

25 Powerful Words

Students Rarely Encounter Today

A free vocabulary resource from EplusL Edu — curated from classical literature and aligned with SAT/ACT academic language.

Includes 2 sample pages from the *One Word a Day: 365 SAT/ACT Words* workbook.

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A note from EunJung

As an educator and a parent, I have watched vocabulary quietly become one of the most underestimated factors in academic success. Students who struggle on the SAT reading section are often not poor readers — they are under-exposed readers. They have simply never encountered the words that show up again and again in academic texts, standardized tests, and college-level writing.

The 25 words in this guide are not obscure for the sake of difficulty. Every one of them appears in the classical literature that has shaped the English language — and every one has appeared in recent SAT and ACT passages. These are the words that separate a student who reads widely from one who does not.

My workbook, *One Word a Day: 365 SAT/ACT Words from Classical Literature*, was built on a simple belief: one word a day, grounded in a real sentence from a real book, is the most durable way to build vocabulary. Not flashcards. Not lists. Context.

I hope this guide gives you a window into that method — and into the level of language your child deserves to encounter every single day.

With warmth,

EunJung Park, Ph.D.

Founder, EplusL Edu

The 25 Words

Organized by theme — each word appears in classical literature and recent SAT/ACT passages.

Leadership & Character			
1	Magnanimous	generous and forgiving	<i>Jane Austen, Sense and Sensibility</i>
2	Sagacious	wise and perceptive	<i>Jonathan Swift, Gulliver's Travels</i>
3	Deference	respectful submission to another's judgment	<i>Leo Tolstoy, War and Peace</i>
4	Equanimity	calmness under pressure	<i>Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre</i>
5	Venerable	deserving respect because of age or wisdom	<i>Charles Dickens, Bleak House</i>
Thinking & Intelligence			
6	Perspicacious	having keen insight	<i>George Eliot, Middlemarch</i>
7	Erudite	deeply learned	<i>George Eliot, Middlemarch</i>
8	Pensive	thoughtfully reflective	<i>Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre</i>
9	Discernment	ability to judge well	<i>Jane Austen, Pride & Prejudice</i>
10	Judicious	showing good judgment	<i>SAT/ACT academic passages</i>
Time & Change			
11	Ephemeral	lasting a short time	<i>Percy Shelley, Romantic poetry</i>
12	Immutable	unchanging	<i>SAT science and history passages</i>
13	Transient	temporary	<i>Thomas Hardy, Far from the Madding Crowd</i>
14	Perpetual	continuing indefinitely	<i>Milton, Paradise Lost</i>
15	Nascent	just beginning	<i>SAT evidence-based reading</i>
Human Behavior			
16	Recalcitrant	resistant to authority	<i>Charles Dickens, Great Expectations</i>
17	Obdurate	stubbornly refusing to change	<i>Shakespeare, Merchant of Venice</i>
18	Convivial	friendly and lively	<i>Henry Fielding, Tom Jones</i>
19	Assiduous	diligent and hardworking	<i>SAT/ACT reading passages</i>
20	Fastidious	very attentive to detail	<i>Charles Dickens, David Copperfield</i>
Academic & Literary Language			
21	Ubiquitous	found everywhere	<i>SAT/ACT; modern academic writing</i>
22	Pernicious	causing great harm	<i>Shakespeare, Othello</i>
23	Prodigious	remarkably great in size or degree	<i>Herman Melville, Moby Dick</i>

24	Austere	severe or plain	<i>Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre</i>
25	Ineffable	too great to be expressed in words	<i>William Wordsworth, The Prelude</i>

Sample workbook page — Day 141: MAGNANIMOUS

day 141 _____ date:

Magnanimous

Her magnanimous gesture won the admiration of all.**– Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility***

Multiple Choice:

1. What does “magnanimous” mean?

- a) Petty
- b) Selfish
- c) Generous
- d) Vindictive

True/False:

2. A magnanimous person is likely to hold grudges and seek revenge. (True/False)

Synonym/Antonym:

3. Which of the following is an antonym for “magnanimous”?

- a) Generous
- b) Selfish
- c) Forgiving
- d) Kind

Sentence Completion (Choose two correct answers):

4. Despite their heated rivalry, she was _____ in victory, praising her opponent’s efforts and offering to help with future projects.

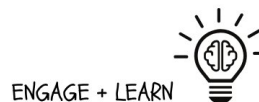
- a) noble
- b) magnanimous
- c) petty
- d) grudging
- e) vindictive

Short Answer:

5. Name a magnanimous character in literature or film, especially toward a rival or someone less powerful. Describe how their magnanimity influences the plot and their relationships with other characters.

Write a Sentence:

6. Write a sentence using the word “magnanimous.”



Sample workbook page — Day 172: ERUDITE

day 172 _____ date:

Erudite**His erudite lectures were well-attended by students and scholars alike. – George Eliot, Middlemarch**

Multiple Choice:

1. What does "erudite" mean?

- a) Uneducated
- b) Ignorant
- c) Learned
- d) Simple

True/False:

2. An erudite person is highly educated and knowledgeable. (True/False)

Synonym/Antonym:

3. Which of the following is an antonym for "erudite"?

- a) Uneducated
- b) Educated
- c) Scholarly
- d) Knowledgeable

Sentence Completion (Choose two correct answers):

4. The professor was known for his _____ lectures, which drew students from across the campus eager to learn from his _____ understanding of history.

- a) erudite
- b) ignorant
- c) scholarly
- d) uninformed
- e) simple

Short Answer:

5. Describe an erudite character in literature. How does their erudition influence the plot or their interactions with other characters?

Write a Sentence:

6. Write a sentence using the word "erudite."

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