

Top 1000 words

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Top 1000 Vocabulary Words

Competitive Exams

A --

1. abase (v.) to humiliate, to degrade

Though Brutus, a twice-held-back bully, tried his best to verbally abase Travis and the kids he played with, nothing he said seemed to matter to any of them.

2. abate (v.) to reduce or to lessen

The rain poured down like a broken dike for a long while; then, as the clouds began to move on, it slowly abated.

3. abdicate (v.) to give up a position, usually one of great power or authority

When King John realized that his enemies would ultimately win, he abdicated his throne and hid himself away.

4. abduct (v.) to kidnap, take by force

During their holy festival, the king's ancient enemies abducted the beautiful Princess Kristiana from her castle chamber.

5. aberration (n.) something that differs from what's normal

The doctor's ill-tempered behavior was thought to be nothing more than an aberration, that is, until it continued for a full calendar year.

6. abet (v.) to aid, assist, encourage

The spy escaped only because he had a secret friend on the inside to aid and abet his efforts.

7. abhor (v.) to hate, detest

Because he wound up tripping himself constantly when he tried to play touch football, Ray began to abhor his favorite sport.

8. abide a. (v.) to put up with; b. (v.) to remain

a. Normally, Chuck would never abide such conduct; but, decided to this time because of the strain the girls have been under recently.

b. Despite the beating they've taken from the weather throughout the ages, the grandest of all the mountain chains, the mighty Rockies, yet abide.

9. abject (adj.) wretched, pitiful

After losing all her money, Martha fell into abject poverty, having nothing left of value.

10. abjure (v.) to reject, renounce

To prove his honesty, the President abjured the evil policies of his wicked predecessor.

11. abnegation (n.) denial of comfort to oneself

The zealot slept only on the floor, took only cold showers, and followed religiously many other practices of abnegation and self denial.

12. abort (v.) to give up on a half-finished project or effort

After they ran out of food, the men, attempting to jog around the country, had to abort their task and go home.

13. abridge a. (v.) to cut down, shorten; b. (adj.) shortened

a. The publisher thought the new compendium was much too long and abridged it.

b. *War and Peace* is such an epic tale, even the abridged version is long and detailed.

14. abrogate (v.) to abolish, usually by authority

The Constitution assures that the United States government cannot abrogate our rights.

34. **adept (adj.) extremely skilled**

Tarzan was very adept at jumping from tree to tree just like Cheetah, his pet Chimp.

35. **adhere a. (n.) to stick to something; b. (n.) to follow devoutly**

a.) We adhered to our plan; for, desperation had set in, robbing us of our waywardness.

b.) Henry adhered to the dictates of his religion without any question or shade of doubt.

36. **admonish (v.) to caution, criticize, reprove**

Joe's mother admonished him not to ruin his appetite by eating dessert before dinner.

37. **adorn (v.) to decorate**

We adorned the tree with many colorful ornaments: ribbons, bows, and bells.

38. **adroit (adj.) skillful, dexterous**

The adroit card shark could deal easily from the bottom of the deck with no one noticing, not even when they expected what was happening.

39. **adulation (n.) extreme praise**

Though the play was excellent, Martin didn't think it deserved the overwhelming adulation it received from its writers.

40. **adumbrate (v.) to sketch out in a vague way**

The coach adumbrated his game plan; none of the players were ready for its unorthodox twists and turns.

41. **adverse (adj.) antagonistic, unfavorable, dangerous**

Because of adverse conditions, the novice hikers decided to give up trying to climb the mountain.

42. **advocate a. (v.) to argue in favor of; b. (n.) a person who argues in favor**

a.) Alvin advocated turning left at the stop sign, even though everyone else thought they should turn right.

b.) In addition to wanting to turn left at every stop sign, Alvin was an advocate of eating hamburgers at every meal as a wonderful way to support the U.S. cattle industry.

82. animated (adj.) lively

Today's animated cartoons are the most life-like ever, touching all modern situations with virtual perfection.

83. annex a. (v.) to incorporate a space; b. (n.) a space attached to a larger space

a.) After lengthy debate and compromise, the United States annexed Alaska, making it our largest state.

b.) They have learned to do their studying in a little annex attached to their bedroom.

84. annul (v.) to make void or invalid

Annulling a bad law becomes an easy chore once the majority of the population recognizes it as hurtful to the innocent.

85. anomaly (n.) something that does not fit into the normal order

“Such a spatial anomaly could account for these so-called ripples in time,” said Mr. Spock to his noble and heroic captain.

86. anonymous (adj.) being unknown, unrecognized

Mary received a love poem from a somewhat anonymous admirer, her romantically minded hubby.

87. antagonism (n.) hostility

Spiderman's greatest and most bizarre nemesis, Doctor Octopus, provided such antagonism that the superhero was pushed to his limits time and again.

88. antecedent (n.) something that came before

Many of the great traditions of Western culture had their antecedent birth in the culture of Ancient Greece.

89. antediluvian (adj.) ancient; before Noah's flood

The antediluvian society of Babel vanished without a trace thanks to the incredible force and pressure of the great flood!

90. anthology (n.) a selected collection of writings, songs, etc.

The new anthology of Smokey Robinson songs is now available at a store near you!

C --

171. **cacophony (n.) tremendous noise, disharmonious sound**

The amateur orchestra created a deafening cacophony during their warm-ups.

172. **cadence (n.) a rhythm, progression of sound**

The throbbing cadence that the soldiers marched made them seem even more fierce.

173. **cajole (v.) to urge, coax**

Frank tried to cajole his buddy to skip school with him on his birthday.

174. **calamity (n.) an event with disastrous consequences**

Hurricane Francis created a calamity that is still impacting thousands and thousands.

175. **calibrate (v.) to set, standardize**

I attempted to calibrate my car's computer timing system, but failed.

176. **callous (adj.) harsh, cold, unfeeling**

Callous treatment of prisoners is not something that our government condones.

177. **calumny (n.) an attempt to spoil someone else's reputation by spreading lies**

Calumny is a close-to-perfect synonym for the word of slander.

178. **camaraderie (n.) brotherhood, partnership, jovial unity**

Camaraderie among teammates is usually a result of joint suffering and survival.

179. **candor (n.) honesty, frankness**

Brenda's candor was a shock to all who heard her speak so freely of theretofore never broached subjects.

180. **canny (adj.) shrewd, careful**

The canny spy gathered all the proof he needed without ever being detected.

181. **canvas a. (n.) a piece of cloth for an artist to paint; b. (v.) to cover, inspect**

a.) With the canvas in place, the artistic prodigy began to create a wonder.

242. **concise (adj.) brief and direct in expression**

Rules should be pronounced in concise statements of protocol, with nothing left to assume.

243. **concoct (v.) to fabricate, make up**

She concocted the most vile potion imaginable to prank her bratty little brother.

244. **concomitant (adj.) accompanying in a subordinate fashion**

Jealousy, with its concomitant ill will, will never have a proper place in a true friendship.

245. **concord (n.) harmonious agreement**

After numerous sessions with the counselor, the embattled couple finally enjoyed the concord that wedded bliss can bring.

246. **condolence (n.) an expression of sympathy in sorrow**

Brad offered his condolences to his best friend on the loss of his great-grandmother.

247. **condone (v.) to pardon, deliberately overlook**

Fred felt so guilty for condoning his buddy's mistreatment of his wife.

248. **conduit (n.) a pipe or channel through which something passes**

The water flowed through the conduit into the nearby canal.

249. **confection (n.) a sweet, fancy food**

"Confections are my downfall," complained the struggling dieter.

250. **confidant (n.) a person entrusted with secrets**

A spouse should be a person's best and dearest confidant, knowing and sharing in their deepest secrets.

251. **conflagration (n.) great fire**

The great conflagration consumed the entire city of San Francisco in 1850.

252. **confluence (n.) a gathering together**

A confluence of all three rivers met to form the incredible ocean of water that you see.

295. **cultivate (v.) to nurture, improve, refine**

A true politician learns early on to cultivate many friendships and to do many favors.

296. **cumulative (adj.) increasing, building upon itself**

The cumulative effect of days upon days of heavy rains was a river that raged beyond its borders.

297. **cunning (adj.) sly, clever at being deceitful**

Every cat burglar must be as cunning and as quiet as his name suggests.

298. **cupidity (n.) greed, strong desire**

His cupidity made him enter the lotto, using every cent of his grocery money.

299. **cursorly (adj.) brief, to the point of being superficial and inadequate**

Giving cursorly attention to important matters will, at some point, bring problems.

300. **curt (adj.) abruptly and rudely short**

Edgar's curt reply to Sharon's question made me believe there was trouble in paradise.

301. **curtail (v.) to lessen, reduce**

Since breaking his leg at the tournament, Bill has had to curtail his riding classes.

D --

302. **daunting (adj.) intimidating, causing one to lose courage**

After a month, Kevin found cutting his grass and his sick neighbor's a daunting task.

303. **dearth (n.) a lack, scarcity**

Because of the dearth of arable land in the valley, mostly farmers chose to relocate.

304. **debacle (n.) a disastrous failure, disruption**

After his latest debacle, wonder boy has taken a much less conspicuous posture.

305. **debase (v.) to lower the quality or esteem of something**

408. **eminent** a. (adj.) distinguished, prominent, famous; b. (adj.) conspicuous

a.) The eminent scientist made an earth-shattering announcement at the conference.

b.) The malformations of Jeff's face stood out eminently when the sunlight struck at an angle.

409. **emollient** (adj.) soothing

"This emollient will make your skin as smooth as a baby's bottom," the manager said.

410. **emote** (v.) to express emotion

Seeing the inspiring scene for the tenth time, everyone began to emote as they'd done the first time.

411. **empathy** (n.) sensitivity to another's feelings as if they were one's own

I have great empathy for everyone who has to go through what I've faced.

412. **empirical** a. (adj.) based on observation or experience ; b. (adj.) capable of being proved or disproved by experiment

a.) The scientist gathered empirical data to prove that his predictions weren't baseless.

b.) Every word Einstein spoke was considered empirical; for the experimental proof was on the table.

413. **emulate** (v.) to imitate

Teens constantly emulate their idols, singing and dancing as much like them as their modest abilities will allow.

414. **enamor** (v.) to fill with love, to fascinate (usually used with "of" or "with")

The husband-hunting women sought to enamor the eligible bachelors with their smiles and seductive movement.

415. **encore** (n.) a repeat performance at the audiences' insistence.

"Encore! Encore!" the crazed fans screamed, over and over again.

416. **encumber** (v.) to weigh down, burden

Trying not to encumber my parents further, I chose not to tell them about my lost job.

465. **fatuous (adj.) silly, foolish**

Carl considers himself a serious writer; however, he pens some of the most infantile, fatuous tales I've ever heard.

466. **fecund (adj.) fruitful, fertile**

The exotic prince insisted that all of his would-be brides be both beautiful and fecund.

467. **felicitous a. (adj.) well suited, apt; b. (adj.) delightful, pleasing**

a.) His dark blue suit was very felicitous, complementing the attire of his lovely wife perfectly.

b.) A warm greeting from a long-time friend is always felicitous and welcome.

468. **feral (adj.) wild, savage**

The feral hogs in the South Eastern United States are creating major ecological problems.

469. **fervent (adj.) ardent, passionate**

Martha's love for Quinton was fervent like the summer sun; there was no cooling it.

470. **fetid (adj.) having a foul odor**

The fetid stench of week-old meat saturated the butcher, and exposed him to all.

471. **fetter (v.) to chain, restrain**

Everyone should ensure that their yard dogs are either fenced or fettered to a tree.

475. **fickle (adj.) shifting in character, inconstant**

Young boys are so fickle, young girls should always be prepared for heartbreak.

476. **fidelity (n.) loyalty, devotion**

The soldier's fidelity to his band was rewarded with a Medal of Distinction.

477. **figurative (adj.) symbolic**

Using **figurative** language, Alice compared the storm to an angry man wielding burning daggers.

478. **flabbergasted (adj.) astounded**

545. **impudent (adj.) casually rude, insolent, impertinent**

It never ceases to amaze me how today's young people can be so impudent to their elders.

546. **impute (v.) to ascribe, blame**

The conference winning coach chose to impute to his played the total credit for their victories.

547. **inane (adj.) silly and meaningless**

The comic's jokes were completely inane, appealing more to twelve year olds than adults.

548. **inarticulate (adj.) incapable of expressing oneself clearly through speech**

Because the inventor was so inarticulate, she just used pictures and spokespeople to make her pitch.

549. **incarnate a. (adj.) existing in the flesh, embodied; b. (v.) to give human form to**

a.) That beast was fury and death incarnate, clawing and biting at anything that moved.

b.) Sharon's desire for love was so real; she incarnated it and gave it a name.

550. **incendiary a. (n.) a person who agitates; b. (adj.) inflammatory, causing combustion**

a.) Darell's gossipy habits earned him the reputation as an incendiary.

b.) Gasoline is the most incendiary liquid on the market.

551. **incessant (adj.) unending**

The baby's incessant crying drove the young mother to the brink of a nervous breakdown.

552. **inchoate (adj.) unformed or formless, in a beginning stage**

The inchoate form of an embryo causes some to mistakenly conclude that it's not a viable being at all.

553. **incisive (adj.) clear, sharp, direct**

642. **maudlin (adj.) weakly sentimental**

The maudlin themes of all the romance comedies are entirely predictable from the boy meets girl, to the boy loses girl, to the boy gets girl back elements.

643. **maverick (n.) an independent, nonconformist person**

The suspense writer didn't think of himself as a maverick; he was just writing what he thought was usual stuff.

644. **mawkish (adj.) characterized by sick sentimentality**

The mawkishness of yesterday's television story lines was displayed as normal living situations of normal American families.

645. **maxim (n.) a common saying expressing a principle of conduct**

The chief maxim of the day is this: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

646. **meager (adj.) deficient in size or quality**

The meager portion of food did not satisfy Harold's enormous appetite.

647. **medley (n.) a mixture of differing things**

The orchestra played a medley of oldies but goodies.

648. **mendacious (adj.) having a lying, false character**

The mendacious reputation of *Snake* MacFarady caused everyone to turn down his offer to go into business with him and his brother.

649. **mercurial (adj.) characterized by rapid change or temperament**

Sally was so mercurial before her test results came, no one knew what to say to her.

650. **meritorious (adj.) worthy of esteem or reward**

Bernice's meritorious gesture was hailed by all as the perfect peace-making move.

651. **metamorphosis (n.) the change of form, shape, substance**

The metamorphosis that the main character went through is proof positive that sinners can become saints.

652. **meticulous (adj.) extremely careful with details**

786. **profane (adj.) lewd, indecent**

Stanley was suspended from school for three days for using profane language.

787. **profligate (adj.) dissolute, extravagant**

The profligate shopper went to every store in the mall, buying many things she didn't need and couldn't afford.

788. **profuse (adj.) plentiful, abundant**

After the ten-mile run in the 90 degree heat, the track team was dripping with profuse sweat.

789. **promulgate (v.) to proclaim, make known**

To promulgate the notion of ethnic superiority with not a shred of objective evidence is an act of idiocy.

790. **propagate (v.) to multiply, spread out**

Insects have learned to propagate their species in the most dire of survival circumstances.

791. **propensity (n.) an inclination, preference**

Those whose trust has been abused must guard against developing a propensity to mistrust everyone.

792. **propitious (adj.) favorable**

As the propitious moment arrived at last, the signal was given, and the race began.

793. **propriety (n.) the quality or state of being proper, decent**

Observing the dictates of social propriety, Evelyn allowed her guest to be seated first.

794. **prosaic (adj.) plain, lacking liveliness**

The plot of the play was rather prosaic, having characters that sat around and slept for hours, and didn't bother to even dream.

795. **proscribe (v.) to condemn, outlaw**

The court proscribed a sentence of not less than thirty years and not more than fifty.

796. **protean (adj.) able to change shape; displaying great variety**

894. **solipsistic (adj.) believing that oneself is all that exists**

The solipsistic attitude of some of the super rich causes them to ignore the plight of the poor, and sometimes to even blame the poor for their condition at birth.

895. **soluble (adj.) able to dissolve**

Salt is a very soluble substance, disappearing in water with just the slightest agitation.

896. **solvent a. (n.) substances that dissolve other substances ; b. (adj.) able to pay debts**

a.) The scientist knew once she added the solvent, the reaction would spontaneously occur.

b.) After a sales breakthrough, the shop owner became solvent enough to catch up on all of his debts.

897. **somnolent (adj.) sleepy, drowsy**

Long tests, hot days, and somnolent students seldom make for happy teachers.

898. **sophomoric (adj.) immature, uninformed**

The freshmen thought the pledging requisites were sophomoric, and therefore chose not to pledge.

899. **sovereign (adj.) having absolute authority in a certain realm**

Caesar of Rome was an absolute sovereign, ordering men to their deaths as he saw fit.

900. **speculative (adj.) not based in fact**

Gladly, Theresa was convinced to go at least part way with that speculative venture; thus, today, she is part way rich.

901. **spurious (adj.) false but designed to seem plausible**

The researcher's evidence was contrived and spurious, seeming to solve genuine problems, but failing during the different-laboratory re-testing stage.

902. **stagnate (v.) to become or remain inactive, not develop, not flow**

With no room to flow, the once pure waters stagnated and became a hatchery for mosquitoes and biting flies.

End of Preview.

Rest of the book can be read @
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