

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 lessen 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

Hot Words for the SAT

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.* 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
- **stoical** *adj.* lacking emotion or not showing any emotion

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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 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

Hot Words for the SAT

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; 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
- **panegyricize** *v.* to praise a person or event in a formal speech or in writing.
- **revere** *v.* to regard highly with love and respect
- **venerate** *v.* to honor or show deep respect for age or tradition.

Hot Words for the SAT

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

Hot Words for the SAT

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