

SIR IELTS





High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

High Score TOEFL Exam Word List 1

High Score TOEFL Exam Word List is usually seen in many websites and is a proven resource for high score hunters. The examword.com re-organized them with new examples and presented in 3 parts.

abandon: lacking restraint or control; feeling of extreme emotional intensity; unbounded enthusiasm

E.g. With her parents out of town, Kelly danced all night with abandon.

abash: embarrass; make ashamed or uneasy; disconcert

E.g. Her open admiration should not abash him at all.

abdicate: give up, renounce, abandon, lay down, or withdraw from, as a right or claim

E.g. When Edward VIII did abdicate the British throne to marry the woman he loved, he surprised the entire world.

abet: aid, usually in doing something wrong; encourage

E.g. She was unwilling to abet him in the swindle he had planned.

abridge: condense; shorten; reduce length of written text

E.g. Because the publishers felt the public wanted a shorter version of War and Peace, they proceeded to abridge the novel.

abrogate: abolish, do away with, or annul, especially by authority

E.g. He intended to abrogate the decree issued by his predecessor.

abstemious: sparing or moderation in eating and drinking; temperate

E.g. Concerned whether her vegetarian son's abstemious diet provided him with sufficient protein, the worried mother pressed food on him.

academic: related to school; not practical or directly useful; relating to scholarly organization; based on formal education

E.g. The dean's talk about reforming the college admissions system was only an academic discussion.

accede: agree; give consent, often at insistence of another; concede



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E.g. The idea that one of the two chief executives should eventually accede to the role, as has happened in the past, would raise fresh doubts about the board's independence.

accelerate: move faster; cause to develop or progress more quickly; occur sooner than expected

E.g. Demand for Taiwanese goods likely will accelerate from the second quarter, as strong Asian demand offsets the effects of a U.S. slowdown.

accolade: award of merit; expression of approval; praise

E.g. In Hollywood, an "Oscar" is the highest accolade.

accord: settlement or compromise of conflicting opinions; written agreement between two states

E.g. Although the accord is a small step forward, politicians around the world have their work cut out for them.

acrimonious: bitter and sharp in language, tone, or manner

E.g. The candidate attacked his opponent in highly acrimonious terms.

acumen: mental keenness; quickness of perception

E.g. However, her team's political acumen is clearly beyond mine, an Ivy League Medical Science Professor and NOT a Political "Science" Professor.

admonish: warn; counsel someone against something to be avoided

E.g. I would again admonish the reader carefully to consider the nature of our doctrine.

adversary: opponent in contest; someone who offers opposition

E.g. The young wrestler struggled to defeat his adversary.

adversity: state of misfortune, hardship, or affliction; misfortune

E.g. A young boy who's strength in adversity is an inspiration to all who know him.

aesthetic: elegant or tasteful; of or concerning appreciation of beauty or good taste

E.g. Kenneth Cole, the American designer known for his modern, urban aesthetic, is hawking \$35 T-shirts.

affable: easily approachable; warmly friendly

E.g. Accustomed to cold, aloof supervisors, Nicholas was amazed at how affable his new employer was.

affluent: having an abundant supply of money or possessions of value



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E.g. They want the same opportunity to pursue their dreams as everyone else who lives in affluent school districts.

aggressive: making assaults; unjustly attacking; combative; hostile; tending to spread quickly

E.g. During his tenure in Beijing, Huntsman was known as an aggressive advocate for human rights and pushed to expand U.S. economic ties with China.

alacrity: cheerful promptness or willingness; eagerness; speed or quickness

E.g. Phil and Dave were raring to get off to the mountains; they packed up their ski gear and climbed into the van with alacrity.

alienate: cause to become unfriendly or hostile; transfer property or ownership; isolate or dissociate emotionally

E.g. We could not see what should again alienate us from one another, or how one brother could again oppress another.

allay: calm; pacify; reduce the intensity of; relieve

E.g. The crew tried to allay the fears of the passengers by announcing that the fire had been controlled.

allude: refer casually or indirectly, or by suggestion

E.g. Try not to mention divorce in Jack's presence because he will think you allude to his marital problems with Jill.

allure: attract with something desirable; be highly, often subtly attractive

E.g. Promises of quick profits allure the unwary investor.

ambiguous: unclear or doubtful in meaning

E.g. His ambiguous instructions misled us; we did not know which road to take.

amenable: responsive to advice or suggestion; responsible to higher authority; willing to comply with; agreeable

E.g. He was amenable to any suggestions that came from those he looked up to.

amiable: good-natured and likable; lovable; warmly friendly

E.g. In Little Women, Beth is the amiable daughter whose loving disposition endears her to all who know her.

analogy: similarity in some respects; comparison based on similarity

E.g. This analogy is almost always noted without further comment, although in fact it



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may be taken further.

anarchy: absence of governing body; state of disorder; political disorder and confusion
E.g. One might say that eastern Congo is already in anarchy, but Congo has faded from the headlines in recent months.

annals: chronological record of the events of successive years
E.g. In the annals of this period, we find no mention of democratic movements.

anonymous: having no name; having unknown or unacknowledged name
E.g. The buyer, who wished to remain anonymous, is a foreigner with homes in Europe.

anthology: book of literary selections by various authors
E.g. This anthology of science fiction was compiled by the late Isaac Asimov.

antithesis: contrast; direct contrast; opposition
E.g. This tyranny was the antithesis of all that he had hoped for, and he fought it with all his strength.

apathy: lack of caring; indifference
E.g. A firm believer in democratic government, she could not understand the apathy of people who never bothered to vote.

apprehensive: capable of apprehending; knowing; conscious; relating to the faculty of apprehension; sensible; feeling; perceptive
E.g. Here I walked about for a long time, feeling very strange, and mortally apprehensive of some one coming in and kidnapping me.

apprise: inform; give notice to; make aware
E.g. If you apprise him the dangerous weather conditions, he has to postpone his trip.

approbation: expression of warm approval; praise
E.g. She looked for some sign of approbation from her parents, hoping her good grades would please them.

apt: likely; exactly suitable; appropriate; quick to learn or understand
E.g. The defeated England coach, Bobby Robson, described it as a miracle, which following 'the Hand-of-God' goal seems supremely apt.

arbiter: person with power to decide a dispute; judge
E.g. As an arbiter in labor disputes, she has won the confidence of the workers and the



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employers.

archetype: prototype; original model or type after which other similar things are patterned

E.g. The Brooklyn Bridge was the archetype of the many spans that now connect Manhattan with Long Island and New Jersey.

arid: dry; lacking moisture, especially having insufficient rainfall to support trees or plants

E.g. The cactus has adapted to survive in an arid environment.

aristocracy: hereditary nobility; privileged class

E.g. Americans have mixed feelings about hereditary aristocracy.

articulate: expressing oneself easily in clear and effective language

E.g. Her articulate presentation of the advertising campaign impressed her employers.

ascetic: leading a life of self-discipline and self-denial; austere

E.g. The wealthy, self-indulgent young man felt oddly drawn to the strict, ascetic life led by members of some monastic orders.

askance: with sideways or indirect look; Turned to side, especially of eyes

E.g. Looking askance at her questioner, she displayed her scorn.

assiduous: constant in application or attention; diligent; unceasing or persistent

E.g. He was assiduous, working at this task for weeks before he felt satisfied with his results.

asylum: place of refuge or shelter; protection

E.g. The refugees sought asylum from religious persecution in a new land.

atheist: nonbeliever; one who denies the existence of god

E.g. The view that children are born atheist is relatively recent.

attribute: essential quality; reputation; honor

E.g. His outstanding attribute was his kindness.

augment: make greater, as in size, extent, or quantity

E.g. Armies augment their forces by calling up reinforcements.

auspicious: attended by favorable circumstances; marked by success; prosperous



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E.g. With favorable weather conditions, it was an auspicious moment to set sail.

authentic: not counterfeit or copied; valid; trustworthy

E.g. It is authentic, genuine, and a true and correct copy of the original.

autocratic: having absolute, unchecked power; dictatorial

E.g. Someone accustomed to exercising authority may become autocratic if his or her power is unchecked.

avarice: greediness for wealth; insatiable desire of gain

E.g. King Midas is a perfect example of avarice, for he was so greedy that he wished everything he touched would turn to gold.

awry: in a position that is turned toward one side; away from correct course

E.g. He held his head awry, giving the impression that he had caught cold in his neck during the night.

banal: obvious and dull; commonplace; lacking originality

E.g. The writer made his comic sketch seem banal.

banter: good-humored, playful conversation

E.g. You bring good diversity to the BombCast because your opinions are varied and present a good contrast to what can sometimes be predictable banter from the guys.

baton: a staff or truncheon, used for various purposes, as one of a conductor in musical performances, one transferred by runners in a relay race

E.g. What's the textbook way to handoff the baton in the relays?

belie: contradict; give a false impression

E.g. His coarse, hard-bitten exterior does belie his inner sensitivity.

belligerent: inclined or eager to fight; aggressive

E.g. Whenever he had too much to drink, he became belligerent and tried to pick fights with strangers.

benevolent: generous in providing aid to others; charitable

E.g. Mr. Fezziwig was a benevolent employer, who wished to make Christmas merrier for young Scrooge and his other employees.

besmirch: soil, smear so as to make dirty or stained

E.g. The scandalous remarks in the newspaper besmirch the reputations of every



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member of the society.

biased: favoring one person or side over another; prejudiced

E.g. Because the judge played golf regularly with the district attorney's father, we feared he might be biased in the prosecution's favor.

bizarre: fantastic; violently contrasting; strangely unconventional in style or appearance

E.g. The plot of the novel was too bizarre to be believed.

bland: lacking stimulating or mild; agreeable

E.g. She kept her gaze level and her expression bland, but her teeth were gritted.

blandishment: flattery; speech or action expressive of affection or kindness, and tending to win the heart

E.g. Despite the salesperson's blandishment, the customer did not buy the outfit.

blemish: mark with deformity; injure or impair, as anything which is excellent; make defective, either the body or mind

E.g. A newspaper article alleging he had taken bribes may blemish his reputation.

blight: blast; prevent the growth and fertility of; destroy the happiness of; ruin; frustrate

E.g. I wish to foster, not to blight -- to earn gratitude, not to wring tears of blood -- no, nor of brine: my harvest must be in smiles, in endearments, in sweet -- That will do.

blithe: gay; joyous; carefree and lighthearted

E.g. Shelley called the skylark a "blithe spirit" because of its happy song.

bombastic: pompous; using inflated language; high-sounding but with little meaning

E.g. The biggest military power on Earth was acting belligerent and its president was indulging in bombastic nationalistic grandstanding.

boorish: rude and clumsy in behavior; ungentlemanly; awkward in manners

E.g. Natasha was embarrassed by her fellow spy's boorish behavior. "If you cannot act like a gentleman, Boris, go back to Russia: espionage is no job for clumsy boors."

buffoon: one who makes a practice of amusing others by low tricks, antic gestures; droll; mimic; clown

E.g. This buffoon is the most self-centered idiot I have ever seen or heard.

bulwark: earthwork or other strong defense; person who defends

E.g. The navy is our principal bulwark against invasion.



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bumptious: offensively self-assertive; liable to give or take offense; forward; pushing
E.g. His classmates called him a show-off because of his bumptious airs.

cabal: small group of persons secretly united to promote their own interests
E.g. The number of Republicans who support this man and his cabal is astonishing, but nothing will change the minds of that percentage.

cacophonous: discordant; inharmonious; sounding harshly; ill-sounding
E.g. Do the students in the orchestra enjoy the cacophonous sounds they make when they're tuning up? I don't know how they can stand the racket.

cadaverous: like corpse; pale; Having appearance or color of dead human body
E.g. By his cadaverous appearance, we could see how the disease had ravaged him.

callous: emotionally hardened; unfeeling
E.g. He had worked in the hospital for so many years that he was callous to the suffering in the wards.

candid: straightforward; frank; free from prejudice; impartial
E.g. In private, I gave them my candid opinion.

cantankerous: ill humored; irritable; marked by ill-tempered contradiction or opposition; ugly; malicious
E.g. Constantly complaining about his treatment and refusing to cooperate with the hospital staff, he was a cantankerous patient.

capricious: fickle; impulsive and unpredictable; apt to change opinions suddenly
E.g. The storm was capricious: it changed course constantly.

captious: intended to confuse in an argument
E.g. I resent the way he asked that was captious question.

caricature: representation that is deliberately exaggerated to produce a comic effect
E.g. The caricature he drew yesterday emphasized a personal weakness of the people he burlesqued.

castigate: criticize severely; punish; revise or make corrections to publication
E.g. When the teacher threatened that she would castigate the mischievous boys if they didn't behave, they shaped up in a hurry.



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celestial: relating to the sky or the heavens; supremely good; god or angel
E.g. She spoke of the celestial joys that awaited virtuous souls in the hereafter.

chicanery: mean or unfair artifice to obscure truth; deception by trickery or sophistry
E.g. Those sneaky lawyers misrepresented what occurred, made up all sorts of implausible alternative scenarios to confuse the jurors, and in general depended on chicanery to win the case.

chronic: lasting for long period; marked by frequent recurrence, as certain diseases
E.g. The doctors were finally able to attribute his chronic headaches to traces of formaldehyde gas in his apartment.

circumspect: carefully aware of all circumstances; cautious
E.g. Investigating before acting, she tried always to be circumspect.

circumvent: surround; enclose or entrap outwit; beat through cleverness and wit
E.g. In order to circumvent the enemy, we will make two preliminary attacks in other sections before starting our major campaign.

civil: having to do with citizens or the state; courteous and polite
E.g. Although Internal Revenue Service agents are civil servants, they are not always courteous to suspected tax cheats.

clamorous: speaking and repeating loud words; full of clamor; calling or demanding loudly or urgently; vociferous; noisy; bawling; loud
E.g. He sprung his secret, but the surprise it occasioned was largely counterfeit and not as clamorous and effusive as it might have been under happier circumstances.

clandestine: secret; conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods
E.g. After avoiding their chaperon, the lovers had a clandestine meeting.

coalition: partnership; league; state of being combined into one body
E.g. The Rainbow coalition united people of all races in a common cause.

coercion: use of force to get someone to obey
E.g. The inquisitors used both physical and psychological coercion to force Joan of Arc to deny that her visions were sent by God.

cogent: reasonable and convincing; based on evidence; forcefully persuasive
E.g. It was inevitable that David chose to go to Harvard: he had several cogent reasons for doing so, including a full-tuition scholarship.



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collusion: secret agreement for an illegal purpose; conspiracy

E.g. They're in collusion with the government and just want a piece of the pie like everyone else.

commodious: spacious and comfortable; fit; proper; convenient

E.g. After sleeping in small roadside cabins, they found their hotel suite commodious.

compatible: harmonious; having similar disposition and tastes

E.g. They were compatible neighbors, never quarreling over unimportant matters.

compensation: something given or received as payment as for a service or loss or injury

E.g. There are an estimated 86000 survivors around the world and almost half of them could be eligible for payments from the compensation fund.

compunction: feeling of deep regret; strong uneasiness caused by a sense of guilt

E.g. The judge was especially severe in his sentencing because he felt that the criminal had shown no compunction for his heinous crime.

concede: admit; yield; give up physical control of another

E.g. Despite all the evidence Monica had assembled, Mark refused to concede that she was right.

condole: grieve; express sympathy; speak sympathetically to one in pain, grief, or misfortune

E.g. My hamster died this morning, my friends condole with me and help bury him in the yard.

confederate: ally; form a group or unite

E.g. President Davis was captured at Irwinville, Georgia, on May 10, and the remaining confederate armies surrendered by June 1865.

congenial: compatible

E.g. Thus ideas already in consciousness always repel the entry incompatible idea and make entry of the congenial idea.

conjecture: believe especially on uncertain or tentative grounds

E.g. I can now conjecture readily that this streak of light was, in all likelihood, a gleam from a lantern carried by someone across the lawn.

consternation: intense state of fear or dismay; astonishment combined with terror



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E.g. One would never think that a hunter would display such consternation when a bear closed to camp.

consummate: carried to the utmost extent or degree; of the highest quality; complete; perfect

E.g. She dealt with the problem with consummate skill.

contemptuous: scornful; expressing contempt; showing a lack of respect

E.g. The diners were intimidated by contemptuous manner of the waiter.

convivial: festive; occupied with or fond of the pleasures of good company

E.g. The convivial celebrators of the victory sang their college songs.

copious: plentiful; containing plenty; affording ample supply

E.g. She had copious reasons for rejecting the proposal.

corpulent: very fat; large in body; overweight

E.g. The corpulent man resolved to reduce.

cosmopolitan: sophisticated; of worldwide scope

E.g. Her years in the capitol had transformed her into a cosmopolitan young woman highly aware of international affairs.

coterie: group that meets socially; an exclusive circle of people with common purpose

E.g. After his book had been published, he was invited to join the literary coterie that lunched daily at the hotel.

countenance: give sanction or support to; tolerate or approve

E.g. He refused to countenance such rude behavior on their part.

credence: credit; faith

E.g. A letter of credence is a letter sent by one head of state to another formally accrediting a named individual, usually but not always a diplomat.

credible: capable of being credited or believed; worthy of belief; entitled to confidence; trustworthy

E.g. Every detail of the damaging circumstances that occurred in the graveyard upon that morning which all present remembered so well was brought out by credible witnesses, but none of them were cross-examined by Potter's lawyer.

credulous: apt to believe on slight evidence; easily imposed upon; unsuspecting;



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believed too readily

E.g. They are credulous people who believe in the advertisement.

cringe: shrink or recoil, as in fear, disgust or embarrassment; bend or crouch with base humility

E.g. One thing that makes me cringe is seeing politicians from the mainstream parties acting as apologists for voters.

crucial: of extreme importance; vital to the resolution of a crisis; of the greatest importance

E.g. The meeting of today is the crucial moment in his career.

cryptic: having hidden meaning; mystifying; using code or cipher

E.g. Here are a couple of verses written in cryptic rhyme from some of my currently published books.

curb: bend or curve; guide and manage, or restrain

E.g. Paradoxically, Ray's strong-arming may be helping to curb violence in Bangalore.

cursory: casual; brief or broad; not cautious, nor detailed

E.g. Because a cursory examination of the ruins indicates the possibility of arson, we believe the insurance agency should undertake a more extensive investigation of the fire's cause.

curt: having been shortened; effectively cut short; rudely brief or abrupt, as in speech or manner

E.g. The grouchy shop assistant was curt with one of her customers, which resulted in a reprimand from her manager.

cynical: skeptical of motives of others; selfishly calculating; negative or pessimistic

E.g. What I find sad, and cynical, is that this guy is essentially saying things will not be better by 2012.

dearth: scarcity; shortage of food; famine from failure or loss of crops

E.g. The dearth of skilled labor compelled the employers to open trade schools.

deference: willingness to carry out the wishes of others; great respect

E.g. In deference to the minister's request, please do not take photographs during the wedding service.

deity: god; divinity; supernatural things



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E.g. The earmarks of such a religion are: faith in a supreme deity, hope of eternal survival, and love, especially of one's fellows.

delectable: delightful; delicious; extremely pleasing to the sense of taste

E.g. We thanked our host for a most delectable meal.

delete: erase; strike out; remove or make invisible

E.g. Less is more: if you delete this paragraph, your whole essay will have greater appeal.

delineate: portray; depict; draw or trace outline of; sketch out

E.g. Using only a few descriptive phrases, you delineate the character of Mr. Collins so well that we can predict his every move.

delinquent: failing in duty; offending by neglect of duty.

E.g. But the couple say their mortgage servicer, CitiMortgage, reported to the credit bureaus that they made partial payments that were delinquent.

deluge: great flood; heavy downpour; any overflowing of water

E.g. When we advertised the position, we received a deluge of applications.

demeanor: conduct; management; way in which a person behaves

E.g. It'll be interesting to see what her demeanor is and what kind of witness she is.

demure: modest and reserved in manner or behavior

E.g. She was demure and reserved, a nice modest girl whom any young man would be proud to take home to his mother.

denounce: condemn openly; criticize; make known in formal manner

E.g. The reform candidate kept to denounce the corrupt city officers for having betrayed the public's trust.

deplete: decrease fullness of; use up or empty out

E.g. We must wait until we deplete our present inventory before we order replacements.

deplore: feel or express strong disapproval of; condemn; express sorrow or grief over; regret

E.g. Although I deplore the vulgarity of your language, I defend your right to express yourself freely.

deprecate: express disapproval of; protest against; belittle

E.g. A firm believer in old-fashioned courtesy, Miss Post must deprecate the modern



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tendency to address new acquaintances by their first names.

depreciate: lessen price or value of; think or speak of as being of little worth; belittle
E.g. If you neglect this property, it will depreciate.

devastation: an event that results in total destruction; the state of being decayed or destroyed
E.g. Only a few years ago the River Oder on the Polish-German border caused huge amounts of devastation.

devious: departing from correct or accepted way; misleading; not straightforward
E.g. The story of Byzantine art, though not precisely devious, is not straightforward either.

devoid: completely lacking; barren or empty
E.g. You may think her mind is a total void, but she's actually not devoid of intelligence. She just sounds like an airhead.

devout: expressing devotion or piety; earnest in religious field
E.g. The devout man prayed daily.

dilemma: predicament; state of uncertainty or between equally unfavorable options
E.g. It could create a painful dilemma for the group's members: either accept a lower price or give up additional production quotas they have just given themselves.

disconcert: confuse; frustrate by throwing into disorder; embarrass
E.g. The evidence produced by her adversary does disconcert the lawyer.

disconsolate: sad; cheerless; gloomy; hopeless or not expecting
E.g. The death of his wife left him disconsolate.

discourse: formal, lengthy discussion of a subject; verbal exchange; conversation
E.g. The young Plato was drawn to the Agora to hear the philosophical discourse of Socrates and his followers.

discrete: separate; consisting of unconnected distinct parts
E.g. The universe is composed of discrete bodies.

discursive: tending to depart from main point or cover a wide range of subjects
E.g. As the lecturer wandered from topic to topic, we wondered what if any point there was to his discursive remarks.



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disparity: difference; condition or fact of being unequal, as in age, rank, or degree
E.g. Their disparity in rank made no difference at all to the prince and Cinderella.

dispassionate: calm; impartial; unaffected by strong emotion or prejudice
E.g. Known in the company for his cool judgment, Bill could impartially examine the causes of a problem, giving a dispassionate analysis of what had gone wrong, and go on to suggest how to correct the mess.

dispatch: act of sending off something; property of being prompt and efficient; message usually sent in haste
E.g. He sent a dispatch to headquarters informing his commander of the great victory.

dispel: scatter; drive away; cause to vanish
E.g. The bright sunlight eventually might dispel the morning mist.

dissent: differ in opinion or feeling; withhold assent or approval
E.g. In the future Supreme Court decision, Justice O'Connor will dissent from the majority opinion.

dissolute: lacking moral restraint; indulging in sensual pleasures or vices
E.g. The dissolute life led by the ancient Romans is indeed shocking.

distraught: deeply agitated, as from emotional conflict; mad; insane
E.g. Her father had recently died and her mother was still distraught from the loss.

diverse: differing in some characteristics; various
E.g. The professor suggested diverse ways of approaching the assignment and recommended that we choose one of them.

divulge: reveal; make known to public
E.g. Will update regarding the details, but all I can divulge is that it involves a really good-looking guy.

dogmatic: stubbornly adhering to insufficiently proven beliefs; inflexible, rigid
E.g. We tried to discourage Doug from being so dogmatic, but never could convince him that his opinions might be wrong.

dynamic: energetic; vigorously active
E.g. The dynamic aerobics instructor kept her students on the run.



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ecclesiastic: pertaining to church, specifically, to ministry or administration of church
E.g. The minister donned his ecclesiastic garb and walked to the pulpit.

edict: decree, especially issued by a sovereign; official command
E.g. The emperor issued an edict decreeing that everyone should come see him model his magnificent new clothes.

edify: instruct or correct, especially so as to encourage intellectual, moral, or spiritual improvement
E.g. Although his purpose was to edify and not to entertain his audience, many of his listeners were amused rather than enlightened.

egregious: notorious; conspicuously bad or shocking
E.g. She was an egregious liar; we all knew better than to believe a word she said.

elicit: draw out; bring forth or to light; generate or provoke as response or answer
E.g. The detectives tried to elicit where he had hidden his loot.

elucidate: make clear or plain, especially by explanation; clarify
E.g. He was called upon to elucidate the disputed points in his article.

emissary: agent sent on a mission to represent or advance the interests of another
E.g. A native of Brazil, Bella considers herself a kind of emissary from the Brazilian community.

engender: cause; bring into existence; give rise to
E.g. To receive praise for real accomplishments would engender self-confidence in a child.

ennui: feeling of being bored by something tedious
E.g. The monotonous routine of hospital life induced a feeling of ennui that made him moody and irritable.

ensue: pursue; follow or come afterward; follow as a consequence
E.g. The evils ensue from lack of a stable government.

entreat: plead; make earnest request of; ask for earnestly
E.g. She had to entreat her father to let her stay out till midnight.

ephemeral: short-lived; enduring a very short time
E.g. The mayfly is an ephemeral creature: its adult life lasts little more than a day.



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epigram: witty thought or saying, usually short; short, witty poem expressing a single thought or observation

E.g. The disadvantage of the epigram is the temptation it affords to good people to explain it to the others who are assumed to be too obtuse to comprehend it alone.

epitaph: inscription on tombstone in memory

E.g. In his will, he dictated the epitaph he wanted placed on his tombstone.

epithet: word or phrase characteristically used to describe a person or thing

E.g. So many kings of France were named Charles that you could tell one apart only by his epithet: Charles the Wise was someone far different from Charles the Fat.

equanimity: calmness of temperament; steadiness of mind under stress.

E.g. Even the inevitable strains of caring for an ailing mother did not disturb Bea's equanimity.

erratic: no fixed or regular course; wandering

E.g. State Senate Minority Leader, a Democrat, accused him of engaging in erratic behavior.

erudite: learned; scholarly, with emphasis on knowledge gained from books

E.g. Though his fellow students thought him erudite, Paul knew he would have to spend many years in serious study before he could consider himself a scholar.

esoteric: hard to understand; known only in a particular group

E.g. The New Yorker short stories often include esoteric allusions to obscure people and events: the implication is, if you are in the in-crowd, you'll get the reference; if you come from Cleveland, you won't.

exceptionable: open or liable to objection or debate; liable to cause disapproval

E.g. Do you find the punk rock band Green Day a highly exceptionable, thoroughly distasteful group, or do you think they are exceptionally talented performers?.

exculpate: pronounce not guilty of criminal charges

E.g. The court will exculpate him of the crime after the real criminal confesses.

exemplary: serving as model; outstanding; typical

E.g. But the official Miss America website stresses you performed all your duties in exemplary fashion before you gave up the crown.



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

exodus: departure of a large number of people

E.g. The exodus from the hot and stuffy city was particularly noticeable on Friday evenings.

exotic: from another part of the world; foreign; strikingly strange or unusual

E.g. Because of his exotic headdress, he was followed in the streets by small children who laughed at his strange appearance.

expatriate: someone who has withdrawn from his native land

E.g. Henry James was an American expatriate who settled in England.

expedient: suitable; appropriate to a purpose; serving to promote your interest

E.g. A pragmatic politician, he was guided by what was expedient rather than by what was ethical.

exploit: make use of, sometimes unjustly

E.g. Cesar Chavez fought attempts to exploit migrant farm workers in California.

expound: explain or describe in detail

E.g. The teachers expound on the theory of relativity for hours.

expurgate: clean; remove offensive parts of book

E.g. The editors decided to expurgate certain passages in the book before it could be used in the classroom.

extinct: no longer existing or living; vanished; dead

E.g. There are about 35 different kinds of extinct kangaroos in these deposits, none of them looked like anything we know today because they didn't hop.

extirpate: root out; eradicate, literally or figuratively; destroy wholly

E.g. The policemen extirpate the criminals after many years of investigation.

High Score TOEFL Exam Word List 2

High Score TOEFL Exam Word List is usually seen in many websites and is a proven resource for high score hunters. The examword.com re-organized them with new examples and presented in 3 parts.



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

facade: front of building; superficial or false appearance

E.g. I believe the Religious Right's thin facade is being revealed.

facetious: joking, often inappropriately; humorous

E.g. I'm serious about this project; I don't need any facetious cracks about do-gooder little rich girls.

fallacious: false; tending to mislead; deceptive

E.g. Paradoxically, fallacious reasoning does not always yield erroneous results: even though your logic may be faulty, the answer you get may nevertheless be correct.

fallible: likely to fail or be inaccurate

E.g. I know I am fallible, but I feel confident that I am right this time.

fathom: measure the depth; come to understand

E.g. I find his motives impossible to fathom; in fact, I'm totally clueless about what goes on in his mind.

fatuous: foolish or silly, especially in self-satisfied way

E.g. He is far too intelligent to utter such fatuous remarks.

feasible: capable of being accomplished or brought about

E.g. Now, the expert that would have to come in and examine "Baby R.B." and decide whether that's feasible is just now being scheduled.

felicity: great happiness; pleasing and appropriate manner or style

E.g. She wrote a note to the newlyweds wishing them great felicity in their wedded life.

fervid: extremely hot; eager; impassioned; burning

E.g. Her fervid enthusiasm inspired all of us to undertake the dangerous mission.

fiasco: complete failure; sudden and violent collapse

E.g. The real problem with our job fiasco is that I essentially had two nights with almost no sleep.

fictitious: existing only in imagination; feigned; not true or real

E.g. Although this book purports to be a biography of George Washington, many of the incidents are fictitious.

flaccid: acting in strength, firmness, or resilience



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

E.g. His sedentary life had left him with flaccid muscles.

flagrant: obvious and offensive, blatant, scandalous; flaming into notice

E.g. The governor's appointment of his brother-in-law to the State Supreme Court was a flagrant violation of the state laws against nepotism.

flamboyant: elaborately or excessively ornamented

E.g. Modern architecture has discarded the flamboyant trimming on buildings and emphasizes simplicity of line.

flaunt: display proudly or shamelessly; show oneself off

E.g. And all the information they did flaunt is easily obtainable.

fleeting: transient; brief; temporary; passing quickly

E.g. Sometimes, for a fleeting moment, I thought I caught a glance, heard a tone, beheld a form, which announced the realization of my dream.

fluctuate: rise and fall in or as if in waves; shift; vary irregularly

E.g. The water pressure in our shower does fluctuate wildly.

forensic: relating to use of technology in investigation and establishment of facts or evidence in court by law

E.g. An expert in forensic accounting, according to a recent report in Newsweek, says the AIG scandal might get considerably worse than it already is.

fortuitous: accidental; by chance; coming or occurring without any cause

E.g. Though he pretended their encounter was fortuitous, he'd actually been hanging around her usual haunts for the past two weeks, hoping she'd turn up.

fracas: noisy, disorderly fight or quarrel; disturbance

E.g. The military police stopped the fracas in the bar and arrested the belligerents.

frustrate: make null; bring to nothing; prevent from taking effect or attaining fulfillment

E.g. We must frustrate this dictator's plan to seize control of the government.

fulsome: offensively flattering or insincere; offensive; disgusting

E.g. His fulsome praise of the dictator revolted his listeners.

garnish: decorate with ornamental appendages

E.g. Parsley was used to garnish the boiled potato.



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

genealogy: account or history of descent of person or family from ancestor; lineage
E.g. He was proud of his genealogy and constantly referred to the achievements of his ancestors.

genesis: coming into being of something; origin
E.g. But let's rewind, back to the beginning, as their genesis is available for all to read online.

ghastly: horrible; inspiring shock; extremely unpleasant or bad
E.g. Another reason the summer of 2009 seems so ghastly is because other countries are living through infinitely more exciting times.

gibe: mock; laugh at with contempt and derision
E.g. As you gibe at their superstitious beliefs, do you realize that you, too, are guilty of similarly foolish thoughts?

glib: performed with a natural or offhand ease
E.g. "Excuse me, sir," said the man in glib English.

gossamer: sheer, light, delicate, or tenuous
E.g. They would laugh in gossamer tones, and then move on gracefully to someone else, sometimes moving gracefully at speeds exceeding 40 mph.

gregarious: sociable; seeking and enjoying the company of others
E.g. Natural selection in gregarious animals operates upon groups rather than upon individuals.

grimace: facial distortion to show feeling such as pain, disgust
E.g. Even though he remained silent, his grimace indicated his displeasure.

hail: call for; salute; greet; praise vociferously
E.g. The US Embassy in Manila found itself under a hail of rotten fruit early today, the latest symptom of anti-American feeling reverberating across Asia in recent days.

harangue: noisy speech; speech or piece of writing with strong feeling or expression
E.g. In her lengthy harangue, the principal berated the offenders.

haughty: high; lofty; bold; arrogant; overbearing
E.g. "Indeed, mama, but you can -- and will," pronounced the haughty voice of Blanche, as she turned round on the piano-stool; where till now she had sat silent, apparently examining sundry sheets of music.



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

heedless: unaware, without noticing; unmindful or thoughtless

E.g. He drove on, heedless of the danger warnings placed at the side of the road.

heinous: grossly wicked; abominable; hateful; infamous

E.g. I'm a sincere believer that people who have engaged in heinous crimes deserve the ultimate retribution.

heresy: opinion contrary to popular belief; opinion contrary to accepted religion

E.g. Galileo's assertion that the earth moved around the sun directly contradicted the religious teachings of his day; as a result, he was tried for heresy.

hiatus: gap; interruption in duration or continuity; pause

E.g. During the summer hiatus, many students try to earn enough money to pay their tuition for the next school year.

histrionic: characteristic of acting or stage performance

E.g. He was proud of his histrionic ability and wanted to play the role of Hamlet.

hoax: act intended to deceive or trick; practical joke

E.g. Mr. Troyer said later that some of the search had been in response to a hoax - a man called the police and falsely said he was the gunman.

hovel: shack; small, wretched house

E.g. He wondered how poor people could stand living in such a hovel.

hyperbole: figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis; overstatement

E.g. As far as I'm concerned, Apple's claims about the new computer are pure hyperbole: no machine is that good!

hypothesis: assumption; theory

E.g. A hypothesis is a tentative statement that proposes a possible.

idiom: expression whose meaning differs from meanings of its individual words; distinctive style

E.g. The phrase "to lose one's marbles" is an idiom: if I say that Joe's lost his marbles, I'm not asking you to find some for him. I'm telling you that he's crazy.

idiosyncrasy: behavioral attribute that is distinctive and peculiar to an individual

E.g. One Richard Nixon's little idiosyncrasy was his liking for ketchup on cottage cheese.



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

immaculate: spotless; flawless; absolutely clean

E.g. Chatman said her mom and dad always kept their vehicles in immaculate shape.

imminent: near at hand; close in time; about to occur

E.g. Peak oil does not mean that we are in imminent danger of running out of oil.

immune: resistant to; free or exempt from; not subject to

E.g. Still, the company doesn't expect to remain immune from the effects of the downturn.

impale: pierce; kill by piercing with a spear or sharp

E.g. His adversary hurled a spear to impale him.

impeach: charge with crime; challenge or discredit the credibility of

E.g. The angry congressman wanted to impeach the president for his misdeeds.

impeccable: faultless; incapable of sin or wrongdoing

E.g. His voting record has been impeccable from a conservative point of view.

impervious: impenetrable; incapable of being damaged or distressed

E.g. The carpet salesman told Simone that his most expensive brand of floor covering was warranted to be impervious to ordinary wear and tear.

implacable: incapable of being pacified; not to be relieved;

E.g. Madame Defarge was the implacable enemy of the Evremonde family.

implicit: implied or understood though not directly expressed

E.g. Jack never told Jill he adored her; he believed his love was implicit in his actions.

import: bring in from another country

E.g. Despite being one of the world's largest oil exporters, Nigeria refines only a very small proportion of even its own fuel needs, and has to import the rest - a severe and unnecessary drain on resources.

impostor: someone who assumes a false identity

E.g. Some Sarah Palin impostor somehow got access to Sarah Palin's Facebook page and posted the bizarre comments.

imprecation: curse; act of calling down a curse that invokes evil

E.g. Spouting violent imprecation, Hank searched for the person who had vandalized his truck.



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

impregnable: invulnerable; able to withstand attack

E.g. Until the development of the airplane as a military weapon, the fort was considered impregnable.

impropriety: improper act; improper or unacceptable usage in speech or writing

E.g. Because of the impropriety of the punk rocker's slashed T-shirt and jeans, the management refused to admit him to the hotel's very formal dining room.

improvident: thrifless; not providing for future; incautious

E.g. He was constantly being warned to mend his improvident ways and begin to "save for a rainy day."

impugn: dispute or contradict, often in insulting way; challenge

E.g. Our treasurer was furious when the finance committee's report tried to impugn the accuracy of his financial records.

incarcerate: imprison; put into jail; shut up or inclose

E.g. He was not willing to incarcerate the civil rights workers because their imprisonment could serve the cause.

incisive: penetrating, clear, and sharp, as in operation or expression

E.g. His incisive remarks made us see the fallacy in our plans.

incontrovertible: indisputable; not open to question

E.g. Unless you find the evidence against my client absolutely incontrovertible, you must declare her not guilty of this charge.

increment: process of increasing in number, size, quantity, or extent

E.g. The new contract calls for a 10 percent increment in salary for each employee for the next two years.

incumbent: imposed as an obligation or duty; currently holding an office

E.g. Voters see the same old candidates year after year and figure that the incumbent is usually a lock in a vast number of congressional districts.

indefatigable: tireless; showing sustained enthusiastic action

E.g. Although the effort of taking out the garbage tired Wayne out for the entire morning, when it came to partying, he was indefatigable.

indigenous: native; originating where it is found

E.g. But rarely was the music they played anchored in indigenous sounds of their



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

homelands, as the groups eagerly explored musical hybrids.

inference: inferring by deduction or induction; truth or proposition drawn from another which is admitted or supposed to be true; conclusion; deduction
E.g. If he is guilty, then by inference so is she.

ingenious: clever; having inventive or cunning mind
E.g. Do not certain ingenious philosophers teach this doctrine, and ought not we to be grateful to them?

ingenuous: naive and trusting; young; unsophisticated
E.g. The woodsman had not realized how ingenuous Little Red Riding Hood was until he heard that she had gone off for a walk in the woods with the Big Bad Wolf.

ingratiate: become popular with; make agreeable or acceptable
E.g. He tried to ingratiate himself into her parents' good graces.

inhibit: restrain; prevent or forbid; hold back
E.g. Only two things inhibit him from taking a punch at Mike Tyson: Tyson's left hook, and Tyson's right jab.

innocuous: having no adverse effect; harmless
E.g. An occasional glass of wine with dinner is relatively innocuous and should have no ill effect on you.

innuendo: hint; indirect implication, usually malicious
E.g. Until he engages in innuendo about being supported by "hard-working, white Americans," then he has not said much that should upset fellow Democrats.

inordinate: exceeding reasonable limits; excessive; not regulated; disorderly
E.g. She had an inordinate fondness for candy, eating two or three boxes in a single day.

insatiable: not easily satisfied; impossible to satiate or satisfy; greedy
E.g. If this country has an insatiable need for Mexico's drugs, it's only due to federal negligence in fencing and securing our borders.

inscrutable: impenetrable; not readily understood; mysterious
E.g. Experienced poker players try to keep their expressions inscrutable, hiding their reactions to the cards behind a so-called "poker face."

insidious: spreading harmfully in a subtle manner; designed or adapted to entrap



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

E.g. More insidious is the whole issue of the second amendment.

instigate: goad or urge forward; provoke; incite

E.g. Rumors of police corruption led the mayor to instigate an investigation into the department's activities.

integrity: quality or condition of being whole or undivided; completeness

E.g. Protecting global supply chain integrity is of the utmost importance for manufacturers.

irascible: irritable; easily angered; excited by or arising from anger

E.g. Miss Minchin's irascible temper intimidated the younger schoolgirls, who feared she'd burst into a rage at any moment.

ire: anger; wrath; keen resentment; irritate

E.g. The waiter tried unsuccessfully to placate the ire of the diner who had found a cockroach in her soup.

irksome: causing annoyance, weariness, or vexation; tedious

E.g. He found working on the assembly line irksome because of the monotony of the operation he had to perform.

itinerant: wandering; traveling place to place, especially to perform work or duty

E.g. Since the storm, the city had also been attracting a new kind of itinerant idealist.

jargon: language used by a special group; technical terminology; nonsensical or meaningless talk

E.g. The computer salesmen at the store used a jargon of their own that we simply couldn't follow; we had no idea what they were jabbering about.

jaunty: gay in manner, appearance, or action; easy and carefree

E.g. In *An American in Paris*, Gene Kelly sang and danced his way through "Singing in the Rain" in a properly jaunty style.

jeopardy: exposure to death, loss, or injury; hazard; risk of loss or injury

E.g. Some private developers say the number of projects in jeopardy is much higher.

jettison: throw overboard; eject from boat, submarine, aircraft, or spaceship

E.g. In order to enable the ship to ride safely through the storm, the captain had to jettison much of his cargo.



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

judicious: exhibiting good judgment or sound thinking; prudent

E.g. At a key moment in his life, he made a judicious investment that was the foundation of his later wealth.

ken: understanding; knowledge; range of vision

E.g. I really do not know the reason. It is beyond my ken.

labyrinth: maze; complex structure of interconnecting passages

E.g. You know, Michelle, one thing contributing to this labyrinth is the nation's biggest private employer, Wal-Mart.

lachrymose: weeping or inclined to weep; tearful; showing sorrow

E.g. His voice has a lachrymose quality more appropriate to a funeral than a class reunion.

laconic: brief; effectively cut short; marked by use of few words

E.g. Many of the characters portrayed by Clint Eastwood are laconic types: strong men of few words.

latent: present or potential but not evident or active; dormant; hidden

E.g. Existing arrangements contain latent functions that can be neither seen nor replaced by the reformer.

lavish: liberal; wasteful; excessive spending

E.g. I would fly to Paris and stay in lavish hotels if someone else were paying.

lethal: deadly; causing or capable of causing death

E.g. In a decision the court upheld the use of all three drugs in lethal injections.

longevity: long life; great duration of life; long duration or continuance, as in an occupation

E.g. When he reached ninety, the old man was proud of his longevity.

low: utter sound made by cattle; make a low noise

E.g. From the hilltop, they could see the herd like ants in the distance; they could barely hear the cattle low.

lucid: easily understood; clear; intelligible

E.g. So in lucid moments, you structure your life to serve your own best interest.

ludicrous: laughable; completely devoid of wisdom or good sense



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

E.g. It is ludicrous to call a cottage a mansion.

luminary: celebrity; person who is an inspiration to others; person who has achieved eminence in specific field

E.g. A leading light of the American stage, Ethel Barrymore was a theatrical luminary whose name lives on.

malicious: deliberately harmful; spiteful; proceeding from extreme hatred

E.g. It is just plain malicious software designed to corrupt your device or steal your information.

masquerade: assembly of persons wearing masks, and amusing themselves with dancing, conversation, or other diversions; dramatic performance by actors in masks

E.g. The masquerade is where fans play instruments and perform skits, dance numbers, and stand-up comedy in costume.

maudlin: tearfully sentimental; over-emotional; sickly-sentimental

E.g. One moment he was in maudlin tears and the next he was cracking some miserable joke about the disaster.

meander: follow a winding and turning course; move aimlessly and idly without fixed direction

E.g. Needing to stay close to a source of water, he follows every twist and turn of the streams as they meander through the countryside.

mediocre: moderate to inferior in quality; ordinary; commonplace

E.g. He manages to give solid performances even in mediocre movies.

mercenary: interested in making money; profit oriented; hired for service in foreign army

E.g. South African involvement in mercenary activities was approved in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

meretricious: of or pertaining to prostitutes; tastelessly showy; lustful; deceptive; misleading

E.g. The net result is that both the news columns and the editorial columns are commonly meretricious in a high degree.

meticulous: excessively careful; marked by extreme care in treatment of details

E.g. One neighbor, who usually uses the truck to haul away lawn debris, always returns the truck in meticulous condition.



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

mettle: quality of endurance and courage; good temperament and character

E.g. When challenged by the other horses in the race, the thoroughbred proved its mettle by its determination to hold the lead.

microcosm: small, representative system having analogies to larger system; miniature model of something

E.g. The small village community that Jane Austen depicts serves as a microcosm of English society in her time.

mimic: copy or imitate closely, especially in speech, expression

E.g. Scientists process skin tissue to mimic embryonic stem cells.

misnomer: error in naming person or place; incorrect designation

E.g. His tyrannical conduct proved to all that his nickname, King Eric the Just, was a misnomer.

monologue: speech uttered by a person alone; dramatic soliloquy

E.g. I am not really a big fan of Sarah either but what she said in her opening monologue is true.

morose: ill humored; sullen; depressingly dark; gloomy; persistent

E.g. Though we feel sad at someone's pain and sorrow, feeling morose is difficult while actively wishing the person to be happy.

motley: multi-colored; mixed; having elements of great variety

E.g. He wore a loose tunic and looser trousers, homespun and dyed in motley green and brown.

mottled: spotted with different shades or colors

E.g. When old Falstaff blushed, his face was mottled with embarrassment, all pink and purple and red.

mundane: belonging to this earth or world; not ideal or heavenly; concerned with commonplaces; ordinary

E.g. Unlike other players, the CEO and Secretariat are less interested in mundane benefits than in value.

murky: dark and gloomy; thick with fog; vague

E.g. The murky depths of the swamp were so dark that one couldn't tell the vines and branches from the snakes.



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

myriad: of very large or indefinite number; of ten thousand

E.g. In China, for example, where a number of different dialects are spoken, the same character can be pronounced in myriad ways.

High Score TOEFL Exam Word List 3

High Score TOEFL Exam Word List is usually seen in many websites and is a proven resource for high score hunters. The examword.com re-organized them with new examples and presented in 3 parts.

nautical: relating to ships, sailors, or navigation

E.g. I dressed myself in nautical rig, and went on deck to see all that I could.

nettle: cause annoyance in; disturb, especially by minor irritations; vex

E.g. Do not let him nettle you with his sarcastic remarks.

nocturnal: of or relating to or occurring in the night; most active at night

E.g. They wouldn't rest until the large black snake, which appears to be nocturnal, is no longer free.

noisome: foul-smelling; offensive by arousing disgust; harmful or dangerous

E.g. The noisome atmosphere downwind of the oil refinery not only stank, it damaged the lungs of everyone living in the area.

nostalgia: homesickness; bittersweet longing for things of past.

E.g. We've been there for a couple weeks now and the nostalgia is there, but we are trying to keep everything fresh.

notorious: disreputable; known widely and usually unfavorably; infamous

E.g. They could add a subset of public restrooms around the country where certain notorious events have taken place.

novice: beginner; person new to a field or activity

E.g. To do this appears so abrupt that the novice is apt to make a further effort to finish up the subject.

obdurate: hardened in wrongdoing or wickedness; not giving in to persuasion

E.g. He was obdurate in his refusal to listen to our complaints.



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

oblivious: inattentive or unmindful; lacking all memory; forgetful

E.g. One can even travel to Ben Gurion Airport and remain oblivious to the concrete separation wall.

obsession: compulsive, often unreasonable idea or emotion

E.g. This obsession is aimless and brainless and ends with your oblivion in American politics.

obsolete: no longer useful; outmoded; antiquated

E.g. But the content is very difficult to locate, and often in obsolete video formats.

obviate: bypass requirement or make it unnecessary; get rid of

E.g. I hope this contribution will obviate any need for further collections of funds.

omnipotent: all-powerful; having unlimited or universal power, authority, or force

E.g. The monarch regarded himself as omnipotent and responsible to no one for his acts.

onus: burden or obligation; difficult or disagreeable responsibility or necessity

E.g. The emperor was spared the onus of signing the surrender papers; instead, he relegated the assignment to his generals.

ostensible: put forth or held out as real, actual, or intended; proper or intended to be shown

E.g. Although the ostensible purpose of this expedition is to discover new lands, we are really interested in finding new markets for our products.

ostracize: exclude from community or group; banish by popular vote

E.g. As soon as the newspapers carried the story of his connection with the criminals, his friends began to ostracize him.

panacea: remedy for all diseases, evils, or difficulties; a cure-all

E.g. The rich youth cynically declared that the panacea for all speeding tickets was a big enough bribe.

panegyric: formal or high praise; formal eulogistic composition intended as public compliment

E.g. Blushing at all the praise heaped upon him by the speakers, the modest hero said, "I don't deserve any panegyric."

paradox: something apparently contradictory in nature; statement that looks false but is



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

actually correct

E.g. Richard presents a bit of a paradox, for he is a card-carrying member of both the National Rifle Association and the relatively pacifist American Civil Liberties Union.

parody: work or performance that imitates another work or performance with ridicule or irony; make fun of

E.g. The show Forbidden Broadway presents a parody spoofing the year's new productions playing on Broadway.

peccadillo: slight offense; small sin or fault

E.g. When Peter Piper picked a peck of Polly Potter's pickles, did Pete commit a major crime or just a peccadillo?

pecuniary: relating to money; requiring payment of money

E.g. Seldom earning enough to cover their expenses, folk dance teachers work because they love dancing, not because they expect any pecuniary reward.

pedant: one who is overly concerned with formal rules and trivial points of learning

E.g. Her insistence that the book be memorized marked the teacher as a pedant rather than a scholar.

pensive: deeply, often dreamily thoughtful; engaged in serious thought or reflection; contemplative

E.g. The pensive lover gazed at the portrait of his beloved and deeply sighed.

peremptory: offensively self-assured; dictatorial; not allowing contradiction or refusal

E.g. From Jack's peremptory knock on the door, Jill could tell he would not give up until she let him in.

pertinacious: stubbornly or perversely persistent; unyielding; obstinate

E.g. He is bound to succeed because his pertinacious nature will not permit him to quit.

peruse: read or examine, typically with great care

E.g. After the conflagration that burned down her house, Joan closely began to peruse her home insurance policy to discover exactly what benefits her coverage provided her.

perverse: stubbornly wrongheaded; directed away from what is right or good

E.g. When Jack was in a perverse mood, he would do the opposite of whatever Jill asked him.

petrify: convert wood or other organic matter into stony replica; cause to become stiff or



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

stonelike

E.g. His sudden and unexpected appearance seemed to petrify her.

platitude: dullness; insipidity of thought; commonplace statement; lack of originality

E.g. In giving advice to his son, old Polonius expressed himself only in same platitude; every word out of his mouth was a commonplace.

plebeian: crude or coarse; unrefined or coarse in nature or manner; common or vulgar

E.g. After five weeks of rigorous studying, the graduate settled in for a weekend of plebeian socializing and television watching.

ponderous: slow and laborious because of weight; labored and dull

E.g. His humor lacked the light touch; his jokes were always ponderous.

precarious: uncertain; risky; dangerously lacking in security or stability

E.g. But that is why NASA used test pilots, men used to handling life and death decisions in precarious situations and instantly making the right choice.

precipitous: extremely steep; descending rapidly, or rushing onward

E.g. This hill is difficult to climb because it is so precipitous.

precocious: advanced in development; appearing or developing early

E.g. Listening to the grown-up way the child discussed serious topics, we couldn't help remarking how precocious she was.

predatory: living by preying on other animals

E.g. Every few seconds the bait fish were flying out of the water from attacks by predatory fish.

predilection: condition of favoring or liking; tendency towards; preference

E.g. Although I have written all sorts of poetry over the years, I have a definite predilection for occasional verse.

prelude: introduction; forerunner; preliminary or preface

E.g. I am afraid that this border raid is the prelude to more serious attacks.

prerogative: privilege; unquestionable right; exclusive power to command

E.g. For the sake of policy and representativeness, we need a constitutional amendment to remove this prerogative from the president.

prestige: impression produced by achievements or reputation; recognized distinction or



High Score TOEFL Exam Word List

importance

E.g. What they are doing to our military, our treasury, our power, and our prestige is an unconscionable national betrayal.

presumption: act of presuming, or believing upon probable evidence; act of assuming; belief upon incomplete proof

E.g. And the poor old stick used to cry out 'Oh you villains childs!' -- and then we sermonized her on the presumption of attempting to teach such clever blades as we were, when she was herself so ignorant.

prevaricate: lie; stray from or evade truth; behave in evasive way such as to delay action

E.g. Some people believe that to prevaricate in a good cause is justifiable and regard such a statement as a "white lie."

procrastinate: postpone or delay needlessly; put off doing something, especially out of habitual carelessness or laziness

E.g. Looking at four years of receipts and checks he still had to sort through, Bob was truly sorry to procrastinate for so long and not finished filing his taxes long ago.

promontory: natural elevation, especially a rock that projects into the sea; cliff; headland; high cape

E.g. They erected a lighthouse on the promontory to warn approaching ships of their nearness to the shore.

promulgate: proclaim doctrine or law; make known by official publication

E.g. During an interview with ABC News, Barack Obama said Republican attempted to promulgate, falsely, his Muslim connections.

provisional: temporary; provided for present need only

E.g. Polanski is in provisional detention in Switzerland.

proximity: state of being proximate; nearness in place, time, or relation

E.g. Blind people sometimes develop a compensatory ability to sense the proximity of objects around them.

pseudonym: pen name; fictitious name used when someone performs a particular social role

E.g. Samuel Clemens' pseudonym was Mark Twain.

punitive: punishing; involving punishment; awarding or inflicting punishment

E.g. He asked for punitive measures against the offender.



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querulous: habitually complaining; expressing complaint or grievance

E.g. Even the most agreeable toddlers can begin to act querulous if they miss their nap.

quixotic: idealistic without regard to practicality

E.g. Constantly coming up with quixotic, unworkable schemes to save the world, Simon has his heart in the right place, but his head somewhere in the clouds.

raconteur: storyteller; one who tells stories and anecdotes with skill and wit

E.g. My father was a gifted raconteur with an unlimited supply of anecdotes.

radical: drastic; extreme; arising from or going to a root or source; basic

E.g. President Correa has shown he is determined to follow a radical program of reforms to tackle poverty in Ecuador.

ramification: act or process of branching out or dividing into branches; subdivision or branch

E.g. We must examine every ramification of this problem.

raze: destroy completely; scrape or shave off

E.g. Spelling is important: to raise a building is to put it up; to raze a building is to tear it down.

recapitulate: summarize; repeat in concise form

E.g. Let us recapitulate what has been said thus far before going ahead.

reciprocal: concerning each of two or more persons or things; exchangeable; interacting

E.g. The two nations signed a reciprocal trade agreement.

recumbent: reclining; lying down completely or in part

E.g. The command "AT EASE" does not permit you to take a recumbent position.

redolent: fragrant; odorous; suggestive of odor

E.g. Even though it is February, the air is redolent of spring.

redoubtable: formidable; arousing fear or awe; worthy of respect or honor

E.g. During the Cold War period, neighboring countries tried not to offend the Russians because they could be redoubtable foes.

refute: disprove; prove to be false or incorrect

E.g. The defense called several respectable witnesses who were able to refute the false



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testimony of the prosecution's sole witness.

reiterate: say, state, or perform again or repeatedly

E.g. He will reiterate the warning to make sure everyone understood it.

remunerative: compensating; rewarding; profitable or paying

E.g. I find my new work so remunerative that I may not return to my previous employment.

renegade: disloyal person; traitor or rebel

E.g. Because he had abandoned his post and joined forces with the Indians, his fellow officers considered the hero of Dances with Wolves a renegade.

reprisal: action taken in return for injury or offense

E.g. Villagers have reported that thousands of homes have been burned to the ground in reprisal attacks mainly by the FDLR.

resentment: indignation; deep sense of injury; strong displeasure

E.g. That Gerry finally has let go of his resentment is an enormous relief to me.

resilient: elastic; having power of springing back or recover readily

E.g. Based on its highly resilient, the steel is good to make excellent bedsprings.

respite: usually short interval of rest or relief; delay in punishment

E.g. For David, the two weeks vacationing in New Zealand were a delightful respite from the pressures of his job.

retribution: something justly deserved; recompense; compensation; punishment for offenses

E.g. A robber whom a jury sentences to 10 years in retribution said something misled them.

retrieve: recover; find and bring in; get back

E.g. They say the more they talk to these detainees, the more tips and evidence they retrieve from the area.

rudimentary: relating to basic facts or principles; being in the earliest stages of development; incipient

E.g. One teacher is assigned for four years to the homeroom class, which combines lessons in rudimentary social skills with those in computer and civics.



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rue: feel regret, remorse, or sorrow for; mourn

E.g. Tina seemed to rue the night she met Tony and wondered how she ever fell for such a jerk.

sacrosanct: regarded as sacred and inviolable

E.g. The brash insurance salesman invaded the sacrosanct privacy of the office of the president of the company.

sagacious: perceptive; shrewd; having insight

E.g. My father was a sagacious judge of character: he could spot a phony a mile away.

sanctimonious: excessively or hypocritically pious; possessing sanctity; sacred; holy; saintly; religious

E.g. What we need to do is not fool ourselves and remain sanctimonious about the issue of doping in baseball.

sanguine: cheerfully confident; optimistic; of healthy reddish color; ruddy

E.g. Let us not be too sanguine about the outcome; something could go wrong.

sartorial: relating to a tailor, tailoring, or tailored clothing

E.g. He was as famous for the sartorial splendor of his attire as he was for his acting.

satellite: small body revolving around a larger one; subordinate

E.g. U.S. officials say the satellite is a cover for Pyongyang's efforts to perfect missile technology.

scourge: whip used to inflict punishment; severe punishment

E.g. They feared the plague and regarded it as a deadly scourge.

scrutinize: examine closely and critically

E.g. Searching for flaws, the sergeant wanted to scrutinize every detail of the private's uniform.

simper: smirk; smile in artificial way to make an impression

E.g. Complimented on her appearance, Stella had to self-consciously simper.

sinecure: well-paid position with little responsibility

E.g. My job is no sinecure; I work long hours and have much responsibility.

sinister: suggesting or threatening evil

E.g. In sudden panic, she's convinced someone sinister is trying to push her from the train.



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slovenly: untidy; careless in work habits

E.g. Unshaven, sitting around in his bathrobe all afternoon, Gus didn't seem to care about the slovenly appearance he presented.

soporific: sleep-causing; marked by sleepiness

E.g. Professor Pringle's lectures were so soporific that even he fell asleep in class.

sordid: filthy; unethical or dishonest; dirty; foul; morally degraded

E.g. Many of these files contain sordid details about the personal lives of the litigants.

sovereign: having supreme rank or power; self governing; excellent; independent

E.g. Belarus, Albania, the Ukraine also have sovereign currencies, not using euro, they also have crashed.

sporadic: occurring at irregular intervals; having no pattern or order in time

E.g. Although you can still hear sporadic outbursts of laughter and singing outside, the big Halloween parade has passed; the party's over till next year.

spurn: reject disdainfully or contemptuously; scorn

E.g. The heroine had to spurn the villain's advances.

stoic: one who is seemingly indifferent to or unaffected by joy, grief, pleasure, or pain

E.g. I wasn't particularly stoic when I had my flu shot; I squealed like a stuck pig.

stringent: demanding strict attention to rules and procedures; binding; rigid

E.g. I think these regulations are too stringent.

stupendous: astonishing; wonderful; amazing, especially, astonishing in magnitude or elevation

E.g. The lads came back and went at their sports again with a will, chattering all the time about Tom's stupendous plan and admiring the genius of it.

succulent: full of juicy; full of richness; highly interesting or enjoyable; delectable

E.g. Beyond, the blue smoke of the sugar house curled into the bluer skies, and the odor of the kettles reached in succulent deliciousness far and wide.

sultry: burning hot; extremely and unpleasantly hot

E.g. He could not adjust himself to the sultry climate of the tropics.

tangible: able to be touched; real or concrete; palpable



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E.g. It'll take awhile before GM's new direction shows up in tangible new products at the dealership.

tantamount: equivalent in effect or value

E.g. Though Rudy claimed his wife was off visiting friends, his shriek of horror when she walked into the room was tantamount to a confession that he believed she was dead.

taunt: reproach in a mocking, insulting, or contemptuous manner; make fun of, often in an aggressive manner

E.g. Perhaps later tonight I will dream up something else to taunt you.

temerity: boldness; rashness; foolhardy disregard of danger

E.g. Do you have the temerity to argue with me?

temporal: not lasting forever; limited by time; secular or civil; of material world; worldly

E.g. By passing both laws in temporal proximity to one another, Arizona has revealed itself to have great anxiety not merely about illegal immigration in this nation, but about diversity itself.

temporize: act evasively in order to gain time, avoid argument, or postpone a decision

E.g. I cannot permit you to temporize any longer; I must have a definite answer today.

tenet: opinion, doctrine, or principle held as being true by person or organization

E.g. The agnostic did not accept the any tenet of their faith.

tenuous: long and thin; slender; having little substance

E.g. The allegiance of our allies is held by rather tenuous ties.

tranquil: free from disturbance; pacific

E.g. Though I look comfortably accommodated, I am not very tranquil in my mind.

transgress: pass over or beyond; surpass

E.g. You may transgress this programming if the circumstances are right.

tremulous: marked by trembling, quivering, or shaking; timid or fearful; timorous

E.g. She was tremulous more from excitement than from fear.

trivial: unimportant; of little significance or value; ordinary; commonplace

E.g. Mr Madhi escaped from Iran in February 2008 after being sentenced to 73 years in jail for what he described as a trivial charge.



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truculent: disposed to fight; belligerent; aggressively hostile

E.g. The bully was initially truculent but eventually stopped picking fights at the least provocation.

turgid: swollen; distended; excessively ornate or complex in style or language

E.g. The turgid river threatened to overflow the levees and flood the countryside.

ubiquitous: being or existing everywhere; omnipresent

E.g. That Christmas "The Little Drummer Boy" seemed ubiquitous; David heard the tune everywhere.

untenable: indefensible; not able to be maintained

E.g. Wayne is so contrary that, the more untenable a position is, the harder he'll try to defend it.

utilitarian: practical and functional, not just for show

E.g. Do not forget those utilitarian steel tables when moving.

vanquish: conquer; overcome; come out better in a competition

E.g. The time it takes to vanquish is greatly increased by lots of unnecessary backtracking.

vener: thin layer; coating consisting of thin layer; ornamental coating to a building

E.g. Casual acquaintances were deceived by his veneer of sophistication and failed to recognize his fundamental shallowness.

venerable: deserving high respect; impressive by reason of age; profoundly honored

E.g. We do not mean to be disrespectful when we refuse to follow the advice of our venerable leader.

vernal: related to spring; suggestive of youth; vigorous and fresh

E.g. Bea basked in the balmy vernal breezes, happy that winter was coming to an end.

versatile: having many talents; capable of working in many fields

E.g. She was a versatile athlete, especially in basketball, hockey, and track.

vicarious: acting as substitute; done by deputy; experienced at secondhand

E.g. Many people get a vicarious thrill at the movies by imagining they are the characters on the screen.

waive: give up temporarily; yield; give up voluntarily; defer



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E.g. If they can waive the fees for all charities, we think the others could lower their charges.

whim: sudden turn or start of mind; temporary eccentricity; fancy; capricious notion
E.g. We shouldn't be changing our constitution to suit a short-term whim or agenda.

writhe: move in twisting or contorted motion; contort in pain
E.g. In Dances with Snakes, the snake dancer wriggled sinuously and made her boa constrictor writhe around her torso.

zealous: enthusiastic; filled with or motivated by zeal
E.g. The company will offer you the most reliable price and satisfied service with its most zealous and most professional service.

zenith: point directly overhead in sky; summit
E.g. When the sun was at its zenith, the glare was not as strong as at sunrise and sunset.

