ISEE Upper Level Vocabulary List: 500 Words

Word · meaning · synonym. Free from Dr. Stuart Donnelly, iseetutoring.com, where you can also get the matching Anki and Quizlet flashcards.

Core 200 (start here)

abate *v.*	to become less strong or intense	lessen
abdicate *v.*	to give up a throne or a responsibility	resign
abject *adj.*	extremely miserable and hopeless	miserable
acquiesce *v.*	to agree or give in without protest	agree
acrimonious *adj.*	bitter and angry in tone	bitter
acumen *n.*	skill at making quick, smart judgments	insight
adage *n.*	an old, well-known saying	saying
adroit *adj.*	skillful and clever, especially with hands or mind	skillful
affable *adj.*	friendly and easy to talk to	friendly
alacrity *n.*	cheerful eagerness and quickness	eagerness
altruistic *adj.*	unselfishly concerned for others	selfless
ambiguous *adj.*	able to be understood in more than one way	unclear
ambivalent *adj.*	having mixed feelings about something	undecided
ameliorate *v.*	to make a bad situation better	improve
anomaly *n.*	something that differs from what is normal	oddity
antipathy *n.*	a strong feeling of dislike	dislike
aplomb *n.*	calm confidence, especially under pressure	poise
arbitrary *adj.*	based on chance or whim, not reason	random
artifice *n.*	clever trickery meant to fool people	trickery
ascertain *v.*	to find out for certain	determine
ascetic *adj.*	giving up comforts and pleasures for discipline	self-denying
assiduous *adj.*	showing steady, careful effort	diligent
assuage *v.*	to ease or calm a painful feeling	ease
audacious *adj.*	boldly daring and willing to take big risks	bold
auspicious *adj.*	showing signs of future success	promising
austere *adj.*	plain and severe, without comfort or decoration	plain
avarice *n.*	extreme greed for wealth	greed
banal *adj.*	dull and ordinary, lacking anything fresh	commonplace
bane *n.*	a cause of constant trouble or misery	curse
belittle *v.*	to make someone or something seem unimportant	put down
bombastic *adj.*	full of showy, puffed-up language	pompous
brevity *n.*	the quality of being short	shortness
buttress *v.*	to support or strengthen	strengthen
cacophony *n.*	a harsh, jarring mix of loud sounds	racket

cajole *v.*	to persuade with flattery or gentle urging	coax
cantankerous *adj.*	grumpy and quick to argue	grouchy
capitulate *v.*	to stop resisting and give in	surrender
capricious *adj.*	changing suddenly and without any good reason	fickle
castigate *v.*	to criticize or scold harshly	scold
catharsis *n.*	a release of strong emotion that brings relief	release
caustic *adj.*	bitterly harsh or able to burn chemically	biting
charlatan *n.*	a person who falsely claims special skill	fraud
circumspect *adj.*	careful to consider risks before acting	cautious
circumvent *v.*	to find a way around a rule or obstacle	bypass
clandestine *adj.*	done in secret, often to hide something	secret
clemency *n.*	mercy shown when deciding a punishment	mercy
coalesce *v.*	to come together to form one whole	merge
cogent *adj.*	clear, logical, and convincing	convincing
condescending *adj.*	acting as if others are less intelligent	patronizing
condone *v.*	to accept or allow behavior that is wrong	excuse
contentious *adj.*	likely to cause arguments	controversial
conundrum *n.*	a confusing and difficult problem	puzzle
corroborate *v.*	to confirm with additional evidence	confirm
credence *n.*	belief that something is true	belief
criterion *n.*	a standard used for judging something	standard
culpable *adj.*	deserving blame for wrongdoing	guilty
cursory *adj.*	quick and not thorough	hasty
dearth *n.*	a lack or shortage	shortage
debacle *n.*	a sudden and embarrassing failure	disaster
debunk *v.*	to show that a claim is false	disprove
decorum *n.*	proper and polite behavior	manners
decry *v.*	to criticize openly as wrong	criticize
deference *n.*	polite respect for another's wishes or judgment	respect
delineate *v.*	to describe or mark out precisely	outline
demagogue *n.*	a leader who stirs up emotions instead of reason	agitator
denounce *v.*	to declare publicly that something is wrong	condemn
deride *v.*	to mock with scorn	mock
diatribe *n.*	a bitter, angry speech of criticism	rant
dichotomy *n.*	a sharp division into two opposing parts	split
didactic *adj.*	intended to teach, often in a preachy way	instructive
diffident *adj.*	lacking self-confidence; shy	shy
dilettante *n.*	someone who dabbles in a subject without serious study	dabbler
disparage *v.*	to speak of as having little worth	badmouth
disparate *adj.*	very different; not alike at all	different

disseminate *v.*	to spread information widely	spread
dogmatic *adj.*	insisting one's beliefs are right beyond question	opinionated
duplicity *n.*	dishonest behavior that deceives others	deceit
ebullient *adj.*	bubbling over with cheerful excitement	cheerful
eclectic *adj.*	drawn from many different sources or styles	varied
effusive *adj.*	expressing feelings in an overflowing, gushing way	gushing
egregious *adj.*	shockingly bad	outrageous
engender *v.*	to cause or give rise to	produce
enmity *n.*	deep and lasting hostility	hostility
ephemeral *adj.*	lasting only a very short time	fleeting
epiphany *n.*	a sudden moment of understanding	realization
epitome *n.*	a perfect example of a quality or type	model
equanimity *n.*	calmness and an even temper, even under stress	composure
equitable *adj.*	fair and equal to everyone involved	fair
equivocate *v.*	to speak vaguely to avoid giving a clear answer	hedge
erudite *adj.*	having great knowledge gained from study	scholarly
esoteric *adj.*	understood by only a small, specialized group	obscure
euphemism *n.*	a mild word that replaces a harsh one	polite term
exacerbate *v.*	to make a problem worse	worsen
exonerate *v.*	to clear someone of blame	clear
exorbitant *adj.*	far more than is reasonable, especially in price	excessive
extol *v.*	to praise with great enthusiasm	praise
extraneous *adj.*	not related to the main subject	irrelevant
extricate *v.*	to free from a difficult situation	free
facetious *adj.*	joking at an inappropriate or serious moment	joking
fastidious *adj.*	very careful about details and cleanliness	fussy
fathom *v.*	to understand something difficult	grasp
feign *v.*	to pretend to feel or have	fake
flippant *adj.*	lacking respect or seriousness; casually disrespectful	careless
foment *v.*	to stir up trouble or unrest	stir up
forestall *v.*	to prevent by acting ahead of time	prevent
fortitude *n.*	courage and strength in facing hardship	courage
fortuitous *adj.*	happening by lucky chance	lucky
galvanize *v.*	to shock or excite into action	motivate
garrulous *adj.*	excessively talkative, especially about trivial things	talkative
gratuitous *adj.*	unnecessary and without good reason	uncalled-for
hackneyed *adj.*	used so often it has lost its freshness	overused
harangue *v.*	to lecture someone forcefully and at length	lecture
hubris *n.*	excessive pride or self-confidence	arrogance
hyperbole *n.*	extreme exaggeration not meant to be taken literally	exaggeration

idiosyncratic *adj.*	peculiar to one person; quirky	quirky
impassive *adj.*	showing no emotion	expressionless
imperious *adj.*	bossy and arrogant, expecting to be obeyed	bossy
impervious *adj.*	unable to be affected or passed through	resistant
impetus *n.*	a force that drives someone to act	motivation
impugn *v.*	to question someone's honesty or motives	question
impunity *n.*	freedom from punishment or consequences	immunity
incongruous *adj.*	out of place; not fitting its surroundings	mismatched
inculcate *v.*	to teach by constant repetition	instill
indolent *adj.*	lazy and avoiding effort	lazy
ingratiate *v.*	to win favor by trying hard to please	flatter
innocuous *adj.*	harmless; not likely to hurt or offend	harmless
innuendo *n.*	an indirect hint, usually something negative	hint
insipid *adj.*	lacking flavor or interest	bland
intransigent *adj.*	refusing to change one's position	stubborn
inundate *v.*	to overwhelm with a huge amount	flood
irascible *adj.*	easily made angry	irritable
jettison *v.*	to throw away or discard	discard
juxtaposition *n.*	placing two things side by side to compare	contrast
laconic *adj.*	using very few words	brief
levity *n.*	lighthearted humor, especially at a serious time	humor
loquacious *adj.*	very talkative	talkative
magnanimous *adj.*	generous and forgiving, especially toward a rival	generous
malaise *n.*	a vague feeling of unease or low energy	unease
malevolent *adj.*	wishing harm to others	evil
malign *v.*	to say false, harmful things about	slander
maverick *n.*	an independent person who refuses to conform	rebel
mercurial *adj.*	changing mood quickly and unpredictably	moody
misnomer *n.*	a name that describes something wrongly	wrong name
mitigate *v.*	to make less severe or harmful	reduce
modicum *n.*	a small amount	bit
mollify *v.*	to calm someone's anger	soothe
nefarious *adj.*	wicked or villainous	wicked
negate *v.*	to cancel the effect of	cancel
nuance *n.*	a subtle difference in meaning or tone	subtlety
obfuscate *v.*	to make something unclear on purpose	confuse
oblique *adj.*	indirect; not stated openly	indirect
obsequious *adj.*	too eager to please or obey others	fawning
opaque *adj.*	not letting light pass through	solid
ostentatious *adj.*	showy and meant to impress others	showy

ostracize *v.*	to exclude someone from a group	exclude
pedantic *adj.*	too concerned with minor rules and details	nitpicking
perfunctory *adj.*	done only out of duty, with little care	halfhearted
pernicious *adj.*	harmful in a gradual or hidden way	harmful
placate *v.*	to calm someone by making concessions	calm
poignant *adj.*	deeply moving, often in a sad way	touching
pragmatic *adj.*	focused on what is practical and actually works	practical
preclude *v.*	to make impossible in advance	prevent
prodigious *adj.*	remarkably great in size or amount	enormous
profligate *adj.*	recklessly wasteful, especially with money	wasteful
proliferate *v.*	to increase rapidly in number	multiply
propagate *v.*	to spread or reproduce widely	spread
prosaic *adj.*	ordinary and lacking imagination	ordinary
provincial *adj.*	narrow-minded because of limited experience	narrow-minded
pugnacious *adj.*	eager to argue or fight	combative
querulous *adj.*	complaining in a whiny way	whiny
recalcitrant *adj.*	stubbornly refusing to obey or cooperate	defiant
recant *v.*	to publicly take back an earlier statement	retract
relegate *v.*	to move to a lower, less important position	demote
renege *v.*	to go back on a promise	back out
repudiate *v.*	to reject completely and refuse to accept	reject
rescind *v.*	to cancel or officially take back	cancel
reticent *adj.*	unwilling to share thoughts or feelings	reserved
ruminate *v.*	to think deeply and at length	ponder
sagacious *adj.*	wise and showing good judgment	wise
salient *adj.*	most noticeable or important	notable
sanguine *adj.*	cheerfully hopeful	optimistic
scrupulous *adj.*	very careful to be honest and correct	principled
sporadic *adj.*	happening now and then, at irregular times	occasional
spurious *adj.*	false or fake, though seeming genuine	false
staid *adj.*	serious, proper, and unadventurous	stuffy
stoic *adj.*	enduring hardship without complaining	uncomplaining
strident *adj.*	loud, harsh, and grating	harsh
sublime *adj.*	so beautiful or excellent it inspires awe	glorious
superfluous *adj.*	more than is needed	extra
surreptitious *adj.*	done secretly to avoid being noticed	sneaky
taciturn *adj.*	habitually quiet and saying little	quiet
tenuous *adj.*	very weak or slight	flimsy
transient *adj.*	lasting only briefly; passing through	temporary
trepidation *n.*	nervous fear about something that is coming	dread

ubiquitous *adj.*	found everywhere	widespread
urbane *adj.*	polished, polite, and sophisticated	refined
vacuous *adj.*	empty of ideas or intelligence	empty
venerable *adj.*	respected because of age, wisdom, or character	respected
virulent *adj.*	extremely severe, harmful, or hostile	severe
vociferous *adj.*	loudly and forcefully expressing opinions	vocal

Extension 300

abscond *v.*	to leave secretly, often with stolen items	flee
accolade *n.*	an award or expression of high praise	honor
accost *v.*	to approach and speak to boldly	confront
affinity *n.*	a natural liking or connection	liking
alienate *v.*	to make someone unfriendly or distant	estrange
allay *v.*	to calm or relieve fears or concerns	ease
allegiance *n.*	loyalty to a person, group, or cause	loyalty
amalgamate *v.*	to combine into one whole	merge
amnesty *n.*	an official pardon for past offenses	pardon
anachronistic *adj.*	out of place in time	outdated
annul *v.*	to declare officially invalid	cancel
antithesis *n.*	the exact opposite	opposite
apex *n.*	the highest point	peak
apprehension *n.*	anxious fear about what might happen	worry
apprise *v.*	to inform or tell	inform
arbitrate *v.*	to settle a dispute as a neutral judge	judge
arcane *adj.*	known or understood by very few	obscure
archetype *n.*	a perfect or typical example of something	model
aspire *v.*	to strongly hope to achieve	hope
aversion *n.*	a strong dislike	dislike
bellicose *adj.*	eager to fight or argue	warlike
bemoan *v.*	to express sorrow or complaint about	lament
bequeath *v.*	to leave to someone in a will	leave
berate *v.*	to scold angrily and at length	scold
blithe *adj.*	cheerfully carefree, sometimes carelessly so	lighthearted
boon *n.*	a helpful benefit or blessing	blessing
caveat *n.*	a warning or condition to keep in mind	warning
cede *v.*	to give up control of, often unwillingly	surrender
censure *v.*	to criticize strongly and officially	condemn
cerebral *adj.*	intellectual rather than emotional or physical	intellectual
chastise *v.*	to scold or punish severely	scold

churlish *adj.*	rude and ungracious	rude
cliche *n.*	an overused phrase or idea	stock phrase
coddle *v.*	to treat too gently; pamper	pamper
commiserate *v.*	to share sympathy with someone	sympathize
concur *v.*	to agree	agree
conjecture *n.*	a guess based on little evidence	guess
connive *v.*	to secretly plot something wrong	scheme
consternation *n.*	shock mixed with anxious worry	dismay
construe *v.*	to interpret in a particular way	interpret
contrive *v.*	to cleverly invent or arrange	devise
convivial *adj.*	friendly, lively, and fond of company	sociable
craven *adj.*	lacking courage	cowardly
culminate *v.*	to reach a final high point	end
debilitate *v.*	to severely weaken	weaken
decadent *adj.*	marked by excessive pleasure and luxury	indulgent
decimate *v.*	to destroy a large part of	destroy
deface *v.*	to spoil the surface or appearance of	vandalize
defame *v.*	to damage someone's reputation with false statements	slander
deign *v.*	to do something one considers beneath oneself	condescend
deleterious *adj.*	causing harm or damage	damaging
demise *n.*	the end or death of something	end
denigrate *v.*	to unfairly criticize or belittle	belittle
deprecate *v.*	to express disapproval of	disapprove
despot *n.*	a ruler with total, often cruel, power	tyrant
desultory *adj.*	lacking plan or purpose; halfhearted	aimless
detractor *n.*	a person who criticizes something	critic
dilapidated *adj.*	falling apart from age or neglect	run-down
disavow *v.*	to deny any connection with or responsibility for	deny
disingenuous *adj.*	insincere; pretending to know less than one does	insincere
dispassionate *adj.*	not influenced by emotion; fair and impartial	objective
dissemble *v.*	to hide one's true feelings or motives	pretend
dissipate *v.*	to scatter or fade away gradually	scatter
dissonance *n.*	a harsh lack of harmony	discord
dour *adj.*	stern, serious, and gloomy	stern
dupe *v.*	to trick or fool someone	trick
efface *v.*	to erase or wipe out	erase
efficacy *n.*	the ability to produce the desired result	effectiveness
egalitarian *adj.*	believing all people deserve equal treatment	equal
elucidate *v.*	to explain clearly	clarify
emanate *v.*	to flow or come out from a source	flow

embroil *v.*	to involve deeply in a conflict	involve
emissary *n.*	a person sent to represent others	messenger
encroach *v.*	to gradually intrude on another's space	intrude
enthrall *v.*	to hold someone's complete attention	fascinate
entreat *v.*	to ask earnestly; to beg	beg
equilibrium *n.*	a state of balance	balance
erroneous *adj.*	wrong; containing mistakes	wrong
eschew *v.*	to deliberately avoid	avoid
espouse *v.*	to adopt and support a cause or belief	support
ethos *n.*	the guiding spirit or values of a group	spirit
evince *v.*	to show or reveal clearly	show
exacting *adj.*	demanding great care and effort	demanding
exalt *v.*	to praise highly; to raise in rank	glorify
exhort *v.*	to strongly urge someone to act	urge
expound *v.*	to explain in great detail	explain
expunge *v.*	to erase or remove completely	delete
extant *adj.*	still in existence	surviving
extrapolate *v.*	to predict by extending known information	infer
fatuous *adj.*	silly and foolish in a smug way	foolish
feckless *adj.*	weak, careless, and ineffective	ineffective
fetid *adj.*	smelling very bad	stinking
fidelity *n.*	loyalty or faithfulness; also accuracy	loyalty
florid *adj.*	overly fancy or decorated in style	flowery
flout *v.*	to openly ignore or disobey a rule	defy
foible *n.*	a minor flaw or odd habit	quirk
forbearance *n.*	patient self-control; tolerance	patience
frenetic *adj.*	wild, fast, and frantic	frantic
furor *n.*	an outburst of public anger or excitement	uproar
germane *adj.*	relevant to the subject	relevant
glean *v.*	to gather information bit by bit	gather
goad *v.*	to provoke or push someone into action	provoke
grandiose *adj.*	far too ambitious or impressive; showy	showy
harbinger *n.*	a sign of something to come	sign
heresy *n.*	an opinion that goes against accepted beliefs	dissent
heterogeneous *adj.*	made up of many different kinds	varied
hiatus *n.*	a pause or break in activity	break
histrionic *adj.*	overly dramatic	dramatic
homogeneous *adj.*	the same kind all the way through	uniform
hone *v.*	to sharpen or improve a skill	sharpen
iconoclastic *adj.*	attacking or rejecting traditional beliefs and customs	rebellious

imbue *v.*	to fill deeply with a quality or feeling	fill
impecunious *adj.*	having little or no money	poor
implacable *adj.*	impossible to calm or satisfy	relentless
impudent *adj.*	boldly disrespectful; rude	rude
inane *adj.*	silly and lacking sense	silly
incendiary *adj.*	likely to stir up anger or conflict	inflammatory
incense *v.*	to make very angry	anger
incisive *adj.*	sharply clear and insightful	sharp
incorrigible *adj.*	unable to be corrected or reformed	hopeless
indefatigable *adj.*	never tiring; tireless	tireless
indelible *adj.*	impossible to erase or forget	permanent
indict *v.*	to formally accuse of a crime	charge
indigent *adj.*	very poor; needy	needy
indiscriminate *adj.*	done without careful choice or judgment	random
indomitable *adj.*	impossible to defeat or discourage	unbeatable
ineffable *adj.*	too great to be described in words	indescribable
inexorable *adj.*	impossible to stop or prevent	unstoppable
infuse *v.*	to fill or soak with a quality	inject
ingenuous *adj.*	innocent and trusting; not sly	naive
inherent *adj.*	existing as a natural, basic part	built-in
inimical *adj.*	harmful or unfriendly	harmful
inscrutable *adj.*	impossible to understand or read	mysterious
insidious *adj.*	harmful in a slow, hidden way	sneaky
insouciant *adj.*	relaxed, carefree, and unconcerned	carefree
insular *adj.*	narrow-minded and isolated from outside ideas	narrow-minded
insurmountable *adj.*	too great to be overcome	impossible
intemperate *adj.*	lacking self-control; excessive	unrestrained
interject *v.*	to break in with a remark	cut in
intractable *adj.*	hard to control, manage, or solve	stubborn
intrigue *n.*	secret scheming or plotting	scheming
intrinsic *adj.*	belonging to the basic nature of something	built-in
inveterate *adj.*	having a long-established habit	habitual
irony *n.*	a contrast between what is expected and what happens	incongruity
irrevocable *adj.*	impossible to undo or change	final
jocular *adj.*	playful and fond of joking	playful
labyrinth *n.*	a complicated maze	maze
lackadaisical *adj.*	lacking energy or enthusiasm; lazy	lazy
latent *adj.*	present but hidden or not yet active	hidden
laudable *adj.*	deserving praise	admirable
lithe *adj.*	flexible and graceful	flexible

lugubrious *adj.*	sad and gloomy, often in an exaggerated way	gloomy
magisterial *adj.*	showing great authority and expert command	authoritative
maudlin *adj.*	overly sentimental in a self-pitying way	sappy
mendacious *adj.*	lying; not truthful	dishonest
munificent *adj.*	very generous	generous
muster *v.*	to gather or call up	summon
myopic *adj.*	shortsighted; lacking foresight	shortsighted
nadir *n.*	the lowest point	low point
nascent *adj.*	just beginning to exist or develop	budding
nebulous *adj.*	vague and unclear	vague
nominal *adj.*	very small; existing in name only	small
nondescript *adj.*	plain and lacking any special features	plain
nullify *v.*	to cancel or make invalid	cancel
obdurate *adj.*	stubbornly refusing to change one's mind	stubborn
obstreperous *adj.*	noisy and hard to control	unruly
obtuse *adj.*	slow to understand; dull	dense
obviate *v.*	to remove the need for; to prevent	prevent
onerous *adj.*	burdensome and difficult	burdensome
opportune *adj.*	well-timed; convenient	timely
ostensible *adj.*	seeming true on the surface, but perhaps not	apparent
overt *adj.*	done openly; not hidden	open
pallid *adj.*	unusually pale	pale
panacea *n.*	a cure for all problems	cure-all
paradigm *n.*	a typical model or pattern of thinking	model
paragon *n.*	a perfect example of a quality	model
pariah *n.*	a person rejected by everyone; an outcast	outcast
parsimonious *adj.*	extremely unwilling to spend money	stingy
partisan *adj.*	strongly favoring one side	biased
paucity *n.*	a shortage or scarcity	shortage
pejorative *adj.*	expressing disapproval or contempt	insulting
penchant *n.*	a strong liking or habit	fondness
penitent *adj.*	feeling sorry for wrongdoing	sorry
perennial *adj.*	lasting a long time or returning yearly	lasting
peripheral *adj.*	at the edge; not central	minor
pertinent *adj.*	relevant to the matter at hand	relevant
peruse *v.*	to read or examine carefully	examine
petulant *adj.*	childishly sulky or bad-tempered	sulky
philanthropist *n.*	a person who donates to help others	donor
pithy *adj.*	short but full of meaning	concise
platitude *n.*	an overused, unoriginal remark	cliché

plebeian *adj.*	common or ordinary; not refined	common
plethora *n.*	an excessive amount	abundance
portentous *adj.*	warning of something important or bad to come	ominous
precipitate *adj.*	done suddenly and without careful thought	hasty
precipitous *adj.*	dangerously steep or sudden	steep
precursor *n.*	something that comes before and leads to another	forerunner
predilection *n.*	a natural preference or liking	preference
premonition *n.*	a feeling that something is about to happen	hunch
prerogative *n.*	a special right belonging to someone	right
presage *v.*	to be a sign of a future event	foretell
presumptuous *adj.*	too bold; acting without permission or right	arrogant
pretentious *adj.*	trying to seem more important than one is	showy
pretext *n.*	a false reason that hides the real one	excuse
primordial *adj.*	existing from the very beginning of time	ancient
proclivity *n.*	a natural tendency	tendency
prolix *adj.*	using too many words; long-winded	wordy
propensity *n.*	a natural inclination or tendency	tendency
propitious *adj.*	favorable; likely to bring success	favorable
propriety *n.*	correct, proper behavior	decency
proscribe *v.*	to officially forbid	ban
protract *v.*	to drag out for a longer time	extend
prowess *n.*	great skill or ability	skill
puerile *adj.*	childishly silly	childish
punitive *adj.*	meant to punish	punishing
purport *v.*	to claim, often falsely	claim
quash *v.*	to put a stop to; to suppress	stop
quibble *v.*	to argue over small, unimportant details	bicker
quotidian *adj.*	ordinary and everyday	ordinary
rapacious *adj.*	greedy and grasping	greedy
ravage *v.*	to cause severe damage to	wreck
raze *v.*	to completely tear down a building	level
reconcile *v.*	to restore friendship after a disagreement	make up
recondite *adj.*	little known and hard to understand	obscure
redolent *adj.*	strongly suggestive or smelling of something	fragrant
redress *v.*	to set right a wrong	correct
remiss *adj.*	careless in doing one's duty	negligent
remunerate *v.*	to pay for work or service	pay
reprehensible *adj.*	deserving strong blame	shameful
respite *n.*	a short break from something difficult	rest
resplendent *adj.*	dazzlingly bright and beautiful	dazzling

retort *v.*	to reply sharply or quickly	reply
retribution *n.*	punishment given in return for a wrong	punishment
revile *v.*	to criticize harshly and angrily	condemn
rhetoric *n.*	persuasive or showy language	persuasion
sacrosanct *adj.*	too important to be changed or questioned	sacred
salubrious *adj.*	good for health	healthy
sanction *v.*	to officially approve or allow	approve
sardonic *adj.*	mocking in a grimly scornful way	mocking
satire *n.*	humor that mocks foolishness or flaws	parody
scathing *adj.*	harshly critical	harsh
schism *n.*	a split into opposing groups	split
sedate *adj.*	calm, quiet, and unhurried	calm
sententious *adj.*	preachy and fond of moral sayings	preachy
serendipity *n.*	a lucky, unexpected discovery	luck
servile *adj.*	overly eager to obey or please others	obedient
slovenly *adj.*	messy and careless in appearance or work	messy
solace *n.*	comfort in a time of sadness	comfort
somnolent *adj.*	sleepy; drowsy	sleepy
specious *adj.*	seeming true but actually false	misleading
squalid *adj.*	extremely dirty and unpleasant	filthy
stalwart *adj.*	loyal, strong, and dependable	loyal
stipulate *v.*	to state as a required condition	specify
stolid *adj.*	calm and showing little emotion	unemotional
stymie *v.*	to block or prevent progress	hinder
subjective *adj.*	based on personal feelings rather than facts	personal
subjugate *v.*	to bring under complete control	conquer
subservient *adj.*	too willing to obey others	obedient
substantiate *v.*	to support with proof or evidence	prove
subterfuge *n.*	a trick used to hide or escape something	trickery
subvert *v.*	to undermine or overturn	undermine
supercilious *adj.*	arrogantly looking down on others	snobbish
superlative *adj.*	of the very highest quality	excellent
supplant *v.*	to take the place of; replace	replace
surmise *v.*	to guess based on limited evidence	guess
sycophant *n.*	a person who flatters powerful people to gain favor	flatterer
tacit *adj.*	understood without being said	unspoken
tangential *adj.*	only slightly related; off the main topic	unrelated
tantamount *adj.*	equal in effect or value	equal
tawdry *adj.*	cheap and showy	tacky
temerarious *adj.*	recklessly bold	reckless

tempestuous *adj.*	stormy or full of strong emotion	stormy
tenable *adj.*	able to be defended or maintained	defensible
tenet *n.*	a core belief or principle of a group	principle
timorous *adj.*	shy and easily frightened	fearful
torpid *adj.*	slow and inactive	sluggish
torrid *adj.*	extremely hot and dry	scorching
transcend *v.*	to go beyond normal limits	exceed
travesty *n.*	a shocking or absurd imitation of something	mockery
tremulous *adj.*	shaking slightly from nervousness or weakness	shaky
trenchant *adj.*	sharp, forceful, and clear	sharp
truculent *adj.*	eager to argue or fight	aggressive
turgid *adj.*	swollen; also, too wordy and showy	swollen
unassuming *adj.*	modest and not showing off	modest
uncanny *adj.*	strange in a way that is hard to explain	strange
unflappable *adj.*	staying calm under pressure	composed
unwieldy *adj.*	hard to handle because of size or shape	bulky
vacillate *v.*	to switch back and forth between choices	waver
vapid *adj.*	dull and lacking interest or ideas	dull
venal *adj.*	willing to do wrong for money	corrupt
veracity *n.*	truthfulness or accuracy	truth
verdant *adj.*	green with lush plant growth	green
vestige *n.*	a trace of something that no longer exists	trace
viable *adj.*	capable of working or succeeding	workable
vicarious *adj.*	experienced through another person's actions	secondhand
vilify *v.*	to speak about someone in a cruelly insulting way	slander
vitriolic *adj.*	full of bitter, harsh criticism	bitter
voluble *adj.*	talking a lot, quickly and easily	talkative
wanton *adj.*	deliberate and without any reason or excuse	senseless
zenith *n.*	the highest point	peak

ISEE is a registered trademark of ERB, which does not publish an official word list and does not endorse this list. © ISEE Tutoring · iseetutoring.com · free to print and share.