

TOP 100 TOEFL Vocabulary Words

abash(v)

to make someone feel embarrassed, ashamed, or uncomfortable

SYNONYMS: confound, discomfit, shame, embarrass

ANTONYMS: embolden, reassure

Carol was abashed at her children's rowdy behavior. (*embarrassed, ashamed*)
"I really shouldn't have done that," John said abashedly. (*in an ashamed manner*)

Abomination (n)

1. something horrible or shameful; 2. intense dislike coupled with disgust; 3. an action that is vicious or vile

SYNONYMS: anathema, horror, atrocity, antipathy, revulsion, aversion, repugnance, disgust, loathing

ANTONYMS: enjoyment, delight, adoration

Randolph had always regarded Roger's habit of lying with abomination. (*aversion, disgust*)
The mistreatment of children at the daycare center was an abomination. (*horror, atrocity*)

Adaptation (n)

1. The process of adapting or adjusting to something; 2. the change resulting from adjusting to the environment or new circumstances; 3. the modification of something into a new form for a specific purpose

SYNONYMS: modification, adjustment, acclimation, conformation, alteration, change, variation, re-working

ANTONYMS: constancy

The movie was an adaptation of a best-selling novel. (*re-working, modification*)
Many European countries have found the adaptation from their previous currency to the EURO difficult. (*change, adjustment*)

Adhere(v)

1. to follow a rule or instructions; 2. to keep to an agreement; 3. to hold firmly to a belief, idea, or opinion; 4. to stick to the surface or an object

SYNONYMS: comply, obey, conform, heed, stick, cling to, attach, support

ANTONYMS: loosen, separate

We are being more stringent in making sure people adhere to coding standards and product check-off lists before we ship products. (*conform, stick*)
John forced himself to adhere to a strict diet in order to lose weight, but for most people, this type of weight loss is tough to maintain, because adherence to strict diet guidelines can be very difficult. (*stick, comply*)

adorn(v)

to enhance or make more attractive with decoration or ornament

SYNONYMS: decorate, beautify, embellish, ornament, garnish

ANTONYMS: simplify

The beautiful, white horses were adorned with sparkling silver plumes. (*decorated, beautified*)
Such extravagant adornment is really not suitable for everyday wear. (*ornamentation*)

Advent(n)

the beginning or coming of something hoped for or of significance

SYNONYMS: dawning, onset, arrival

ANTONYMS: end, continuance

The advent of spring meant the deer would have a plentiful food supply once again. (*arrival, onset*)
With the advent of industrial machinery, many tasks which had previously been performed by humans could now be automated. (*arrival*)

alleviate (v)

1. to relieve or lessen; 2. to make easier

SYNONYMS: mitigate, assuage, allay, lessen, lighten, relieve, ease

ANTONYMS: aggravate, intensify, increase, augment

The medication instantly alleviated the patient's pain. (*relieved, lightened*)
Jon's weekly phone calls were able to alleviate some of his mother's worry while he was stationed overseas. (*assuage, ease*)

Allot(v)

1. to give out in small portions; 2. to allow to have

SYNONYMS: allocate, apportion, dispense, distribute, dole out, give out

ANTONYMS: withhold, keep, retain

Each candidate was allotted five minutes for his speech and three minutes for a rebuttal. (*apportioned, given*)
The bus driver allotted all of the front seats to the best-behaved children. (*gave out, allocated*)

Assimilate(v)

1. to make similar, esp. by absorption into a culture or population; 2. to take into the mind or system

SYNONYMS: integrate, incorporate, absorb, adjust, acculturate, adapt, conform, acclimatize, digest, grasp

ANTONYMS: separate, misunderstand, reject

She was quick to assimilate the new information, and that was part of what made her such a valuable employee. (*grasp, absorb*)
The children were quicker to assimilate than their parents, adopting American dress, language, and culture with relative ease. (*adapt, conform*)

Autonomous(adj)

1. existing as an independent entity (especially in government); 2. free from external constraint; 3. able to make free and independent decisions

SYNONYMS: independent, self-governing, self-sufficient, free, self-contained

ANTONYMS: controlled, governed, ruled, affiliated

Some people have expressed the opinion that California should secede from the United States and become an autonomous government. (*independent, self-governing*)
I'm sorry, but you just don't have the autonomy to make those kinds of decisions on your own; next time, check with me first.
(*freedom, independence*)

Banter(n,v)

(n.) playful, lighthearted, and usually witty, teasing; (v.) to tease or joke playfully and wittily

SYNONYMS: (n.) repartee, joking, teasing; (v.) tease, joke

ANTONYMS: criticize, flatter

He was known for his quick wit and clever banter. (*joking, teasing*)
The friends could banter for hours, always laughing, even at themselves. (*joke, tease*)

Beckon(v)

1. to motion or signal your hand or head in a way that tells someone to come nearer; 2. to attract people or draw people to you; 3. to increase the likelihood of something happening

SYNONYMS: wave, summon, nod, signal, attract, gesture, draw, pull, entice, allure

ANTONYMS: dismiss, send away, reject

John waved his hand and beckoned me to come into his office. (*invited, summoned*)
The promise of freedom and opportunity beckons people to the United States. (*attracts, allures*)

Bestow(v)

1. to give (something) as an honor or present; 2. to stow, pack, or store something (archaic use)

SYNONYMS: give, present, confer, grant, bequeath

ANTONYMS: take

He was bestowed an honorary degree from the University for delivering a commencement speech to the graduates. (*awarded, granted*)
The President will bestow him with the Freedom Award. (*present*)

Cantankerous(adj)

quarrelsome and ill-natured

SYNONYMS: cranky, bad-tempered, irritable, irascible, argumentative, belligerent, grouchy

ANTONYMS: good natured, cheerful, friendly

As a waiter, I had the unfortunate experience of serving many cantankerous customers. (*irritable, ill-natured*)
I was miserable at my old job because my boss was so cantankerous. (*grouchy, argumentative*)

Caricature(v)

1. an extreme description or exaggeration of someone or something done for comic effect; 2. creation of such comic representations

SYNONYMS: parody, cartoon, exaggeration, spoof, burlesque

His caricatures of popular political figures always added a bit of humor to the magazine. (*spoofs, exaggerations*)
Saturday Night Live often uses caricature to make fun of the people on the show as well as to parody well-known figures. (*parody, burlesque*)

Civil(adj)

1. having to do with citizens or the general population; 2. activities of citizens, as opposed to church or military; 3. polite and courteous, but restrained; 4. socially acceptable, civilized; 5. relating to civil law as opposed to criminal law

SYNONYMS:public, civic, civilian, cordial, respectful, polite

ANTONYMS:uncivilized, ill-mannered

She felt that her civil rights were violated when the police officer cursed at her. (*civilian, public*)
It is important to be civil even to those people who may not share your point of view. (*cordial, mannerly*)

Cliché(n)

1. a trite expression or phrase; 2. an overused idea or theme

SYNONYMS: platitude, bromide, truism, saying, banality

Try as he might, the groom found it difficult to write vows that were free of clichés used by so many couples before. (*commonplaces, platitudes*)
I know this is a total cliché, but it's true: my wedding day was the happiest day of my life. (*banality, common statement*)

cogent (adj)

convincing enough to compel belief or agreement--forceful and convincing

SYNONYMS: persuasive, convincing, compelling, coherent, trenchant, effective

ANTONYMS: unconvincing, ineffective

You will receive an "A" if you make a clear, cogent argument in your essay. (*persuasive, compelling*)
His cogent presentation led me to sign up for the complete seminar immediately. (*convincing, compelling*)

collusion (n)

secret conspiracy between people or companies for illegal, deceitful, or fraudulent purposes

SYNONYMS: scheme, plot, scam, racket, conspiracy

The casino employees pulled off a major robbery in collusion with professional thieves. (*scheme, plot*)
Large corporations sometimes act in collusion to raise prices on a product, leaving disgruntled consumers few choices. (*scam, plot*)

Compelling(adj)

1. attracting interest and attention; 2. tending to drive or force something to happen

SYNONYMS: convincing, forceful, driving, dominant, commanding, imposing, interesting, exciting

ANTONYMS:unconvincing, weak

As compelling as your argument may seem, I'm not convinced it will prove persuasive. (*convincing, commanding*)
Everyone in the audience felt compelled to contribute to the actor's charity organization. (*induced, driven*)

Complementary(adj)

1. completing something or making two things into one whole; 2. being complements of each other

SYNONYMS: integral, corresponding, parallel, interrelated, interdependent, matched, interconnected

ANTONYMS:unrelated

Wine experts used to say that red wine is complementary to steak and white wine to fish, but now many people agree it is an individual preference. (*corresponding, matched*)

The gospel choir consisted of many complementary voices. (*matched, interdependent*)

Concert(n)

1. agreement in purpose or action; 2. a group of people or things in agreement or harmony; 3. a musical performance

SYNONYMS: agreement, unity, accord, collaboration, cooperation

ANTONYMS: disagreement, discord

All the different divisions worked in concert to provide a seamless solution. (*collaboration, accord*)

It was a concerted effort which had everyone working in cooperation. (*cooperative, harmonious, unified*)

Concerted(adj)

1. planned or carried out by two or more people or groups working together for the same goal; 2. done in a serious and determined manner

SYNONYMS: agreeing, harmonious, unified, allied, cooperative

ANTONYMS: disjointed, uncooperative

Some concerted negotiations between the two companies could result in an agreement benefiting both sides. (*cooperative*)

In order for this project to succeed, it will take a concerted effort by everyone. (*unified, cooperative, determined*)

Condemn(v)

1. to criticize as wrong or immoral; 2. to assign guilt; 3. to determine unfit for public use; 4. to force someone or something into an undesirable circumstance

SYNONYMS:criticize, convict, sentence, doom, censure, denounce, expropriate, reprove, compel, force

ANTONYMS:laud, praise, acquit

Furious, the boss condemned his employees' persistent handling of personal affairs on company time. (*criticized, censured*)

The criminal begged the court not to condemn him to prison, even though he admitted to lighting the condemned building on fire. (*sentence, convict*)

Conducive(adj)

tending to promote or encourage something to happen or exist--having the right conditions for something

SYNONYMS: favorable, contributive, leading, helpful, promotive, instrumental, expeditious

ANTONYMS: adverse, deleterious, hindering, unfavorable

Exercising before bedtime is not conducive to sound sleep. (*instrumental, helpful*)
The relaxed atmosphere at the office was conducive to high spirits and good morale. (*promotive, contributive*)

Confer(v)

1. to present to or bestow something onto somebody; 2. to have a conference or meeting

SYNONYMS: award, bestow, impart, grant, give, present, talk, discuss, deliberate

ANTONYMS: take

Executive management is prohibited from participating in any program that will confer financial benefit to a board member. (*award, give*)
Could I take a moment to confer your offer with my colleagues? (*discuss, deliberate*)

Conjecture(n,v)

(n.) reasoning that involves the formation of conclusions from incomplete information--speculation; (v.) to form an opinion based on speculation or assumption

SYNONYMS: (n.) speculation, hypothesis, assumption, guess, (v.) speculate, presume, suppose

ANTONYMS: demonstrate, prove

The defense attorney was angered by the prosecutor's commentary, which seemed to be pure conjecture. (*speculation*)
There has been quite a bit of conjecture as to whether or not the celebrity couple got married over the weekend. (*speculation*)

Construct(v,n)

(v.) to make, build, or fabricate something; (n.) 1. something built or created; 2 an idea or theory devised from more simple concepts

SYNONYMS:(v.) build, make, create, form, compose, (n.) structure, concept, idea, theory

ANTONYMS:(v.) destroy

He doesn't celebrate Valentine's Day because he thinks it is simply a construct invented by the greeting card, chocolate, and flower companies. (*something fabricated*)
The city plans to construct a new road to replace the old, dilapidated road. (*build*)

Contrive(v)

1. to accomplish something by being clever and creative; 2. to make or invent something clever; 3. to create a plan or scheme

SYNONYMS: devise, concoct, formulate, design, invent, engineer, manipulate, scheme

ANTONYMS: chance, hazard, destroy

We should contrive a new plan of action, since the old one doesn't seem to be working. (*devise*)
The Internet craze produced a slew of contrived dot-com businesses. (*concocted*)

Credence(n)

belief or acceptance that something is true

SYNONYMS: belief, faith, trust, acceptance

ANTONYMS: skepticism, disbelief, distrust

New evidence lends credence to his alibi. (*belief, acceptance, trust*)
Her bruises lent credence to her claim of spousal abuse. (*belief, acceptance, trust*)

Curb(v,n)

(v.) to constrain or control ; (n.) imposed limit or restraint

SYNONYMS: (v.) **restrict, limit, curtail, check, constrain, inhibit, (n.) restraint, limitation, restriction**

ANTONYMS:(v.) **goad, spur**

I'm really looking forward to tonight's concert, but since I have to get a lot of work done first, I will need to curb my enthusiasm.
(*restrain*)
Economists predict that the latest rise in interest rates will be a curb on consumer spending. (*check, limit*)

Curt(adj)

spoken shortly and often rudely--terse

SYNONYMS: **terse, abrupt, brusque, short, blunt, rude**

ANTONYMS: **gracious, lengthy**

We all know he is a busy man, but he still didn't need to be so curt with his secretary when she asked him a question. (*terse, abrupt*)
She gave only a curt nod in reply before rushing off. (*short, brusque*)

Deduce(v)

to come to a logical conclusion using reasoning on the basis of information; to reach an answer or a decision by carefully considering the known facts

SYNONYMS: **infer, conclude, reason, assume, derive**

ANTONYMS: **guess**

Can I deduce from your complaintive statements that you are unhappy at this job? (*infer, conclude*)
Using logical reasoning, Jack made a deduction as to who was the most likely person to be stealing money from the petty cash box.
(*inference, conclusion*)

Deem(v)

to judge or consider something

SYNONYMS: **regard, appraise, judge, consider, presume, suppose**

ANTONYMS: **disregard, misunderstand, doubt**

If the doctors deem him unfit for surgery, they will not go forward with the procedure. (*judge, consider*)
We will change the rules only when we deem it to be necessary. (*consider, regard*)

Dejected(adj)

gloomy and lacking hope, especially because of disappointment

SYNONYMS: **despairing, despondent, discouraged, crestfallen, depressed, disconsolate, doleful, downcast, morose, melancholy, miserable**

ANTONYMS: exhilarated, cheery

Tim could tell by Anne's dejected look that her parents had decided not to allow her to attend the prom. (*miserable, despondent*)
Don't be so dejected; it's a small problem, not the end of the world. (*crestfallen*)

Demeanor(n)

a person's outward behavior, manner, or appearance, especially as it reflects on mood or character

SYNONYMS: behavior, attitude, conduct, disposition, deportment

ANTONYMS: temperament

His happy and optimistic demeanor put the employees at ease. (*attitude, disposition*)
We guessed that his lack of friends was due to his unfriendly demeanor. (*behavior, conduct*)

Denote(v)

1. to mean; 2. to designate or refer to; 3. to serve as a sign for

SYNONYMS: mean, signify, betoken, indicate, designate, express, imply, mark, show, typify, represent

The warm breeze denotes the coming of spring. (*signifies, indicates*)
Flares on the road denote danger ahead. (*mean, indicate*)

Devise(v)

to create, invent or creatively think up an idea or plan

SYNONYMS: plan, arrange, design, invent, dream up, concoct, plot, collude, conspire

Last night I devised a plan to help turn this company around. (*created, invented*)
My assistant is devising the agenda for our next board meeting. (*creating*)

Disconcerted(adj)

unsettled, confused, or uneasy

SYNONYMS: disturbed, uneasy, confused, unsettled, dismayed, uncertain, worried, anxious, flustered

ANTONYMS: composed, calm

The long bus trip and the odd behavior of the driver left many passengers feeling rather disconcerted. (*uneasy*)
The strange affair left me shaken and disconcerted. (*unsettled, worried*)

Dismay(v,n)

(v.) to cause somebody to feel discouraged or disappointed; (n.) a feeling of hopelessness, disappointment, or discouragement

SYNONYMS: (v.) distress, disturb, worry, daunt, discourage, appall, disconcert, (n.) hopelessness, disappointment, discouragement, distress, dread, consternation

ANTONYMS: (v.) encourage; (n.) hope, happiness

The parents were dismayed when they learned that their child was struggling in school. (*upset, worried, distressed*)
The spectators were filled with dismay when their favorite player sustained an injury. (*alarm, worry*)

Disposition(n)

1. personality or temperament, including a person's typical mood and attitude; 2. a natural tendency; 3. arrangement, organization, or control; 4. a settlement or resolution

SYNONYMS: personality, temperament, temper, character, settlement, nature, tendency, inclination, arrangement, control

Few things could upset Mary's cheerful disposition. (*character, personality, mood*)
Harry has a well-known disposition for getting himself into trouble. (*tendency, inclination*)

Egregious(adj)

extremely and blatantly bad

SYNONYMS: blatant, flagrant, glaring, gross, rank, outrageous

ANTONYMS: good, great, nice, remarkable

It was an egregious error on his part. (*unusually bad, flagrant*)
That was an egregious oversight on his part and could cost our company millions. (*unusually bad, blatant*)

Endeavor(n,v)

(n.) 1. a conscientious activity intended to accomplish something; 2. an effort made in an attempt to achieve something; (v.) to make an effort to achieve something

SYNONYMS: (n.) attempt, effort, enterprise, venture, (v.) try, strive, undertake

ANTONYMS: give up, quit, cease

I have no doubt that our new business endeavor will be a successful one. (*venture, enterprise*)
She endeavored to find a high-paying job right out of college, but the search was more difficult than she had anticipated. (*tried, strove*)

Ensnare(v)

1. to follow after something; 2. to be a consequence of an earlier event

SYNONYMS: follow, result, develop, arise, occur

ANTONYMS: preface, antecede

This news could ensue in a huge increase in the price of our stock. (*result*)
After the jury read the verdict, cheering and shouting ensued in the courtroom. (*followed, occurred*)

Enumerate(v)

1. to individually list things one by one; 2. to count the number of things in something

SYNONYMS: specify, list, recite, recount, count, itemize, number, tally

The mechanic enumerated the list of things that were wrong with the car. (*listed, cited*)
After her boss enumerated the number of times she had been late for work that month, he warned her that the next time, she would be fired. (*recounted, tallied*)

Envelop(v)

to cover, enclose, or surround something completely

SYNONYMS: enfold, enclose, enshroud, enwrap, shroud, veil,

ANTONYMS: expose, unwrap, unveil

The mountain was enveloped in fog. (*covered, enwrapped*)

They had to envelop the house with a tarp in order to fumigate the house. (*enwrap, cover*)

Expatriate(v,n)

(v.) 1. to banish or exile someone from a country; 2. to permanently leave one's country; (n.) an expatriated person

SYNONYMS: (v.) exile, banish, deport, withdraw, emigrate, (n.) exile, outcast, emigrant, deportee, refugee

ANTONYMS: (v.) immigrate, (n.) immigrant

Hemingway was an American expatriate who wrote of his many interesting adventures in Europe. (*one who lives outside his own country*)

He was tired of the regulations and taxes exacted on businesses in France, so he decided to expatriate from France to the United States. (*permanently move*)

Expound(v)

to give a detailed description or answer

SYNONYMS: explain, interpret, expatiate, discuss, inform, opine

ANTONYMS: condense, abbreviate, abridge, confuse

Political news gets old really fast when you have to listen to pundits expound about the shortcomings of their opposing political party. (*discuss in detail, explain*)

The professor decided to expound on the underlying message of the book for the entire 50-minute lecture. (*discuss, explain*)

Facet(n)

1. an aspect of something; 2. any of the faces of a cut gemstone; 3. in anatomy, any smooth flat area on a hard surface such as a bone or a tooth

SYNONYMS: aspect, phase, component, factor, side, element

ANTONYMS: whole

This is a very complex issues with many different facets. (*aspects, sides*)

The consultants came in and learned every facet of our business before they made any recommendations. (*aspect, element*)

Falter(v)

1. to lose effectiveness, confidence, or ability; 2. to stumble; 3. to speak haltingly

SYNONYMS: stumble, waver, vacillate, hesitate, stammer

ANTONYMS: steady, persist, hold [strong]

Her voice faltered as she tried to confess through her tears. (*wavered*)

She was resolute, and nothing could cause her to falter from her commitment. (*waver*)

fervor (n)

1. extreme intensity of emotion or belief; 2. intense heat

SYNONYMS: seriousness, passion, ardency, earnestness, animation, vehemence, intensity

ANTONYMS: apathy, impassiveness, indifference

The country was full of patriotic fervor during the war. (*zeal, passion*)
Rioters reached quite a fervor after embarking upon a hunger strike. (*earnestness, vehemence*)

Foregoing(adj,n)

(adj.) coming or having been mentioned before, especially in speeches or writing; (n.) the thing that was mentioned before

SYNONYMS: (adj.) aforementioned, previous, former, prior, preceding

ANTONYMS: (adj.) following, later, after

The foregoing statements explained the plan; now we will discuss how to implement it. (*aforementioned, previous, preceding*)
We have examined the foregoing report and can attest to its validity. (*aforementioned*)

Foremost(adj)

1. the most important; 2. before all else

SYNONYMS: first, highest, leading, chief, principle, best, prominent, predominant

ANTONYMS: last, behind, unimportant

First and foremost, we will try to have fun, but our secondary goal is winning. (*most important, most prominently*)
Professor Jackson was the university's foremost expert in the field of biology. (*prominent, best*)

Garnish(n,v)

(n.) 1. a decoration; (v.) 1. to decorate or add something to food to enhance its appearance or taste; 2. to take a debtor's wages on legal orders

SYNONYMS: (n.) decoration, adornment, embellishment, enhancer, ornament, (v.) decorate, enhance, adorn, beautify

Food served at diners often comes with a garnish of parsley. (*decoration*)
She likes to garnish her food with edible flowers. (*decorate, adorn*)

Germinate(v)

1. to start growing from a seed; 2. to create and begin the process of development

SYNONYMS: grow, sprout, root, plant, develop, evolve, create

ANTONYMS: die

Once the new CEO's ideas began to germinate, the company quickly turned around. (*take root, develop*)
The idea germinated in my mind this morning and became a full blown epiphany by lunch. (*developed, sprouted, grew*)

gesticulate

to gesture or explain something using the hands, typically while speaking

SYNONYMS: gesture, signal, sign, motion, pantomime

ANTONYMS: be still

As a conference speaker, he often gesticulates while he speaks in order to increase enthusiasm and keep his audience's attention.

(gestures)

Because she was excited about the trip, she gesticulated wildly while telling us every detail with great animation. *(gestured, motioned)*

Gravitas(n)

seriousness in behavior, demeanor, and attitude

SYNONYMS: seriousness, formality, solemnity, gravity

ANTONYMS: lightheartedness, levity

The CEO was known for his gravitas and very few people joked with him at the office. *(seriousness, professionalism)*

Companies in the 21st century are more casual and have less office gravitas. *(formality)*

Harness(v)

1. to control and direct something for a purpose; 2. to keep something in check; 3. to put a harness (straps) on an animal

SYNONYMS: tame, control, reign in, subdue, suppress, restrain, yoke, hitch

You've got to find a way to harness your temper, because you can't go flying off the handle in meetings the way you have been.

(control, suppress)

We harnessed our joint resources to create a truly innovative product. *(reigned in)*

Haste(n)

1. great speed, especially in times of urgency; 2. excessive speed, leading to careless errors

SYNONYMS: hurry, hustle, speed, rush

ANTONYMS: leisure

I sent the proposal to him in haste and forgot to spell-check it before it went out. *(great speed)*

Despite packing with haste, I still didn't get ready in time. *(great speed)*

Helm(n,v)

(n.) a position of control and leadership; (v.) to be in charge or in control of something

SYNONYMS: (n.) front, lead, controller, commander, captain, chairman, master, guide, instructor, (v.) control, guide, lead, steer, commandeer

ANTONYMS: (n.) follower, lackey, (v.) follow

The new executive will take the helm next week. *(position of leader)*

He did a lot to foster the company's success while at the helm. *(front, position of leader)*

Impart(v)

1. to communicate something to someone; 2. to give something a particular quality, feeling, or taste.

SYNONYMS: communicate, disclose, divulge, convey, pass on, transmit, give, confer

ANTONYMS: take

I don't think I can impart much wisdom on this subject. (*share, communicate*)
If you could, please impart on the team some of what you learned at the conference. (*share, communicate, pass on*)

Incentive(n)

something that encourages action

SYNONYMS: inducement, enticement, instigation, stimulus, motivation, impetus, encouragement, inspiration

The promise of a promotion and raise gave her the incentive she needed to bring in more sales. (*stimulus, motive*)
Newly single, he suddenly had incentive to begin a self-improvement program. (*motive, inspiration*)

Incipient(adj)

in the beginning of development or formation

SYNONYMS: nascent, initial, beginning, inchoate, budding

ANTONYMS: developed, finished

His ideas were still incipient and vague; he needed to develop them more thoroughly. (*initial, inchoate*)
With the economy showing incipient signs of recovery, consumers are regaining their confidence in the stock market. (*initial, beginning*)

Induce(v)

1. to cause or produce; 2. to influence or persuade; 3. to reason and make a statement based on observation and fact

SYNONYMS: persuade, influence, move, impel, cause, produce, stimulate, incite

ANTONYMS: repress, hinder, prevent

If you weren't already planning to enter the contest, the prize money is sure to induce you. (*persuade*)
He is a true hero; whenever he sees injustice, he is induced to action. (*impelled, moved*)

Inordinate(adj)

more than what is considered a normal amount

SYNONYMS: excessive, immoderate, extreme, disproportionate, outrageous, superfluous

ANTONYMS: insufficient, meager, moderate, reasonable

Because she was excited about the prom, she spent an inordinate amount of time picking out a dress. (*excessive*)
The flight was delayed, so we spent an inordinate amount of time at airport gift shops. (*outrageous*)

Intricate(adj)

1. highly involved or complex; 2. made up of many different parts

SYNONYMS: complex, involved, tricky, convoluted, complicated, elaborate, entangled

ANTONYMS: easy, simple

The plan was so intricate, I was sure there was an easier way to complete the project. (*complex, convoluted, involved*)
We can't let him go because he is the only person who understands all the intricacies of the project. (*complexities, difficulties*)

Irate(adj)

very angry

SYNONYMS: angry, enraged, mad, furious, fuming, heated, annoyed

ANTONYMS: calm, kind, pleased

Her boss became irate when she cost the company its biggest client. (*furious*)
His irate neighbors yelled at him for throwing such a loud party. (*angry, fuming*)

Loath(adj)

unwilling, averse, or reluctant to do something

SYNONYMS: unwilling, disinclined, averse, hesitant, reluctant

ANTONYMS: willing, inclined

He is loath to admit it, but he is not happy at his current job. (*unwilling, reluctant*)
One of the problems that people have with the President is that he is loath to admit when he has made a mistake. (*unwilling, averse*)

Machiavellian(adj)

using clever trickery, immoral methods, and expediency to achieve a desired goal, especially in politics

SYNONYMS: cunning, sly, tricky, crafty, shrewd, unscrupulous

ANTONYMS: trustworthy, honest, sincere

The VP of Marketing, known for his Machiavellian maneuvers, has long been plotting his scheme to oust the company CEO. (*cunning, crafty*)
The Governor's well-crafted speech was a Machiavellian attempt at diminishing his poor reputation among the public. (*shrewd*)

Magnitude(n)

1. large extent, size, or quantity; 2. the significance, importance, or quality of something

SYNONYMS: scope, dimension, extent, size, significance, importance

ANTONYMS: insignificance

Despite repeated warnings by others, they did not realize the magnitude of the problem until it was too late. (*significance, extent*)
It will be difficult to estimate the magnitude of the discovery without further experimentation. (*importance, significance*)

Maliciousa(adj)

1. wishing to hurt others; 2. committing an act that will hurt others

SYNONYMS: hateful, spiteful, mean, wicked, depraved

ANTONYMS: benevolent, kind, caring

His malicious slandering of his co-worker was unprofessional and unseemly. (*hurtful, meaning to cause harm*)
I don't think it was an accident; I think it was a malicious act intended to hurt him. (*hurtful, meaning to cause harm*)

Malignant(adj)

1. evil; 2. life-threatening

SYNONYMS: evil, hateful, spiteful, wicked, nasty, injurious, harmful

ANTONYMS: benign, kind, caring

The biopsy showed that the tumor was not malignant and was indeed benign. *(life-threatening, injurious)*
The dictator was an evil and malignant leader. *(evil, wicked)*

Mediate(v,adj)

(v.) 1. to be in a middle position between two others; 2. to attempt to resolve a dispute by acting as a middle man and working with all parties; (adj.) 1. being in the middle; 2. to be neither at the beginning, nor at the end

SYNONYMS: (v.) intercede, arbitrate, interfere, moderate, negotiate, resolve, interpose

ANTONYMS: (v.) contend, fight, dispute, judge

An independent committee will help mediate the labor dispute. *(arbitrate, resolve, negotiate)*
Jill was sent in to mediate the negotiations and make sure that both sides were happy with the outcome. *(arbitrate, moderate)*

Mitigate(v)

1. to make something less harsh, severe, or violent; 2. to make an offense or crime less serious or more excusable

SYNONYMS: relieve, lessen, assuage, ease, excuse, soften, extenuate

ANTONYMS: intensify, aggravate, augment

The physician group paid more for insurance to mitigate their malpractice liability. *(lessen, ease)*
The company required all employees to sign a policy form on sexual harassment in order to mitigate its liability in future harassment cases. *(assuage, lessen)*

Novel(adj)

new and original

SYNONYMS: new, original, innovative, unprecedented, unusual

ANTONYMS: old, outdated, antiquated, obsolete

His novel ideas helped turn the company in a new, more successful direction. *(new, original)*
He came up with a novel solution that was the first of its kind. *(new, unprecedented)*

Onus(n)

1. burden, duty, or responsibility; 2. the blame for something; 3. burden of proof

SYNONYMS: burden, responsibility, load, obligation, duty, blame, stigma

ANTONYMS: acclaim, commendation

When the economy is in a recession, many believe the onus is on the President and Congress to pull the country out of it. *(burden, obligation)*
He'll always bear the onus of having made bad investment decisions and losing most of the family's retirement savings. *(blame, responsibility)*

Opportune(adj)

suitable for a purpose or occurring at the right time

SYNONYMS: appropriate, fitting, apt, auspicious, fortuitous, timely, fortunate

ANTONYMS: inopportune

The family dinner was an opportune time for the young couple to announce their engagement. (*appropriate*)
Our morning meeting will provide an opportune time to discuss our strategic plan. (*convenient, apt*)

Opulent(adj)

1. a lavish display of wealth or affluence; 2. abundant and plentiful

SYNONYMS: wealthy, lavish, expensive, luxurious, abundant, plentiful, lavish, bountiful

ANTONYMS: modest, meager

He lived an opulent lifestyle that was truly worthy of the show "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous." (*lavish, luxurious*)
It was an opulent hotel with fine antique furniture, expensive paintings, and lavish decor throughout. (*rich, expensive*)

Overt(adj)

open to view, not hidden

SYNONYMS: open, apparent, obvious, unconcealed, clear, evident, manifest, palpable

ANTONYMS: hidden, concealed, covert

Although he didn't criticize me overtly, I could tell that he wasn't happy with my job performance. (*obviously, openly*)
In an overt show of support, the President met publicly with the candidate he hoped would succeed him. (*unconcealed, clear*)

placid (adj)

1. completely free of interruption and disturbance--calm; 2. easily satisfied

SYNONYMS: serene, calm, peaceful, tranquil, imperturbable, even-tempered, composed, halcyon

ANTONYMS: frenzied, turbulent, rough, excited, disturbed

The placid sea and the approaching storm clouds appeared to be the calm before the storm. (*calm*)
Her placid manner often made people think she never got angry. (*even-tempered*)

Preclude(v)

to prevent something from happening, especially by action

SYNONYMS: inhibit, cease, discontinue, restrain, impede, interrupt, prevent, prohibit, ban

ANTONYMS: allow, permit

Her warning will not preclude him from making the trip. (*prevent*)
At the meeting, the executives discussed ways to preclude unnecessary lawsuits. (*prevent*)

Preface(n,v)

(n.) an introduction at the beginning of a book; (v.) to begin with a preface or introduction before presenting your main point

SYNONYMS: (n.) introduction, foreword, prologue, (v.) introduce, begin, open

ANTONYMS: (n.) epilogue, postscript, addendum, closing, conclusion, (v.) close, conclude

I love his books because they are immediately engaging, right from the preface. *(introduction, prologue)*
The world hopes that talks in the Middle East will be a preface to peace. *(introduction, beginning, prologue)*

Pretext(n)

a made up excuse used to hide the truth

SYNONYMS: excuse, alibi, mask, cover

I called her on the pretext that I lost our homework assignment, but really I just wanted an excuse to talk to her. *(cover, excuse)*
He went over to visit her on the pretext that he just happened to be in the neighborhood, but everyone knows he has a crush on her. *(alibi, excuse)*

Profusion(n)

1. a lavish or extravagant amount; 2. large quantity of something

SYNONYMS: abundance, extravagance, lavishness, excess, bounty, plenty, wealth

ANTONYMS: sparseness, lack, shortage

This spring the flowers bloomed in greater profusion than in past years. *(abundance)*
Relieved and happy, she offered profuse thanks to the man who saved her life. *(lavish, overflowing, excessive, effusive)*

Prognosis(n)

1. a medical opinion as to the likely outcome of a disease or the chances of getting better; 2. prediction of future outcomes

SYNONYMS: prediction, cast, forecast, foretelling, prevision

Well, the economic prognosis is looking good, according to leading economists. *(prediction, judgment, forecast)*
The doctor's prognosis is that Dad will recover from the surgery and be back to normal within a couple weeks. *(prediction, assessment)*

Pseudo(adj)

not authentic--false, untrue, not real, pretend

SYNONYMS: false, fake, phony, bogus, mock, pretend

ANTONYMS: authentic, real, true, genuine

Many of today's celebrities are pseudo activists who don't put much time or money behind their "causes." *(mock, fake)*
It's funny to listen to the pseudo intellectuals who hang out at the cafe and pontificate about politics and philosophy. *(fake, phony)*

Rash(adj,n)

(adj.) thoughtless or rushed action without consideration of consequences; (n.) a series of occurrences, usually unexpected and unpleasant

SYNONYMS: (adj.) **thoughtless, hasty, impetuous, reckless, ill-considered, imprudent, careless, brash, impulsive, (n.) outbreak**

ANTONYMS: (adj.) **cautious, thoughtful, responsible**

I regretted taking such rash action once I came to my senses. (*thoughtless, hasty, imprudent*)
Even though we thought his decision to quit his job was rather rash, we still felt sorry for him when he had trouble finding another position. (*ill-considered, imprudent*)

Remit(v)

1. to send or dispatch a payment; 2. to cancel or hold back from enforcing something; 3. to reduce the intensity of something (for instance, pain); 4. to restore something; 5. to refer a case to another court (in law); 6. to restore something to its original condition

SYNONYMS: **pay, repay, reimburse, send, dispatch, reduce, restore, postpone, defer, refer, revoke, nullify, invalidate**

ANTONYMS: **intensify, increase, persist, continue**

In order to avoid any interest charges, please remit your payment by the end of the week. (*send, dispatch, pay*)
She remitted the fines because the payment came earlier than expected. (*reduced*)

Reticent(adj)

1. unwilling or disinclined to talk; 2. reluctant to draw attention to oneself; 3. cool and formal in manner--reserved

SYNONYMS: **silent, hesitant, shy, reserved, restrained, taciturn, reluctant**

ANTONYMS: **frank, unreserved**

I thought he was unusually reticent when we were discussing the missing office supplies. (*silent, reserved*)
Most people are reticent about opening up to a new boss. (*shy, hesitant*)

Revere(v)

to treat or regard somebody with admiration and deep respect

SYNONYMS: **admire, esteem, regard, respect, venerate**

ANTONYMS: **disrespect, disdain, contemn**

I revere doctors who donate their time and resources to help those who cannot afford medical care. (*admire, respect*)
The once-revered CEO lost the respect of his employees when he admitted to embezzling funds for his own profit. (*admired, respected*)

Simulate(v)

1. to reproduce or create a model of something; 2. to mimic looks or behavior; 3. to pretend

SYNONYMS: **imitate, copy, model, represent, duplicate, mimic, re-create, pretend, fake, feign**

The pilot simulated a maneuver he had learned in flight school the week before. (*imitated, re-created*)
There are several flight simulator games that simulate the experience of flying. (*mimic, re-create*)

Solemn(adj)

1. marked by gravity, dignity, and earnest sincerity; 2. characterized by ceremony or formality; 3. inspiring awe or reverence

SYNONYMS: heavy, intense, earnest, serious, grave, sober, somber, awe-inspiring, imposing, venerable, dignified, ceremonial, sedate, staid, sacred

ANTONYMS: relaxed, bright, cheerful, informal, frivolous, rejoicing

The fallen soldiers were honored in a solemn ceremony. (*serious, heavy, somber*)

After he lost a significant amount of money in Las Vegas, Bob made a solemn promise to his wife never to gamble again. (*serious, earnest*)

Spawn(v,n)

(v.) to give birth or to cause something new to grow; (n.) 1. eggs of fish or amphibians, usually produced in large quantities; 2. offspring, especially when numerous

SYNONYMS: (v.) generate, produce, initiate, (n.) eggs, seed, offspring

ANTONYMS: (v.) kill, destroy, exterminate, eradicate

Male seahorses are very unique in that they keep their spawn in a special pouch in their abdomens. (*eggs*)

Fewer government regulation coupled with increased freedoms should spawn new start-up companies throughout India. (*create, initiate, give birth to*)

Staunch(adj)

steadfast in loyalty or principle

SYNONYMS: firm, constant, stable, dependable, faithful, resolute

ANTONYMS: shaky, unsteady

The actor is a staunch supporter of environmental protection programs. (*firm*)

My wife has always been a staunch Democrat, so she surprised me when she voted for a Republican. (*faithful, resolute*)

sycophant (n)

a person who overly flatters someone in authority for personal gain

SYNONYMS: bootlicker, brown-noser, flatterer, lackey, lap-dog, yes-man

ANTONYMS: authority, boss

He was a sycophant who constantly complimented the boss and brought him donuts every morning. (*bootlicker, brown-noser, doormat*)

The boss expected his employees to act like sycophants by answering his every beck-and-call. (*slaves, lap-dogs, yes-men*)

Tantamount(adj)

equivalent to a particular thing in effect, outcome, or value--the same as

SYNONYMS: equal, equivalent, identical, parallel, synonymous

ANTONYMS: opposite, unlike

The way the executives pulled money from the company to pay for their bonuses was tantamount to stealing, in the employees' minds. (*equivalent*)

Many felt the questionable accounting practices of the company were tantamount to corporate fraud. (*equal*)

Tenable(adj)

reasonable and rational, especially when factual evidence supports a claim

SYNONYMS: reasonable, believable, credible, justifiable, plausible, rational

ANTONYMS: unbelievable, unreasonable, irrational

Her statement that gas-guzzling cars do not affect the environment is not very tenable. (*reasonable, rational, believable*)
Most of Albert Einstein's theories have proven tenable over time. (*plausible, believable, rational*)

Tenor(n)

1. the direction in which something is consistently moving; 2. the general sense or meaning of something written or spoken; 3. the exact meaning or wording of a legal document; 4. the highest natural voice of an adult male or a singer with this voice

SYNONYMS: course, progression, movement, pattern, direction, meaning, significance, sense, tone

What was the tenor of the President's speech? Is he moving away from the issue or pressing forward. (*direction, pattern, character*)
All of a sudden the tenor of the meeting changed and a contentious argument ensued. (*usual pattern, character*)

Tumultuous(adj)

1. full of noise, confusion, and disorder; 2. characterized by change and uncertainty

SYNONYMS: clamorous, riotous, turbulent, uproarious, disorderly, troubled, disruptive, wild

ANTONYMS: restrained, calm, peaceful

The opposing demonstrators became tumultuous when leaders began screaming at one another. (*riotous, disorderly*)
The sixties were a time of tumultuous social upheaval. (*turbulent*)

Vet(v)

examine something or someone carefully to make certain that they are acceptable or suitable

SYNONYMS: scrutinize, examine, inspect

The bank thoroughly vets all loan applicants before issuing a loan. (*examines, investigates*)
The anchorman neglected to vet his sources and ended up running a bogus story that tarnished the image of the entire network. (*inspect, scrutinize*)