

Vocabulary Booster for SAT/ACT

1. **Detrimental** - baleful/harmful/ damaging/ injurious/ disastrous/ noxious

Sample Sentence - 1) Your decision could be detrimental to the future of the company.

2) While the inclination to procrastinate is common, one must fully consider the detrimental impact of unnecessary delays.

3) Smoking is detrimental to your health.

2. **Mitigate** - lessen the damage/ weaken reduce/ diminish/ mollify

Synonyms/Phrases - to take the edge off something

Sample Sentence - 1) The UN is trying to strike a deal that will mitigate the crisis between the two countries

2) Taking time away from technology mitigates the damage that electronic devices may cause.

3. **Disinterested** - unbiased/ impartial/ fair/ just/ even handed

Synonyms/Phrases - free from discrimination

Sample Sentence - 1) A lawyer should provide disinterested advice.

2) Scientists, of course, can be expected to be impartial and disinterested.

3) Find a financial consultant who can offer completely independent and disinterested advice.

4. **Uninterested** - unconcerned/ indifferent/ wimpy/ laid back

Synonyms/Phrases - no damn given

Sample Sentence - 1) He seemed uninterested in our problems, so we stopped asking him for help.

2) She seemed completely uninterested in what I had to tell her about my new job.

3) I was so uninterested in the result that I didn't even bother to look at it.

5. **Illicit** - unlawful/ illegal/ forbidden by law/ illegitimate/ prohibited/ bootleg - opposite : legal/ ethical/ licit/ forthright /noble

Synonyms/Phrases - under the counter

Sample Sentence - 1) The illicit drug industry has an annual turnover of some £200 bn.

2) They were prosecuted for illicit liquor selling.

6. **Complicit** - involved in a negative way/ deceitful/ scheming

Sample Sentence - 1) Many of us have become complicit in fattening up our offspring.

2) The Government was complicit in the drive to build the wrong homes in the wrong places.

3) Charges against former employees accused of being complicit in the abuse were dropped in December.

7. **Imminent** - about to happen/ impending/ forthcoming/ at hand/ close in time/ on the way/ probable/ in the offing

Sample Sentence - 1) According to the weather report a rainstorm is imminent.
2) An announcement of further cuts in government expenditure is imminent.
3) He smiled in anticipation of her imminent arrival.

8. **Underscore** - emphasize/ call attention to/ to stress upon

Sample Sentence - 1) Data accumulated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics underscore this phenomenon.
2) Surveys of executives' agendas underscore how much can change in a short period.

9. **Undermine** - weaken/ damage/ impair/ wreck

Synonyms/Phrases - hollow out/ knock the bottom out

Sample Sentence - 1) Offering advice on each and every problem will undermine her feeling of being adult.
2) High-income tax can undermine work incentives.
3) He constantly tried to undermine her self confidence.

10. **Elicit** - draw out/ extract/ derive/ fetch/ evoke/ cause/ deduce/ bring forth/ bring to light

Sample Sentence - 1) I could elicit no response from him.
2) The goal is simply to elicit a response and build on it.
3) The test uses pictures to elicit words from the child.

11. **Complacent** - proud/ self satisfied/ contented/ smug/ self approving/ egoistic

Sample Sentence - 1) There's a danger of becoming complacent if you win a few games.
2) We must not be complacent about our achievements; there is still a lot to be done.

12. **Equanimity** - calmness/ composure/ poise/ stability/ aplomb

Sample Sentence - 1) His sense of humour allowed him to face adversaries with equanimity.
2) He received the bad news with surprising equanimity.

13. **Vociferous** - loud/ shrill/ noisy/ boisterous/ vehement/ loud-mouthed

Sample Sentence - 1) Local activist groups have become increasingly vociferous as the volume of traffic passing through the village has grown.
2) Evelyn was just about the most self-deluded person she had ever met- a vociferous pseudo-feminist.

14. **Impede** - act as an obstacle/ hinder/ obstruct/ hamper/ curb/ deter/ thwart

Synonyms/Phrases - hang up/ shut off

Sample Sentence - 1) The muddy roads impede our journey.
2) They were designed to create disorder and to impede the smooth transfer of power.

15. **Pertinence** - relevance/ appropriate/ purpose/ consistency(noun)

Synonyms/Phrases - appropriate, fitting, fit, suitable, applicable. (adjective)

Sample Sentence - 1) To ensure a prompt reply, please include all pertinent details in your email.
2) This remark has no pertinence or meaning in Rosaline's mouth.

16. **Persistence** - perseverance, tenacity, determination, dedication, commitment, doggedness, staying power

Synonyms/Phrases - the continued or prolonged existence of something

Sample Sentence - 1) A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed hopeless failure will turn to glorious success.
2) The persistence of cough in his daughter puzzled him.

17. **Trivial** - of little value or importance, unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential

Synonyms/Phrases - petty

Sample Sentence - 1) She showed her inexperience by asking lots of trivial questions.
2) It's a trivial matter and not worth fighting about.

18. **Egregious** -extraordinary in some bad way; glaring; flagrant, gross, outrageous, notorious, shocking

Sample Sentence -1) It was an egregious error for a statesman to show such ignorance.
2) In many emerging economies corruption is egregious overt.

19. **Squander** - waste, spend recklessly

Sample Sentence - 1) Harsh didn't squander his money on flashy cars or other vices.
2) Don't squander your leisure time hanging around doing nothing. Go out and do something active that will blow off steam and increase your energy.

20. **Rhetoric** - the art of effective/ persuasive writing

Sample Sentence - 1) His speech was dismissed as mere rhetoric by the opposition.
2) Cynics argue that the EU is stronger on rhetoric than on concrete action.