

Words are listed with a sample part of speech and definition or possible synonym.

Note that denotative and connotative usages of words may be used on the tests.

1. **abate** v. Subside or moderate
2. **abet** v. To help or encourage a bad act
3. **abrogate** v. Annul
4. **absolute** adj. Complete; certain
5. **abstemious** adj. Eating sparingly
6. **acerbity** n. Bitterness in mood or tone
7. **acquiesce** v. Recognize; admit
8. **adherent** n. Supporter; follower
9. **adroit** adj. Skillful; nimble
10. **adversary** n. Opponent
11. **adze** n. Ax-like tool with a curved blade
12. **affable** adj. Easy to get along with
13. **aggregate** adj. Amounting to a whole
14. **alienate** v. Make hostile; separate
15. **altruistic** adj. Unselfishly generous; concerned for others
16. **amiable** adj. Warm, friendly
17. **antidote** n. Medicine to counteract a poison or disease
18. **antithesis** n. Contrast; direct opposite of or to
19. **aquifer** n. Underground water bed
20. **arroyo** n. Gully
21. **ascetic** adj. Practicing self-denial
22. **assuage** v. To ease or lessen
23. **atrophy** v. To waste away
24. **audacious** adj. Daring; bold
25. **auger** n. Spiral drill bit
26. **awl** n. Pointed tool for piercing holes
27. **baneful** adj. Harmful
28. **bayou** n. Marshy waterway
29. **beaucoup** adj. Lots of
30. **belie** v. Contradict; give a false impression
31. **biosphere** n. Parts of Earth that support life
32. **blithe** adj. Cheerful, lighthearted
33. **brevity** n. Conciseness; briefness
34. **bucolic** adj. Rustic, rural, pastoral
35. **busk** vi. To perform for donations in a public place
36. **cacophonous** adj. Discordant; inharmonious
37. **cambered** adj. Arched
38. **cant** v. To tilt or slant at an angle
39. **cartography** n. Art of mapmaking
40. **casters** n. Swiveling wheels
41. **certitude** n. Certainty
42. **chandler** n. Maker of candles
43. **chiffonade** n. Shredded herbs or vegetables
44. **cipher** n. Zero
45. **citadel** n. Removed place of safety
46. **clement** adj. Mild
47. **coercion** n. Use of force to get someone's compliance
48. **comestible** adj. Edible
49. **compunction** n. Misgiving or guilt feeling
50. **conciliatory** adj. reconciling; appeasing
51. **condone** v. Overlook voluntarily; forgive
52. **contentious** adj. Quarrelsome
53. **copious** adj. Plentiful
54. **corollary** n. Natural result or logical follow-up
55. **coxswain** n. Sailor in charge
56. **cryptic** adj. mysterious; secret
57. **culpable** adj. Guilty
58. **dais** n. raised platform
59. **daunt** v. Intimidate; frighten
60. **debilitate** v. Weaken
61. **decorum** n. Correct or expected behavior
62. **denounce** v. Condemn; criticize
63. **depict** v. Portray; describe
64. **deride** v. Ridicule; make fun of
65. **desiccate** v. To dry up, dehydrate
66. **detritus** n. Debris
67. **diffident** adj. Lacking self-confidence
68. **digression** n. Wandering away from the subject
69. **discursive** adj. Digressing; rambling
70. **dismantle** v. Take apart
71. **disputatious** adj. Argumentative
72. **dissuade** v. Advise against
73. **diverse** adj. Differing in some characteristics
74. **dogmatic** adj. Opinionated; arbitrary
75. **dolorous** adj. Marked by misery or grief
76. **dowel** n. Peg
77. **ecology** n. Relationship of

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- organisms to their environment
78. **edification** n. Act or process of instruction, improving
79. **eloquence** n. Expressiveness; persuasive speech
80. **enervate** v. Weaken
81. **engender** v. Cause; produce
82. **ephemeral** adj. Of brief duration, short-lived
83. **epicure** n. One with sensitive or discriminating tastes
84. **equanimity** n. Calmness of temperament
85. **erudite** adj. Learned; scholarly
86. **eruption** n. Act of bursting from limits or restraint
87. **espouse** v. Adopt; support
88. **essence** n. Entity
89. **euphemism** n. Mild expression used in place of an unpleasant one
90. **eureka** adj. Marked by sudden triumphant discovery
91. **expedient** adj. Suitable to achieve a particular end
92. **explicit** adj. Totally clear
93. **facetious** adj. Meant to be humorous; witty
94. **fastidious** adj. Difficult to please
95. **ferrule** n. Protective cap
96. **filch** v. To steal in a sneaky way
97. **flanged** adj. With a protruding rim
98. **flippant** adj. Lacking proper seriousness
99. **flora** n. Plant life
100. **florid** adj. Very flowery in style
101. **fricassee** vt. To cut and stew in stock
102. **furtive** adj. Stealthy; sneaky
103. **garrulous** adj. Wordy; talkative
104. **gauge** n. Measuring instrument
105. **gazetteer** n. Dictionary of place-names
106. **geoduck** n. Large Pacific clam
107. **goad** v. To urge onward
108. **grommet** n. Ring that reinforces
109. **gustatory** adj. Relating to taste
110. **hamper** v. Obstruct
111. **hegemony** n. Domination
112. **heresy** n. Opinion contrary to popular belief
113. **hiatus** n. Gap or lapse in action
114. **hierarchy** n. Arrangement by rank or standing
115. **hogback** n. Steep-sided ridge
116. **illuminate** v. Brighten; enlighten
117. **immutable** adj. Unchangeable
118. **imparity** n. Inequality, disparity
119. **impasse** n. A deadlock; a dead end or cul-de-sac
120. **impeccable** adj. Faultless
121. **impetuous** adj. Violent; hasty
122. **implausible** adj. Unlikely; unbelievable
123. **implement** v. Put into effect
124. **impunity** n. Freedom from penalty
125. **inchoate** adj. Formless, incoherent
126. **incoherent** adj. Unintelligible; muddled
127. **inconsequential** adj. Insignificant; unimportant
128. **incorrigible** adj. Uncorrectable
129. **indigent** adj. poor; destitute
130. **inexorable** adj. Relentless, inflexible
131. **infiltrate** v. Pass into or through
132. **infinitesimal** adj. Exceedingly small
133. **innocuous** adj. Harmless
134. **inscrutable** adj. Hard to understand
135. **insinuate** v. Hint; imply
136. **interpolate** v. To add by insertion
137. **intransigence** n. Refusal of any compromise
138. **inveigle** v. To convince by cleverness or flattery
139. **irrelevant** adj. Not applicable
140. **jargon** n. Language used by a special group
141. **jostle** v. To stir up; agitate
142. **kefir** n. Fermented milk
143. **kindle** v. Start a fire; inspire
144. **kludge** n. Makeshift solution
145. **laconic** adj. Concise in speech almost to the point of rudeness
146. **lassitude** n. Weariness
147. **latitude** n. Distance north or south from the equator
148. **legato** adv. Smoothly

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149. **lenitive** adj. Soothing
 150. **lithe** adj. Flexible and graceful
 151. **loupe** n. Magnifier
 152. **machination** n. Scheme
 153. **malevolent** adj. Exuding evil or intense hatred
 154. **manifold** adj. Diverse
 155. **materialism** n. Preoccupation with physical comforts and things
 156. **meager** adj. Scanty; inadequate
 157. **melancholy** adj. Gloomy
 158. **mendicant** adj. Begging
 159. **mercenary** adj. Interested in money or gain
 160. **mesclun** n. Mix of greens
 161. **methodical** adj. Systematic
 162. **mince** v. To cut into tiny sections
 163. **misanthrope** n. One who hates mankind
 164. **morose** adj. Ill-humored; sullen
 165. **mountebank** n. Quack; charlatan
 166. **mundane** adj. worldly as opposed to spiritual
 167. **myriad** adj. Countless
 168. **nadir** n. Lowest point or absolute bottom
 169. **nefarious** adj. Very wicked
 170. **noisome** adj. Malodorous
 171. **nonet** n. Composition for nine voices
 172. **nuance** n. Shade of difference in meaning or color
 173. **nuptial** adj. Relating to marriage
 174. **objective** n. Goal; aim
 175. **oblique** adj. Slanting
 176. **obsequious** adj. Slavishly attentive; servile
 177. **obtuse** adj. Blunt; stupid
 178. **opaque** adj. Dark; not transparent
 179. **ossify** v. To turn hardened and callous
 180. **ostentatious** adj. Showy; pretentious
 181. **pacifist** n. One opposed to force
 182. **painstaking** adj. Showing hard work
 183. **paradigm** n. Model; example
 184. **paraphrase** v. To reword written material
 185. **parochial** adj. Narrow in outlook; related to parishes
 186. **partial** adj. Biased; having a liking for something
 187. **paucity** n. Shortage
 188. **pennate** adj. Like a wing or feather
 189. **peremptory** adj. Allowing no disagreement
 190. **perjury** n. False testimony while under oath
 191. **pernicious** adj. Noxious
 192. **perquisite** n. something held or claimed as an exclusive right or possession
 193. **piquant** adj. Spicy
 194. **plaudits** n. Approval
 195. **plausible** adj. Having a show of truth but open to doubt
 196. **plaque** n. Commemorative or identifying inscribed tablet
 197. **plethora** n. Abundance
 198. **pomposity** n. Self-important behavior
 199. **pragmatic** adj. Practical (as opposed to idealistic)
 200. **prattle** v. Babble
 201. **precipitate** adj. Rash; premature
 202. **precocious** adj. Having unusually early mental development
 203. **prerogative** n. Special right
 204. **primordial** adj. From earliest times
 205. **problematic** adj. Doubtful; unsettled
 206. **proclivity** n. Inclination; natural tendency
 207. **profusion** n. Overabundance
 208. **prolific** adj. Extremely fruitful or productive
 209. **prosaic** adj. Dull and unimaginative
 210. **proscribe** v. To outlaw
 211. **pugnacity** n. Combativeness
 212. **purport** v. To appear to be something; to profess
 213. **quay** n. Wharf
 214. **quiescent** adj. At rest; dormant
 215. **raconteur** n. Fine storyteller
 216. **rancor** n. Bitterness; hatred
 217. **ratite** n. Flightless bird
 218. **raucous** adj. Harsh; disorderly

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219. **recluse** n. Hermit; loner
 220. **relevant** adj. Pertinent
 221. **relinquish** v. Give up something with reluctance
 222. **remuneration** n. Payment for goods or services
 223. **renegade** n. Deserter; traitor
 224. **replete** adj. Filled to the brim or to the point of being stuffed
 225. **respite** n. Interval of relief
 226. **retract** v. Withdraw; take back
 227. **rudimentary** adj. Not developed; crude
 228. **sagacity** n. Wisdom and discernment
 229. **sage** n. Person celebrated for wisdom
 230. **sarcasm** n. Scornful remarks; stinging rebuke
 231. **scanty** adj. Meager; insufficient
 232. **scree** n. Loose rocks
 233. **seclusion** n. Isolation
 234. **sedentary** adj. Requiring sitting
 235. **sedulous** adj. Done with care and diligence
 236. **segue** v. Transition
 237. **seismic** adj. Related to earthquakes
 238. **serrated** adj. Toothed like a saw
 239. **ska** n. Jamaican music
 240. **skeptic** n. Someone inclined to doubt, to be disbelieving
 241. **slothful** adj. Lazy
 242. **slough** n. Swamp
 243. **solemnity** n. Seriousness; gravity
 244. **somber** adj. Gloomy; depressing
 245. **specious** adj. plausible, but false underneath
 246. **sporadic** adj. Occurring irregularly
 247. **spurious** adj. Fake
 248. **squander** v. Waste
 249. **strata** n. Rock layers
 250. **subtlety** n. perceptiveness; ingenuity
 251. **succinctly** adv. Concisely
 252. **succulent** adj. Juicy
 253. **supercilious** adj. Overly proud
 254. **superficial** adj. Excessive; unnecessary
 255. **suppress** v. Crush; inhibit
 256. **surpass** v. To exceed expectations
 257. **sycophant** n. Servile flatterer; yes man
 258. **tabulate** v. Count or arrange systematically
 259. **tangential** adj. Peripheral
 260. **tarn** n. Mountain lake
 261. **temerity** n. Unwise boldness
 262. **temper** v. Moderate; tone down or restrain
 263. **tenacity** n. Firmness; persistence
 264. **terra firma** n. Dry land
 265. **tome** n. A large or scholarly book
 266. **toothsome** adj. Delicious
 267. **torpor** n. Lethargy; sluggishness
 268. **torque** n. Twisting force
 269. **trenchant** adj. Keenly perceptive
 270. **trepidation** n. Fear; nervous apprehension
 271. **troika** n. Group of three
 272. **turbulence** n. State of violent agitation
 273. **turmoil** n. Great commotion and confusion
 274. **umami** n. Savory taste
 275. **uniformity** n. Sameness; monotony
 276. **universal** adj. Characterizing or affecting all; present everywhere
 277. **unkempt** adj. Disheveled; uncared for in appearance
 278. **unremitting** adj. Constant, incessant
 279. **usurp** v. Seize another's power or rank
 280. **vacillate** v. Waver; fluctuate
 281. **validate** v. To affirm, corroborate
 282. **vigor** n. Active strength
 283. **vilify** v. Slander
 284. **virtuoso** n. Highly skilled artist
 285. **viscous** adj. Resistance to flowing in a liquid
 286. **vise** n. Clamp that holds an object in place
 287. **volatile** adj. Changeable; explosive
 288. **volition** n. Act of making a choice or decision

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- 289. **voluble** adj. Fluent; talkative
- 290. **voluminous** adj. Bulky; large
- 291. **whimsical** n. Capricious; fanciful
- 292. **willful** adj. Intentional;
headstrong
- 293. **winsome** adj. Very appealing;
sweet
- 294. **withhold** v. refuse to give; hold
back
- 295. **woodshed** vi. To practice on a
musical instrument
- 296. **wreak** v. To inflict misery upon,
punish, or avenge
- 297. **zephyr** n. Gentle breeze
- 298. **ziggurat** n. Pyramidal tower
- 299. **zori** n. Flat sandal
- 300. **zydeco** n. Music of southern
Louisiana