

The Princeton Review *Hit Parade*

Freshmen Words

1. **Indifferent**—(adj.) not caring one way or another; lacking a preference; neutral
The politician attempted to sway indifferent voters to take his side on many issues.
2. **Apathy**—(noun) lack of emotion or interest
Mary's apathy about mathematics caused her to earn low marks in the class.
3. **Obscure**—(adj.) unclear; clouded; partially hidden; hard to understand
The obscure directions needed to be clarified by the teacher.
4. **Ambiguous**—(adj.) having more than one meaning; vague
The essay question was very ambiguous, allowing for numerous types of responses.
5. **Impartial**—(adj.) unbiased; neutral
Referees need to make impartial decisions based on the rules of the game.
6. **Objective**—(adj.) without bias (as opposed to subjective)
Many schools measure student learning based on objective measures, such as standardized tests.
7. **Revere**—(verb) to worship; to honor
Catholics revere Pope Francis for all of his good deeds.
8. **Discriminate**—(verb) to differentiate; to make a clear distinction; to see the difference
Because the room was dark, I could not discriminate between my red socks and my blue socks.
9. **Denounce**—(verb) to speak out against; to condemn
It is important to denounce the words and actions of bullies.
10. **Innovate**—(verb) to be creative; to introduce something new
His job at the company is to innovate new apps for mobile devices.
11. **Subtle**—(adj.) not obvious; hard to spot
The subtle tone in Mom's voice revealed that she was disappointed in me.
12. **Stagnant**—(adj.) not moving
Although more jobs have been created, the economy still remains stagnant.
13. **Candid**—(adj.) honest; frank
Because my friend's feelings can be easily hurt, it is hard for me to be candid with her.
14. **Discern**—(verb) to distinguish one thing from the other
The jury had to discern the truth despite many of the questionable testimonies during the trial.
15. **Hypocritical**—(adj.) insincere
Rick's lecture on being healthy was hypocritical given that he eats fast food daily.
16. **Disdain**—(noun) contempt; intense dislike (verb) despise
Voters have disdain for untrustworthy politicians.
I disdain people who mistreat their pets.
17. **Abstract**—(adj.) theoretical; lacking substance (the opposite of concrete)
Philosophy is an abstract subject focusing on concepts that cannot be easily measured.
18. **Valid**—(adj.) founded on fact or evidence
I have yet to hear a valid argument against the seatbelt law.
19. **Inevitable**—(adj.) unavoidable; bound to happen
Because our team played so well all season, making it to the playoffs was inevitable.

20. **Eccentric**—(adj.) odd; unusual; quirky
My friend has an eccentric habit of wearing two left shoes.
21. **Provincial**—(adj.) narrow-minded; unsophisticated
People unfairly considered Mark a provincial person because he never left his small town.
22. **Inferred**—(verb) derived by reasoning; implied as a conclusion
Although my teacher did not officially announce it, we inferred that the test would be soon.
23. **Diverse**—(adj.) varied
The restaurant has a diverse menu including Italian, Irish, and Chinese food.
24. **Apprehensive**—(adj.) fearful; worried
Mary did not study for the physics test, so she was apprehensive about earning a passing grade.
25. **Vulnerable**—(adj.) capable of being harmed
It is important to apply sunscreen since skin is vulnerable to the sun.
26. **Benevolent**—(adj.) kind; good-hearted; generous
It was very benevolent of him to hold the door open for me.
27. **Pious**—(adj.) deeply religious
My pious aunt attends mass daily.
28. **Skeptical**—(adj.) doubting (the opposite of gullible)
I was skeptical of Sean's plan to graduate from college in three years.
29. **Resignation**—(noun) acceptance of a situation
Realizing that she was not chosen, the candidate lowered his eyes in resignation and left.
30. **Illuminate**—(verb) to light up; to make clear
The spotlight will illuminate the stage so that we can see the actor clearly.
31. **Resolution**—(noun) determination; (or) a solution to a problem
Even though she was exhausted before the race was over, Anna's resolution to finish prevailed.
32. **Servile**—(adj.) overly submissive; cringing; like a servant
The maid quickly grew weary of her servile job.
33. **Refute**—(verb) to disprove
In light of the evidence, the prosecutor will refute the defendant's argument.
34. **Anarchy**—(noun) lack of government
Because the guards did not enforce the rules, the prison turned into anarchy.
35. **Virulent**—(adj.) very harmful (like a virus)
Before vaccines were administered, many people died from virulent diseases.
36. **Miser**—(noun) one who saves greedily
My neighbor is a miser; he only spends his money on the bare necessities.
37. **Articulate**—(adj.) speaking well
Politicians must be articulate in order to get their point across to the public.
38. **Discord**—(noun) disagreement
Democrats and Republicans are often in discord with one another.
39. **Diligent**—(adj.) hard-working
Compared to a lazy student, a diligent student has a better chance of earning honors
40. **Perceptive**—(adj.) having a keen understanding; discerning
Even though I tried to appear calm, my perceptive mother could tell that I was upset.

41. **Superficial**—(adj.) on the surface; shallow
Jack's superficial knowledge of WWII prompted him to do more research on the topic.
42. **Contempt**—(noun) to think little of someone
The family had contempt for the criminal who burglarized their house.
43. **Lucid**—(adj.) clear; easy to understand
The patient's medication prevented him from thinking in a lucid manner.
44. **Immune**—(adj.) safe from harm; protected
John was not immune from the cruel words of his classmate.
45. **Aesthetic**—(adj.) having to do with art or beauty
It is important to take time to appreciate the aesthetic qualities nature has to offer.
46. **Inclined**—(verb) tending toward one direction
Students are inclined to think that summer vacation should be extended.
47. **Prodigal**—(adj.) extravagant; wasteful
My prodigal friend just spent her entire paycheck on a new pair of shoes.
48. **Uniform**—(adj.) constant; without variety
The chocolates were selected carefully to be of uniform size and shape.
49. **Assess**—(verb) to estimate the value of; to measure
We must assess the damage of the vehicles before proceeding with repairs.
50. **Censor**—(noun) one who deletes objectionable matter
The censor for the movie deleted all curse words from the script.
51. **Complacent**—(adj.) smug; self-satisfied
After winning the championship, the team became complacent and stopped practicing daily.
52. **Eloquence**—(noun) expressiveness; fluency in speaking or writing
The eloquence of the presenter made his message exceptionally powerful.
53. **Virtue**—(noun) moral excellence
The Bible encourages us to live with virtue.
54. **Guile**—(noun) cunning; deceitfulness
The army used guile to lure the enemy into their trap.
55. **Biased**—(adjective) not neutral; prejudiced
Some people are biased, insisting that dogs are better than cats.
56. **Monotonous**—(adj.) without variety; tiresomely uniform
The teacher broke up our monotonous day by allowing us to have class outside.
57. **Contemporary**—(adj.) living at the same time; modern
Our contemporary world technologically advanced.
58. **Profound**—(adj.) deep; insightful (the opposite of superficial)
Once we discussed the novel, I found the author's message to be particularly profound.
59. **Enhance**—(verb) to make better
We decided to enhance the recipe by adding an extra cup of chocolate chips.
60. **Deter**—(verb) to prevent; to stop; to keep from doing something
A stop sign is one way to deter an accident from happening at an intersection.

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Sophomore Words

1. **Enduring**—(adj.) lasting
His enduring faith gave him the strength to recover from the car accident.
2. **Phenomenon**—(noun) an observable fact or occurrence
A lunar eclipse is a mysterious phenomenon many people try to witness.
3. **Solitude**—(noun) the state of being alone
The criminal had plenty of time to think over his crime in solitude.
4. **Tentative**—(adj.) not final
Plans for the picnic are tentative until we have a better sense of the weather forecast.
5. **Provocative**—(adj.) exciting; attracting attention
There is a provocative new movie out that centers around the secret lives of celebrities.
6. **Depravity**—(noun) moral corruption
The theme of the novel revolves around the depravity of human beings when succumbing to evil.
7. **Adversary**—(noun) an opponent; enemy
The Golden State Warriors were adversaries to the Cleveland Cavaliers during the championships.
8. **Gravity**—(noun) seriousness
With tremendous gravity, the doctor explained the course of the deadly disease.
Grave—(adj.) serious
He had a grave look on his face when he told us the patient had one month to live.
9. **Banal**—(adj.) common; dull; ordinary
Having a study hall last period is a banal way to end the school day.
10. **Temper**—(verb) to moderate; to soften
Although the teacher was very upset, he tempered his emotions to appear calm.
11. **Extol**—(verb) to praise
The candidate began to extol those individuals who supported him at the rally.
12. **Erratic**—(adj.) irregular; without direction
Due to the erratic way the team has been playing, it is unlikely we will make it to the play-offs.
13. **Euphony**—(noun) pleasant sound (opposite of cacophony)
The gentle sound of raindrops on the roof became a euphony to my ears.
14. **Advocate**—(verb) to speak in favor of; to support
I advocate taking time to study each night before the final exam.
15. **Insipid**—(adj.) bland; boring; tasteless
The insipid décor of the cheap hotel did little to spark my creativity.
16. **Indulgent**—(adj.) pampering oneself; satisfying desires
Rick's indulgent mom let him stay home from school on his birthday.
17. **Antagonism**—(noun) opposition; hostility; resistance
With great antagonism toward the opponent, the boxer defended his title.
18. **Austere**—(adj.) severe; without frills
The austere conditions during wartime allowed for little comfort or luxury.
19. **Expedite (expedient)**—(verb) to make faster or easier
I will expedite the delivery of this package by paying extra for the postage.

20. **Heresy**—(noun) an opinion violently opposed to established beliefs
The bishops spoke out against heresy within the Catholic church.
21. **Censure**—(verb) to blame; to criticize
The judge was censured by the public because he appeared to take sides on the case.
22. **Arbitrary**—(adj.) subject to individual judgment
Since we could not make up our mind, Rick made the arbitrary decision to eat dinner at six o'clock.
23. **Solicit**—(verb) to ask for; to seek
She did not solicit your opinion; therefore, please refrain from speaking your mind.
24. **Condescend**—(verb) to talk down to
He tends to condescend others when he is in a bad mood.
25. **Irrational**—(adj.) unreasonable
The quarterback made an irrational decision when he threw off his helmet and walked off the field.
26. **Fallacious (fallacy)**—(adj.) false
The rumors about having a snow day were fallacious; all schools were in session after the storm.
27. **Intangible**—(adj.) abstract; not able to be touched
Love and hatred are intangible concepts that are difficult to define.
28. **Arrogant**—(adj.) feeling superior to others
Although Sabrina thought she was better than everyone else, she lost many friends due to her arrogant nature.
29. **Taciturn**—(adj.) quiet; saying little
When my friend became taciturn, I could tell she was upset by the comments other people were making.
30. **Compatible**—(adj.) able to co-exist; harmonious
I hope my new college roommate will be compatible with me and have the same interests.
31. **Dubious**—(adj.) doubtful; unclear
Our teacher did not accept his dubious story about the dog eating his homework.
32. **Elusive**—(adj.) tough to catch; hard to pin down
Although there was a clear description of the thief, he was still elusive on the run.
33. **Compromise**—(verb) to settle by concession or surrender
Let's compromise by breaking up the chores evenly between us.
34. **Flagrant**—(adj.) shocking; outstandingly bad
The flagrant move caused the basketball star to be ejected from the game.
35. **Static**—(adj.) stationary; not moving
Despite discounts on most products, the cost of laundry detergent remained static.
36. **Ironic**—(adj.) satiric; unexpected
We found it ironic that the comedian did not laugh at anyone's jokes.
37. **Dogmatic**—(adj.) stubbornly opinionated
Dogmatic people have a difficult time accepting two sides of a political issue.
38. **Facilitate**—(verb) to make easier; to help
The ballet costume was intended to help facilitate her movement during the dance.
39. **Frivolous**—(adj.) not serious; trivial; silly
Some people consider video games a frivolous past-time.
40. **Exhaustive**—(adj.) thorough; complete
The ten-page research paper was intended to be an exhaustive study on the assigned topic.

41. **Infamous**—(adj.) notorious; scandalous
Some celebrities are famous due to their infamous reputations.
42. **Authoritarian**—(adj.) like a dictator
The police officer appeared authoritarian when he questioned me about speeding.
43. **Reticent**—(adj.) quiet; uncommunicative
Because I was angry at my friend, I became reticent whenever she was around me.
44. **Redundant**—(adj.) extra; unnecessary; superfluous
After being complimented by everyone, the verbal praise became redundant and meaningless.
45. **Deference**—(noun) respectful regard
It is encouraged to show deference toward the military, for they help defend our country.
46. **Vacillate**—(verb) to waver between choices
Mark vacillated for several minutes between choosing chocolate or vanilla ice cream; he can never make up his mind!
47. **Fervor**—(noun) passion; zeal
Religious fervor was at its highest when miracles were allegedly performed on the crowd.
48. **Dispassionate**—(adj.) free from passion or spirit
Meredith knew it was time to quit her job when she became dispassionate about it.
49. **Pragmatic**—(adj.) practical
My pragmatic brother packed extra food for the long drive in case the car broke down.
50. **Didactic**—(adj.) instructive
The didactic video clearly conveyed the new steps for performing CPR on a person.
51. **Scanty**—(adj.) inadequate; minimal
I was unable to figure out the weak areas of my essay due to scanty feedback from my classmates.
52. **Alleviate**—(verb) to lighten or relieve
One way to alleviate stress is to exercise regularly and get sufficient sleep.
53. **Negligence**—(noun) carelessness; neglect; indifference
The poor healing of the wound was due to the doctor's negligence in treating it correctly.
54. **Endorse**—(verb) to approve or give one's support to
Famous athletes endorse Nike running shoes and apparel.
55. **Conspicuous**—(adj.) easily seen; out in the open
Although many of the Easter eggs were tough to find, a few were left out in a conspicuous spot.
56. **Relegate**—(verb) to dismiss to an inferior position
Because we were the youngest workers, we were relegated to cleaning the bathrooms.
57. **Incessant**—(adj.) unceasing; never ending
The incessant clanging of the bell began to give everyone a headache.
58. **Condone**—(verb) to forgive; to overlook
Teachers do not condone the chewing of gum in the classroom.
59. **Tranquility**—(noun) calmness
Watching the snow fall outside my window filled me with tranquility.
60. **Dissent**—(noun) disagreement
There was much dissent over which movie we should watch on our last day of vacation.

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Junior Words

1. **Conciliate**—(verb) to soothe; to end a dispute; to reconcile
The mother conciliated the crying baby by giving him a piece of candy.
2. **Rigor**—(noun) harshness or severity
The coach's rigor actually motivated the team to try harder.
3. **Disparity**—(noun) inequality; difference
Some people believe that there is a great disparity between the wealthy and the middle class.
4. **Disparage**—(verb) to speak badly of; belittle
Even though you do not agree with his approach, do not disparage your teacher.
5. **Conventional**—(adj.) ordinary; customary
Conventional education takes place in classrooms as opposed to online schools.
6. **Ephemeral**—(adj.) short-lived; fleeting; transitory
The ephemeral butterfly is a very delicate yet fascinating insect.
7. **Futile**—(adj.) hopeless; worthless; useless
Although Rick tried to argue his case, his words were futile when they fell on deaf ears.
8. **Prosaic**—(adj.) uninspired; dull; banal
The class sat through a rather prosaic lecture on the impact of art in the 19th century.
9. **Profuse**—(adj.) flowing freely; generous; excessive
Your profuse apologies do little to lessen the sting of the insult.
10. **Authentic**—(adj.) real; genuine
Sometimes it is hard to tell if an item is authentic when it is sold on an internet marketplaces.
11. **Expedient**—(adj.) useful for effecting a desired result
Walking over the neighbor's lawn was a more expedient route to my driveway.
12. **Fastidious**—(adj.) not easy to please; overly critical
Mary had to redo the assignment because her fastidious teacher did not allow work done in pencil.
13. **Philanthropy**—(noun) a desire to help people; gifts to charities
His philanthropy was apparent when he donated a large sum of money to his alma mater.
14. **Astute**—(adj.) perceptive; crafty
The astute salesman was able to hook his client into a deal within ten minutes.
15. **Brevity**—(noun) the quality of being brief
Although the speaker had many positive traits, brevity was not one of them.
16. **Languid**—(adj.) slow; tired; drooping; weak
Rick's languid appearance was a clear indication that he had just gotten over the flu.
17. **Novel**—(adj.) new; unusual
A novel approach to learning grammar involved creating songs about parts of speech.
18. **Relevant**—(adj.) pertinent; important to know
Be sure to stick with relevant facts as you attempt to support your argument in the research paper.
19. **Mitigate**—(verb) to make milder or less severe
The kind-hearted judge mitigated the harsh punishment when the criminal began to cry.
20. **Reprehensible**—(adj.) shameful; bad
Vandalizing the building was a reprehensible act that none of us supported.

21. **Engender**—(verb) to create; to produce
Singing the alma mater together engendered a tremendous amount of school pride.
22. **Deride**—(verb) to ridicule; to make fun of
We do not appreciate political commercials where candidates deride one another.
23. **Lethargic**—(adj.) tired; languid; weak
After running the marathon, Brian felt lethargic until his muscles recovered.
24. **Fanatic**—(noun) one who is extremely devoted to a cause or idea
Marie is a fanatic when it comes to supporting her favorite basketball team.
25. **Solemn**—(adj.) serious; grave
The day of grandfather's funeral was a solemn day for the whole family.
26. **Acclaim**—(noun) praise; applause; admiration
The new documentary about global warming was met with great acclaim.
27. **Augment**—(verb) to add; to increase; to make bigger
The chef augmented the recipe by adding two more ingredients.
28. **Incoherent**—(adj.) jumbled; impossible to understand; chaotic
The audience could tell that the speaker was nervous because of his incoherent speech.
29. **Indolence**—(noun) laziness
Your indolence is not an acceptable excuse for disregarding the assignment.
30. **Ambivalent**—(adj.) undecided
Our teacher was ambivalent about the due date for the essay.
31. **Benign**—(adj.) harmless
Luckily the bug bite on my leg was from a benign mosquito.
32. **Amiable**—(adj.) friendly
An amiable neighbor agreed to watch our dog when my family went on vacation.
33. **Tedious**—(adj.) boring
Copying sentences from the board was a tedious activity for the class to complete.
34. **Caustic**—(adj.) burning; uncomplimentary
The critic's caustic remarks about the actress were met with great reproach on Twitter.
35. **Laud**—(verb) to praise
The President lauded the veteran for his valor and selflessness in war.
36. **Acquiesce**—(verb) to agree finally
After Rick begged his mom for money all week, she acquiesced and gave him fifty dollars.
37. **Atrophy**—(verb) to waste away from lack of use
Colleen's leg muscles began to atrophy after being in a leg cast for two months.
38. **Instigate**—(verb) to start trouble
My classmate instigated a food fight when he threw a pack of Cheetos at his friend across the lunchroom.
39. **Heed**—(verb) to listen to
I heeded my friend's advice when she told me to buy a red tie instead of a blue one.
40. **Virtuoso**—(noun) an accomplished musician
Marty is a virtuoso having played the violin for twenty years with the Cleveland Orchestra.
41. **Deplete**—(verb) to use up; reduce
Mary depleted her savings account after purchasing a new car.

42. **Compliant**—(adj.) submissive
The youth group was comprised of compliant teenagers who were willing to do whatever their director asked.
43. **Inadvertent**—(adj.) lax; careless; without intention
The missing punctuation mark was in inadvertent error that was easily fixed.
44. **Extraneous**—(adj.) irrelevant; extra; unnecessary
We had to sift through the extraneous information in order to find the solution.
45. **Levity**—(noun) humor
The teacher's levity was a welcome personality trait in an otherwise tedious class.
46. **Belittle**—(verb) to put down; disparage
Even though Sam's brother would belittle him, Sam never got mad at his negative remarks.
47. **Digress**—(verb) deviate from main idea
The science teacher's conversation about molecules digressed to a conversation about movies.
48. **Predecessor**—(noun) one who comes before
The ruler's predecessor was known to be a stern dictator.
49. **Scrutinize**—(verb) study carefully
The students scrutinized the periodic table of elements in order to pass the quiz.
50. **Concise**—(adj.) brief and to the point; short and clear
The dictionary provided a concise definition of the word, which made it easy to understand.
51. **Lax**—(adj.) loose; not strict or exact
The lax teacher did not notice that five students were out of dress code.
52. **Esoteric**—(adj.) known to only a few; private
The philosophy professor's esoteric lecture was so hard to understand because we never studied the theories he was explicating.
53. **Exemplary**—(adj.) serving as a pattern/example
Our parish priest is an exemplary Catholic with sound moral principles.
54. **Exemplify**—(verb) to show by example
The chart will exemplify both the positive and negative sides of his character.
55. **Nostalgic**—(adj.) excessively sentimental; reminiscent
Many people at the class reunion became nostalgic for their high school days.
56. **Scrupulous**—(adj.) extremely careful; exact; punctilious
Within hours the scrupulous detectives were able to figure out the culprit of the crime.
57. **Slander**—(noun) words used to malign or distort the truth
Many tabloid magazines slander celebrities in order to try and make money.
58. **Amass**—(verb) to pile up; to accumulate
A person can amass great wealth by saving money each month.
59. **Pedestrian**—(noun) one who travels by foot
Cars stopped because the pedestrian had the right of way in the crosswalk
60. **Emulate**—(verb) to strive to excel over another
Young children often try to emulate their heroes.

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Senior Words

1. **Universal**—(adj.) occurring or present everywhere
Death is a universal concept that every human being will experience.
2. **Orthodox**—(adj.) conforming to the usual beliefs or established doctrines
An orthodox vegetarian does not believe in eating chicken on occasion.
3. **Immutable**—(adj.) unchangeable
In mathematics, “two plus two equals four” is an immutable fact.
4. **Marred**—(verb) scarred; marked
As a result of the accident, her face was marred by stitches.
5. **Merger**—(noun) a joining together
The merger of the two companies resulted in the loss of many jobs.
6. **Neutral**—(adj.) in the middle; uninvolved; indifferent
Because Rick liked both his friends, he remained neutral in the midst of their argument.
7. **Hypothetical**—(adj.) based on theory rather than on fact
Hypothetical situations provoke one to consider consequences of various actions.
8. **Saccharine**—(adj.) too sweet
We could tell Mary was being fake when she flashed a saccharine smile.
9. **Volatile**—(adj.) changeable; fickle
The volatile political climate was an indication that both parties could not be trusted.
10. **Animosity**—(noun) hatred
Hitler’s animosity toward groups of people was unwarranted and irrational.
11. **Trepidation**—(noun) fear
Rick had a look of trepidation on his face as the spider dangled before his eyes.
12. **Supercilious**—(adj.) haughty
The supercilious attitude of the clique effectively repelled most of the student body.
13. **Appease**—(verb) to pacify; to calm
Mark wore the pink and purple sweater just to appease his grandmother who gave it to him as a gift.
14. **Fickle**—(adj.) changeable
Cleveland weather is fickle; it is might rain, snow, and be sunny all within the same hour.
15. **Preclude**—(verb) to make impossible; to prevent
You will be precluded from graduating if you do not complete the final project.
16. **Innocuous**—(adj.) harmless
The innocuous banter was intended to lighten the situation.
17. **Cryptic**—(adj.) hidden or mysterious
Cryptic details in Edgar Allan Poe’s stories provoke hours of classroom analysis and discussion.
18. **Incongruous**—(adj.) inconsistent; not conforming
When comparing the two alibis, the incongruous details compelled us to believe that someone was lying.
19. **Rescind**—(verb) to revoke; to cancel
His cousin’s driving license was rescinded after numerous unpaid speeding tickets.

20. **Vilify**—(verb) to debase; to degrade; to defame
People are quick to vilify others who do not have the same political beliefs.
21. **Stanza**—(noun) a recurring unit in poetry or music
The class was required to dissect an entire stanza of the poem.
22. **Peripheral**—(adj.) around the outside; away from the center
I could see the pedestrian in my peripheral view, but I was not looking at her directly.
23. **Amity**—(noun) friendly and peaceful relations
For decades the native tribes lived in amity, sharing food and tools for survival.
24. **Desecrate**—(verb) to deface; to defile
The spray paint on tombstones was a sure sign vandals had desecrated hallowed ground.
25. **Sage**—(noun) a very wise man; having wisdom
We came upon a sage in the village who shared with us the secret to living a long life.
26. **Meander**—(verb) to wander; to ramble
Because we had the day to ourselves, we meandered along the riverbank without a clear destination.
27. **Furtive**—(adj.) sly; secretive; done by stealth
The furtive look on his face was a clear indication that he had just stolen the last cookie.
28. **Efface**—(verb) to blot out; to erase; to make inconspicuous
Going to confession helps efface the sins that have been committed.
29. **Credulous**—(adj.) believable
The accomplished author wrote credulous stories about life after death.
30. **Innate**—(adj.) inborn; natural
Rick's innate ability to tell jokes resulted in a career in comedy.
31. **Retract**—(verb) to draw back or in to; to withdraw
A turtle can retract its legs into its shell.
32. **Fundamental**—(adj.) basic
Understanding general math is fundamental for learning complex equations.
33. **Nullify**—(verb) to cancel out
An act of cheating can nullify a student's good reputation.
34. **Jeopardy**—(noun) great danger; peril
Because he did not write the required essay, Rick knew his grade was in jeopardy.
35. **Hedonistic**—(adj.) following pleasure-seeking instincts
Margaret gave into her hedonistic impulse by eating the entire chocolate cake.
36. **Stringent**—(adj.) strict; severe
Due to numerous lawsuits, the business took more stringent measures to protect itself.
37. **Fortuitous**—(adj.) accidental
Finding a twenty-dollar bill on the ground was a fortuitous discovery.
38. **Remorse**—(noun) sorrow caused by a sense of guilt
Crying for hours, Marie's remorse for telling a lie was evident.
39. **Repress**—(verb) to hold back; to put down
It took effort to repress his anger in front of the audience.
40. **Ameliorate**—(verb) to improve
The medication helped ameliorate inflammation caused by the injury.

41. **Blasphemy**—(noun) irreverence toward anything sacred
His refusal to pray was a sign of blasphemy.
42. **Sycophant**—(noun) one who seeks favor by flattering wealthy people; a boot licker
My co-worker was a sycophant who attempted to work his way up the corporate ladder by flattering the higher-ups.
43. **Pretentious**—(adj.) showy; putting on airs to gain attention or admiration
Her pretentious way of speaking appeared insincere, ultimately repelling the audience.
44. **Contrite**—(adj.) humbly penitent; repentant
The criminal attempted to appear contrite in order to receive a less severe punishment.
45. **Rejuvenate**—(verb) to renew; to revitalize
A vacation is needed mid-year in order to rejuvenate our motivation.
46. **Avarice**—(noun) greed
Avarice often leads to corruption in big and small businesses alike.
47. **Benefactor**—(noun) one who gives aid or does a good service
My great-aunt's benefactor helped her when she was wheelchair bound.
48. **Voluminous**—(adj.) of great volume or bulk; having many folds (as material)
The voluminous train of her wedding gown had to be held by four people.
49. **Vehement**—(adj.) acting with great force; furious
The vehement politician vowed to put the country before personal gain.
50. **Verbose**—(adj.) wordy
Rick's verbose poem needed to be edited down to merely fifty words.
51. **Gullible**—(adj.) easily fooled
The gullible student actually believed that her teaching was going to give a 100-point pop quiz.
52. **Prodigious**—(adj.) wonderful; amazing; enormous
You will leave high school with prodigious knowledge in a wide array of subjects.
53. **Coalesce**—(verb) to combine items into one unit
The various instruments coalesced into a veritable symphony.
54. **Hinder**—(verb) to obstruct; to impede; to block
The large fallen tree branch hindered our vehicle from driving down the road.
55. **Prudent**—(adj.) wise
We thought it would be prudent to take our cell phone with us on the hike.
56. **Unprecedented**—(adj.) unheard-of; novel
The school took the unprecedented approach of fining students for low grades.
57. **Blithe**—(adj.) joyous; glad
After final exams, the blithe demeanor the student body became infectious.
58. **Pivotal**—(adj.) crucial; turning; revolving
Getting engaged was a pivotal moment in their relationship.
59. **Apocryphal**—(adj.) not genuine; false; counterfeit
The apocryphal writings rendered the document null and void.
60. **Hackneyed**—(adj.) made trite by overuse
Clichés are hackneyed expressions that should be avoided in poetry and fiction.
61. **Assuage**—(verb) to calm; to lessen
Rick assuaged his anger by breathing deeply and chanting a positive mantra.