

Vocabulary Mastery

Summer is the optimum time to become vocabulary masters: an extensive vocabulary is not only the mark of an educated and intelligent person, but mastery will enable your SUPERIOR A.P. scores as well. There is not one senior who did not attribute her senior year A.P. improvement (and most were significant changes) to learning her summer and fall (yes, there will be more) vocabulary.

Please learn TWO-THREE words daily. RECORD EACH word in your VOCABULARY NOTEBOOK. I will be checking words and definitions in your notebook in September. Plan also on your first vocabulary test during the first full week of school. Enjoy learning these: use each three times and it's yours!

1. To **proscribe** (v.)-to prohibit or put outside the law.
His weekend plans were proscribed by his parents.
2. To **debauch, debauchery** and **profligacy** or profligate living-engage in wild and corruptive living, immorality
3. **Licentious, prurient, salacious**-immoral lewd, corruptive.
The prurient bookstore owner clandestinely sold salacious materials to minors.
4. **Demagogue, demagoguery**-(n.)-political leader who seeks support by appealing to popular desires rather than by using rational argument.
5. **Umbrage** (n.)- offense.
He took umbrage to my critical comment.
6. **Travail** (n.)- suffering and hardship.
I hope AP English does not bring you travail.
7. **Veracity** (n.), **Veracious** (adj.)-vers, veris in Latin=truth.
The veracity of his statement was questionable.
8. **Voracious** (adj.), **rapacious** (adj.) **rapacity** (n.)-greedy, grasping.
His rapacity for money was frightening.
His hunger made him voracious.
9. **Encomium** (n.)- great praise.
Plaudits, accolades, laudation (laud=praise), panegyric-all mean praise or Honors.
10. **Banal**, prosaic-ordinary and dull.
Monday to Friday, school days, can be prosaic.

11. **Dereliction** (n.), **derelict** (v.)- failure to perform an official duty or responsibility.
The senior class president was often derelict.
12. **Travesty** (n.)- a farce
That he called himself a faith healer is a travesty.
13. **Anathema** (n.)- anything forbidden socially
His nightly roving on Chippewa was an anathema to his parents.
14. **Perfidy, perfidious, treachery, treacherous**-treason or double-dealing.
His treacherous words about his best friend showed his hypocrisy.
15. **Ignominy** (n.), **ignominious** (adj.)- disgraceful.
Do you remember the ignominy of Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter*?
16. **Pyrrhic** (adj.)- some win or victory accomplished at too great a cost.
Most feel that our Vietnam win was pyrrhic.
17. **Surfeit** (adj.)- an excess or overabundance
A surfeit of rain all season kept our flowers in bloom.
18. **Dour** (adj.)- gloomy, solemn
He had a dour expression on his face.
19. **Slothful** (adj.), sloth (n.)-lazy, indolent
Think of the the sloth hanging upside down at the zoo all day.
20. **Pithy, terse, laconic** (adjs)- brief, to the point.
We all enjoy a laconic speaker versus an **orotund**, and **bloviating**, and **bombastic** one: these three adjectives all mean wordy, pompous, High sounding, full of himself=all **pejorative**.
21. **Nemesis** (n.)- one that inflicts retribution or vengeance.
22. **Acquisitive** (adj.)- comes from acquire but has a pejorative or negative connotation; greedy or materialistic.
His acquisitive habits caused him to lose all his money.
23. **Pariah** (n.)- an outcast (from the Hindu caste system).
His pedophilia made him the pariah of the neighborhood.
24. **Paradigm** (n.)- a model or pattern.

25. **Ebullient** (adj.), ebullience (n.)-buoyant, bubbly, enthusiastic
26. **Culpable** (adj.), culpability (n.)- guilt. To exculpate(v.) -free from blame.
The defendant was exculpated or **exonerated** by the jury.
27. **Recondite** (adj.)- reh-con-dite
Synonyms: arcane, esoteric, abstruse, obscure
All of these words mean little-known or highly specialized (so known only to a few).
28. **Peremptory** (adj.)- final, irrevocable
His command was final and peremptory.
29. **Countermand** (v.)- to go against.
The lieutenant countermanded the general's order.
30. **Pertinacious** (adj.)- from tenacious and persistent
31. **Lambent** (adj.)- softly radiant;
The moon cast her lambent rays on the lake.
32. **Peccadillo** (n.)- minor faults
Everyone has peccadillos.
33. **Cupidity** (n.)- inordinate desire for wealth
34. **Tawdry** and **meretricious** (adj.)- cheap and common
The prostitute looked meretricious.
Don't confuse this word with meritorious which means "having merit."
35. **Internecline** (adj.)-deadly for everyone involved
We hope the family feud does not become internecline.
36. **Imbroglia** (n.) pronounced "embroglio". It means a confused mess.
37. **Impetus** (n.)- a push.
Her laudation gave me the impetus to do even better.
38. **Perspicacious** (adj.)-of acute mental vision or discernment
You are all perspicacious ladies.
39. **Confluence** (n.)- flowing together
Pittsburgh is at the confluence of three rivers.

40. **Effluence** (n.)-literally means flowing out of. It has come to mean any pollution that flows into water.
The effluence in Lake Erie seems improved in this decade.
41. **Simplistic** (adj.)- TOO simple.
Her ideas were never carefully considered; they were quick, facile, and simplistic.
Antonym-Convolutd-complicated (#71).
42. **Ablutions** (n.)- literally a religious word meaning purifying with water.
But we say: a man's morning ablutions (showering, shaving, brushing)
Take longer than a woman's.
43. **Abstemious** (adj.)- comes from abstain.
Although the pie looked superb, I was abstemious.
44. **Amulet, talisman** (n.)- lucky charm.
An amulet, a poor bunny's foot, is on ring.
45. To **mitigate**, alleviate (v.)-to lessen or make "softer"
We want to alleviate her pain.
The judge felt that the young robber's awful childhood was a mitigating circumstance and lessened his jail term; this angered the victim's family.
46. **Analogous** (adj.)- from analogy.
Jumping into an unfamiliar lake is analogous to walking into a strange neighborhood at night.
47. **Apparition**, specter, wraith (n.)- these all mean ghost.
The specter of his past haunted him; it is his nemesis.
48. **Artifice**, ruse, machination, stratagem, ploy, gambit-all of these mean a clever trick.
49. **Atrophy**
Synonyms: degeneration, deterioration: wasting away or progressive decline
Attenuate-specifically means to weaken
50. **Guile**-cunning
Guileless-innocent or ingenuous (**disingenuous**-acting innocent but knowing the truth).
To beguile-to charm someone

51. **Bereft** (adj.)- grieving because of loss
I am feeling bereft because all my pals have left for school.
52. **Flaccid**(adj)- limp or flabby
His broken arm hung flaccidly.
53. **Premonition** (n.)-previous notice or warning
Synonyms: presentiment, prescience, misgiving(this one only means negative feelings).
54. **Gourmandize** (v.)- to eat voraciously
Gourmet (n.)- a connoisseur
Gourmand (n.)- slob
55. **Ubiquitous** (adj.)- occurring everywhere.
Mosquitoes are ubiquitous in Amherst.
56. **Admonish** (v.)- to give friendly, earnest advice or encouragement
Close synonyms: to exhort (exhortation) and to importune
57. **Caveat** (n.)- a warning
Caveat emptor is a phrase that means, "Let the buyer beware."
58. **Derogate** (v.)-to blacken or defame someone
Synonyms: denigrate, disparage, malign
Adjective forms: derogatory, disparaging, impugn
59. **Traduce, pillory**-both of these mean to publicly ridicule someone.
The violators were placed in the pillory for public ridicule.
60. **Cosseted** (adj.), cosset (v.)-to pamper someone or treat him as a pet.
She is spoiled; her parents have cosseted her by giving into her every whim.
61. **Acquiesced** (v.)- to give into
Synonyms: capitulated, acceded.
Since the spoiled girl's parents gave into her, they acquiesced.
62. **Beleaguered** (adj.)-troubled, harassed, besieged
I am feeling beleaguered by all of these words.
63. **Machiavellian** (adj.)- ruthless and scheming, usually politically
His Machiavellian machinations lost him the election because his Constituents realized his cunning ways.

64. **Draconian** (adj.)- unduly harsh.
A curfew is a draconian measure to stop violence in the city of Buffalo.
65. **Extirpate, eradicate, annihilate** (verbs)-to wipe out.
The plague eradicated a whole culture.
Decimate means to partially eradicate
66. **Attrition** (n.)- failure rate
The attrition at the end of freshmen year is usually about 2% of the class.
67. **Tangential** or **peripheral** (adj.)-both mean around the outside or something not **germane** or relevant to the issue at hand.
His arguments were all tangential.
68. **Exacerbate** (v.)- to make worse or worsen.
The hot sun exacerbated his skin condition.
69. **Abrogate** or **terminate** (verbs)-to end
The storm abrogated their plans.
70. **Truncate** (v.)- to reduce in size by cutting off.
The tree was truncated by the violent storm.
71. **Convolutd, convolution**-complicated
Her arguments became increasingly convoluted and more tangential.
72. **Synergy** (n.), synergistic (adj.)- happy cooperation. The synergy between
The boss and his employees is remarkable.
73. **Ersatz** (adj.)- an inferior or unconventional substitute.
Never having a real family, he had collected an ersatz one: a delightful collection
of synergistic folks whom he loved.
74. **Inexorable, ineluctable** (both adjectives)-inevitable or bound to happen.
Their antithetical values caused their friendship to come to a meandering
but ineluctable end.
75. **Desultory** (adj.)- wandering; aimless
A river can have a desultory path. His desultory approach to homework had a
pejorative result.
76. **Quotidian** (adj.)- everyday events.
School attendance is quotidian.

77. **Sanctimonious** (adj.)- too “holier than thou”, used with a person and certainly negative.
Began as a negative term involving religion but has expanded to any area where someone acts “holier than thou.”
Sanctimony (n.)- the act of acting sanctimonious
78. **Pontificate** (v.)- what a sanctimonious person can do-he pontificates about his ideas. He acts like a “pontiff” or “preachy.”
79. **Inure** (v.)- to become accustomed to.
She is finally inured to the homework load at Nardin.
80. To **parse**(verb)- to read carefully. An ANTONYM for to “peruse” which is to skim.