

Vocabulary Booster for SAT/ACT

1. **Vestige** - trace, hint, mark, sign, impression

Sample Sentence -1) There's not a vestige of truth in the story.
2) He showed no vestige of remorse for his crime.

2. **Partisan** - bias, one-sided, unfair, unjust

Sample Sentence -1) He is clearly too partisan to be a referee.
2) One is a responsible leader and the other a partisan poster boy.

3. **Construe** - interpret, analyse, elucidate

Sample Sentence -1) Different lawyers may construe the same law differently.
2) Why do you construe my silence as a sign of disapproval?

4. **Disseminate** - spread, circulate, distribute, propagate, publicize

Sample Sentence -1) The aim is to disseminate messages as widely as possible within a given community.
2) The Centre has instigated a Discussion Paper series to disseminate research findings.

5. **Erudite** - literate, well-educated, learned

Sample Sentence -1) You can maintain a clever, astute and erudite persona whether you're adolescent or octogenarian (a person who is between 80 and 89 years old).
2) The most erudite person and the most illiterate person.

6. **Cursory** - quick, not thorough, hurried, casual

Sample Sentence -1) He signed with only a cursory glance at the report.
2) After a cursory search, the bus was waved through.

7. **Expedient** - convenient, practical, pragmatic, gainful, tactful

Sample Sentence -1) It might be expedient not to pay him until the work is finished.
2) It is expedient to reduce unnecessary expenditure

8. **Affront** -an action or remark that causes outrage or offence

Sample Sentence -1) He regarded the comments as an affront to his dignity.
2) The play was considered an affront to public morals.

9. **Abstruse** - difficult to understand; obscure.

Sample Sentence -1) Your statement is a bit too abstruse. I am unable to understand it.
2) Jacques Lacan is very famous for his obscure abstruse thought.

10. **Pugnacious** - eager or quick to argue, quarrel, or fight.

Sample Sentence -1) When he was a child, he was pugnacious and fought with everyone.
2) My normally easygoing personality turned pugnacious.

11. **Exonerate** - release, discharge, relieve, free, liberate; excuse, exempt

Sample Sentence -1) Lyndon was exonerated from the accusation of cheating.
2) In a trial in March, a jury exonerated Connolly of harassing his former chief of staff.

12. **Propensity** -tendency, inclination, predisposition, proneness, proclivity, susceptibility, a penchant

Synonyms/Phrases - habit

Sample Sentence -1) Mr. Bint has a propensity to put off decisions to the last minute.
2) The propensity to hooliganism is inherent in every society.

13. **Enigma** - mystery, puzzle, riddle, conundrum, paradox, problem, quandary

Sample Sentence -1) Iran remains an enigma for the outside world.
2) I've known him for many years, but he remains something of an enigma to me.

14. **Adept** - proficient, accomplished, skillful, talented

Sample Sentence -1) He became adept at getting even the shyest students to talk.
2) Chimpanzees are adept climbers.

15. **Deleterious** - harmful, damaging, detrimental, injurious, inimical, hurtful, bad, adverse

Synonyms/Phrases - disadvantageous, unfavourable, unfortunate, undesirable

Sample Sentence - 1) These drugs have a proven deleterious effect on the nervous system.
2) Parental divorce has often been assumed to have deleterious effects on children.

16. **Proprietary** - owned by a person or company and sold under a trademark or patent; relating to owning something

Synonyms/Phrases - ownership, Behaving as if one owned something or someone

Sample Sentence -1) The company has a proprietary right to the property.
2) 'Xerox' is a proprietary name and may not be used by other makers of photocopiers

17. **Pre-empt** - Take action in order to prevent (an anticipated event) happening;

Synonyms/Phrases - forestall, seize, arrogate

Sample Sentence - 1) Special Forces are often deployed to preclude(prevent), preempt and resolve terrorist incidents abroad.

2) We arrived early at the theatre so as to preempt the front seats.

18. **Incongruous** - odd, absurd, bizarre, offkey, extraneous, inappropriate, unsuitable, unsuited

Synonyms/Phrases - discordant, dissonant, not in harmony

Sample Sentence - 1) Such traditional methods seem incongruous in our technical age.

2) The modern huge building looks incongruous in that oldfashioned village.

3) It seemed incongruous having a dance-band at the funeral

19. **Precocious** - having developed certain abilities or inclinations at an earlier age than is usual or expected.

Synonyms/Phrases - mature, gifted, talented, forward

Sample Sentence - 1) A precocious child, she went to university at the age of 15.

2) That child is far too precocious.

20. **Eccentric** - unconventional, uncommon, abnormal, irregular, aberrant, anomalous, odd, queer, strange, peculiar, weird, bizarre

Synonyms/Phrase -off-center, outlandish, freakish, capricious

Sample Sentence -1) Geniuses are supposed to be eccentric and hopelessly impractical.

2) He has an eccentric disposition and always stands aloof from anyone else.