collaborate V. / / work together.

Two writers *collaborated* in preparing this book.

collage N. / /work of art put together from fragments.

Scraps of cloth, paper doilies, and old photographs all went into her collage.

collate V. /, /examine in order to verify authenticity;

arrange in order. They collated the newly found manuscripts to determine their age.

collateral N. / /security given for loan.

The sum you wish to borrow is so large that it must be secured by collateral.

colloquial ADJ. / / pertaining to conversational or common speech

. Some of the new, less formal reading passages on SAT I have a colloquial tone that is intended to make them more appealing to students.

collusion N. / / Conspiring in a fraudulent scheme.

The swindlers were found guilty of collusion.

colossal ADJ. / / huge.

Radio City Music Hall has a colossal stage.

comatose ADJ. / / a coma;

extremely sleepy. The longwinded orator soon had his audience in a comatose state.

*combustible ADJ. / / easily burned.

After the recent outbreak of fires in private homes, the fire commissioner ordered that all *combustible* materials be kept in safe containers, also **N**.

comely ADJ. / / attractive;

agreeable. I would rather have a poor and comely wife than a rich and homely one.

comeuppance N. / / rebuke;

deserts. After his earlier rudeness, we were delighted to see him get his comeuppance.

commandeer V. / / to draft for military purposes

to take for public use. The policeman*commandeered* the first car that approached and ordered the driver to go to the nearest hospital.

commemorate V. / / honor the memory of.

The statue of the Minute Man commemorates the valiant soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War.

commensurate ADJ. // equal in extent.

Your reward will be commensurate with your effort.

commiserate V. / / feel or express pity or sympathy for

Her friends commiserated with the widow.

commodious ADJ. /, /spacious and comfortable

After sleeping in small roadside cabins, they found their hotel suite commodious.

communal ADJ. / / held in common;

of a group of people. When they were divorced, they had trouble dividing their communal property.

compact N. / / agreement;

contract. The signers of the Mayflower Compact were establishing a form of government.

compact ADJ. / tightly packed;

firm; brief. His short, compact body was better suited to wrestling than to basketball.

comparable ADJ. // similar.

People whose jobs are comparable in difficulty should receive comparable pay.

compatible ADJ. / / harmonious;

in harmony with. They were compatible neighbors, never quarreling over unimportant matters. compatibility, N.

compelling ADJ. / / overpowering;

irresistible in effect. The prosecutor presented a well-reasoned case, but the defense attorney's compelling arguments for leniency won over the jury.

compensatory ADJ. / / making up for;

repaying. Can a compensatory education program make up for the

inadequate schooling he received in earlier years?

compile V. // assemble; gather;

accumulate. We planned to compile a list of the words most frequently used on SAT I examinations.

complacency N. / / self-satisfaction;

smugness. Full of com*placency* about his latest victories, he looked smugly at the row of trophies on his mantelpiece. complacent, **ADJ**.

complaisant ADJ. /; / trying to please;

obliging. The courtier obeyed the king's orders in a complaisant manner.

complement V. / / complete;

consummate; make perfect. The waiter recommended a glass of port to complement the cheese. also ${\bf N}$

*complementary ADJ. / / serving to complete something.

John and Lisa's skills are

complementary. he's good at following a daily routine, while she's great at improvising and handling

emergencies. Together they make a great team.

compliance N. / / readiness to yield;

conformity in fulfilling requirements. Bullheaded Bill was not noted for easy com*pliance* with the demands of others. As an architect, however, Bill recognized that his design for

the new school had to be in *compliance* with the local building code.

compliant ADJ. // yielding.

Because Joel usually gave in and went along with whatever his friends desired, his

mother worried that he might be too compliant.

complicity N. / / participation;

involvement. You cannot keep your complicity in this affair secret very long; you would be wise to admit your involvement immediately.

component N. / / element;

ingredient. I wish all the compo*nents* of my stereo system were working at the same time.

composure N. // mental calmness.

Even the latest work crisis failed to shake her composure.

compound V. / / combine;

constitute; pay interest; increase. The makers of the popular cold remedy compounded a nasal decongestant with an antihistamine. also **N.**

comprehensive ADJ. / / thorough;

inclusive. This book provides a comprehensive review of verbal and math skills for the SAT.

compress V. / / close; squeeze;

contract. She compressed the package under her arm.

comprise V. / / include;

consist of. If the District of Columbia were to be granted statehood, the United States

of America would comprise fifty-one states, not just fifty.

compromiseV. / / adjust or settle by making mutual concessions;

endanger the interests or reputation of.

Sometimes the presence of a neutral third party can help adversaries compromise their differences.

Unfortunately, you're not neutral; therefore, your presence here compromises our chances of

reaching an agreement. also N.

compunction N. // remorse.

The judge was especially severe in his sentencing because he felt that the criminal had shown no *compunction* for his heinous crime.

compute V. / / reckon; calculate.

He failed to compute the interest, so his bank balance was not accurate. computation, ${\bf N}$.

concave ADJ. / / hollow.

The back-packers found partial shelter from the storm by huddling against the

concave wall of the cliff.

concede V. / / admit;

yield. Despite all the evidence Monica had assembled, Mark refused to concede that she was right.

conceit N. / vanity or self-love;

whimsical idea; extravagant metaphor. Although Jack was smug and puffed up with *conceit*, he was an entertaining companion, always expressing himself

in amusing *conceits* and witty turns of phrase.

concentric ADJ. / / having a common center.

The target was made of *concentric* circles.

conception N. / / beginning;

forming of an idea. At the first *conception* of the work, he was consulted. conceive, **V**.

concerted ADJ. / /mutually agreed on;

done together. All the Girl Scouts made a *concerted* effort to raise funds for their annual outing. When the movie star appeared, his fans let out a *concerted* sigh.

concession N. / /an act of yielding.

Before they could reach an agreement, both sides had to make certain concessions.

conciliatory ADJ. / / reconciling

; soothing. She was still angry despite his conciliatory words. conciliate, V.

concise ADJ. / /brief and compact When you define a new word, be *concise:*

the shorter the definition, the easier it is to remember.

contrived ADJ. / / forced;

artificial; not spontaneous. Feeling ill at ease with his new in-laws, James made a few *contrived* attempts at conversation and then retreated into silence.

controvert V. / / oppose with arguments;

attempt to refute; contradict. The witness's testimony was so clear and her reputation for honesty so well-established that the defense attorney decided it was wiser to

make no attempt to controvertwhat she said.

contusion N. / / bruise.

Black and blue after her fall, Sue was treated for contusions and abrasions.

conundrum N. / / riddle.

During the long car ride, she invented *conundrums* to entertain the children.

convene V. / / assemble

. Because much needed legislation had to be enacted, the governor ordered the

legislature to convene in special session by January 15.

convention N. // social or moral custom;

established practice. Flying in the face of *convention*, George Sand shocked society by taking lovers and wearing men's clothes

conventional ADJ. / / ordinary;

typical. His *conventional* upbringing left him wholly unprepared for his wife's eccentric family.

converge V. / / approach;

tend to meet; come together. African-American men from all over the United

States converged on Washington to take part in the historic Million Men march.

conversant ADJ. / /familiar with.

The lawyer is *conversant* with all the evidence.

converse N. / /opposite,

The inevitable *converse* of peace is not war but annihilation.

converse V. / /chat;

talk informally. Eva was all ears while Lulu and Lola *conversed*. Wasn't it rude of her to

eavesdrop on their conversation? conversation, N.

convert N. / /one who has adopted a different religion or opinion

. On his trip to Japan, though the

President spoke at length about the virtues of American automobiles, he made few *converts* to his

beliefs. alsoV.

convex ADJ. / /curving outward.

He polished the convex lens of his telescope.

conveyance N. //vehicle;

transfer. During the transit strike, commuters used various kinds of conveyances.

conviction N. / / judgment that someone is guilty of a crime

; strongly held belief. Even her *conviction* for murder did not shake Peter's *conviction* that Harriet was innocent of the crime.

convivial ADJ. / / festive; gay;

characterized by joviality. The convivial celebrators of the victory sang their college songs.

convoke V. / / call together.

Congress was convoked at the outbreak of the emergency. convocation, N.

convoluted ADJ. // coiled around;

involved; intricate. His argument was so *convoluted* that few of us could follow it intelligently.