

## 3500 ACT Vocabulary (1)

### **abandon**

lacking restraint or control; feeling of extreme emotional intensity; unbounded enthusiasm

### **abandoned**

recklessly unrestrained; deserted; left to destruction

### **abandonment**

giving up completely; freedom from constraint

### **abase**

humiliate; lower or depress in rank or esteem

### **abash**

embarrass; make ashamed or uneasy; disconcert

### **abate**

subside; decrease; become less in amount or intensity

### **abbreviate**

make shorter; reduce to shorter form intended to represent full form, as for word or phrase

### **abdicate**

give up, renounce, abandon, lay down, or withdraw from, as a right or claim

### **aberrant**

abnormal; markedly different from an accepted norm

### **abet**

aid, usually in doing something wrong; encourage

### **abeyance**

suspended action; temporary cessation or suspension

### **abhor**

fill with horror and loathing; horrify; hate

### **abide**

endure; put up with; bear; tolerate

### **abiding**

lasting for a long time; enduring; permanent

### **abjure**

renounce upon oath; abandon forever

**ablution**

washing or cleansing of the body, especially as part of religious rite

**abnegate**

give up or surrender; deny something to oneself

**abnegation**

repudiation; self-sacrifice; renouncing your own interests in favor of interests of others

**abolish**

cancel; put an end to; destroy completely

**abolition**

ending; act of abolishing; act of doing away with

**abominable**

detestable; extremely unpleasant; very bad

**aboriginal**

being the first of its kind in a region; primitive; native

**abortive**

unsuccessful; failing to accomplish an intended objective; fruitless

**abrade**

wear away by friction; scrape; erode

**abrasive**

rubbing away; tending to grind down

**abridge**

condense; shorten; reduce length of written text

**abrogate**

abolish, do away with, or annul, especially by authority

**abscond**

leave quickly and secretly and hide oneself, often to avoid arrest or prosecution

**absent**

go away or leave ; missing; not present

**absenteeism**

habitual not to appear, especially for work or other regular duty

**abstain**

refrain; hold oneself back voluntarily from an action or practice

**abstemious**

sparing or moderation in eating and drinking; temperate

**abstruse**

obscure; profound; difficult to understand.

**abundant**

plentiful; possessing riches or resources

**abundantly**

in great numbers; in a plentiful or sufficient degree; plentifully

**abut**

border upon; adjoin; touch or end at one end or side; lie adjacent

**abysmal**

bottomless; very profound; limitless; very bad

**accede**

agree; give consent, often at insistence of another; concede

**accelerating**

increasing in speed

**acceleration**

faster rate of improvement; rate of change of velocity with respect to time

**accentuate**

emphasize; stress; pronounce with a stress or accent; mark with an accent

**accessible**

easily approached or entered; obtainable; easy to talk to or get along with

**accident**

event that takes place without one's foresight or expectation; sudden, and unexpected event

**accidentally**

inadvertently; by chance; casually; fortuitously; not essentially or intrinsically

**acclaim**

applaud; announce with great approval

**acclimate**

accustom or become accustomed to a new environment or situation; adapt

**acclivity**

upward slope, as of hill

**accolade**

award of merit; expression of approval; praise

**accommodate**

do a favor or service for; provide for; supply with; make suitable; adapt; allow for

**accommodating**

helpful in bringing about a harmonious adaptation

**accomplish**

succeed in doing; bring to pass; achieve; reach the end of; complete

**accost**

approach and speak to boldly or aggressively, as with demand or request

**accouter**

equip; provide with military equipment

**accretion**

growth or increase in size by gradual external addition, fusion, or inclusion

**accrue**

increase, accumulate, or come about as a result of growth; accumulate over time

**accumulation**

increase by natural growth or addition; concentration

**accusation**

indictment; charge of wrongdoing that is made against a person or other party

**accustomed**

habitual to; used to; frequently practiced, used, or experienced; customary

**acerbity**

bitterness of speech and temper; sourness or acidness of taste, character, or tone

**acetic**

having properties of vinegar; sour

**achieve**

gain with effort; accomplish; fulfill

**achievement**

feat; accomplishment; award for completing a particular task or meeting an objective

**acidulous**

slightly sour in taste or in manner; sharp; caustic

**acoustics**

science of sound; quality that makes a room easy or hard to hear in

**acquaint**

inform about; cause to come to know personally; make familiar

**acquainted**

known by or familiar with another; informed or familiar

**acquiesce**

assent; agree without protesting

**acquire**

gain through experience or effort; gain possession of; locate with tracking system

**acrid**

unpleasantly sharp or bitter to taste or smell; bitterly pungent

**acrimonious**

bitter and sharp in language, tone, or manner

**acrophobia**

fear of heights; abnormal fear of high places

**actively**

energetically; vigorously; in an active manner; voluntarily, not passively

**actuarial**

calculating; pertaining to insurance statistics

**actuate**

put into motion or action; activate

**acuity**

sharpness; acuteness of vision or perception; keenness

**acumen**

mental keenness; quickness of perception

**adaptable**

flexible; becoming or being made suitable to particular situation or use

**adaptive**

having a capacity for adaptation; capable of adapting

**addendum**

something added or to be added, especially a supplement to a book

**additional**

further; extra; supplemental or added to

**addle**

muddle; drive crazy; become confused

**adept**

expert at; very skilled; having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude

**adherent**

person who adheres; one who follows or upholds a leader, party, cause

**adhesive**

glue; paste ; substance that unites or bonds surfaces together

**adjoin**

be next to; be contiguous to; border on

**adjudicate**

hear and settle a case by judicial procedure

**adjunct**

something added on or attached generally nonessential or inferior

**adjure**

appeal to or entreat earnestly; command or enjoin solemnly, as under oath

**administer**

govern; supervise; give or apply medications

**admiration**

favorable judgment; feeling of pleasure, wonder, and approval

**admittedly**

doubtlessly; in an acknowledged manner; confessedly

**admonish**

warn; counsel someone against something to be avoided

**admonition**

gentle or friendly reproof; cautionary advice or warning

**adorn**

enhance or decorate with or as if with ornaments

**adornment**

embellishment; decoration; something that beautifies or adorns; ornament

**adroit**

skillful and adept under pressing conditions

**adulation**

excessive flattery or admiration; unmerited praise

**adulterate**

make impure by adding inferior or tainted substances

**adumbrate**

give hint or indication of something; disclose partially or guardedly; overshadow; shade

**advance**

proceed; move forward; improve; moving forward

**advanced**

improved; highly developed or complex; ahead of the times; progressive

**advent**

coming or arrival, especially of something extremely important

**adventitious**

accidental; casual; not inherent but added extrinsically

**adverse**

in opposing direction; harmful or unfavorable; acting or serving to oppose

**advocacy**

support; active pleading on behalf of something

**erie**

nest of bird, such as eagle, built on a cliff or other high place

**aesthetic**

elegant or tasteful; of or concerning appreciation of beauty or good taste

**affable**

easily approachable; warmly friendly

**affect**

have an emotional or cognitive impact upon

**affection**

fondness; tender feeling toward another; fondness

**affectionate**

having affection or warm regard; loving; fond; kindly inclined; zealous

**affinity**

natural attraction, liking, or feeling of kinship; relationship by marriage

**affirmation**

positive assertion; confirmation; solemn pledge by one who refuses to take an oath

**affix**

fasten; append; add on; secure to something

**affluence**

abundance; a plentiful supply of material goods; wealth

**affluent**

having an abundant supply of money or possessions of value

**affront**

insult; offense; intentional act of disrespect

**agenda**

items of business at a meeting; list or program of things to be done or considered

**agglomeration**

collection; heap; act or process of gathering into a mass

**aggrandize**

increase scope of; extend; intensify; make greater in power, influence, stature, or reputation

**aggravating**

irritating; annoying; making worse or more heinous

**aggregate**

gather into a mass, sum, or whole; amount to

**aggressive**

making assaults; unjustly attacking; combative; hostile; tending to spread quickly

**aggressiveness**

feeling of hostility that arouses thoughts of attack; quality of being bold and enterprising

**aghast**

struck by shock, terror, or amazement

**agility**

mentally quick; moving quickly and lightly

**agitate**

cause to move with violence or sudden force; upset; disturb

**agitation**

anxiety; extreme emotional disturbance

**agnostic**

one who is skeptical of existence of a god or any ultimate reality

**agrarian**

pertaining to land or its cultivation; relating to agricultural or rural matters

**ajar**

half-open; slightly turned or opened

**alacrity**

cheerful promptness or willingness; eagerness; speed or quickness

**alchemy**

medieval chemistry; magical or mysterious power or process of transforming

**alcove**

nook; small, recessed section of a room

**algorithm**

established procedure for solving problem

**alien**

dissimilar, inconsistent, or opposed in nature; very different place, society, or person

**alimentary**

providing nourishment; concerned with food, nutrition, or digestion

**allay**

calm; pacify; reduce the intensity of; relieve

**allege**

state without proof; assert to be true

**allegory**

symbolic representation of abstract ideas or principles in narrative, dramatic, or pictorial form

**alliteration**

repetition of beginning sound in poetry

**allocate**

assign; distribute according to plan

**allude**

refer casually or indirectly, or by suggestion

**allusion**

indirect reference; symbolical reference or comparison; metaphor

**aloft**

in or into a high place; high or higher up

**alternate**

happening or following in turns; succeeding each other continuously; substitute

**altitude**

elevation especially above sea level; height

**altruistic**

unselfishly generous; concerned for others

**amalgamate**

combine; unite in one body; mix or alloy a metal with mercury

**amass**

collect; gather for oneself, as for one's pleasure or profit

**ambidextrous**

capable of using either hand with equal ease

**ambience**

particular environment or surrounding influence; atmosphere of environment

**ambiguous**

unclear or doubtful in meaning

**ambivalence**

state of having contradictory or conflicting emotional attitudes, such as love and hate

**amble**

moving at an easy pace; walk slowly or leisurely

**ambulatory**

able to walk; formed or adapted for walking; not stationary

**ameliorate**

make or become better; improve; grow better

**amenable**

responsive to advice or suggestion; responsible to higher authority; willing to comply with; agreeable

**amenities**

convenient features; courtesies

**amiable**

good-natured and likable; lovable; warmly friendly

**amicable**

exhibiting friendliness or goodwill; not quarrelsome

**amid**

in the middle of; among; surrounded by

**amity**

friendship; peaceful relations, as between nations

**amorous**

moved by sexual love; loving

**amorphous**

formless; lacking shape or definition

**amphibian**

able to live both on land and in water

**amphitheater**

oval building with tiers of seats from central open space or arena

**amplify**

broaden or clarify by expanding; intensify; make larger or more powerful; increase

**amputate**

cut off part of body, especially by surgery; prune

**anachronistic**

having time error in story; erroneous in date; in wrong time

**analgesic**

serving to reduce sensibility to pain without loss of consciousness

**analogous**

comparable; similar or alike

**anarchist**

person who seeks to overturn established government; advocate of abolishing authority

**anathema**

solemn curse; someone or something regarded as a curse

**ancestor**

forefather; forebear; forerunner or predecessor

**ancestry**

family descent; series or line of ancestors; lineage

**ancillary**

serving as aid or accessory; auxiliary

**anecdotal**

having the character of an anecdote; of short story of interesting or humorous incident

**angular**

sharp-cornered; consisting of an angle or angles; stiff in manner

**animate**

endowed with life; alive; living; animated

**animated**

having life or vigor or spirit; filled with activity; in form of cartoon

**animus**

feeling of enmity or ill will; attitude that informs one's actions; disposition

**annals**

chronological record of the events of successive years

**annihilate**

destroy completely; reduce to nonexistence

**annotate**

comment; make explanatory notes

**announce**

herald; give out; proclaim; make known publicly

**announcement**

formal public statement; act of making known publicly

**annoy**

disturb, especially by minor irritations; irritate

**annuity**

annual payment of allowance or income; periodical payment, amounting to a fixed sum in each year

**annul**

make or declare void or invalid; reduce to nothing

**anodyne**

source of relaxation or comfort; medicine that relieves pain

**anoint**

apply oil or similar substance to; put oil on during religious ceremony as a sign of sanctification or consecration.

**anomalous**

deviating from normal or common order, form, or rule

**anomaly**

irregularity; person or something that is unusual; departure from normal or common order

**anonymous**

having no name; having unknown or unacknowledged name

**antagonism**

active resistance; condition of being an opposing principle, force, or factor

**antecede**

precede; go before in time, and sometimes in place, rank, or logical order

**antecedents**

preceding events or circumstances that influence what comes later; ancestors or early background

**antediluvian**

antiquated; extremely old and ancient; belonging to very ancient times

**anthology**

book of literary selections by various authors

**anthropocentric**

regarding human beings as the center of the universe

**anthropoid**

manlike; resembling a human, especially in shape or outward appearance

**anthropomorphic**

having human form or characteristics

**anticlimax**

letdown in thought or emotion; decline viewed in disappointing contrast with previous rise

**antipathy**

strong feeling of aversion; dislike

**antithesis**

contrast; direct contrast; opposition

**anxious**

eager; keen; worried; uneasy and apprehensive about an uncertain event or matter

**apathy**

lack of caring; indifference

**aperture**

opening; diameter of such an opening; hole

**apex**

highest point; vertex; summit; climax

**aphasia**

loss of speech due to injury or illness

**aphorism**

definition or concise statement of principle; tersely phrased statement of truth or opinion

**apiary**

place where bees and beehives are kept, especially where bees are raised for their honey

**aplomb**

poise; self-confident assurance

**apocryphal**

untrue; of questionable authorship or authenticity; erroneous; fictitious

**apogee**

the highest point; point in orbit most distant from the body being orbited

**apolitical**

having aversion or lack of concern for political affairs

**apologist**

person who argues in defense or justification of something, such as doctrine, policy, or institution

**apostate**

one who abandons his religious faith or political beliefs

**apotheosis**

elevation to godhood; fact or action of becoming a god; an ideal example of something

**appall**

depress or discourage with fear; grow faint or become weak

**apparition**

ghostly figure; sudden or unusual sight; appearance; state of being visible

**appellation**

name; title; act of naming; act of appealing for aid, sympathy

**append**

attach; add as supplement or appendix

**appliance**

durable goods for home or office use; device or instrument for household use

**apply**

exert; put into service; avail oneself to;

**apportion**

distribute; allot; give out as one's portion or share

**apposite**

strikingly appropriate and relevant; well-suited

**appraise**

estimate value of; evaluate, especially in official capacity

**apprehension**

fearful or uneasy anticipation of the future; act of seizing or capturing; understanding

**apprenticeship**

term during which one learns a trade from skilled worker; service or legal condition of an apprentice

**apprise**

inform; give notice to; make aware

**approaching**

impending; of the relatively near future; coming closer to another

**approbation**

expression of warm approval; praise

**appropriation**

funding; money set aside for a specific purpose

**apropos**

with reference or regard; in respect

**aptly**

in a competent capable manner; in an apt or suitable manner

**aquatic**

consisting of, relating to, or being in water

**aquiline**

curved or hooked like an eagle's beak

**arable**

fit for growing crops, as by plowing

**arbiter**

person with power to decide a dispute; judge

**arboretum**

place where different tree varieties are exhibited

**arcane**

secret; mysterious; known only to the initiated

**archaeology**

study of artifacts and relics of early mankind

**archaic**

no longer current or applicable; antiquated

**archetype**

prototype; original model or type after which other similar things are patterned

**archipelago**

group of closely located islands

**architecture**

art and science of designing and erecting buildings; buildings and other large structures

**ardent**

displaying or by strong enthusiasm or devotion; passionate

**arduous**

demanding great effort or labor; difficult

**arid**

dry; lacking moisture, especially having insufficient rainfall to support trees or plants

**aristocracy**

hereditary nobility; privileged class

**armada**

a fleet of warships; a large group of moving things

**aroma**

fragrance; scent; pleasant characteristic odor, as of a plant, spice, or food

**aromatic**

fragrant or sweet-smelling; caused by fragrant odor

**arousal**

act of awaking from sleep; arousing from what is like sleep

**arouse**

excite; stimulate; awaken from or as if from sleep

**arraign**

officially charge someone in a court of law

**arrears**

being in debt; unpaid, overdue debt or an unfulfilled obligation

**arrogate**

claim without justification; claim for oneself without right

**arroyo**

deep gully; a dry gulch; brook or creek; watercourse

**arthritis**

inflammation of a joint or joints

**article**

essay; editorial; individual thing or element of a class

**articulate**

expressing oneself easily in clear and effective language

**artifice**

subtle but base deception; trickery; cleverness or skill; ingenuity

**artisan**

manually skilled worker; craftsman, as opposed to artist

**artless**

free of artificiality; natural; open and honest

**ascendancy**

superiority or decisive advantage; domination

**ascetic**

leading a life of self-discipline and self-denial; austere

**ascribe**

inscribe or dedicate; attribute to a specified cause, source, or origin; assign as a quality

**aseptic**

preventing infection; having cleansing effect

**ashen**

ash-colored; very pale; consisting of ashes

**askance**

with sideways or indirect look; Turned to side, especially of eyes

**askew**

turned or twisted toward one side; at an angle

**aspect**

distinct feature or element in a problem; a way in which something can be viewed by the mind

**asperity**

sharpness of temper; roughness or harshness, as of surface, sound, or climate

**aspirant**

one who aspires, as to advancement, honors, or a high position

**assail**

assault; attack with or as if with violent blows

**assay**

analyze; evaluate; examine by trial or experiment; put to test

**assembly**

gathering; meeting; a group of persons gathered together for common reason

**assent**

express agreement to what is alleged or proposed; accept

**assiduous**

constant in application or attention; diligent; unceasing or persistent

**assimilate**

incorporate and absorb into mind; make similar; cause to resemble

**assist**

give help or support to, especially as a subordinate

**assistant**

helper; person who assists or helps someone else

**assuage**

ease or lessen pain; satisfy or appease

**astigmatism**

eye defect that prevents proper focus

**astringent**

causing contraction; having the effect of drawing tissue together; stern or austere

**astronomical**

enormously large or extensive; relating to astronomy

**asunder**

into separate parts or pieces; apart

**asymmetric**

not identical on both sides of a dividing central line

**atavism**

resemblance to remote ancestors rather than to parents; deformity returning after passage of two or more generations

**atavistic**

displaying characteristics of previous cultural era or of previous ancestral form

**atheistic**

denying existence of God; godless

**atrocious**

brutal deed; atrocious condition, quality, or behavior; monstrousness

**atrophy**

wasting away; decrease in size; reduction in the functionality of an organ caused by disease

**attach**

fasten; annex; be in contact with

**attached**

fastened together; joined by wall, especially by sharing a wall with another building; not freestanding

**attainment**

something, such as an accomplishment or achievement; achievement

**attenuate**

make slender, fine, or small; weaken; lessen density of

**attorney**

lawyer; one who is appointed by another to act in his place or stead; proxy

**attract**

draw to, or cause to tend to; engage or fix, as the mind, attention; invite or allure

**attribute**

essential quality; reputation; honor

**attrition**

gradual decrease in numbers; reduction in work force without firing employees; wearing away of opposition by means of harassment

**atypical**

not normal; unusual or irregular; not representative of a group, class, or type

**audacious**

fearlessly, often recklessly daring; bold

**audit**

examination of accounts; adjustment or correction of accounts

**auditory**

of or relating to hearing, the organs of hearing, or the sense of hearing

**auger**

hand tool for boring holes; hollow drill used to take core samples of soil, ice

**augment**

make greater, as in size, extent, or quantity

**augury**

sign of something coming; art or practice of foretelling events by signs or omens

**aureole**

the outermost region of the sun's atmosphere; halo

**auroral**

characteristic of dawn; dawning, eastern, like new beginning; relating to the atmospheric phenomenon auroras

**auspicious**

attended by favorable circumstances; marked by success; prosperous

**austere**

strict or severe in discipline; severely simple and unornamented

**authenticate**

prove genuine; establish authenticity of

**authoritarian**

expecting absolute obedience; completely dominating another's will

**authoritative**

having weight of authority; peremptory and dictatorial

**authority**

jurisdiction; power to enforce laws, exact obedience, command, determine, or judge; government

**authorize**

empower; give permission for; sanction

**autocrat**

dictator; ruler having unlimited power

**autocratic**

having absolute, unchecked power; dictatorial

**automaton**

mechanism that imitates actions of humans

**autonomous**

self-governing; not controlled by others or by outside forces; independent

**autonomy**

independence; self-government or the right of self-government; self-determination

**auxiliary**

helper, additional or subsidiary

**avalanche**

great mass of falling snow and ice

**avarice**

greediness for wealth; insatiable desire of gain

**aver**

declare to be true; affirm

**averse**

reluctant; disinclined; turned away or backward; unwilling

**aversion**

firm dislike; turning away; avoidance of a thing, situation, or behavior because of dislike

**aviary**

large cage, building, or enclosure in which birds are reared or kept

**aviation**

art or science of flying; flight; aeronautics

**avid**

greedy; eager for; marked by keen interest and enthusiasm

**avocation**

activity taken up in addition to one's regular work or profession, usually for enjoyment

**avoidance**

keeping away from or preventing from happening

**avow**

declare openly; acknowledge openly, boldly, and unashamedly

**avuncular**

in manner of uncle, pertaining to uncle; kind, genial, benevolent or tolerant

**awkwardly**

in an uncomfortable, nervous or embarrassed way

**awry**

in a position that is turned toward one side; away from correct course

**axiom**

self-evident truth requiring no proof

**azure**

sky blue; light purplish-blue