

## ONE THOUSAND USEFUL WORDS

The following list consists mainly of words that 40 to 60 % of a sampling of college freshmen missed on a vocabulary survey made by the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey. The list is intended to provide you with a means of judging your own vocabulary development. These one thousand words have to be used to be useful.

<b>A</b>			
abase	aloof	arrears	bandy
abate	amass	articulate	bayou
abdicate	ambiguous	artifice	beatitude
aborigines	ambush	ascendancy	belles-lettres
abscond	ameliorate	ascertain	benediction
absolve	amiable	aspect	benefactor
abstract	amnesty	assay	beneficence
abstruse	amulet	assent	beset
abut	anachronism	assert	bestial
access	analogy	assessment	bestow
accessory	anarchy	assiduity	bestride
accredit	anatomy	assumption	bewitch
accrue	animate	astral	bicker
acquiesce	animosity	astute	bide
acrimony	annals	atheism	biennial
adjacent	anneal	athwart	bigot
adjudge	anomaly	atoll	bland
adjunct	anthology	atrophy	blasphemy
admonish	antipathy	attest	blazon
adroit	antipodes	attire	blithe
adulation	apathy	audacious	bluster
advocate	apoplexy	audible	bondage
affable	apostasy	augment	botch
affinity	apostle	auspices	bounty
affluence	apothecary	auspicious	bourgeois
aggrandize	appall	austerity	brandish
agility	appease	authoritative	breech
agnosticism	apportion	autocratic	brigand
agrarian	apposite	autonomy	broach
alacrity	appropriation	auxiliary	browbeat
alibi	arabesque	avarice	browse
alimentary	arable	avoirdufois	bruit
allay	archeology	avow	brusque
allegory	archaic	awry	buffoon
allocate	archipelago		bullion
allot	archives	<b>B</b>	bureaucracy
allude	arduous	badger	burlesque
ally	armament	ballad	burnish
	array	balm	butte

**C**

caliber  
 caliph  
 calumny  
 candid  
 canter  
 canvass  
 capital  
 capitol  
 capitulate  
 caprice  
 captivate  
 careen  
 caret  
 carnage  
 carnivorous  
 carp  
 carrion  
 cataclysm  
 cathartic  
 censure  
 centrifugal  
 chaff  
 chamberlain  
 chaste  
 chattel  
 chide  
 chilblain  
 chronic  
 chronicle  
 circumspect  
 citadel  
 civility  
 clack  
 claret  
 clime  
 coerce  
 coffer  
 cogent  
 cogitation  
 cognate  
 cognizant  
 collate  
 collocation  
 colloquial

colloquy  
 collusion  
 commensurate  
 commissary  
 commodious  
 commute  
 compassion  
 complaisance  
 compulsory  
 concatenation  
 concave  
 conclave  
 concur  
 condescend  
 condolence  
 configuration  
 congeal  
 congenital  
 congruent  
 conifer  
 conjecture  
 connote  
 connubial  
 conscience  
 conscript  
 conservative  
 consign  
 consort  
 constellation  
 consternation  
 constrict  
 consul  
 contagion  
 contemp  
 contemplate  
 continuity  
 contingent  
 contumely  
 conundrum  
 convex  
 convivial  
 convoke  
 convolution  
 copious  
 corollary  
 corona

corporeal  
 correlate  
 corroborate  
 couplet  
 covert  
 cower  
 cozen  
 crabbed  
 crag  
 credible  
 credulity  
 creed  
 crescent  
 crimp  
 crony  
 crusade  
 crux  
 cudgel  
 cult  
 currency  
 curry  
 cursory  
 curtail

**D**

dank  
 dearth  
 debase  
 debility  
 debit  
 decadence  
 decant  
 declaim  
 declivity  
 decrease  
 decrepit  
 deduction  
 defection  
 deference  
 defile  
 definitive  
 degrade  
 deliberate  
 delta  
 demeanor

denomination  
 denote  
 denude  
 deplore  
 deposition  
 deprecate  
 depreciate  
 descant  
 desecrate  
 desist  
 despondent  
 destitute  
 desultory  
 determinate  
 devoid  
 dictum  
 digress  
 dilate  
 dilemma  
 diligent  
 diocese  
 diphthong  
 discompose  
 disconsolate  
 discountenance  
 discredit  
 discursive  
 disdain  
 disparage  
 disparity  
 dispense  
 disquisition  
 disseminate  
 dissenter  
 dissertation  
 dissipate  
 dissonant  
 diurnal  
 diverge  
 divers  
 diversion  
 divest  
 docile  
 doggerel  
 dogmatic  
 dolor

dolt  
domineer  
dormant  
dreg  
drone  
dross  
dubious  
dulcet  
dupe  
duplicity  
duress  
dynasty

### E

ebullition  
ecclesiastical  
edifice  
educate  
efficacy  
effluence  
effrontery  
elegy  
elixir  
elocution  
emanate  
embellish  
emendation  
emulate  
enfranchise  
engender  
enmity  
ennui  
ensconce  
ensign  
entity  
enunciate  
environ  
epic  
epigram  
epilogue  
epithet  
epoch  
equestrian  
equinox  
ergo

erudite  
escarpment  
eschew  
esoteric  
ethereal  
ethnology  
etude  
etymology  
eulogy  
euphony  
evangelist  
eventual  
evinced  
evoke  
evolve  
exchequer  
excise  
exodus  
exorcist  
expatiate  
expectorate  
expedient  
explicit  
expound  
expunge  
extant  
extol  
extort  
extradite  
extraneous  
extricate  
extrinsic

### F

fabricate  
facetious  
facile  
faculty  
fallacy  
fastidious  
feasible  
felicity  
ferret  
fervent

fetid  
fettle  
fief  
fiend  
fiord  
flabby  
flaccid  
flagrant  
flail  
flaunt  
fledge  
florid  
flout  
foible  
font  
forensic  
foreshadow  
forgo  
formidable  
fortitude  
fortnight  
fortuitous  
foursquare  
fraudulent  
fray  
freeholder  
frizzle  
frugal

### G

galaxy  
gallant  
gambol  
garble  
garrulous  
gauntlet  
gear  
generate  
ghoul  
gibe  
girt  
glib  
goad  
gradient  
grandee

gratuitous  
gregarious  
gripe  
grist  
grub  
grueling  
guild  
gull  
gut

### H

hale  
hallow  
hallucination  
harbinger  
hardihood  
headlong  
hearth  
heinous  
herbivorous  
heresy  
heritage  
heyday  
hoax  
hobgoblin  
homily  
horticulture  
hostile  
humbug  
humdrum  
hurtle  
husbandry  
hydrophobia  
hyperbole

### I

identify  
idiom  
idyl  
ignoble  
illicit  
illusion  
imbibe  
impalpable

impeach  
impede  
impel  
imperative  
impertinent  
implicit  
imply  
importune  
impugn  
inaugurate  
incendiary  
incidence  
increment  
indigent  
indignant  
induct  
induction  
indulgence  
ineffable  
inert  
inevitable  
infer  
infernal  
infidel  
infinity  
infirm  
inherent  
initiate  
innate  
insinuate  
insolvent  
instantaneous  
insular  
insurrection  
intangible  
interdict  
interim  
interminable  
interpolate  
interregnum  
intimidate  
intrepid  
intricate  
intrigue  
intrinsic  
intuition

inveigle  
investiture  
investment  
inveterate  
invidious  
irony  
isthmus  
italics  
iterate  
itinerant

### J-K

jargon  
jaundice  
jetty  
jubilee  
kaleidoscope

### L

lachrymal  
laity  
lampoon  
languid  
latent  
latitude  
leech  
levy  
lexicon  
liability  
libretto  
liege  
litany  
literal  
lithe  
litigation  
liturgy  
livid  
longitude  
lucid  
lucre  
luxuriant  
lymph

### M

manifest  
mannerism  
matting  
maw  
maxim  
mayoralty  
menial  
mesa  
metaphor  
mete  
mettle  
microcosm  
mien  
militant  
missal  
monetary  
mortar  
mosque  
mummery  
muting  
myriad

### N

naiad  
nativity  
node  
nonplus  
nosegay  
notation  
nurture  
nutrition

### O

obeisance  
oblation  
obscure  
obsolescence  
obtrude  
odious  
officious  
ogre  
oligarchy  
omen

ominous  
omnivorous  
onerous  
oppress  
opulence  
oracular  
oration  
orbit  
organic  
orifice  
ornate  
orthography  
ossify  
overt

### P

pagan  
palatable  
pall  
palpable  
palsy  
panacea  
parable  
paradox  
parallel  
paraphernalia  
parenthesis  
parody  
parsimony  
partisan  
pastoral  
patent  
patriarch  
patrician  
patrimony  
patron  
pavilion  
pectoral  
pecuniary  
pedant  
pendant  
perdition  
peremptory  
perennial  
perforce

periodic  
periphery  
pernicious  
perpetrate  
perpetuate  
perquisite  
personification  
perspicuity  
pert  
pertinent  
peruse  
pervade  
perverse  
pestilence  
pestle  
petulance  
pewter  
phalanx  
phantom  
philanthropy  
philology  
piety  
pilaster  
pillory  
plagiarism  
plait  
plumb  
plutocracy  
poach  
poignant  
politic  
political  
polity  
portend  
posse  
posterity  
potion  
pottage  
prate  
precise  
preclude  
precursor  
predatory  
predicament  
predicate  
predilection

predispose  
preen  
prefect  
premier  
premise  
prerogative  
presbyter  
prescience  
presentiment  
presume  
pretension  
preternatural  
pretext  
primogeniture  
primordial  
probe  
procrastinate  
profane  
proffer  
profuse  
progeny  
proletarian  
prolific  
promontory  
promptitude  
prone  
propitious  
prorate  
prosaic  
prose  
prosody  
protégé  
prude  
prudent  
pseudonym  
psyche  
pun  
pungent  
purge  
purloin  
purport

## Q

qualm  
query

questionable  
quietus  
quittance  
quoit

## R

raillery  
raiment  
rancor  
random  
rankle  
rant  
rapacity  
rapt  
realty  
rebuke  
reciprocal  
recitative  
reconnoiter  
reconstitute  
recrimination  
rectitude  
refute  
regale  
regent  
regicide  
regimen  
rejuvenate  
relevant  
remission  
remonstrate  
remuneration  
renegade  
renounce  
repartee  
repast  
replete  
reprehend  
reprisal  
reproach  
reproof  
repudiate  
repute  
respite  
responsive

restitution  
resume  
resuscitate  
reticence  
retribution  
revile  
rift  
rigor  
robust  
rote  
rotundity  
rudiment

## S

sable  
sacrilege  
sagacity  
salient  
saline  
salutary  
sanguine  
satire  
scathing  
schism  
scintillation  
scoff  
scope  
scrip  
scrutinize  
scurrilous  
seclude  
secrete  
sect  
sector  
secular  
sedentary  
sedition  
seethe  
segment  
semblance  
servitude  
shamble  
sheepish  
shrew  
shunt

signify  
simile  
simper  
skeptical  
slake  
sloth  
sluice  
sociology  
sojourn  
soliloquy  
somber  
sordid  
sovereignty  
specious  
specter  
speculate  
sporadic  
spume  
sputum  
steppe  
sternum  
stilted  
stint  
stoicism  
strait  
stratagem  
strategy  
strident  
sty  
subjugate  
sublimate  
submission  
subservient  
subsidiary  
subsidy  
subterfuge  
succinct  
succor  
succulent  
sully  
superfluous  
supernal  
supersede  
supervene  
supplant  
supple

surfeit  
surmount  
surveillance  
sustenance  
swathe  
syllogism  
symposium  
synonymy  
syntax

**T**

tableau  
tacit  
taciturn  
tack  
tactic  
tangible  
tankard  
tantamount  
tariff  
tawny  
temerity  
temporal  
tenacity  
tenure  
terminus  
terse  
testimonial  
thesaurus  
thesis  
thrall  
tiara  
tirade  
tithe  
tome  
tonic  
totalitarian  
traduce  
trait  
transient  
transitory  
transpire  
transpose  
transubstantiation  
transverse

trappings  
travail  
travesty  
treble  
tremulous  
trencher  
tribulation  
tribute  
truncheon  
trundle  
tryst  
turnkey  
tutelage  
twain  
twit

**U**

ubiquitous  
ulterior  
unanimity  
unctuous  
undercurrent  
undulate  
unique  
unison  
unregenerate  
untold  
upbraid  
usury

**V**

vacillate  
vagary  
valiant  
valorous  
vanguard  
variable  
vaunt  
venerate  
verity  
vermillion  
vernacular  
vestige  
vicissitude

vigilant  
vindicate  
vintage  
virtual  
virtuoso  
visage  
vivacious  
volatile  
volition  
votary

**W**

wan  
weal  
wheel  
wheel  
wheel  
willful  
windfall  
wraith  
wrangle  
wroth  
wry

**Z**

zealot  
zephyr  
zodiac