

Improve Your English

Vocabulary for College-Bound Students

List 1 (420 Words)

1. **abridge**--to shorten (a piece of writing); The publisher abridged the long novel by leaving out the chapters with long descriptions of the countryside.
2. **abstain**--to refrain from (doing something that you could do); My parents abstained from drinking alcohol for religious reasons.
3. **abstemious**--refraining from rich food or strong drink; Charles was naturally abstemious, so he felt at home in the monastery.
4. **abstract**--dealing with ideas rather than concrete objects; Geometry is an abstract subject because it studies objects like circles, which exist only in thought, not in the real world.
5. **abstruse**--describing advanced knowledge that is difficult to understand; The brilliant professor was an expert in the more abstruse topics of theoretical physics.
6. **acclaim**--to praise highly; The audience acclaimed the composer's latest work as a masterpiece.
7. **adroit**--skillful, especially with one's hands; The pianist handled the keys adroitly.
8. **maladroit**--clumsy (mal--usually indicate something bad)
9. **adulation**--great public praise; The championship team walked down the main street of town, listening to the cheering crowds express their adulation.
10. **adversary**--opponent; The boxer stood up in his corner and studied his adversary carefully.
11. **adversity**--challenge or difficulty; The settlers survived the adversity of their first winter and went on to build a prosperous community.
12. **advocate**--to express public support for; The environmental activists advocated stopping all logging in the old-growth forest.
13. **aesthetic**--having to do with beauty; Philosophers of aesthetics like to ask why people call certain works of art beautiful and others ugly.
14. **affable**--friendly; The affable guests stood around talking with each other while the shy ones sat around drinking punch.
15. **affirm**--1. to assert strongly and publicly; 2. to declare one's support for; The preacher affirmed his commitment to helping the poor by starting a food drive at his church.
16. **alleviate**--to make (suffering or a problem) less severe; The conductor took Aleve to alleviate his arthritis pain.
17. **aloof**--emotionally distant, reserved, cool; The aloof teenager walked the halls of the school, talking to no-one, listening to his iPad.
18. **altruistic**--acting from purely selfless motives; People consider Mother Teresa altruistic because she devoted her entire life to helping poor people in third-world countries.
19. **ambivalent**--uncertain which course of action to take, often because you see both benefits and drawbacks; I felt ambivalent about taking a vacation: on the one hand, I wanted a break, but on the other hand, I needed money.
20. **ambiguous**--unclear; Because the directions were ambiguous, most of us did the assignment incorrectly.

Vocab List 2

21. **analogous to**--similar to; When we speak of "the battle of the sexes," we imply that love is analogous to war.
22. **anarchist**--one who believes that there should be no government of any form; "Anarchists unite!" sounds like a paradoxical command because we associate uniting with having a government
23. **monarch**--a king or hereditary ruler; The monarch ruled the country as his father had before him--badly.
24. **anecdote**--a brief story, taken from real life, used to illustrate a point; The politician tried to show the importance of saving the environment by telling an anecdote about a creek near his home that had become polluted.
25. **animosity**--strong dislike; In the 17th century, there was strong animosity between Catholics and Protestants.
26. **animus**--strong dislike; Good writers bear a particular animus against people who use words to obscure responsibility. [Latin animus = mind]
27. **equanimity**--a balanced state of mind [Latin, aequus = equal + animus = mind]
28. **antagonism**--active hostility or opposition; The antagonism between the Montagues and the Capulets leads to the deaths of Romeo and Juliet.
29. **antidote**--a substance that counteracts a poison; My dog accidentally consumed rat poison, but he was fine after I gave him an antidote.
30. **antiquated**--old and obsolete; My grandfather liked to drive his antiquated Model T up and down our neighborhood streets.
31. **antiquity**--the period of Greek and Roman civilizations; The period of antiquity was followed by that of the Middle Ages.
32. **apathy**--lack of emotion; Filled with apathy about schoolwork, I decided to stop turning in assignments.
33. **empathy**--the ability to understand and share the feelings of another; The school counselor showed a great deal of empathy in order to build a relationship with the troubled child.
34. **appease**--to calm someone down by giving him what he wants; In 1938, the Allies tried to appease Hitler by allowing him to take over part of Czechoslovakia.
35. **apprehension**--fear or nervousness; The students who had pulled the fire alarm sat outside the principal's office, full of apprehension.
36. **arbitrary**--not following fixed rules or principles; The teacher graded essays arbitrarily: one week he took off points for misplaced commas, the next week he gave A's based on the font that students used.
37. **arbiter**--someone who sets a standard or who settles a dispute between two contending groups; The governor appointed an arbiter who would listen to the demands of the company and the employees and then work out an arrangement that each would find tolerable, if not ideal.
38. **archaic**--very old, no longer used; The chariot is an archaic piece of battle equipment, superseded by superior troop configurations.
39. **articulate**--(adj; rhymes with hit) speaking clearly and distinctly; For a young man, he was able to discuss philosophical subjects surprisingly articulately.
40. **artifact**--a relic, usually from a dead civilization; The archaeologists dug for cylinder seals, clay jugs, and other artifacts.

Vocab List 3

41. **artisan**--a skilled craftsman; Carpenters, potters, and weavers are examples of artisans.
42. **ascendancy**--a period of power and influence; Great Britain was in its ascendancy in the 19th century, America in its ascendancy in the 20th.
43. **ascetic**--one who denies himself worldly pleasures; The monk lived an ascetic life, refusing to eat meat or drink alcohol. [Greek, askesis = training; think of exercise]
44. **aspire**--to desire to achieve an impressive goal; Many children today aspire to attend college.
45. **astute**--intelligent; After hearing his lieutenant's astute observation about the enemy's weaknesses, the general devised a brilliant plan.
46. **attribute**--to say that something is the cause of something else; Historians attribute America's prosperity to a combination of geography, natural resources, and system of government.
47. **augment**--to increase in size, strength, volume, etc.; To break the bars of the cage, the wizard augmented his strength by drinking a potion
48. **austere**--plain, simple, and undecorated; The monk's austere chamber contained only a bed and a prayer mat enclosed by four white walls.
49. **authoritarian**--a system of government in which the government imposes its will on the citizens, depriving them of freedom; The authoritarian government confiscated the people's televisions and radios in order to keep them from hearing news of freer governments in other parts of the world.
50. **autonomous**--self-willed; acting independently of others; Google is developing cars that will drive autonomously, without input from the driver.
51. **aversion**--a strong dislike; Many children have an aversion to eating vegetables.
52. **belie**--to give a false impression of; The 40-year old man's youthful appearance belied his age.
53. **benevolent**--having the intention to do good; The benevolent king lowered the tax burden on his people.
54. **malevolent**--having the intention to do bad; To convict a man of murder, a prosecutor tries to prove that the defendant is malevolent.
55. **benediction**--a spoken blessing; The monk gave a benediction to the people who put food in his begging bowl.
56. **malediction**--a curse; The wicked witch uttered a few maledictions to show her hatred of Dorothy.
57. **malady**--an illness; The Black Death was a dreadful malady that killed a third of Europe.
58. **malodorous**--bad-smelling; Most people dislike going into the malodorous boys locker room
59. **benign**--innocent or harmless; As the tumor was benign, there was no need to operate on it.
60. **malicious**--wanting to harm someone just for the fun of doing so; The malicious senior enjoyed tripping freshmen and watching them sprawl on the ground.

Vocab List 4

61. **bolster**--to raise up or support; The politician aired commercials that showed him with his wife and kids because he wanted to bolster his support with families.
62. **braggart**--one who brags; The braggart liked to talk about all the money that his family had.
63. **brevity**--briefness; The brevity of the Gettysburg Address allowed Lincoln to deliver the speech in about two minutes.
64. **cajole**--to persuade by using tricks or flattery; Susan cajoled Paul into helping her with her homework by saying, "I'll be your best friend!"
65. **calculated**--having the details carefully worked out; In the Korean War, General Douglas MacArthur took a calculated risk when he landed US forces at Inchon, halfway up the Korean peninsula.
66. **candor**--openness and honesty; My best friend is known for his candor: he is willing to tell people exactly how he feels about what they say.
67. **capricious**--changing one's mind quickly and without warning or justification; My girlfriend and I had planned to go to a movie, but when I arrived to pick her up, she capriciously said, "Let's go for a walk instead."
68. **censure**--to strongly criticize, usually in a formal manner; Congress censured the congressman for his failure to pay his taxes two years running.
69. **coerce**--to make someone do something by threats or force; The bully was fond of coercing little boys into giving up their lunch money.
70. **commemorate**--to have a ceremony that remembers a person and his achievements; American commemorates its soldiers by building monuments to them in Washington, D.C.
71. **compile**--to bring together a variety of material, usually from different sources. The detective compiled the evidence from the different witnesses into a single document for his partner to review.
72. **complacent**--satisfied with one's achievements and unwilling to work to improve further; Because the talented basketball player had become complacent, he spent most of his spare time playing NBA Jam instead of practicing his jump shot.
73. **compliant**--in the habit of following rules; The compliant Stanyan brothers seldom objected to their coach's punishing workouts, preferring to run until they dropped from exhaustion.
74. **composure**--coolness and steadiness of mind, usually under pressure; The orchestra showed great composure when it reached the part of the piece with challenging rhythms.
75. **comprehensive**--complete; The historian wrote a comprehensive account of American history, from its discovery by Europeans to the election of the current president.
76. **concede**--to give in; When he realized that his position was hopeless, the chess player conceded the match to his opponent.
77. **conciliatory**--willing to give in to someone's demands in order to calm the person down; After I complained to my brother about his monopolization of the TV, he made the conciliatory gesture of letting me choose the next program.
78. **concise**--brief but comprehensive; This five-minute video provides a concise account of the causes of the American Civil War.
79. **concur**--to agree; When his lieutenant suggested the time was right for a counterattack, Napoleon, concurring, sent in a new wave of troops.
80. **condone**--to allow a (possibly illegal) behavior; Schools often condone occasional outbursts of profanity, even if their manuals for student behavior condemn it.

Vocab List 5

81. **conflagration**--a great fire (house, forest, etc.); Hundreds of thousands of acres burned in the great conflagration at Yellowstone some years ago.
82. **confound**--to surprise by acting against expectations; When his son decided to join the Marines, the former peace activist was confounded.
83. **consensus**--general agreement; The consensus among sports writers is that Michael Jordan was one of the five greatest NBA players ever.
84. **constraint**--a restriction; Because humans are naturally greedy and violent, societies use laws to impose restraints on people's behavior.
85. **contend**--1. to compete; The two top knitters in the nation were contending for the title of National Knitting Champion. 2. to claim or argue; In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson contended that King George had abused the colonists so much that he had lost his authority to rule them.
86. **contentious**--argumentative; My contentious brother constantly argues with his parents about how much TV he should watch and when he should go to bed.
87. **contract** (v)--to narrow; When we look into the distance, our pupils contract.
88. **conviction**--certainty; Americans rebelled against Britain out of the conviction that they deserved their own government.
89. **cordial**--polite and friendly; When my guests for the dinner party arrived, I gave them a cordial greeting.
90. **corroborate**--to confirm (a fact or claim) with evidence; The police used eyewitnesses to corroborate the victim's testimony that his attacker had left in a red Mazda.
91. **credulity**--gullibility; John's credulity was so great that he believed me when I told him that I had been raised by a family of mountain lions. [Latin: credo = I believe; related to credit = the ability to get a loan because people *believe* you will pay them back]
92. **credence**--believability; Most people give little credence to the articles published in tabloid journals, like *National Enquirer*, *News of the World* and *Weekly World News*.
93. **creed**--a formal statement of religious or political belief; The Catholic Church required all true believers to recite a creed in order to prove that they believed the right teachings.
94. **credibility**--the quality of being trusted or believed in; My history teacher has a great deal of credibility because he has demonstrated so much knowledge of both history and current events.
95. **incredulous**--unwilling to believe (something); When Charles, a tenth-grader, announced that he had a date with the homecoming queen, his older brother Paul looked incredulous.
96. **criterion**--a standard (plural: criteria); The coach had a single criterion for allowing boys to join the basketball team: were they willing to work hard for three hours daily?
97. **cryptic**--puzzling; One day, my brother left the following cryptic message on the kitchen table: "Goneay toay theyy libraray." (On second thought, it wasn't so cryptic.)
98. **cursory**--done quickly and with little attention to detail; Having made only a cursory examination of the frozen food section, Jerry failed to notice the container of mint chocolate chip ice cream that his mother had put on the shopping list.
99. **curtail**--to shorten; The sound of the fire alarm forced the boss to curtail his remarks about the importance of workplace safety.
100. **curt**--(of speech) speaking so briefly as to sound rude; When his parents asked him how he felt about his second place finish in the knitting competition, George curtly replied, "I'm fine," before heading to his room to sulk.

Vocab List 6

101. **decorum**--proper social behavior; At a fancy dinner party, it is important to show good decorum by chewing with your mouth closed and talking quietly.
102. **indecorous**--lacking proper social behavior; Charles rubbed his eyes and gave a loud, indecorous yawn in the middle of his host's story.
103. **deference**--humble submission and respect; The knight showed deference to the lady by allowing her to ride in front of him during the parade.
104. **defer**--1. to put off until later; 2. to submit humbly to a person's wishes; We deferred the decision on which party to attend until later. When asked what we should have for dinner, I deferred to my grandfather.
105. **degrading**--used to describe an action that lowers a person's dignity or status; I considered it degrading to fight other children for the small pieces of candy that fell from the piñata.
106. **delineate**--to describe in detail; In the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson delineates America's reasons for separating from Britain.
107. **denounce**--to publicly declare to be wrong; At the board meeting, the shareholders denounced the president for spending company money on yachts and private jets.
108. **deplore**--to express shock and anger (about something); The school's English teachers deplored the number of comma splices they found in their students' essays.
109. **depraved**--morally sick and twisted; The depraved boy performed deeds so sickening that I can't discuss them in a sentence.
110. **deprecate**--to express disapproval of; The steamboat captain deprecated my claim that Shakespeare had written the plays of Shakespeare, contending that the plays were the work of Francis Bacon.
111. **self-deprecating humor**--used to describe jokes that another person makes about himself; The short man was found of using self-deprecating humor to put himself at ease in the company of taller people.
112. **deride**--to mock; The three men derided D'Artagnan for riding into town on a skinny yellow pony.
113. **risible**--laughable [F. rire, to laugh]; In a risible NBA playoff performance, the Miami Heat's Mario Chalmers missed every shot he took.
114. **derivative**--unoriginal; The only fans of the hip hop group were clueless foreigners who didn't know that its derivative music was based on Beatles songs.
115. **despondent**--very depressed; After losing by giving up two goals in 17 seconds, the hockey team was despondent.
116. **detached**--emotionally distant; The detached boy wandered the hallways, staring at the walls and listening to his iPod.
117. **deterrent**--something that makes someone less likely to do something; Punishments deter crime, but harsher punishments do not always deter crime more.
118. **detrimental**--having a negative effect; Lack of sleep is detrimental to health, but that didn't stop Salim from staying up all night playing World of Warcraft.
119. **devious**--sneaky; The police officer devised a devious plan: he would hire criminals to rob a bank, then capture them and take the money himself.
120. **devise**--to come up with; The police officer devised a devious plan: he would hire criminals to rob a bank, then capture them and take the money himself.

Vocab List 7

121. **diffuse** (not defuse)-- 1. (v.) to spread through an area; The cell's water diffused through the cell's walls, leaving the cell half as big as before. 2. (adj.) spread out thinly; a diffuse haze made only the most distant objects hard to see.
122. **digression**--part of a speech or essay that wanders from the main point; In his speech about the importance of the auto industry to America, the president included a digression about how much he enjoyed driving his Mercedes-Benz.
123. **diligent**--hard-working and dedicated; Every day, the diligent student began his homework at 4pm and finished by 6:30pm.
124. **diminutive**--very small; The detective used his magnifying glass to examine the diminutive marks on the wall. (diminution--the shrinking of something)
125. **minute**--very small; I used the tweezers to pull from the pants a minute piece of fabric that I could examine with a microscope.
126. **discerning**--capable of noticing details; After casting a discerning eye over the painting, the art critic pulled out his pen and began taking notes for his review.
127. **disclose**--to reveal (information); Though questioned by the police, Jefferson Hope refused to disclose the identity of the man who had helped him.
128. **discordant**--describes something that clashes with others; The clown's striped shirt and polka-dot pants created a discordant visual effect.
129. **concord**--harmony; The concord of the activists enabled them to keep the protest from becoming violent.
130. **accord**--agreement; The teachers and the principal were in perfect accord: students should dress up for graduation.
131. **cordial**--polite and friendly; When we arrived at the party, we exchanged cordial greetings with the host.
132. **discount** (V)--to say that (something) is unimportant; Discounting my fears of injuring my face, my older brother shoved me down the slide head first.
133. **discrepancy**--when two things are different, but should not be; When we arrived late, I said that we had been in a car accident, but my brother said we had been pulled over by the police; my father asked us to explain the discrepancy between the two stories.
134. **discriminating**--capable of making fine judgments; The discriminating taste buds of the wine expert enabled him to tell the difference between the 2010 and the 2011 First Press cabernet.
135. **disdain**--treating (someone) as if he is worthless; When the science bowl captain offer the prom queen a ride home in his '83 Corolla, she showed her disdain by ignoring him.
136. **disinclination**--unwillingness to do (something); Many children have a disinclination for eating vegetables.
137. **dismissive**--treating (someone) as worthless; After my older sister made several dismissive remarks about the clothes that I liked to wear, I decided to go shopping.
138. **disparage**--to make insulting remarks about; The motorcycle gang disparaged my little scooter by asking me if it ran on milk.
139. **disparity**--a difference between two quantities or qualities; When the boys' basketball team received more money than the girls', the girls complained about the disparity until they realized that the boys' team had more players (**disparate** is the adjective form)
140. **parity**--equality of quantity or quality; In Washington State, the so-called "potty parity" law required men and women's restrooms to have the same number of sit-down toilets.

Vocab List 8

141. **subpar**--below expectations (**par for the course**--meeting expectations; in golf, **par** means the number of strokes that golfers are expected to need to complete a hole)
142. **disperse**--when a concentrated element spreads out or breaks up; After the protest, the crowd dispersed, and people went their separate ways back home.
143. **disputatious**--argumentative; The disputatious child grew up to become a great lawyer.
144. **disseminate**--to spread (ideas or knowledge); During the Cold War, The U.S. used radio to disseminate ideas of freedom to communist countries.
145. **dissent**--to disagree with an authority [related to sentiment = feeling]; After everyone voted to go swimming, I dissented, arguing that we lacked the time to swim, dry, and change before dinner.
146. **assent**--to agree with a proposed or completed decision; When I suggested going to the beach, my sisters showed their assent by clapping.
147. **divergent**--separating; The divergent trails eventually rejoined on the other side of the lake.
148. **doctrine**--a belief or set of beliefs held by a church, political party, or other group [Greek, doxa = belief]; One element of Hindu doctrine is reincarnation: people will live again as beings in higher or lower states, depending on how well they have lived their previous lives.
149. **dogma**--a statement or belief that is not supposed to be questioned; For many years after Copernicus and Galileo, Christian churches preached the dogma that the sun revolved around the earth.
150. **dogmatic**--laying down principles that are not supposed to be questioned; "In an election, always vote for the candidate with more education," said my dogmatic uncle.
151. **orthodox**--Conforming to established principles; The orthodox piano teacher made his students play Mozart and Chopin [Greek, ortho = straight up and down; an orthodontist uses braces to straighten your teeth.] (antonym: **unorthodox**)
152. **document** (V)--to record something in writing, usually for official purposes; People need to properly document their expenses when completing their tax returns.
153. **dubious**--doubtful; When on April 1 I told Paul that the government had made dying illegal, he looked dubious.
154. **duplicity**--deceitfulness; Thanks to his duplicity, Charles found that no-one could trust him anymore.
155. **dupe**--to fool someone; also, the person who is fooled; My older brother once duped me into thinking that the word "gullible" was not in the dictionary.
156. **eclectic**--drawn from a variety of sources; Sol's eclectic music collection contained Jazz, Rock, Country, Classical, and Trip-Hop.
157. **egotism**--thinking that you are much better than other people; Son's egotism was so great that he stopped doing his math homework, convinced that he could master the material on the day of the test.
158. **elated**--extremely happy; Most children are elated when Christmas rolls around.
159. **eloquent**--beautiful or persuasive in speech or writing; Abraham Lincoln's eloquent speeches are still studied as models of oratory.
160. **elusive**--hard to catch; The fox chased the rabbit, but by dodging into a briar patch, the rabbit remained elusive.

Vocab List 9

161. **embellish**--to decorate; We embellished the cake's white icing with small, colorful flowers.
162. **emulate**--to imitate (often with the hope of surpassing); LeBron James has sought to emulate many of the great basketball players who came before him, from Magic Johnson to Hakeem Olajuwon.
163. **endorse**--to give public support to; Doctors used to endorse brands of cigarettes, but now they endorse painkillers.
164. **enhance**--to improve, usually by adding new features; I enhanced my computer by adding more memory.
165. **enigma**--a puzzle, puzzling person, or puzzling thing; In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Boo Radley is an enigma: he stays in his home all day for years, only coming out once to save Jem and Scout.
166. **enmity**--hatred; The enmity between the Montagues and the Capulets leads to the tragic deaths of Romeo and Juliet.
167. **amity**--friendship; The general amity of the party made it a light-hearted affair.
168. **inimical to**--tending to obstruct or harm (OAD); Fiscal conservatives argue that taxes are inimical to economic growth, while liberals argue that poverty is inimical to happiness.
169. **ephemeral**--lasting only a brief period of time; The ephemeral life of the adult mayfly usually lasts less than a day.
170. **equivocal**--describing a statement capable of more than one meaning, usually an ambiguity created intentionally; When we asked the teacher how we had done on the test, he gave an equivocal reply: "Well, you did about as well as I thought you would do."
171. **erroneous**--in error; Mark Twain corrected the erroneous report of his demise by saying, "Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."
172. **erudite**--having a great deal of book learning; The erudite history professor owned over 1,000 books about France.
173. **esoteric**--describes knowledge intended for a small group of people with specialized interests; Only fifteen people attended the conference on the more esoteric elements of nuclear physics.
174. **euphemism**--an expression used to soften a harsh statement; The many euphemisms for "he died" include "he passed away," "he's moved on," "he's pushing up daisies," and "he's in a better world."
175. **eulogy**--a speech of praise given at a funeral; The eulogy delivered at the funeral of the great leader brought the audience to tears.
176. **colloquial**--the sort of speech used in everyday conversation; On essays, we are forbidden from using colloquial expressions like "hang out with friends," or "take down Napoleon."
177. **soliloquy**--in a play, a speech that a character delivers with no-one else on stage, in which the character reveals his inmost thoughts; Shakespeare's plays contain many famous soliloquies, like Hamlet's "To be or not to be."
178. **loquacious**--speaking a lot with ease; the loquacious liar told long stories to excuse his behavior.
179. **dialogue**--a conversation between two people
180. **logos**--the logical aspect of an argument [Greek, logos = speech or reason] (**logic**)

Vocab List 10

181. **lexicon**--dictionary [Latin, lex = word]; My Greek lexicon contains far fewer words than my English dictionary.
182. **exacerbate**--to worsen; After the economy sank into recession, the government exacerbated the problem by raising taxes, which gave people less money to spend on goods and services.
183. **exacting**--demanding about details; My exacting violin teacher required me to have all of my exercises and pieces memorized when I arrived at my lesson.
184. **exalted**--in a high position [altitude]; Shakespeare, Cervantes, and Stendahl enjoy exalted positions in European literature because of their deep insights into human nature.
185. **execute**--to carry out; The painter planned the painting with pencil sketches and then executed it in oils.
186. **exemplary**--deserving imitation [example]; To inspire his students, the piano teacher played his recording of Meg's exemplary performance of the Moonlight Sonata. (**exemplify**)
187. **exhaustive**--thorough; After an exhaustive review of the evidence, the jury concluded that the accused man was in fact innocent.
188. **exhilarating**--thrilling; The roller-coaster ride was exhilarating.
189. **exonerate**--to free from blame or criticism; The panel of judges exonerated the pilot after finding that the plane crash was due to mechanical failure.
190. **expedient**--making a process faster or more convenient; Nowadays, most people find it more expedient to download books to Kindle than to buy them in a store. (**expedite**)
191. **explicit**--openly stated; The teacher gave us explicit instructions to show our work; they were printed directly on the assignment.
192. **implicit**--implied, but not openly stated; Although we had never openly said so, Len and I had an implicit understanding that we were best friends.
193. **exploit (V)**--to take advantage of (a resource); America has traditionally found many ways to exploit its natural resources by turning them into consumer goods.
194. **exploit (N)**--an achievement; Recently, a Frenchman has written a book praising the exploits of Napoleon, whose brilliant military victories enabled him to conquer half of Europe.
195. **extol**--to praise highly; Historians have extolled George Washington, America's first president, for setting the precedent of holding office for only two terms.
196. **extraneous**--not relevant to the circumstances; Jane's report about the life cycle of frogs was filled with extraneous details about how cute they looked.
197. **extricate**--to remove (from a situation) with difficulty; Having tired of committing troops to Iraq, the U.S. considered how to extricate itself from the war.
198. **exuberance**--great enthusiasm; Spinning and jumping, the young girl showed her exuberance for the music of Beethoven.
199. **facilitate**--to make something easier; The king facilitated the meeting between the two generals by proposing a location.
200. **facile**--superficial or simplistic; In her facile interpretation of the dream, Stanley's counselor informed him that the bellowing dinosaur represented an overly-aggressive father.

Vocab List 11

201. **fallacious**--wrong; After the professor made several fallacious statements about World War 2, the university considered replacing him.
202. **fallacy**--a mistaken belief, especially one based on unsound argument; Moe's argument for turning over my lunch money consisted of his usual set of logical fallacies: the false dilemma (either you give me your lunch money or I'll starve), post hoc ergo propter hoc (I'm mad at you because you walked in the room), and the argumentum ad baculum (I deserve that money because I could hurt you).
203. **fastidious**--very picky; A fastidious eater, John carefully cut away all the fat before putting the chicken into his mouth.
204. **feasible**--able to be done; With the invention of the compass, long-distance sailing voyages suddenly became feasible.
205. **fervor**--passion; In his fervor to reach his hated rival, warrior ignored the blows of the other enemy soldiers. (**fervid**)
206. **flagrant**--done openly and without shame; James took his Ferrari up to 105 MPH, flagrantly ignoring the posted speed limit of 65 MPH.
207. **frivolous**--not taking matters serious; By talking to his neighbor while the teacher was explaining the assignment, Lucas showed that he took the class frivolously
208. **frivolity**--laughter and merriment; At the party, guests told jokes and engaged in other frivolity.
209. **frugal**--very careful about spending money; The frugal family managed to save half of its money each year.
210. **furtive**--trying to avoid notice; The spy furtively made his way to the wall surrounding the general's compound.
211. **garrulous**--talkative; The garrulous girls in the back of the classroom constantly pestered the teacher with trivial questions.
212. **glutton**--someone who is greedy (usually for food, but sometimes for other things, such as punishment); For dinner, Glen the glutton ate shrimp chips, three spring rolls,
213. **gratify**--to make someone feel happy and satisfied; Our end-of-year gifts gratified our teacher immensely.
214. **gratuitous**--extra and unnecessary; Action movies today have much more gratuitous violence than the classy James Bond movies of the 60's and 70's.
215. **gravity**--seriousness; After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1942, President Roosevelt knew that the gravity of the situation demanded forceful radio address.
216. **gregarious**--friendly and likely to enjoy the company of others; Most animals are gregarious, but strong hunters like bears and hawks prefer solitude.
217. **congregate**--to gather in a spot; The five debate teams congregated in the library before the tournament.
218. **aggregate**--the sum or total; In soccer tournaments, teams are sometimes ranked according to "aggregate goals," the total number of goals the team has scored in the match.
219. **guile**--trickery; Thanks to his guile, the fox tricked the rooster Chanticleer into descending from the safety of the tree. [This word is another version of the word **wily** or **wiles**; the two words come from different regions of France.]
220. **gullible**--too willing to believe what people say; When I told my gullible little sister, "Did you know that the word 'gullible' is not in the dictionary?" she said, "Really?"

Vocab List 12

221. **hamper (V)**--to get in the way of completing a task; Because carrying the heavy blankets hampered me as I walked around the house, I moved much more slowly.
222. **hardy**--tough, capable of taking punishment; It takes a hardy plant to survive arctic environments.
223. **haughty**--arrogant, thinking too highly of oneself; The haughty queen told the starving peasants that they should eat cake.
224. **hedonist**--one who thinks that the goal of life is experiencing pleasure; The hedonist loved to spend his time eating lots of food while watching his favorite movies.
225. **heresy**--speech that is considered a violation of established ways of thinking; Today, many people think it is heresy to suggest that children should stop their education at 8th grade.
226. **hierarchy**--a system with layers of authority; The military has a detailed hierarchy of command, with the general at the top and the lowly captain at the bottom.
227. **homogeneous**--describes a group or substance that consists of the same elements throughout its extent; Japan has a homogeneous society: 95% of the population is ethnically Japanese; by contrast, America has a heterogeneous society consisting of immigrants from all over the earth.
228. **hypocritical**--failing to live up to principles that you think people should abide by; The hypocritical coach preached the importance of hard work but refused to take the time to research his opponents before games.
229. **hypothetical**--supposed to be true, but necessarily real or true; Let's consider a hypothetical ending to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, in which a plane flies into the White House.
230. **idiosyncrasy**--a way of behaving that is special to an individual; My father had the idiosyncrasy of tapping his front teeth three times when facing a difficult decision.
231. **illusory**--like an illusion, not real; As I traveled through the desert, I had a glimpse of water that turned out to be illusory.
232. **immutable**--unchangeable [im = not + mutare (mutate) = to change]
233. **impair**--to weaken or harm; The constant noise of machinery had impaired John's hearing to the point where he needed an aid.
234. **impeccable**--flawless; The famous pianist gave an impeccable performance of the Moonlight Sonata.
235. **impede**--to make difficult; The spring mud, two feet deep, impeded the army's progress.
236. **implausible**--unlikely, hard to believe; When I said that the shop owner had given me the collectibles for free, my father said my story was implausible.
237. **implement**-- 1. (v) to put into place; The factory should implement new safety procedures to reduce injuries; 2. (n) a tool; Knives and forks are useful implements.
238. **impudent**--rude; The boy impudently asked the teacher what gave her the right to tell him what to do.
239. **inadvertent**--accidental or unintentional; In walking to the next room of the museum, I inadvertently knocked an expensive vase off a shelf, breaking it.
240. **inane**--silly; The nervous young man made several inane comments about the weather on his first date.

Vocab List 13

241. **incisive**--clear or getting straight to the point; The brilliant scientist asked incisive questions to determine the direction of future research.
242. **incite**--to cause (something violent); Frank incited a riot at the 49ers game by yelling insults at the San Francisco fans.
243. **incongruous**--out of place; The square looked incongruous in the field of triangles.
244. **inconsequential**--unimportant, of no consequence; Since the new piece of data was inconsequential, the researchers ignored it.
245. **incorrigible**--incapable of being reformed; After his 10th burglary, the incorrigible criminal was sent to jail for life.
246. **indict**--to formally charge with a crime; Two days after his arrest, the suspect was taken to court and indicted for manslaughter.
247. **indifferent**--not caring one way or the other; Jane felt indifferent about where to go for dinner, so she let her brother Jeff decide.
248. **indiscriminate**--done at random or without careful judgment; When Paul went through the messy desk and threw away papers indiscriminately, he threw out some important immigration documents.
249. **induce**--to cause to happen; The sunny day induced me to take a walk in the park.
250. **inert**--not moving or active; Because the werewolf was lying inert on the ground, the silly teenagers assumed that it was dead.
251. **inertia**--tendency to remain moving or to remain still;
252. **ingenious**--clever; The young boy had an ingenious idea for boosting lemonade sales.
253. **inherent**--a natural part of something; George, an inherently talkative boy, enjoyed spending time at noisy parties.
254. **innate**--a natural part of something; Because John was innately curious about nature, he grew up to be a scientist.
255. **innocuous**--harmless; The innocuous-looking rash turned out to be the manifestation of a serious skin disease.
256. **innovation**--something new and helpful; The personal computer was one of the most important technological innovations of the second half of the twentieth century.
257. **insipid**--lacking flavor or originality; The minor artist produced a few insipid works and was quickly forgotten
258. **instigate**--to cause (usually something violent) to happen; The lawyer instigated legal proceedings against the police force for depriving citizens of their freedom of association.
259. **insular**--cut off from the outside world; The island people had an insular life; only recently had they learned about electricity.
260. **integrity**--the ability to stay true to one's principles; Gandhi demonstrated his integrity by waiting to tell a boy to stop eating sugar until he had stopped eating it himself.

Vocab List 14

261. **intervene**--to come in between two things, often between a person and someone who wants to harm him; Jennifer and Rebecca yelled insults at each other until a teacher intervened, breaking up the disagreement.
262. **intimidate**--to frighten someone, usually to make him do something for you; The bully liked to intimidate younger kids into giving him their lunch money.
263. **intrepid**--fearless; the intrepid explorers hacked their way through the dark jungle.
264. **trepidation**--fear; The zookeeper eyed the shaking crate with trepidation, wondering what violent animal was kept inside.
265. **inundate**--to flood; Water inundated the valley after the dam broke.
266. **undulate**--to move in a wave-like motion; From the deck of the boat, we watched the undulations of the waves.
267. **invert**--to turn upside down; The acrobat liked to invert himself in a headstand before reverting to his upright position.
268. **ironic**--when an event or story turns out the exact opposite of what you would expect; It was ironic that the fire station burned to the ground.
269. **lament**--to mourn; The tribe lamented the death of its powerful chief.
270. **laud**--to praise highly
271. **lavish** (ADJ)--having a lot of something; The lavish banquet had sixteen courses.
272. **lethargic**--slow, lacking energy; Having stayed up all night to finish his paper, Peter moved lethargically through the school hallways.
273. **levity**--taking something serious too lightly (levitate); The class clown's levity about the death toll in the Civil War prompted a rebuke from the teacher.
274. **alleviate**--to reduce (in intensity); People take Aleve painkiller to alleviate the pain of headaches.
275. **linger**--to stay around after something is over; I was over my cold, but my runny nose lingered.
276. **listless**--lacking energy or enthusiasm; At 1:30pm on a sunny spring day, the teacher found it hard to motivate the listless students.
277. **lofty**--very high; Everest is a lofty mountain.
278. **marred**--marked or spoiled; The elegant sofa was marred by cat scratches; The pleasant dinner was marred by the sound of an argument in the house next door.
279. **materialistic**--caring only about money and personal possessions (antonym: spiritual); The materialistic family prided itself on its three BMWs and purebred horses.
280. **meticulous**--very careful and detailed; The meticulous organizer loved to tick off every checkbox on her to-do list every day.

Vocab List 15

281. **miser**--someone who refuses to spend money, even though he has it; The miser liked to look at his mounting bank account balance, but he lived in a one-room shack.
282. **mitigate**--to make less severe or painful; After we lost the game, my father tried to mitigate my unhappiness by taking me out for lunch.
283. **morose**--sad and gloomy; The morose child never smiled.
284. **mundane**--boringly ordinary; I stopped reading the mundane fairy tale about a prince saving a princess and turned to a more interesting one where a princess turned into a dragon.
285. **negate**--to cancel out; The meat lovers pizza that Arun ate for dinner negated the benefits of the low-fat food he had consumed throughout the day.
286. **nonchalant**--carefree; Whistling, hands in pockets, Alison walked nonchalantly down the hall.
287. **notorious**--famous for doing bad; The notorious criminal received coverage in all the major papers.
288. **novel**--new; The literary form of the novel got its name because in the 17th and 18th centuries it was the new way of writing, much as blogging is the new way of writing today.
289. **oblivion**--state of being forgotten; Most people are consigned to oblivion upon their deaths; we remember only the worthy or the infamous.
290. **obscure** (V)--to cover or conceal; The night of the attack, clouds obscured the moon.
291. **obstinate**--stubborn; The obstinate child refused to clean his room.
292. **ominous**--threatening or foreboding; The sailors thought that the dark clouds on the horizon looked ominous.
293. **opaque**--not see-through; The frost on the car windows rendered them opaque.
294. **opportunist**--one who takes advantage of opportunities, usually from selfish motives; The opportunist took money from his aging mother's bank account to make risky investments.
295. **opulence**--lavish display of wealth; The opulence of the millionaire's house impressed all visitors but the abstemious monk, who simply shook his head and said, "You can't take it with you when you die."
296. **orator**--one who makes speeches in public; The orator ascended the podium, looked out at the crowd, cleared his throat, and began.
297. **ostentatious**--showy; The class know-it-all enjoyed making ostentatious displays of his knowledge.
298. **ostensible**--apparent, but not necessarily true or real; Truman's ostensible reason for dropping the atomic bomb was to defeat Japan without loss of American lives; some people say the real reason was to show the Russians the new weapon.
299. **pacifist**--one who opposes violence; As the Amish are pacifists, they refuse to serve in the US military.
300. **partisan**--a strong supporter of a cause; In partisan politics, Democrats and Republicans refuse to move from their standard positions.

Vocab List 16

301. **impart**--to give (advice or knowledge); Our biology teacher imparted to us many amazing facts about the natural world.
302. **impartial**--fair, not taking sides (not "taking the part" of another); Judges must be impartial.
303. **peripheral**--at the edges or outskirts; Peripheral vision refers to the ability to see out of the corners of one's eyes.
304. **perpetuate**--to cause to continue going; Many people unfortunately continue to perpetuate the myth that the people of Columbus's time thought the world was flat.
305. **pervasive**--widespread; Rumors and conspiracy theories are pervasive on the internet.
306. **pervade**--to spread throughout; The smell of baking cookies pervaded the kitchen.
307. **evasive**--trying to avoid someone, or trying to avoid saying something [e = away / out of + vadere = go]; The airplane pilot took evasive action to escape the enemy jets; When his parents asked where he had been, Owen replied evasively, "Uh, I was out." (**invasive**)
308. **phenomenon**--any event that is observed to occur [Note: the noun does NOT describe an amazing event or ability, as the word "phenomenal" does.]; The rising and setting of the sun is a natural phenomenon.
309. **philanthropist**--One who donates money to charity [Greek, phil = love + anthropos = man; so if you love people, you give them money, apparently]; Bill Gates, formerly one of the stingiest men on the planet, has now remade himself as a philanthropist.
310. **piety**--sincere religious belief; The monk was well-known for his piety, for he broke none of his religion's commandments.
311. **placate**--to calm someone down, usually by giving him what he wants; We placated the crying child by giving it a toy to play with.
312. **placid**--calm; The placid lake lay like a mirror in the woods; Before the most important musical competition of her life, my sister looked remarkably placid.
313. **ponderous**--slow, heavy, unwieldy; Elephants walk with ponderous steps.
314. **pragmatic**--practical, helpful for succeeding in the real world; Saving 10% of one's paycheck is a pragmatic way to prepare for retirement.
315. **preclude**--to exclude in advance; As a boy, I was precluded from applying for the Young Women's Scholarship.
316. **secluded**--isolated or protected from the outside world; The secluded farm was miles from its nearest neighbor.
317. **recluse**--someone who keeps himself away from others, often by shutting himself up in his home; J. D. Salinger, a famous recluse, rarely left his house. [Related words: include, exclude]
318. **precocious**--achieving a great deal at a young age; The precocious young mathematician had mastered Calculus by 6th grade.
319. **predecessor**--one who comes before; James J. Buchanan, the predecessor of Abraham Lincoln, made little effort to avert the coming Civil War.
320. **intercessor**--one who comes between someone and a punishment [intercede]; When the young criminal appeared for his sentencing, a psychologist acted as his intercessor by asking the court to reduce the punishment if the child got counseling.

Vocab List 17

321. **presumptuous**--making unfounded assumptions about what you are allowed to do; If you are hungry, it is presumptuous to eat your friend's lunch without asking.
322. **pretentious**--pretending to have more of a quality than you actually do; The pretentious student liked to recite lists of the facts he knew, even though he lacked the imagination to ask interesting questions about them.
323. **prevalent**--widespread; Bubonic plague was prevalent in the late Middle Ages.
324. **prodigal**--spending money or using resources freely; When they saw the town in the distance, the thirsty travelers became prodigal with their water, confident that they would receive more soon.
325. **prodigious**--impressively great in size or ability; At Thanksgiving, we ate a prodigious amount of food; Beethoven had a prodigious musical talent.
326. **prodigy**--one who shows great talent for an art at a young age; Most famous soloists began as child prodigies.
327. **profane**--1. not sacred or holy; In the Middle Ages, sacred music spoke of God, profane music spoke of love; 2. not respectful of standard religious practice; Profane teenagers urinated on the church. [don't confuse with profanity = cursing]
328. **profound**--deep, impressive in thought; Sperm whales explore the ocean's profound depths; Descartes, Hume, and Nietzsche were profound modern thinkers.
329. **profusion**--a large quantity (of something); After the spring rains, a profusion of mushrooms covered our lawn.
330. **proliferate**--to spread widely; Printing presses proliferated in 15th-century Europe, spreading new ideas quickly.
331. **prolific**--producing abundant quantities of life or works; Isaac Asimov, a prolific author, wrote or edited over 500 books.
332. **provincial**--unsophisticated, like people from the country (provinces); The city kids made fun of the provincial boy's unfashionable clothes.
333. **proximity**--closeness; The earth's proximity to the sun makes it warmer than Jupiter and Mars.
334. **prudent**--exercising caution about the future; Before our hike, we made a prudent decision to make sure we had left nothing in the car.
335. **qualify** (an argument)--to put limitations or restrictions on an argument; After claiming that most boys were stupid, Sally qualified her argument by saying that most boys *she knew* were stupid.
336. **quandary**--a difficult decision; Last night I faced a quandary: I had only enough time to prepare for one of my two tests today.
337. **ramble**--to wander; The tourists rambled around the city, snapping photos every few blocks.
338. **rancor**--bitter anger; The rancor he experienced from his unjust imprisonment led Edmund Dantes to revenge himself on his three accusers.
339. **ratify**--to sign or give formal consent to (a treaty or agreement); While the president of the United States can negotiate treaties with other countries, they are not binding until the Senate ratifies them.
340. **rebuttal**--a counterargument; When my debate opponent claimed that bats were bad because they were active at night, my rebuttal was that good people often move about at night too.

Vocab List 18

341. **recount**--to tell a story [French, conte = tale]; Once again, the villager storyteller recounted the tale of Arjun and his powerful bow.
342. **raconteur**--a good storyteller [one who recounts]; My father, a skilled raconteur, told many a spellbinding tale about his life in the navy.
343. **rectify**--to correct (an error) [related to rectangle = right angle because to rectify is to make right or correct]; After I complained about my credit card bill, the card company rectified the error by reversing the charges that were made to my account.
344. **rectitude**--morally correct behavior; The rectitude of the priest earned much respect, even from people who did not believe in his religion.
345. **redundant**--extra and unnecessary; "Green in color" is an example of a redundant phrase, as is "ATM machine."
346. **refute**--to prove (an argument) incorrect; Copernicus refuted the old system of astronomy by showing that the earth went around the sun.
347. **relegate**--to send to a lower level or condition; The boss relegated most of the resumes to the trash can.
348. **remorse**--great sorrow; The death of a loved one produces much remorse.
349. **renounce**--to formally give up something important; The terrorist group said that to be allowed to make treaties, it had to renounce violence.
350. **repel**--1. to drive or force back or away; The defenders of the fort managed to repel the attack. 2. to be disgusting to; When the city girl arrived on her uncle's farm, the smell of manure repelled her.
351. **reprehensible**--very, very bad; The Nazis committed reprehensible crimes.
352. **reprimand**--to criticize firmly, often in an official manner; The school administration reprimanded the students who had played a prank on a teacher.
353. **reprove**--to criticize strongly (reprimand); The hospital reproved the nurses who had handed out medication without prescriptions.
354. **repudiate**--to refuse to accept or be associated with; The government refused to negotiate with the terrorist group until it repudiated violence.
355. **reserve** (N)--the ability to contain one's emotions; The student body president, who had great reserve, spoke calmly but firmly to the children who were criticizing his decisions.
356. **resigned** (ADJ)--being willing to accept a bad situation; Most kids want to stay home on school days, but they resign themselves to going anyway.
357. **resolution**--firm determination; On New Year's Day, people make resolutions for improving their behavior.
358. **resolve**--determination; Columbus showed great resolve by continuing to sail West even when he lacked supplies for a return trip.
359. **reticent**--reluctant to speak; The teacher was surprised when Billy volunteered to talk about his summer vacation, for the child was normally reticent.
360. **retract**--to draw back or draw in or withdraw; After a sudden swipe at the dog, the cat retracted its claws. When he was criticized for his rude claim, the speaker decided to retract it.

Vocab List 19

361. **reverent**--worshipful; Druids have a reverent attitude towards nature.
362. **rhetoric**--the science of argument or persuasion; Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is a masterpiece of rhetoric.
363. **rigor**--the quality of being extremely thorough, exhaustive, or accurate; For a scientific experiment to survive peer review, the experimenter must proceed with rigor.
364. **robust**--vigorous and full of life; Professional athletes are robust men and women.
365. **sage**--very wise; The bearded wise man offered sage remarks on the meaning of life to anyone who undertook the arduous journey to his mountain cave.
366. **sanction**--1. vb. To tolerate; The school administration refuses to sanction so-called senior pranks. 2. A restriction imposed by one country on another; The sanctions on Iran prevent it from selling its oil abroad.
367. **sanctify**--to make holy; The priest poured holy water on the altar to sanctify it.
368. **satire**--a witty literary or visual production, designed to criticize people's moral failings; Comedians love to satirize politicians for failing to live up to the ideals of truth, honesty, and sincerity.
369. **saturate**--to thoroughly soak with a liquid; The tablecloth was saturated with milk from the broken pitcher.
370. **scanty**--
371. **scrupulous**--paying close attention to detail; highly ethical; The accountant took scrupulous care to make sure that the company's books were in order.
372. **scruple**--a feeling of doubt about the rightness of an action; I felt some scruples about copying my friend's work, but I calmed them by telling myself that the assignment was unfair to begin with.
373. **scrutinize**--to examine closely; The detective scrutinized the glove with a magnifying glass, hoping to find clues to the identity of its owner.
374. **secluded**--in a state of comfortable isolation from the rest of the world; People in gated communities live in secluded neighborhoods.
375. **servile**--behaving like a servant, but to an excessive degree; The servile office worker constantly offered to help his boss with everything from fetching coffee to reloading his stapler.
376. **skeptic**--one who doubts claims; The global warming skeptic pointed out that earth's temperature has remained steady over the last 15 years, a fact that contradicted the predictions of those who believed in man-made climate change.
377. **sluggish**--moving slowly (like a slug); Paul always felt sluggish before he drank his morning coffee.
378. **somber**--dark or gloomy; The gathering rain clouds made the skies somber.
379. **sporadic**--happening at irregular intervals; After the battle was mostly over, we could still hear sporadic gunfire as the victors pursued the defeated forces.
380. **squander**--to waste (money or some other resource) in large amounts; The wealthy young man squandered his inheritance on fast cars and fast women.

Vocab List 20

381. **stagnant**--(of air or water) not moving; In summertime, algae bloomed in the stagnant pools near the swamp.
382. **static**--unmoving or unchanging; The stock market remained static the entire week as people waited for more earnings reports to come out.
383. **submissive**--habitually yielding to the demands of others; The submissive citizens no longer objected as the government took away more and more of their rights.
384. **subordinate**--in a hierarchy, a person whose position is beneath that of someone else; In the army, a private is subordinate to a lieutenant, and a lieutenant is subordinate to a general.
385. **subside**--to gradually die down; After the flood, the waters eventually subsided, leaving behind large tracts of mud.
386. **substantiate**--(vb) to provide evidence for; I received a C on my essay because I had failed to substantiate my argument with evidence.
387. **succinct**--concise; My mother gave a succinct account of the dinner party she had attended: "The food was delicious, the conversation, charming."
388. **superfluous**--extra and unnecessary; An engine should have no superfluous parts.
389. **surpass**--to be greater than (OAD); Eventually, the economic output of America surpassed that of its parent country, Great Britain.
390. **surreptitious**--trying to avoid notice; Fred surreptitiously took John's pencil when John wasn't looking.
391. **susceptible**--likely to be influenced or harmed by a particular thing; Poor Calvin was susceptible to catching colds.
392. **sustain**--strengthen or support physically or mentally; The thought of eventually earning a higher salary sustained the young teacher through his trying early years.
393. **sycophant**--a servile flatterer; Rock stars are surrounded by sycophants.
394. **taciturn**--in the habit of not talking; Everyone in the room turned around and stared when my taciturn uncle offered his opinion about the political discussion.
395. **tacit**--not said openly, but understood by all parties; The teacher reached a tacit understanding with the students: he would assign no homework, and they would not report him to the principal.
396. **temper** (v)--to moderate [a temperate climate is a moderate climate]; The film reviewer tempered his criticism of the film's plot by praising the quality of the acting.
397. **tentative**--provisional, not certain or fixed; I made a tentative estimate of how much time the project would take, but reserved the right to change my estimate once I had received more information.
398. **terse**--expressed in very few words, usually to show irritation; When my brother apologized for forgetting my birthday, I tersely replied, "That's nice."
399. **thrive**--to live well and prosper; Once brought into their new home, the stray dogs thrived on the family's good food and strong affection.
400. **tranquility**--peacefulness; We sat on the porch and admired the evening tranquility of the countryside.

Vocab List 21

401. **transient**--staying in one place for only a short period of time [transfer, transit]; Thanks to growing up with a transient family, I attended seven different elementary schools.
402. **trite**--overused and consequently of little importance; At the party, the strangers passed the time by making trite remarks about the good California weather.
403. **turbulent**--characterized by disorder or confusion; After a turbulent ride on a rough sea, the ship finally reached a calm harbor.
404. **turmoil**--a state of great confusion or anxiety; Many soldiers experience inner turmoil upon returning home because they continue to react as though still in combat.
405. **undermine**--to weaken the support or strength of something; Charles continually undermined the authority of his teacher by responding to her history lectures with, "If you say so."
406. **uniformity**--the quality of being the same throughout; Soldiers wear uniforms because armies like uniformity.
407. **unwarranted**--not appropriate given the circumstances; After arriving late to pick her up for the party, Sandra understood that Caitlin would be upset; however, the slap that Caitlin gave her was unwarranted.
408. **usurp**--to illegally take over a position of power; In *Hamlet*, the king's brother, Claudius, kills the king and usurps the throne, prompting young Hamlet to seek revenge.
409. **vacillate**--to waver; When generals vacillate, they usually lose the battle (of course, rash decisions also lead to losses).
410. **venerate**--to honor or worship; Having been venerated for centuries, Confucius has achieved an exalted status in Chinese culture.
411. **verbose**--using many words; My writing tutor taught me that verbosity was a fault and concision, a virtue.
412. **vigor**--strength and vitality; The well-trained athlete had a great deal of vigor.
413. **vilify**--to describe something or someone as extremely bad; When the reports of the senator's lies came out, the newspapers vilified the elected official.
414. **vile**--awful, disgusting; Jim made a face as he tasted the magician's vile potion.
415. **vindicate**--to show that someone's actions were right; Everyone laughed when I stocked my cellar with canned goods, but my decision was vindicated when a freak storm left our town without power for three days.
416. **virtuoso**--someone who is very talented at something; The virtuoso violinist played Paganini perfectly.
417. **volatile**--likely to change without warning, unstable; The political situation was volatile: violence could break out at any time.
418. **whimsical**--playfully strange, fanciful; Edward Lear wrote a whimsical poem about an owl and a cat that sailed away to a strange land and dined on slices of quince.
419. **zeal**--passionate devotion to a cause; During the French Revolution, the all-volunteer French army fought against foreign countries with zeal.
420. **zealot**--one who is passionately devoted to a cause; The zealot John Brown killed slaveholders because he could tolerate no compromise on slavery.