Words in Context Questions

This is the Words in Context Word Bank in alphabetical order, the quickest way to look a word up. Its companion, the Word Bank by Topic, sorts the same words into 31 meaning groups; the number after each entry here is the word's group there, where you'll find its near-synonyms and, in the facing column, its opposites.

Words in Context Word Bank (A–Z)

This bank gathers every word and phrase that has appeared as an answer choice in an official Words in Context question: the 119 medium and hard questions in the College Board Question Bank plus 56 more from the official practice tests, 175 questions in all. Their 162 fill-in-the-blank questions use 538 different words and phrases, counted as word families (so *validate* and *validated* count once), and all 538 are here, from *abrasive* to *yield*. A ★ marks the 158 that were the right answer at least once. The others were wrong answers, and they matter too: a word you can define at a glance is a word you can rule out at a glance.

How to read an entry. Each entry gives the word in bold, a ★ if it was an official right answer, its part of speech, a short meaning in the sense SAT texts use, and an example phrase in italics. A small word in parentheses, as in *contingent* (*on*), is the preposition that came with the word in the official choice. Learn the pair, because the whole pair has to fit the blank. A line marked ▸ flags a second meaning, a look-alike, or a prefix trap. Last comes the word's meaning group in the topic bank: *12 · Encourage or Cause* means group 12, the side for words that encourage or cause. When a word family has a form that sorts far from its headword, that form has a short line of its own that points to the headword.

How to use it. Look up any choice you couldn't define while you worked a question, and read its whole entry, not just the meaning. Then turn to its group in the topic bank and read down its column and across to the other: the test builds its traps from exactly those neighbors and opposites. After Z, a short table lists the 13 "most nearly mean" questions, where the test asked for a less familiar sense of a familiar word.

A

abrasive (adj.) — rough or rude in an annoying way. *an abrasive boss who snaps at everyone* 14 · Harmful, Risky, Costly, or Vulnerable
▸ Also: literally rough and scraping, like sandpaper

acceptable (adj.) — good enough; allowed. *jeans are acceptable at casual events* 14 · Safe, Helpful, or Successful

accessible ★ (adj.) — clear enough for ordinary readers to follow. *an accessible book about black holes* 5 · Clear or Simple
▸ Also: easy to reach or enter, as in an accessible entrance

accessory (n.) — an extra item that adds to something. *a scarf, the perfect accessory for the coat* 8 · Minor, Extra, or Unneeded
▸ Also: someone who helps commit a crime, an accomplice

accidental ★ (adj.) — happening by chance, not on purpose. *an accidental discovery in the chemistry lab* 17 · Unplanned or Careless

accommodate (v.) — make room for or adjust to fit. *a ramp built to accommodate wheelchairs* 18 · Agree or Cooperate

acknowledge ★ (v.) — recognize as true, real, or important. *widely acknowledged as the town's best baker* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

acquire (v.) — gain or come to have over time. *acquire a taste for spicy food* 26 · Get or Keep

adapt (to) ★ (v.) — change to suit a new situation. *animals that adapt to colder climates* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace
▸ Not adopt (take as your own); adapt means adjust

adhere (to) ★ (v.) — stick closely to a rule or plan. *adhere to the lab safety rules* 28 · Follow or Be Bound By

adjust (v.) — change slightly to fit or work better. *adjust the mirror before driving* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace

adorn (v.) — make beautiful by adding decorations. *paintings that adorn the hallway walls* 8 · Minor, Extra, or Unneeded
▸ Tip: adornments are extras, decorative rather than essential

advantageous ★ (adj.) — giving an edge or a benefit. *height is advantageous in basketball* 14 · Safe, Helpful, or Successful

advise (v.) — suggest what someone should do. *advise travelers to pack light* 25 · Say, State, or Tell
▸ Not advice (the noun); advise is the verb

affection (n.) — warm, fond liking. *deep affection for the old family dog* 20 · Hopeful, Eager, or Drawn To

affinity (n.) — a natural liking or sense of connection. *a natural affinity for jazz piano* 20 · Hopeful, Eager, or Drawn To
▸ Also: a close likeness, as in an affinity between two languages

aggravate (v.) — make a problem worse. *scratching will only aggravate the rash* 13 · Make Worse
▸ Also: in everyday speech, annoy, as in an aggravating delay

aggressive (adj.) — ready to attack or confront. *an aggressive dog barking at strangers* 14 · Harmful, Risky, Costly, or Vulnerable
▸ Also: bold and forceful, as in an aggressive savings goal

ambiguous (adj.), **ambiguity** ★ (n.) — uncertain, or having more than one possible meaning. *a contract clause full of ambiguity* 5 · Confusing or Complex
▸ Not ambivalent, which means having mixed feelings

ambivalence (toward) ★ (n.), **ambivalent** (adj.) — torn feelings, partly for and partly against. *ambivalence toward moving to a new city* 20 · Doubtful, Worried, or Indifferent
▸ Not indifferent; ambivalence means feeling pulled two ways

ameliorate ★ (v.) — make a bad situation better. *steps to ameliorate classroom overcrowding* 13 · Make Better or Restore

amusing (adj.) — making people smile or laugh. *an amusing story about a runaway goat* 22 · Calm, Pleasing, or Interesting

analogous (adj.), **analogy** ★ (n.), **analogical** (adj.) — alike in a way that allows comparison. *an analogy comparing the heart to a pump* 6 · Alike or Matching
▸ Tip: an analogy (n.) is a comparison showing how two things are alike

animosity (toward) (n.) — strong dislike or hostility. *lasting animosity between the feuding families* 18 · Disagree or Resist

annotate (v.) — write explaining comments on a text. *annotate a poem in the margins* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

announce (v.) — tell people publicly and officially. *announce the winners at the assembly* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

anomaly ★ (n.) — something that breaks an expected pattern. *one anomaly in otherwise steady data* 7 · Unusual or New

antagonistic (toward) (adj.) — openly unfriendly and opposed. *grew antagonistic toward his former teammates* 18 · Disagree or Resist

antecedent (to) (adj.) — coming before in time or order. *warning signs antecedent to the collapse* 31 · Before or Ahead
▸ Also: noun, what comes before, like a pronoun's antecedent

anticipate (v.) — expect and prepare for ahead of time. *anticipating crowds, the cafe added tables* 31 · Before or Ahead
▸ Also: be an early forerunner of, as in inventions that anticipated computers

antithetical (adj.) — directly opposed to something. *values antithetical to fair play* 6 · Different or Opposed

appeasement (n.) — giving in to demands for the sake of peace. *appeasement that only made the bully bolder* 29 · Give In

appraise (v.) — judge the worth or importance of. *appraise an antique clock before the auction* 24 · Look Closely or Weigh

apprise (of) (v.) — let someone know about something. *apprise the team of the schedule change* 23 · Aware or Noticing
▸ Not appraise (judge the value); apprise means inform

appropriate (adj.) — suitable or right for the situation. *appropriate clothes for a job interview* 14 · Safe, Helpful, or Successful
▸ Also: as a verb, take for your own use, often without permission

approximate (adj.) — close to exact but not quite. *an approximate head count of two hundred* 2 · Guess or Theorize
▸ Also: a verb meaning come close to, as in approximate the original

arcane (adj.) — mysterious and known mainly to specialists. *arcane terms used only by sailors* 5 · Confusing or Complex

arduous ★ (adj.) — very hard and tiring. *an arduous climb up the steep trail* 15 · Hard or Unworkable

arrange ★ (v.) — organize or put in order. *arrange the chairs in a neat circle* 17 · Planned or Careful

assert ★ (v.) — state firmly that something is true. *the author asserts that cities need more parks* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

attach (v.) — fasten or connect to something. *attach the photo to the email* 30 · Linked or Combined

attract (v.) — draw in or pull toward. *a street fair that attracted huge crowds* 12 · Encourage or Cause

attractive (to) ★ (adj.) — appealing and able to draw interest. *bright flowers attractive to bees* 20 · Hopeful, Eager, or Drawn To

atypical ★ (adj.) — unlike what is normal for its kind. *an atypical snowfall in late May* 7 · Unusual or New
▸ Watch: a- means not; atypical is the opposite of typical

authenticate (v.) — prove to be real, not fake. *a painting authenticated by museum experts* 1 · Back Up or Prove

authoritative (adj.) — reliable because it comes from experts. *the most authoritative guide to local birds* 3 · Certain or Solid
▸ Not authoritarian, which means demanding strict obedience

avoid (v.) — stay clear of or keep from doing. *took back roads to avoid traffic* 28 · Avoid, Escape, or Give Up

awkward (adj.) — clumsy; not smooth or skilled. *an awkward dancer stepping on toes* 16 · Basic or Unskilled

B

beneficial (adj.), **beneficially** (adv.) — helpful or good for something. *sleep is beneficial to memory* 14 · Safe, Helpful, or Successful

beneficiary (of) (n.) — someone who gains from something. *the sole beneficiary of her aunt's will* 14 · Safe, Helpful, or Successful
▸ Not benefactor (the giver); a beneficiary receives the benefit

buttress ★ (v.) — prop up or add support to. *quotes that buttress the essay's main point* 1 · Back Up or Prove
▸ Tip: literally a support built against a wall; think prop up

C

calibration (n.) — careful adjusting so measurements are accurate. *a scale that needs calibration before each use* 2 · Observe, Test, or Measure

careful (adj.) — paying close attention to avoid mistakes. *careful steps across the icy sidewalk* 17 · Planned or Careful

catalyst (of) ★ (n.) — something that sparks change or action. *a speech that became the catalyst of reform* 12 · Encourage or Cause
▸ Also: in chemistry, a substance that speeds up a reaction

categorize (v.) — sort things into groups by type. *categorize the rocks by hardness* 24 · Sort, Rank, or Decide

cause (n.) — the reason something happens. *investigators searching for the fire's cause* 12 · Encourage or Cause

challenge (v.) — argue that something is wrong. *a young chemist challenging the textbook view* 1 · Doubt or Disprove

characterization (n.) — how a writer shows what a character is like. *the play's vivid characterization of the villain* 25 · Show, Stand For, or Suggest
▸ Also: any description, as in her characterization of the plan as risky

circumvent (v.) — get around a rule or obstacle. *a detour that circumvents the flooded bridge* 28 · Avoid, Escape, or Give Up

cite (v.) — mention as proof or an example. *a study cited in many textbooks* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

cohesion (n.) — the state of sticking together as one. *the cohesion of a close-knit team* 30 · Linked or Combined

coincidence (n.) — a surprising chance overlap of two events. *by coincidence, we wore matching jackets* 17 · Unplanned or Careless
▸ Also: a point where things match, as in a coincidence of interests

collaboration ★ (n.) — teamwork on a shared project. *a collaboration between two young muralists* 18 · Agree or Cooperate

collect ★ (v.) — gather things up from different places. *collect water samples from three streams* 26 · Get or Keep

commercialization (n.) — turning something into a business for profit. *the commercialization of space travel* 26 · Give, Spread, or Use

commit (v.) — pledge yourself to a plan or cause. *commit to a full year of practice* 28 · Follow or Be Bound By

common (adj.), **commonplace** (adj.) — happening often or found in many places. *a common bird in city parks* 7 · Ordinary or Widespread

commonality (with) ★ (n.) — a feature or quality two things share. *noticed commonalities with her new roommate* 6 · Alike or Matching

commonplace (adj.) → see **common** 7 · Ordinary or Widespread

comparable (to) ★ (adj.) — close to something in size, amount, or quality. *a cost comparable to last year's* 6 · Alike or Matching

compelling (adj.) — very convincing or hard to ignore. *compelling evidence that swayed the jury* 3 · Certain or Solid

competent ★ (adj.) — able to do something well enough. *a competent driver even in heavy rain* 16 · Skilled or Refined

complementary ★ (adj.) — completing each other by filling gaps. *a cook and baker with complementary skills* 30 · Linked or Combined
▸ Not complimentary (praising or free); complementary means completing

complicated (by) (adj.) — made harder to handle or understand. *a rescue complicated by thick fog* 5 · Confusing or Complex

compliment (v.) — say something kind or admiring about. *compliment the chef on the soup* 19 · Praise or Approve
▸ Not complement (complete a set); compliment = praise

compose (v.) — write or create, as music or poetry. *compose a song for the graduation* 27 · Make or Put Into Action
▸ Also: make up, as in a team composed of veterans

compound (v.) — add to; make bigger or worse. *lies that compound the original mistake* 13 · Make Worse
▸ Also: n. a combination of parts, as in a chemical compound

comprise ★ (v.) — consist of; be made up of. *the committee comprises five members* 30 · Linked or Combined
▸ Tip: the whole comprises its parts; the parts compose it

conceal (v.) — keep hidden from others. *a drawer concealed behind a sliding panel* 4 · Hidden or Hard to Perceive

concede ★ (v.) — admit, often reluctantly, that something is true. *concede that the other team played better* 25 · Say, State, or Tell
▸ Also: give up, as in concede defeat

concentrated (among) ★ (adj.) — gathered mostly in one group or place. *power concentrated among a few nobles* 30 · Separate or Limited

conceptualize (v.) — work out a clear mental picture of. *struggling to conceptualize the size of the universe* 24 · Look Closely or Weigh

concern (about) ★ (n.), **concerning** (adj.) — a feeling of worry or unease. *concerns about the old bridge's safety* 20 · Doubtful, Worried, or Indifferent
▸ Also: concerning (adj.) = worrying, as in a concerning trend

conclusion (n.) — a judgment reached by reasoning from facts. *reaching a conclusion after weighing the clues* 2 · Observe, Test, or Measure

condition (v.) — train or shape through repetition. *dogs conditioned to expect a treat* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace
▸ Also: n. the state something is in, or a requirement

confident (adj.) — sure of yourself or of an outcome. *a confident smile before her piano solo* 3 · Certain or Solid

confine (to) ★ (v.) — keep within certain limits. *a flu that confined me to bed* 12 · Hinder or Block

confirm ★ (v.) — show to be true or make definite. *a blood test that confirmed the diagnosis* 1 · Back Up or Prove

conflate (with) (v.) — merge or confuse two things as one. *people often conflate weather with climate* 30 · Linked or Combined

conform (to) ★ (v.) — match the expected rules or pattern. *new houses that conform to the fire code* 28 · Follow or Be Bound By

confusing (for) (adj.) — unclear and hard to follow. *a map that was confusing for tourists* 5 · Confusing or Complex

conjecture ★ (n.) — a guess made without full proof. *pure conjecture about who wrote the letter* 2 · Guess or Theorize

consensus ★ (n.) — general agreement within a group. *the team reached a consensus on the logo* 18 · Agree or Cooperate

consistent ★ (adj.) — staying the same, time after time. *her consistent effort all semester long* 6 · Alike or Matching
▸ Also: in agreement with, as in results consistent with a theory

conspicuous (adj.) — standing out and easy to notice. *a conspicuous red hat in the crowd* 4 · Visible or Open

constant (n.) — something that stays the same. *temperature kept as a constant in the experiment* 11 · Stay the Same or Settle In
▸ Also: adj. never stopping, as in constant noise

constraint (n.) — a limit that holds something back. *a tight budget, our biggest constraint* 12 · Hinder or Block

contemporary (with) (adj.) — existing or happening at the same time. *artists contemporary with the American Revolution* 31 · After, Looking Back, or at the Same Time
▸ Also: modern or current, as in contemporary design

contentious (adj.) — likely to stir up arguments. *a contentious debate over the town budget* 18 · Disagree or Resist

contingent (on) ★ (adj.) — depending on something else happening. *a picnic contingent on sunny weather* 30 · Linked or Combined

contradiction (n.) — a clash between things that can't both be true. *a contradiction between her words and actions* 6 · Different or Opposed

contrivance (of) (n.) — a clever, often artificial, invention or scheme. *a plot contrivance that felt too convenient* 21 · False, Showy, or Biased

contrive (v.) — cleverly plan or invent, often slyly. *contrive a clever way to escape chores* 21 · False, Showy, or Biased
▸ Also: contrived (adj.) = forced and artificial, as in a contrived plot

controversial (among) (adj.), **controversy** (n.) — causing disagreement or debate. *a controversial rule banning phones at lunch* 18 · Disagree or Resist

cordially (adv.) — in a warm, friendly way. *cordially welcomed the new neighbors* 18 · Agree or Cooperate

correct (v.) — fix or make right. *spelling errors corrected by an editor* 13 · Make Better or Restore

corroborate ★ (v.), **corroboration** (n.) — back up with additional proof. *a witness who corroborates the driver's story* 1 · Back Up or Prove

costly (adj.) — very expensive, or causing great loss. *a costly mistake that lost the game* 14 · Harmful, Risky, Costly, or Vulnerable

counteract (v.) — act against and cancel out. *an antidote that counteracts the poison* 13 · Make Better or Restore

counterfactual ★ (adj.) — imagining how events could have gone differently. *a counterfactual tale in which Rome never fell* 2 · Guess or Theorize

create ★ (v.) — make or bring into being. *create a mural for the school hallway* 27 · Make or Put Into Action

critical (adj.) — quick to find fault; disapproving. *a critical review of the new film* 19 · Criticize or Scorn
▸ Also: very important, as in a critical step

criticize (v.) — point out faults in. *criticize the plan for costing too much* 19 · Criticize or Scorn

curtail (v.) — cut back, shorten, or limit. *budget cuts that curtailed library hours* 12 · Hinder or Block

D

dangerous (adj.) — likely to cause harm. *dangerous ice on the mountain road* 14 · Harmful, Risky, Costly, or Vulnerable

deceptive (adj.) — likely to trick or give a false idea. *a deceptive ad hiding extra fees* 21 · False, Showy, or Biased

decide (v.) — make up your mind about something. *decide between two summer jobs* 24 · Sort, Rank, or Decide

decisive (adj.), **decisiveness** (n.) — settling a question beyond doubt. *a decisive goal in the final minute* 3 · Certain or Solid
▸ Also: quick to make firm choices, as in a decisive leader

decouple (from) (v.) — detach one thing from another. *decouple the last car from the train* 30 · Separate or Limited

defend ★ (v.) — argue for an idea that others attack. *rising to defend the new homework policy* 1 · Back Up or Prove

defunct ★ (adj.) — no longer active or in use. *a defunct railway line overgrown with weeds* 10 · Brief, Ended, or Inactive

delegate (v.) — give a task or duty to someone else. *delegate chores to each roommate* 26 · Give, Spread, or Use
▸ Also: as a noun, a person sent to speak for others

deliberation (n.) — long, careful thought or discussion before deciding. *the jury reached a verdict after long deliberation* 24 · Look Closely or Weigh

demand (v.) — ask for forcefully, as if owed. *demand a refund for the broken lamp* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

demarcate (from) ★ (v.) — mark off with a clear boundary. *flower beds demarcated from the lawn by stones* 30 · Separate or Limited

denigrate (v.) — unfairly put down or belittle. *denigrated the painter's work as childish* 19 · Criticize or Scorn

deny (v.) — say that something is not true. *the suspect denied ever visiting the shop* 1 · Doubt or Disprove

depleted (of) (adj.) — used up or greatly reduced. *a battery depleted of its charge* 9 · Too Little or Less

derive (from) (v.) — get or develop from a source. *words derived from Latin roots* 27 · Come From

describe (v.) — tell what something is like. *describe the view from the summit* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

despise (v.) — strongly dislike and look down on. *despise cruelty in any form* 19 · Criticize or Scorn

desultory (adj.) — aimless and halfhearted, without a plan. *a desultory attempt at cleaning his room* 17 · Unplanned or Careless

determine (v.) — find out or settle for certain. *tests to determine the cause of the fire* 24 · Sort, Rank, or Decide
▸ Also: control or shape, as in weather determines the harvest

deterrent (to) (n.) — something that discourages an action. *high fines as a deterrent to littering* 12 · Hinder or Block

develop (v.) — build up or grow over time. *develop a new vaccine in the lab* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace

development (of) (n.) — the process of growing or advancing. *the development of a child's language* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace

deviate ★ (v.) — move away from the usual path or rule. *a recipe I rarely deviate from* 6 · Different or Opposed

diminish ★ (v.) — grow or make smaller or weaker. *pain that diminished after a few days* 9 · Too Little or Less

disastrous (adj.) — causing great damage or failure. *a disastrous first attempt at baking bread* 14 · Harmful, Risky, Costly, or Vulnerable

discern ★ (v.), **discernible** (adj.) — spot or make out something not obvious. *discern a pattern in the scattered data* 23 · Aware or Noticing

disconcerting (adj.) — unsettling; making you feel uneasy. *a disconcerting silence after the announcement* 22 · Unsettling or Reacting

discount (v.) — dismiss as unimportant or not worth believing. *experts who discounted the farmer's warnings* 1 · Doubt or Disprove
▸ Tip: in arguments it means dismiss, not lower the price

discourage (v.) — make less likely; try to prevent. *signs that discourage swimming near the rocks* 12 · Hinder or Block

discover (v.) — find or learn something for the first time. *divers who discovered a sunken ship* 2 · Observe, Test, or Measure

discretion (n.) — wise care about what to say or reveal. *trusted his discretion with the surprise party plans* 17 · Planned or Careful
▸ Also: freedom to decide, as in at the teacher's discretion

discuss (v.) — talk about with others. *discuss the novel's ending in small groups* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

disengage (v.) — pull away or detach from. *bored students who disengage from the lesson* 28 · Avoid, Escape, or Give Up

disingenuously (adv.) — in a falsely innocent or sincere way. *disingenuously claimed she had never seen the note* 21 · False, Showy, or Biased
▸ Not ingenious (clever); disingenuous = falsely sincere

disorienting (adj.) — making you lose your sense of direction. *a disorienting maze of identical hallways* 22 · Unsettling or Reacting

disparage (v.) — speak of as worthless or bad. *disparage a rival's work to look better* 19 · Criticize or Scorn

disparate ★ (adj.) — so different they're hard to compare. *disparate hobbies like chess and rock climbing* 6 · Different or Opposed
▸ Not desperate (hopeless); disparate means very different

dispassionately (adv.) — calmly, without letting emotions sway judgment. *reported the tragic news dispassionately* 21 · Honest, Plain, or Fair

dispersed (adj.) — spread out over a wide area. *small farms dispersed across the valley* 26 · Give, Spread, or Use

dispute (v.) — argue against or question the truth of. *dispute the referee's call on the field* 18 · Disagree or Resist

disseminate (v.) — spread information to many people. *disseminate health tips through flyers* 26 · Give, Spread, or Use

distort (v.) — twist out of its true shape or meaning. *headlines that distort the study's findings* 21 · False, Showy, or Biased

distract (v.), **distraction (for)** (n.) — pull attention away from something. *a buzzing phone that distracts the driver* 22 · Unsettling or Reacting

diverge (v.) — split off and go different ways. *where the trail diverges into two paths* 6 · Different or Opposed
▸ Not converge (come together); diverge means move apart

diverse ★ (adj.) — including many different kinds. *a reef home to diverse sea life* 6 · Different or Opposed

diversion (from) (n.) — a turn away from the usual path or focus. *a short diversion from the hiking trail* 22 · Unsettling or Reacting
▸ Also: entertainment, as in a pleasant diversion on a rainy day

dogmatic ★ (adj.) — insisting beliefs are right, closed to debate. *a dogmatic coach who never changed tactics* 21 · False, Showy, or Biased

dormant ★ (adj.) — inactive for now but able to restart. *a dormant volcano that could erupt again* 10 · Brief, Ended, or Inactive
▸ Not dead or defunct: dormant things can become active again

doubt (v.) — feel unsure whether something is true. *a coach who doubted the rookie's speed* 1 · Doubt or Disprove

dynamic (adj.) — full of energy and frequent change. *a dynamic classroom full of lively debate* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace

E

earnest (adj.) — serious and wholehearted. *an earnest effort to fix the mistake* 21 · Honest, Plain, or Fair

elasticity ★ (n.) — ability to stretch or adjust and bounce back. *the elasticity of a rubber band* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace

empirical (adj.) — drawn from what is observed or measured. *empirical data gathered from twenty field sites* 2 · Observe, Test, or Measure

enact (v.) — make into law or officially put in place. *the council enacted a ban on fireworks* 27 · Make or Put Into Action
▸ Also: act out, as in enact a scene from a play

encompass (v.) — contain within; include or surround. *a park that encompasses three lakes* 30 · Linked or Combined

encourage (v.) — support and urge on; make more likely. *teachers who encourage questions in class* 12 · Encourage or Cause

endorse (v.) — publicly support or vouch for. *the mayor endorsed the new park plan* 19 · Praise or Approve

enduring (adj.) — lasting through many years. *an enduring friendship since kindergarten* 10 · Lasting or Active

engender ★ (v.) — cause or give rise to. *unfair rules that engender resentment* 12 · Encourage or Cause
▸ Not endanger (put at risk); engender = bring about

engulf (v.) — swallow up or surround completely. *flames that engulfed the old barn* 30 · Linked or Combined

enhance (v.) — improve or increase the quality of. *spices that enhance a stew's flavor* 12 · Encourage or Cause

ensure (v.) — make certain that something happens. *backups that ensure no files are lost* 3 · Certain or Solid
▸ Watch: you assure a person but ensure an outcome

enthusiasm (for) ★ (n.) — eager excitement and interest. *enthusiasm for the upcoming science fair* 20 · Hopeful, Eager, or Drawn To

entrench (v.) — fix firmly so it's hard to change. *a habit entrenched by years of repetition* 11 · Stay the Same or Settle In

epitomize (v.) — be the perfect model or example of. *a sprinter who epitomizes speed and focus* 25 · Show, Stand For, or Suggest

establish (v.) — prove or show beyond doubt. *records that establish the violin's true age* 1 · Back Up or Prove
▸ Also: set up or start, as in establish a new club

esteem ★ (n.) — deep respect and admiration. *held in high esteem by her classmates* 19 · Praise or Approve

evaluate (v.) — judge the value or quality of. *evaluate each essay using a rubric* 24 · Look Closely or Weigh

evasion (n.) — the act of dodging or avoiding. *her evasion of every direct question* 28 · Avoid, Escape, or Give Up

evidence (n.) — facts that show whether something is true. *muddy footprints offered evidence of a visitor* 2 · Observe, Test, or Measure

evolving (adj.) — changing and developing over time. *the city's evolving skyline* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace

exacerbate (v.) — make a bad situation even worse. *dry winds that exacerbated the wildfire* 13 · Make Worse

exactitude ★ (n.) — great precision and accuracy. *measured each ingredient with exactitude* 17 · Planned or Careful

examination (n.) — a careful look at something to learn about it. *an examination of the patient's x-rays* 24 · Look Closely or Weigh

example (of) (n.) — one thing that shows what others are like. *an example of a mammal that lays eggs* 25 · Show, Stand For, or Suggest

exceed (v.) — be more than a limit or amount. *fined for exceeding the speed limit* 29 · Win Out or Go Beyond

exclusive (adj.) — limited to a select few. *an exclusive club with a long waitlist* 30 · Separate or Limited

exemplification (n.) — an example that shows a general idea. *a clear exemplification of teamwork* 25 · Show, Stand For, or Suggest

exhaustive ★ (adj.) — thorough, leaving nothing out. *an exhaustive search of every room* 9 · Plenty, Size, or Thoroughness
▸ Not tiring: exhaustive means thorough, not exhausting

existence (n.) — the fact of being real or present. *doubts about the existence of the lost city* 10 · Lasting or Active

expediency (n.) — choosing what is quick and convenient. *skipping steps for the sake of expediency* 15 · Easy, Practical, or Doable
▸ Watch: often negative: convenience chosen over what is right

expensive (adj.) — costing a lot of money. *front-row seats that are too expensive* 14 · Harmful, Risky, Costly, or Vulnerable

experiment (n.) — a careful test to find something out. *a classroom experiment with magnets and iron filings* 2 · Observe, Test, or Measure
▸ Also: a verb; experiment with means try something new

explicable (adj.) — able to be explained. *a strange noise, easily explicable by the wind* 5 · Clear or Simple

exploit ★ (v.) — make full use of and benefit from. *farmers exploiting the rich river soil* 26 · Give, Spread, or Use
▸ Also: use unfairly, as in exploit workers

expose (v.) — uncover or reveal something hidden. *a reporter who exposed the fake charity* 4 · Visible or Open

extensive ★ (adj.) — large in area, amount, or range. *extensive damage from the earthquake* 9 · Plenty, Size, or Thoroughness

extol (v.) — praise with great enthusiasm. *extol the benefits of daily exercise* 19 · Praise or Approve

extraneous (adj.) — extra and unrelated to the main point. *cutting extraneous details from an essay* 8 · Minor, Extra, or Unneeded

F

facile (adj.) — overly simple and shallow. *a facile answer to a complex problem* 15 · Easy, Practical, or Doable
▸ Watch: usually critical, not praise; a facile argument ignores complexity

feasible (adj.) — possible and practical to do. *a feasible plan that fits our budget* 15 · Easy, Practical, or Doable

feature ★ (v.) — include or show as a main part. *a museum show featuring local painters* 4 · Visible or Open

fecundity (n.) — power to produce many young or much growth. *the fecundity of fast-breeding rabbits* 9 · Plenty, Size, or Thoroughness

fluctuation (in) ★ (n.) — an uneven rise and fall. *small fluctuations in body temperature* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace

follow (v.) — come or go after. *ducklings following their mother across the road* 28 · Follow or Be Bound By
▸ Also: obey, as in follow the rules

foretell (v.) — say ahead of time what will happen. *a legend that foretells the hero's return* 31 · Before or Ahead

foster ★ (v.) — help something grow or develop. *a coach who fosters teamwork* 12 · Encourage or Cause

fragile ★ (adj.) — easily broken or damaged. *fragile glass ornaments wrapped in paper* 14 · Harmful, Risky, Costly, or Vulnerable

fruitful ★ (adj.) — producing good or useful results. *a fruitful meeting that solved three problems* 9 · Plenty, Size, or Thoroughness

fruitless (adj.) — failing to produce any results. *hours of fruitless digging for treasure* 9 · Too Little or Less

G

grapple (with) (v.) — struggle to deal with something hard. *coastal towns grappling with rising seas* 15 · Hard or Unworkable

guess (v.) — give an answer without being sure. *guessing the number of jellybeans in a jar* 2 · Guess or Theorize

H

habituate (to) (v.) — make or become used to something. *city pigeons habituated to crowds* 11 · Stay the Same or Settle In

hamper ★ (v.) — slow down or make more difficult. *a sprained ankle that hampered her running* 12 · Hinder or Block
▸ Also: as a noun, a large basket, like a laundry hamper

handmade (from) ★ (adj.) — made by hand, not by machine. *a violin handmade from spruce and maple* 27 · Make or Put Into Action

haphazard ★ (adj.) — random and messy, with no plan. *a haphazard pile of shoes by the door* 17 · Unplanned or Careless

healthy ★ (adj.) — in good condition; thriving. *a healthy forest full of young trees* 14 · Safe, Helpful, or Successful

heterogeneity (n.) — a mix of different parts or kinds. *the heterogeneity of soil across the farm* 6 · Different or Opposed
▸ Not homogeneity (sameness); hetero- means different, homo- means same

hibernation (n.) — a deep winter sleep some animals take. *bears emerging from hibernation in spring* 10 · Brief, Ended, or Inactive

highlight (v.) — point out as especially important. *a chart highlighting the busiest hours* 4 · Visible or Open

hinder ★ (v.) — get in the way of; slow down. *heavy snow that hindered the rescue effort* 12 · Hinder or Block

hoard (v.) — secretly store away a large supply. *squirrels hoarding acorns for winter* 26 · Get or Keep
▸ Not horde (a big crowd); a hoard is a hidden store

homogeneous ★ (adj.) — made up of parts that are all alike. *a homogeneous mixture with no visible layers* 6 · Alike or Matching

hypothesis (n.), **hypothesize** (v.) — a proposed explanation still to be tested. *testing the hypothesis that plants like music* 2 · Guess or Theorize

I

illustrate (v.) — make clear by using examples or pictures. *a diagram that illustrates the water cycle* 25 · Show, Stand For, or Suggest

imaginative (adj.) — showing creativity and original ideas. *an imaginative design for a treehouse* 27 · Make or Put Into Action

imagine (v.) — picture something in your mind. *imagining life on the ocean floor* 2 · Guess or Theorize

imitate (v.), **imitation** (n.) — copy someone's actions or follow their example. *a parrot that imitates its owner's voice* 6 · Alike or Matching

immature (adj.) — not fully grown or developed. *immature birds without adult feathers yet* 16 · Basic or Unskilled

impartial (adj.) — fair, not favoring either side. *an impartial jury that heard both sides* 21 · Honest, Plain, or Fair
▸ Tip: partial can mean biased, so impartial = unbiased

impending ★ (adj.) — about to happen soon. *dark clouds signaling an impending storm* 31 · Before or Ahead

impenetrable ★ (adj.) — impossible to get through or understand. *a forest so dense it was impenetrable* 5 · Confusing or Complex

imperceptible (adj.) — too slight or small to notice. *an imperceptible change in the room's temperature* 4 · Hidden or Hard to Perceive

implement ★ (v.) — put a plan or decision into action. *implement a new recycling program at school* 27 · Make or Put Into Action
▸ Also: as a noun, a tool, as in farm implements

implication (n.) — something suggested without being said directly. *the implication that the test was unfair* 25 · Show, Stand For, or Suggest
▸ Also: a likely result, as in the implications of a new law

implicit (adj.) — hinted at rather than stated outright. *an implicit warning in his calm tone* 4 · Hidden or Hard to Perceive
▸ Also: complete and unquestioning, as in implicit trust

important ★ (adj.) — having great value, effect, or influence. *an important invention that changed farming* 8 · Important or Central

impractical (adj.) — not sensible or useful in real life. *high heels are impractical for hiking* 15 · Hard or Unworkable

improve (on) (v.) — do better than an earlier version. *a sequel that improves on the original* 13 · Make Better or Restore

improvise (v.) — make up on the spot, unprepared. *improvise a speech after losing her notes* 17 · Unplanned or Careless

inadequate ★ (adj.) — not enough or not good enough. *inadequate funding to repair the bridge* 9 · Too Little or Less

inadvertently (adv.) — by accident, without meaning it. *inadvertently deleted the whole essay* 17 · Unplanned or Careless

incensed (by) (adj.) — furious and deeply offended. *incensed by the unfair penalty* 19 · Criticize or Scorn
▸ From the verb incense, to enrage; not the scented smoke

incentive (for) (n.) — something that motivates people to act. *discounts as an incentive for early sign-ups* 12 · Encourage or Cause

incident (n.) — an event, often unusual or unpleasant. *a minor incident on the school bus* 17 · Unplanned or Careless

inconclusive (adj.) — not settling the question either way. *inconclusive test results that need a retest* 3 · Uncertain or Shaky

incongruous (adj.) — oddly out of place; not fitting in. *an incongruous tuxedo at a beach picnic* 6 · Different or Opposed
▸ Watch: in- means not; incongruous = not fitting together

inconsequential (to) ★ (adj.) — having little or no importance. *a detail inconsequential to the final result* 8 · Minor, Extra, or Unneeded

inconspicuousness (n.) — being hard to notice or easy to overlook. *the inconspicuousness of a moth on bark* 4 · Hidden or Hard to Perceive

indecipherable (adj.) — impossible to read or make out. *indecipherable handwriting on an old postcard* 5 · Confusing or Complex

independent (of) ★ (adj.) — unaffected by; separate from. *a solar clock independent of the power grid* 30 · Separate or Limited

indicate (v.), **indication (of)** (n.) — show or point to; be a sign of. *dark clouds indicating that a storm is near* 25 · Show, Stand For, or Suggest

indifference (to) (n.) — lack of interest or concern. *shrugged in indifference to the final score* 20 · Doubtful, Worried, or Indifferent

indisputable (adj.) — too certain to be argued about. *indisputable proof caught on a security camera* 3 · Certain or Solid

indistinct (adj.) — not clear or sharp; faint or blurry. *indistinct voices behind the closed door* 4 · Hidden or Hard to Perceive

individualistic (adj.) — valuing personal independence over fitting in. *an individualistic artist who ignored every trend* 6 · Different or Opposed

inducement ★ (n.) — a reward that persuades someone to act. *free pizza as an inducement to volunteer* 12 · Encourage or Cause

indulge ★ (v.) — give in to someone's wishes too easily. *grandparents who indulge every whim* 29 · Give In
▸ Also: allow yourself a treat, as in indulge in dessert

ineffectual (adj.) — failing to produce the desired result. *an ineffectual warning that everyone ignored* 15 · Hard or Unworkable

inertia ★ (n.) — a tendency to stay the same or not act. *the inertia that kept old rules in place* 11 · Stay the Same or Settle In
▸ Also: in physics, an object's resistance to changing its motion

inevitable (adj.) — sure to happen no matter what. *the inevitable traffic after a big game* 3 · Certain or Solid

inexplicable (adj.) — having no clear explanation. *the inexplicable disappearance of the cookies* 5 · Confusing or Complex
▸ Watch: in- means not; inexplicable is the opposite of explicable

infallible (adj.) — never wrong or mistaken. *no weather forecast is infallible* 3 · Certain or Solid

influence ★ (v.) — have an effect on; help shape. *a teacher who influenced my career choice* 12 · Encourage or Cause

infrequent (adj.) — not happening often. *infrequent buses on the rural route* 7 · Unusual or New

inhibit (v.) — hold back or slow down. *cold nights that inhibit plant growth* 12 · Hinder or Block
▸ Also: an inhibited person is shy and holds back feelings

innocuous ★ (adj.) — harmless and unlikely to offend. *an innocuous joke that offended no one* 14 · Safe, Helpful, or Successful
▸ Tip: in- here means not: innocuous = not harmful

innovative (adj.) — using new ideas or methods. *an innovative design for cheaper solar panels* 7 · Unusual or New

insensible (to) (adj.) — not noticing or feeling something. *climbers almost insensible to the bitter cold* 23 · Unaware or Overlooking
▸ Watch: means unaware or numb, not lacking good sense

inspect ★ (v.) — look over carefully to check or study. *inspect the bridge for cracks* 24 · Look Closely or Weigh

inspire ★ (v.), **inspirational** (adj.) — fill with ideas or the urge to create. *a dance inspired by ocean waves* 12 · Encourage or Cause
▸ Watch: inspired by = prompted by; inspirational = uplifting

insurmountable ★ (adj.) — too great to overcome. *a lead that seemed insurmountable at halftime* 15 · Hard or Unworkable

intangible ★ (adj.) — not physical; impossible to touch or measure. *intangible rewards such as pride and trust* 4 · Hidden or Hard to Perceive

integral ★ (adj.) — needed as a basic part of something. *an integral part of the team's success* 8 · Important or Central

interchangeable (adj.) — able to be swapped for each other. *interchangeable parts that fit either bike* 6 · Alike or Matching

interest (n.) — curiosity or attention toward something. *a growing interest in local history* 20 · Hopeful, Eager, or Drawn To

interject (v.) — suddenly add a remark while others talk. *interject a question during the lecture* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

interpret ★ (v.), **interpretation** (n.) — work out and explain what something means. *interpret the symbols on an ancient map* 24 · Look Closely or Weigh

intersect ★ (v.) — cross or overlap at some point. *where the two hiking trails intersect* 30 · Linked or Combined

intricate ★ (adj.) — having many small, detailed parts. *intricate lace patterns on the wedding veil* 5 · Confusing or Complex

intriguing (adj.) — so interesting it makes you curious. *an intriguing clue hidden in the diary* 22 · Calm, Pleasing, or Interesting

invalidate ★ (v.) — prove false or cancel out. *one flawed sample can invalidate the whole study* 1 · Doubt or Disprove

invent (v.) — think up and make something new. *invent a tool for picking fruit* 27 · Make or Put Into Action

inventive ★ (adj.) — good at thinking up new things. *an inventive cook who improvises with leftovers* 7 · Unusual or New

involuntarily ★ (adv.) — automatically, without conscious choice. *blinked involuntarily at the bright flash* 17 · Unplanned or Careless

invulnerable (adj.) — impossible to harm or damage. *a fortress that seemed invulnerable to attack* 14 · Safe, Helpful, or Successful

irrelevant (to) ★ (adj.) — unrelated to what is being discussed. *a question irrelevant to today's lesson* 8 · Minor, Extra, or Unneeded

isolate (v.) — set apart from others. *isolate a sick plant from healthy ones* 30 · Separate or Limited

L

lacking (adj.) — missing or not present enough. *evidence for the claim was lacking* 9 · Too Little or Less

latent ★ (adj.) — present but hidden and not yet active. *a latent talent that blossomed in college* 4 · Hidden or Hard to Perceive

legitimate (adj.) — reasonable and acceptable, or lawful. *a legitimate reason for missing class* 21 · Honest, Plain, or Fair

localized (adj.) — limited to one small area. *localized flooding near the river* 30 · Separate or Limited

lucrative (adj.) — making a lot of money. *a lucrative business selling used textbooks* 14 · Safe, Helpful, or Successful

M

manageable (adj.) — possible to handle or deal with. *a manageable amount of homework* 15 · Easy, Practical, or Doable

mandatory (adj.) — required; not a matter of choice. *helmets are mandatory for all riders* 28 · Follow or Be Bound By

manifest (in) ★ (adj.) — clearly shown or revealed. *her joy was manifest in every brushstroke* 4 · Visible or Open
▸ Also: a verb meaning show or reveal, as in symptoms manifest slowly

marginalize ★ (v.) — push a person or group to the sidelines. *a club that marginalized its newest members* 8 · Minor, Extra, or Unneeded

mastery (over) (n.) — complete control or skill. *gaining mastery over his fear of heights* 16 · Skilled or Refined

mediate ★ (v.) — bring about or influence as a middle step. *exercise's effect on mood, mediated by sleep* 30 · Linked or Combined
▸ Also: help two sides settle a dispute

mimic (v.) — copy closely in look, sound, or action. *insects that mimic dead leaves to hide* 6 · Alike or Matching

misanthropic (adj.) — disliking and distrusting people in general. *a misanthropic hermit who avoided the village* 19 · Criticize or Scorn
▸ Tip: Greek miso- (hate) + anthrop- (human); not the mis- in mistake

misconstrue (v.) — take the wrong meaning from. *misconstrue a joke as an insult* 21 · False, Showy, or Biased

misleading (adj.) — pointing someone toward a wrong belief. *a misleading graph with a stretched scale* 21 · False, Showy, or Biased

misrepresent (v.) — describe falsely or unfairly. *misrepresent the survey results in a report* 21 · False, Showy, or Biased

mitigate ★ (v.) — lessen the harm or force of. *sandbags to mitigate flood damage* 13 · Make Better or Restore
▸ Not militate (weigh against); mitigate = lessen

moderate (v.), **moderation** (n.) — make less extreme or intense. *ocean breezes that moderate summer heat* 13 · Make Better or Restore

modest ★ (adj.) — fairly small; not large or extreme. *a modest increase in ticket prices* 9 · Too Little or Less
▸ Also: humble, not bragging about yourself

monetize (v.) — find a way to make money from. *monetize a popular cooking blog* 26 · Give, Spread, or Use

musical (adj.) — relating to music, or sweet to hear. *the musical sound of a mountain stream* 22 · Calm, Pleasing, or Interesting

mystifying (adj.) — deeply puzzling; impossible to figure out. *a mystifying light hovering over the lake* 5 · Confusing or Complex

N

negate ★ (v.) — undo or cancel the effect of. *late-night snacks that negate the morning workout* 1 · Doubt or Disprove

neglect ★ (v.) — fail to give needed care or attention. *neglect a garden until weeds take over* 23 · Unaware or Overlooking

negligible ★ (adj.) — so small it hardly matters. *a negligible difference of one cent* 8 · Minor, Extra, or Unneeded
▸ Not negligent (careless); negligible means too small to matter

notional ★ (adj.) — existing in theory, not in actual fact. *a notional border that exists only on paper* 2 · Guess or Theorize

novel (adj.) — new and unlike anything before. *a novel approach to an old problem* 7 · Unusual or New
▸ Not the book here: as an adjective, novel means new

nuanced (adj.) — showing fine, subtle differences. *a nuanced review praising some scenes, not others* 16 · Skilled or Refined

nullify ★ (v.) — wipe out the force or effect of. *a court ruling that nullified the contract* 1 · Doubt or Disprove

O

obligated (to) (adj.) — bound by duty or a promise. *felt obligated to return the favor* 28 · Follow or Be Bound By

obscure (adj.) — little known, or hard to understand. *an obscure poet rediscovered after her death* 4 · Hidden or Hard to Perceive
▸ Also: a verb meaning hide or blur, as in fog obscured the road

observable (adj.) — able to be seen or detected. *observable shifts in the moon's position* 4 · Visible or Open

observant ★ (adj.) — quick to notice things. *an observant birdwatcher spotting a rare owl* 23 · Aware or Noticing

obtain (from) ★ (v.) — get hold of, often through effort. *obtain permission from the principal* 26 · Get or Keep

obviate (v.) — remove the need for. *a dishwasher that obviates scrubbing by hand* 12 · Hinder or Block
▸ Not make obvious; obviate = make unnecessary

obvious (adj.) — easy to see or understand. *an obvious typo in the headline* 4 · Visible or Open

occupy (v.) — fill, take up, or live in a space. *boxes occupying half the garage* 26 · Get or Keep

oddity ★ (n.) — a strange or surprising thing. *a two-headed snake, a real oddity* 7 · Unusual or New

offhand (adj.) — casual and said without much thought. *an offhand remark that hurt her feelings* 17 · Unplanned or Careless

ongoing (adj.) — still happening; not yet finished. *an ongoing investigation into the fire* 10 · Lasting or Active

opaque ★ (adj.) — not see-through; hard to understand. *opaque rules that no one could explain* 5 · Confusing or Complex

operative (adj.) — working or in effect. *a rule still operative after fifty years* 10 · Lasting or Active

optimistic (adj.) — hopeful that things will turn out well. *optimistic about passing the driving test* 20 · Hopeful, Eager, or Drawn To

optimize ★ (v.) — make work as well as possible. *tweaking settings to optimize battery life* 13 · Make Better or Restore

ordinary (adj.) — normal and not special. *an ordinary Tuesday with nothing unusual* 7 · Ordinary or Widespread

originate (from) (v.) — begin in or come from a place. *a dance style that originated in Brazil* 27 · Come From
▸ Also: start or invent, as in originate a new method

ornamental (adj.) — for decoration rather than use. *ornamental plants grown just for their looks* 8 · Minor, Extra, or Unneeded

outspoken (adj.) — bold in stating opinions openly. *an outspoken critic of the new curfew* 21 · Honest, Plain, or Fair

outstrip (v.) — grow faster or larger than. *demand for tickets outstripped supply* 29 · Win Out or Go Beyond

overcome ★ (v.) — get past or defeat a difficulty. *overcame her fear of public speaking* 29 · Win Out or Go Beyond

overlooked (adj.) — not noticed or given attention. *an overlooked step in the recipe* 23 · Unaware or Overlooking

overreact (v.) — respond more strongly than needed. *an immune system that overreacts to pollen* 22 · Unsettling or Reacting

overshadow ★ (v.) — make something seem minor by comparison. *a strong debut overshadowed by one costly error* 29 · Win Out or Go Beyond

overtly ★ (adv.) — openly, in a way anyone can see. *a film that overtly mocks greed* 4 · Visible or Open
▸ Not covertly, which means secretly; overt and covert are opposites

P

paradigm (n.) — a standard model or way of thinking. *a paradigm shift in how schools teach* 2 · Guess or Theorize

paucity (of) ★ (n.) — too small an amount; a shortage. *a paucity of fresh food in winter* 9 · Too Little or Less

perceive (v.) — notice through the senses or the mind. *perceive a faint smell of smoke* 23 · Aware or Noticing
▸ Also: view or regard, as in perceived as a threat

peripheral ★ (adj.) — on the outer edge; not central. *glimpsed in my peripheral vision* 8 · Minor, Extra, or Unneeded
▸ Also: minor or less important, as in a peripheral issue

permanent (adj.) — lasting forever or for a very long time. *a permanent scar from the old injury* 10 · Lasting or Active

perpetual (adj.) — going on without stopping, seemingly forever. *the perpetual hum of city traffic* 10 · Lasting or Active

persistent ★ (adj.) — going on and on; refusing to go away. *a persistent cough that lasted weeks* 10 · Lasting or Active
▸ Also: determined, not giving up, as in a persistent student

popularize ★ (v.) — make widely known or liked. *radio broadcasts that popularized jazz* 12 · Encourage or Cause

postulate (v.) — propose an idea as a basis for reasoning. *astronomers who postulated an unseen planet* 2 · Guess or Theorize

powerful (adj.) — very strong or forceful. *a powerful current that swept the raft downstream* 8 · Important or Central

pragmatic (adj.) — practical; focused on what works. *a pragmatic compromise rather than an ideal solution* 15 · Easy, Practical, or Doable

praise (v.) — express approval or admiration for. *praise the volunteers for their hard work* 19 · Praise or Approve

precariousness (n.) — the state of being unsteady or at risk. *the precariousness of a cliffside cabin* 3 · Uncertain or Shaky

preclude (v.) — rule out before it can happen. *an injury that precluded her from competing* 12 · Hinder or Block
▸ Tip: pre- = before; preclude = shut out ahead of time

precursor (of) (n.) — an earlier form that led to another. *the telegraph, a precursor of the telephone* 31 · Before or Ahead

predatory (adj.) — hunting and eating other animals. *predatory hawks circling the field* 14 · Harmful, Risky, Costly, or Vulnerable
▸ Also: unfairly taking advantage of others, as in predatory lending

predetermined (adj.) — decided or fixed in advance. *runners followed a predetermined route through town* 17 · Planned or Careful

predict ★ (v.), **prediction** (n.), **predictive (of)** (adj.) — say what is likely to happen later. *forecasters predict snow by Friday* 31 · Before or Ahead

prefigure (v.) — hint at something that comes later. *early sketches that prefigure her later paintings* 31 · Before or Ahead

premeditated (adj.) — planned or thought out beforehand. *a premeditated prank planned for weeks* 17 · Planned or Careful

prescribe ★ (v.) — set as a rule or required step. *the steps the manual prescribes for setup* 28 · Follow or Be Bound By
▸ Not proscribe (forbid); prescribe sets a rule to follow

presume (v.) — take for granted without checking. *we presumed the bus would be on time* 2 · Guess or Theorize
▸ Also: dare to act without the right, as in presume to judge

presuppose (v.) — treat as already true from the start. *a plan that presupposes everyone will agree* 2 · Guess or Theorize

pretentious (adj.) — showing off to seem more important. *a pretentious speech full of fancy words* 21 · False, Showy, or Biased

prevail (v.) — win out or prove stronger. *the home team prevailed in overtime* 29 · Win Out or Go Beyond
▸ Also: be widespread, as in the prevailing view

preventable ★ (adj.) — possible to stop before it happens. *most kitchen fires are preventable* 12 · Hinder or Block

prioritize (v.) — treat as most important and do first. *prioritize safety over speed* 24 · Sort, Rank, or Decide

probability (n.) — the chance that something will happen. *a seventy percent probability of rain* 2 · Guess or Theorize

proclaim (v.) — announce publicly and proudly. *the mayor proclaimed a citywide holiday* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

produce (v.) — make, create, or cause to happen. *a volcano producing clouds of ash* 27 · Make or Put Into Action

proficient (adj.) — highly skilled through practice. *proficient in three languages* 16 · Skilled or Refined

profound (adj.) — very deep or far-reaching. *a profound change in how we live* 8 · Important or Central

profusion (of) (n.) — a huge amount, more than enough. *a profusion of wildflowers after the rain* 9 · Plenty, Size, or Thoroughness

prolong (v.) — make last longer. *packed in ice to prolong freshness* 10 · Lasting or Active

prominent (adj.) — well known or easy to notice. *a prominent scientist invited to speak* 4 · Visible or Open

propensity (n.) — a strong leaning toward some behavior. *a propensity to oversleep on weekends* 20 · Hopeful, Eager, or Drawn To

proponent (of) ★ (n.) — a person who argues in favor of. *a strong proponent of later school start times* 12 · Encourage or Cause
▸ Tip: related to propose; a proponent puts forward and backs an idea

protracted (adj.) — dragged out longer than expected. *a protracted legal battle over the land* 10 · Lasting or Active

provide ★ (v.) — give what is needed or wanted. *provide shade for the young plants* 26 · Give, Spread, or Use

provoke (v.) — cause a strong reaction, often anger. *a rude remark that provoked an angry reply* 12 · Encourage or Cause

proxy (for) ★ (n.) — a stand-in used to measure something else. *tree rings as a proxy for past rainfall* 25 · Show, Stand For, or Suggest

prudent ★ (adj.) — wise and careful about risks. *a prudent choice to save half her paycheck* 17 · Planned or Careful

Q

quantify (v.) — put a number or amount on. *a survey that quantifies student stress* 2 · Observe, Test, or Measure

quarrel (about) (n.) — an angry argument. *a quarrel about whose turn it was* 18 · Disagree or Resist

question (v.), **questionable** (adj.) — raise doubts about or challenge. *fans who questioned the referee's call* 1 · Doubt or Disprove
▸ Also: questionable = doubtful, possibly untrue or dishonest

R

rank (v.) — place in order from best to worst. *rank the runners by finishing time* 24 · Sort, Rank, or Decide

rationalize (v.) — explain with reasons, often as an excuse. *rationalize skipping practice by blaming the rain* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

react (to) (v.) — respond to something said or done. *how plants react to an early frost* 22 · Unsettling or Reacting

recalcitrant (adj.) — stubbornly refusing to obey or cooperate. *a recalcitrant mule that refused to budge* 18 · Disagree or Resist

recant (v.) — publicly take back something you said. *the critic recanted his harsh early review* 1 · Doubt or Disprove

receive (v.) — get something that is given or sent. *receive a letter from a pen pal* 26 · Get or Keep

receptive (to) ★ (adj.) — open-minded and ready for new ideas. *receptive to feedback on her essay* 20 · Hopeful, Eager, or Drawn To

reciprocate (v.), **reciprocity** (n.) — return a favor or feeling in kind. *reciprocate a friend's kindness with a gift* 18 · Agree or Cooperate
▸ Also: reciprocity = mutual give-and-take between two sides

recognizable ★ (adj.), **recognize** (v.), **recognition** (n.) — easy to identify or know on sight. *a melody recognizable from the first note* 23 · Aware or Noticing

recommend (v.) — suggest as worth trying or doing. *recommend a good novel to a friend* 19 · Praise or Approve

reconstitute (as) (v.) — put together again, often in a new form. *the old committee reconstituted as a new board* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace
▸ Also: restore dried food with water, as in reconstituted soup

rectify ★ (v.) — set right; fix what is wrong. *a refund to rectify the billing error* 13 · Make Better or Restore

redefine (v.) — change what something means or how it's seen. *a discovery that redefined what a planet is* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace

redress ★ (v.) — fix or make up for a wrong. *a law to redress unfair pay gaps* 13 · Make Better or Restore
▸ Not dress again; redress = set right an unfair situation

reduce ★ (v.) — bring down in amount or size. *reduce noise by closing the windows* 9 · Too Little or Less

redundant (adj.) — extra because it repeats what's already there. *a redundant sentence that repeats the last one* 8 · Minor, Extra, or Unneeded

refer (to) (v.) — mention or point to something. *refer to the chart on page twelve* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

refinement (of) (n.) — an improved, more polished version. *a refinement of last year's recipe* 16 · Skilled or Refined
▸ Also: elegance and good manners, as in a person of refinement

reflect ★ (v.) — show or reveal, as a mirror does. *grades that reflect weeks of hard study* 25 · Show, Stand For, or Suggest
▸ Also: think carefully, as in reflect on a mistake

refute (v.) — prove wrong with evidence or reasoning. *tests that refute rumors of tainted water* 1 · Doubt or Disprove

regret (v.), **regrettable** (adj.) — feel sorry about something done. *regret skipping the last practice* 20 · Doubtful, Worried, or Indifferent
▸ Also: regrettable = unfortunate, as in a regrettable mistake

reinforce (v.) — make stronger, often by adding support. *evidence reinforcing the link between sleep and memory* 1 · Back Up or Prove

relate (v.) — tell about events, as in a story. *relate the tale of the shipwreck* 25 · Say, State, or Tell
▸ Also: connect, as in relate cause and effect

relocate (from) (v.) — move to a new place to live or work. *families forced to relocate from the floodplain* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace

remember (v.) — keep in mind and not forget. *remember the steps of the lab procedure* 23 · Aware or Noticing

renounce (v.), **renunciation (of)** (n.) — formally give up a claim or belief. *renounce violence and seek peace* 28 · Avoid, Escape, or Give Up

repeatable (adj.) — able to be done or said again. *a quick, repeatable warm-up routine* 2 · Observe, Test, or Measure

replace (v.) — take the place of, or put back in place. *replace the cap after each use* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace

replenish ★ (v.) — fill up or build back up again. *spring rain that replenishes the reservoir* 13 · Make Better or Restore

replicable (adj.) — able to be repeated with the same results. *replicable results confirmed by three other labs* 2 · Observe, Test, or Measure

report (v.) — tell what was found or what happened. *report the survey results to the class* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

represent (v.), **representative (of)** (adj.) — stand for, show, or picture. *a dove representing peace on the poster* 25 · Show, Stand For, or Suggest
▸ Tip: representative of means typical of, as in a representative sample

repress (v.) — hold down or keep in check. *protests repressed by the army* 12 · Hinder or Block

reprieve (n.) — a temporary break from trouble or punishment. *a brief reprieve from the summer heat* 10 · Brief, Ended, or Inactive

repudiate ★ (v.) — firmly reject or disown. *voters repudiating the mayor's unpopular plan* 1 · Doubt or Disprove
▸ Not recant, which is taking back your own earlier statement

require ★ (v.) — need; make necessary. *a recipe that requires three eggs* 28 · Follow or Be Bound By

reserve (for) (v.) — set aside or hold back for later. *seats reserved for the guest speakers* 26 · Get or Keep

resigned (adj.) — accepting something unpleasant that can't be changed. *resigned to a long wait at the airport* 20 · Doubtful, Worried, or Indifferent
▸ Not quitting a job here; it means calmly accepting

resilient (adj.), **resilience** (n.) — able to recover quickly from hardship. *resilient plants that survive long droughts* 14 · Safe, Helpful, or Successful

responsiveness (to) (n.) — the quality of reacting quickly and willingly. *a teacher's responsiveness to student questions* 22 · Unsettling or Reacting

restore (v.) — bring back to an earlier, better state. *volunteers who restored a faded mural* 13 · Make Better or Restore

restrained (adj.) — calm and controlled, not over the top. *a restrained design with soft, simple colors* 21 · Honest, Plain, or Fair

restrict (v.) — put limits on; keep within bounds. *a law that restricts fishing in spring* 12 · Hinder or Block

retain (v.) — keep or continue to hold. *stones that retain heat after sunset* 10 · Lasting or Active

retaliate (v.) — strike back after being wronged. *vowed to retaliate after the surprise raid* 18 · Disagree or Resist

retrospective (adj.) — looking back on the past. *a retrospective review of the past season* 31 · After, Looking Back, or at the Same Time
▸ Also: noun, a show of an artist's past work

reuse ★ (n.) — putting something to use again. *the reuse of glass jars for storage* 26 · Give, Spread, or Use

risky (adj.) — involving a chance of loss or harm. *a risky bet on an unknown team* 14 · Harmful, Risky, Costly, or Vulnerable

rival (n.) — someone competing for the same prize. *beat her longtime chess rival in the final* 18 · Disagree or Resist
▸ Also: as a verb, equal or match, as in few cakes rival hers

routine (adj.) — regular and expected, part of the usual pattern. *a routine checkup at the dentist* 7 · Ordinary or Widespread

rudimentary ★ (adj.) — simple and only partly developed. *a rudimentary raft of logs and rope* 16 · Basic or Unskilled

S

sanction (v.) — officially approve or permit. *the school officially sanctioned the chess club* 19 · Praise or Approve
▸ Watch: also means penalize, the opposite, as in trade sanctions

sanguine ★ (adj.) — cheerfully hopeful and confident. *sanguine about the team's playoff chances* 20 · Hopeful, Eager, or Drawn To

satisfactory (adj.) — good enough but not outstanding. *a satisfactory grade, though not a great one* 14 · Safe, Helpful, or Successful
▸ Not satisfying (pleasing); satisfactory = acceptable, just good enough

satisfying (adj.) — pleasing because it gives what you wanted. *a satisfying end to a long season* 22 · Calm, Pleasing, or Interesting

saturated (with) ★ (adj.) — completely soaked or filled with something. *a sponge saturated with soapy water* 9 · Plenty, Size, or Thoroughness

scale ★ (n.) — the overall size or reach of something. *the sheer scale of the ancient pyramids* 9 · Plenty, Size, or Thoroughness

schedule (v.) — set a time or date for. *schedule the dentist visit for Friday* 17 · Planned or Careful

scheme (n.) — an organized plan or system. *a color scheme of navy and gold* 17 · Planned or Careful
▸ Also: a sneaky plot, as in a scheme to cheat

scrutinize (v.) — study every detail very carefully. *scrutinize the contract before signing it* 24 · Look Closely or Weigh

secretive (adj.) — inclined to hide things from others. *a secretive club with a hidden entrance* 4 · Hidden or Hard to Perceive

select (v.) — pick out from a group. *select a captain for the soccer team* 24 · Sort, Rank, or Decide

shrewd (adj.) — sharp and clever at judging situations. *a shrewd trader who spotted the bargain* 17 · Planned or Careful

significant (adj.) — important enough to notice or matter. *a significant drop in test scores* 8 · Important or Central

similar (to) (adj.), **similarity (with)** (n.) — alike in some ways. *a melody similar to an old folk tune* 6 · Alike or Matching

simple (adj.) — having few parts; easy to grasp. *a simple tool made from one stick* 5 · Clear or Simple

sincerity (n.) — real, heartfelt truthfulness. *the sincerity of her apology* 21 · Honest, Plain, or Fair

skeptical (adj.) — doubtful and not easily convinced. *skeptical of the miracle diet's claims* 20 · Doubtful, Worried, or Indifferent

smoothly (adv.) — without bumps, pauses, or problems. *the meeting ran smoothly from start to finish* 15 · Easy, Practical, or Doable

sophisticated (adj.) — advanced and complex; worldly and cultured. *a sophisticated alarm system with face scanning* 16 · Skilled or Refined

source ★ (n.) — the place or thing something comes from. *beans as a cheap source of protein* 27 · Come From

speculate ★ (v.) — make guesses when facts are missing. *neighbors speculating about the empty storefront* 2 · Guess or Theorize
▸ Also: invest riskily hoping for a big profit

sponsor (of) (n.) — a backer who pays for or supports something. *the main sponsor of the charity race* 12 · Encourage or Cause

spurious (adj.) — fake, despite seeming genuine. *a spurious claim backed by no data* 21 · False, Showy, or Biased

straightforward ★ (adj.) — simple and free of complications. *straightforward directions anyone could follow* 5 · Clear or Simple
▸ Also: honest and direct, as in a straightforward answer

strenuously (adv.) — with great force and effort. *she strenuously objected to the new rule* 15 · Hard or Unworkable

struggling (adj.) — having great difficulty; barely managing. *a struggling shop with few customers* 15 · Hard or Unworkable

stymie ★ (v.) — block or stop the progress of. *a missing part that stymied the repair* 12 · Hinder or Block

subsequent (adj.) — coming after; later. *improved in each subsequent draft* 31 · After, Looking Back, or at the Same Time
▸ Watch: means later in time, not caused by

substantial ★ (adj.) — large in amount or degree. *a substantial meal that kept us full* 8 · Important or Central

substantiate (v.) — give solid proof for a claim. *receipts that substantiate her expense claim* 1 · Back Up or Prove

subsume (v.) — include within a larger group. *an old category subsumed in a broader one* 30 · Linked or Combined

subversive (adj.) — aiming to weaken established power or rules. *a subversive poem mocking the king* 18 · Disagree or Resist

successful ★ (adj.) — achieving what was hoped for. *a successful fundraiser for the school band* 14 · Safe, Helpful, or Successful

succinctly (adv.) — briefly and clearly, with no extra words. *summing up the plot succinctly in one sentence* 5 · Clear or Simple

succumb (v.) — give in to a stronger force. *finally succumbed to sleep at midnight* 29 · Give In

summarize (v.) — give the main points briefly. *summarize the chapter in three sentences* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

summation (n.) — a final summary of the main points. *a quick summation at the end of class* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

superficial (adj.) — only on the surface; not deep or thorough. *a superficial review that missed key errors* 8 · Minor, Extra, or Unneeded

supersede ★ (v.) — replace something older or outdated. *a new law that supersedes the old one* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace

supplement (v.), **supplemental (to)** (adj.) — fill out or boost by adding more. *supplement class notes with online videos* 30 · Linked or Combined
▸ Also: noun, an add-on, as in a supplement to the course

supply (n.) — a stock of something ready to use. *the town's water supply during the drought* 9 · Plenty, Size, or Thoroughness

supposition ★ (n.) — something accepted as true without proof. *acting on the supposition that rain would stop* 2 · Guess or Theorize

surmise ★ (v.) — guess from the clues available. *surmised from her grin that she had won* 2 · Guess or Theorize

surpass (v.) — go past; do better than. *a record later surpassed by a younger runner* 29 · Win Out or Go Beyond

surprise (at) (n.), **surprising** (adj.) — the feeling caused by something unexpected. *her surprise at the sudden snowfall* 22 · Unsettling or Reacting

surreptitiously ★ (adv.) — secretly, so no one notices. *surreptitiously checking her phone during class* 4 · Hidden or Hard to Perceive

susceptible (to) (adj.) — easily affected or harmed by. *young seedlings susceptible to frost* 14 · Harmful, Risky, Costly, or Vulnerable

synchronization ★ (n.) — timing things so they happen together. *the swimmers' synchronization, every kick in unison* 30 · Linked or Combined

synopsis (n.) — a brief summary of a story or work. *a one-page synopsis of the film* 25 · Say, State, or Tell

T

tangential (adj.) — only slightly related to the main topic. *a tangential remark that derailed the meeting* 8 · Minor, Extra, or Unneeded

tedious (adj.) — boring because long or repetitive. *tedious hours of copying notes by hand* 15 · Hard or Unworkable

tentative ★ (adj.) — not final and open to change. *a tentative date for the class picnic* 3 · Uncertain or Shaky
▸ Also: hesitant or unsure, as in a tentative first step

tenuous ★ (adj.) — weak and easily broken or doubted. *a tenuous link between diet and dreams* 3 · Uncertain or Shaky
▸ Not tenacious, which means holding on firmly

theoretical (adj.) — existing as an idea, not tested in practice. *a theoretical risk that has never occurred* 2 · Guess or Theorize

theory ★ (n.) — an idea that explains why something happens. *a theory about why dinosaurs died out* 2 · Guess or Theorize

thoughtfulness (n.) — kind attention to what others need. *the thoughtfulness of a handwritten thank-you note* 18 · Agree or Cooperate

tranquil ★ (adj.) — calm, quiet, and peaceful. *a tranquil lake just before sunrise* 22 · Calm, Pleasing, or Interesting

transcend ★ (v.) — go beyond the usual limits. *music that transcends language barriers* 29 · Win Out or Go Beyond

transpose (v.) — switch the order or positions of two things. *two digits transposed by mistake* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace

turnover (n.) — the rate at which people or things are replaced. *high staff turnover at the busy restaurant* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace

U

ubiquitous (adj.), **ubiquity** ★ (n.) — seeming to be everywhere at once. *the ubiquity of plastic in the ocean* 7 · Ordinary or Widespread

unassailable (adj.) — too strong to be attacked or doubted. *an unassailable lead with two laps left* 3 · Certain or Solid

unassuming ★ (adj.) — quiet and modest, not drawing attention. *an unassuming hero who refused any medal* 21 · Honest, Plain, or Fair
▸ Not about assumptions; it means humble and low-key

unbiased (adj.) — fair and free of favoritism. *an unbiased judge for the art contest* 21 · Honest, Plain, or Fair

unbothered (by) (adj.) — not worried or upset by something. *unbothered by the noisy construction next door* 22 · Calm, Pleasing, or Interesting

uncertain (about) (adj.) — not sure what to think or do. *uncertain about which college to choose* 3 · Uncertain or Shaky

uncontroversial (adj.) — accepted by nearly everyone; not disputed. *an uncontroversial plan that everyone supported* 18 · Agree or Cooperate

undeniable (adj.) — so plainly true it cannot be rejected. *her undeniable talent for drawing faces* 3 · Certain or Solid

underestimate (v.) — judge something as smaller or weaker than it is. *underestimate how long the project will take* 23 · Unaware or Overlooking

underscore (v.) — stress how important something is. *a crash that underscored the need for helmets* 4 · Visible or Open

uniform ★ (adj.) — evenly the same throughout. *a uniform temperature throughout the room* 6 · Alike or Matching

unimportant ★ (adj.) — not worth much attention. *an unimportant typo in the footnote* 8 · Minor, Extra, or Unneeded

unintended (adj.) — not planned or meant. *an unintended side effect of the medicine* 17 · Unplanned or Careless

universal (adj.) — true for or shared by everyone. *a universal love of music across cultures* 7 · Ordinary or Widespread

unknown (adj.) — not known or identified by people. *a species unknown to science until recently* 23 · Unaware or Overlooking

unnecessary (adj.) — not needed; able to be left out. *an unnecessary second coat of paint* 8 · Minor, Extra, or Unneeded

unobtrusive (adj.) — quiet and not drawing attention. *an unobtrusive waiter refilling glasses* 4 · Hidden or Hard to Perceive

unoriginal (adj.) — copied or done before; not fresh. *an unoriginal plot borrowed from older films* 7 · Ordinary or Widespread

unpredictable (adj.) — likely to change without warning. *unpredictable mountain weather that shifts hourly* 7 · Unusual or New

unpretentious (adj.) — simple and modest, not showy. *an unpretentious diner with great pancakes* 21 · Honest, Plain, or Fair

unremarkable (adj.) — not special enough to notice. *an unremarkable gray building on the corner* 7 · Ordinary or Widespread

unvarying (adj.) — never changing; always the same. *the clock's unvarying tick through the night* 6 · Alike or Matching

unworkable (adj.) — not able to work in practice. *an unworkable schedule with no breaks* 15 · Hard or Unworkable

useful (adj.) — helpful for doing something. *a useful tool for opening jars* 14 · Safe, Helpful, or Successful

V

validate ★ (v.) — show that a claim or idea is right. *results that validate her early hunch* 1 · Back Up or Prove

variable ★ (adj.) — likely to shift or differ. *variable winds that kept changing direction* 11 · Change, Shift, or Replace
▸ Also: n. a factor that can change, as in an experiment

verisimilitude (in) (n.) — the look or feel of being real. *costumes that add verisimilitude to the play* 21 · Honest, Plain, or Fair
▸ Watch: means seeming true, not actually proven true

veritable (adj.) — truly deserving the name; genuine. *a veritable mountain of laundry* 21 · Honest, Plain, or Fair

vigilance (n.) — alert watchfulness for danger or trouble. *constant vigilance by the lifeguard on duty* 17 · Planned or Careful

W

waive (v.) — give up or set aside a right or rule. *agreed to waive the late fee* 28 · Avoid, Escape, or Give Up
▸ Not wave (move a hand); waive means give up a right

warranted (adj.) — justified or deserved given the facts. *a warranted complaint about the broken heater* 1 · Back Up or Prove

waste (n.) — leftover material that is thrown away. *kitchen waste turned into compost* 26 · Give, Spread, or Use

weaken (v.) — make less strong. *rust that weakened the old bridge* 13 · Make Worse

widespread ★ (adj.) — found or happening over a large area. *widespread flooding after the spring storms* 7 · Ordinary or Widespread

withdraw (v.) — take back or pull out. *withdrew from the contest after an injury* 28 · Avoid, Escape, or Give Up

worry (v.) — feel uneasy or anxious. *worry that the bus will be late* 20 · Doubtful, Worried, or Indifferent

Y

yield (v.) — produce or give as a result. *a field yielding a large wheat harvest* 26 · Give, Spread, or Use
▸ Also: give way, as in yield to traffic or pressure

One Word, Several Meanings: The "Most Nearly Mean" Words

In 13 of the official questions, the word wasn't a blank to fill but an underlined word to define. Most of these questions test a less familiar sense of a word you already know, so several wrong choices are real meanings of the word that just don't fit the text. Here are all 13, with the sense the test wanted (★). The phrase in the last column is our own and shows that sense at work.

Underlined word	The sense the test wanted	The other choices	That sense in a phrase
answers	Fulfills ★	Explains, Rebuts, Defends	a design that *answers* every need
clear	Transparent ★	Simple, Understandable, Obvious	water so *clear* you can count the pebbles
completing	Finishing ★	Destroying, Advertising, Rejecting	*completing* the last chapter of a draft
consider	Take into account and follow ★	Admire steadily and praise, Come to a decision about, Have an opinion on	*consider* the coach's advice before the race
consideration	Calculation ★	Deference, Courtesy, Indecision	a move made after cool *consideration*
determine	Dictate ★	Conclude, Evaluate, Select	rules that *determine* who may vote
disputing	Providing resistance to ★	Arguing about, Disapproving of, Asserting possession of	troops *disputing* every inch of the hill
manifest	Perceptible ★	Realized, Situated, Dwindling	her relief was *manifest* to everyone
quality	Characteristic ★	Standard, Prestige, Accomplishment	a dreamy *quality* in his voice
reaching across to	Stretching toward ★	Joining with, Gaining on, Arriving at	*reaching across to* the salt shaker
reserve	Constraint ★	Modesty, Misgiving, Composure	praised the plan without *reserve*
a singular	An extraordinary ★	A lonely, A disagreeable, An acceptable	*a singular* gift for melody
trace	Evidence ★	Blemish, Amount, Sketch	vanished without a *trace*