

## Advanced vocabulary development

Ages  
16+

PSAT  
✓

SAT  
✓

GRE  
✓

## Word list 2

Group 1		<u>Notes</u>
Acrid	sharp; pungent (used of smells and tastes)	.....
Boorish	ill-mannered	.....
Cynical	believing that people act only out of selfish motives	.....
Epistle	a letter (form of communication)	.....
Heresy	against orthodox opinion	.....
Lance	spear; spike; javelin	.....
Obscure	difficult to understand; partially hidden	.....
Poignant	deeply moving; strongly affecting the emotions	.....
Respite	a break; intermission	.....
Terse	concise; to the point	.....

Group 2		<u>Notes</u>
Acrophobia	fear of heights	.....
Bourgeois	middle class	.....
Debility	weakness; incapacity	.....
Epistolary	concerned with letters; through correspondence	.....
Hiatus	interruption; pause	.....
Languid	tired; slow	.....
Obscured	hidden; covered; buried	.....
Poised	calm; collected; self-possessed	.....
Resplendent	shining; glowing	.....
Therapeutic	medicinal; curative	.....

<b>Group 3</b>		<u>Notes</u>
Acuity	sharpness (mental or visual)	.....
Braggart	someone who boasts	.....
Debunking	exposing false claims or myths	.....
Epitomized	typified; characterized; personified	.....
Hidebound	rigid in opinions	.....
Languish	decay; fade away; get weaker	.....
Obsequious	servile; submissive	.....
Polemical	causing debate or argument	.....
Restorative	a tonic	.....
Thwart	prevent; frustrate	.....

<b>Group 4</b>		<u>Notes</u>
Adamant	forceful; inflexible	.....
Brawny	muscular	.....
Decathlon	an athletic competition with ten events	.....
Equivocate	speak ambiguously; avoid telling the truth	.....
Hieroglyphics	1. picture writing; 2. writing which is difficult to read or enigmatic	.....
Larceny	theft; robbery; stealing	.....
Obsession	a dominating concern	.....
Ponderous	weighty; slow and heavy	.....
Retention	preservation; withholding	.....
Timorous	cowardly; fearful	.....

Group 5		<u>Notes</u>
Adroit	skilful	.....
Brevity	being brief	.....
Decorum	dignified, correct behavior [ <i>decorous (a)</i> ]	.....
Err	make a mistake	.....
Hinder	obstruct	.....
Largess	generosity	.....
Obsolete	no longer valid	.....
Pontificate	speak pompously or dogmatically	.....
Reticent	restrained; holding something back; uncommunicative	.....
Tirade	stream of verbal abuse	.....

Group 6		<u>Notes</u>
Adulation	strong admiration; worship	.....
Bristle	to show irritation	.....
Decoy	lure; trap; trick	.....
Erratic	wandering; irregular	.....
Histrionic	theatrical; exaggerated	.....
Laud	praise	.....
Obstreperous	noisy and boisterous	.....
Portend	foretell	.....
Retraction	withdrawal; cancellation of a statement	.....
Titter	giggle quietly	.....

<b>Group 7</b>		<u>Notes</u>
Adversity	hardship	.....
Broach	start to discuss; approach	.....
Deference	respect	.....
Esoteric	obscure and difficult to understand	.....
Hoary	old	.....
Lavish	on a grand scale; wasteful	.....
Obtuse	mentally dull	.....
Portent	a warning sign; omen	.....
Revere	worship	.....
Tome	large book	.....

<b>Group 8</b>		<u>Notes</u>
Advocate	support	.....
Brusque	blunt; abrupt	.....
Defoliate	cause leaves to fall off	.....
Espouse	promote; take up; support	.....
Hone	sharpen; increase; whet	.....
Lax	careless; not strict	.....
Obviate	avoid; make unnecessary	.....
Poseur	someone who puts on an act	.....
Riddled	full of (usually full of holes)	.....
Torpid	inactive; lazy; stagnant	.....

<b>Group 9</b>		<u>Notes</u>
Aesthetic	concerning art or beauty	.....
Bulwark	fortification; barricade; wall	.....
Defunct	no longer in existence	.....
Etymology	the study of word origins	.....
Hyperbole	grossly exaggerated speech	.....
Legend	1. key to map; 2. myth or story	.....
Odious	hateful	.....
Posterity	future generations	.....
Rife	common	.....
Torpor	dormancy; sluggishness; inactivity	.....

<b>Group 10</b>		<u>Notes</u>
Affable	friendly; social; easygoing	.....
Bureaucracy	officialdom	.....
Degradation	deprivation; poverty; debasement	.....
Eulogy	praise	.....
Hypochondriac	a person obsessed with health; having imaginary illnesses	.....
Legion	in large numbers	.....
Officious	domineering; intrusive; meddlesome	.....
Posthumous	after death	.....
Rigor	thoroughness	.....
Totter	walk unsteadily	.....