

TOEFL Vocabulary

Since 2012



STUDY ABROAD LIFE

Word	Part of Speech	Difficulty	Definition	Example Sentence
access	noun verb	easy	the ability to go into (when somebody or something must allow you to enter) to go into something when allowed to enter	Only students have access to the university library. There is a large amount of oil under the ice, but we can't access it.
accurate	adjective	common	correct (about information, not opinions); on target	That test is not an accurate test of intelligence.
achieve	verb	easy	to accomplish a goal	The best students know that to achieve good grades, they have to study every day.
acquire	verb	easy	to get (especially when you will continue to get more)	Janice isn't a doctor yet, but from her studies she's slowly acquiring the knowledge and skills she'll need
adequate	adjective	common	good enough for what you need	A very light jacket will be adequate for Los Angeles's warm winter.
adjust	verb	common	to change or move a little and make better or more accurate	The colors on this TV screen are wrong. I'll adjust them.
administration	noun	medium	the running of something or an organization (business, school, government, etc); the person or people in charge of running an organization	The university administration cancelled all school events after a bad storm left most buildings without electricity.
affect verb		easy	to change, make different, have an effect	Which language we speak affects how we think about the world.
alter verb		hard	to change, to adjust	Magazines heavily alter the photos of celebrities they publish.
alternative	noun adjective	medium	other possibility or option different, other than the main option	The menu includes alternatives for students who don't eat meat. Many words in these flashcards have alternative definitions.
analyze	verb	common	to try to understand something better by closely looking at its details	The accountant was too busy with paperwork to analyze the report that said the company had no money.
annual	adjective	medium	yearly; happening every year	Everyone in Manchester was excited about the annual game between the city's two soccer teams.
apparent	adjective adjective	hard	clearly seen or understood seeming (but not definitely true)	After only a few months, it was apparent that the French would not win the war. The shark's apparent sleepiness is actually because of how cold the water is.
approach	verb noun	common	to come/go closer to something or someone a way to do something	The sign at the park said clearly, "Do not approach wild animals! They will bite." The new CEO had a very strange approach to management, letting his employees sleep whenever they wanted.

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area	noun	hard	a range of subjects or studies, a field, a discipline	Researchers working in many different area, from psychology to physics, will be able to use the new type of plastic.
aspect	noun	hard	a feature, a characteristic, a particular part of something	The three most important aspects to think about when learning a language are grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.
assess	verb	common	to look closely at and figure out the value or type of something	Before buying a house, you should always assess the building carefully.
assist	verb	easy	to help or aid	The box was too big to carry, so John asked the store manager to assist him.
assume	verb	common	to believe without proof	Ahmed assumed his forgetful professor wouldn't remember their meeting, but the professor was already waiting for him in her office.
attitude	noun	medium	a set way of thinking or a set feeling about something or someone	Zach always has a positive attitude when he has to deal with a problem at work.
attribute	verb noun	medium	to give an event or person credit for something, like a work of art or a speech a quality or feature that is an important part of something	The museum director attributed the recently discovered painting to Van Gogh. All of his movies have a few attributes in common: for example, there is little conversation and a lot of music.
authority	noun	medium	control or responsibility over something (people, area, laws, etc)	Only Congress has the authority to make and pass laws for the country.
available	adjective	easy	able to be reached, used, or bought	The advisor was not available too meet al day Monday, so the student had to come back on Tuesday.
aware	adjective	medium	to have knowledge of	As Helen drove away form the gas station, she wasn't aware that her lights were off until she turned onto a dark street.
benefit	noun	medium	something good coming from an action, agreement, idea, plan, etc.	The president flew around the country, talking about the benefits of the new health care law.
brief	adjective	common	short (about time, not length)	Before we begin class, let me briefly introduce myself.
capable	adjective	common	able to do	Near the age of twelve months, children are capable of walking.
capacity	noun noun	hard	hold ability (especially mental)	The hotel is full to maximum capacity; there are no empty rooms. Few birds have the capacity to recognize themselves when looking in a mirror; most act as though there is a second bird behind the glass.

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challenge	noun verb verb	easy	something difficult to suggest a fight or argument, to disagree or try to fight somebody to say something isn't true	New medicines face many challenges before they can be put in stores. In order to get the attention of females, males of many animal species will challenge each other in different ways. Einstein's writings challenged many ideas of the time.
circumstance	noun	easy	the situation, facts or environment around an event	My professor only gives extra time to finish essays under special circumstances. Normally it's not allowed.
comment	noun verb	easy	an observation, note, or response to say a short response or opinion about a given topic	The professor was angry about the negative comments made about his teaching style. A smart politician, the prime minister refused to comment on the criticisms of her newest budget plan.
commit	verb verb verb	hard	to do or perform (something very negative, like a crime) to promise to, to make a final and unchangeable decision (usually "be committed to") to give all of your energy to something	Michiko committed too many grammar errors in her essay, and that hurt her score. Before you commit to a university, be sure to spend some time on campus.
community	noun	medium	a group of people living or working together	I'm completely committed to our baseball team's success; I'd do anything to win.
compensate	verb	hard	to help correct a problem with another, positive thing	The Spanishspeaking community within New York City includes millions of people.
complex	adjective	easy	with many different parts and difficult to understand, complicated	The pay at Ian's new job was low, but the freedom his boss gave him compensated for that.
component	noun	hard	a part of a whole	The science behind the atomic bomb used in World War II was highly complex at the time, but it is simple compared to today's nuclear science.
concentrate	verb verb	medium	to focus attention on something to come together into a smaller space	Many electronics are made of thousands of smaller components and wires.
concept	noun	common	an abstract idea	You must learn to concentrate to be successful on the test. The protests concentrated in the city parks.
				Some concepts within advanced mathematics are hard to show in the real world.

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conduct	verb	easy	to organize and manage (for an event that take careful planning and control)	My research team is a conducting a study on how the Internet is changing dating. We are collecting information from five countries.
conflict	noun	medium	an argument, long battle, or difference of opinions	The conflict in Syria has forced many people to leave the country.
consequence	noun	easy	result, effect, what happens because of an event	If you hurt the people around you, there will be unwanted consequences.
considerable	adjective	medium	large enough or important enough to get special notice	A considerable number of popular sports were invented in only the last 100 years.
consist	verb	hard	to be made of	The U.S. consists of fifty states.
constant	adjective	common	not changing and not stopping; continuous	The river flows constantly through the year and never freezes.
constitute	verb	hard	to be the pieces that make a whole	Fifty states constitute the U.S.A.
constrain	verb	hard	to limit the activity of, restrict	Popular belief says that a pet fish's size is constrained by the size of the tank it's in, but this is actually false.
construct	verb	easy	to build	The land flooded every year, so it was unsafe to construct buildings on it.
consume	verb	common	to eat, to use	No country consumes more oil than the U.S.A. Yeast, which is used to make beer, consumes sugars to create alcohol.
contact	noun noun verb	easy	touching having possible or normal communication communicating (as by email or phone especially) to give or get specific information	An electrical wire in contact with a pool of water can be extremely dangerous. Liam is still in contact with many of his highschool teachers, surprisingly.
context	noun	common	the information or situation around an idea, event, or something that is said	The woman at the help desk told me to contact the student affairs office if I want to change rooms.
contrast	verb verb	common	to be clearly different from to look specifically at the differences between two things	When you have difficulty understanding a new word, look at the context. The sentence around the word might tell the meaning.
contribute	verb verb	medium	to give something (often money), to help reach a goal to add to the cause of something bigger	The zebra's black and white stripes contrast clearly with the yellow grass around it. By contrasting the vocabulary of French and Spanish, we can see their different histories.
				Over the past three years, my parents have not contributed to my university tuition. I smoked a lot when I was younger, and that's contributed to my health problems today.

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coordinate	verb	hard	to work with or communicate with the different people, groups, or pieces involved in a large product	A chef at a big restaurant will spend his time coordinating all the workings of the kitchen, not cooking.
core	adjective noun	hard	central, of fundamental importance the center of something	Although we have made improvements in brain science, many of the core problems remain. The earth's core is made of liquid rock.
correspond	verb verb	medium	to be a close match to send letters back and forth	This new paint for the room does not correspond to the old paint. My mother and father corresponded for almost two years before meeting in person.
criteria	noun	hard	the measures by which you judge or decide something	A good TOEFL essay includes a few criteria, including good structure, clear ideas, and natural vocabulary.
culture	noun noun	easy	the way a group of people living in one area normally acts, including arts, style, food, and how people talk to and act with each other	When living in another country, it can be very difficult to become comfortable in the new culture.
data	noun	common	information, facts	We collect data on the oceans' temperatures every year.
debate	verb	medium	to argue, usually in a formal, polite way	Watching the presidential debates on TV did not help me decide who to vote for.
decline	verb verb noun	medium	to politely say no to an invitation or offer to become less, fewer, or smaller (usually of something good) a slow continuous loss of value, power, or strength	I declined dinner because I had plans to eat with my family instead. For ten years, the number of fish in the river has declined. Many people say that America is in decline.
deduce	verb	hard	to come to a conclusion through logic and evidence, to figure out	By analyzing the bones, we can deduce when the animal lived and, maybe, how it died.
demonstrate	verb	common	to show an example of, to prove with evidence	At eight years old, Mozart demonstrated his musical ability in London.
derive	verb	hard	to get or create from (usually "be derived from") to come from, originate from	All plastics are derived from oil. Many European languages are derived at least partly from Latin.
despite	preposition	common	even with (when an event is surprising because of some difficulty)	We enjoyed our vacation despite the rain.
discrete	adjective	hard	separate, not the same thing and with no parts in common	Your left arm and right arm are controlled by two discrete areas of the brain.
distinct	adjective	medium	clearly different from	There are at least five distinct types of turtle living on the island.
distribute	verb	medium	to give out something	The teacher distributed tests to the class, and the students were happy to see they did well.

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diverse	adjective	hard	having many different types	The student population is incredibly diverse at South State University, with students from 30 different countries.
element	noun	medium	a part of something, usually part of an idea	The element of his speech that I didn't like was at the end, when he talked about religion.
emerge	verb	hard	to come out of	After a winter spent sleeping, the bear emerges from its cave.
emphasize	verb	common	to place extra importance on one part	Most modern art emphasizes creativity and emotion, not skill.
enable	verb	medium	to make something possible	The classes in college will enable you to find a good job.
enforce	verb	hard	to make people follow (a rule or law)	Although smoking is not allowed on school campus, the ban isn't enforced, and many students smoke freely.
entity	noun	hard	a thing that exists or acts as one unit	The male angler fish will attach permanently to the female, and in time, the two fish will become a single entity.
equivalent	adjective	medium	Rashim used a chart to find that his 6.7 GPA in his home country was equivalent to a 3.2 GPA in the United States.	
establish	verb	common	to build, to create (of a system, organization, or ideanot a real, physical thing)	The U.S. government was established in the late 1700s.
estimate	verb	medium	to determine roughly the value or number of something, to guess a number using some information	Be careful to not forget any costs for the year when you estimate your budget.
evaluate	verb	easy	to form an idea of the the amount, number or value of something	Students are evaluated by their grades on tests, homework, essays, and inclass interaction.
evident	adjective	easy	clearly seen or understood, obvious	Dogs' feeling are usually evident in their actions.
exclude	verb	hard	to not include, to not put in a list or group	I eat almost anything, excluding spicy foods. I hate hot pepper.
expand	verb	easy	to make larger; to give more detail on a subject	Blowing air into a balloon will cause it to expand, but if you blow too much air, it will explode!
expose	verb	medium	to show or reveal something that was hidden	The politician's crimes were exposed and he was forced to leave his position.
external	adjective	hard	outside (especially of a body or system)	Uncontrollable, external events can cause even a very careful company to fail.
facilitate	verb	hard	to make easy or easier	Classical music, unlike many types of music, will generally facilitate learning and improve memory.

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factor	noun	hard	a fact that influences or changes a child's healthy growth are food and relationships with parents.	Two of the largest factors affecting children's healthy growth are food and relationships with parents.
feature	noun verb	common	an important characteristic, a property to include as an important piece	The sound made by "r" is one of the most difficult features of spoken English. The university's new student housing features larger rooms than the old building did.
focus	verb noun	easy	to look at, think about, or give attention to the center of attention; the most important part	I could not focus on my homework in the library because someone was playing music very loudly. The focus of Justin's essay was not clear to the professor, so he received a low grade.
framework	noun	hard	a structure for a building, system, or idea	Ellen's business plan may have failed, but it formed the framework for her next, successful plan.
function	verb noun	common	to work; to do what something should do what something does, its purpose	I dropped my phone into a swimming pool, but, amazingly, it still functions. The hair on the human head has no clear function.
fundamental	adjective	common	basic, central; extremely important	Alive believes that women are fundamentally different from men. The fundamental beliefs of most religions are peaceful.
furthermore	adverb	common	also, in addition, what's more	Kenya has beautiful weather and, furthermore, does not have long nights in the winter.
generate	verb	hard	to create, to produce (especially energy)	Movement generates heat.
grant	verb verb	hard	to agree to give (something that was asked for) to admit, to say something is true	The government has recently granted us access to information that was secret before. I disagree that snakes make good pets, but I'll grant that they're easy to take care of.
hence	adverb	common	therefore, so, as a result	The evidence is false; hence, the conclusion is also false.
hypothesis	noun	common	an idea which explains something but is unproven	The hypothesis that the Earth is growing was shown to be false.
identify	verb	common	to name, to show or figure out what something is	Scientists have not been able to identify the language written on the rocks.
illustrate	verb	common	to explain with an example	Peter illustrated his point by telling a short story.

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impact	noun verb noun	hard	an effect that changes a situation to affect strongly the force of being hit hard	The end of the war had a large impact on economic growth. My father's advice hugely impacted my university decision. The impact of a car crash can send a driver who doesn't wear a seat belt through the window. The president implied that he would not
imply	verb	easy	to communicate without saying specifically, to hint at an idea; to lead to a clear conclusion to back up the decision	support the new law against selling tobacco
indicate	verb	common	The way you speak and act indicates your intentions to point sign of, to show	
individual	adjective	easy	Joan was surprised that the ten books she ordered from the Internet came together, single and separate single and separate	
initial	adjective	medium	My initial plan was to study until midnight and wake up late, but then I fell asleep at the beginning	
instance	noun	common	Two animals in Australia (platypuses and echidnas) are the only instances of animals with hair that lay eggs. an example, a case	
institute	verb noun	hard	In January, we will institute a plan to make car accidents less frequent. The National Cancer Institute was created to start (a rule or system) a group or organization that studies or works for something specific	to learn more about, and hopefully cure, the many types of cancer.
integrate	verb	hard	to become a part of	It is difficult or even impossible to smoothly integrate a small, foreign culture into the main culture of a country.
internal	adjective	medium	found or happening inside (a body, organization, etc)	The US government has had lots of problems ever since internal messages were published on news websites.
interpret	verb	medium	to figure out or explain the meaning of something	The students could not interpret the extremely old book because the pages were hard to read.
invest	verb	medium	to spend money, energy, or time on something hoping for good results later you want to learn another language, you will have to invest in the types of free time. property, financial resources, or other activity	Jamie invested in an education company that he thought would succeed and make him rich.
investigate	verb	common	to try to find answers to questions about something, to research	Doctors are investigating a newly discovered plant that might help to fight cancer.

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involve	verb	common	to include, to have as a part	The study of architecture involves both art and science.
issue	noun noun	common	a topic or situation to talk about a problem	In order to define what jazz music is, we need to look at a few different issues. Monarchies (governments with kings or queens) often have several common issues.
justify	verb	hard	to give a good reason for an action or situation (especially one that seems bad)	Although Milos explained for a long time, he could not justify borrowing his brother's car without asking.
label	noun verb	easy	a name or phrase given to a group of things to give a name to something	The meaning of the label "punk" has changed greatly in the last 20 years. Children are often unkind and label others who look different as outcasts.
labor	noun	medium	Juan was surprised at how much labor was needed to finish his project on time.	
layer	noun verb	medium	Layers of paint on the steel bridge will protect it from rust. to put something on top of something else	Sebastian layered the sandwich with all my favorite meats and cheeses.
lecture	noun verb	common	a long speech about one topic (especially in a classroom) to give a long speech about a topic	Professor Jackson's lectures are too long; I always fall asleep.
link	verb noun	medium	to create a connection between two or more things a connection between two things	The news story linked the president's success with the improved economy. What is the link between success in life and in education?
maintain	verb verb verb	easy	to continue to keep alive, to keep in good state or condition to continue to say although people disagree	China has maintained a friendship with the U.S., although the two countries often have different needs and ideas. These roads are so badly maintained that they're difficult to drive on. Until his death, Christopher Columbus maintained that he had sailed to Asia, not America.
major	adjective	easy	very important, or large in size	The exam score is a major part of the final class grade.
maximize	verb	easy	to make as big as possible; to use or do as completely as possible	In order to maximize the number of people that can fit on the plane, the airline took out the restrooms.
mental	adjective	easy	of the mind	Many mental problems are still not well understood. We often don't know what causes them nor how to stop them from happening.
method	noun	common	how to do something, a process	The Spanish method of making chocolate created a completely new drink.

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minor	adjective	easy	not very important; small in size	The old actress was sad she had only a minor role in the new movie.
modify	verb	common	to make small changes or add to in order to make better	The first bicycles were slow and difficult to use, but they were modified over time.
monitor	verb noun	hard	to watch the quality or progress of something over time something or somebody which monitors	We have been carefully monitoring the amount of salt in our oceans for the last 50 years. Heart rate monitors can be used for both medicine and exercise.
negate	verb	hard	to make not true or not effective	Studying late into the night might help you learn more, but sleeping less negates the positive effects.
network	noun	medium	a system of connected pieces (especially for transportation or communication)	The typhoon destroyed the network of roads, which has made it hard to bring supplies and first aid to the town.
nevertheless	adverb	common	however, regardless	The decision was dangerous. Nevertheless, Hitler attacked Russia.
notion	noun	medium	a belief; an idea	I think the professor's notion of fun was different from the students' notion of fun.
objective	noun adjective	hard	a goal based in fact, not an opinion, not from personal beliefs or ideas	The objective of the TOEFL is to measure your total English ability. We can objectively measure how spicy a pepper is, but how we feel about that spiciness is not objective.
obtain	verb	medium	to get or secure something	After lots of looking, Jorge obtained a job and apartment in New York City.
obvious	adjective	easy	easily understood or seen	The results of the election were so clear that the loser admitted defeat before voting was finished.
occupy	verb	easy	to be in or on a space, to fill a space	The dentist's office occupied the entire fourth floor of the building.
occur	verb	easy	to happen	The sinking of the Titanic occurred on April 14, 1912.
orient	verb verb	hard	(usually "to be oriented") to move into a position in line with some specific point (usually "to orient yourself") to explore and become comfortable with	The statues appear to be oriented toward the sunrise. It took a few weeks to orient myself in the new job, but I feel comfortable now.
overall	adjective adverb	common	looking at or including all pieces or factors in general, for the most part	Some words might be new and difficult, but the overall meaning of the sentence is clear. Overall, Americans eat a lot of beef, especially compared to people in other countries.
participate	verb	easy	to join or take part in (a conversation, a game, etc.)	The teacher was surprised when every student participated in the math game.

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perceive	verb	hard	to be aware of, to sense or feel	If hunters are skilled, the animals will not perceive their presence.
period	noun	easy	a range or amount of time	Computer technology changed a lot in the period between the 1980s and the year 2000.
perspective	noun	hard	how you see something from a specific place a point of view or opinion	Young children's drawings do not have clearly defined perspective; you may see three walls of an outside of a building, for example. Many Hollywood movies, when watched from a woman's perspective, have clearly sexist characters.
phase	noun	hard	a period of time in a longer process of change	There are at least three different phases in a frog's development from egg to adult.
philosophy	noun noun	medium	the study of knowledge or a set of theories knowledge and thought a basic idea of a person or organization that affects their actions	Philosophy has always tried to answer the question "What is the meaning of life?" My philosophy is that if you can do something today, you shouldn't wait until tomorrow.
physical	adjective adjective	easy	of the body (not mental); concrete (not abstract)	Cleaning up the campus garden was tiring, physical work. Katerina doesn't like paying for music without a physical copy, such as a CD.
policy	noun	hard	a rule made by an organization, government, or company	School policy does not allow alcohol on campus.
potential	noun adjective	medium	possible ability that might be used in the future having the ability to do something in the future China is potentially the next world leader.	Wind and solar energy have the potential to replace oil.
precise	adjective	medium	Because the pirates weren't certain of the precise location of the gold, they dug holes all over the island.	
predict	verb	common	Charlie Chaplin predicted that movies to say something will happen in the future	would never become popular. He was wrong, clearly.
previous	adjective	easy	happening before the one happening now (of a thing, event, or date)	Soojin thought her science class was really hard after studying only literature in the previous year.
primary	noun	easy	first in importance	The primary cause of unhappiness is not about money it is bad health.
principle	noun	hard	a rule or idea that makes the base for a system (often moral)	The principles at the heart of the new religion are the same as many central beliefs of Christianity.
prior	adjective	medium	happening or being before	The new CEO of Yahoo called the prior CEO of the company to get a better understanding of the company.

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proceed	verb	medium	to begin or continue with some action	We will not proceed with the construction until someone tells us it is safe to build here.
project	noun verb verb	common	a plan or task to reach a specific goal to predict the measurement of something in the future from present measurements to send out, to throw (of light, energy, etc)	Cleaning out the storage room was a big project, but it's nice to see it empty, now. Based on this year's success, Apple is projecting similar growth next year, too. Hoping to communicate with aliens, scientists have been projecting radio messages into space for many years.
proportion	noun	hard	the size or amount of something compared to the whole or other parts	Cartoons of people often have exaggerated proportions, such as very large eyes or hands.
pursue	verb verb	hard	to follow, to chase to try to achieve (a dream or goal)	The baby elephant ran, but the pack of lions pursued it. Man pursued the dream of flight for hundreds of years before the modern airplane was invented.
range	noun verb	medium	the distance between two things (like area, time, or intelligence) to be between a set minimum and maximum	The range of scores on the test was big. In the company, the age of people ranges from 25 to 75.
react	verb	easy	to respond, act in answer to	Mothers react quickly to their babies cries, even in the middle of the night.
region	noun	easy	an area of land	Although most of the Japanese exchange students come from Osaka, in the south, Akiko comes from the northern region of Japan.
register	verb verb	common	to put your name or other information in a list for something to identify and show on a tool for measuring	If you'd like to buy a meal plan, you can register at the student affairs office. The bomb was so strong that far away weather balloons registered the heat.
regulate	verb	medium	to have control over a process so that it functions properly	Parents regulate the amount of time kids spend playing games on their phones.
reject	verb	easy	to say no to something offered, to refuse or decline	After applying to ten schools, Lucas was rejected by nine of them.
relevant	adjective	easy	closely connected to the topic and therefore important	I think Professor McGarry can give you some relevant books to help you write that essay.
rely	verb	easy	to depend on, to need in order to continue well	In many countries, children rely on their parents for food, money, and housing until they are over 20 years old.
remove	verb	easy	to take away or take out	The grocery store removed all of the milk after the government said it was unsafe to drink.
require	verb verb	common	to need for a specific purpose; to set as the minimum	All life, plants and animals included, requires water.

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research	verb noun	easy	to find or search for more information about something information collected about something (usually academic)	After growing up on an island, Malika hoped to research ocean temperatures in graduate school. Dr. Stanislaus was famous for his research on changes in health education over the past 100 years.
reside	verb	medium	to live in a place	I reside in California.
resolve	verb	easy	to agree; to decide; to solve a problem or argument	Even after meeting for hours, the government leaders still could not resolve their argument over new taxes.
resource	noun	easy	some saved material that can be used for a purpose (especially money, anything used to make energy such as oil, or information sources such as books)	Many of the richest countries have surprisingly few natural resources and must buy oil or gas from other countries. Never forget to make use of the library during your studies; it's full of great resources.
respond	verb	easy	answer; react	Waiters who respond to customers' questions with a smile generally get more money. If you scare a turtle, it will respond by hiding in its shell.
restrict	verb	common	to limit, to make some actions impossible	Access to this parking area is restricted: only university students may use it.
retain	verb	hard	to keep, continue to have or contain	Originally from France, Jean retains a hint of her French accent even today.
role	noun	medium	a job or function; a position	Student class president is an important role.
scheme	noun	hard	a large plan the system by which something is arranged	Microsoft's marketing scheme for their new tablet computer was less than successful. The modern scheme for naming different types of plants and animals started around 1800.
section	noun	easy	one of a number of pieces which come together to create a whole	Every ant's body has three sections: a head, a thorax (where the legs are), and an abdomen (the back).
secure	verb	medium	to attach something so that it won't come off	Please tightly secure the surfboards on top of the car.
seek	verb	hard	to look for, to try to find	Across many different cultures' stories, heroes seek more than just gold or fame.
select	verb adjective	common	to choose chosen as the best from a group	There are four different math courses you may select from in your first year. Harvard students are a select group of very intelligent, successful students who are often from rich families.

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shift	verb noun	medium	to move something a short distance a small change in position or direction	Please help me shift the table so it is easier for people to sit down. The recent shift that the coach made is helping the team win more games.
significant	adjective	common	important or big enough that you should notice or pay attention	Most animals spend a significant amount of their time looking for food.
site	noun	medium	the location of something	The people of the city voted for a site downtown as the location of the new sports stadium.
source	noun	easy	where something comes from	Do not trust books that give information without listed sources. The facts could be false.
specify	verb	easy	to say which one or clearly point to which one	The king told the hero that he could marry one of the princesses but did not specify which daughter.
stable	adjective	medium	not likely to change, fall, or move secure (as in employment, finances, housing, etc)	Make sure the ladder is stable before you climb up it!
status	noun	medium	the rank or social class of someone or something the current situation that something is in	The status of women has slowly improved over the past 100 years, and it continues to improve. What's the status of the new library? Are they finished building it yet?
strategy	noun	easy	a plan of action to reach a desired goal	The debate team spent the evening discussing their strategy for defeating the other team
stress	verb noun noun	common	to place extra importance on one part extra importance placed on one part pressure, strain, tension; worry	If you stress the wrong words or sounds when speaking English, you may not be understood. Final exams are soon, and so stress levels are high among students.
subsequent	adjective	hard	immediately after	Both the winter and the subsequent spring were surprisingly dry, with neither snow nor rain.
substitute	verb noun	common	to take out and put something else in the same place (usually something worse) something that goes in the place of the normal thing	Because we didn't have any, we substituted the sugar with juice. Many cigarette smokers who try to quit use chewing gum as a substitute.
sufficient	adjective	common	enough in amount for what you need	Because of weather changes, last year farms couldn't grow sufficient rice to feed the country.
sustain	verb	medium	to help something continue, to keep going	No animals or plants can sustain life without water.

Word	Part of Speech	Difficulty	Definition	Example Sentence
theory	noun	common	an idea or belief about how/why something works	There are many theories about why we dream.
tradition	noun	medium	a set of beliefs or a culture that is passed from family to family over a long period of time	Chris's favorite tradition is eating ham on Christmas.
transfer	verb	easy	to pass from one person or thing to another	Sally transferred all of her money from American National Bank when she heard they were closing.
trend	noun verb	common	the direction or way in which something is changing	Today's computer culture is trending toward more touchscreen technology.
underlying	adjective	hard	forming the basis for something	There is no single way to put an end to drug addiction since there are many underlying causes.
valid	adjective	hard	from a reasonable or correct basis	Many people have said the artist Jackson Pollack's work didn't require much skill, and that idea is somewhat valid.
vary	verb	medium	to be a different size, amount, or character when compared to something else in a similar group	The restaurants in this area vary greatly in quantity and price.
welfare	noun	hard	how healthy and happy a person or group is	A perfect government would care more about the welfare of its people than anything else.
whereas	conjunction	common	although (used to contrast two different things)	Lemons are very sour whereas most fruits are sweet.