

**PTE Preparation Series**

# **Vocabulary Mastery**

**Essential Words for PTE Academic Success**



**Designed for PTE Students**

Comprehensive vocabulary practice with contextual  
examples and usage patterns



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## 1. Benefit (noun)

- Definition: An advantage or profit gained from something.
- Synonyms: advantage, gain, profit
- Antonyms: disadvantage, loss, harm
- Example: One of the benefits of exercise is improved sleep.

## 2. Bias (noun)

- Definition: Prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way that's considered to be unfair.
- Synonyms: prejudice, partiality, favoritism
- Antonyms: fairness, impartiality, objectivity
- Example: The news report showed a clear bias against the candidate.

## 3. Brief (adjective)

- Definition: Of short duration.
- Synonyms: short, concise, terse
- Antonyms: long, extended, lengthy
- Example: The meeting was brief and to the point.

## 4. Broaden (verb)

- Definition: Enlarge (something) in width.
- Synonyms: widen, expand, increase
- Antonyms: narrow, decrease, reduce
- Example: Travel can broaden your perspective.

## 5. Bureaucracy (noun)

- Definition: A system of government or business that has many complicated rules and procedures.
- Synonyms: administration, government, red tape
- Example: The company is weighed down by bureaucracy.

## 6. Barren (adjective)

- Definition: Too poor to produce vegetation.
- Synonyms: infertile, unproductive, desolate
- Antonyms: fertile, productive, lush
- Example: The land was barren and desolate.

## 7. Bewilder (verb)

- Definition: Cause (someone) to become perplexed and confused.
- Synonyms: confuse, puzzle, baffle
- Antonyms: clarify, explain, enlighten



- Example: The complex instructions bewildered me.

## 8. Bolster (verb)

- Definition: Support or strengthen.
- Synonyms: support, strengthen, reinforce
- Antonyms: weaken, undermine, diminish
- Example: She tried to bolster his confidence.

## 9. Boundary (noun)

- Definition: A line that marks the limits of an area.
- Synonyms: border, frontier, edge
- Example: The river forms the boundary between the two countries.

## 10. Brave (adjective)

- Definition: Ready to face and endure danger or pain; showing courage.
- Synonyms: courageous, fearless, valiant
- Antonyms: cowardly, timid, fearful
- Example: He was a brave soldier.

## 11. Blatant (adjective)

- Definition: Done openly and unashamedly; obvious.
- Synonyms: obvious, flagrant, glaring
- Antonyms: subtle, inconspicuous, covert
- Example: A blatant attempt to bribe the official.

## 12. Believable (adjective)

- Definition: Capable of being believed; plausible.
- Synonyms: credible, plausible, convincing
- Antonyms: unbelievable, implausible, doubtful
- Example: The story was not believable.

## 13. Benevolent (adjective)

- Definition: Well meaning and kindly.
- Synonyms: kind, compassionate, generous
- Antonyms: malevolent, cruel, selfish
- Example: A benevolent dictator.

## 14. Beseech (verb)

- Definition: Ask (someone) urgently and fervently to do something; implore.
- Synonyms: beg, implore, entreat



- **Antonyms:** command, demand, order
- Example: They beseeched him to stay.

## 15. Bipartisan (adjective)

- Definition: Involving the agreement or cooperation of two political parties that usually oppose each other.
- **Synonyms:** nonpartisan, coalition, united
- **Antonyms:** partisan, factional, divisive
- Example: A bipartisan agreement on education reform.

## 16. Bleak (adjective)

- Definition: Without hope or encouragement; depressing.
- **Synonyms:** desolate, grim, depressing
- **Antonyms:** bright, promising, optimistic
- Example: The future looked bleak.

## 17. Blunder (noun)

- Definition: A stupid or careless mistake.
- **Synonyms:** mistake, error, gaffe
- **Antonyms:** accuracy, perfection, success
- Example: He made a terrible blunder.

## 18. Boisterous (adjective)

- Definition: Noisy, energetic, and cheerful; rowdy.
- **Synonyms:** rowdy, lively, energetic
- **Antonyms:** calm, quiet, restrained
- Example: A boisterous crowd.

## 19. Bombastic (adjective)

- Definition: High-sounding but with little meaning; inflated.
- **Synonyms:** pompous, inflated, pretentious
- **Antonyms:** humble, subtle, understated
- Example: Bombastic rhetoric.

## 20. Boom (noun)

- Definition: A period of great prosperity or rapid economic growth.
- **Synonyms:** prosperity, growth, expansion
- **Antonyms:** recession, decline, slump
- Example: The economic boom of the 1990s.

## 21. Burgeoning (adjective)



- Definition: Beginning to grow or increase rapidly; flourishing.
- Synonyms: flourishing, thriving, expanding
- Antonyms: declining, shrinking, waning
- Example: A burgeoning population.

## 22. Bystander (noun)

- Definition: A person who is present at an event or incident but does not take part.
- Synonyms: onlooker, observer, witness
- Antonyms: participant, involved, actor
- Example: The bystanders watched the fight.

## 23. Bankruptcy (noun)

- Definition: The state of being completely lacking in a particular quality or value.
- Synonyms: insolvency, failure, liquidation
- Antonyms: solvency, profitability, success
- Example: The company declared bankruptcy.

## 24. Bargain (noun)

- Definition: An agreement between parties regarding a transaction.
- Synonyms: agreement, deal, contract
- Antonyms: disagreement, quarrel, dispute
- Example: She struck a bargain with the vendor.

## 25. Barrier (noun)

- Definition: A circumstance or obstacle that keeps people or things apart or prevents progress.
- Synonyms: obstacle, impediment, hindrance
- Antonyms: aid, assistance, advantage
- Example: Language differences are a barrier to communication.

## 26. Bestow (verb)

- Definition: Confer or present (an honor, right, or gift).
- Synonyms: grant, give, confer
- Antonyms: withhold, take, deprive
- Example: The university bestowed an honorary degree on her.

## 27. Bifurcate (verb)

- Definition: Divide into two branches or forks.
- Synonyms: divide, split, fork
- Antonyms: join, merge, unite
- Example: The road bifurcated into two paths.



## 28. Bilateral (adjective)

- Definition: Having two sides.
- Synonyms: two-sided, mutual, reciprocal
- Antonyms: unilateral, one-sided, independent
- Example: A bilateral agreement between two countries.

## 29. Blemish (noun)

- Definition: A small mark or flaw that spoils the appearance of something.
- Synonyms: flaw, imperfection, defect
- Antonyms: perfection, flawlessness, beauty
- Example: A blemish on her skin.

## 30. Bond (noun)

- Definition: Something that unites two or more people or things.
- Synonyms: connection, tie, link
- Antonyms: separation, division, detachment
- Example: The bond between mother and child.

## 31. Balance (noun)

- Definition: An even distribution of weight enabling someone or something to remain upright and steady.
- Synonyms: equilibrium, stability, steadiness
- Antonyms: imbalance, instability, unevenness
- Example: She lost her balance and fell.

## 32. Basic (adjective)

- Definition: Forming an essential foundation or starting point; fundamental.
- Synonyms: fundamental, essential, primary
- Antonyms: advanced, complex, sophisticated
- Example: Basic human rights.

## 33. Bear (verb)

- Definition: Endure (an ordeal or difficulty).
- Synonyms: endure, tolerate, withstand
- Antonyms: avoid, evade, escape
- Example: She had to bear the pain.

## 34. Becoming (adjective)

- Definition: Looking good on someone; attractive.
- Synonyms: attractive, flattering, suitable



- **Antonyms:** unflattering, unsuitable, unbecoming
- Example: That dress is very becoming on you.

### 35. Beget (verb)

- Definition: (Typically of a man) bring (a child) into existence by the process of reproduction.
- Synonyms: father, produce, generate
- **Antonyms:** abort, destroy, eliminate
- Example: He beget a son.

### 36. Belie (verb)

- Definition: (Of an appearance) fail to give a true notion or impression of (something); disguise or contradict.
- Synonyms: contradict, disguise, conceal
- **Antonyms:** reveal, expose, uncover
- Example: His calm face belied the turmoil within.

### 37. Belligerent (adjective)

- Definition: Hostile and aggressive.
- Synonyms: hostile, aggressive, combative
- **Antonyms:** peaceful, friendly, amiable
- Example: A belligerent attitude.

### 38. Benign (adjective)

- Definition: Gentle and kindly.
- Synonyms: gentle, kindly, harmless
- **Antonyms:** malignant, harmful, dangerous
- Example: A benign old man.

### 39. Besmirch (verb)

- Definition: Damage the reputation of (someone or something) in the opinion of others.
- Synonyms: tarnish, damage, sully
- **Antonyms:** honor, respect, praise
- Example: He besmirched her reputation.

### 40. Bias (noun)

- Definition: Inclination or prejudice for or against one person or group, especially in a way considered to be unfair.
- Synonyms: prejudice, favoritism, partiality
- **Antonyms:** fairness, impartiality, objectivity
- Example: The judge showed bias against the defendant.



#### 41. Bibliophile (noun)

- Definition: A person who collects or has a great love of books.
- Synonyms: bookworm, book lover, book collector
- Antonyms: misologue, book hater, ignoramus
- Example: She is a true bibliophile.

#### 42. Bizarre (adjective)

- Definition: Very strange or unusual, especially so as to cause interest or amusement.
- Synonyms: strange, unusual, peculiar
- Antonyms: normal, ordinary, typical
- Example: A bizarre situation.

#### 43. Bland (adjective)

- Definition: Lacking strong features or characteristics and therefore uninteresting.
- Synonyms: tasteless, uninteresting, dull
- Antonyms: flavorful, interesting, exciting
- Example: The soup was rather bland.

#### 44. Blight (noun)

- Definition: A thing that spoils or damages something.
- Synonyms: affliction, scourge, plague
- Antonyms: blessing, benefit, boon
- Example: Urban blight.

#### 45. Bode (verb)

- Definition: Be an omen of (a particular outcome).
- Synonyms: portend, foreshadow, augur
- Antonyms: belie, contradict, negate
- Example: These changes do not bode well for the future.

#### 46. Bogus (adjective)

- Definition: Not genuine or true; fake.
- Synonyms: fake, false, fraudulent
- Antonyms: genuine, authentic, real
- Example: A bogus claim.

#### 47. Boon (noun)

- Definition: A thing that is helpful or beneficial.
- Synonyms: benefit, advantage, blessing
- Antonyms: disadvantage, drawback, curse





- Example: The rain was a boon to the farmers.

#### 48. Brash (adjective)

- Definition: Self-assertive in a rude, noisy, or overbearing way.
- Synonyms: audacious, impudent, cheeky
- Antonyms: timid, meek, submissive
- Example: His brash attitude offended many.

#### 49. Brevity (noun)

- Definition: Concise and exact use of words in writing or speech.
- Synonyms: conciseness, terseness, succinctness
- Antonyms: verbosity, loquacity, wordiness
- Example: The speech was admired for its brevity.

#### 50. Buoyant (adjective)

- Definition: Able to stay afloat or rise to the top of a liquid or air.
- Synonyms: floating, afloat, light
- Antonyms: sinking, heavy, submerged
- Example: The boat was buoyant in the water.

#### 51. Baffle (verb)

- Definition: To bewilder or perplex.
- Synonyms: perplex, bewilder, confound
- Antonyms: clarify, explain, elucidate
- Example: The complex puzzle baffled even the experts.

#### 52. Banal (adjective)

- Definition: Lacking in originality as to be obvious and boring.
- Synonyms: trite, hackneyed, clichéd
- Antonyms: original, fresh, innovative
- Example: Banal plotlines plague many movies.

#### 53. Barrage (noun)

- Definition: A concentrated artillery bombardment.
- Synonyms: bombardment, onslaught, deluge
- Antonyms: dearth, lack, paucity
- Example: The troops faced a barrage of heavy fire.

#### 54. Bastion (noun)

- Definition: A fortified place or position.



- Synonyms: fortress, stronghold, bulwark
- Antonyms: weak point, vulnerable spot, breach
- Example: The castle acted as a bastion against invaders.

### 55. Bawdy (adjective)

- Definition: Dealing with sexual matters in a comical way; humorously indecent.
- Synonyms: risqué, indecent, vulgar
- Antonyms: decent, moral, pure
- Example: The play was known for its bawdy jokes.

### 56. Beatific (adjective)

- Definition: Radiating bliss.
- Synonyms: blissful, joyful, radiant
- Antonyms: miserable, sad, unhappy
- Example: She had a beatific smile on her face.

### 57. Bedlam (noun)

- Definition: A scene of uproar and confusion.
- Synonyms: chaos, uproar, pandemonium
- Antonyms: order, peace, tranquility
- Example: The market was a scene of bedlam.

### 58. Behemoth (noun)

- Definition: A huge or monstrous creature.
- Synonyms: giant, monster, colossus
- Antonyms: dwarf, miniature, small fry
- Example: The corporation was a behemoth in its industry.

### 59. Bequest (noun)

- Definition: Something left to someone in a will.
- Synonyms: inheritance, legacy, endowment
- Antonyms: loss, privation, debt
- Example: He received a bequest of a large sum of money.

### 60. Bereft (adjective)

- Definition: Deprived of or lacking something.
- Synonyms: deprived, lacking, devoid
- Antonyms: full, abundant, replete
- Example: The forest was bereft of trees.



### 61. Berserk (adjective)

- Definition: Out of control with anger or excitement; wild or frenzied.
- Synonyms: frenzied, hysterical, maniacal
- Antonyms: calm, peaceful, serene
- Example: He went berserk and started smashing things.

### 62. Betroth (verb)

- Definition: Enter into a formal agreement to marry.
- Synonyms: engaged, promised, pledged
- Antonyms: divorced, separated, unpledged
- Example: They were betrothed at a young age.

### 63. Beverage (noun)

- Definition: A drink other than water.
- Synonyms: drink, liquid, refreshment
- Antonyms: food, solid, sustenance
- Example: She ordered a refreshing beverage.

### 64. Bibliolatry (noun)

- Definition: Excessive reverence for books.
- Synonyms: book worship, book veneration, book adoration
- Antonyms: book hatred, disrespect for books, bibliophobia
- Example: His bibliolatry was evident in his extensive collection.

### 65. Bigot (noun)

- Definition: A person who is intolerant toward those holding different opinions.
- Synonyms: zealot, partisan, sectarian
- Antonyms: tolerant person, liberal person, open-minded individual
- Example: The town was divided by bigots on both sides.

### 66. Billow (verb)

- Definition: (Of fabric) fill with air and swell outward.
- Synonyms: swell, inflate, balloon
- Antonyms: deflate, shrink, collapse
- Example: The sails billowed in the wind.

### 67. Biped (noun)

- Definition: An animal that uses two legs for walking.
- Synonyms: two-legged creature, bimanous, dipedal
- Antonyms: quadruped, four-legged creature, multiped



- Example: Humans are bipeds.

## 68. Bivouac (noun)

- Definition: A temporary camp without tents or cover.
- Synonyms: camp, encampment, lean-to
- Antonyms: permanent camp, fortified base, citadel
- Example: The soldiers spent the night in a bivouac.

## 69. Blanch (verb)

- Definition: Make white or pale by extracting color.
- Synonyms: whiten, pale, fade
- Antonyms: redden, darken, color
- Example: She blanched at the sight of the accident.

## 70. Blandishment (noun)

- Definition: A flattering or pleasing statement or action used to persuade someone gently to do something.
- Synonyms: flattery, adulation, ingratiation
- Antonyms: criticism, reproach, disapproval
- Example: The salesman used blandishments to close the deal.

## 71. Blasphemy (noun)

- Definition: The act or offense of speaking sacrilegiously about God or sacred things.
- Synonyms: profanity, sacrilege, impiety
- Antonyms: piety, reverence, devotion
- Example: He was accused of blasphemy.

## 72. Blithe (adjective)

- Definition: Showing a casual and cheerful indifference considered to be callous or improper.
- Synonyms: nonchalant, carefree, insouciant
- Antonyms: concerned, worried, anxious
- Example: He showed a blithe disregard for the rules.

## 73. Bloated (adjective)

- Definition: Swollen with fluid or gas.
- Synonyms: swollen, inflated, puffed up
- Antonyms: deflated, shrunken, flat
- Example: Her stomach felt bloated.

## 74. Bodega (noun)

- Definition: A small Hispanic grocery store, especially in an urban area.



- Synonyms: corner store, grocery store, deli
- Antonyms: supermarket, hypermarket, warehouse store
- Example: He bought milk at the corner bodega.

## 75. Bole (noun)

- Definition: The trunk of a tree.
- Synonyms: trunk, stem, stock
- Antonyms: branch, limb, twig
- Example: The bole of the oak was massive.

## 76. Bonanza (noun)

- Definition: A situation or event that creates a sudden increase in wealth, good fortune, or profits.
- Synonyms: windfall, jackpot, gold mine
- Antonyms: loss, disaster, failure
- Example: The discovery of gold led to a bonanza for the town.

## 77. Bonhomie (noun)

- Definition: Cheerful friendliness; geniality.
- Synonyms: geniality, amiability, cordiality
- Antonyms: hostility, reserve, coldness
- Example: His bonhomie made him popular.

## 78. Botch (verb)

- Definition: Carry out (a task) badly or carelessly.
- Synonyms: spoil, ruin, mishandle
- Antonyms: perfect, excel, master
- Example: He botched the repair job.

## 79. Bourgeois (adjective)

- Definition: Characteristic of the middle class, typically with reference to its perceived materialistic values or conventional attitudes.
- Synonyms: middle-class, conventional, materialistic
- Antonyms: proletarian, working-class, unconventional
- Example: He had bourgeois tastes.

## 80. Bowdlerize (verb)

- Definition: Remove material that is considered improper or offensive from (a text or account), especially with the result that it becomes weaker or less effective.
- Synonyms: censor, expurgate, sanitize
- Antonyms: unexpurgated, unaltered, unabridged
- Example: The book was bowdlerized for young readers.



### 81. Braggadocio (noun)

- Definition: Boastful or arrogant behavior.
- Synonyms: boasting, bragging, swagger
- Antonyms: humility, modesty, shyness
- Example: His braggadocio was tiresome.

### 82. Bravado (noun)

- Definition: A bold manner or a show of boldness intended to impress or intimidate.
- Synonyms: boldness, showiness, ostentation
- Antonyms: timidity, cowardice, fear
- Example: He adopted an air of bravado.

### 83. Brew (verb)

- Definition: Make (beer or other liquor) by steeping, boiling, and fermentation.
- Synonyms: ferment, infuse, steep
- Antonyms: consume, drink, ingest
- Example: He brewed his own beer.

### 84. Brindle (adjective)

- Definition: Having a brownish or tawny coat with streaks of other color.
- Synonyms: streaked, dappled, mottled
- Antonyms: solid-colored, unmarked, uniform
- Example: The dog was brindle.

### 85. Broach (verb)

- Definition: Raise (a sensitive or difficult subject) for discussion.
- Synonyms: introduce, raise, mention
- Antonyms: avoid, evade, ignore
- Example: He hesitated to broach the subject.

### 86. Brouhaha (noun)

- Definition: A noisy and overexcited reaction or response to something.
- Synonyms: uproar, commotion, fuss
- Antonyms: calm, peace, quiet
- Example: The incident caused a brouhaha in the media.

### 87. Brusque (adjective)

- Definition: Abrupt or offhand in speech or manner.
- Synonyms: curt, abrupt, blunt
- Antonyms: gracious, polite, courteous



- Example: He was known for his brusque demeanor.

## 88. Buffoon (noun)

- Definition: A ridiculous but amusing person.
- Synonyms: clown, fool, jester
- Antonyms: sage, wise person, serious individual
- Example: He played the role of a buffoon.

## 89. Bulwark (noun)

- Definition: A defensive wall.
- Synonyms: rampart, fortification, defense
- Antonyms: weakness, vulnerability, opening
- Example: The city was protected by a bulwark.

## 90. Bumpkin (noun)

- Definition: An unsophisticated or socially awkward person from the countryside.
- Synonyms: yokel, rustic, hayseed
- Antonyms: sophisticate, urbane, cosmopolitan
- Example: He felt like a bumpkin in the big city.

## 91. Beguile (verb)

- Definition: Charm or enchant (someone), sometimes in a deceptive way.
- Synonyms: charm, enchant, deceive
- Antonyms: repel, offend, disenchant
- Example: He beguiled her with flattery.

## 92. Behemoth (noun)

- Definition: Something enormous in size or power.
- Synonyms: giant, colossus, mammoth
- Antonyms: dwarf, miniature, runt
- Example: The computer company is a behemoth in the industry.

## 93. Bane (noun)

- Definition: A cause of great distress or annoyance.
- Synonyms: scourge, curse, plague
- Antonyms: boon, blessing, advantage
- Example: The constant noise was the bane of his existence.

## 94. Bellicose (adjective)

- Definition: Demonstrating aggression and willingness to fight.



- Synonyms: aggressive, combative, warlike
- Antonyms: peaceful, amicable, conciliatory
- Example: His bellicose attitude got him into trouble.