

## 3500 ACT Vocabulary (3)

### **cabal**

small group of persons secretly united to promote their own interests

### **cacophonous**

discordant; inharmonious; sounding harshly; ill-sounding

### **cadaverous**

like corpse; pale; Having appearance or color of dead human body

### **cadence**

rhythmic rise and fall of words or sounds; beat

### **cajole**

influence or urge by gentle urging or flattering

### **calamity**

event that brings terrible loss, lasting distress, or severe affliction; disaster; misery

### **caldron**

large kettle or boiler of copper, brass, or iron

### **calligraphy**

beautiful writing; excellent penmanship

### **callow**

youthful; immature; inexperienced; without feathers

### **calm**

freedom from motion, agitation, or disturbance; tranquility; stillness; quiet; serenity

### **calorific**

capable of producing heat; causing heat; heating

### **calumny**

false statement maliciously made to injure another's reputation; slander

### **camaraderie**

good-fellowship; companionship; close friendship in friends or teammates

### **cameo**

piece of jewelry; a small scale used as a jewel for adornment; famous actor's special appearance in a minor role in film

**camouflage**

exploit natural surroundings to disguise something; conceal

**campaign**

battle ;a series of actions advancing a principle or tending toward a particular end

**canny**

having pleasing or useful qualities; gentle; knowing; cautious; cunning; shrewd

**cantankerous**

ill humored; irritable; marked by ill-tempered contradiction or opposition; ugly; malicious

**cantata**

story or poem set to music that can be sung by chorus

**canter**

slow gallop; moderate running pace of horse

**canto**

part or division of poem of some length

**canvas**

heavy closely woven fabric; background against which events unfold, as in a historical narrative

**canvass**

determine votes; examine carefully or discuss thoroughly; scrutinize

**capable**

having the ability required for a specific task

**capacious**

capable of containing a large quantity; spacious or roomy

**capitulate**

surrender; end all resistance; give up; go along with or comply

**capricious**

fickle; impulsive and unpredictable; apt to change opinions suddenly

**caption**

title; chapter heading; text under illustration

**captious**

intended to confuse in an argument

**captivate**

charm; enthrall; seize by force, as an enemy in war, or anything belonging to enemy

**carapace**

hard outer covering or case of certain organisms such as arthropods and turtles

**carbohydrate**

essential structural component of living cells and source of energy for animals

**cardinal**

high church official, ranking just below the pope; dark to deep or vivid red

**careen**

lean to one side, as a ship under press of sail; sway from side to side

**careful**

full of care; anxious; solicitous; taking care; giving good heed; watchful; cautious

**careworn**

worn or burdened with care; showing the signs of long-term stresses

**caricature**

representation that is deliberately exaggerated to produce a comic effect

**carnival**

festivity; traveling amusement show usually including rides, games, and sideshows

**carnivorous**

eating or feeding on flesh; predatory

**carping**

fault-finding; excessive complaining; of unreasonable criticism or censure

**cartographer**

one who makes maps or charts

**castigate**

criticize severely; punish; revise or make corrections to publication

**cast-iron**

extremely robust; rigid; inflexible; made of cast iron

**casual**

informal; purposeless; occurring by chance

**cataclysm**

an event resulting in great loss and misfortune; deluge or overflowing of water

**catapult**

slingshot; hurling machine; military machine for hurling missiles, used in ancient and medieval times

**cataract**

large or high waterfall; eye abnormality

**catcall**

shout of disapproval; shout or whistle expressing dislike, especially from crowd or audience

**catechism**

book for religious instruction; instruction by question and answer

**categorical**

absolute; having no exception; of using category or categories

**category**

group; class; collection of things sharing a common attribute

**cater**

supply what is needed or desired; provide food professionally for special occasion

**catharsis**

purging or cleansing of any passage of body

**caulk**

make watertight by filling in cracks

**causal**

implying cause-and-effect relationship

**caustic**

capable of burning, corroding, dissolving, or eating away by chemical action

**caution**

formal warning in law; close attention to minimize risk

**cautiously**

gingerly; carefully; in a conservative manner

**cavalcade**

ceremonial procession or display; succession or series

**cavil**

criticise for petty or frivolous reasons; raise trivial objections

**cavity**

hole; cavern; hollow area within the body

**ceaseless**

incessant; endless; without stop or pause; constant.

**cede**

yield or formally resign and surrender to another

**celebrated**

famous; well-known; having illustrious past

**celerity**

swiftness of action or motion; speed

**celestial**

relating to the sky or the heavens; supremely good; god or angel

**celibate**

unmarried; abstaining from sexual intercourse

**ensorious**

critical; addicted to censure; severe in making remarks on others, or on their writings or manners; implying or expressing censure

**censure**

expression of strong disapproval or harsh criticism; blame

**centennial**

of hundredth anniversary; lasting or aged a hundred years

**centigrade**

measure of temperature, used widely in Europe

**centrifugal**

radiating; departing from the center

**centripetal**

tending toward center; moving or directed toward center or axis

**centurion**

officer of ancient Roman army, in command of a century of soldiers or minor division

**cerebration**

act of cerebrating; thinking, mental activity

**ceremonial**

formal or ritual; ceremonious

**ceremonious**

marked by formality; strictly observant of or devoted to ceremony or ritual

**ceremony**

formal act or set of acts performed as prescribed by ritual or custom

**certitude**

state of being certain; complete assurance; confidence

**cessation**

bringing or coming to end; ceasing

**cession**

yielding to another; ceding or surrendering

**chafe**

wear away or irritate by rubbing; make sore by rubbing; annoy; vex

**chaff**

trivial or worthless matter; thin dry bracts or scales, especially

**chaffing**

joking; use of light, frivolous language by way of fun or ridicule

**chagrin**

anxiety caused by humiliation or injured pride; disappointment

**chalice**

goblet; bowl-shaped drinking vessel; large drinking cup, often having stem and base

**chameleon**

lizard that changes color in different situations

**chaos**

disorder; condition or place of great disorder or confusion; disorderly mass

**chaotic**

in utter disorder; lacking visible order or organization

**characterize**

distinguish; be characteristic of; be a distinctive trait or mark of

**chart**

graph; diagram; map showing coastlines, water depths, or other information of use to navigators

**charter**

document issued by a sovereign, legislature, or other authority; contract for commercial leasing of vessel

**chary**

cautious; sparing or restrained about giving

**chasm**

deep opening in the earth surface

**chassis**

rectangular frame attached working parts, as of automobile

**chasten**

rid of excess; refine or purify; correct by punishment or reproof

**chastise**

punish, as by beating; criticize severely; rebuke

**chateau**

impressive country house or castle in France; large country house

**chauvinist**

person with prejudiced belief in superiority of own kind

**cherish**

harbor; treasure; treat with affection and tenderness; hold dear

**cherubic**

angelic; innocent-looking; like a baby; infantile

**chicanery**

mean or unfair artifice to obscure truth; deception by trickery or sophistry

**chide**

scold mildly so as to correct or improve; express disapproval

**chimerical**

fantastically improbable; highly unrealistic; imaginative

**choleric**

hot-tempered; easily angered; bad-tempered; expressing anger

**chortle**

chuckle with delight; joyful laugh or chuckle; laugh quietly or with restraint

**chronic**

lasting for long period; marked by frequent recurrence, as certain diseases

**churlish**

difficult to work with; rude; unyielding; unmanageable

**cipher**

secret code; an Arabic numeral or figure; a number

**circuit**

electrical device that provides a path for electrical current to flow

**circuitous**

being or taking a roundabout, lengthy course; going round in a circuit; not direct

**circumlocution**

indirect or roundabout expression; evasion in speech or writing

**circumscribe**

limit narrowly; confine; draw a line around; encircle

**circumspect**

carefully aware of all circumstances; cautious

**circumvent**

surround an enemy; enclose or entrap; beat by cleverness and wit

**cistern**

reservoir or water tank; vessel to hold water for household uses

**citadel**

fortress; fortified place which people could go for shelter during battle

**civil**

having to do with citizens or the state; courteous and polite

**clamber**

climb with difficulty, especially on all fours; climb by crawling

**clamor**

noise; loud outcry; expression of discontent or protest

**clan**

faction; tribe; division of a tribe tracing descent from a common ancestor; a large group of relatives

**clangor**

loud, resounding noise; sharp, metallic, ringing sound; resonant, clanging sound

**clapper**

metal striker that hangs inside bell and makes sound by hitting side; someone who applauds

**claustrophobia**

abnormal fear of being in narrow or enclosed spaces

**cleave**

split with or as if with a sharp instrument; pierce or penetrate; remain faithful to

**cleft**

crack or crevice; a split or indentation between two parts, as of the chin



**clench**

close tightly; grasp or grip tightly; fasten with a clinch

**climactic**

relating to the highest point; ascending or leading to climax

**clime**

region; climate; particular region as defined by its weather or climate

**clinic**

healthcare facility for outpatient care

**clique**

small exclusive group of friends or associates

**clockwise**

in the direction that the hands of a clock move

**cloister**

place, especially a monastery or convent, devoted to religious seclusion; secluded, quiet place

**cloying**

distasteful because excessive; excessively sweet or sentimental

**clump**

cluster or close group of bushes, trees; mass; sound of heavy treading

**cluster**

group; bunch; group of the same or similar elements gathered or occurring closely

**clutch**

grasp and hold tightly; attempt to grasp or seize

**coagulate**

cause transformation of liquid into or as if into soft, semisolid, or solid mass

**coalesce**

combine; fuse; grow together; come together so as to form one whole; unite

**coddle**

treat gently; cook in water just below boiling point

**codicil**

supplement or appendix, especially to a will

**codify**

arrange laws, rules as a code; classify; arrange or systematize

**coexist**

exist together, at the same time, or in the same place

**cogency**

power of proving or of producing belief; quality of being highly probable or convincing; force; credibility

**cogent**

reasonable and convincing; based on evidence; forcefully persuasive

**cogitate**

think earnestly or studiously; meditate; ponder; think deeply

**cognate**

related by blood; having common ancestor; related or analogous in nature, character, or function

**cognitive**

knowing or perceiving; part of mental functions that deals with logic

**cognizance**

knowledge or recognition; awareness; range of what one can know or understand

**cohere**

stick or hold together in a mass that resists separation

**coherence**

logical and orderly and consistent relation of parts; state of cohering or sticking together

**cohesion**

tendency to keep together

**coiffure**

hairstyle; head-dress; manner of arranging or dressing hair

**colander**

bowl-shaped strainer, used to wash or drain foods

**collaborate**

work together, especially in a joint intellectual effort

**collate**

examine in order to verify authenticity; arrange in order

**colleague**

fellow worker; associate; co-worker

**colloquial**

of informal spoken language or conversation; conversational or chatty

**collusion**

secret agreement for an illegal purpose; conspiracy

**colony**

region politically controlled by a distant country; a dependency; a community of social insects, as ants, bees

**combustible**

capable of igniting and burning; easily aroused or excited

**comely**

pleasing or attractive to the eye; handsome; graceful

**comeuppance**

rebuke; punishment or retribution that one deserves; outcome which is justly deserved

**comic**

arousing or provoking laughter; ridiculous; amusing; humorous

**commandeer**

force into military service; take for public use; seize for military use; take arbitrarily or by force

**commemorate**

serve as a memorial to; honor the memory of with a ceremony

**commensurate**

of the same size, extent, or duration as another

**comment**

express an opinion; remark

**commiserate**

feel or express pity or sympathy for

**commission**

fee for services; group of people appointed to find out about something; authorize

**commissioner**

person authorized by a commission to perform certain duties; member of a commission

**commit**

do something that cannot be changed; cause to be admitted

**commodious**

spacious and comfortable; fit; proper; convenient

**commodity**

goods; article of trade; advantage; benefit.

**commonsense**

exhibiting native good judgment

**communal**

held in common; of a group of people

**communicate**

send information about; make known; impart; reveal clearly

**comparable**

similar or equivalent; being of equal regard; worthy to be ranked with

**compatible**

harmonious; having similar disposition and tastes

**compel**

force; coerce; necessitate or pressure by force

**compensatory**

serving to compensate or as compensation; making amends; repaying

**competing**

engaging in a contest; being in the state of competition, often unintentionally

**compile**

put together or compose from materials gathered from several sources

**complacency**

feeling of contented self-satisfaction, especially when unaware of upcoming trouble

**complaint**

expression of pain, dissatisfaction, or resentment; criticism

**complaisant**

trying to please; showing cheerful willingness to do favors for others

**complementary**

serving to fill out or to complete; supplying mutual needs or offsetting mutual lacks

**compliant**

yielding to request or desire; ready to accommodate; disposed or willing to comply

**complicity**

participation; involvement as partner or accomplice, especially in crime or other wrongdoing

**complimentary**

expressing of praise, admiration, or congratulation; given free to repay a favor or as an act of courtesy

**component**

element; ingredient; abstract part of something

**composure**

mental calmness; calm or tranquil state of mind

**comprehension**

grasp; ability to understand

**comprise**

include; consist of; be composed of

**compunction**

feeling of deep regret; strong uneasiness caused by a sense of guilt

**concave**

hollow; curved like inner surface of sphere

**conceal**

keep from being seen, found, observed, or discovered; secrete

**conceit**

overly high self-esteem; feelings of excessive pride

**concentric**

having a common center, circles of different size, one within another

**concerted**

planned or accomplished together; combined

**conciliatory**

making or willing to yield, or to make concessions

**concise**

brief and compact; expressing much in few words

**conclude**

enclose; reach as an end of reasoning; make final determination ; judge or decide; bring to an end

**concomitant**

in conjunction with; accompanying; associated with

**concomitantly**

existing concurrently; in company or combination

**concrete**

solid mass; covering with cement; hard, strong construction material consisting of sand, conglomerate , and gravel

**condole**

grieve; express sympathy; speak sympathetically to one in pain, grief, or misfortune

**condor**

largest flying birds in the western hemisphere; gold coin of some South American countries

**confide**

disclose; reveal; tell in confidence

**confidence**

feeling secure or certain about something

**conflagration**

large destructive fire; burning; large-scale military conflict

**conflict**

fight; struggle; incompatibility of dates or events

**confluence**

act of two things flowing together; junction or meeting place where two things meet

**conformity**

similarity in form or character; agreement

**confound**

cause to become confused or perplexed; fail to distinguish; mix up

**confuse**

cause to be unable to think with clarity or act with intelligence or understanding; mix up

**connect**

join, or fasten together; associate; combine; unite or link together

**conquer**

gain or acquire by force; take possession of by violent means; gain dominion over

**consanguineous**

of the same lineage or origin; having common ancestor

**consciousness**

having knowledge of ; special awareness or sensitivity:

**consistency**

harmonious uniformity or agreement among things or parts

**constant**

invariable; repeating; continually occurring; persistent

**constantly**

in an unchangeable or invariable manner; in every case; perpetually; continually

**consternation**

intense state of fear or dismay; astonishment combined with terror

**constituent**

component or part; citizen, voter

**constitution**

law determining the fundamental political principles of a government; the act of forming something

**constrain**

restrain; keep within close bounds; confine

**constraint**

something that restricts or confines within prescribed bounds

**construct**

form by assembling or combining parts; build; create

**consumption**

eating or drinking of something

**contact**

get in touch with; reach

**contagious**

infectious; of or relating to communicable diseases

**contain**

include; incorporate; be capable of holding

**contemptuous**

scornful; expressing contempt; showing a lack of respect

**contentious**

quarrelsome; disagreeable; marked by heated arguments or controversy

**contiguous**

sharing an edge or boundary; touching; neighboring

**continence**

self control; self restraint; partial or complete abstention from sexual activity

**contrived**

artificially formal; obviously planned or calculated; not natural

**controvert**

oppose with arguments; attempt to prove to be false or incorrect; contradict

**contusion**

injury that doesn't break the skin

**convalesce**

recover gradually from an illness

**convenient**

suited or favorable to one's comfort, purpose, or needs; near; accessible

**conventionally**

in a conventional manner; ordinarily, by convention

**converge**

approach; tend to meet; come together

**conversant**

familiar, as by study or experience; able to converse knowledgeably

**conversation**

general course of conduct; intimate fellowship or association; close acquaintance; informal dialogue

**convex**

curving outward; having surface that bulges outward, as the exterior of sphere

**conveyance**

act of conveying; tools of conveying, especially vehicle for transportation

**convict**

find or declare guilty

**conviction**

judgment that someone is guilty of crime; strongly held belief

**convivial**

festive; occupied with or fond of the pleasures of good company

**convoke**

call together; cause to assemble in meeting; convene

**convoluted**

coiled around; highly involved; intricate

**cooperative**

done with or working with others



**copious**

plentiful; containing plenty; affording ample supply

**coquette**

flirt; seductive woman who uses her sex appeal to exploit men

**cordon**

line around an area to enclose or guard it

**cornucopia**

goat's horn overflowing with fruit and grain; symbol of abundance

**corollary**

natural consequence or effect; result

**corporeal**

bodily; of a material nature; tangible

**corpulent**

very fat; large in body; overweight

**correlation**

mutual relationship; interdependence or interconnection relationship

**corrode**

destroy metal or alloy gradually, especially by chemical action; be eaten or worn away

**corrosive**

eating away by chemicals or disease

**corrugated**

wrinkled; shaped into alternating parallel grooves and ridges

**costume**

dress; attire; aset of clothes appropriate for a particular occasion or season

**coterie**

group that meets socially; an exclusive circle of people with common purpose

**countenance**

give sanction or support to; tolerate or approve

**counterclockwise**

in a direction opposite to the direction in which the hands of a clock move

**counterfeit**

make a copy of, usually with the intent to defraud; forge

**countermand**

cancel; revoke command or order; order or direct in opposition to; prohibit; forbid

**counterpart**

duplicate copy; analogue; one that closely resembles another

**countervail**

act or react with equal force; ; counteract

**countless**

innumerable; infinite; too many to count

**court**

enclosed space; courtyard; uncovered area shut in by the walls of a building

**coverage**

extent to which something is covered; news as presented by reporters

**cowboy**

one who tends cattle and performs other duties on horseback; one who is reckless or irresponsible

**cramped**

jammed; stuffed; uncomfortably small or restricted

**craze**

fine crack in a surface or glaze; short-lived popular fashion; inordinate desire or longing; passion

**crazy**

affected with madness; insane; deranged

**crevice**

gap; a long narrow opening

**crew**

group of people working together, as in spacecraft, ship, plane or train

**cripple**

person or animal that is partially disabled or unable to use a limb or limb

**crooked**

having or marked by bends or angles; not straight or aligned; curved

**crystallized**

having become fixed and definite in form

**cubic**

having three dimensions

**cue**

end of a thing; queue; last words of a play actor's speech; hint or intimation; humor

**cull**

pick out from others; weed out; remove rejected members or parts from

**culminate**

reach the highest or most decisive point; rise to summit

**cultivate**

improve and prepare, as by plowing or fertilizing, for raising crops; promote the growth of

**culvert**

artificial channel for water; sewer or drain crossing under road

**cumbersome**

heavy; difficult to handle because of weight or bulk

**cumulative**

increasing by successive addition

**cupidity**

greed; excessive desire, especially for wealth

**curmudgeon**

ill-tempered person full of stubborn ideas or opinions

**cursive**

flowing, as writing letters joined one to another without raising pen; running

**cursor**

casual; brief or broad; not cautious, nor detailed

**curtail**

cut short or reduce; cut off end or tail, or any part

**cynosure**

object that serves as a focal point of attention and admiration; something that strongly attracts attention; center of attraction