

## ACT Top 100 Vocabulary Words to Know

abate - become less in amount or intensity  
abdicate - give up, such as power, as of monarchs and emperors  
aberration - a state or condition markedly different from the norm  
abstain - choose not to consume  
adversity - a state of misfortune or affliction  
aesthetic - characterized by an appreciation of beauty or good taste  
amicable - characterized by friendship and good will  
anachronistic - chronologically misplaced  
arid - lacking sufficient water or rainfall  
asylum - a shelter from danger or hardship  
benevolent - showing or motivated by sympathy and understanding  
bias - a partiality preventing objective consideration of an issue  
boisterous - full of rough and exuberant animal spirits  
brazen - unrestrained by convention or propriety  
brusque - marked by rude or peremptory shortness  
camaraderie - the quality of affording easy familiarity and sociability  
canny - showing self-interest and shrewdness in dealing with others  
capacious - large in the amount that can be contained  
capitulate - surrender under agreed conditions  
clairvoyant - someone who can perceive things not present to the senses  
collaborate - work together on a common enterprise or project  
compassion - a deep awareness of and sympathy for another's suffering  
compromise - an accommodation in which both sides make concessions  
condescending - characteristic of those who treat others with arrogance  
conditional - imposing or depending on or containing an assumption  
conformist - someone who follows established standards of conduct  
conundrum - a difficult problem  
convergence - the act of coming closer  
deleterious - harmful to living things  
demagogue - a leader who seeks support by appealing to popular passions  
digression - a turning aside  
diligent - quietly and steadily persevering in detail or exactness  
discredit - the state of being held in low esteem  
disdain - lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike  
divergent - tending to move apart in different directions  
empathy - understanding and entering into another's feelings  
emulate - strive to equal or match, especially by imitating  
enervating - causing weakness or debilitation  
ephemeral - anything short-lived, as an insect that lives only for a day  
evanescent - tending to vanish like vapor  
exemplary - worthy of imitation  
extenuating - partially excusing or justifying  
florid - elaborately or excessively ornamented  
forbearance - a delay in enforcing rights or claims or privileges  
fortitude - strength of mind that enables one to endure adversity  
fortuitous - occurring by happy chance  
foster - providing nurture though not related by blood or legal ties  
fraught - filled with or attended with  
frugal - avoiding waste  
hackneyed - repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse