PTE Word List for Academic (A B)

**abbreviation**  
n.  
shortening something by omitting parts of it

**abnormal**  
a. Syn. anomalous; unusual  
unusual; not typical; not normal

**abolish**  
v. Syn. cancel; annul  
cancel; put an end to; destroy completely

**aboriginal**  
a. Syn. primitive; native  
being the first of its kind in a region; primitive; native

**abort**  
v. Syn. failure; terminate  
stop; terminate before completion; terminate a pregnancy

**abound**  
v.  
be full of; be plentiful

**abrasion**  
n. Syn. scratch; friction  
scratch; friction

**abridge**  
v. Syn. condense; shorten  
condense; shorten; reduce length of written text

**abrupt**  
a. Syn. sudden; unforeseen  
broken off; very steep; having sudden transitions from one subject to another

**absorb**  
v. Syn. monopolize; receive  
assimilate or incorporate; suck or drink up; occupy full attention

**abstract**  
a. Syn. theoretical; abstruse  
theoretical; not concrete; not applied or practical; difficult to understand
abundance
n. Syn. profusion; richness
great or plentiful amount; fullness to overflowing

accelerate
v. Syn. speed; hasten
move faster; cause to develop or progress more quickly; occur sooner than expected

accessory
n. Syn. adjunct; appendage
additional object; useful but not essential thing; subordinate or supplementary item

acclaim
v. Syn. applaud
applaud; announce with great approval

accommodate
v. Syn. adapt; oblige
do a favor or service for; provide for; supply with; make suitable; adapt; allow for

accommodation
n.
living quarters provided for public convenience; something that meets a need; convenience

accompany
v.
travel with; be associated with

accord
n. Syn. agreement; treaty
settlement or compromise of conflicting opinions; written agreement between two states

accountable
a.
liable to being called to account; answerable; responsible; something that can be explained

accumulate
v. Syn. collect
pile up; collect; mount up; increase

accuser
n.
one who accuses; one who brings a charge of crime or fault

achieve
v. Syn. accomplish; fulfill
gain with effort; accomplish; fulfill

acquaint
v. Syn. Inform
inform about; cause to come to know personally; make familiar

**acquire**
v. Syn. obtain; gain
gain through experience or effort; gain possession of; locate with tracking system

**acquisition**
n. Syn. acquirement; attainment
act of contracting or assuming or acquiring possession of something

**activate**
v. Syn. encourage; stimulate
make active or more active; stimulate; make radioactive

**acute**
a. Syn. keen; sharp
quickly perceptive; keen; having a sharp point or tip; extremely sharp or severe

**adapt**
v. Syn. alter; modify
make fit for; change to suit a new purpose

**addict**
v.
cause someone to become dependent; indulge in; be devoted to

**adept**
a. Syn. competent; proficient
expert at; very skilled; having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude

**adequate**
a. Syn. sufficient; enough
sufficient; enough to meet a purpose

**adhere**
v. Syn. stick; bond
stick fast; stick to firmly; be compatible or in accordance with

**adjacent**
a. Syn. adjoining; neighboring
adjoining; neighboring; close to; lying near

**adjoin**
v. Syn. attach
be next to; be contiguous to; border on

**administer**
administrable
v. Syn. govern; supervise
govern; supervise; give or apply medications

administration
v.
 administer; supply; supervise or be in charge of

admission
n. Syn. admittance; entrance; access
act or practice of admitting; power or permission to enter

adolescence
n. Syn. youth; juvenescence
state of growing up from childhood to manhood or womanhood; transitional period between youth and maturity

advent
n. Syn. arrival
coming or arrival, especially of something extremely important

adverse
a. Syn. unfavorable; hostile
in opposing direction; harmful or unfavorable; acting or serving to oppose

advertise
v. Syn. notify
give notice to; inform or apprise; make known; give public notice of

advocate
v. Syn. urge; support
speak, plead, or argue in favour of; plead for; push for something

aerial
a.
of the air or atmosphere; produced by or found in the air; performed in the air

aesthetic
a. Syn. artistic; elegant
elegant or tasteful; of or concerning appreciation of beauty or good taste

affiliate
v. Syn. associate; incorporate
associate; incorporate

affirm
v. Syn. assert; confirm
assert; confirm

affix
v. Syn. fasten; attach
fasten; append; add on; secure to something

afflict
v. Syn. plague; suffer; torment
cause pain, suffering or distress

aggregate
v. Syn. gather; accumulate
gather into a mass, sum, or whole; amount to

agitation
n. Syn. anxiety; disturbance
anxiety; extreme emotional disturbance

agony
n.
extreme pain of mind or body; anguish; last struggle of life; death struggle

agreeable
a. Syn. pleasing; acceptable
ready to consent or submit; acceptable

airing
a.
exposure to air for freshening or drying; exposure to public attention; radio or television broadcast

albeit
ad.
even though; although; notwithstanding

alienate
v. Syn. estrange; transfer; separate
cause to become unfriendly or hostile; transfer property or ownership; isolate or dissociate emotionally

allege
v. Syn. affirm
state without proof; assert to be true

allegiance
n. Syn. loyalty; fidelity
loyalty to a nation, sovereign, or cause; fidelity to any person or thing; devotion

alleviate
v. Syn. relieve; moderate; reduce
provide physical relief, as from pain; make easier; remove in part

allocate
allot
v. Syn. distribute
parcel out in parts or portions; distribute to each individual concerned; assign as a share or lot

allowance
n. Syn. authorization; permission
approval; act of allowing, granting, or admitting

alloy
v. Syn. combine; mix
combine; mix; make less pure; lessen or moderate

alongside
ad.
along or by the side; side by side with

alphabetical
a.
arranged in customary order of the letters of a language

alter
v. Syn. modify; change; convert
modify; cause to change; make different; convert

alternate
a. Syn. substitute
happening or following in turns; succeeding each other continuously; substitute

altitude
n. Syn. elevation; height
elevation especially above sea level; height

amateur
a. Syn. nonprofessional; inexpert
nonprofessional; lacking the skill of a professional, as in an art

amaze
v. Syn. stun; astonish; shock
astonish; affect with wonder

ambiguity
n.
state of being ambiguous; doubtfulness or uncertainty

ambiguous
a.
unclear or doubtful in meaning

**ambitious**
a. Syn. aspiring; enterprising
aspiring; having a strong desire for success or achievement

**amend**
v. Syn. correct; improve
change for the better; improve; remove faults or errors

**amends**
n.
compensation for a loss or injury; recompense; reparation

**amid**
ad. Syn. among
in the middle of; among; surrounded by

**amidst**
ad. Syn. amid; among
amid; in the middle of; among

**ammunition**
n. Syn. weapon
military stores or provisions; articles used in weapons, as powder, balls, shot, shells

**amphibian**
a.
able to live both on land and in water

**ample**
a. Syn. abundant
more than enough in size or scope or capacity; fairly large

**amplify**
v. Syn. intensify; increase
broaden or clarify by expanding; intensify; make larger or more powerful; increase

**amuse**
v. Syn. absorb; distract; bewilder
occupy in an agreeable, pleasing, or entertaining fashion; cause laughter or be funny; delude or deceive

**analogy**
n. Syn. similarity; parallelism
similarity in some respects; comparison based on similarity

**analyse**
v. resolve anything complex into its elements; separate into parts for purpose of examination of each separately

**analytical**

a. of analysis; resolving into elements or parts

**ancestor**

n. Syn. forefather; forebear
forefather; forebear; forerunner or predecessor

**anchor**

v. Syn. fasten
secure or fasten firmly; be fixed in place; narrate or coordinate

**anecdote**

n. Syn. episode; story
short account of amusing or interesting event; short narrative; secret story of history or biography

**annihilate**

v. Syn. destroy
destroy completely; reduce to nonexistence

**annoy**

v. Syn. disturb; irritate
disturb, especially by minor irritations; irritate

**annuity**

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

**antagonism**

n. Syn. hostility; enmity
active resistance; condition of being an opposing principle, force, or factor

**antarctic**

a. opposite to the northern or arctic pole; relating to the southern pole or to the region near it

**anthem**

n. Syn. song; hymn
song of praise or patriotism; song of devotion or loyalty

**anthology**

n. Syn. collection
book of literary selections by various authors

**anthropology**
n. social science that studies origins and social relationships of human beings

**antibiotic**
a. Syn. antibacterial
of or relating to chemical substance that kills microorganisms and cures infections

**anticipate**
v. Syn. expect; predict
act in advance of; deal with ahead of time; predict

**anticipation**
n. Syn. expectation
something expected; pleasurable expectation; wishing with confidence

**antonym**
n.
word of opposite meaning; counter term

**apologetic**
a.
offering or expressing an apology or excuse; serving as or containing a formal justification or defense

**apparatus**
n. Syn. equipment
a group of parts that work together to perform given function; appliance or device for particular purpose

**apparent**
a. Syn. visible
capable of being seen, or easily seen; open to view; visible to eye

**append**
v. Syn. attach
attach; add as supplement or appendix

**appendix**
n. Syn. appendage; adjunct; concomitant
something appended or added

**applaud**
v. Syn. clap; acclaim
acclaim; express approval, especially by clapping the hands

**appliance**
n.
durable goods for home or office use; device or instrument for household use
applicant
n. Syn. candidate
candidate

appraisal
n. Syn. assessment; evaluation
assessment; evaluation; the classification of someone or something with respect to its worth

appreciable
a. Syn. considerable; perceptible
considerable; perceptible

apprentice
n.
works for an expert to learn a trade; beginner; learner

approximate
v. Syn. approach
approach; come near

apt
a. Syn. appropriate; suitable
likely; exactly suitable; appropriate; quick to learn or understand

aptitude
n. Syn. intelligence; talent
inherent ability; quickness in learning and understanding

aquarium
n.
tank or pool or bowl filled with water for keeping live fish and underwater animals

aquatic
a. Syn. watery
consisting of, relating to, or being in water

arbitrary
a. Syn. capricious; impulse
randomly chosen; determined by chance or impulse, and not by reason or principle

arc
n.
continuous portion of a circle; something curved in shape

arch
n.
any part of a curved line

archaic
a. Syn. antiquated
no longer current or applicable; antiquated

architect
n.
one who designs and supervises the construction of buildings or other large structures

archives
n.
public records; place where public records are kept

ardent
a. Syn. intense; passionate; zealous
displaying or by strong enthusiasm or devotion; passionate

arduous
a. Syn. hard; strenuous
demanding great effort or labor; difficult

arena
n.
playing field where sports events take place; large structure for open-air sports or entertainments

arise
v. Syn. spring
come up from a lower to a higher position; come above the horizon; spring up; come into action

armour
n.
defensive covering, as of metal, wood, or leather, worn to protect the body against weapons

arouse
v. Syn. excite; stimulate; awake
excite; stimulate; awaken from or as if from sleep

array
v. Syn. marshal
set out for display or use; place in orderly arrangement

articulate
a. Syn. effective; distinct
expressing oneself easily in clear and effective language

artificial
a. Syn. unreal
made by humans; produced rather than natural.

artillery
large weapons, such as cannon and missile launchers operated by crews; branch of army in use of large weapons

**ascend**

v. Syn. climb; mount
climb; mount

**ascent**

n.
upward slope or grade; movement upward

**ascertain**

v. Syn. discover; insure
find out for certain; discover with certainty; make sure of

**ascribe**

v. Syn. refer; attribute; assign
inscribe or dedicate; attribute to a specified cause, source, or origin; assign as a quality

**aspect**

n. Syn. respect; facet
distinct feature or element in a problem; a way in which something can be viewed by the mind

**aspiration**

n. Syn. ambition; longing
ambition; longing

**aspire**

v. Syn. dream; seek
seek to attain; long for; strive toward an end

**assassination**

n.
act of assassinating; killing by treacherous violence; murder of public figure by surprise attack

**assemble**

v. Syn. gather
put together; bring or call together into a group or whole

**assert**

v. Syn. declare
declare or state with confidence; put oneself forward boldly

**assess**

v. Syn. estimate; judge
estimate value; judge worth of something

**asset**
n. Syn. properties; advantage
properties; advantage; useful or valuable quality

**assign**

v. Syn. appoint; allot
appoint; allot; make over; point out authoritatively or exactly

**assorted**

a. Syn. varied; miscellaneous
varied; miscellaneous

**assumption**

n. Syn. hypothesis; supposition
something taken for accepted as true without proof; taking over or taking possession of

**assurance**

n. Syn. certainty; confidence; insurance; guaranty
promise or pledge; certainty; self-confidence; freedom from doubt

**astound**

v. Syn. surprise; shock
affect with wonder; surprise; shock

**astronomy**

n.
branch of physics that studies celestial bodies and universe as a whole

**asylum**

n. Syn. protection
place of refuge or shelter; protection

**athlete**

n.
sports man; one who contended for prize in public games

**atlas**

n.
a bound volume of maps, charts, or tables

**attach**

v. Syn. fasten; annex
fasten; annex; be in contact with

**attain**

v. Syn. gain
achieve or accomplish; gain

**attendance**
attendant
n. Syn. aide; servant
aide; servant; accompanying; person who participates in a meeting

attribute
n. Syn. trait
essential quality; reputation; honor

audible
a. Syn. perceptible; discernible
perceptible; heard or perceptible by the ear

audit
n.
examination of accounts; adjustment or correction of accounts

auditorium
n.
area of theater or concert hall where audience sits

augment
v. Syn. increase
make greater, as in size, extent, or quantity

authentic
a. Syn. genuine; real; valid; trustworthy
not counterfeit or copied; valid; trustworthy

author
n.
beginner, former, or first mover of anything; creator; originator; one who composes or writes book or composer

authoritative
a.
having weight of authority; peremptory and dictatorial

authorize
v. Syn. empower; sanction
empower; give permission for; sanction

automate
v.
replace or enhance human labor with machines

automatic
a. Syn. automated; mechanized; involuntary
mechanized; operating with minimal human intervention; independent of external control

**automation**

n.
act or process of converting the controlling of a machine or device to a more automatic system, such as computer or electronic controls

**automobile**

n.
self-propelled vehicle suitable for use on street or roadway

**autonomy**

n. Syn. independence; liberty
independence; self-government or the right of self-government; self-determination

**auxiliary**

a. Syn. aiding; supplementary
helper, additional or subsidiary

**avail**

v. Syn. profit; promote
turn to advantage of; be of service to; profit; promote

**avalanche**

n.
great mass of falling snow and ice

**avert**

v. Syn. prevent
prevent; turn or cause to turn off or away

**aviation**

n. Syn. flying; flight; aeronautics
art or science of flying; flight; aeronautics

**axis**

n. Syn. shaft; pivot
the center around which something rotates; pivot

**backward**

a.
directed to the back or rear; unwilling; averse; reluctant; hesitating; undeveloped

**bacterium**

n.
single celled organism with no nucleus

**badminton**
n.
game played on a court with light long-handled rackets

**baffle**

v. Syn. frustrate; perplex
frustrate as by confusing or perplexing; impede force or movement of

**ballot**

n.
printed or written ticket used in voting; act of voting; whole number of votes cast at an election

**bamboo**

n.
plant of the family of grasses, and genus Bambusa, growing in tropical countries

**ban**

n. Syn. Prohibition
official prohibition; decree that prohibits something

**bandage**

n.
strip of woven material, used in dressing and binding up wounds

**banish**

v. Syn. dispel
drive out; drive away; compel to depart; dispel

**bankrupt**

a.
penniless, without any money; financially ruined

**banquet**

n. Syn. feast
feast; entertainment of eating and drinking

**bark**

n. Syn. yelp; howl
sound made by a dog; harsh sound uttered by a dog

**barometer**

n.
instrument for determining the weight or pressure of the atmosphere

**barren**

a. Syn. desolate
desolate; fruitless and unproductive; lacking

**barricade**
n. Syn. obstacle
hastily put together defensive barrier; obstacle

**barrier**
n. Syn. obstacle; hindrance; hurdle
obstacle; structure built to bar passage; boundary or limit

**barter**
v. Syn. trade; exchange
trade goods or services without the exchange of money

**batch**
n.
quantity of bread baked at one time; a collection of things or persons to be handled together

**bathe**
v. Syn. lave; immerse
wash by immersion, as in a bath; subject to bath; lave; immerse or cover one's self

**batter**
v.
beat with successive blows; beat repeatedly and with violence

**bead**
n. Syn. pearl; drops; droplet
small piece of material, such as glass, plastic, or wood, that is pierced for stringing

**beautician**
n.
one skilled in giving cosmetic treatments; one who does hair styling, manicures, and other beauty treatments

**beforehand**
ad. Syn. previously; aforetime
in state of anticipation; in advance; by way of preparation

**beneficial**
a. Syn. helpful; useful
helpful; tending to promote physical well-being

**berth**
n.
space for ship to dock or anchor; allotted place; place to sleep or stay; appointment or job

**beset**
v. Syn. harass; attack
attack from all sides; trouble persistently; hem in

**beverage**
refreshment
liquids for drinking, usually excluding water; refreshment

bewilder
v. Syn. confuse
lead into perplexity or confusion; perplex with mazes

bias
n. Syn. prejudice; preference
preference or inclination, especially one that inhibits impartial judgment; influence in unfair way

bibliography
n.
list of works of a specific author or publisher; list of writings relating to a given subject

bilateral
a. Syn. mutual; lateral
two-sided; mutual

bilingual
n.
using or able to use two languages, especially with equal or nearly equal fluency

bind
v. Syn. contract; cohere; stick
tie, or confine with a cord, band, or chain; make fast; contract; cohere or stick together

biography
n.
an account of the series of events making up a person's life; accounts of people's life

bitumen
n.
mineral pitch; black, tarry substance, burning with a bright flame

blaze
n. Syn. flame
brilliant burst of fire; destructive fire; flame

bleach
v. Syn. whiten; blanch
make white or colorless; blanch

bleak
a. Syn. cold; cheerless
cold or cheerless; unlikely to be favorable

blend
n. Syn. combination; mixture
combination; mixture; forming uniform mixture

**blink**

v. Syn. wink
shut eyes briefly; wink

**bloc**

n.
a group of nations, parties, or persons united for common action

**bloom**

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

**blossom**

n.
reproductive organ of plants, especially one having showy or colorful parts

**blot**

n.
spot or stain, as of ink on paper; blur; weak point or failing

**blunder**

n. Syn. error
serious mistake typically caused by ignorance or confusion

**blunt**

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

**blur**

n. Syn. stain; dim
something that is hazy and indistinct to the sight or mind; dim, confused appearance; moral stain or blot

**blush**

v.
become rosy or reddish; turn red, as if in embarrassment or shame

**boast**

v. Syn. brag; vaunt
show off oneself; speak of with excessive pride

**boil**

v.
be agitated; pass from a liquid to vapor when heated; be excited with passion; heat in water

**bookcase**
case with shelves for holding books, especially one with glazed doors

**bookkeeper**

n.
one who keeps accounts; one who has charge of keeping books and accounts in an office

**bookstall**

n.
stall where books are sold, as on a street; table with enclosed sides, for displaying books for sale

**boost**

v. Syn. raise; advance
raise; advance; push or shove upward

**boundary**

n. Syn. border; frontier
dividing line; border; frontier

**bounty**

n. Syn. kindness; virtue
goodness, kindness; virtue; liberality in giving

**bouquet**

n. Syn. bunch
small cluster or arrangement of flowers; an arrangement of flowers that is usually given as a present

**bowel**

n.
a part or division of intestine; interior of something; any internal organ of the body, as the stomach, liver, brain

**boycott**

v.
refrain from buying or using

**brace**

n.
something which holds anything tightly or supports it firmly, as bandage, cord, or rod;

**brake**

n.
a piece of mechanism for retarding or stopping motion by friction

**brashness**

n.
characteristic of being brash; trait of being rash and hasty; tasteless showiness

**breach**
n. Syn. violation; infringement
breaking of contract or duty

breakthrough
n.
act of overcoming or penetrating an obstacle or restriction

breed
v. Syn. raise; hatch; mate
raise; produce offspring; give birth to or hatch; mate

brew
v. Syn. boil; cook
boil or seethe; cook; be in a state of preparation; be mixing, forming, or gathering

brink
n. Syn. verge; border
dge, margin, or border of a steep place verge

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

brochure
n. Syn. pamphlet
pamphlet; small book usually having paper cover

bronze
n.
an alloy of copper and tin and sometimes other elements

brood
v.
think long and anxiously; be in a state of gloomy, serious thought

browse
v. Syn. graze
graze; skim or glance at casually

bruise
v.
injure, as by a blow or collision; contuse; fight with the fists

buckle
v. Syn. fold; fasten; distort
fold or collapse; bend out of shape, as under pressure or from heat

buffet
n. table with food set out for people to serve themselves; meal at which people help themselves to food that's been set out

**bulb**

n. rounded part of a cylindrical structure; electric lamp consisting of a glass ball

**bulge**

v. cause to curve outward; swell up; stick out; protrude

**bulk**

n. Syn. majority; mass

majority; main part; volume; mass

**bulletin**

n. brief statement of facts; any public notice or announcement; a periodical publication

**bumper**

n. something as bars at edges to absorb shock and prevent serious damage

**bundle**

n. Syn. packet; parcel

packet; a package of things tied together; a large sum of money

**bungalow**

n. small house or cottage usually having a single story and attic

**buoyant**

a. able to float; cheerful and optimistic

**bureaucracy**

n. over-regulated administrative system

**burgeon**

v. Syn. thrive; mushroom

grow forth; send out buds; grow or develop rapidly

**burial**

n. Syn. grave

grave or tomb; ritual placing of a corpse in a grave; concealing something under the ground

**burrow**
n. Syn. tunnel; den
   tunnel; hole in the ground made by an animal for shelter; dig; move through by or as by digging

bustle
v. Syn. teem
   move or cause to move energetically and busily; teem

butcher
n. Syn. slaughterer
   one whose job is to kill animals for food; one who kills in large numbers, or with unusual cruelty;
   vendor, especially on train or in theater

butterfly
n.
   insect typically having a slender body with broad colorful wings

bypass
n.
   channel used to conduct gas or liquid around another pipe or a fixture; conductor having low
   resistance in parallel