **endorse** publicly support · **clarify** make clear · **validate** prove valid

59 **C** **impede** slow down, block
CLUE "forcing the trucks to crawl"
OTHER CHOICES **endorse** publicly support · **hypothesize** propose a testable explanation · **evoke** bring to mind

60 **B** **hinder** hold back
CLUE "Without a reliable internet connection"
OTHER CHOICES **elicit** draw out · **interpret** explain the meaning · **commemorate** honor the memory of

61 **B** **preclude** make impossible
CLUE "making any second job impossible"
OTHER CHOICES **encompass** include · **lament** express regret · **mimic** imitate

62 **A** **inhibit** restrain
CLUE "leaving the ground around the tree bare"
OTHER CHOICES **hypothesize** propose a testable explanation · **endorse** publicly support · **dismiss** reject as unimportant

63 **D** **circumvent** get around
CLUE "sneaking in through a side gate"
OTHER CHOICES **lament** express regret · **amplify** make stronger or louder · **advocate** argue in favor of

64 **D** **counteract** act against
CLUE "its roots add nitrogen to the soil"
OTHER CHOICES **commemorate** honor the memory of · **speculate** guess without proof · **denounce** publicly condemn

65 **C** **stymie** block progress
CLUE "forcing her to start the search for money all over again"
OTHER CHOICES **acknowledge** admit · **commemorate** honor the memory of · **infer** conclude from clues

66 **B** **foster** encourage
CLUE "rewarding players who help teammates"
OTHER CHOICES **deviate** depart from a course · **refute** prove wrong · **circumvent** get around

67 **C** **facilitate** make easier
CLUE "allowing students to sign up in minutes"
OTHER CHOICES **postulate** assume as a basis · **critique** evaluate critically · **renounce** give up formally

68 **C** **suppress** hold back, stop
CLUE "by banning newspapers from printing it"
OTHER CHOICES **bolster** strengthen · **highlight** draw attention to · **corroborate** confirm with evidence

69 **D** **provoke** cause a reaction
CLUE "an angry response from thousands of listeners"
OTHER CHOICES **exemplify** be a typical example of · **renounce** give up formally · **speculate** guess without proof

70 **A** **overshadow** make seem less important
CLUE "drawing the audience's attention away from the music"
OTHER CHOICES **validate** prove valid · **adapt** adjust to change · **infer** conclude from clues

71 **A** **renounce** give up formally
CLUE "formally giving up everything he owned"
OTHER CHOICES **amplify** make stronger or louder · **derive** obtain from a source · **perceive** notice

72 **B** **reconcile** make compatible
CLUE "so that both could fit into one life plan"
OTHER CHOICES **proliferate** increase rapidly · **denounce** publicly condemn · **mimic** imitate

73 **C** **elicit** draw out
CLUE "detailed answers from nervous candidates, rather than simple yes-or-no replies"
OTHER CHOICES **surpass** exceed · **concede** admit reluctantly · **assert** state strongly

74 **B** **evoke** bring to mind
CLUE "bringing back afternoons spent in her grandmother's kitchen"
OTHER CHOICES **circumvent** get around · **fluctuate** rise and fall · **refute** prove wrong

75 **D** **illuminate** make clear
CLUE "making a confusing idea suddenly clear"
OTHER CHOICES **suppress** hold back · **erode** wear away · **commemorate** honor the memory of

76 **A** **ambiguous** open to more than one meaning
CLUE "the two companies each read it differently"
OTHER CHOICES **peripheral** of minor importance · **resilient** able to recover · **candid** honest

77 **C** **nuanced** showing subtle differences
CLUE "weighed its small benefits against its hidden costs"
OTHER CHOICES **resilient** able to recover · **peripheral** of minor importance · **ubiquitous** found everywhere

78 **D** **subtle** not obvious
CLUE "only a trained painter could notice it"
OTHER CHOICES **pervasive** spread everywhere · **substantial** large · **prominent** well known

79 **B** **pragmatic** practical
CLUE "chose whichever repair plan was cheapest"
OTHER CHOICES **obscure** unclear · **ambivalent** having mixed feelings · **impartial** fair

80 **A** **skeptical** doubtful
CLUE "had never been tested in a clinical trial"
OTHER CHOICES **peripheral** of minor importance · **ubiquitous** found everywhere · **inherent** built in

81 **B** **plausible** believable
CLUE "it explained every clue found at the scene"
OTHER CHOICES **explicit** clearly stated · **resilient** able to recover · **peripheral** of minor importance

82 **D** **credible** trustworthy
CLUE "a long record of accurate, carefully checked work"
OTHER CHOICES **elusive** hard to find or achieve · **ubiquitous** found everywhere · **ambivalent** having mixed feelings

83 **B** **implicit** suggested, not stated
CLUE "no one had ever written it down"
OTHER CHOICES **ubiquitous** found everywhere · **skeptical** doubtful · **resilient** able to recover

84 **A** **explicit** clearly stated
CLUE "stating exactly how many pages to write"
OTHER CHOICES **ambivalent** having mixed feelings · **peripheral** of minor importance · **obscure** unclear

85 **C** **obscure** unclear, little known
CLUE "known only to a handful of scholars"
OTHER CHOICES **pragmatic** practical · **credible** trustworthy · **prominent** well known

86 **D** **candid** honest, frank
CLUE "she always told them exactly what she thought"
OTHER CHOICES **peripheral** of minor importance · **pervasive** spread everywhere · **empirical** based on observation

87 **B** **ambivalent** having mixed feelings
CLUE "thrilled by the adventure but dreaded leaving her family behind"
OTHER CHOICES **resilient** able to recover · **substantial** large · **obscure** unclear

88 **D** **impartial** fair, neutral
CLUE "never favoring either the defendant or the prosecutor"
OTHER CHOICES **elusive** hard to find or achieve · **subtle** not obvious · **ubiquitous** found everywhere

89 **A** **empirical** based on observation
CLUE "gathered through careful measurement"
OTHER CHOICES **peripheral** of minor importance · **candid** honest · **ambivalent** having mixed feelings

90 **C** **peripheral** of minor importance
CLUE "the paragraph about the author's hobbies"
OTHER CHOICES **skeptical** doubtful · **resilient** able to recover · **ambivalent** having mixed feelings

91 **D** **prominent** well known, noticeable
CLUE "spot it from several miles away"
OTHER CHOICES **impartial** fair · **subtle** not obvious · **obscure** unclear

92 **C** **pervasive** spread everywhere
CLUE "seeping into every room of the house"
OTHER CHOICES **plausible** believable · **peripheral** of minor importance · **candid** honest

93 **A** **substantial** large, considerable
CLUE "nearly doubling in a single year"
OTHER CHOICES **peripheral** of minor importance · **candid** honest · **subtle** not obvious

94 **B** **inherent** built in, natural
CLUE "what is built into the nature of the market"
OTHER CHOICES **impartial** fair · **skeptical** doubtful · **candid** honest

95 **D** **resilient** able to recover
CLUE "reopening within a month"
OTHER CHOICES **explicit** clearly stated · **implicit** suggested · **elusive** hard to find or achieve

96 **A** **ubiquitous** found everywhere
CLUE "in classrooms, on buses, in restaurants"
OTHER CHOICES **skeptical** doubtful · **elusive** hard to find or achieve · **obscure** unclear

97 **B** **elusive** hard to find or achieve
CLUE "months in the mountains without catching even a glimpse"
OTHER CHOICES **candid** honest · **ubiquitous** found everywhere · **resilient** able to recover

98 **D** **anomaly** something unusual
CLUE "stood apart from all the others"
OTHER CHOICES **ceremony** a formal event · **paradox** seemingly contradictory truth · **harvest** gathering a crop

99 **D** **discrepancy** a mismatch
CLUE "which showed only 36 arriving"
OTHER CHOICES **ceremony** a formal event · **paradox** seemingly contradictory truth · **harvest** gathering a crop

100 **C** **paradox** seemingly contradictory truth
CLUE "sounds self-contradictory yet can turn out to be true"
OTHER CHOICES **anomaly** something unusual · **discrepancy** a mismatch · **ceremony** a formal event

Alphabetical index

acknowledge	Verb	admit, recognize
adapt	Verb	adjust to change
advocate	Verb	argue in favor of
alleviate	Verb	relieve
allude	Verb	refer to indirectly
ambiguous	Adjective	open to more than one meaning
ambivalent	Adjective	having mixed feelings
ameliorate	Verb	make better
amplify	Verb	make stronger or louder
anomaly	Noun	something unusual
assert	Verb	state strongly
attribute	Verb	credit to
bolster	Verb	strengthen
candid	Adjective	honest, frank
circumvent	Verb	get around
clarify	Verb	make clear
commemorate	Verb	honor the memory of
concede	Verb	admit reluctantly
contend	Verb	argue, claim
contradict	Verb	conflict with
corroborate	Verb	confirm with evidence
counteract	Verb	act against
credible	Adjective	trustworthy
critique	Verb	evaluate critically
deduce	Verb	reach by reasoning
denounce	Verb	publicly condemn
derive	Verb	obtain from a source
deviate	Verb	depart from a course
diminish	Verb	make smaller, shrink
discrepancy	Noun	a mismatch
dismiss	Verb	reject as unimportant
disparage	Verb	belittle
diverge	Verb	move apart
elaborate	Verb	explain in more detail
elicit	Verb	draw out
elusive	Adjective	hard to find or achieve

emerge	Verb	come into view
empirical	Adjective	based on observation
encompass	Verb	include, cover
endorse	Verb	publicly support
enhance	Verb	improve
erode	Verb	wear away
evoke	Verb	bring to mind
evolve	Verb	develop gradually
exacerbate	Verb	make worse
exemplify	Verb	be a typical example of
explicit	Adjective	clearly stated
facilitate	Verb	make easier
fluctuate	Verb	rise and fall
foster	Verb	encourage
highlight	Verb	draw attention to
hinder	Verb	hold back
hypothesize	Verb	propose a testable explanation
illuminate	Verb	make clear
impartial	Adjective	fair, neutral
impede	Verb	slow down, block
implicit	Adjective	suggested, not stated
imply	Verb	suggest indirectly
infer	Verb	conclude from clues
inherent	Adjective	built in, natural
inhibit	Verb	restrain
intensify	Verb	become stronger
interpret	Verb	explain the meaning
lament	Verb	express regret
mimic	Verb	imitate
mitigate	Verb	make less severe
nuanced	Adjective	showing subtle differences
obscure	Adjective	unclear, little known
overshadow	Verb	make seem less important
paradox	Noun	seemingly contradictory truth
perceive	Verb	notice, see as
peripheral	Adjective	of minor importance

pervasive	Adjective	spread everywhere
plausible	Adjective	believable
postulate	Verb	assume as a basis
pragmatic	Adjective	practical
preclude	Verb	make impossible
prevail	Verb	win out, be widespread
proliferate	Verb	increase rapidly
prominent	Adjective	well known, noticeable
provoke	Verb	cause a reaction
reconcile	Verb	make compatible
refute	Verb	prove wrong
reinforce	Verb	strengthen, make firmer
renounce	Verb	give up formally
resilient	Adjective	able to recover
skeptical	Adjective	doubtful
speculate	Verb	guess without proof
stagnate	Verb	stop developing
stymie	Verb	block progress
substantial	Adjective	large, considerable
substantiate	Verb	back up with proof
subtle	Adjective	not obvious
supplement	Verb	add to
suppress	Verb	hold back, stop
surpass	Verb	exceed
ubiquitous	Adjective	found everywhere
undermine	Verb	weaken, damage
underscore	Verb	emphasize
validate	Verb	prove valid



Thank you

Thank you for reading this guide all the way through. I hope it helps your SAT prep; good luck!

The math formula card, the hard question bank and the vocabulary guides in other languages are all on my site, plainprep.

Where to go next

- **Find your level.** 47 free questions with an answer key and a study plan.
- **Free study cards.** Punctuation & Grammar, Transitions & Connectors and the Math Formula Card (in English, like the SAT).
- **Practice banks.** Three question banks with every answer explained, and 10 free questions in each to try first.
- **All three banks together:** $11.99, instead of $15.97 bought separately.

Visit plainprep → plainprepsat.com

SAT is a registered trademark of the College Board. This guide is not affiliated with or endorsed by the College Board. The translations in this guide were made with AI. English definitions and example sentences are original.