

The 4000 Words Essential for an Educated Vocabulary

40000

VOCABULARY

Word Analysis section

Idiom and Usage section

Great for the SAT, GRE and other entrance exams

200 Prefixes , Roots , and Suffixes

concise , practical definitions

In this age of mass

communication, people

often know us by the words we use--make

sure you know the right words!

All words you need
for success in business,
college , and life .

GM Dahar

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About This Book

English offers perhaps the richest vocabulary of all languages, in part because its words are culled from so many languages. It is a shame that we do not tap this rich source more often in our daily conversation to express ourselves more clearly and precisely.

There are of course thesauruses but they mainly list common words. Other vocabulary books list difficult, esoteric words that we quickly forget or feel self-conscious using. However, there is a bounty of choice words between the common and the esoteric that often seem to be just on the tip of our tongue. Vocabulary 4000 brings these words to the fore.

Whenever possible, one-word definitions are used. Although this makes a definition less precise, it also makes it easier to remember. Many common words appear in the list of words, but with their less common meanings. For example, the common meaning of *champion* is “winner.” A less common meaning for *champion* is to support or fight for someone else. (Think of the phrase “to champion a cause.”) This is the meaning that would be used in the list.

As you read through the list of words, mark any that you do not know with a check mark. Then when you read through the list again, mark any that you do not remember with two checks. Continue in this manner until you have learned the words.

There are four types of quizzes interspersed in the word list: Matching, Antonyms, Analogies, and Sentence Completions. The Matching quizzes, review words that were just introduced. All the other quizzes contain words from any part of the list.

THE WORDS

A

a cappella	without accompaniment	abominable	detestable
à la carte	priced separately	aboriginal	indigenous, native
a priori	reasoning based on general principles	abortive	unsuccessful
aback	unexpected, surprised	abound	be plentiful
abacus	counting device	abreast	side-by-side
abandon	desert, forsake	abridge	shorten
abase	degrade	abroad	overseas
abash	humiliate, embarrass	abrogate	cancel
abate	lessen, subside	abrupt	ending suddenly
abatement	Alleviation	abscess	infected and inflamed tissue
abbey	Monastery	abscond	to run away (secretly)
abbreviate	Shorten	absolve	acquit, free from blame
abdicate	relinquish power or position	abstain	refrain
abdomen	Belly	abstract	theoretical, intangible
abduct	Kidnap	abstruse	difficult to understand
aberrant	Abnormal	abut	touch, border on
abet	aid, encourage (typically of crime)	abysmal	deficient, sub par
abeyance	Postponement	abyss	chasm
abhor	detest	academy	school
abide	submit, endure	accede	yield, agree
abject	Wretched	accentuate	emphasize
abjure	Renounce	accession	attainment of rank
ablate	cut away	accessory	attachment, accomplice
ablution	Cleansing	acclaim	recognition, fame
abode	Home	acclimate	accustom oneself to a climate, adjust
abolish	annul, eliminate	acclivity	ascent, incline
		accolade	applause, tribute
		accommodate	adapt, assist, house

accomplice	one who aids a lawbreaker	adduce	offer as example
accord	agreement	adept	skillful
accost	to approach and speak to someone aggressively	adhere	stick to
accouter	equip, clothe	adherent	supporter
accredit	authorize	adieu	farewell
accrete	grow larger	adipose	fatty
accrue	accumulate	adjacent	next to
accumulate	amass	adjourn	suspend, discontinue
acerbic	caustic, bitter (of speech)	adjudicate	judge
acme	summit, zenith	adjunct	addition
acolyte	assistant (usually to clergy)	administer	manage
acoustic	pertaining to sound	admissible	allowable
acquaint	familiarize	admonish	warn gently
acquiesce	agree passively	ado	fuss, commotion
acquit	free from blame	Adonis	a beautiful man
acrid	pungent, caustic, choking	adroit	skillful
acrimonious	caustic, resentful	adulation	applause, worship
acrophobia	fear of heights	adulterate	contaminate, corrupt
actuate	induce, start	adumbration	overshadow
acumen	insight	advent	arrival of something important
acute	sharp, intense	adventitious	accidental, extrinsic
ad nauseam	to a ridiculous degree	adversary	opponent
ad-lib	improvise	adverse	unfavorable, opposing
adage	proverb	adversity	hardship
adamant	insistent	advise	give counsel
adapt	adjust to changing conditions	advocate	urge, support
adaptable	pliable	aegis	that which protects, sponsorship
addendum	appendix, supplement	aerial	pertaining to the air
		aerobics	exercise

Quiz 1 (Matching)

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Answers are on page 101.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. ABASE | A. applause |
| 2. ABSTAIN | B. caustic |
| 3. ACOLYTE | C. shorten |
| 4. ABEYANCE | D. applause |
| 5. ABRIDGE | E. assistant |
| 6. ACCOLADE | F. postponement |
| 7. ACRIMONIOUS | G. refrain |
| 8. ADDUCE | H. exercise |
| 9. ADULATION | I. degrade |
| 10. AEROBICS | J. offer as example |

aesthetic pleasing to the senses, beautiful

affable friendly

affect influence

affectation pretense, showing off

affidavit sworn written statement

affiliate associate

affiliation connection, association

affinity fondness

affix fasten

affliction illness

affluent abundant, wealthy

affray brawl

affront insult

aficionado devotee, ardent follower

afoul entangled, in trouble

aft rear

aftermath consequence

agape wonder

agenda plan, timetable

agent provocateur agitator

aggrandize exaggerate

aggravate worsen

aggregate total, collect

aggressor attacker

aggrieve mistreat

aggrieved unjustly injured

aghost horrified

agile nimble

agitate stir up

agnate related on the father's side

agnostic not knowing whether God exists

agrarian pertaining to farming

agronomy science of crop production

air discuss, broadcast

airs pretension

akimbo with hands on hips

akin related

al fresco outdoors

alacrity	swiftness	amass	collect
albatross	large sea bird	ambient	surrounding, environment
albino	lacking pigmentation	ambiguous	unclear
alcove	recess, niche	ambivalence	conflicting emotions
alias	assumed name	ambulatory	able to walk
alibi	excuse	ameliorate	improve
alienate	estrangle, antagonize	amenable	agreeable
alight	land, descend, to happen to find a place to rest	amend	correct
allay	to reassure	amenities	courtesies, comforts
allege	assert without proof	amenity	pleasantness
allegiance	loyalty	amiable	friendly
allegory	fable	amid	among
allegro	fast	amiss	wrong, out of place
alleviate	lessen, assuage	amity	friendship, good will
alliteration	repetition of the same sound	amnesty	pardon
allocate	distribute	amoral	without morals
allot	allocate, ration	amorous	loving, sexual
allude	refer to indirectly	amorphous	shapeless
ally	unite for a purpose	amortize	pay by installments
almanac	calendar with additional information	amphibious	able to operate in water and land
alms	charity	amphitheater	oval-shaped theater
aloof	arrogant, detached	amuck	murderous frenzy
altercation	argument	amulet	charm, talisman
altitude	height	amuse	entertain
alto	low female voice	anachronistic	out of historical order
altruism	benevolence, generosity	anaerobic	without oxygen
amalgamation	mixture	anagram	a word formed by rearranging the letters of another word
		analgesic	pain-soother

Quiz 2 (Antonyms)

Directions: Choose the word most opposite in meaning to the capitalized word. Answers are on page 101.

1. GRATUITOUS: (A) voluntary (B) arduous (C) solicitous
(D) righteous (E) befitting
2. FALLOW: (A) fatuous (B) productive (C) bountiful
(D) pertinacious (E) opprobrious
3. METTLE: (A) ad hoc (B) perdition (C) woe (D) trepidation
(E) apathy
4. SAVANT: (A) dolt (B) sage (C) attaché (D) apropos comment
(E) state of confusion
5. RIFE: (A) multitudinous (B) blemished (C) sturdy
(D) counterfeit (E) sparse
6. ABRIDGE: (A) distend (B) assail (C) unfetter (D) enfeeble
(E) prove
7. PRODIGAL: (A) bountiful (B) dependent (C) provident
(D) superfluous (E) profligate
8. REQUIEM: (A) humility (B) prerequisite (C) resolution
(D) reign (E) hiatus
9. METE: (A) indict (B) convoke (C) hamper (D) disseminate
(E) deviate
10. SEVERANCE: (A) continuation (B) dichotomy (C) astringency
(D) disclosure (E) remonstrance

analogous similar

analogy point by point comparison

anarchist terrorist, nihilist

anarchy absence of government, chaos

anathema curse, abomination

anecdote story

aneurysm bulging in a blood vessel

angst anxiety, dread

animadversion critical remark

animated exuberant

animosity dislike

animus hate

annals historical records

annex to attach, to take possession of

annihilate destroy

annotate to add explanatory notes

annul cancel	apocryphal of doubtful authenticity
annular ring-shaped	apoplexy stroke
anodyne pain soothing	apostate one who abandons one's faith
anoint consecrate, apply ointment	apotheosis deification
anomalous abnormal	appall horrify
anonymity state of being anonymous	apparition phantom
antagonistic hostile antagonize	appease pacify
harass antechamber waiting room	appellation title
antediluvian ancient, obsolete	append affix apposite
anthology collection	apt
anthrax disease, bacterium	apprehensive anxious, worried
antic caper, prank	apprise inform
antipathy repulsion, hated	approbation approval
antipodal exactly opposite	apropos appropriate
antiquated outdated, obsolete	apt suitable
antiquity ancient times	aptitude ability
antithesis direct opposite	aquatic pertaining to water
apartheid racial segregation	arbiter judge
apathetic unconcerned, uninterested	arbitrament final judgment
apathy indifference	arbitrary tyrannical, capricious
ape mimic aperture	arcane secret, difficult to understand
opening	archaic antiquated
apex highest point	archetype original model, epitome
aphasia speechless	archipelago group of island
aphorism maxim	archives public records
aplomb poise	ardent passionate
apocalyptic ominous, doomed	ardor passion
	arduous hard

argonauts gold-seekers, adventurers	aspirant contestant
argot specialized vocabulary, jargon	aspiration ambition
aria operatic song	assail attack
arid dry, dull	assassin murderer
aristocrat nobleman	assent agree
armada fleet of ships	assert affirm
armistice truce	assess appraise
arraign indict	assiduous hard-working
array arrangement	assimilate absorb, integrate
arrears in debt	assonance partial rhyme
arrogate seize without right	assuage lessen (pain)
arroyo gully	astral pertaining to stars
arsenal supply, stockpile of weapons	astrigent causing contraction, severe
artful skillful, cunning	astute wise
articulate well-spoken	asunder apart, into separate parts
artifice trick	asylum place of refuge
artless naive, simple	asymmetric uneven
ascend rise	atavistic exhibiting the characteristics of one's forebears
ascendancy powerful state	atelier workshop
ascertain discover	atoll reef
ascetic self-denying	atomize vaporize
ascribe to attribute	atone make amends
aseptic sterile	atrophy the wasting away of muscle
ashen pale	attenuate weaken, assuage
asinine stupid	attest testify
askance to view with suspicion	attire dress
askew crooked	attribute ascribe
aspersion slander	attrition deterioration, reduction
asphyxiate suffocate	

Quiz 3 (Matching)

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column.
Answers are on page 101.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. ANATHEMA | A. hard |
| 2. ANNIHILATE | B. curse |
| 3. ANOMALOUS | C. gully |
| 4. APATHETIC | D. suffocate |
| 5. ARCHAIC | E. antiquated |
| 6. ARDUOUS | F. destroy |
| 7. ARROYO | G. abnormal |
| 8. ASPHYXIATE | H. unconcerned |
| 9. ASTRINGENT | I. make amends |
| 10. ATONE | J. causing contraction |

atypical abnormal**au courant** well informed, chic**audacity** boldness**audient** listening, attentive**audition** tryout**augment** increase, supplement**augur** predict**august** noble, majestic**aura** atmosphere, emanation**auspices** patronage, protection**auspicious** favorable**austere** harsh, Spartan**authorize** grant, sanction**automaton** robot**autonomous** self-governing**auxiliary** secondary, supportive**avail** assistance**avant garde** vanguard**avarice** greed**avatar** incarnation**averse** loath, reluctant**avert** turn away**avian** pertaining to birds**avid** enthusiastic**avocation** hobby**avouch** attest, guarantee**avow** declare**avuncular** like an uncle**awry** crooked**axiom** self-evident truth**aye** affirmative vote**azure** sky blue**B****babbitt** smugness**bacchanal** orgy, drunken celebration**badger** pester**badinage** banter**bagatelle** nonentity, trifle

bailiwick area of concern or business

baleen whalebone

baleful hostile, malignant

balk hesitate

balky hesitant

ballad song

ballast counterbalance

ballistics study of projectiles

balm soothing ointment **banal**
trite

bandy exchange **bane**
poison, nuisance

barbarian savage **bard**
poet

baroque ornate

barrister lawyer

bask take pleasure in, sun

basso low male voice

bastion fort

bathos sentimentality

batten fasten, board up

battery physical attack

bauble trinket **beatify**
sanctify

beatitude state of bliss

beckon lure **becoming**

proper **bedlam** uproar

be fit to be suitable

beget produce, procreate

begrudge resent, envy

beguile deceive, seduce

beheemoth monster **behest**

command **beholden** in

debt, obliged

belabor assail verbally, dwell on

belated delayed, overdue

beleaguer besiege

belfry bell tower

belie misrepresent, disprove

belittle disparage **bellicose**

warlike **belligerent**

combative **bellow** shout

bellwether leader, guide

bemoan lament **bemused**

bewildered **benchmark**

standard **benediction**

blessing **benefactor**

patron **benevolent** kind

benign harmless

bent determined

bequeath will

bequest gift, endowment

berate scold

bereave to rob, to deprive somebody of
a love one, especially through death

Quiz 4 (Antonyms)

Directions: Choose the word most opposite in meaning to the capitalized word.
Answers are on page 101.

1. HYPOCRITICAL: (A) forthright (B) judicious (C) circumspect
(D) puritanical (E) unorthodox
2. VOLUMINOUS: (A) obscure (B) cantankerous (C) unsubstantial
(D) tenacious (E) opprobrious
3. FANATICISM: (A) delusion (B) fascism (C) remorse
(D) cynicism (E) indifference
4. INTERMINABLE: (A) finite (B) jejune (C) tranquil
(D) incessant (E) imprudent
5. ORNATE: (A) Spartan (B) blemished (C) sturdy
(D) counterfeit (E) temporary
6. MUTABILITY: (A) simplicity (B) apprehension (C) frailty
(D) maverick (E) tenacity
7. VIRULENT: (A) benign (B) intrepid (C) malignant
(D) hyperbolic (E) tentative
8. ABSTEMIOUS: (A) timely (B) immoderate (C) bellicose
(D) servile (E) irreligious
9. VERBOSE: (A) subliminal (B) myopic (C) pithy
(D) dauntless (E) ubiquitous
10. VISCID: (A) subtle (B) faint (C) slick (D) vicious
(E) difficult

bereft deprived of

berserk crazed with anger

beseech implore, beg

beset harass, encircle

besiege beleaguer, surround

besmirch slander, sully

bespeak attest

bestial beast-like, brutal

bestow offer, grant

betrothed engaged

bevy group

bibliography list of sources of information

bicameral having two legislative branches

bicker quarrel

biennial occurring every two years

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