

# AP English Language & Composition

## SAT Vocabulary Lists #1-13

This handout will review the SAT words that are commonly addressed on not only your SAT test, but also your AP CollegeBoard test. I recommend flash cards to commit these words to memory. Further, they are also beneficial to include in all writing in this class (e.g., blog, formal essays, timed assignments, etc.). While your Mountain Ridge list will contain seventeen lists total, there are a total of thirteen lists for the SAT specific words. After March, the main focus on the class will be on the AP exam. We will continue our studies of the MRHS lists after we complete the studies of the SAT words.

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### Lesson #1

1. **apathy** – lack of emotion or interest
2. **ambiguous** – having more than one meaning; vague
3. **fervent** – passionate
4. **vagrant** – a wandering homeless person; a tramp
5. **undermine** – to weaken; to wear the foundation of
6. **oblivious** – unaware; unconscious
7. **indifferent** – not caring one way or the other; lacking a preference; neutral
8. **obscure** – unclear; clouded; partially hidden; hard to understand
9. **objective** – without bias (*as opposed to subjective*)
10. **revere** – to worship
11. **discriminate** – to differentiate; to make a clear distinction; to see the difference
12. **embellish** – to add details; to exaggerate
13. **denounce** – to speak out against; to condemn
14. **innovate** – to be creative; to introduce something new
15. **stagnant** – not moving
16. **candid** – honest; frank
17. **impartial** – unbiased; neutral
18. **discern** – to distinguish one thing from another
19. **ostentatious** – showing off
20. **contentious** – quarrelsome

### Lesson #2

1. **reprove** – to scold; to find fault with
2. **pessimism** – gloominess; a belief that the bad guys always win
3. **cursor** – hasty, not thorough
4. **profligate** – extremely wasteful; wildly extravagant
5. **miser** – someone who hoards money
6. **jocular** – joking
7. **fracas** – uproar; brawl
8. **caricature** – a satiric portrait or representation
9. **corroborate** – to confirm
10. **precarious** – dangerously unstable
11. **expository** – explanatory
12. **bolster** – to support ; to prop up
13. **daunt** – to intimidate; to discourage
14. **inclined** – tending toward one direction
15. **uniform** – constant; without variety
16. **perceptive** – having keen understanding; discerning
17. **superficial** – shallow; on the surface only

18. **lucid** – clear; easy to understand (*elucidate*)
19. **immune** – safe from harm; protected
20. **aesthetic** – concerned with art or beauty (*not the same as ascetic*)

### Lesson #3

1. **prodigal** – extravagant; wasteful
2. **assess** – to estimate the value of; to measure
3. **deter** – to prevent, especially by threatening
4. **complacent** – smug; self-satisfied; overly confident
5. **contempt** – disdain; hatred
6. **eloquent** – speaking well; articulate
7. **virtue** – moral excellence
8. **vital** – essential; necessary
9. **guile** – cunning; deceitfulness (*not the same as guilt*)
10. **biased** – prejudiced; not neutral
11. **cancel** – to delete objectionable material (*not the same as censure*)
12. **vulnerable** – capable of being harmed
13. **hypocritical** – insincere
14. **eccentric** – odd; unusual; quirky
15. **disdain** – contempt; intense dislike
16. **abstract** – theoretical; lacking substance (*the opposite of concrete*)
17. **valid** – founded on fact or evidence
18. **subtle** – not obvious; hard to spot
19. **enigma** – mystery
20. **inevitable** – unavoidable; bound to happen

### Lesson #4

1. **inferred** – derived by reasoning; implied, as a conclusion
2. **diverse** – varied
3. **articulate** – speaking well
4. **apprehensive** – fearful; worried
5. **benevolent** – good; king-hearted; generous
6. **virulent** – very harmful (*like a virus*)
7. **pious (piety)** – deadly religious
8. **skeptical** – doubting
9. **provincial** – narrow-minded; unsophisticated
10. **resignation** – acceptance of a situation (*secondary meaning*)
11. **illuminate** – to light up; make clear
12. **resolution (resolve)** – determination (*also: the solution of a problem*)
13. **servile** – overly submissive; cringing; like a servant

14. **diligent** – hard-working
15. **refute** – to disprove
16. **anarchy** – lack of government; chaos
17. **miser** – one who saves greedily
18. **discord** – disagreement
19. **monotonous** – without variety; tiresome
20. **trivial** – unimportant; insignificant

### Lesson #5

1. **profound (profundity)** – deep; insightful
2. **enhance** – to improve; to augment
3. **phenomenon** – an observable fact or occurrence
4. **enduring** – lasting
5. **advocate** – to speak in favor of; to support
6. **solitude** – to state of being alone
7. **tentative** – temporary; not final
8. **contemporary** – living at the same time; modern
9. **provocative (provoke)** – exciting; attracting attention
10. **adversary** – an opponent; enemy
11. **gravity (grave)** – seriousness (*secondary meaning*)
12. **banal** – common; dull; ordinary
13. **depravity** – moral corruption
14. **temper** – to moderate; to soften
15. **censure** – to blame; to criticize (*not the same as censor*)
16. **extol** – to praise
17. **indulgent** – pampering oneself; satisfying one's own desires
18. **erratic** – irregular; without direction
19. **insipid** – bland; boring; tasteless
20. **euphony** – pleasant sound

### Lesson #6

1. **antagonist** – opposition; hostility; resistance
2. **arbitrary** – subject to individual judgment
3. **austere** – severe; without frills
4. **expedite (expedient)** – to make faster or easier
5. **heresy** – an opinion violently opposed to established beliefs
6. **compromise** – to settle by concession or surrender
7. **condescend** – to talk down to
8. **fallacious (fallacy)** – false; untrue
9. **intangible** – abstract; not capable of being touched or felt
10. **arrogant** – acting superior to others; snooty
11. **compatible** – able to co-exist; harmonious
12. **dubious** – doubtful
13. **solicit** – to ask for; to seek
14. **elusive (elude)** – tough to catch; hard to pin down
15. **facilitate** – to make easier; to help
16. **static** – stationary; not moving (*not the same as radio fuzz*)
17. **ironic** – satiric; unexpected
18. **irrational** – unreasonable; unpredictable
19. **dogmatic** – stubbornly opinionated
20. **flagrant** – shocking; outstandingly bad

### Lesson #7

1. **frivolous** – not serious; trivial; silly
2. **taciturn** – quiet; saying little
3. **infamous** – notorious; scandalous
4. **redundant** – repetitive; unnecessary; superfluous
5. **authoritarian** – like a dictator
6. **exhaustive** – thorough; complete
7. **profuse** – flowing freely; generous; excessive
8. **expedient** – useful for effecting a desired result
9. **fastidious** – not easy to please; overly critical
10. **prosaic** – uninspired; dull; banal
11. **philanthropy** – a desire to help mankind
12. **languid** – slow; tired; drooping; weak
13. **astute** – perceptive; clever
14. **authentic** – real; genuine
15. **brevity** – briefness
16. **relevant** – pertinent; important to know
17. **incoherent** – impossible to understand; chaotic
18. **mitigate** – to make milder; to make less severe
19. **reprehensible** – shameful; bad
20. **augment** – to add; to increase; to make bigger

### Lesson #8

1. **engender** – to create; to produce
2. **deride (derision)** – to ridicule; to make fun of
3. **acclaim** – praise; applause; admiration
4. **lethargic** – tired; languid; weak
5. **fanatic** – one who is very devoted to a cause or an idea
6. **novel** – new; unusual (*secondary meaning*)
7. **solemn** – serious; grave
8. **ambivalent** – undecided
9. **reticent** – quiet; uncommunicative; taciturn
10. **ferver** – passion; zeal; great enthusiasm
11. **scanty** – inadequate; minimal
12. **dispassionate** – free from passion or spirit
13. **pragmatic** – practical
14. **didactic** – instructive
15. **deference (defer)** – a show of respect
16. **alleviate** – to lighten or relieve
17. **vacillate** – to waiver between choices
18. **endorse** – to approve of; to give support to
19. **conspicuous** – easily seen; out in the open
20. **negligence** – carelessness; neglect; indifference

### Lesson #9

1. **ephemeral** – short-lived; fleeting; transitory
2. **relegate** – to dismiss; to an inferior person
3. **futile** – hopeless; worthless; useless
4. **condone** – to forgive; to overlook
5. **tranquility** – calmness
6. **dissent** – disagreement
7. **conciliate** – to soothe; to end a dispute; to reconcile
8. **incessant** – unceasing; never ending
9. **disparity** – inequality; difference
10. **disparage** – to speak badly of; to belittle
11. **conventional** – ordinary; customary; normal; traditional
12. **rigor** – harshness or severity

13. **auspicious** – favorable; positive
14. **universal** – existing or present everywhere
15. **fickle** – unpredictable; capricious; whimsical
16. **furtive** – secretive
17. **remorse** – sadness; regret
18. **repress** – to hold down
19. **gullible** – overly trusting; willing to believe anything
20. **respite** – a rest; a pause; a break

### Lesson #10

1. **scrutinize** – to examine closely
2. **coalesce** – to come together; to merge; to join
3. **orthodox** – standard; commonly accepted; conventional (*not just in religion*)
4. **innate** – inborn; inherited
5. **preclude** – to prevent; to make impossible
6. **efface** – to erase; to wipe out
7. **marred** – damaged; bruised
8. **ameliorate** – to make better; to improve
9. **prodigious** – of enormous quantity or size
10. **concise** – briefly and clearly stated
11. **immutable** – unchanging; permanent
12. **stoic** – indifferent to pleasure and pain; brave
13. **innocuous** – harmless
14. **indolence** – laziness
15. **benign** – harmless
16. **tedious** – boring; painstaking
17. **amiable** – friendly
18. **laud** – to praise
19. **caustic** – burning; uncomplimentary
20. **atrophy** – to waste away from lack of use

### Lesson #11

1. **meander** – to wander randomly
2. **instigate** – to start trouble
3. **heed** – to obey
4. **virtuoso** – an accomplished musician
5. **predecessor** – the person who came before another
6. **deplete** – to use up; to reduce
7. **compliant** – submissive; obedient
8. **inadvertent** – accidental; unintentional
9. **acquiesce** – to agree finally; to go along with something
10. **levity** – humor
11. **belittle** – to put down; to disparage
12. **extraneous** – irrelevant; extra; unnecessary
13. **digress** – to stray from the subject
14. **emulate** – to copy something admired; to imitate
15. **appease** – to make peace with; to satisfy
16. **sage (sagacious)** – a wise person
17. **nostalgic** – yearning for the good old days
18. **assuage** – to soothe
19. **saccharine** – overly sweet
20. **stanza** – a section of a poem

### Lesson #12

1. **jeopardy** – danger
2. **supercilious** – haughty; arrogant
3. **avarice** – greed
4. **pivotal** – important; critical; crucial
5. **blithe** – free-spirited; carefree
6. **scrupulous** – careful; diligent; moral
7. **volatile** – changeable; unstable; explosive
8. **voluminous** – very large; spacious
9. **peripheral** – on the edge; surrounding; unimportant
10. **hedonistic** – pleasure-seeking; indulgent
11. **amity** – friendship
12. **benefactor** – a generous donor; someone who helps
13. **apocryphal** – a doubtful origin; mythical
14. **slander** – to defame; to speak maliciously of someone
15. **animosity** – hatred
16. **stringent** – strict; harsh; severe
17. **hackneyed** – banal; over-used
18. **amass** – to accumulate; to pile up
19. **verbose** – wordily; overly talkative
20. **trepidation** – fear

### Lesson #13

1. **desecrate** – to profane a holy place
2. **fortuitous** – accidental; happening by chance or luck
3. **vehement** – urgent; passionate; forceful
4. **credulous** – gullible; overly trusting
5. **blasphemy** – heretical departure from accepted practice
6. **lax** – careless; not diligent; relaxed
7. **cryptic** – mysterious; puzzling; enigmatic
8. **hinder** – to obstruct
9. **esoteric** – understood only by a select few
10. **pretentious** – pompous; self-important
11. **incongruous** – not fitting in; out of place
12. **unprecedented** – occurring for the first time; novel; never seen before
13. **merger** – a joining; a uniting
14. **pedestrian** – common; ordinary; banal (*secondary meaning*)
15. **prudent** – careful; cautious
16. **exemplary** – outstanding; settling a great example
17. **sycophant** – a book licker; a brownnoser
18. **neutral** – unbiased; not taking sides; objective
19. **rescind** – to repeal; to take back; formally
20. **retract** – to take back (*e.g., a statement*)