

# Power Words

## NINTH - TWELFTH GRADE

Words for the 9th - 12th grade level of the **Master Vocabulary List** are a compilation of several research-based lists of words (from MajorTests.com). They not only include words that are commonly found in adult-level reading, but also words that frequently appear on the ACT, SAT, PSAT, and GRE tests. This comprehensive list of essential words is suitable for use in all four grades and in all subject areas.

|             |              |             |              |              |                |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| abasement   | analogous    | aversion    | belie        | celerity     | conciliate     |
| abhor       | anarchy      | bane        | bellicose    | cancel       | concise        |
| abrasive    | anecdote     | bard        | belligerent  | cerebral     | condescend     |
| abrogate    | animosity    | bastion     | bemoan       | certitude    | condone        |
| absolution  | annex (v)    | belittle    | benevolent   | charlatan    | condone        |
| abstain     | anomaly      | bigot       | benign       | chary        | conflagration  |
| abstruse    | antagonism   | bilk        | bequeath     | chastise     | confound       |
| accolade    | antediluvian | billowing   | berate       | chicanery    | congeal        |
| acquiesce   | anthology    | blasphemy   | beret        | chimera      | congenital     |
| acrid       | antiquated   | blatant     | bestial      | choleric     | consecrate     |
| acrophobia  | analyze      | blighted    | counterfeit  | chronicle    | consensus      |
| acuity      | apathetic    | blithe      | covert       | circuitous   | conspicuous    |
| adamant     | apocryphal   | blunderbuss | cower        | circumscribe | consummate     |
| adroit      | appease      | bolster     | credible     | circumspect  | contemporary   |
| adulation   | apprehensive | bombast     | credulous    | circumvent   | contrast       |
| adversity   | arable       | boorish     | crepuscular  | clairvoyant  | contrite       |
| advocate    | arbitrary    | bourgeois   | cringe       | clamor       | contusion      |
| aesthetic   | arcane       | braggart    | cryptic      | clandestine  | conundrum      |
| affable     | archaic      | brawny      | curtail      | clemency     | conventional   |
| alacrity    | archetype    | brevity     | cynical      | cliche'      | corpulent      |
| alchemy     | archives     | bristle     | cacophony    | clientele    | corrugated     |
| alibi       | articulate   | broach      | cajole       | coalesce     | debility       |
| allay       | artifice     | brusque     | caldron      | coddle       | debunk         |
| alleviate   | artisan      | bulwark     | callow       | coercion     | decathlon      |
| aloof       | ascetic      | bureaucracy | candid       | cogent       | decorum        |
| altruism    | assiduous    | burgeon     | candor       | cogitate     | decoy          |
| amass       | assuage      | burnish     | cantankerous | collage      | deference      |
| ambiguous   | astute       | buttress    | capacious    | collate      | defoliate      |
| ambivalence | asylum       | byline      | capitulate   | colloquial   | defunct        |
| ambulatory  | atheist      | balk        | carping      | collusion    | degradation    |
| ameliorate  | atrophy      | banal       | castigate    | commandeer   | deleterious    |
| amiable     | attenuate    | befuddle    | catharsis    | comparison   | deliberate (v) |
| amity       | augment      | begrudge    | caucus       | complacent   | demur          |
| amorphous   | auspicious   | beguile     | caustic      | compliant    | denounce       |
| analgesic   | austere      | beleaguer   | cavalcade    | concatenate  | deplete        |

# MASTER VOCABULARY LIST

9th - 12th Grade (continued)

|               |             |               |            |               |               |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| deplore       | drivel      | espouse       | flout      | hasten        | inevitable    |
| depraved      | droll       | etymology     | flustered  | hedonist      | inexorable    |
| deprecate     | drone (v)   | entomology    | forensic   | heed          | inexpedient   |
| deride        | dubious     | eulogy        | formulate  | heresy        | infallible    |
| derogatory    | dupe        | euphemism     | fortitude  | hiatus        | infamous      |
| describe      | dynamic     | euphony       | fortuitous | hidebound     | infer         |
| desecrate     | ebullient   | evaluate      | fractious  | hieroglyphics | ingrate       |
| desist        | eccentric   | exacerbate    | fraudulent | hinder        | inimical      |
| despondent    | eclectic    | exasperated   | frivolous  | histrionic    | innate        |
| destitution   | edifice     | exceptionable | frugal     | hoary         | innocuous     |
| deter         | efface      | exculpate     | furrow     | hone          | innovate      |
| deteriorate   | effigy      | execrable     | furtive    | hyperbole     | inscrutable   |
| detrimental   | effusive    | exegesis      | futile     | hypochondria  | insentient    |
| devour        | egalitarian | exemplary     | galleon    | hypocritical  | insipid       |
| dexterous     | egregious   | exhaustive    | gambol     | iconoclast    | instigate     |
| dichotomy     | egress      | exonerate     | garble     | idiosyncrasy  | insurgent     |
| didactic      | eloquent    | exorcism      | garish     | ignominious   | interminable  |
| diffident     | elucidate   | expatriate    | garner     | illuminate    | intermittent  |
| digress       | elusive     | expedient     | garrulous  | illusory      | intrepid      |
| dike          | emaciated   | expedite      | gaunt      | immoderate    | inveterate    |
| dilatory      | emancipate  | explain       | genre      | immutable     | invidious     |
| dilemma       | embezzle    | exposition    | germane    | impartial     | inviolable    |
| dilettante    | embroil     | extol         | germinal   | impecunious   | irascible     |
| diligent      | emerge      | extradite     | gibbering  | impious       | ire           |
| diorama       | emulate     | extraneous    | glacial    | impromptu     | irksome       |
| dirge         | endorse     | extrapolate   | goad       | inadvertent   | ironic        |
| discern       | evacuate    | extrinsic     | grate (v)  | incantation   | irrational    |
| discord       | enfranchise | fallacious    | gratis     | incarceration | irrevocable   |
| discrepancy   | engender    | falter        | gratuity   | incessant     | itinerant     |
| discriminate  | enhance     | fanatical     | gravity    | incipient     | kindle        |
| discursive    | enigma      | fastidious    | gregarious | inclination   | jargon        |
| disdain       | endurance   | fatuous       | gritty     | incoherent    | jaundiced     |
| disinterested | enduring    | feasible      | guffaw     | incongruous   | jaunt         |
| disparage     | ensconce    | fecund        | guile      | indelible     | jeopardize    |
| disparity     | enshroud    | felicitous    | gullible   | indifferent   | jingo         |
| disseminate   | enunciation | fervor        | gustatory  | indigenous    | jocular       |
| diurnal       | ephemeral   | fickle        | hackneyed  | indolent      | jubilant      |
| divert        | epicure     | finesse       | hallowed   | inductee      | judicious     |
| docile        | epistle     | fitful        | hamper     | indulgent     | jurisprudence |
| dogmatic      | epitome     | flagrant      | hanger     | inebriated    | juxtaposition |
| dolt          | err         | flamboyant    | harangue   | ineffable     | knotty        |
| dotard        | erratic     | flaunt        | harbinger  | inept         | labyrinth     |
| drawl         | esoteric    | flippant      | haughty    | inertia       | lackluster    |

# MASTER VOCABULARY LIST

9th - 12th Grade (continued)

|              |              |              |              |              |               |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| laceration   | marshal (v)  | nondescript  | paradigm     | plaintiff    | pretentious   |
| lachrymose   | marsupial    | nonentity    | paradox      | plaudit      | panacea       |
| laconic      | martinet     | nostalgia    | paragon      | plausible    | prevaricate   |
| lamentation  | masochist    | notoriety    | paramount    | plethora     | pristine      |
| lampoon      | matriarchy   | noxious      | parasite     | pliable      | proclivity    |
| lance        | maverick     | novel (a)    | parched      | plumage      | procrastinate |
| languid      | meander      | novice       | pariah       | plummet      | prodigal      |
| languish     | mellow       | nuance       | parity       | podium       | prodigious    |
| larceny      | menagerie    | nuzzle       | parochial    | poignant     | profane       |
| largess      | mendacious   | nullify      | parody       | poised       | profound      |
| laud         | mercenary    | misogyny     | parry        | polemic      | proletarian   |
| lavish       | mercurial    | obdurate     | parsimony    | ponderous    | prolific      |
| lax          | merge        | obfuscate    | partisan     | pontificate  | proponent     |
| legend       | metaphor     | objective    | pathos       | portend      | prosaic       |
| legion       | meticulous   | oblique      | patron       | poseur       | proscribe     |
| lethargic    | mettle       | obliterate   | patronize    | posterity    | prosody       |
| levity       | milieu       | oblivious    | paucity      | posthumous   | prostrate     |
| livid        | mire         | obscure      | peccadillo   | postulate    | protagonist   |
| liniment     | misanthrope  | obsequious   | pedestrian   | potable      | protean       |
| lithe        | misnomer     | obsession    | peerless     | potent       | protege       |
| lobbyist     | misrepresent | obsolete     | pejorative   | pragmatic    | protocol      |
| lofty        | mitigate     | obstreperous | pellucid     | preamble     | proverbial    |
| longevity    | modicum      | obtuse       | pendant      | precarious   | prudent       |
| loquacious   | momentous    | obviate      | pensive      | precedent    | puerile       |
| lucid        | monotonous   | odious       | penury       | precept      | punctilious   |
| ludicrous    | moratorium   | officious    | perceptive   | precinct     | purloin       |
| lukewarm     | moribund     | ogle         | personable   | precipice    | pyromania     |
| lummoX       | morose       | olfactory    | pertinent    | precipitous  | percipient    |
| luscious     | mundane      | ominous      | peruse       | preclude     | perdition     |
| lynch        | munificent   | omnipotent   | pervasive    | precocious   | peremptory    |
| machinations | mutinous     | omniscient   | petrify      | predecessor  | perfidy       |
| maelstrom    | mutualism    | onerous      | petulant     | predicament  | perfunctory   |
| magnanimous  | myriad       | onus         | phenomenon   | predict      | peripheral    |
| magnate      | navigate     | opaque       | philanthropy | preeminent   | perjury       |
| maladroit    | nebulous     | opulent      | phlegmatic   | palatable    | pernicious    |
| malady       | nefarious    | ordain       | pillage      | prerogative  | persnickety   |
| malediction  | negate       | ornate       | pinnacle     | palisade     | perpetuate    |
| malefactor   | negligence   | orthodox     | pious        | prescient    | quaff         |
| malinger     | neologism    | ossified     | pivotal      | palliative   | quagmire      |
| malleable    | nettle (v)   | ostentatious | placate      | presentiment | quaint        |
| mallet       | niggardly    | oust         | placebo      | pallid       | quandary      |
| manipulate   | nomadic      | overt        | placid       | presumptuous | quarantine    |
| marred       | nonchalant   | overwrought  | plagiarism   | palpable     | quarry        |

# MASTER VOCABULARY LIST

9th - 12th Grade (continued)

|               |             |               |             |             |            |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| querulous     | revere      | solace        | susceptible | tyro        | vitriolic  |
| quirk         | riddled     | solicit       | suspect     | ubiquitous  | vivacity   |
| ramble        | rife        | somnambulist  | sybarite    | unalloyed   | vivify     |
| ramification  | rigor       | soothsayer    | sycophant   | unctuous    | vociferous |
| rancor        | robust      | sophomoric    | taciturn    | undermined  | volatile   |
| rant          | rotund      | soporific     | tactile     | underscore  | voluble    |
| ratify        | ruminare    | sparse        | talisman    | unequivocal | voluminous |
| raucous       | ruse        | specious      | tangent     | unfetter    | voracious  |
| raze          | saccharine  | speckled      | tangible    | unfrock     | waive      |
| rebuttal      | sacrosanct  | sporadic      | tardy       | unscathed   | wane       |
| recant        | sagacious   | spurious      | tawdry      | unwitting   | wary       |
| recapitulate  | sage        | stagnant      | tedium      | upbraid     | waylay     |
| receptacle    | salacious   | staid         | temper (v)  | uproarious  | weighty    |
| recluse       | sallow      | stanza        | tenacious   | upshot      | whelp      |
| recuperate    | salubrious  | staunch       | tenative    | urbane      | whet       |
| redolent      | salutary    | stereotype    | tenuous     | usurp       | whimsical  |
| redress       | sanction    | stevedore     | terse       | utilitarian | willful    |
| redundant     | sanguinary  | stifle        | therapeutic | utopian     | wily       |
| referendum    | sanguine    | stoic         | thwart      | vacillate   | wispy      |
| refute        | sardonic    | stoke         | timorous    | vacuous     | wistful    |
| regale        | savant      | stolid        | tirade      | vagrant     | zany       |
| regulate      | scale (v)   | stratagem     | titter      | vapid       | zeal       |
| remorse       | scapegoat   | strident      | torpid      | variegated  | zealot     |
| remuneration  | scrupulous  | stringent     | totter      | vehement    | zenith     |
| renown        | scrutinize  | strut         | trace (v)   | venal       |            |
| replete       | scuttle     | stupefy       | tractable   | vener       |            |
| reprehensible | seminary    | subpoena      | tranquil    | venerate    |            |
| reprieve      | sensuous    | substantiate  | transcribe  | venial      |            |
| repudiate     | sentinel    | subterfuge    | transgress  | veracity    |            |
| rescind       | sequester   | subtle        | transient   | verbose     |            |
| resignation   | serendipity | subversive    | traverse    | verbosity   |            |
| resolution    | serene      | succinct      | trepidation | vertigo     |            |
| resonant      | serrated    | suffragist    | trinket     | vestigial   |            |
| respite       | servile     | summarize     | trite       | vignette    |            |
| resplendent   | skeptical   | supercilious  | trivial     | vilify      |            |
| restorative   | skirmish    | superlative   | truant      | vindicate   |            |
| retention     | sluggard    | support (v)   | truncate    | virtuoso    |            |
| reticent      | smelt       | surly         | tumult      | virulent    |            |
| retraction    | smorgasbord | surreptitious | turpitude   | vital       |            |