

under control

SUBLIME (adj.): supreme, perfect

SUCCINCT (adj.): concise, terse, pithy

SUPERFICIAL (adj.): on the surface, lacking depth

T

TANGIBLE (adj.): able to be touched, solid

TERSE (adj.): short, to the point, succinct

TRANSIENT (adj.): fleeting, transitory

TREPIDATION (n.): fear

U

UNRULY (adj.): disobedient

V

VICARIOUS (adj.): experienced in an indirect or second-hand way

VIRTUOSO (n.): a skilled expert

W

WILY (adj.): tricky, clever, cunning

Z

ZEAL (n.): enthusiasm, zest

ZENITH (n.): highest point, peak

VOCABULARY BOOSTER

For success on the SAT®, in school, or at work

YOU'RE, LIKE,
SO TOTALLY
MAGNANIMOUS AND
ALTRUISTIC!

I LOVE IT WHEN
YOU SAY THAT...



Produced by **Gene McKenna**, Director of Ace In-Home Tutoring
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A

ABASH (v.): to make embarrassed or ashamed

ABORIGINAL (adj.): original

ABRIDGE (v.): to shorten something, especially a literary or artistic work

ABSTAIN (v.): to hold back from, refuse to participate in, refrain from

ACRIMONIOUS (adj.): bitter, vengeful

ACRID (adj.): bitter, pungent

ACUTE (adj.): sharp, perceptive

ADEPT (adj.): skillful

ADHERE (v.): to stick to

ADORN (v.): to decorate

ADROIT (adj.): skillful, adept

ADULATION (n.): praise, respect, admiration

AESTHETIC (adj.): pertaining to a sense of beauty

AFFABLE (adj.): friendly, personable, easy to get along with

AGRARIAN (adj.): having to do with agriculture

ALOOF (adj.): shy, reserved, removed, tending to remain apart

ALTRUISTIC (adj.): unselfish, generous, concerned about the well-being of others

AMEND (v.): to change, revise, fix

AMIALE (adj.): friendly, personable

ALLURE (n.): pull, attraction

AMASS (v.): to gather, accumulate

unnecessary

REFUTE (v.): to dispute, argue

REGAL (adj.): royal

REITERATE (v.): to repeat

REMINISCE (v.): to think over and discuss the past

RENOWN (n.): fame

REQUISITE (adj.): required

RESPLENDENT (adj.): glorious, radiant, beautiful

RETICENT (adj.): quiet

RETRIBUTION (n.): revenge, punishment

RETROACTIVE (adj.): active to a point in the past

REVERE (v.): to respect, admire

RUE (v.): to regret

RUSTIC (adj.): of or pertaining to the countryside

S

SAGACIOUS (adj.): sage-like, wise

SACRILEGIOUS (adj.): unholy, profane

SACROSCANT (adj.): sacred, holy

SCRUPULOUS (adj.): attentive to details, honest in dealings, conscientious

SERVILE (adj.): like a servant; submissive

SKEPTICAL (adj.): tending to doubt

SPORADIC (adj.): occurring at irregular intervals

STOIC (adj.): impassive, unmoved by extremes of emotion

SUBJUGATE (v.): to dominate, put

PLAUSIBLE (adj.) believable

PRAGMATIC (adj.): practical, sensible

PRECARIOUS (adj.): difficult, unsafe, potentially troublesome

PRETENTIOUS (adj.): acting in a superior or conceited manner

PRISTINE (adj.): beautiful, unspoiled

PROLIFERATION (n.): abundance

PROPHETIC (adj.) of or pertaining to a prophet; able to foresee the future

PROPONENT (n.): a supporter, someone in favor of something

PROPRIETY (n.): moral correctness

PROSAIC (adj.): dull, unimaginative

PROWESS (n.): skill, strength

PUNDIT (n.): learned person, scholar,

sage; prognosticator

Q

QUANDARY (n.): a state of uncertainty or perplexity; dilemma

QUINTESSENTIAL (adj.): having the pure essence of something

QUIXOTIC (adj.) pertaining to Don Quixote; idealistic in a doomed and impractical way

R

RAZE (v.): knock down, destroy, level

REBUTTAL (n.): a formal response in an argument or debate

RECLUSE (n.): a person who shuns society, a hermit

REDUNDANT (adj.): extra,

AMBIDEXTROUS (adj.): able to use both hands equally well

AMPLE (adj.): sufficient, enough or more than enough

ANARCHY (n.): breakdown or lack of rule or government, chaos

ANATHEMA (n.): a curse, something hated

ANNUL (v.): to make null and void

ANOINT (v.): to officially approve, consecrate

ANTAGONIST (n.): a person with determined opposition or hatred toward someone

ANTIQUATED (adj.): old-fashioned, antique-like

APPEASE (v.): to soothe, calm, put at ease

APPRISE (v.): to notify, inform

ARDUOUS (adj.): hard, difficult, exhausting

ASCERTAIN (v.): to uncover and verify, to make certain

ASCETIC (adj.): self-denying, devoted to simple and austere living

B

BOORISH (adj.): offensive, rude

BRAZEN (adj.): brash, extremely bold

BREVITY (n.): shortness, the quality of being brief

BUCOLIC (adj.): of or pertaining to the countryside, pastoral

BUREAUCRACY (n.): a large institution with many complex regulations

C

CANDOR (n.): honesty, straight talk

CARDINAL (adj.): main, most important

CELIBATE (adj.): remaining pure, refraining from sexual intercourse

CHAGRIN (n.): shame, embarrassment

CHASTE (adj.): pure

CLANDESTINE (adj.): secretive, hidden

COMPRISE (v.): to consist of, include

CONDESCEND (v.): to lower oneself; to patronize

CONFIDANT (n.): person with whom one can share a secret

CONGENIAL (adj.): pleasant,

friendly

CONSECRATE (v.): to make sacred

CONTRITE (adj.): apologetic, begging forgiveness

COSMOPOLITAN (adj.): worldly, having wide interests

COUP (n.): personal victory acquired in a single stroke, major accomplishment

CULPABLE (adj.): guilty

D

DELETERIOUS (adj.): harmful

DESPONDENT (adj.): downhearted, dejected

DIRGE (n.) music for funeral procession

DISCLOSE (v.): to open, admit, reveal

DISSIDENT (n.): one who opposes

O

OBLIVIOUS (adj.): unaware

OBSOLETE (adj.): out of date, no longer useful,

OMNIPOTENT (adj.): all-powerful

OMNISCIENT (adj.): all-knowing

OMNIVOROUS (adj.): eating all

ORNATE (adj.): highly decorative

ORTHODOX (adj.): traditional, conservative

OSTENTATIOUS (adj.): showy

OSTRACIZE (v.): to shun, cut out from the group

OVERT (adj.): open

P

PALPABLE (adj.): able to be touched, tangible

PARAGON (n.): model of perfection

PASTORAL (adj.): of the countryside; pertaining to a pastor

PATHOLOGICAL (adj.): pertaining to disease

PERSPICACIOUS (adj.): having insight, astute

PERTINENT (adj.): apt, suitable, related to the point at hand

PINNACLE (n.): highest point

PIOUS (adj.): holy, venerable

PITHY (adj.): short, concise, to the point

PLACATE (v.): to calm, soothe, pacify

L

LUCID (adj.): clear

LUDICROUS (adj.): laughable

M

MAGNANIMOUS (adj.): great in spirit, extremely generous

MAGNATE (n.): person of power or influence

MALEVOLENT (adj.): evil

MELANCHOLY (adj. / n.): sad, depressed; sadness, depression

MERCENARY (adj.): pertaining to acquiring money and financial gain

MERCURIAL (adj.): rapidly shifting, whimsical

MISANTHROPE (n.): one who hates people, or humanity, in general

MORBID (adj.): pertaining to death

MUNDANE (adj.): dull, boring, commonplace, extremely ordinary

MUSE (v. / n.): to ponder; inspiration

N

NARCISSIST (n.): one who is extremely self-centered and “in love with oneself”

NEMESIS (n.): enemy, foe

NOTORIETY (n.): being famous for a bad reason, infamous, notorious

NUANCE (n.): subtle or slight difference or variation

DISTRAUGHT (adj.): overcome by grief or despair

DOGMATIC (adj.): tending to hold very tightly to a belief or opinion

E

EBB (v.): to lessen, recede

ECLECTIC (adj.): diverse and wide-ranging in taste or choice

ECCENTRIC (adj.): odd, unusual, strange (as applied to personal behavior)

ELEGY (n.): poem or song expressing grief

EMBARGO (n.): ban on commerce or trade

EMBELLISH (v.): to decorate, make more attractive

EMINENT (adj.): well-known, having

high standing

EMPATHY (n.): ability to identify with the feelings of another

ENIGMA (n.) a puzzle, mystery

ENMITY (n.): mutual hatred, intense dislike

ENTAIL (v.): to require

EPITOME (n.): perfect example or embodiment

ERRATIC (adj.): unpredictable, varied

ERRONEOUS (adj.): incorrect, mistaken

ESOTERIC (adj.): hard to understand, known only to a select few

EULOGY (n.): words of praise, often given at a funeral

EXACERBATE (v.): to make worse

EXPUNGE (v.): to remove, cancel

EXTRICATE (v.): to remove,
especially from a difficult position

F

FAÇADE (n.): face, superficial
appearance (often false)

FALLACIOUS (adj.): false, misleading

FALLIBLE (adj.): open to error

FASTIDIOUS (adj.): paying close
attention to details

FATALIST (n.): one who believes
that life is largely predetermined and
shaped by fate

FEIGN (v.): to fake, pretend
FRACTION (adj.): tending to
misbehave, rowdy, unruly

FRENETIC (adj.): marked by frenzy

FRUGAL (adj.): interested in
conserving money, thrifty,
economical

G

GARISH (adj.): excessively bright,
gaudy

GENIAL (adj.): cheerful, friendly,
kind

H

HACKNEYED (adj.): overused,
unoriginal, trite

HARBINGER (n.): a forerunner

HEDONIST (n.): a person who
pursues pleasure, often to excess

I

IMPECCABLE (adj.): faultless, perfect

IMPERIOUS (adj.): arrogant,
haughty

IMPLICIT (adj.): implied

IMPUDENCE (n.): rudeness,
brashness, impertinence

IMPUNITY (n.): freedom from
punishment

INANE (adj.): stupid, pointless,
absurd

INDIGENT (adj.): poor

INNATE (adj.): natural, inborn

INDOLENT (adj.): lazy

INFAMOUS (adj.): famous for bad
deeds, notorious

INSIPID (adj.): dull, boring, lifeless

INSURGENT (n. / adj.): rebel /
rebellious

INSURRECTION (n.): rebellion,
uprising

INTEGRAL (adj.): essential,
necessary

INTROSPECTIVE (adj.): looking
inward

J

JADED (adj.): world-weary, suffering
from a surfeit of luxury, filled with
ennui

JUDICIOUS (adj.): wise, marked by
good judgment