*Hot Words for the SAT*

Lesson 1         Using Few Words or Being Quiet

·        brevity  *n.*                   briefness or conciseness in speech or writing

·        concise  *adj.*                using few words in speaking and   
writing

·        laconic  *adj.*                using few words in speech

·        pithy  *adj.*                    brief and full of meaning and   
substance; concise

·        quiescent  *adj.*            quiet; still; inactive

·        reticent  *adj.*               not talking much; reserved

·        succinct*adj.*               clearly and briefly stated; concise

·        taciturn  *adj.*               silent; sparing of words; close-mouthed

·        terse*adj.*                   using only the words that are needed to   
make the point; very concise

Lesson 2         Speaking

·        circumlocution*n.*       speaking in circles; roundabout speech

·        colloquial*adj.*            pertaining to common everyday speech; conversational

·        diffuse*adj.*                 spread out, not concise; wordy

·        digress*vb.*                 to wander off from the subject or topic spoken about

·        eloquence*n.*              artful ease with speaking; speech that can impact people’s feelings

·        garrulous*adj.*            talkative; loquacious

·        grandiloquent*adj.*     using big and fancy words when speaking for the purpose of impressing others

·        loquacious*adj.*          very talkative; liking to talk; garrulous

·        prattle*vb.*                  to speak on and on in a senseless and silly manner; to talk foolishly

·        rant*vb.*                      to talk very loudly, even wildly

·        rhetorical*adj.*            relating to speech that is used to persuade or have some effect; insincere in expression

·        verbose*adj.*               using too many words; wordy; long-winded

·        voluble*adj.*                talking a great deal with ease; glib

Lesson 3         Feeling Superior

·        arrogant*adj.*              overbearing; proud; haughty

·        braggart*n.*                 on who boasts a great deal

·        complacent*adj.*         self-satisfied; smug

·        contemptuous*adj.*     lacking respect; scornful

·        disdainful*adj.*            full of bitter scorn and pride; aloof

·        egotistical*adj.*           excessively self-absorbed; very conceited

·        haughty*adj.*               having a great pride in oneself and dislike for others

·        insolent*adj.*               boldly disrespectful in speech or behavior; rude

·        narcissist*adj. or n.* having to do with extreme self-adoration; person who feels superior to everyone

·        ostentatious*adj.*        having to do with showing off;  pretentious

·        presumptuous*adj.*     too forward or bold; overstepping proper bounds

·        pretentious*adj.*         claiming or pretending increased importance; ostentatious; affectedly grand

·        supercilious*adj.*        looking down on others; proud and scornful

·        swagger*vb.*               to walk around in a proud, showy manner; to boast in a loud manner

Lesson 4         Unoriginal, Dull, Played Out

·        banal*adj.*                   dull or stale because of overuse; trite; hackneyed

·        cliché*n.*                      an idea or expression that has become stale due to overuse

·        derivative*adj.*           unoriginal; taken from something already existing

·        hackneyed*adj.*          made commonplace by overuse; trite

·        insipid*adj.*                 lacking flavor or taste; unexciting

·        lackluster*adj.*           lacking vitality, energy, or brightness; boring

·        mundane*adj.* commonplace; ordinary

·        platitude*n.*                 quality of being dull; an obvious remark uttered as if it were original

·        prosaic*adj.*                dull; commonplace

·        trite*adj.*                     unoriginal and stale due to overuse

·        vapid*adj.*                   lacking freshness and zest; flat; stale

Lesson 5         Lessening Pain, Tension, and/ or Conflict

·        allay*vb.*                     to lessen fear; to calm; to relieve pain

·        alleviate*vb.*               to lessen pain or tension

·        ameliorate*vb.*           to make better; to lessen pain, difficulty, or tension

·        appease*vb.*               to make tranquil or quiet, especially by giving into demands; to pacify

·        assuage*vb.*                to alleviate; to lessen pain or conflict; pacify

·        conciliate*vb.*             to win a person over through special considerations or persuasive methods

·        mediate*vb.*                to act as a go-between in settling conflicts or disputes between people or

opposing sides

·        mitigate*vb.*                to make or become less severe; to lesson pain or damage

·        mollify*vb.*                  to pacify, soothe, or appease; to make less severe or violent

·        pacify*vb.*                   to calm; to make peaceful; to restore to a tranquil state

·        placate*vb.*                 to make calm; to soothe

·        quell*vb.*                     to pacify; to subdue; to quiet down

Lesson 6         Friendly and Agreeable

·        affable*adj.*                easy to talk to; easy to approach, friendly; kind; amiable

·        amiable*adj.*               friendly, kind

·        amicable*adj.*             showing goodwill; peaceable

·        congenial *adj.*            compatible; having kindred needs or tastes; sympathetic

·        convivial*adj.*             sociable, outgoing in a festive way, especially when pertaining to eating

and drinking; fond of good company

·        cordial*adj.*                 warm and friendly; amiable

·        gregarious*adj.*          sociable, outgoing

·        jocular*adj.*                 liking to be with people, joke around with them and have fun

·        levity*n.*                      lightheartedness; gaiety; carefree disposition, particularly when not

appropriate

Lesson 7         Quarreling, Fighting, and Bitter Feelings

·        animosity*n.*               hatred; ill will

·        antagonism*n.*            hatred or hostility

·        bellicose*adj.*             of a quarrelsome nature; eager to fight; warlike; belligerent

·        belligerent*adj.*          taking part in war or fighting ready to fight

·        cantankerous*adj.*     bad-tempered; quarrelsome

·        captious*adj.*              made for the sake of quarreling; quibbling

·        contentious*adj.*         quarrelsome; belligerent

·        disputatious*adj.*        likely to dispute or argue

·        polemical*adj.*            inclined to argue or debate; controversial

·        predator*n.*                 one who takes advantage of another, exploits or feeds on another; a strong adversary or rival

·        pugnacious*adj.*         eager to fight; belligerent

Lesson 8         Generosity in Spending Money or Time, or Showing Concern for Others

·        altruistic*adj.*             showing an unselfish concern for others

·        benevolent*adj.*          giving freely and easily to others; charitable

·        largess*n.*                   generous giving

·        lavish*adj.*                  generous in giving to others or in spending money

·        magnanimous*adj.*     generous in overlooking insult or injury by others; rising above pettiness

·        munificent*adj.*           very generous

·        philanthropic*adj.*      showing a desire to help others by giving gifts; charitable; humane

·        prodigal*adj.*              wasteful; lavish

·        squander*vb.*              to spend money (or time) in a wasteful, uncaring fashion

Lesson 9         Cheapness or Care with Spending Money

·        austere*adj.*               having great economy; showing self-

control when it comes to foregoing luxuries, frills; stern in manner or appearance

·        avarice*n.*                   greed

·        frugal*adj.*                  careful with money; thrifty; not costly

·        mercenary*adj.*          greedy for self-gain; thinking only of money-making

·        miserly*adj.*                careful with how money is spent; thrifty

·        parsimonious*adj.*      overly thrifty or miserly

·        penurious*adj.*            stingy; relating to great poverty, destitution

·        thrifty*adj.*                  showing care with how money and resources are spent or used; miserly

Lesson 10       Problems, Puzzlements, and Disasters

·        adversity*n.*                great trouble or difficulty

·        conflagration*n.*         a huge fire, an inferno

·        confounding*adj.*        puzzling; baffling

·        cryptic*adj.*                 hidden; hard to understand; mysterious; obscure

·        debacle*n.*                  a failure or breakdown; a collapse that is often nonsensical

·        enigma*n.*                   a riddle or mystery; a puzzling or baffling matter or person

·        labyrinth*n.*                a maze from which it is very hard to extricate (free) oneself

·        precarious*adj.*          dangerous or risky; uncertain

·        quandary*n.*                a dilemma; a confusing or puzzling situation

·        turbulence*n.*              great unrest; turmoil or disorder

·        turmoil*n.*                   a very puzzling scenario or situation; tumult

Lesson 11       Harmful

·        baneful*adj.*                causing ruin; harmful; pernicious

·        deleterious*adj.*         harmful to one’s health or overall welfare; pernicious

·        detrimental*adj.*         harmful

·        devious*adj.*               dishonest or deceptive

·        iniquitous*adj.*            showing a lack of fairness; wicked; vicious

·        malicious*adj.*            intending to hurt of harm another; spiteful

·        nefarious*adj.*            very mean and wicked

·        odious*adj.*                 loathsome; evil; revolting in a disgusting way

·        ominous*adj.*              pertaining to an evil omen; foreboding

·        pernicious*adj.*           very destructive or harmful, usually in an inconspicuous and relentless way

·        rancorous*adj.*           deeply hateful or spiteful; malicious

·        virulent*adj.*               extremely poisonous; deadly; full of spiteful hatred

Lesson 12       Criticizing, Disapproving, or Scolding

·        berate*vb.*                  to rebuke or scold in a harsh tone

·        castigate*vb.*              to scold or punish severely

·        censure*vb.*                to criticize strongly

·        chastise*vb.*                to punish or scold harshly

·        deprecate*vb.*             to show mild disapproval

·        impugn*vb.*                 to oppose or attack someone or something as false or refutable

·        rebuff*vb.*                   to snub; to bluntly refuse

·        rebuke*vb.*                 to reprimand or scold sharply

·        reprove*vb.*                to speak to in a disapproving manner; to scold

·        upbraid*vb.*                 to chide; to scold bitterly

Lesson 13       Lacking Interest or Emotion

·        aloof*adj.*                    uninterested; showing no concern; emotionally removed or distant

·        apathetic*adj.*             indifferent; showing no care, interest, or concern; lacking emotion

·        detached*adj.*             aloof; indifferent

·        impassive*adj.*           lacking emotion or drive

·        indifferent*adj.*           apathetic; showing little or no concern or care

·        listless*adj.*                lacking interest in something, usually because of illness, fatigue, or

general sadness; spiritless

·        nonchalant*adj.*          casual and indifferent; not showing any great concern or worry about anything

·        phlegmatic*adj.*          hard to get excited or emotional; calm

·        remote*adj.*                emotionally distant and disinterested; aloof; uninvolved; distant, far away

·        stoic*adj.*                 lacking emotion or not showing any emotion

Lesson 14       Lacking Energy or Movement

·        indolent*adj.*               lazy; not wanting to do any work

·        languor*n.*                   weak or lifeless feeling

·        lassitude*n.*                a tired feeling, usually resulting from depression or too much work

·        lethargic*adj.*             having little or no energy

·        sedentary*adj.*           having to do with sitting around a lot

·        sluggish*adj.*              slow and lazy

·        soporific*adj.*              sleep-inducing; sleepy

·        stagnant*adj.*              lacking movement or energy

·        torpid*adj.*                  lacking energy; relating to inactivity; feeling sluggish

Lesson 15       Humility and Obedience

·        compliant*adj.*            yielding, submissive

·        fawning*adj.*               gaining the favor of another by acting overly kind or by flattery

·        obsequious*adj.*         obeying or performing a service for someone in an overly attentive

manner

·        servile*adj.*                 slave-like; very humble and submissive

·        slavish*adj.*                slave-like; overly humble; involving very hard work

·        submissive*adj.*          voluntarily obeying another; humble

·        subordinate*adj.*        inferior; lower in rank or status

·        subservient*adj.*         obedient; obsequious

·        sycophant*n.*              a self-server who tries to gain the favor of others through the use of

flattery or by being overattentive

·        toady*n.*                      a flatterer; a sycophant

Lesson 16       Enthusiasm and Passion

·        ardent*adj.*                 full of passion and emotion

·        avid*adj.*                     showing enthusiasm; ardent

·        ebullient*adj.*              filled with a bubbly excitement, as if boiling over with excitement

·        effervescent*adj.*       lively; full of uplifted spirit; vivacious

·        exuberant*adj.*           overflowing with vitality and good spirits

·        fanatical*adj.*              full of great enthusiasm or devotion

·        fervent*adj.*                filled with passion or intensity

·        impassioned*adj.*       filled with passionate emotion

·        vibrant*adj.*                lively; full of vitality

·        zealous*adj.*                filled with enthusiasm; fervent

Lesson 17       Being Stubborn

·        adamant*adj.*              unwilling to bend; unyielding

·        dogged*adj.*                stubborn; determined

·        hidebound*adj.*           strongly-opinionated; narrow-mindedly stubborn

·        intractable*adj.*          stubborn; hard to manage

·        obdurate*adj.*             resistant to persuasion or softening; stubbornly persistent in wrongdoing

·        obstinate*adj.*             stubborn; inflexible

·        recalcitrant*adj.*         stubborn; disobedient; defiant

·        resolve*n.*                   firmness, determination

·        unwavering*adj.*         firm and determined

·        unyielding *adj.*           stubborn; inflexible

·        willful*adj.*                  stubborn

Lesson 18       Sound

·        acoustics*n.*                the quality of sound, pertaining to how it is heard based on the quality and structure of the room

·        cacophony*n.*              lack of harmony; loud and unpleasant noise; a racket

·        clamor*n.*                    unpleasant sound; noise

·        din*n.*                          ongoing loud sound; noise

·        discordant*adj.*           lacking harmony or agreement

·        euphony*n.*                 pleasing sound

·        mellifluous*adj.*          sweet and smooth sounding

·        raucous*adj.*              coarse-sounding; loud and unruly

·        strident*adj.*               shrill; high-pitched

·        vociferous*adj.*           loud and noisy regarding one’s own voice, especially shouting; demandingly clamorous

Lesson 19       Words Relating to Praise and Respect

·        acclaim*v.*                   to express strong approval or praise; hail

·        adulate*v.*                   to praise or flatter too greatly; fawn over

·        esteem*v.*                   to value highly; to have great regard for

·        eulogize*v.*                  to praise, as in a eulogy; to say good things about

·        exalt*v.*                       to praise or glorify; to lift up in status, dignity, power

·        extol*v.*                       to praise highly; laud

·        laud*v.*                        to praise; extol

·        panegyrize*v.*             to praise a person or event in a formal speech or in writing; to praise highly

·        revere*v.*                    to regard highly with love an respect

·        venerate*v.*                to feel of show deep respect for, especially due to age or tradition; to honor

Lesson 20       Words Relating to More Than Enough

·        ample*adj.*                  abundant; plentiful; enough or more than enough

·        copious*adj.*               abundant; much; plentiful

·        lavish*adj.*                  abundant; in excess

·        myriad*adj. or n.*        countless; a very large number

·        plethora*n.*                 excess; abundance

·        profuse*adj.*               abundant; more than enough

·        superfluous*adj.*         overabundant; more than is needed; unnecessary

·        surfeit*n.*                    an oversupply

Lesson 21       Words Relating to Food and Hunger

·        abstemious*adj.*         holding back from eating or drinking too much

·        alimentary*adj.*          relating to food and nourishment

·        culinary*adj.*               having to do with cooking, preparing meals

·        delectable*adj.*           delicious

·        emaciated*adj.*           very, very thin due to lack of adequate food

·        epicurean*adj.*            having to do with relishing the pleasure of eating and drinking (*n.* epicure)

·        glutton*n.*                    one who overindulges in food and drink

·        palatable*adj.*             pleasing to the taste buds

·        ravenous*adj.*             very hungry

·        savory*adj.*                 tasty or good smelling

·        voracious*adj.*            greedy; gluttonous; ravenous; insatiable

Lesson 22       Words Relating to Being Careful

·        chary*adj.*                   cautious; wary

·        circumspect*adj.*        careful and cautious before acting

·        conscientious*adj.*      relating to doing what one knows is right; scrupulous

·        exacting*adj.*              requiring a great deal of care or effort; painstaking

·        gingerly*adj.*              very carefully

·        heedful*adj.*                paying careful attention to

·        meticulous*adj.*          very careful; fussy; finicky

·        scrupulous*adj.*          showing great care and honesty, based on personal belief of what is

right and proper

·        vigilant*adj.*                carefully alert and watchful

·        wary*adj.*                    cautious, careful

Lesson 23       Words Relating to Being Short-lived in Time or Place

·        ephemeral*adj.*          lasting a short time; fleeting

·        evanescent*adj.*         vanishing quickly; fleeting

·        fleeting*adj.*               short-lived

·        itinerant*adj.*              wandering about; tending to move around, travel

·        nomadic*adj.*              wandering

·        peripatetic*adj.*          moving or walking about; itinerant

·        transient*adj.*             lasting for only a short time; temporary

·        transitory*adj.*            fleeting

·        volatile*adj.*                explosive or changing very quickly

Lesson 24       Words Relating to the Old or the New

                        The Old . . .

·        antediluvian*adj.*        very, very old; antiquated

·        antiquated*adj.*          very old and no longer in use; obsolete

·        antiquity*n.*                 ancient times

·        archaic*adj.*                old; from a much earlier time; antiquated

·        obsolete*adj.*              old; outdated, as in no longer in use

·        relic*n.*                        a custom or object that has been around for a very, very long time

The New . . .

·        contemporary*adj.*     modern, new; relating to the same time period

·        inception*n.*                the start, the beginning of something

·        innovation*n.*              something new

·        novel*adj.*                   new

·        unprecedented*adj.*   novel; unparalleled

Lesson 25       Words Relating to Being Sneaky or Hardly Noticeable

·        clandestine*adj.*         hidden, secret, concealed

·        covert*adj.*                 secret, hidden

·        furtive*adj.*                 sneaky

·        inconspicuous*adj.*     hardly noticeable

·        sly*adj.*                       underhanded, furtive

·        stealthy*adj.*               secretive, sly

·        surreptitious*adj.*       done or made in a secret, stealthy way

·        unobtrusive*adj.*        inconspicuous; not easily noticed

Lesson 26       Words Relating to People You Will Meet on the SAT I

·        adversary*n.*              an opponent

·        artisan*n.*                    a person who is skillful with his or her hands

·        ascetic*n.*                    a person who refrains from indulging in earthly pleasures

·        charlatan*n.*                a fraud; a quack or imposter

·        diva*n.*                        a highly skilled singer, usually an opera singer

·        hedonist*n.*                 a person who lives for pleasure

·        pariah*n.*                     a social outcast

·        raconteur*n.*               a skillful storyteller

·        skeptic*n.*                   a person who doubts

·        virtuoso*n.*                  a highly skilled performer, usually a musical performer

Lesson 27       Words Relating to Things of Little Importance or Value

·        extraneous*adj.*         not necessary; not an essential part; not relevant

·        frivolous*adj.*             not having substance or s sense of importance or seriousness; silly;

trivial; trifling

·        incidental*adj.*            less important; minor

·        inconsequential*adj.*  irrelevant; of no significance; unimportant

·        irrelevant*adj.*            not relating to the matter at hand

·        negligible*adj.*            able of likely to be neglected or bypassed due to smallness or lack of

importance

·        peripheral*adj.*           only marginally connected to what is truly important; minor or incidental;

relating to the field of vision

·        petty*adj.*                   minor or trivial; small in quantity

·        superficial*adj.*           lacking in depth or importance; on the surface

·        trifling*adj.*                 lacking significance; unimportant

·        trivial*adj.*                  unimportant; trifling; ordinary

Lesson 28       Words Relating to Being Wise and Sharp-Minded

·        acute*adj.*                   keen-minded; sharp

·        astute*adj.*                  sharp-minded; very clear

·        discerning*adj.*           able to judge people and situations clearly

·        erudite*adj.*                wise due to much reading and studying; scholarly

·        incisive*adj.*               sharp; keen

·        ingenious*adj.*            very clever or inventive

·        judicious*adj.*             showing wisdom in judging people and situations

·        perspicacious*adj.*     using wise judgment; sharp-minded

·        prudent*adj.*               careful, cautious, and wise

·        sagacious*adj.*            wise

·        savvy*adj.*                  smart; informed

·        shrewd*adj.*                insightful; clever

Lesson 29       Words that Sound and/or Look Alike But Have Different Meanings

·        acrid*adj.*                    bitter, harsh

·        arid*adj.*                     dry, lacking water

·        aesthetic*adj.*             having to do with artistic beauty

·        ascetic *n.*                   a person who refrains from indulging in earthly pleasures

·        atheistic*adj.*              without a belief in any god

·        ambiguous*adj.*          hard to understand; unclear; open to more than one interpretation

·        ambivalent*adj.*          having conflicting feelings or opinions about something; unsure

·        coalesce*vb.*               to have different opinions join together; fuse; converge

·        convalesce*vb.*           to recover from an illness

·        delusion*n.*                 a false opinion or belief

·        allusion*n.*                  an indirect reference, often to literature

·        illusion*n.*                   something unreal that gives the appearance of being real

Lesson 30       More Words that Sound and/or Look Alike But Have Different Meanings

·        imprudent*adj.*           careless; rash

·        impudent*adj.* rude; disrespectful

·        indigenous*adj.*          native

·        indigent*adj.*               poor; impoverished

·        indignant*adj.* angry

·        intimate*vb.*                to suggest; to hint at

·        intimidate*vb.* to frighten; to hint at

·        obscure*adj.*               hard to understand; abstract

·        obtuse*adj.*                 stupid; not clear or precise

·        ponderable*adj.*         important enough to require a lot of thought

·        ponderous*adj.*           very heavy or bulky; dull or lifeless

Lesson 31       Letters A to G

·        abridge*vb.*                 shorten

·        accessible*adj.*           available; ready for use

·        antidote*n.*                  something that relieves or prevents; a remedy that counteracts the effects

of poison

·        aspire*vb.*                   to work toward or to have a goal

·        autonomous*adj.*        independent

·        bolster*vb.*                  to support; to strengthen

·        candor*n.*                    honesty, sincerity

·        cynical*adj.*                believing that all others are motivated by self-interest

·        fastidious*adj.*            very attentive to detail; fussy; meticulous

·        gratify*vb.*                  to please or indulge

Lesson 32       Letters H to P

·        hamper*vb.*                 to hinder; to prevent something from

happening

·        hardy*adj.*                  healthy and strong; robust

·        homogeneous*adj.*     of the same kind; alike; uniform

·        integrity*n.*                 holding firmly to values, such as honesty; completeness

·        intrepid*adj.*               fearless

·        linger*vb.*                    to hang around; to stay

·        lofty*adj.*                    very high; towering; grand or noble

·        mock*vb.*                    to make fun of; to imitate

·        nurture*vb.*                 to care for, to nourish

·        ominous*adj.*              related to feeling that something bad or evil is bound to happen;

foreboding

·        opportunist*n.*            a person who seeks self-gain, even at the expense of others, without

regard to values or moral principles

·        proximity*n.*               nearness

Lesson 33       Letters Q to Z

·        querulous*adj.*            whining; complaining

·        recount*vb.*                 to tell a story

·        rigor*n.*                       harshness, severity

·        saturate*vb.*               to wet or soak completely; to totally fill up

·        scrutinize*vb.*             to read or look at very closely and carefully

·        surpass*vb.*                to be better than; to excel

·        tentative*adj.*             hesitant; not definite

·        thrive*vb.*                   to grow strong; to flourish

·        tranquility*n.*              peacefulness; calmness

·        uniformity*n.*              sameness

·        vilify*vb.*                     to slander or defame someone’s name

·        whimsical*adj.*            fanciful

Lesson 34       Millennium Hot Words

·        aggregate*n.*              a sum total or mixture

·        audacious*adj.*           very bold

·        aviary*n.*                     an enclosed space for birds

·        coalesce*vb.*               to come together

·        complementary*adj.*  serving to complete another

·        debunk*vb.*                 to prove wrong or false

·        discrepancy*n.* a difference

·        eclectic*adj.*               taken from many different sources

·        excerpt*n.*                   a portion of a text or musical piece that is taken, or extracted, from the

whole

·        glacial*adj.*                 very, very cold or very, very slow moving ( in both cases, like a glacier)

Lesson 35       More Millennium Hot Words

·        inception*n.*                the beginning; the earliest stage

·        insuperable*adj.*         unable to be overcome

·        lithe*adj.*                     nimble and flexible

·        misanthrope*n.*           someone who dislikes all people

·        pitfall*n.*                      an unseen danger, risk, or drawback

·        raze*vb.*                      to tear down; to destroy

·        replete*adj.*                filled-up; overflowing

·        respite*n.*                    period of inactivity; a lull

·        spurious*adj.*              false; counterfeit; lacking logic

·        vaporize*vb.*               to turn to vapor, foam, or mist