

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

astrigent

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; monstrosity

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