

SAT & Other Standardized Test Prep Vocabulary Building Tips: Part 2

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1. **SORT YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS:** Group similar words together and clarify their differences. **EXAMPLE:** *Ostentatious* (showy) is not the same as *conspicuous* (obvious).
EXAMPLE: *Bilateral, bisect, bicycle*, etc.
EXAMPLE: *Introspection, retrospective*, etc.
2. **MAKE MEMORABLE SENTENCES:** Associate each new vocabulary word with a person, place or thing that has importance in or relevance to your own life. **EXAMPLE:** *My brother Josh is a jock, but that's not what makes him jocular (funny).*
3. **HEAR THE WORD:** Download SAT words & definitions as voice documents onto an I-pod or MP3, or read words into a cassette tape. Listen to your own vocabulary list in the car on the way to school, on the way to school sports events, etc. You can also purchase ready-made vocabulary CDs.
4. **SEE THE WORD:** Make five flashcards per week and study them repeatedly. Have parents, a sibling or a friend quiz the student periodically to assure retention. Write the word on the front side of the card and the definition on the backside. Write a "+" sign next to positive words, a "-" sign next to negative words, and a "/" next to neutral words. **EXAMPLE:** (-) *misanthropist*; (+) *philanthropist*.
5. **THE POWER OF PRACTICE:** Regular practice is essential to succeed in sports, music, art, and academics. There are ways to learn more effectively and efficiently, but there are no short cuts to success. This is especially true for developing vocabulary; you need to put in the time.
6. **VOCABULARY & VOCATION:** Your student's SAT score, along with his/her GPA, will be the basis of a "yes" or a "no" from various college admissions departments. Building an SAT vocabulary is an important short-term goal; these words, however, stay with your child for life. Check students' progress regularly or put them in a structured learning environment that will track their progress. Building a vocabulary builds the mind. Reading comprehension and critical thinking skills both benefit. Written expression in essays can also improve. What sets students apart academically to a college admission board will also distinguish them socially and professionally. This academic foundation can later assist your students in distinguishing themselves in both business and social arenas. Vocabulary acquisition is the foundation of test prep success. Test prep season is also coming, so do your family a favor and start now!