

3000 Common SAT Vocabulary List 3

benediction

n.

blessing; invocation of divine blessing; expression of good wishes

benefactor

n. Syn. patron

gift giver; person who gives people or institutions with financial help

beneficial

a. Syn. helpful; useful

helpful; tending to promote physical well-being

beneficiary

n.

person entitled to benefits or proceeds of an insurance policy or will

benefit

n. Syn. welfare; gain

advantage; something that aids or promotes well-being ; welfare; gain

benevolent

a. Syn. generous; charitable

generous in providing aid to others; charitable

benign

a. Syn. kindly; favorable

kindly; favorable; not malignant

bequeath

v.

leave to someone by a will; hand down

berth

n.

space for ship to dock or anchor; allotted place; place to sleep or stay; appointment or job

beseech

v. Syn. beg; plead

beg; plead with; ask for or request earnestly

beset

v. Syn. harass; attack

attack from all sides; trouble persistently; hem in

bestial

a. Syn. brutal
beastlike; brutal; lacking in intelligence or reason

betroth

v.
become engaged to marry; promise to marry

bewilder

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

bibliography

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

biennial

a.
every two years; lasting or living for two years

bilateral

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

bilingual

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

bitterness

n.
sharp and bitter manner

blatant

a. Syn. flagrant
flagrant; conspicuously obvious; loudly offensive

blaze

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

bleak

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

blemish

v.
mark with deformity; injure or impair, as anything which is excellent; make defective, either the body or mind

blithe

a. Syn. gay; joyous; heedless
gay; joyous; carefree and lighthearted

blockade

n.
shutting up of a place by troops or ships; obstruction to passage

boisterous

a. Syn. violent; rough; noisy
rough and stormy; loud, noisy, and lacking in restraint or discipline

bolster

v. Syn. support; reinforce
support or prop up with or as if with a long narrow pillow or cushion

boorish

a. Syn. rude; clumsy; illiterate
rude and clumsy in behavior; ungentlemanly; awkward in manners

bore

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

borough

n.
incorporated town that is not a city; association of men who gave pledges to the king for the good behavior of each other

botany

n.
science which treats of the structure of plants, the functions of their parts, their places of growth, their classification

bountiful

a. Syn. abundant; liberal
abundant; graciously generous; giving freely and generously

bowdlerize

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

boycott

v.
refrain from buying or using

braggart

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

brandish

v. Syn. flourish

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

bravado

n. Syn. swagger

defiant or swaggering behavior; pretense of courage; false show of bravery

breach

n. Syn. violation; infringement

breaking of contract or duty

brevity

n. Syn. conciseness

quality or state of being brief in duration; concise expression

bridle

n.

headgear with which a horse is directed and which carries a bit and reins

brittle

a.

easily broken; having little elasticity

broach

v. Syn. introduce; announce

introduce; bring up for discussion or debate; announce

broadcast

n.

message that is transmitted by radio or television; radio or television show

brooch

n.

ornamental clasp; decorative pin worn by women

browbeat

v. Syn. bully; intimidate

bully; intimidate; discourage or frighten with threats

brusque

a. Syn. blunt; abrupt

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

buffoon

n.

one who makes a practice of amusing others by low tricks, antic gestures; droll; mimic; clown

buffoonery

n. Syn. clowning

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

bulwark

n.

earthwork or other strong defense; person who defends

bumper

n.

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

bumptious

a.

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

bungle

v. Syn. mismanage; blunder

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

buoyant

a.

able to float; cheerful and optimistic

bureaucracy

n.

over-regulated administrative system

burnish

v. Syn. polish

make shiny by rubbing; polish

bursar

n.

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

bustle

v. Syn. teem

move or cause to move energetically and busily; teem

butress

v. Syn. support

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

cabal

n.

small group of persons secretly united to promote their own interests

cabinet

n.

group of persons appointed by a head of state or a prime minister; hut; cottage; small house; small room; closet

cadaverous

a. Syn. pale

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

cadence

n. Syn. beat

rhythmic rise and fall of words or sounds; beat

cajole

v.

influence or urge by gentle urging or flattering

callow

a. Syn. youthful; immature; inexperienced

youthful; immature; inexperienced; without feathers

calorie

n.

unit of heat; unit of heat equal to the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of 1 kilogram of water by 1 degree

calumny

n. Syn. slander

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

cameo

n.

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

campaign

n. Syn. drive; battle

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

canary

n.

pale yellowish color; wine made in the Canary Islands; canary bird; quick and lively dance

candid

a. Syn. straightforward; frank

straightforward; frank; free from prejudice; impartial

candor

n. Syn. frankness

frankness; quality of being honest and straightforward in attitude and speech

canine

a.
related to dogs; dog-like; affecting or derived from dogs

canon

n.
law or rule; decision, regulation, code, or constitution made by authority; books of the Bible officially accepted; a group of literary works

cant

n.
inclination or slope; slanted or oblique surface; jargon, especially of thieves; dialect

cantata

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

canto

n.
part or division of poem of some length

capacious

a. Syn. spacious
capable of containing a large quantity; spacious or roomy

capillary

n.
long and slender with a very small internal diameter

capitulate

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

caprice

n. Syn. whim
sudden, unexpected fancy; impulsive change of mind

caption

n. Syn. title
title; chapter heading; text under illustration

captious

a.
intended to confuse in an argument

captivate

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

carcass

n.

dead body of an animal especially one slaughtered and dressed for food

cardiac

a.

of or relating to the heart

cardinal

a. Syn. chief

chief; serving as an essential component

caricature

n. Syn. distortion; burlesque

representation that is deliberately exaggerated to produce a comic effect

carnage

n.

destruction of life; savage and excessive killing of many people

carnal

a. Syn. fleshly

fleshly; of or relating to body or flesh; bodily

carnivorous

a. Syn. predatory

eating or feeding on flesh; predatory

caste

n.

any of the hereditary social classes and subclasses of South Asian societies

castigate

v. Syn. punish

criticize severely; punish; revise or make corrections to publication

casual

a. Syn. informal; purposeless; unplanned

informal; purposeless; occurring by chance

casualty

n.

serious or fatal accident; someone injured or killed in an accident

cataclysm

n. Syn. deluge

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

cataract

n.
large or high waterfall; eye abnormality

catastrophe

n. Syn. calamity; disaster
calamity; disaster; state of extreme ruin and misfortune

caucus

n.
private meeting of members of a party to select officers or determine policy

causal

a.
implying cause-and-effect relationship

caustic

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

cede

v.
yield or formally resign and surrender to another

censor

n.
overseer of morals; official responsible for removal of objectionable or sensitive content

ensorious

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

census

n.
official examination of the details of a country's population

centenary

a.
relating to a 100-year period; occurring once every 100 years

centurion

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

cereal

n.
grass such as wheat, oats, or corn, the starchy grains of which are used as food.

ceremonial

n. Syn. ritual; ceremony
ritual; ceremony or rite

ceremonious

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

cessation

n. Syn. stoppage
bringing or coming to end; ceasing

cession

n. Syn. ceding
yielding to another; ceding or surrendering

chameleon

n.
lizard that changes color in different situations

chaos

n. Syn. disorder
disorder; condition or place of great disorder or confusion; disorderly mass

characteristic

n. Syn. quality;
feature that helps to identify, tell apart, or describe recognizably; a distinguishing mark or trait

characterize

v. Syn. distinguish
distinguish; be characteristic of; be a distinctive trait or mark of

charlatan

n. Syn. quack
quack; one who pretends to knowledge, skill, or importance

chasten

v. Syn. discipline
rid of excess; refine or purify; correct by punishment or reproof

chastise

v. Syn. punish; rebuke
punish, as by beating; criticize severely; rebuke

chastity

n.
state of being chaste; purity of body; freedom from unlawful sexual intercourse

chateau

n.
impressive country house or castle in France; large country house

check

v. Syn. control; suppress; restrict
stop motion; curb or restrain

chivalry

n.
courtesy towards women

choleric

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

chronology

n.
time sequence; arrangement of events in time

cipher

n. Syn. code
secret code; an Arabic numeral or figure; a number

circulate

v.
move through a space, circuit or system, returning to the starting point

circumference

n. Syn. perimeter; periphery
boundary line of a circle, figure, area, or object

circumlocution

n.
indirect or roundabout expression; evasion in speech or writing

circumscribe

v. Syn. limit; confine
limit narrowly; confine; draw a line around; encircle

circumspect

a. Syn. prudent; cautious
carefully aware of all circumstances; cautious

citadel

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

cite

v. Syn. quote
quote; adduce as an instance

clamorous

a.
speaking and repeating loud words; full of clamor; calling or demanding loudly or urgently;
vociferous; noisy; bawling; loud

clan

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

clandestine

a. Syn. secret
secret; conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods

clangor

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

clarify

v. Syn. illuminate; elucidate
make clear and comprehensible; elucidate

classify

v.
declare unavailable, as for security reasons; arrange or order by classes or categories

clearance

n.
act of clearing; space cleared; permission to proceed or trust

clemency

n.
mildness, as of the weather; merciful, kind, or lenient act

clumsy

a. Syn. awkward; inept
awkward; showing lack of skill or aptitude

coagulate

v. Syn. congeal; clot
cause transformation of liquid into or as if into soft, semisolid, or solid mass

coalescence

n.
union of diverse things into one body or form or group; growing together of parts

coalition

n. Syn. partnership; league; union
partnership; league; state of being combined into one body

coddle

v.
treat gently; cook in water just below boiling point

codicil

n.
supplement or appendix, especially to a will

coerce

v.
restrain by force, especially by law or authority; repress; curb