

# Secondary 2 Advanced Vocabulary

100 words, core meanings and printable practice

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This printable companion is generated from the canonical Secondary 2 advanced vocabulary owner on eduKateSingapore. Use it for offline recall, word-choice practice and spaced review. The website carries the fuller explanations, examples and learning routes.

**How to use it:** learn a manageable set, retrieve without looking, explain the difference between nearby words, use the word in a fresh sentence, then revisit it after a delay.

|                                    |                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Precision before difficulty</b> | A simpler exact word is better than an advanced word used incorrectly.           |
| <b>Recognition is not mastery</b>  | A secure word can be recalled, explained and used without the model sentence.    |
| <b>Transfer matters</b>            | Move the word into reading, discussion and writing, not only flashcard practice. |

# The 100-word reference list

Read the meaning column first. Then cover it and try to retrieve the meaning from the word alone. For stronger control, explain one nearby word that would not fit the same context.

| #  | Word                 | Core meaning                                                              |
|----|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | <b>Ambiguous</b>     | Open to more than one interpretation; unclear                             |
| 2  | <b>Consequence</b>   | A result or effect of an action or condition                              |
| 3  | <b>Demeanor</b>      | Outward behavior or bearing                                               |
| 4  | <b>Elusive</b>       | Difficult to find, catch, or achieve                                      |
| 5  | <b>Formidable</b>    | Inspiring fear or respect through being large or powerful                 |
| 6  | <b>Gregarious</b>    | Fond of company; sociable                                                 |
| 7  | <b>Hierarchy</b>     | A system in which members of an organization are ranked                   |
| 8  | <b>Impartial</b>     | Treating all rivals or disputants equally                                 |
| 9  | <b>Juxtaposition</b> | The fact of two things being seen or placed close together                |
| 10 | <b>Kindle</b>        | To ignite or inspire an emotion or feeling                                |
| 11 | <b>Lament</b>        | To mourn a loss or death                                                  |
| 12 | <b>Mundane</b>       | Lacking interest or excitement; dull                                      |
| 13 | <b>Nostalgia</b>     | A sentimental longing for the past                                        |
| 14 | <b>Oblivious</b>     | Not aware of or not concerned about what is happening around              |
| 15 | <b>Paradox</b>       | A seemingly contradictory statement that may be true                      |
| 16 | <b>Quandary</b>      | A state of perplexity or uncertainty over what to do                      |
| 17 | <b>Reclusive</b>     | Avoiding the company of other people; solitary                            |
| 18 | <b>Scrutinize</b>    | To examine or inspect closely and thoroughly                              |
| 19 | <b>Tangible</b>      | Perceptible by touch; clear and definite                                  |
| 20 | <b>Ubiquitous</b>    | Present, appearing, or found everywhere                                   |
| 21 | <b>Validate</b>      | To check or prove the validity of something                               |
| 22 | <b>Wary</b>          | Feeling or showing caution about possible dangers or problems             |
| 23 | <b>Xenophobia</b>    | Dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries               |
| 24 | <b>Yield</b>         | To produce or provide a natural, agricultural, or industrial product      |
| 25 | <b>Zealot</b>        | A person fanatically and uncompromisingly committed to an ideal           |
| 26 | <b>Abstain</b>       | To restrain oneself from doing or enjoying something                      |
| 27 | <b>Benevolent</b>    | Well-meaning and kindly                                                   |
| 28 | <b>Coerce</b>        | To persuade an unwilling person by using force or threats                 |
| 29 | <b>Discrepancy</b>   | A lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts           |
| 30 | <b>Empathy</b>       | The ability to understand and share the feelings of another               |
| 31 | <b>Futile</b>        | Incapable of producing any useful result; pointless                       |
| 32 | <b>Hypothesis</b>    | A proposed explanation used as a starting point for further investigation |
| 33 | <b>Inevitable</b>    | Certain to happen; unavoidable                                            |
| 34 | <b>Jovial</b>        | Cheerful and friendly                                                     |
| 35 | <b>Knack</b>         | An acquired or natural skill at doing something                           |
| 36 | <b>Lucrative</b>     | Producing a great deal of profit                                          |
| 37 | <b>Meticulous</b>    | Showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise               |
| 38 | <b>Nuance</b>        | A subtle difference or shade of meaning, expression, or sound             |
| 39 | <b>Ominous</b>       | Giving the impression that something bad may happen                       |
| 40 | <b>Prolific</b>      | Present in large numbers or quantities; plentiful                         |

| #  | Word                 | Core meaning                                                                  |
|----|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 41 | <b>Quell</b>         | To put an end to disorder, typically by force or authority                    |
| 42 | <b>Resilient</b>     | Able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions                |
| 43 | <b>Stoic</b>         | Enduring pain and hardship without showing feelings or complaining            |
| 44 | <b>Tenacious</b>     | Tending to keep a firm hold; persistent and determined                        |
| 45 | <b>Unprecedented</b> | Never done or known before                                                    |
| 46 | <b>Vex</b>           | To make someone feel annoyed, frustrated, or worried                          |
| 47 | <b>Whimsical</b>     | Playfully fanciful, especially in an appealing or amusing way                 |
| 48 | <b>Xenophile</b>     | A person attracted to foreign peoples, cultures, or customs                   |
| 49 | <b>Yearn</b>         | To have an intense feeling of longing for something                           |
| 50 | <b>Zealous</b>       | Having or showing great enthusiasm or devotion                                |
| 51 | <b>Adversary</b>     | An opponent in a contest, conflict, or dispute                                |
| 52 | <b>Boisterous</b>    | Noisy, energetic, and cheerful                                                |
| 53 | <b>Concise</b>       | Giving much information clearly in a few words                                |
| 54 | <b>Diligent</b>      | Showing care and conscientiousness in work or duties                          |
| 55 | <b>Entice</b>        | To attract or tempt by offering pleasure or advantage                         |
| 56 | <b>Fluctuate</b>     | To rise and fall irregularly in number or amount                              |
| 57 | <b>Incessant</b>     | Continuing without pause or interruption                                      |
| 58 | <b>Jargon</b>        | Special words used by a profession or group that outsiders may find difficult |
| 59 | <b>Kudos</b>         | Praise and honour received for an achievement                                 |
| 60 | <b>Lithe</b>         | Thin, supple, and graceful                                                    |
| 61 | <b>Malaise</b>       | A general feeling of discomfort, illness, or unease                           |
| 62 | <b>Notorious</b>     | Famous or well known, typically for a bad quality or deed                     |
| 63 | <b>Opulent</b>       | Ostentatiously rich and luxurious                                             |
| 64 | <b>Pragmatic</b>     | Dealing with things sensibly and realistically                                |
| 65 | <b>Quixotic</b>      | Exceedingly idealistic; unrealistic and impractical                           |
| 66 | <b>Retrospect</b>    | A review of a past course of events or period                                 |
| 67 | <b>Superfluous</b>   | Unnecessary, especially because there is more than enough                     |
| 68 | <b>Transient</b>     | Lasting only for a short time; impermanent                                    |
| 69 | <b>Utilitarian</b>   | Designed to be useful or practical rather than attractive                     |
| 70 | <b>Verbose</b>       | Using more words than are needed                                              |
| 71 | <b>Wistful</b>       | Showing a vague or regretful longing                                          |
| 72 | <b>Xenogenesis</b>   | The supposed production of offspring markedly different from either parent    |
| 73 | <b>Yen</b>           | A longing or yearning                                                         |
| 74 | <b>Zephyr</b>        | A gentle, mild breeze                                                         |
| 75 | <b>Acquiesce</b>     | To accept something reluctantly but without protest                           |
| 76 | <b>Brevity</b>       | Concise and exact use of words in writing or speech                           |
| 77 | <b>Colloquial</b>    | Used in ordinary or familiar conversation; not formal or literary             |
| 78 | <b>Disparage</b>     | To regard or represent as being of little worth                               |
| 79 | <b>Eloquent</b>      | Fluent or persuasive in speaking or writing                                   |
| 80 | <b>Fallacy</b>       | A mistaken belief, especially one based on unsound argument                   |
| 81 | <b>Magnanimous</b>   | Generous or forgiving, especially toward a rival or less powerful person      |
| 82 | <b>Nebulous</b>      | Hazy, vague, or ill-defined                                                   |
| 83 | <b>Oscillate</b>     | To move or swing back and forth                                               |
| 84 | <b>Precedent</b>     | An earlier event or action used as an example or guide later                  |

| #   | Word                  | Core meaning                                                                    |
|-----|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 85  | <b>Quintessential</b> | Representing the most perfect or typical example of a quality or class          |
| 86  | <b>Reverberate</b>    | To be repeated several times as an echo                                         |
| 87  | <b>Sagacious</b>      | Having or showing keen judgement and discernment                                |
| 88  | <b>Trepidation</b>    | A feeling of fear or agitation about something that may happen                  |
| 89  | <b>Unfathomable</b>   | Incapable of being fully explored or understood                                 |
| 90  | <b>Vicarious</b>      | Experienced in the imagination through another person's actions or feelings     |
| 91  | <b>Wane</b>           | To decrease in size, extent, or degree                                          |
| 92  | <b>Xenolithic</b>     | Relating to or containing fragments of foreign rock                             |
| 93  | <b>Yoke</b>           | A crosspiece used to harness two animals together                               |
| 94  | <b>Zenith</b>         | The highest point reached by something                                          |
| 95  | <b>Adept</b>          | Very skilled or proficient at something                                         |
| 96  | <b>Brusque</b>        | Abrupt or offhand in speech or manner                                           |
| 97  | <b>Conscientious</b>  | Wishing to do what is right and to do work or duty thoroughly                   |
| 98  | <b>Discern</b>        | To recognise or understand something clearly, especially when it is not obvious |
| 99  | <b>Exemplify</b>      | To be a clear example of something or to illustrate an idea                     |
| 100 | <b>Feasible</b>       | Possible and practical to carry out successfully                                |

## Word-choice practice

Choose the more precise word from each pair. Then explain why it fits. Do not use the answer key until you have justified your choice.

1. The instructions could be understood in two different ways.  
*ambiguous / concise*
2. The committee examined the evidence closely before deciding.  
*scrutinized / lamented*
3. The plan sounded inspiring but was unrealistic and impractical.  
*quixotic / pragmatic*
4. The student stayed calm and did not complain during a difficult week.  
*stoic / gregarious*
5. The proposal was possible to carry out with the time and resources available.  
*feasible / elusive*
6. The speaker used far more words than necessary.  
*verbose / concise*
7. The two photographs were placed side by side to highlight the contrast.  
*juxtaposition / hierarchy*
8. The writer's meaning was vague and difficult to define clearly.  
*nebulous / tangible*
9. The student accepted the decision reluctantly but did not protest.  
*acquiesced / coerced*
10. The article contained a mistaken line of reasoning.  
*fallacy / precedent*
11. Her careful work showed close attention to every detail.  
*meticulous / boisterous*
12. The result was unavoidable once the final condition was met.  
*inevitable / transient*
13. His interest slowly decreased as the project continued.  
*waned / kindled*
14. The new finding had never been recorded before.  
*unprecedented / ubiquitous*
15. The judge treated both sides equally.  
*impartial / notorious*
16. The author longed for the place where she grew up.  
*yearned / vexed*
17. The student could recognise the slight change in tone.  
*discern / entice*
18. Her answer was a clear example of careful reasoning.  
*exemplify / oscillate*
19. The change in the evidence was small but meaningful.  
*nuance / hierarchy*
20. The community recovered quickly after a serious setback.  
*resilient / reclusive*

## Short transfer tasks

- Use **pragmatic** in a sentence about solving a school problem.
- Use **nostalgia** in a sentence that makes the object or memory clear.
- Use **formidable** once for a person or opponent, and once for a challenge.
- Use **concise** and **verbose** to compare two explanations.
- Use **wary** in a sentence where the risk is plausible but not certain.
- Write one sentence in which **perhaps** would be more honest than a confident claim; then replace it with **discern** only if evidence becomes clearer.

## Suggested answers and reasoning

1. **Ambiguous.** The instructions could be understood in two different ways.
2. **Scrutinized.** The committee examined the evidence closely before deciding.
3. **Quixotic.** The plan sounded inspiring but was unrealistic and impractical.
4. **Stoic.** The student stayed calm and did not complain during a difficult week.
5. **Feasible.** The proposal was possible to carry out with the time and resources available.
6. **Verbose.** The speaker used far more words than necessary.
7. **Juxtaposition.** The two photographs were placed side by side to highlight the contrast.
8. **Nebulous.** The writer's meaning was vague and difficult to define clearly.
9. **Acquiesced.** The student accepted the decision reluctantly but did not protest.
10. **Fallacy.** The article contained a mistaken line of reasoning.
11. **Meticulous.** Her careful work showed close attention to every detail.
12. **Inevitable.** The result was unavoidable once the final condition was met.
13. **Waned.** His interest slowly decreased as the project continued.
14. **Unprecedented.** The new finding had never been recorded before.
15. **Impartial.** The judge treated both sides equally.
16. **Yearned.** The author longed for the place where she grew up.
17. **Discern.** The student could recognise the slight change in tone.
18. **Exemplify.** Her answer was a clear example of careful reasoning.
19. **Nuance.** The change in the evidence was small but meaningful.
20. **Resilient.** The community recovered quickly after a serious setback.

**Important:** the answer is not fully mastered until the student can explain why the other choice is less suitable. Vocabulary depth is the control of meaning, strength, register and context - not just recognition.

## Five-word revisit record

Choose five unstable words at a time. Revisit them across several sessions. A word is moving toward mastery when the student can recall it without looking and transfer it to a fresh context.

| Word | First meaning check | Fresh sentence | Later recall | New-context transfer |
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Canonical owner: [edukatesingapore.com/2023/03/30/top-100-secondary-2-vocabulary-list-level-advanced/](https://edukatesingapore.com/2023/03/30/top-100-secondary-2-vocabulary-list-level-advanced/)

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