Readers should memorize this core list as soon as possible and then begin to master the high frequency words (6-3 times or fewer) as they encounter them in the reading. A complete list of words occurring 6-3 times may be found at the end of this book. If you encounter a word that is not found in the facing vocabulary or commentary, it is most likely in this list.

The number of occurrences of each word in the Symposium was tabulated with the help of vocabulary tools in the Perseus Digital Library (perseus.tufts.edu).

**Core Vocabulary List**  
*Words 7 or More Times*
Core Vocabulary

ἀπ- ἄρχομαι, ἐλεύσομαι, ἥλθον, ἐλήλυθα, —: to go away, depart
ἀπό: from, away from. (+ gen.)
ἀπο-θησαυ, —θαυμάζω, —θάνον, —θέλω, —: to die, die off, perish
ἀ- πόρεω, ἀπορίσσω: to be at a loss, puzzled, bewildered; be poor
ἀπτω, ἀπσε, ἰπα, —, ἰμαι, ἰδήν: to fasten, join; mid. touch, grasp (+ gen.)
ἀρα: then, therefore, it seems, it turns out
ἀρα: untranslated particle introducing a yes/no question
ἀρετή, ἢ: excellence, virtue, goodness
'Aριστοδήμος, ὁ: Aristodemos
ἀριστο-, -η, -οι: best, most excellent (superl. ἀγαθός)
'Aριστοφάνης, ὁ: Aristophanes
ἀρμονία, ἢ: attunement, harmony; fastening, joint
ἀρρην, -νος, ὁ, ἢ, τό: male, masculine
ἀρχή, ἢ: the beginning; rule, office
ἀρχέω, ἀρχέω, ἠρχαι, ἠρχα, ἠργαί, ἠρχθην: to begin; rule, be leader of
ἀτε: inasmuch as, since, seeing that (+ pple.)
ἀυ: again, in turn; further, moreover
ἀυτός, -η, -ο: he, she, it; the same; -self
ἀυτός: at the very place, here, there
ἀφ- ἰμαι, -θαυμα, -ήκα, -είκα, -ειμαι, -είθην: to let go, release, give up, send forth, launch
'Aφροδίτη, ἢ: Aphrodite

βίος, ὁ: life
βιών, βιώσομαι, ἐβίωσα, ἐβεβιώσα, ἐβεβίωσα, —: to live
βλέπω, βλέψα, ἐβλεψά, —, —: to see, look, look to, look at, gaze upon
βουλόμαι, βουλήσσω, —, —, βεβουλήσαμαι, ἐβουλήσαμαι: to wish, be willing, desire, choose

Γαία, ἢ: Gaia, Earth
γάρ: for, since
γε: at least, at any rate; indeed
γελοιός, -α, -ον: laughable, ridiculous
γένεσις, -εος, ἢ: origin, beginning, birth, generation
γεννάω, γεννήσω: to beget, engender, bring forth, produce
γένος, -εος, τό: race, clan; offspring, child; type, kind
γίνομαι, γεννάω, ἐγένεσθαι, ἐγένσα, γέγονα, γεγένηται, —: to become, come into being, be born, happen, occur
γνωσκόμαι, γνώσομαι, ἐγνω, ἐγνώκα, ἐγνώσμαι, ἐγνώσθη: to learn, realize; know
γυνή, γυναικός, ἢ: woman, wife

δε: but, and, on the other hand
δει: it is necessary, must, ought (+acc. + inf.)
δεινός, -η, -ον: terrible; strange, marvelous; clever
dεινόνιον, δειπνόνιον, δειπνόναι, δεδειπνηκα, —, —: to make dinner, eat dinner
dέω (δέομαι), δείχνω, δείχνο, δεδείχθη, —, —: to lack, want, need; mid. ask, beg
dεώ, δέω, ἐδέω, ἐδεικνύω, ἐδεικνύναι, ἐδείκτην: to bind
dή: indeed, surely, really, certainly, just
dήλος, -η, -ον: clear, evident, conspicuous, obvious
dημιουργός, ὁ: craftsman, skilled workman*
dή-που: perhaps, I suppose, I presume, of course
dια: through (+ gen.); on account of, because of (+ acc.)
Core Vocabulary

3rd person sg., acc. reflexive pronoun (οὗ, gen., οὗ, dat.)

εἶ: if ever (+ subj.)

ἐαυτῷ, ἐαὐτῇ, ἐαὐτῷ: himself, herself, itself, themselves

ἐδέω, ἐδόσα, ἐδότα, ἐδομαί, ἐδόθην: to allow, permit, let be, suffer

ἐγκυμονάζω, ἐγκυμονάζομαι, —: to be willing, wish, desire

ἐγώ: I

ἐθέλω, ἐθέλησα, ἐθέλησα, —: to be willing, wish, desire

ἐπι: if, whether

ἐβλέπω: saw, beheld, (aor. of ὁράω)

ἐβδομήσαμαι: to pursue, follow; prosecute

档κόμι, δέχομαι, —: to seem, seem good; think, suppose

δύναμαι, δυνατόν, —: to be able, can, be capable

δύο: two

ἐ: 3rd person sg., acc. reflexive pronoun (οὗ, gen., οὗ, dat.)

ἐὰν: if ever (+ subj.)

ἐγκυμονάζω, ἐγκυμονάζομαι, —: to be willing, wish, desire

ἐπι: if, whether

ἐβλέπω: saw, beheld, (aor. of ὁράω)

ἐβδομήσαμαι: to pursue, follow; prosecute

档κόμι, δέχομαι, —: to seem, seem good; think, suppose

δύναμαι, δυνατόν, —: to be able, can, be capable

δύο: two

ἐπι: if, whether

ἐγκυμονάζω, ἐγκυμονάζομαι, —: to be willing, wish, desire

ἐπι: if, whether

ἐβλέπω: saw, beheld, (aor. of ὁράω)

ἐβδομήσαμαι: to pursue, follow; prosecute

档κόμι, δέχομαι, —: to seem, seem good; think, suppose

δύναμαι, δυνατόν, —: to be able, can, be capable

δύο: two
Core Vocabulary

ἐπαινεῖν, ὁ: praise, approval, commendation
ἐπεί: since, because; when, after
ἐπείδαιν: whenever
ἐπείδή: since, because; when, after
ἐπί-εἰτα: then, next, secondly
ἐπὶ: near, at (+ gen. + dat.), to, (+ acc.), upon, after (+ dat)
ἐπὶ-θυμέω, ἐπιθυμήσω: to desire, long for
ἐπὶ-θυμία, η: desire, longing, yearning
ἐπιστήμη, η: knowledge
ἐπι-τίθημι, θήσω, θῆκα, τέθηκα, τέθημαι, έτέθην: to put on, impose, attribute; set on, attack
ἐπὶ-χειρέω: to attempt, try, endeavor; attack, set upon
ἐπομεν, ἔσομαι, ἐστόμην, —, —, —: to follow, accompany, escort
ἔραστής, -οῦ, ὁ: lover
ἔραστός, -ῆ, -άν: beloved, loved
ἔρος, —, ἡράσθην: to love, to be in love with, desire (+ gen.) (aor. deponent)
ἔργαζομαι, ἐργάζομαι, ἐργασάμην, —, εἰργασμαι, ἐργάζονται: to work, accomplish, perform
ἔργον, τό: work, labor, deed, act
ἐρέαω: will say, will speak, will mention (fut. of λέγω, pf. εἴρημαι)
ἐρέμαι, ἐρέμουμαι, ἡρέμην: to ask, question, inquire
Ερυξίμαχος, ὁ: Eryximachus
ἐρχόμαι, ἔλθομαι, ἐλθὼν, ἐλήλυθα, —, —: to come, go
ἐρωμένος, ὁ, η: beloved, the one loved
Ερως, -οτος, ὁ: Eros, Love, Desire
ἐρως, -ερτος, ὁ: love, desire
ἔρωσταω, ἔρωτισσα, ἡρώην, ἥρωττα, ἥρωτται, ἥρωττηθην: to ask, inquire, question
ἔρωτικος, -ῆ, -άν: erotic, amorous, of desire
ἔρταῖρος, ὁ: companion, comrade, mate
ἐτέρως, —α, —αν: one (of two), other; different
ἐτοί: still, besides, further, yet, any longer, moreover
ἐυ: well
ἐυ-δαιμον, -ον: happy, fortunate, blessed
ἐ-ιστημι, -στήσω, -εστηκα, -εστηκαι, -εστάθην: to set, stop, or stand near or over
ἐχω, ἔχω, ἔχον, ἔχει, ἔχειναι, —: to have, hold, possess; be able; be disposed
ἐχος: until, as long as
ζάω, ζήσω, ζήσας: to live
Ζεύς, Δίος, ὁ: Zeus
ζητεῖω, ζητήσω, ζητητα, ζήτηκα, —, —: to seek, look for, search, investigate
ζων, τό: animal, living creature

ἡ: or, either...or; than
ἡ: in truth, truly (introduces a question)
ἡγέομαι, ἡγίσομαι, ἡγησάμην, —, ἡγημαί, —: to lead, guide; consider, think, believe
ἡπί: already, now, at this time
ἡπόμην, η: pleasure, enjoyment, delight
ἡδος, -εος, τό: pleasure, enjoyment, delight
ἡκος, ἡκιο: to have come, be present (impf. ἤκον as plpf.)
ἡμείς: we
ἡμέρα, η: day
ἡμετερος, -α, -αν: our
ἡμι: I say
Core Vocabulary

ημισυ, τό: a half
ημισυς, -εια, -υ: half
ημός, -η, -ον: our
ηπτων, -ου: less, weaker, inferior (comp. of κακὸς)

θαυμάζω, θαυβάσομαι, θαύμασσα, τεθαύμασσα, —, θαυμάσθην: to wonder, be amazed
θαυμάσιος, -α, -ου: wonderful, marvelous, amazing
θαυμαστής, ὁ: an admirer
θαυμαστός, -η, -ον: wonderful, marvelous, amazing
θεᾶ, η: a goddess
θεάμαι, θεάσομαι, θεάσαμην, —, τεθεάμαι, —: to see, watch, look at; contemplate, consider
θείος, -α, -ου: divine, god-like, sent by the gods
θεός, ὁ: god, divinity
θυησκα, ἀποθάνομαι, ἀπέθανον, τέθυκα, —, —: to die, die off, perish
θητός, -ή, -όν: mortal, able to die
θύρα, η: door
θυσία, η: sacrifice, offering

ιστρικός, -η, -όν: medical, of a physician; medicine
ικανός, -η, -όν: enough, sufficient, adequate, competent
ικανός: enough, sufficiently, adequately
ινα: in order that (+ subj.); where (+ ind.)
ισός, -η, -ον: equal to, same as, like
ιστημι, στήσα, ἑστήσα, ἑστηκα, ἑσταμαι, ἑστάθην: to make stand, set up, stop, establish
ισχυρός, -ά, -όν: strong, powerful; severe
ισως: perhaps, probably; equally, likely

καθά: καθ’ ὁ, according as, just as
καθ-οράω, -όμωμαι, -είδον, -εωράκα, -ώμαι, -ώθην: to look down upon, perceive, observe
καί: and, also, even, too, in fact
κακός, -η, -όν: bad, base, cowardly, evil
καλέω, καλέωσα, ἐκάλεσα, κέκλημα, ἐκλήθην: to call, summon, invite
κάλλος, -εος, ὁ: beauty
καλός, -ή, -όν: beautiful, fair, noble, fine
καλός: well, nobly
καν: καὶ ἐστ’, and if, even if, although
κατά: down; in accordance with, according to (+ acc.)
κατα-κείμαι, κείσομαι: to lie (down), recline (often equivalent to pass. of τίθημι)
κατα-κλίνομαι, -κλίνεομαι, —, —, —, κατεκλιθήν: to lie down, recline; act. make recline
κελέω, κελέωσα, ἐκέλευσα, κεκελεύκα, κεκελεύσομαι, ἐκελεύθην: to bid, order, exhort
κεννόσ, κεννώσα, ἐκένωσα, —, —, κεκένωμαι, ἐκενώθην: to empty out, drain of (+ gen.)
κεφαλή, η: head
κινδυνεύω, κινδυνεύσω: to run the risk, risk, be likely do, be in danger
κιννός, -η, -όν: common, ordinary; public
κόσμιος, -ας, -ον: well-ordered, regular, moderate
κτάσομαι, κτάδομαι, ἐκτίσαμήν, —, κέκτημαι, ἐκτήθην: to acquire, get, gain, procure, possess
κόψω, κήπωs, η: to conceive, be pregnant with

λαμβάνω, λήμωμαι, ἔλαβον, ἐλήφα, ἐλήματι, ἐλήφθην: to take, receive, catch, grasp
λέγω, λέξις, ἔλεγξα, ἐλεημοί, ἐλεηθήν: to say, speak, (fut. is often ἔρειω)
λείπω, λείψω, ἔλιπον, ἠλέλω, ἠλείμματι, ἠλείφθην: to leave, forsake, abandon

λόγος, ὁ: word, speech, account, argument, reason

μάλιστα: especially, in particular, most of all, certainly

μᾶλλον: more, rather (comparative of μαλάκος)

μαντικός, -ῆ, -όν: prophetic, oracular; subst. prophecy

μέγας, μεγάλη, μέγα: big, great, important; haughty

μεγίστος, -ῆ, -όν: very big, greatest, most important

μέλλω, μελλέω, ἔμελλησα: to be about to, be going to; intend to

μέν: on the one hand

μέντοι: however, nevertheless; certainly

μετά: with, along with (+ gen.); after (+ acc.)

μεταξό: betwixt, between

μετ-ἔχω, ἔχω, ἐ-έχων, ἐ-έχηκα, ἐ-έχθαι, —: to partake, take a part in, have a share in (gen.)

μή: not, lest

μηδέν: and not, but not, not even, nor

μηδε-είς, μηδε-είσια, μηδε-έν: no one, nothing

μὴ: truly, surely, then; yet

μή-τε: and not, neither...nor

μήτρη, ἡ: mother

μικρός, ἡ, ὁν: small, little; trifle, insignificant

μόνος, -ῆ, -όν: alone, only, solitary, single

μουσική, ἡ: music, the art of music, the arts

μουσικός, -ῆ, -όν: musical, educated, cultured

νέος, -α, -όν: new, novel, strange, young; sub. a youth

νομίζω, νομίζο, ἐνομίζω, νενόμισα, νενόμισμα, ἐνομίσθην: to believe, consider, deem, hold

νόμος, ὁ: custom, law

νοῦς, ὁ: mind, thought, reason, attention, sense

νῦν: now; as it is

ὁ, ἡ, τό: the

ὁδεῖς, ἡδεῖς, τοῖς: this, this here, the following

ὁδῶς: to know (pf. with pres. sense)

ὁίῳμαι, ὁίῳσμαι, —, —, —, ὁίῃθην: to suppose, think, imagine

ὁίς, ὁ, ὁ-ος: what sort, which sort, such as, as

ὁίχομαι, ὁίχοσμα: to go, go off, depart

ὁλίγος, -ὴ, -όν: few, small, little

ὁλος, -ῆ, -όν: whole, entire, complete

"Ομπρος, ὁ: Homer

ὁμοιος, -α, -ον: like, resembling, similar to (+ dat.)

ὁμοιοκος: similarly, in the same way, in the same manner

ὁμολογέω, ὁμολογήσω, ὁμολογήσα, ὁμολόγησα, —, ὁμολογήθην: to agree, acknowledge

ὁμος: nevertheless, however, yet

ὁνομα, -ατος, τό: name, word

ὁνόμα: how, in what way; in order that, that

ὁράω, ὁρομαι, ἔδωκα, ἔδωκα, ὁρμα, ὠφθήν: to see, look, behold

ὁρθός, -ῆ, -όν: rightly, correctly

ὁσίος, ὁ, ὁ: who, which, that
παιδικά, τά: darling, favorite, boyfriend
παιδικός, -ή, -άν: boyish, playful, sportive
παις, παιδός, ο, η: child, boy, girl; slave
παλαιός, -ά, -άν: old, aged, ancient
πάλιν: again, once more; back, backwards
πᾶν-δήμος, -ον: common, popular, vulgar
πάντα: quite, very, entirely, completely
παρά: from, at, to the side of (+ gen., dat., acc.); in respect to, contrary to
πάρειμι, ἐσομαι: to be near, be present, be at hand
παρέχω, -έχω, -έχων, -έχηκα, -έχηκαι, —: to provide, furnish, supply, produce
πάς, πάσα, πάν: every, all, the whole, entire
πάσχω, πέσσομαι, ἐπαθοῦν, πέπονθα: to suffer, experience; allow
πατίρη, ο: father
Παυσανίας, ο: Pausanias
παύω, παύσομαι, ἐπανασκο, πέπαυμαι, ἐπάιθην: to stop, make cease; mid. cease
πείθω, πείσω, ἐπιθυμεῖα, πέπειθάμαι, πέπειθάμαι, ἐπειθήνη: to persuade, win over, trust; mid. obey
πειράζω: to make an attempt, endeavor
πειράζομαι, -ήσομαι, ἐπειρησάμην, —, πεπείρημαι, ἐπειρήθην: to attempt, make trial of (gen)
περί: concerning, about, around (+ gen., dat., acc.)
πηρός, -ή, -άν: maimed, disabled
πίνω, πίσω, ἐπινοι, πέπακα, —, ἐπόθην: to drink
πλέων, -ον: more, greater (comparative of πολύς)
πλέοντας, πλέοντας, πλέον: more, greater (full, full of (+ gen.)
ποιεώ, -ησα, ἐποίησα, πεποίηκα, πεποίηκα, ἐποιήθην: to do, make, create; mid. consider
ποίησις, -εση, η: creation, production; poetry
ποιήτης, ο, ο: maker, creator, poet
πόλις, η: a city
πολλά-κις: many times, often, frequently
πολύ: adv. much, quite, by far, far
πολύς, πολλά, πολύ: much, many, great, large, long
πορεύομαι, πορεύομαι, ἐπορεύαμην, —, πεπορεύμαι, ἐπορεύθην: to travel, proceed
ποτέ: ever, at some time, once
που: somewhere, anywhere; I suppose
ποῦ: where?
πράγμα, τό: deed, act; matter, affair, trouble
πράττω, πράξω, ἔπραξα, πέπραχα, πεπράγμαι, ἐπράχθην: to do, accomplish, make, act
πρέαθς, -εας, ὁ: old man, elder, ambassador
πρέασβύτατος, -ης, -ου: oldest, most important
πρέασβύτερος, -α -ου: older, more important
πρό: before, in front; in place of (+ gen.)
πρός: to, towards (+ acc.), near, in addition to (+ dat.)
προσ-έχω, -έξω, -έσχων, -έσχηκα, -έσχηκαι, –: to offer, provide; direct
πρότερος, -α, -ου: before, in front; earlier
πρώτον: adv. first
πρώτος, -η, -ου: first, earliest
πως: somehow, in some way
πώς: how? in what way?

ράδιος, -α, -ου: easy, ready

σε-αυτοῦ, -η, -ου: yourself
σεύω: to put in quick motion; drive, chase away
σμικρός, -α, -ου: small, little, insignificant
σός, -ή, -ου: your, yours
σοφία, ἡ: wisdom, skill, judgment, intelligence
σοφός, -ή, -ου: wise, skilled
σπουδὴ, ἡ: effort, earnestness, zeal, enthusiasm; haste
σύ: you
σύν-ειμι, ἐσομαι: to be with, associate with
συν-ουσία, ἡ: gathering, association, union
σφιξ: they
σφόδρα: very, very much, exceedingly, earnestly
σφός, -ή, -ου: their, their own
Σωκράτης, -ους, ὁ: Socrates
σώμα, -ατος, τό: body
σωφροσύνη, ἡ: moderation, temperance, prudence

ταύτη: in this way, in this respect, so, thus
ταχύς, εἰς, ὦ: fast, quick, swift, rapid
ταχύ: quickly, swiftly, hastily
τε: and, both
τελευτάω, τελευτήσω, ἐτέλευσα, τετελεύτηκα, –, –: to end, complete, finish; die
τέχνη, ἡ: art, skill, craft
τη: here, there
τίθημι, θίσω, θήκη, τέχνη, τέθειμαι, ἐτέθην: to set, put, place, arrange, make, cause
tίκτω, τέξωμαι, ἔτεκον, τέτοκα, –, –: to give birth, beget, bring forth, bear, produce
tιμάω, τιμήσω, ἐτίμησα, τετιμώμαι, ἐτιμήθητι: to honor, value, esteem
τιμή, ἡ: honor; office
τις, τί: anyone, anything, someone, something
τίς, τί: who? which?
τοι-νυν: well then; therefore, accordingly
τοι-οὕτως, -αὕτη, -οὕτω: such, this sort
τολμάω, τολμήσω, ἐτόλμησα, τετολμήκα, —, —: to dare, undertake, venture
τοσ-οὖτος, -アウτ, - chatte: so great, so much, so many
τότε: at that time, then
tréptω: to turn, direct; alter, change
τρόπος, ó: way, manner; turn, direction; custom
τυγχάνω, τεύξομαι, ἔτυχον, τετύχηκα, —, —: to chance, happen to (+ pple); get (+ gen.)

ψιμεῖς: you
ψιμός, -ῆ, -ον: your, yours

ὑπέρ: above, on behalf of (+ gen.); over, beyond (+ acc.)
ὑπό: by, because of, from (+ gen.), under (+ dat., + acc.)

Φαίδρος, ó: Phaedrus
φαίνω, φανό, ἔφηνα, πέφηνα, πέφασσαί, ἐφάνην: to show; mid. appear, seem
φαύλος, -ῆ, -ον: worthless, insignificant, mediocre
φέρω, οίσω, ἠμέγκον, ἑμήνοχα, ἑμήνεγκα, ἑμέχθην: to bear, carry, bring, convey
 Phiui, ἔρεω, ἐπένυσα, ἐπερήκα, ἐπερήκατα: to say, claim, assert
φιλία, ἦ: friendship, affection, love, devotion
φίλος, -ῆ, -ον: dear, friendly, beloved; subst. friend, kin
φιλο-σοφία, ἦ: pursuit of wisdom, philosophy
φύσις, -εώς, ἦ: nature, natural qualities, character
φύω, φύσω, ἐφύσα, πέφυκα, —, —: to bring forth, beget, engender; to be by nature

χαίρω, χαρίζω, —, κεχάρηκα, κεκάρημαι, ἐχάρημεν: to rejoice, be glad; be pleased; fare well
χαλεπός, -ά, -όν: difficult, hard, harmful
χαρίζομαι, χαρίζομαι, ἐχαρίσαμην, —, κεχάρισμαι: to (do a) favor, gratify, indulge (+ dat.)
χείρ, χειρός, ἦ: hand
χέω, χέω, ἅχεα, κέχυκα, κέχυκαί, ἐχύθην: to pour
χράομαι, χράομαι, ἐχρασάμην, —, κεκραμη, ἐχρήσθην: to use, employ, engage in (+ dat.)
χρῆ: it is necessary, it is fitting; must, ought (+ inf.)
χρήμα, -ατος, τό: thing; pl. money, goods
χρόνος, ó: time

ψυχή, ἦ: breath, life, spirit, soul

ὁ: O! oh!
ὁς: as, thus, so, that; when, since
ὁστερ: just as, as, as if
ὁστε: so that, that, so as to