

PSAT/NMSQT VOCABULARY LIST – 2009

affability	(n.) friendliness; sociability	defiant	(adj.) disobedient; insubordinate; rebellious
affected	(adj.) exaggerated; pretentious	demographic	(adj.) characteristic of a population often classified by age, gender, income, etc. (demographic data shows women outlive men)
allure	(n.) attraction; appeal	deplore	(v.) condemn; abhor (v.) lament; bemoan; regret
amplitude	(n.) largeness; breadth; abundance	detachment	(n.) disinterest; indifference
anecdote	(n.) story; tale	diffidence	(n.) shyness; hesitancy
anemic	(adj.) weak; feeble; colorless	digression	(n.) aside; deviation
anthem	(n.) song of allegiance	diligent	(adj.) hard-working; industrious
append	(v.) add; attach; join	dirge	(n.) funeral song; chant
articulate	(adj.) eloquent; lucid (v.) put into words; verbalize	discreet	(adj.) tactful; circumspect
assiduous	(adj.) diligent; industrious (adj.) constant; continuous	discursive	(adj.) wandering from one topic to another
astute	(adj.) smart; perceptive; incisive	disdain	(n.) scorn; contempt; disregard (v.) despise; scorn
avert	(v.) turn away (your eyes) (v.) prevent (avert a disaster)	ditty	(n.) a short simple song
bastion	(n.) stronghold; fortress	dole	(v.) give out sparingly; distribute
belligerent	(adj.) aggressive; confrontational	duplicity	(n.) deceit; dishonesty
bland	(adj.) tasteless; plain	dwarf	(v.) make seem small or insignificant by comparison
bleak	(adj.) austere; dreary; miserable (adj.) hopeless; doubtful; grim (adj.) cold; harsh; wintry	dysphemism	(n.) substitution of a more offensive or disparaging word for a less offensive one
boorish	(adj.) rude; impolite; coarse	ecstasy	(n.) joy; bliss
breathhtaking	(adj.) magnificent; awesome	edifice	(n.) structure; building
bulwark	(n.) fortification; barricade	egotistical	(adj.) narcissistic; self-centered
camouflage	(v.) disguise; hide; conceal (n.) concealment; disguise	élan	(n.) flamboyance; flair; style
candor	(n.) frankness; openness	emote	(v.) act in an emotional or theatrical manner
caustic	(adj.) scathing; biting; acerbic (adj.) corrosive; acidic	ensure	(v.) make sure; make certain
celebratory	(adj.) festive; commemorative	ergative	(adj.) allowing object to be subject
chaos	(n.) disorder; pandemonium	esoteric	(adj.) obscure; abstruse
charisma	(n.) charm; magnetism	euphoric	(adj.) overjoyed; exhilarated
chronicle	(n.) a historical record or register (v.) write or report the history of	exhilarate	(v.) excite; invigorate
circumspect	(adj.) cautious; careful; guarded	exhort	(v.) urge earnestly
collaborative	(adj.) joint; mutual; cooperative	exotic	(adj.) foreign; unusual
complacent	(adj.) self-satisfied; smug	facetious	(adj.) insincere; contrived; artificial
confidentiality	(n.) privacy; discretion; secrecy	fawn	(v.) flatter
contemporary	(adj.) modern; current (adj.) contemporaneous (n.) a person living in the same period as another	feckless	(adj.) incompetent
contentious	(adj.) quarrelsome; controversial	forage	(v.) search; raid for food; wander around searching
court	(v.) invite; risk (ing disaster) (v.) woo (court the fair maiden)	genial	(adj.) friendly; amiable
cynical	(adj.) pessimistic; distrustful	gruff	(adj.) bad-tempered; grumpy
cynicism	(n.) pessimism; sarcasm	halcyon	(adj.) calm; peaceful
debunk	(v.) expose; discredit; set straight	histrionic	(adj.) dramatic; exaggerated
deferential	(adj.) respectful; polite	hypothesis	(n.) theory; suggestion; premise
		idiocy	(n.) stupidity; absurdity; ridiculousness
		idiom	(n.) phrase; saying; expression
		idiosyncratic	(adj.) distinctive; peculiar
		impiety	(n.) sin; irreverence; transgression
		improvise	(v.) invent; devise; be creative

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inadvertent	(adj.) unintentional; unplanned	preface	(v.) introduce with a (n.) preamble; introduction
incredulity	(n.) disbelief; skepticism	prelude	(n.) introduction; prologue
indignation	(n.) righteous anger; annoyance	pretentious	(adj.) affected; pompous
ineffable	(adj.) indescribable; beyond words	proponent	(n.) advocate; supporter
infallible	(adj.) perfect; foolproof; fail-safe	provocative	(adj.) challenging; provoking
ingenuity	(n.) cleverness	quiescent	(adj.) quiet; inactive
inimical	(adj.) unfavorable; detrimental	rebuff	(v.) snub; reject (n.) rejection; refusal
innovative	(adj.) inventive; original	rebuttal	(n.) refutation; denial
integrity	(n.) honor; truthfulness	remonstrate	(v.) argue; protest; oppose
intricate	(adj.) complicated; involved	renown	(n.) fame; celebrity
invoke	(v.) call upon; pray to (v.) bring into play; cite; quote	renunciation	(n.) rejection; repudiation
irony	(n.) satire; sarcasm (n.) paradox; incongruity	repentant	(adj.) contrite; remorseful
irrelevant	(adj.) immaterial; extraneous	resilient	(adj.) bouncing or springing back
lethal	(adj.) deadly; fatal	resolute	(adj.) firm; unyielding
melodramatic	(adj.) overdramatic; exaggerated	rowdy	(adj.) disorderly; raucous
monitor	(v.) watch; check on (n.) observer; supervisor	sarcastic	(adj.) ironic; cynical; mocking
munificence	(n.) generosity; largesse	satirical	(adj.) mocking; ironic
naïveté	(n.) innocence; gullibility	serene	(adj.) tranquil; calm; peaceful
nitpicking	(adj.) critical; disapproving (n.) paying too much attention to petty details	skew	(v.) tilt; slant; twist
noncommittal	(adj.) vague; ambiguous	slapstick	(n.) comedy in which humor depends on horseplay
nostalgic	(adj.) wistful; reflective	somber	(adj.) solemn; grave; serious
noteworthy	(adj.) remarkable; significant	squander	(v.) waste; fritter away
oblivious	(adj.) unaware; ignorant	surlly	(adj.) gruff; brusque; rude
obstinacy	(n.) stubbornness	suspect	(adj.) doubtful; suspicious; dubious; iffy
octave	(n.) eighth tone of a scale	temperance	(n.) moderation; sobriety
ominous	(adj.) threatening; portentous	tenacious	(adj.) firm; persistent
onerous	(adj.) burdensome; difficult	toxic	(adj.) poisonous; deadly
onyx	(n.) a variety of agate	tranquil	(adj.) calm; still; quiet
oracular	(adj.) wise; prophetic	unaffected	(adj.) unchanged; unaltered
orthodox	(adj.) conventional; traditional	unfettered	(adj.) free from restraint
outlandish	(adj.) bizarre; eccentric; weird	unorthodox	(adj.) unconventional
pensive	(adj.) thoughtful; contemplative	urbane	(adj.) suave; sophisticated
perceptive	(adj.) observant; aware	utilitarian	(adj.) useful; practical
peremptory	(adj.) authoritative; absolute	utopian	(adj.) idealistic; visionary
perennial	(adj.) recurrent; persistent	wistful	(adj.) pensive; thoughtful
perfunctory	(adj.) unthinking; automatic	wry	(adj.) ironic; dry (humor)
perseverance	(n.) determination; insistence		
pettiness	(n.) worthlessness; triviality		
pithiness	(n.) conciseness; shortness		
pontificate	(v.) preach; sound off		
pragmatic	(adj.) practical; realistic		
prattle	(v.) chatter in idle manner; babble (n.) idle chatter; childish babble		

This PSAT Vocabulary List is thanks to
Martha Geller!!!