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DSAT Difficult Word List

Aberration (*n*) - a departure from what is normal, usual, or expected, typically one that is unwelcome; aberration or deviation

Abnegation (*n*) - the act of renouncing or rejecting something

Abnegation (*n*) - the act of renouncing or rejecting something; abnegation or self-denial

Abrogate (*v*) - to repeal or do away with (a law, right, or formal agreement); to abrogate or annul

Abscond (*v*) - to leave hurriedly and secretly, typically to avoid detection of or arrest for an unlawful action; to abscond or flee

Accretion (*n*) - the process of growth or increase, typically by the gradual accumulation of additional layers or matter; accretion or buildup

Acerbic (*adj*) - sharp and forthright; acerbic or caustic

Acumen (*n*) - the ability to make good judgments and quick decisions; acumen or shrewdness

Admonish (*v*) - to warn or reprimand someone firmly; to admonish or scold

Adumbrate (*v*) - to report or represent in outline; to foreshadow or adumbrate

Aesthetic (*adj*) - concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty; aesthetic or artistic

Bellicose (*adj*) - demonstrating aggression and willingness to fight; bellicose or belligerent

Benevolent (*adj*) - well meaning and kindly; benevolent or compassionate

Bombastic (*adj*) - high-sounding but with little meaning; inflated or bombastic

Boon (*n*) - a gift or blessing

Broach (*v*) - to raise (a sensitive or difficult subject) for discussion; to broach or bring up

Byzantine (*adj*) - excessively complicated or convoluted in design or construction; byzantine or intricate

Cacophony (*n*) - a harsh, discordant mixture of sounds; cacophony or dissonance

Capitulate (*v*) - to cease to resist an opponent or an unwelcome demand; to capitulate or surrender

Capricious (*adj*) - given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior; capricious or unpredictable

Castigate (*v*) - to reprimand severely; to castigate or criticize harshly

Catalyst (*n*) - a person or thing that precipitates an event or change; a catalyst or stimulus

Circumlocution (*n*) - the use of many words where fewer would do, especially in a deliberate attempt to be vague or evasive

Delineate (*v*) - to describe or portray (something) precisely; to delineate or define

Demagogue (*n*) - a leader who exploits popular prejudices and false claims and promises in order to gain power

Denigrate (*v*) - to criticize unfairly; to denigrate or disparage

Deprecate (*v*) - to express disapproval of; to deprecate or criticize

Deride (*v*) - to ridicule or mock; to deride or scorn

Desultory (*adj*) - lacking a plan, purpose, or enthusiasm; desultory or random

Ebullient (*adj*) - cheerful and full of energy; ebullient or exuberant

Efficacious (*adj*) - effective, producing the desired outcome; efficacious or successful

Effulgent (*adj*) - shining brightly; effulgent or radiant

Egregious (*adj*) - outstandingly bad or shocking; egregious or flagrant

Elegiac (*adj*) - relating to or characteristic of an elegy, mournful or melancholic; elegiac or sorrowful

Enervate (*v*) - to weaken or lessen the mental, moral, or physical vigor of; to sap the strength of

Fastidious (*adj*) - very attentive to detail; meticulous or fastidious

Fatuous (*adj*) - silly or foolish; fatuous or inane

Fatuous (*adj*) - silly, foolish, especially in a smug or complacent manner

Feckless (*adj*) - lacking initiative or strength of character; feckless or ineffective

Fecund (*adj*) - fertile or productive; fecund or fruitful

Flagrant (*adj*) - conspicuously or obviously offensive; flagrant or blatant

Garrulous (*adj*) - excessively or pointlessly talkative; garrulous or loquacious

Grandiloquent (*adj*) - pompous or high-flown in speech

Grandiloquent (*adj*) - using pompous, exaggeratedly elaborate language; grandiloquent or bombastic

Gregarious (*adj*) - fond of company; sociable or gregarious

Guile (*n*) - sly or cunning intelligence; guile or deceit

Hapless (*adj*) - unlucky, unfortunate

Harangue (*n/v*) - a lengthy and aggressive speech; to lecture someone at length in an aggressive or critical manner; harangue or diatribe

Iconoclast (*n*) - a person who attacks cherished beliefs or institutions; iconoclast or heretic

Idiosyncrasy (*n*) - a distinctive or peculiar feature or characteristic of a place or thing; an idiosyncrasy or quirk

Ignominy (*n*) - public shame or disgrace; ignominy or humiliation

Illicit (*adj*) - forbidden by law, rules, or custom; illicit or illegal

Immutable (*adj*) - unchanging over time or unable to be changed; immutable or permanent

Incontrovertible (*adj*) - unquestionable, beyond dispute

Jejune (*adj*) - lacking interest or significance; dull; immature

Jingoistic (*adj*) - extreme patriotism, especially in the form of aggressive or warlike foreign policy; jingoistic or nationalist

Juxtapose (*v*) - to place two things together for contrasting effect; to juxtapose or compare

Keen (*adj*) - intellectually sharp or perceptive; keen or astute

Kinetic (*adj*) - relating to or resulting from motion; kinetic or dynamic

Kismet (*n*) - destiny, fate, fortune

Lachrymose (*adj*) - tearful or given to weeping; lachrymose or mournful

Languid (*adj*) - lacking energy or vitality; languid or listless

Laudable (*adj*) - deserving praise and commendation; laudable or admirable

Legerdemain (*n*) - skillful use of one's hands when performing conjuring tricks; legerdemain or sleight of hand

Lethargic (*adj*) - affected by lethargy; sluggish or lethargic

Loquacious (*adj*) - talkative, wordy

Magnate (*n*) - a wealthy and influential person, especially in business; magnate or tycoon

Malediction (*n*) - a curse; malediction or imprecation

Malfeasance (*n*) - wrongdoing, especially by a public official; malfeasance or misconduct

Malignant (*adj*) - malevolent or cancerous; malignant or harmful

Mendacious (*adj*) - not telling the truth; lying; mendacious or deceitful

Mercurial (*adj*) - characterized by rapid and unpredictable change in mood

Nefarious (*adj*) - wicked or criminal; nefarious or villainous

Noisome (*adj*) - offensive or disgusting; foul-smelling; harmful or injurious

Obdurate (*adj*) - stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action; obdurate or inflexible

Obfuscate (*v*) - to confuse, bewilder, or stupefy

Obfuscate (*v*) - to render obscure, unclear, or unintelligible; to obfuscate or confuse

Palatable (*adj*) - pleasant to taste; acceptable or satisfactory; palatable or agreeable

Palliate (*v*) - to make less severe or unpleasant without removing the cause; to palliate or alleviate

Panacea (*n*) - a solution or remedy for all problems or difficulties; panacea or cure-all

Paragon (*n*) - a person or thing regarded as a perfect example of a particular quality; paragon or model

Parsimony (*n*) - extreme unwillingness to spend money or use resources; parsimony or frugality

Paucity (*n*) - the presence of something only in small or insufficient quantities; paucity or scarcity

Pejorative (*adj*) - expressing contempt or disapproval; pejorative or derogatory

Penchant (*n*) - a strong or habitual liking for something or tendency to do something; penchant or inclination

Querulous (*adj*) - complaining in a petulant or whining manner; querulous or peevish

Quiescent (*adj*) - in a state or period of inactivity or dormancy; quiescent or inactive

Rapacious (*adj*) - aggressively greedy or grasping; rapacious or avaricious

Recalcitrant (*adj*) - having an obstinately uncooperative attitude toward authority or discipline; recalcitrant or resistant

Recondite (*adj*) - exceeding ordinary knowledge and understanding

Redolent (*adj*) - strongly reminiscent or suggestive of something; redolent or evocative

Refulgent (*adj*) - shining brightly; radiant or refulgent

Sagacious (*adj*) - having or showing good judgment; sagacious or wise

Salubrious (*adj*) - healthy or beneficial to one's well-being; salubrious or wholesome

Sanguine (*adj*) - cheerfully optimistic, hopeful, or confident

Sanguine (*adj*) - optimistic or positive, especially in an apparently bad or difficult situation; sanguine or hopeful

Sardonic (*adj*) - grimly mocking or cynical; sardonic or sarcastic

Taciturn (*adj*) - reserved or uncommunicative in speech; taciturn or reticent

Tautology (*n*) - the saying of the same thing twice in different words, generally considered to be a fault of style; tautology or redundancy

Temerity (*n*) - excessive confidence or boldness; temerity or audacity

Timorous (*adj*) - showing or suffering from nervousness, fear, or a lack of confidence; timorous or timid

Trenchant (*adj*) - vigorous or incisive in expression or style; trenchant or forceful

Unctuous (*adj*) - excessively flattering or ingratiating; oily or unctuous

Unctuous (*adj*) - excessively smooth or smug; trying too hard to give an impression of earnestness, sincerity, or piety

Unfettered (*adj*) - free from restraint or inhibition; unfettered or unrestricted

Untenable (*adj*) - not able to be maintained or defended against attack or objection; untenable or indefensible

Usurp (*v*) - to take (a position of power or importance) illegally or by force; to usurp or seize

Vex (*v*) - to make someone feel annoyed, frustrated, or worried, especially with trivial matters; to vex or irritate

Vitriolic (*adj*) - bitter, sarcastic; highly caustic or biting

Wan (*adj*) - pale and giving the impression of illness or exhaustion; wan or pallid

Whimsical (*adj*) - playfully quaint or fanciful, especially in an appealing and amusing way; whimsical or capricious

Winsome (*adj*) - attractive or appealing in a sweet, innocent, or charming way; winsome or engaging

Wistful (*adj*) - having or showing a feeling of vague or regretful longing; wistful or nostalgic

Wry (*adj*) - using or expressing dry, especially mocking,

Xenophobia (*n*) - dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries; xenophobia or racism

Xenophobic (*adj*) - having or showing a dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries

Yearn (*v*) - to have an intense feeling of longing for something, typically something that one has lost or been separated from; to yearn or long

Yoke (*v*) - to join, link

Zealot (*n*) - a person who is fanatical and uncompromising in pursuit of their religious, political, or other ideals; zealot or extremist

Zenith (*n*) - the highest point reached by a celestial or other object; the point in the sky or celestial sphere directly above an observer; zenith or peak

Zephyr (*n*) - a soft gentle breeze; zephyr or gust