

## 3500 ACT Vocabulary (2)

### **baboon**

large terrestrial monkeys having doglike muzzles

### **bacchanalian**

drunken; relating to reveling and drunkenness

### **badinage**

teasing conversation; good-humored, playful conversation

### **baffle**

frustrate as by confusing or perplexing; impede force or movement of

### **balanced**

hold or carry in equilibrium

### **bald**

hairless; lacking a natural or usual covering

### **baleful**

portending evil; harmful in intent or effect.

### **balk**

stop short and refuse to go on; refuse obstinately or abruptly

### **ballast**

heavy substance used to add stability or weight

### **balloon**

large non-rigid bag filled with gas or heated air

### **banal**

obvious and dull; commonplace; lacking originality

### **bandanna**

large and brightly colored handkerchief; often used as a neckerchief

### **bandleader**

leader of a dance band; musician who leads a band of musicians

### **bandy**

discuss lightly or glibly; exchange words heatedly

### **banner**

flag; sign; a newspaper headline that runs across the full page

**banquet**

feast; entertainment of eating and drinking

**bantering**

good-natured ridiculing; cleverly amusing in tone

**barber**

haircutter; one whose business is to cut hair and to shave or trim beards

**bard**

poet, especially lyric poet

**barely**

just; only; hardly; scarcely

**barge**

flatboat; long, large boat for transporting freight that is unpowered and towed or pushed by other craft

**baroque**

complex or bizarre, especially in ornamentation; irregular in shape

**barrage**

artificial obstruction; heavy curtain of artillery fire; rapid, concentrated discharge of missiles

**barricade**

hastily put together defensive barrier; obstacle

**barterer**

trader; one who trades goods for other goods without involving money

**bask**

luxuriate; take pleasure in warmth

**bastion**

fortress; projecting part of fortification; well-fortified position

**bate**

let down; restrain; lessen force or intensity of; moderate

**bauble**

small, showy ornament of little value; child's plaything or toy

**bawdy**

indecent; obscene; humorously coarse

**beard**

hairy growth on or near the face of certain mammals

**beatific**

completely happy and contented; showing or producing exalted joy

**beatitude**

blessedness; state of extreme happiness

**becalm**

keep from motion, or stop progress of; make calm or still

**beckon**

signal or summon, as by nodding or waving; attract because of inviting or enticing appearance

**becloud**

make less visible; obscure or blur; darken with or as if with clouds

**bedizen**

ornament something in showy, tasteless, or gaudy finery

**bedraggle**

wet thoroughly; stain with mud; soil or wet by dragging in dirt, mud, moist places

**bedrock**

foundation; basis; solid rock that underlies loose material, such as soil, sand, clay, or gravel

**beeline**

direct, quick route; direct, straight course

**befuddle**

confuse thoroughly; becloud and confuse, as with liquor; make stupid with alcohol

**beget**

produce; give rise to

**beguile**

mislead; delude; deceive by guile

**behemoth**

huge creature; something enormous in size or power

**belabor**

discuss repeatedly; attack verbally; work hard upon

**belated**

having been delayed; done or sent too late

**beleaguer**

besiege or attack; harass; surround with troops

**belie**

contradict; give a false impression

**bellicose**

warlike or hostile in manner or temperament; showing or having impulse to be combative

**belligerent**

inclined or eager to fight; aggressive

**bemoan**

regret strongly; express disapproval of

**bemused**

confused; lost in thought; preoccupied

**benediction**

blessing; invocation of divine blessing; expression of good wishes

**beneficial**

helpful; tending to promote physical well-being

**benign**

kindly; favorable; not malignant

**bequeath**

leave to someone by a will; hand down

**bequest**

inheritance; legacy; act of giving, leaving by will, or passing on to another

**berate**

rebuke or scold angrily and at length

**bereavement**

grievous loss; particularly, the loss of a relative or friend by death

**bereft**

deprived of; lacking; desolate because of loss

**beset**

attack from all sides; trouble persistently; hem in

**besiege**

surround with armed forces; harass with requests

**besmirch**

soil, smear so as to make dirty or stained

**bestial**

beastlike; brutal; lacking in intelligence or reason

**bestow**

give as gift; present

**betoken**

signify; indicate; be a visible sign of; give evidence of

**betroth**

become engaged to marry; promise to marry

**bevy**

large group; a group of animals or birds, especially larks or quail

**bewilder**

lead into perplexity or confusion; perplex with mazes

**bicameral**

composed of or based on two legislative chambers or branches

**bicker**

engage in a petty, bad-tempered quarrel

**biennial**

every two years; lasting or living for two years

**bigotry**

stubborn intolerance; excessive zeal or warmth in favor of a party, sect, or opinion

**bilious**

suffering from indigestion; appearing as if affected by disorder; sickly

**bilk**

defraud or cheat; frustrate or disappoint; evade or escape from

**bill**

invoice; act; proposal; statement or list of particulars, such as a theater program or menu

**billowing**

swelling out in waves; surging; stormy; affected by storms

**bitter**

harsh or corrosive in tone; painful; acrid; acrimonious

**bivouac**

temporary encampment; a site where people on holiday can pitch tent

**bizarre**

fantastic; violently contrasting; strangely unconventional in style or appearance

**blanch**

cause to turn white or become pale; take color from; bleach

**bland**

lacking stimulating or mild; agreeable

**blandishment**

flattery; speech or action expressive of affection or kindness, and tending to win the heart

**blanket**

heavy, loosely woven fabric, usually of wool, and having a nap, used in bed clothing

**blare**

loud, harsh roar or screech; dazzling blaze of light

**blast**

explode; burst; gale; very strong gust of wind or air

**blench**

draw back, from lack of courage or resolution; turn pale, as if in fear

**blighted**

suffering from a disease; destroyed, ruined, or spoiled

**blithe**

gay; joyous; carefree and lighthearted

**block**

hinder; obstruct; indicate broadly without great detail; sketch

**bloom**

flower; blossom; best time of youth; period of greatest prosperity or productivity

**bludgeon**

short heavy club, usually of wood; heavy-headed weapon

**blues**

gloom; depressed spirits

**blunder**

serious mistake typically caused by ignorance or confusion

**blunt**

having a dull edge or end; not sharp; lacking in feeling; insensitive

**bluster**

blow in heavy gusts; speak in a loudly arrogant or bullying manner

**boastful**

exhibiting self-importance

**bohemian**

unconventional in an artistic way

**boisterous**

rough and stormy; loud, noisy, and lacking in restraint or discipline

**bolster**

support or prop up with or as if with a long narrow pillow or cushion

**bombardment**

attack with missiles; continuous attack with shot and shell upon a town, fort, or other position

**bombastic**

pompous; using inflated language; high-sounding but with little meaning

**boon**

blessing; benefit bestowed, especially in response to a request

**boorish**

rude and clumsy in behavior; ungentlemanly; awkward in manners

**bore**

drill; make a hole in or through, with or as if with a drill

**bounce**

jolt; rebound after having struck an object or a surface

**boundary**

dividing line; border; frontier

**boundless**

being without boundaries or limits; infinite; vast

**bountiful**

abundant; graciously generous; giving freely and generously

**bovine**

dull, slow-moving, and stolid, like an ox; placid and dull

**bow**

inclination of head, or bending of body for reverence, respect, civility, or submission; bending or rounded part of ship forward

**bowdlerize**

edit by omitting or modifying parts considered offensive, vulgar, or otherwise unseemly

**bowlegged**

have legs that curve outward at the knees

**braggart**

boaster; one given to loud, empty boasting; very talkative person

**brandish**

move or wave, as a weapon; raise and move in various directions

**brawl**

fight; noisy quarrel or fight; loud party

**brawling**

noisy; act of quarreling or fighting; making the noise of rushing water

**brawn**

solid and well-developed muscles, especially of the arms and legs

**breadth**

measure or dimension from side to side; width; extent

**breakup**

divorce; separation; loss of control or composure

**brevity**

quality or state of being brief in duration; concise expression

**brindled**

of brownish, tawny colour, with streaks, spots, or patterns

**brisk**

marked by speed, liveliness, and vigor; energetic; swift; keen or sharp in speech or manner

**bristling**

rising like bristles; showing irritation

**bristly**

having or covered with protective barbs or others; very irritable

**brittle**

easily broken; having little elasticity

**broach**

introduce; bring up for discussion or debate; announce

**broil**

cook by direct exposure to heat over fire; subject to great heat; be subjected to the action of heat; be greatly heated

**browbeat**

bully; intimidate; discourage or frighten with threats

**brunt**

main impact or shock; main burden

**brusque**

abrupt and curt in manner or speech; rudely abrupt, unfriendly

**bubble**

foam; dome-shaped covering made of transparent glass or plastic; fantastic or impracticable idea or belief

**buccaneer**

pirate; robber upon the sea

**buckle**

fold or collapse; bend out of shape, as under pressure or from heat

**bucolic**

rustic; pastoral; agricultural; relating to country affairs, or to shepherd's life and occupation

**buddy**

good friend; comrade; partner, especially one of a pair or team

**budget**

estimate; a sum of money allocated for a particular purpose

**buffoonery**

clowning; arts and practices of buffoon, as low jests, ridiculous pranks, vulgar tricks and postures

**bullion**

gold and silver in the form of bars

**bulwark**

earthwork or other strong defense; person who defends

**bump**

impact as from a collision; lump on the body caused by a blow

**bumptious**

offensively self-assertive; liable to give or take offense; forward; pushing

**bungalow**

small house or cottage usually having a single story and attic

**bungle**

mismanage; blunder; work or act in clumsy, awkward, or blundering manner

**buoyant**

able to float; cheerful and optimistic

**burgeon**

grow forth; send out buds; grow or develop rapidly

**burlesque**

give an imitation that ridicules; imitate mockingly or humorously

**burning**

marked by flames or intense heat; of immediate import; urgent

**burnish**

make shiny by rubbing; polish

**bursar**

treasurer or keeper of funds; purser or treasurer of college or other community

**bustle**

move or cause to move energetically and busily; teem

**butterfly**

insect typically having a slender body with broad colorful wings

**butress**

support physically; prop up; support something or someone by supplying evidence

**buxom**

healthily plump and ample of figure; full-bosomed; vigorous; jolly