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 needed to make the point; 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 that impacts 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
Hot Words for the SAT

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
- **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 or grandness
- **supercilious adj.** looking down on others; proud and scornful
- **swagger vb.** to walk around in a proud, showy 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.** 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
Hot Words for the SAT

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, especially by giving into demands; 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
- **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, 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 and have fun
- **levity n.** lightheartedness; gaiety; carefree disposition

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
- **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
- **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.**  careful with how money and resources are spent; 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
Hot Words for the SAT

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 or 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 in an inconspicuous 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 person or thing 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 distant
- apathetic adj. indifferent; showing no care, interest; lacking emotion
- detached adj. aloof; indifferent
- impassive adj. lacking emotion or drive
- indifferent adj. lacking emotion or drive
- 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
- stoical adj. lacking emotion or not showing any emotion
Hot Words for the SAT

Lesson 14  Lacking Energy or Movement

- **indolent** adj. lazy; not wanting to do any work
- **languor** n. weak or lifeless feeling
- **lassitude** n. tired feeling; a result of 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 favor 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 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.
- **obstinate adj.** stubborn; inflexible
- **recalcitrant adj.** stubborn; disobedient; defiant
- **resolve n.** firmness, determination
- **unwavering adj.** firm and determined
- **unyielding adj.** stubborn
- **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
- **panegyricize v.** to praise a person or event in a formal speech or in writing.
- **revere v.** to regard highly with love an respect
- **venerate v.** to honor or show deep respect for age or tradition.
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.** to do with 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 what is right
- **vigilant adj.** carefully alert and watchful
- **wary adj.** cautious, careful
Hot Words for the SAT

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 sense of importance or seriousness
- 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; 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
Hot Words for the SAT

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.** open to more than one interpretation
- **ambivalent adj.** unsure, conflicted feelings or opinions about something.
- **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
- **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
Hot Words for the SAT

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.** foreboding feeling that something bad or evil will happen.
- **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
Hot Words for the SAT

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