

SEBERSON METHOD

NEW SAT[®] VOCABULARY WORKBOOK

OVER 700 HIGH-FREQUENCY
WORDS TO MASTER

KATYA SEBERSON

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***To my mama, Olga, for being my
biggest fan.***

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HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK ON AN EBOOK DEVICE

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INTRODUCTION

Experts say that a well-developed vocabulary is a good predictor of future success—not only in school but in one’s career and life overall. Too bad for me, I thought, as my vocabulary has always been unsubstantial. First in Russian, my native tongue, and then in English. Yet, as a full-time SAT® tutor with a private practice, I manage to get a perfect (or almost perfect) verbal score on the SAT every year. I like to say that I achieve that score not because of me, but despite me. In the last eight years of tutoring in New York City, I have met dozens of fellow tutors who boast stellar academic achievement, inborn yearning for books, and—you guessed it—expansive knowledge of vocabulary. My story is different. A lot different.

As a teen, I never liked school, and my dyslexia prevented me from ever picking up a book and reading it for fun. Yet, I knew that people who possessed the level of linguistic skill I aspired to were frequent readers and used all the sophisticated words in casual conversations. I was fascinated. On some level, I knew that the big words were not used to impress their intellect on me; rather, the people I admired used language and vocabulary as tools for powerful and precise communication.

As I worked on overcoming my dyslexia—mastering phonics and a deep understanding of syntax rules—I also acquired an intimate knowledge of vocabulary and transition words that made everything flow in text. The more I learned, the easier and more exciting reading became for me.

Needless to say, I was hooked. When I began working as an SAT tutor, the exam was still explicitly testing knowledge

of individual vocabulary words, so it featured obscure terms like *apocryphal*. Because I had to learn them myself before I could teach them to students, I created memory tricks and grouped words in clusters. Using this method, I discovered a whole new world of language. Since then, I have been consistently working to help students develop a keen relationship with vocabulary: understanding how words create meaning, appreciating how meanings change depending on the context, studying how words relate to each other, and how syntax plays an important role in reading comprehension. Most important, my students have shown significant, predictable improvement on their SAT Reading and Writing scores.

Even after the major redesign of the SAT (more on that later) vocabulary continues to play a critical role on the verbal part of the test, so mastering vocabulary has remained a vital component of SAT prep. I am writing this book to clarify how vocabulary knowledge ties into your final score on the redesigned SAT, and therefore how you should focus your studies during your prep. This book will provide a strategy in your vocabulary studies, along with a much-needed list of high-frequency words that show up in both reading and writing passages and questions of the SAT.

[For Students](#)

In 2014, College Board President David Coleman announced a major change to the SAT: there would be no more sentence completions. This implied that obscure vocabulary words would no longer be tested. Students cheered all over the world, rushing to shred their countless flashcards. The celebration, however, turned out to be premature, as vocabulary continues to play an essential role on the SAT.

The new SAT still provides colleges with a very granular, standardized assessment of your ability to write and comprehend text. It's impossible to evaluate the student's

reading and writing skills without testing vocabulary knowledge. Although the College Board did banish all of the sentence completion questions and excluded arcane vocabulary words from the test, they have replaced them with a new set of words—which we cover in this book.

After carefully analyzing 16+ real SATs that came out after April 2016, we've deduced a list of high-frequency vocabulary words that often show up on the SAT Reading, Writing, and Essay sections. Even though the new vocabulary words don't look as threatening as their predecessors, many students find them challenging and lose valuable points on the verbal part of the test. Since the test is bound to provide colleges with consistent intel on students from year to year, it's highly likely that the words will be recycled. We have already seen many words from the 2016 SAT resurface in the years since then, so we are fairly certain this will continue in the years to come.

The vocabulary in this book is divided into 145 bite-size lessons, which are broken up either by type of reading passage or category of question. Each lesson begins with an example of a word that recently showed up on the SAT, followed by a guided explanation and independent practice. Some words may look very familiar yet provide a surprising lesson for you. Remember, many words have secondary meanings that are quite different from the common definition.

Students can either choose to focus on one lesson per day or plow through a whole section in each sitting. Your study schedule will depend on your timing (aka how soon you are taking the SAT) and your learning style, which we'll cover later in the book. If you are committed to getting a perfect score on the SAT Verbal, we encourage you to review the words included in this book frequently. We've seen that students who study and review words every three to four days achieve the greatest success.

For Parents and Teachers

If you are reading this section, it's safe to assume that either your children or your students are college-bound and getting ready to take the new SAT. Between schoolwork, practicing math, submitting college applications, and countless extracurricular activities, preparing for the SAT can quickly become overwhelming to many students. Kudos to you for helping them through the process of test prep! You found the right book.

We wrote this book for many reasons. Most important, we wanted to save students time and warn them against studying unnecessary vocabulary lists from the old SAT format. In addition, we aspire to narrow their focus and give them strategies to masterfully navigate vocabulary-related questions on the new SAT test. Ultimately, the goal is to help all SAT students raise their verbal scores. Some students will see a dramatic jump in their SAT verbal score: anywhere from 80 to 250 points after completing this book. Other students—those who are already high-scorers—will attain the last 40 to 50 points to reach the maximum score of 800 on the SAT Verbal. Especially significant, both native and non-native English speakers will equally benefit from the insights in this book.

Because of this book's focused approach, it can be used by someone who plans to take the SAT in a year as well as someone as little as three weeks away from the exam. If you are many months away from the exam, we recommend starting from the first lesson and covering three to four lessons each week consistently. If your student is in a time crunch, crack the book open to a section where he or she tends to lose the most points and rock on! If you feel unsure where to start, take a look at the following section.

How This Book Is Organized

Many students find the reading section of the SAT most challenging. It's not surprising, as test takers only get 65 minutes to read five lengthy passages and answer 52 questions. Remember, both the passages and the questions on the SAT contain a challenging array of vocabulary words. Even though students are not asked to define those words explicitly, they must understand what they mean to increase their ability to select the right answer.

The five reading passages on the SAT can be roughly divided into two main categories: the first type of passage covers fiction and history, and the second covers social and natural science. This division is very informal, but viewing vocabulary through this lens is immensely helpful. Fiction and history passages present a distinctive set of words that we'll cover in [lessons 1 to 30](#). Social and natural science passages generate a different—less descriptive and more evidence-based—set of vocabulary that will be covered in [lessons 31 to 60](#).

A large chunk of your reading score—15 percent to be exact—depends on the vocabulary in context (VIC) questions. In the whole reading test, you will encounter anywhere between seven and nine VIC questions. We dedicated [lessons 61 to 90](#) to these types of vocabulary words. Most of them will be common words you understand and use, but they have multiple meanings you may not be familiar with. Knowing additional meanings of these words will help you recognize what the College Board is asking you to find on the SAT. In these chapters, we'll provide the strategy and practice necessary to avoid losing points on VIC questions.

Often students struggle with a specific reading passage type, whether it's prose fiction, social science, natural science, or history. You'll also encounter “paired” passages, two short writings by two different authors that represent peculiar perspectives on the same contentious issue. Topics

can vary from “Enfranchisement in America” to “Why Zebras Have Stripes.” Because reading assigned in school usually doesn’t include a lot of short argumentative pieces, many students have a hard time navigating these passages quickly to locate points of disagreement.

Such precise reading problems can be fixed through frequent exposure to similar texts outside of the testing booklets. In the back of the book, you’ll find targeted reading suggestions for each passage type that will help you find reading materials in real life that mimic the language and style of those passages that the College Board uses for the test. Adding these reading materials to your weekly “reading diet” will help you recognize the common vocabulary and style used in such passages.

The SAT writing test will include at least one or more word problems that ask you to choose between two commonly confused words like *effect* and *affect* or *prosecute* and *persecute* . Fortunately, there are a limited number of confusing pairs that the SAT recycles, so we cover these in [lessons 91](#) to [121](#) .

Lastly, the SAT writing section tests your ability to choose appropriate transition words like *hence* instead of *indeed* and *despite* instead of *therefore* . Being able to navigate function words with ease requires a deep understanding of transitions and whether they introduce a continuation, causation, or reversal relationship. Following this section on transitions are five lessons at the end of the book on a few frequent idioms. You’ll find these transition words and idioms covered in [lessons 122](#) to [145](#) .

[How to Customize This Book to Your Needs](#)

This book is designed to benefit every reader: an overwhelmed student as well as a highly trained test taker looking for an edge. We divided the book into five sections to help you navigate the pages freely depending on which

areas you find most challenging and the amount of time you have before the test.

If you start your SAT journey far in advance, open to [lesson 1](#) and focus on two to four lessons per session. If time is not a luxury available to you, choose your battles based on your weak spots, and tackle 10 lessons at a time, followed by the review activity.

If reading presents your major obstacle on the SAT, focus on [lessons 1](#) to [60](#). You can focus your studies even further if you can identify a specific type of passage that makes you lose the most points. For example, you might feel more confident about the words in [part 1](#), [lessons 1](#) to [30](#), from fiction and history passages, but need to study those in [part 2](#), [lessons 31](#) to [60](#), that populate social science and natural science passages.

If you struggle with Vocabulary in Context questions in the reading section of the SAT, go to [part 3](#), [lessons 61](#) to [90](#).

For those of you who want to focus on homophones that show up on the SAT writing section a few times per test, jump to [part 4](#), [lessons 91](#) to [121](#).

If transitions and idioms “steal” your valuable points on the SAT writing portion, turn to [part 5](#) to enhance your knowledge of these words.

[What Constitutes Completing a Lesson](#)

To maximize your learning, set aside anywhere between 5 and 20 minutes for each lesson. First, read the main lesson, and complete the activity that follows it. Then check the [answers](#) at the end of the book.

Second, if your lesson contains “further” words, be sure to look them up independently using your favorite online dictionary or websites like [YouGlish](#) or [Fraise.it](#). Seeking out words from this section is extremely important. The SAT

tests your linguistic dexterity (skill), which you can enhance by frequent exposure to multiple definitions of the same word along with seeing it used in various contexts.

Third, close your book and your browser. Now open your SAT vocabulary notebook—this can either be physical or digital—and attempt to retrieve your newly mastered words from memory by writing or typing up a list. The key to success is to avoid looking at the book and recall the newly learned words and definitions exclusively from memory. To boost your learning, make sure you come up with your own examples of the word to use in a sentence. If you feel like you can't recall all the words, feel free to go back to the lesson and see what you've missed. Close the book again, and add the missing words to your notes—from memory, of course.

This method may seem overzealous, but it works. The more difficult you make your initial learning stage, the more serious your brain is going to treat this new knowledge by creating strong neural pathways.

Between study sessions, make sure you actively seek out the new words either in reading or speech. Using new words in conversation guarantees success in remembering them long-term.

If you are going through the lessons in order, it's essential that you revisit your notes every 5 to 10 days. Remember, the brain efficiently forgets information it doesn't use. If you fail to exercise the words you learn, you may not remember them on the SAT. Keeping a review calendar will help you mitigate those risks.

[Get Even More Practice](#)

For extra review of all the vocabulary learned in this book, visit CallistoMediaBooks.com/SebersonMethod to download free bonus activities.

PART ONE

Words from Fiction and History

Passages

When students open the SAT booklet, they usually see the fiction passage first. This presents a short description or recollection of events narrated either by a first or third person. The fiction passage is meant to be confusing, so if you're feeling bewildered, you are right on track. To answer the questions correctly and efficiently, focus on these four elements: establishing the main characters, their relationship to one another, the main events, and most important, the attitudes, emotions, and opinions displayed. How do the characters feel about one another? How does the narrator feel about the characters? How do some characters feel about the events described? All of these details are communicated through colorful verbs and adjectives. We are about to dive deep and learn some of them.

LESSON 1

SERIOUS

It is absolutely vital to identify when characters are acting serious and with intent. Here are some words that can help.

earnest (adj.) serious and intentional *Wadsworth made **earnest** attempts to reconcile.*

When you are doing something *in earnest*, you are carrying it out with a purpose and a serious face. You can ask *earnest questions* in class or apply an *earnest effort* in college.

Did you know that Oscar Wilde can help you remember the word *earnest*? The famous playwright titled his renowned play *The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy for Serious People*. In this play Wilde was being the opposite of earnest by mocking the overpoweringly serious, humorless nature of Victorian England. Think of the last time you were being *earnest*.

solemn (adj.) serious, formal, and grave *Yesterday's funeral was a **solemn** affair.*

If the author is depicting a sad event like a funeral or a separation, it may be described as *solemn*. You can make a *solemn request* or file a *solemn petition*.

ACTIVITY

I hope you are not going to mistake my **earnest** behavior toward your son for immaturity.

As used in the line above, the word *earnest* most nearly means:

a) sad b) formal c) grave d) serious They mourned in the **solemn** memories of their grandfathers.

As used in the line above, the word *solemn* most nearly means:

a) intentional b) formal c) ceremonial d) grave

Other words that can mean **serious** : zealous, sober, momentous

LESSON 2

RESPECTFUL

The attitude of respect threads through many fiction passages. The following words can help you spot it.

deferential (adj.) showing respect toward others who are superior to you in any way *The students' behavior was **deferential** toward the teacher.*

*Rookies act **deferentially** toward the veterans.*

If a character in a passage is doing something *out of deference* , it's done out of respect. *Deference* means respect.

***Out of deference** , the bride allowed the groom's parents to buy a wedding dress for her.*

Here, we can infer that the bride isn't too pleased with having the future in-laws pick out a dress for her, but she surrendered out of respect.

revere (v.) to deeply respect and worship; to be in awe of *My grandmother **revered** God and went to church every day.*

When you treat something with *reverence* , you treat it with special care and respect.

*His father treated his baseball glove with **reverence** .*

Reverence means respect, while *irreverence* means disrespect.

***Irreverent** critics destroyed the director's confidence.*

ACTIVITY

William stole a ***deferential*** peek at Diana's face. He ***revered*** her father and didn't want to upset him.

As used in the line above, the word *deferential* most nearly means:

a) irreverent b) solemn c) earnest d) respectful As used in the line above, the word *revered* most nearly means:

a) feared b) respected c) disregarded d) refuted

Other words that can mean ***respectful*** : regardful, yielding, exalted

LESSON 3

KIND

Many characters in fiction passages act in a kind and loving way. These are the words authors frequently use to denote kindness.

benevolent (adj.) well-meaning and charitable *Ben was a kind boss and wanted to create a **benevolent** environment at his firm.*

Elephants are always considered kind and well-meaning animals, so thinking of a *benevolent* elephant may help you remember the word.

endearing (adj.) adorable; inspiring love and affection *His radical openness and honesty were **endearing**.*

A person's *endearing* qualities might include being naive, genuine, sweet, and charming.

ACTIVITY

Benevolent citizens in Kursk had been sympathetic to our plight; the sentiment was very **endearing**.

As used in the line above, the words *benevolent* and *endearing* most nearly mean:

- a) good looking . . . charitable b) charitable . . . sweet
- c) charming . . . genius d) charitable . . . selfish

Other words that can mean **kind** : altruistic, benign, compassionate

LESSON 4

SPITEFUL

Just as in real life, characters in fiction passages may act out of spite. Spotting spiteful motives is imperative in answering the SAT questions correctly. Here are some words that can help.

sinister (adj.) bad or evil

*She made a **sinister** remark about his health condition.*

The word *sin*, which describes wrongdoing, can help you remember that the adjective **sinister** is linked to something bad or evil.

The following four words come from the same Latin root *mal*, meaning bad or evil: **malice**, **malignant**, **malicious**, **malevolent**. All four of these words denote having or showing an intention to do evil to others.

*Possessed by a **malevolent** force, he burned his painting.*

These words often show up in the SAT answer choices. Here are some examples of them in context: . . . *to underscore how Lucy's benevolent intentions contradict her **malicious** conduct.*

*The narrator described Lucy as a **malevolent** being.*

*. . . thoughts filled with **malice**.*

*Edward's **malignant** behavior . . .*

ACTIVITY

The problem was much bigger than a few ***malicious*** financial operations.

The author describes the financial operations as being

- a) financially unsound.
- b) financially sinister.
- c) financially beneficial.
- d) financially endearing.

Other words that can mean ***spiteful*** : malign, pernicious, noxious

LESSON 5

SINCERE

It's safe to assume that many characters in fiction passages will act sincere and true. To catch their sincerity, make sure you know these words.

genuine (adj.) true, real, or heartfelt *He expressed **genuine** love and asked a heartfelt question.*

*The shoemaker uses **genuine** leather.*

Genuine can be used with both living subjects and inanimate objects.

candid (adj.) frank, honest, or straightforward *This **candid** book reveals the inner workings of the CEO.*

authentic (adj.) traditional; undisturbed by novelty; based on facts; pure and honest *An **authentic** person is someone who is always open and real.*

*An **authentic** watch is a watch that is not counterfeit.*

***Authentic** food is a traditional food that hasn't been changed over time.*

*To **authenticate** is to verify authenticity.*

In the answer choices on the SAT, you may see this word used in many ways. Here are some examples of them in context: . . . **authentic** by nature.

***Authenticate** the results.*

*. . . unable to be **authenticated**.*

*. . . challenge the **authenticity** of the author.*

virtuous (adj.) having or exhibiting morality; morally excellent, righteous *Oprah Winfrey seems like a **virtuous** person.*

ACTIVITY

He appreciated her ***candid*** words. It was invaluable to talk to someone who could relate to his struggles.

As used in the line above, the word *candid* most nearly means:

- a) kind b) earnest c) frank d) respectful
- The singer's last song was the most ***authentic*** and poignant moment of the show.

As used in the line above, the word *authentic* most nearly means:

- a) not fake b) creative c) sad
d) pure

Other words that can mean ***sincere*** : ardent, unfeigned

LESSON 6

FAKE

Spotting a fake is important in life, but some may argue it is even more important on the SAT reading section. The following words will help you detect fake people and things.

hoax (n.) deception of a malicious or humorous manner *She was willing to get involved in a **hoax** just to end up among the popular crowd.*

disguise (v.) to obscure the truth or appearance *One of the girls **disguised** herself as a boy.*

deception (n.) the act of deceiving *The author foreshadowed Lady Carlotta's capacity for **deception** .*

fabricate (v.) to make up from thin air *He **fabricated** evidence that suited his assumptions.*

complacent (adj.) marked by a fake satisfaction or happiness with the current state of things *Even though he had to watch his salt intake, he remained **complacent** about his health.*

ACTIVITY

Whether that's an authentic story or an elaborate **hoax** , Stephen knows how to put on a great show.

As used in the line above, the word *hoax* most nearly means:

- a) fabrication b) virtue c) malice d) trick Brian had to **disguise** his irreverence to the producer.

It can be reasonably inferred that Brian

- a) openly revered the producer.
- b) openly hated the producer.
- c) hid his disrespect for the producer.
- d) openly discussed everything with the producer.

Other words that can mean ***fake*** : counterfeit, fraudulent, phony

LESSON 7

VAGUE

Frequently, the attitudes and feelings of characters may seem to lack clarity; their opinions appear vague and uncertain. To untangle such confusion, make sure you master these words.

ambivalent (adj.) the state of having conflicting feelings
*Mr. Darcy was **ambivalent** about marrying Elizabeth.*

ambiguous (adj.) unclear or obscure

*Naomi gave her mother an **ambiguous** answer.*

Please note the difference of meaning between *ambiguous* and *ambivalent*.

equivocal (adj.) unclear; open to more than one interpretation
*The results of the study were **equivocal**, so they had to do it over.*

dubious (adj.) arguable, questionable, or debatable
*Instead of honest ways, Jack made money in a **dubious** manner.*

enigmatic (adj.) difficult to interpret
*Dorothy gave him an **enigmatic**, Mona Lisa-like smile.*

ACTIVITY

He was intentionally **ambiguous** in his answers to the journalists, as he was still **ambivalent** about becoming mayor of the city.

As used in the line above, the words *ambiguous* and *ambivalent* most nearly mean:

a) undecided. . . obscure b) vague. . . undecided c)
biased . . . enigmatic d) malevolent . . . sinister
Despite the unequivocal desire to conquer the North
Pole, its underpinnings remained **enigmatic** to him.

As used in the line above, the word *enigmatic* most
nearly means:

a) can be interpreted more than one way b)
uncertain c) clear d) magical

Other words that can mean **vague** : obscure, nebulous

LESSON 8

COMPLAIN

In the SAT fiction and history passages, characters often complain about one another or the circumstances. To pinpoint their complaints, make sure you've mastered the following words.

denounce (v.) to condemn; complain about publicly *A fake negative review **denounced** the staff for no obvious reason.*

Vegetarians *denounce* eating meat; environmentalists *denounce* using plastic; some schools *denounce* using cell phones at an early age.

lament (v.) to mourn a person's death or complain about something unsatisfactory *We must **lament** the lack of fair pay in the workforce.*

Sometimes, the word *lament* will be used as a noun in a passage. *Lament* as a noun means a passionate expression of grief.

condemn (v.) to express utter and complete disapproval *We **condemned** the council for enforcing the rules.*

Note that the word *condemn* is different from *condoning*, which means to allow to continue.

These verbs often appear in the answer choices on the SAT reading test. Here are some examples of them in context: . . . to **denounce** the narrator's actions . . . to **lament** their past . . . to **condemn** the actions of the government . . . to **deplore** the father's conduct

ACTIVITY

Latvia must ***lament*** implementing those equivocal immigration policies, which have created havoc among citizens.

As used in the line above, the word *lament* most nearly means:

- a) condemn b) mourn c) revere d) cherish

Other words that can mean ***complain*** : bemoan, bewail, deplore

LESSON 9

RECOLLECT

Many times, characters think about the past and discuss their memories. Realizing the difference between a real event and a recollection of one can help you identify shifts in time.

muse (v.) to think about deeply *He often **mused** about his military service in his car.*

Musings usually describe memories.

reflect (v.) to think about carefully *As I **reflect on** the last five years of my life, I sense an earnest desire to achieve my dreams.*

reminisce (v.) to indulge in the recollection of past events *Grandpa sat there all morning, **reminiscing** about the past.*
Reminisce frequently shows up in both passages and answer choices.

nostalgic (adj.) feeling warmly sentimental about the past *Hearing his voice again made Beth **nostalgic**.*

ACTIVITY

Mom and Dad used to **reminisce** about their youth over dinner, while I was contemplating running away to my toys.

As used in the line above, the word *reminisce* most nearly means:

- a) express gratitude b) show disapproval c) recollect d) admire
Forgive my **musings** about my

childhood as I **reflect** on the most ambivalent event of my past.

As used in the line above, the words *musings* and *reflect* most nearly mean:

- a) inspirations. . . represent
- b) memories. . . represent
- c) memories. . . think about
- d) inspirations. . . think about

Other words that can mean **recollect** : ponder, ruminate

LESSON 10

WORRY

Worry is a common emotion that occupies characters' minds. Make sure you can spot their feelings by learning these words.

apprehensive (adj.) fearful that something bad might happen *People at the time were **apprehensive** of economic instability.*

Confusion alert: Note that the verb *apprehend* does not always denote worry or fear. To *apprehend* someone is to arrest them. For example: *The police **apprehended** the burglar.*

On the other hand, to *apprehend* something is to grasp it. For example: *At last, he **apprehended** trigonometry.*

restless (adj.) perpetually worried about something; unable to mentally relax *Zawadi's doctor recommended meditation to overcome being perpetually **restless** .*

You may have heard of restless legs syndrome (RLS), which is when a person gets an irresistible urge to move their legs, especially while sitting.

agitated (adj.) worried and nervous *After the unpleasant meeting, she was really worked up and **agitated** .*

queasy (adj.) worried and nervous to the point of being nauseous; troubled *Many feel **queasy** about speaking in front of a big audience.*

*Whenever the TV anchors talked about the “perfect” competitive markets, my father always felt **queasy** , because it was far from the reality in India.*

ACTIVITY

His mood swings went from being ***apprehensive*** to excited in a matter of seconds.

As used in the line above, the word *apprehensive* most nearly means:

- a) worried b) dubious c) sinister d) malignant

Students felt agitated because they didn't know how to cope with their ***restless*** minds.

As used in the line above, the word *restless* most nearly means:

- a) unable to stand still b) unable to remember c) disillusioned d) constantly worried

Other words that can mean ***worried*** : anxious, flustered

LESSON 11

AGREE

Some fiction and almost all history passages are written to convey a particular idea or point. Sometimes, the author will express his or her view by agreeing with others. Learn to identify points of agreement using these words. **concede** (v.) to reluctantly or unwillingly agree *After a long debate, she **conceded** that nothing can be done at the moment.*

Memory trick: Thinking that when someone *concedes*, they say, “OK, I can see it,” may help you remember that to *concede* means to reluctantly agree.

condone (v.) to allow something to continue happening *By all means, the government shouldn’t **condone** such immoral behavior.*

Condone is usually used in the negative form: *don’t condone*, *never condone*.

concur (v.) to agree and be of the same opinion *Many scientists **concur** with this consensus.*

We often hear of the **concurring opinion** of the Supreme Court. This takes place when most of the Supreme Court justices agree on something and publish their decision publicly.

ACTIVITY

The president may not **concur** with the Senate, but he must **concede** that we can no longer **condone** age discrimination.

As used in the line above, the word *concur* most nearly means:

a) agree b) allow c) enforce d) lament As used in the line above, the word *concede* most nearly

means:

a) muse b) reminisce c) admit d) revere As used in the line above, the word *condone* most nearly

means:

a) approve b) agree c) apprehend d) denounce

Other words that can mean **agree** : consent, acquiesce

LESSON 12

FLOURISH

Many times, passages describe positive examples that show a situation going well and flourishing. Find out which words describe rapid growth and profitability.

proliferate (v.) to multiply and increase rapidly in number
*After the war, craftsmanship was able to **proliferate** as factories were destroyed.*

ubiquitous (adj.) appearing to be everywhere *Cell phones are **ubiquitous**.*

The Latin prefix *omni* means “all or every.” Take note that sometimes the word *omnipresent* may show up as an answer choice for *ubiquitous*.

lucrative (adj.) profitable

*Working in real estate turned out to be a **lucrative** affair for Dominic.*

ACTIVITY

When we see disinformation **proliferate** through the **ubiquitous** Internet, we must warn the online users and encourage them to be apprehensive of the many news articles published on social media.

As used in the lines above, the word *proliferate* most nearly means:

- a) spread b) agree c) condone d) condemn
- As used in the lines above, the word *ubiquitous* most nearly means:

a) omnipresent b) deferential c) equivocal d)
malicious

Other words that can mean ***flourish*** : burgeon, snowball (v.), mushroom (v.)

LESSON 13

MOURN

Some fiction passage characters feel unhappy, as they may have suffered a loss. Here are some words that can point to their sadness.

poignant (adj.) evoking keen sadness *His **poignant** story made me cry.*

The word *poignant* most frequently shows up in the passages in phrases like *poignant envy* , *poignant moment* , or *poignant portrayal* .

despondent (adj.) sad or disheartened *Having lost his dog, he became **despondent** , as he didn't know where to begin his search.*

dejected (adj.) sad and low-spirited *After being rejected, he felt deeply **dejected** .*

ACTIVITY

After having reminisced about their experiences for quite some time, they continued to write their **poignant** memoir.

As used in the line above, the word *poignant* most nearly means:

- a) enigmatic b) ubiquitous c) benevolent d) sad

Once her heart was broken, she became **despondent**, thinking she would never find love again.

As used in the line above, the word *despondent* most nearly means:

- a) discontent b) disheartened c) endearing d) sinister

Other words that can mean ***sad***: melancholy, crestfallen

LESSON 14

OPPOSE

In the history passages, the narrator often describes an idea that opposes the popular view. Find out which verbs define going against the grain.

violate (v.) to break; to disregard

*His neighbors **violated** the law when they refused to help with the investigation.*

defy (v.) to go against; to refuse to obey *She was able to **defy** her human instinct and jump out of a helicopter to save her life.*

refute (v.) to prove wrong

*Without any genuine evidence, the judge had to **refute** the accusations.*

*Refute often shows up in answer choices that describe the relationship between the two passages. For example: Passage 2 **refutes** the claim made by Lincoln in passage 1.*

negate (v.) to invalidate; nullify

*Alcohol **negates** the benefits of the treatment.*

*Charles used this opportunity to **negate** any positive momentum the prince had built with Naomi.*

ACTIVITY

If they don't allow the protest, it would be a **violation** of the First Amendment.

As used in the line above, the word *violation* most nearly means:

- a) breach
 - b) authentication c) hoax
 - d) endorsement
- Jason decided to get rich and *defy* his family's legacy of living on the brink of starvation from generation to generation.

It's reasonable to infer that Jason decided a) to follow his family's legacy.

- b) to go against his family's legacy.
- c) to complain about his family's legacy.
- d) to immortalize his family's legacy.

Other words that can mean **oppose** : scoff (at), confront, withstand

LESSON 15

MAKE LESS PERFECT

The SAT is all about subtle details of meaning. These words will help you identify when something has become less perfect or somehow diminished.

mar (v.) to impair and therefore make less than perfect *If you keep eating the icing, you will **mar** the cake and spoil the birthday surprise.*

*The last album was so poorly received by the listeners, it will **mar** the artist's legacy.*

The verb *mar* applies to both tangible and intangible subjects. *Mar* can also be used as a noun, which means a flaw.

*The agency was investigating whether there were any **mars** on Edward's record.*

When you *mar* something, it is no longer pristine.

disfigure (v.) to spoil the appearance of *The beacon was strongly **disfigured** by the wind and salt water.*

ACTIVITY

Inviting Helen—a highly contentious person—to the party, will **mar** everyone's experience.

As used in the line above, the word *mar* most nearly means:

- a) leave a stain on b) ruin c) enhance d) denounce
Lace bugs will discolor and **disfigure** the

foliage, so farmers keep a close eye on them.

As used in the line above, the word *disfigure* most nearly means:

- a) ruin the flavor of
- b) spoil the appearance of
- c) leave a small mark on
- d) enhance the quality of

Other words that can mean ***make less perfect*** : sully, impair, contaminate

LESSON 16

COME TO AN END

In fiction passages, you'll encounter characters who often talk about the past, especially describing something they have stopped doing. If you are unfamiliar with these words, you may think the activity continues to happen in the present and end up misinterpreting the passage. Learn these words to get the answers right.

cease (v.) to stop existing or stop doing *After he made that sarcastic remark, Elizabeth **ceased** to find Mr. Darcy admirable and attractive.*

An untrained test taker may overlook the verb *ceased* and think that Elizabeth found Mr. Darcy attractive after he made the remark. Conscious of this, the SAT will likely plant a trap—an answer choice stating “admirable and attractive” directly from the passage. Having learned the term *cease*, however, you, my friend, will be immune to such trickery!

*When something becomes outdated, it can be described as **having ceased** to describe reality.*

terminate (v.) to interrupt

*Your landlord can **terminate** the lease after it expires.*

*The attack on Poland in 1939 **terminated** our peaceful village life.*

finite (adj.) having an end or a final count *We loved each other for a **finite** period of time.*

Having read this sentence, it's safe to conclude that the characters are no longer in love.

ACTIVITY

The architect wanted to ensure that he used the ***finite*** road space of New York effectively.

As used in the line above, the word *finite* most nearly means:

- a) expansive b) perennial c) limited
 - d) not working
- In the line below, the main character, Andrew, is talking about his former boss, Mr. Wimbledon.

I long ago ***ceased*** to regard Mr. Wimbledon as a kinsman.

How did the narrator view his employer at the beginning of his career?

- a) as a contestant and adversary b) as a friend and confidant
- c) as a blood relative d) as a dangerous tyrant

Other words that can mean ***come to an end*** :
discontinue, quit

LESSON 17

UNSTOPPABLE / UNPREVENTABLE

Many characters and things will be depicted as unstoppable. You can spot the enthusiasm if you learn these words:

tenacious (adj.) determined and committed *Jack was **tenacious** in his attempts to reach the top of the mountain.*

relentless (adj.) inflexible and incessant in intensity *James was **relentless** in trying to find a mate.*

*The **relentless** summer heat drives people away from the city.*

inexorable (adj.) unstoppable or impossible to prevent *Before the recession hit, the economy was facing an **inexorable** decline.*

While the word *inexorable* is often used in a negative connotation, it can also denote something positive that is about to happen.

*Once he submits his eloquent manuscript, he will experience an **inexorable** triumph.*

inevitable (adj.) unavoidable

*He reluctantly agreed to the new schedule, because he knew that the shift was **inevitable** .*

ACTIVITY

Despite her slight frame, she appeared **tenacious** in the face of difficulty.

As used in the line above, the word *tenacious* most nearly means:

- a) courageous b) poignant c) unstoppable d) brave
No matter how bleak the circumstances look, an ***inexorable*** change is awaiting humanity if we persevere in our efforts.

As used in the line above, the word *inexorable* most nearly means:

- a) unavoidable b) questionable c) ambivalent d) earnest

Other words that can mean ***unstoppable*** : persevere, unceasing

LESSON 18

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

Determining the relationship between characters is vital to understanding what the passage is actually saying. Sometimes characters have blood relationships, sometimes they share keen friendships, and other times they are enemies. The following words will help you recognize when relationships are unfriendly and antagonistic.

adversary (n.) an opponent or enemy *Her **adversary** staged a comeback, which made Lady Carlotta feel apprehensive and agitated at all times.*

rival (n.) an opponent competing for the same goal *Richard wanted to undermine his **rival**.*

*Apple is working on a virtual assistant that will be the **rival** of Alexa.*

The noun *rival* can denote either a person or a thing. The verb *rival* means to compete for superiority.

perpetrator (n.) one carrying out an act of wrongdoing *The **perpetrator** who wrote a fake negative review should endure an inexorable punishment.*

antagonist (n.) one who actively opposes the main figure, the protagonist *The author portrayed Jack as an adamant **antagonist** of Richard.*

contender (n.) a contestant or candidate *Edwards seems like a viable **contender** and may end up among the top three.*

ACTIVITY

Bill could not have the evening go by without making a malicious remark to his old ***adversary*** .

The sentence above suggests this relationship is a)
antagonistic.

- b) poignant.
- c) amiable.
- d) dubious.

LESSON 19

KNOW YOUR FRIENDS

Relationships between characters can get complicated. Sometimes, the words that denote friendship and favorable disposition look unfamiliar. Make sure you understand the following words to recognize a good friendship. **ally** (n.) one that supports another in an ongoing effort *China has been a longtime **ally** of Russia.*

Memory trick: Think about how the *allies* are *aligned* with each other to remember that *ally* means a supporter.

confidant (n.) one you can trust and share secrets with *He's been a friend and **confidant** to some of the city's top leaders.*

amiable (adj.) friendly; displaying a positive and supportive attitude *He was an **amiable** kid and got along with others.*

ACTIVITY

Cultivating him as an **ally** turned out to be the smartest thing to ensure the survival of their village during the war.

As used in the line above, the word *ally* most nearly means:

- a) friend b) antagonist c) rival d) perpetrator

Beneath his **amiable** demeanor, Jordan hides a malevolent soul.

It can be reasonably inferred that Jordan is a) trustworthy.

- b) friendly.
- c) deceptive.
- d) a confidant.

Other words that can mean **friendly** : amicable, gregarious

LESSON 20

DISLIKE

It's not all that rare that characters begin to hate one another. Recognizing that emotion is your primary key to success on the SAT reading portion.

disdain (n.) an intense dislike

*The rivalry was intensified because of Jack's and Nora's **disdain** for each other.*

contempt (n.) a feeling of dislike for something you consider inferior *The level of **contempt** displayed by Jaqueline was appalling. It was as if she was above us all.*

reproach (v.) to express disapproval *He **reproached** his wife for letting the kids run outside after dark.*

*He hardly ever had to **reproach** his son because his homework was always **beyond reproach** . (His homework was perfect.)* Avoid confusing these two: *reproach* and *beyond reproach* . When something is *beyond reproach*, it's flawless.

ACTIVITY

Like many tech zealots, Kyle **disdained** print.

It can be reasonably inferred that Kyle a) invented a type of print.

- b) enjoyed different print.
- c) intensely disliked print.
- d) terminated print and paper.

He always found ***reproaching*** his kids to be just as ineffective as cajoling and coaxing.

As used in the line above, the word *reproaching* most nearly means:

- a) tricking b) scolding c) hating d) ceasing

Other words that can mean ***dislike*** : rebuke, censure

LESSON 21

ORIGINS

Conversations about origins and foundations are especially frequent on the SAT history passages. Learn to locate them quickly by learning these words.

provenance (n.) origin

*The luxurious rug was prized for its Iranian **provenance** .
On the SAT, one of the characters was puzzled by the **provenance** of the letters that he was receiving.*

Provenance is also the act of tracing artwork to its original source through bills of sale and exhibitions.

genesis (n.) the origin or mode of formation *Scientists concur with the **genesis** of this consensus.*

Some common phrases include the *genesis* of the idea; the *genesis* for the book; and the *genesis* of the lifelong obsession.

inception (n.) the starting point of existence *Since its **inception** in 2004, the program proliferated and brought in over \$1,400,000 in revenue.*

advent (n.) an emergence or arrival of something *The **advent** of the Internet has facilitated collaboration between journalists.*

ACTIVITY

After a long deliberation over the painting, the conclusion was clear that the **provenance** was forged.

It can be reasonably inferred that the painting was a) very old.

- b) brilliant.
- c) counterfeit.
- d) genuine.

The **genesis** of the state is its own kind of utopia.

It can be reasonably inferred that the author compared utopia to a) the origin of the state.

- b) the origin of the country.
- c) the formation of the government.
- d) the inception of communism.

Other words that can mean **origin** : derivation, commencement

LESSON 22

REQUESTS

Often characters in fiction passages exchange multiple requests. Some of them are urgent, while others are less pressing. Make sure you know the difference between these verbs to spot the differences of tone.

implore (v.) to beg

*In his letters, Edward **implored** him to come to Long Island to see the house.*

entreat (v.) to ask earnestly

*Akira used the occasion to **entreat** Naomi to marry him.*

beseech (v.) to ask with enthusiasm

*The fans surrounded the pop star and began to **beseech** him for an autograph and a photo.*

decree (v.) to order formally; to command *The museum director **decreed** he would commission a painting of the cats that lived there.*

The noun *decree* is also an official order by an authority, for example, a *consent decree* or a *government decree*.

badger (v.) to put pressure on someone by asking repeatedly *Reporters constantly **badger** the actress about her private life.*

plea (n.) a request from an authority *The farmers opened the meeting at the council with a **plea** that all regulations must be avoided.*

ACTIVITY

As a father, he ***implored*** all parents to discuss the dangers of drinking with their kids.

As used in the line above, the word *implored* most nearly means:

- a) urged
- b) ordered
- c) conceded
- d) lamented

LESSON 23

DESIRES

Understanding the motives of the characters is one of the primary keys to success on the SAT. Learn these words to quickly identify when characters discuss their motivation and desires.

aspiration (n.) a desire to achieve something *People in the community share common **aspirations** for human rights.*

Characters may reminisce about their literary, artistic, or professional *aspirations* .

*My literary **aspirations** were killed stone-dead, as my mother didn't believe in pursuing a career as a writer.*

yearning (n.) a feeling of intense desire for something usually out of reach ***Yearning** for New England made him drop his burgeoning career for the unknown.*

fervor (n.) intense feelings of passion *The patriotic **fervor** spreads throughout the nation.*

ACTIVITY

His father's stories always met the boy's internal **yearning** for adventure. It seemed like he could control the boy with his **fervor** .

As used in the line above, the word *yearning* most nearly means:

- a) passion b) desire c) ambition d) ally As used in the line above, the word *fervor* most nearly means:

a) desire b) passion c) decree d) aspiration

Other words that can mean ***desire*** : longing, craving

LESSON 24

NOT GUILTY

History passages often bring up topics of justice and fairness, using words that denote punishment or lack thereof. Ensure that you know these words to answer the questions correctly.

impunity (n.) immunity from punishment for a wrongdoing
*Governments continue to violate many human rights with **impunity**.*

exoneration (n.) the act of showing that someone is not guilty
*Because he believed in his innocence, Michael fought for his **exoneration**.*

exemption (n.) freedom from doing something
*Many diplomats have a tax **exemption** that frees them from paying taxes when making purchases all over the world.*

ACTIVITY

After the dispute is over, the computer company can proceed with **impunity**.

It can be reasonably inferred that after the dispute, the computer company a) endured a punishment.

- b) avoided a punishment.
- c) marred their reputation.
- d) began to proliferate.

Military service granted him **exemption** from state taxes for three years.

As used in the line above, the word *exemption* most nearly means:

- a) immunity b) provenance c) inception d) aspiration

Other words that can mean ***no punishment*** : vindication, acquittal

LESSON 25

SUBJECT TO INFLUENCE

Sometimes characters may appear inexperienced and easily influenced. Find out which words suggest this.

susceptible (adj.) easily influenced

*Tom was highly **susceptible** to irrational, herdlike behavior.*

naive (adj.) unaffected and innocent *He was **naive** in his desire to follow experienced hikers.*

impressionable (adj.) easily affected; inexperienced
*During my first, **impressionable** years, I worked closely with the senator on the bill proposal.*

vulnerable (adj.) open to being affected emotionally or physically *Children are more **vulnerable** to traumatic experiences.*

malleable (adj.) capable of being influenced *Gold is the most **malleable** of all metals and can be beaten into a sheet.*

*The **malleable** Adalbert of Hamburg soon became the confidant of the benevolent Henry.*

Malleable can describe a person or a thing. Most often, the term is used pertaining to metals. When a person is described as *malleable*, this person is either capable of change or easily impressionable and naive.

Confusion alert: Be careful not to confuse *malleable* with any of the similar-looking words from [lesson 4](#): malicious, malignant, malevolent, or malice.

ACTIVITY

Leonard's flattering chivalry wins over the ***impressionable*** young heart of Elena.

As used in the line above, the word *impressionable* most nearly means:

- a) confused b) benevolent c) naive d) relentless

Other words that can mean ***subject to influence*** :
exposed, credulous

LESSON 26

TOUGH TASKS

Characters in the literature passages often undertake difficult tasks. The words on this page will help you identify those scenarios.

onerous (adj.) something difficult to carry out *He was bound by an **onerous** duty of being a single father in the family of four.*

arduous (adj.) difficult and tiring *This dictionary represents decades of **arduous** work.*

formidable (adj.) fear-inspiring due to size *Frank showed almost superhuman courage and was, in many respects, a **formidable** man.*

*Frank liked challenging himself and took on **formidable** tasks like learning Chinese and becoming a lawyer.*

hurdle (n.) a light, upright frame placed on the ground for runners or horses to leap or jump over during a race; obstacles and hardships *Clearing the **hurdle** of Mother's approval would be the toughest challenge in marrying Lee.*

ACTIVITY

New language learners are usually excited because they are unaware of the **formidable** task they are about to face.

As used in the line above, the word *formidable* most nearly means:

- a) exciting b) captivating c) enormous d)
malicious

Other words that can mean ***tough tasks*** : burdensome, laborious

LESSON 27

OUT-OF-DATE

In the history passages, narrators usually advocate for change and call out outdated aspects of the current reality. Find out which terms mark something as outdated and in need of replacement. **obsolete** (adj.) no longer used

*Activists rendered these laws **obsolete** .*

When we render something *obsolete* , we stop it from existing or happening.

supersede (v.) to become outdated; to be replaced *My biggest desire is that the existing set of laws gets **superseded** by the new set of laws that protect the rights of women.*

*The new statue **superseded** the old one.*

dated (adj.) out-of-date or old-fashioned *They lived on the second floor of a **dated** building in Long Island. Needless to say, the decor was **dated** as well.*

ACTIVITY

Our goal in the 1970s was to render the government's impunity **obsolete** .

As used in the line above, the word *obsolete* most nearly means:

- a) useless b) onerous c) amiable d) nonexistent

To begin working on the new law, we must **supersede** the bias against women.

It can be reasonably inferred that the bias against women a) became out of fashion or vintage.
b) needs to be invigorated.
c) mars a lawyer's reputation.
d) must become obsolete.

Other words that can mean ***out-of-date*** : anachronistic, antiquated

LESSON 28

DOMINATION

Many history passages are dedicated to the fight for suffrage or human rights. As a rule, many describe the oppression and domination of one group over another. Here are a few: **subjugate** (v.) to defeat or conquer *During the war, the force of violence is used to **subjugate** one person to another.*

vanquish (v.) to defeat and conquer, especially in a war *To **vanquish** the enemy, they had to find a formidable man to command the army.*

subordinate (adj.) of inferior power and importance *While the cadet was **subordinate** to her lieutenant, she possessed greater leadership skills.*

ACTIVITY

He is a modern-day Napoleon, looking to **subjugate** .

As used in the line above, the word *subjugate* most nearly means:

- a) defeat b) revere c) concur d) beseech Without foreign help, they would not be able to **vanquish** their dictator.

As used in the line above, the word *vanquish* most nearly means:

- a) replace b) defeat c) disguise d) fabricate

Other words that can mean ***domination*** : quell,
supremacy

LESSON 29

BATTLE OF THE SEXES

Many history passages are dedicated to the battle of the sexes. Having some background knowledge on the topic is not mandatory, but it will help you get a better sense of the passage. Some vocabulary is very specific to the time in history and topic. You'll find the five terms related to this topic that are most frequently used on the SAT on the list on this page.

suffrage (n.) the right to vote in political elections *Feminists beseeched other women to join the call for women's **suffrage**.*

enfranchisement (n.) granting of a right or privilege; becoming free from political subjugation *World War I hastened women's **enfranchisement**.*

patriarchal (adj.) regarding a social system in which men play the dominant role *I refute the **patriarchal** theory of society and advocate for women's enfranchisement.*

domestic (adj.) having to do with home or household affairs *The domination of **domestic** life by men threatens the nation's progress.*

dominion (n.) dominance

*Men's attempt to maintain **dominion** over women must be condemned by all.*

ACTIVITY

We demand women's **enfranchisement** as a sign of recognition of a woman's essential role in securing the health, strength, and prosperity of the nation.

It can be reasonably inferred that the narrator is asking for a) equal rights for women.

b) preferential treatment for women.

c) the right for women to attend college.

d) the right for women to earn a salary.

I yearn to see universal **suffrage** taking place in America.

As used in the line above, the word *suffrage* most nearly means:

a) the ability to have equal rights b) the right to get an education c) the right to vote d) the privilege to get promoted

LESSON 30

OTHER HISTORY PASSAGE TERMS

Words in this lesson are not united by a shared meaning; rather, they are connected by the category of text on the SAT in which they appear—the history passages. Those passages boast archaic expressions as well as words that currently exist in English but whose meanings have significantly changed. Master this lesson to find out some of those common words.

abate (v.) to become less strong; to subside *The controversy over slavery would **abate** .*

annexation (n.) the act of taking control of a country or region, especially by force; the act of joining a larger mass so as to increase in size overall *The US **annexation** of Texas in 1845.*

station (n.) position or rank

*God appointed women to the subordinate **station** .*

sovereignty (n.) autonomy

*State **sovereignty** grants the right for every state to carry out its own policies without consulting with its neighbors.*

entrenched (adj.) deeply established *A deeply **entrenched** tradition of male dominion bothered her at night.*

peculiar (adj.) odd or weird

In the nineteenth century, slavery defenders in the South described slavery as their *peculiar institution*. Naturally, they didn't imply that the practice of slavery was odd or weird. Instead, they were using the word in its former sense: distinct and original.

populist (n.) someone or something siding with the majority of the population *Both top candidates are about to roll out **populist** proposals to appeal to voters.*

ACTIVITY

He considered himself to be of a **station** superior to that of his wife.

As used in the line above, the word *station* most nearly means:

- a) rank b) studio c) district d) reign Patriarchy was deeply entrenched in the minds of many, so the **populist** philosophers of the time went along with it.

As used in the line above, the word *populist* most nearly means:

- a) popular b) sarcastic c) benign d) siding with the majority

PART TWO

Words from Social and Natural Science Passages

On the SAT you will see a total of three passages in this category. Many students struggle with these reading assignments, mainly due to the nature of language these passages employ. When writing social science and natural science articles, the journalist strives to describe a scientific investigation pointing out its aim, methods, design, and outcomes.

Naturally, the language used will be much less emotional than that featured in fiction and history. To be precise, the language here is factual, evidence-based, and methodical. In this section, you will find 30 lessons that focus on this type of language.

LESSON 31

CONSIDER THE EXPERIMENT

In almost every passage, both the scientists and the journalists strive to think about the results of an experiment. Make sure you master these words to quickly decipher the heart of the discussion.

speculate (v.) to form a theory without any firm evidence
*Scientists began to **speculate** about Maguire's unexpected results.*

consider (v.) to think about carefully *The researchers had to **consider** the dubious results of the experiment.*

To *consider* also means to regard or be in common agreement.

*Organic fertilizers are **considered** to be a more sustainable option.*

consideration/reconsideration (n.) careful thought over a period of time *A scientific breakthrough leads to the **reconsideration** of the existing dogma.*

evaluate (v.) to form an idea

*The study design was altered in response to recent findings, while the null results had to be interpreted and **evaluated**.*

ascertain (v.) to find out for certain *What this is cannot be **ascertained** without completing a double-blind study.*

ACTIVITY

Researchers ***speculate*** that the initial attraction between salt and metal might be due to electrostatic forces.

As used in the line above, the word *speculate* most nearly means:

- a) concur b) defy
 - c) suppose d) concede
- The researchers kept the quadratics pristine and factorable but ***considered*** them functioning in the complex coordinate plane.

As used in the line above, the word *considered* most nearly means:

- a) regarded b) thought about c) agitated about d) revered

Other words that can mean ***thinking about the results*** :
deduce, surmise

LESSON 32

AGREEMENT

Many findings either support or defy an existing agreement in the scientific community. Ensure that you learn these words that denote general agreement.

consensus (n.) general agreement

*Without **consensus** , claims about these genes will be disputed, assertions risky, and the results made obscure.*

consent (n.) agreement to do something *If the professor gives his **consent** , we can begin planning further studies.*

A common medical term, *informed consent*, may help you remember the noun *consent* . *Informed consent* is a form that all patients must sign before beginning a treatment that may have negative consequences. This is a type of agreement that is given in full knowledge of the possible consequences.

doctrine/dogma (n.) a set of beliefs usually proclaimed by an institution like a church or a political party *The **doctrine** of noninvolvement caused scientific progress to stagnate.*

ACTIVITY

A strong **consensus** was called into question due to the new statistical evidence.

As used in the line above, the word *consensus* most nearly means:

- a) document b) law

c) agreement d) yearning It is unclear how this ***doctrine*** will be interpreted in light of the new indisputable research.

It can be most reasonably inferred that the new findings a) were aligned with the doctrine.

b) contradicted the doctrine.

c) subjugated the doctrine.

d) implored the doctrine.

LESSON 33

DISAGREEMENT

Needless to say, experiments create a lot of disagreements among scientists. Their arguments often become a fruitful topic for scientific articles that you'll see on the SAT. Make sure you study the words on this page to easily recognize such disagreements.

contention (n.) a heated disagreement

*Another point of **contention** will be the role of genetic research in the Catholic country.*

misconception (n.) a misunderstanding

*This myth may stem from a **misconception** about what happens when we wash our hands with soap.*

impugn (v.) to dispute validity

*Wilson has demanded an apology for what he called a baseless attempt to **impugn** his integrity.*

incongruous (adj.) out of harmony

*There is something **incongruous** about seeing peaches on the shelf of a butcher's shop.*

ACTIVITY

In an attempt to **impugn** her credibility, the team fabricated the evidence.

It can be reasonably inferred that the evidence was gathered out of a) earnest effort.

b) irreverence.

c) spiteful attempt.

d) appreciation.

One point of ***contention*** was whether the secret government agency helped create a foreign research center in Algeria.

As used in the line above, the word *contention* most nearly means:

a) argument b) connection c) dominion d)
exoneration

Other words that can mean ***disagreement*** : belligerency, controversy

LESSON 34

BEYOND ARGUMENT

In science, some things must be kept extremely clear and beyond argument. It pertains to both physical things and intangible concepts. Learn these words to help you better understand the SAT passages on this topic.

irreproachable (adj.) perfect; blameless

*The professor's background was **irreproachable** .*

immaculate (adj.) clean; neat; pure

*The Tokyo cabs are **immaculate** , down to the covers on the headrests.*

In biology, the term *immaculate* refers to being free from spots and marks.

uncontaminated (adj.) not compromised

*To ensure an **uncontaminated** sample, the students washed and disinfected their hands before collecting the particles.*

exemplary (adj.) very good; serving as a model As **exemplary** citizens, they pay their taxes and participate in community events.

ACTIVITY

Kitchen chefs refuted the researcher's assumption that the produce had been frozen prior to cooking, insisting that their **irreproachable** supplier only delivered fresh organic goods.

As used in the line above, the word *irreproachable* most nearly means:

- a) lucrative b) malignant c) faultless d) apprehensive
- After the lab testing, the water was found to be ***uncontaminated*** and town citizens were allowed to drink tap water.

As used in the line above, the word *uncontaminated* most nearly means:

- a) compromised b) clean c) equivocal d) malevolent

Other words that can mean ***beyond argument*** : pristine, indisputable

LESSON 35

PRACTICAL

The scientific community is known for being practical. Oftentimes, the author of the article will describe the real-life application of the research. Spot these discussions by mastering the words on this page first.

pragmatic (adj.) dealing with things in a sensible and realistic way *Before spending any money on the research, he tried to make a very **pragmatic** prediction of the outcome.*

viable (adj.) doable; sustainable; able to germinate or grow *After carefully planting the trees, the gardener was disappointed to learn that only one of them was **viable** .*

feasible (adj.) capable of being done *To verify the **feasibility** of the undertaking, they initiated a test group first.*

sound (adj.) showing good judgment *NASA engineers always strive for **sound** construction and design.*

Notice here we are not talking about music or noise creation; rather, we are talking about building something stable and firm.

ACTIVITY

Stephen seems like a **viable** contender, and may be the one to crack the top three.

As used in the line above, the word *viable* most nearly means:

a) reasonable b) incongruous c) formidable d) dubious Many experts impugn the commercial **viability** of the discoveries.

It can be reasonably inferred that many experts view new discoveries as a) reasonably successful.

b) financially sustainable.

c) financially risky.

d) commercially sound.

Other words that can mean **practical** : cogent, attainable

LESSON 36

NOT PRACTICAL

Authors are often critical of solutions offered and deem them not practical. Make sure you study this lesson to recognize the negative tone of the author.

impractical (adj.) not likely or wise to be carried out
*Deemed **impractical** , that idea was replaced by a less risky proposition.*

unreasonable (adj.) not subject to reason *Dr. Lucy's suggestion was **unreasonable** and would yield more harm than good.*

Note that the word *unreasonable* has a second common meaning: beyond reason, or too hard.

*Lucy had to work **unreasonable** hours before becoming a doctor.*

unsound (adj.) not logical; invalid *The proposed process is not only expensive but also environmentally **unsound** .*

inconsequential (adj.) illogical; not yielding effective consequences *The findings of the study were largely **inconsequential** , and scientists struggled to analyze such data to come up with a consensus.*

ACTIVITY

Tanner's work is now referred to as biased, scientifically **unsound** , and unfair.

As used in the line above, the word *unsound* most nearly means:

- a) invalid b) ambiguous c) endearing d) authentic

Thankfully, the mistakes were largely

inconsequential .

It can be reasonably inferred that the mistakes a) affected the research in a massive way.

- b) made the results ambivalent.
c) were candid.
d) didn't have an impact.

Other words that can mean ***not practical*** : ineffectual, negligible

LESSON 37

CLEARLY SEEN

In science, researchers are often operating with clearly visible factors. Learn which words denote being plainly seen.

conspicuous (adj.) obvious

*During the mating season, males also develop **conspicuous** plumage on their necks. There is a **conspicuous** gap between what science can offer and what humanity is ready to receive.*

flagrant (adj.) clearly offensive

It was a **flagrant** violation of human rights.

blatant (adj.) completely obvious *When the evidence was so **blatant**, he could no longer continue his deception.*

substantial (adj.) considerable importance or grand size
*Our frequent fishing is removing a **substantial** amount of nutrients from the oceans.*

audacious (adj.) bold; openly showing a desire to take risks
*So perhaps it is time to talk about the **audacious** idea of geoengineering in earnest.*

ACTIVITY

They are also very numerous in terms of species, though much less **conspicuous**.

As used in the line above, the word *conspicuous* most nearly means:

a) onerous b) sinister c) viable d) visible This trial is a ***blatant*** waste that shows that the forecast was impractical.

As used in the line above, the word *blatant* most nearly means:

a) yearning b) inexorable c) susceptible d) obvious

LESSON 38

NOT CLEARLY SEEN

Scientists often use optical instruments such as microscopes and telescopes to discern small or distant factors affecting our existence. Make sure you know when the article discusses things that are not clearly perceived.

inconspicuous (adj.) not easily noticeable *A nova is a sudden brightening of an otherwise **inconspicuous** star.*

subtle (adj.) not obvious

*Sometimes the professor's intervention is so **subtle** that you could easily miss it.*

clandestine (adj.) secretive and hidden; hard to see *The **clandestine** nature of environmental damage typically makes prosecutions difficult.*

underground (adj.) conducted in secret *The department supported his **underground** stem cell research.*

ACTIVITY

This deformation results in **subtle** variations in density on the mountain.

It can most reasonably be inferred that the results of the deformation are a) annihilating.

- b) equivocal.
- c) delicate.
- d) uneven.

This device is crucial to detecting ***clandestine*** nuclear tests.

As used in the line above, the word *clandestine* most nearly means:

- a) scheduled b) secretive c) susceptible d) fabricated

Other words that can mean ***not clearly seen*** :
surreptitious, concealed

LESSON 39

IN PRACTICE

Scientific experiments ensure that theoretical insights are supported in reality. Words that denote practice will help you identify when something is backed by a practical experiment.

empirical (adj.) based on experiment *This theory is grounded in **empirical** support.*

data-driven (adj.) based on data or real information *Scientists had a lot of data to sift through, so the outcome will be **data-driven**.*

irrefutable (adj.) beyond any doubt
*Once the method was supported by a number of double-blind studies, it became **irrefutable**.*

ACTIVITY

This apparently convincing dogma lacks an **empirical** basis.

As used in the line above, the word *empirical* most nearly means:

- a) experimental b) equivocal c) amiable d) naive

The researchers were looking for an unequivocal, **data-driven** outcome to support their consensus.

It can be most reasonably inferred that the researchers were seeking a) empirical support.

- b) like-minded allies.

- c) inconsequential proof.
- d) an immaculate sample.

Other words that can mean ***in practice*** : categorical, emphatic

LESSON 40

IN THEORY

Many scientific findings first begin as a theory. Knowing that something only exists as a theory is essential for your full understanding of the passage.

hypothetical (adj.) based on an idea or hypothesis

*Monopoles are **hypothetical** particles that hold a north or south magnetic pole.*

theoretical (adj.) based on theory

*Perhaps you are just starting a controversy for the sake of **theoretical** discussion.*

contingent (adj.) dependent on something else *The results of the study are **contingent** upon obtaining an uncontaminated sample and a control group.*

ACTIVITY

A blitzar—a **hypothetical** celestial object—may collapse into a black hole.

It can be most reasonably inferred that a blitzar a) exists in imagination only.

- b) doesn't have empirical proof.
- c) is based on scientists' musing.
- d) is an invalid assumption.

The start of the second stage of the study is **contingent** on the success of the first.

As used in the line above, the word *contingent* most nearly means:

- a) flagrant b) entrenched c) susceptible d) dependent

LESSON 41

NEVER ENDING

Many natural science articles describe never-ending phenomena. Make sure you master these words to spot such long-term events.

perennial (adj.) lasting for a long time; enduring *His wholesale nursery focuses on **perennial** plants from around the globe that are suitable for novices.*

You can also describe something never ending as *perennial*, like a *perennial debate* or a *perennial problem*.

everlasting (adj.) lasting forever

*Commercials say diamonds are **everlasting**, and so are gold, silver, and other gemstones.*

perpetual (adj.) not ending or changing; continuing forever *Sadly, **perpetual** motion machines don't exist.*

*Because of the CEO's temper, his assistants had a high turnover rate, and the role of the CEO's right hand was a **perpetual** hot seat.*

eternal (adj.) seeming to last and persist forever *The Streisand effect is an **eternal** Internet joke.*

ACTIVITY

The **perennial** plant also controls erosion and helps trap carbon dioxide in the ground.

As used in the line above, the word *perennial* most nearly means:

a) sun-loving b) enduring c) short-lived d) artificial
The cell phone has become a ***perpetual*** source of distraction in meetings.

As used in the line above, the word *perpetual* most nearly means:

a) restless b) incongruous c) unreasonable d) constant

Other words that can mean ***never ending*** : ceaseless, imperishable

LESSON 42

TEMPORARY

Many scientists study temporary phenomena. Ensure that you comprehend the adjectives in this lesson to grasp the temporary nature of many factors and events.

transient (adj.) impermanent; lasting only a short time *The **transient** nature of fashion implies constant change.*

ephemeral (adj.) lasting a very short time *The **ephemeral** nature of the Web entices daily production of new content.*

evanescent (adj.) quickly leaving sight or memory
***Evanescent** particles were going in and out of sight.*

*We enjoyed the **evanescent** sunset basking in the sun.*

ACTIVITY

Doctors say that after this procedure, you may endure some **transient** benefits at the expense of long-term growth and well-being.

It can be most nearly inferred that the doctors a)
highly recommend the procedure.

- b) have an incongruous opinion.
- c) lack a consensus.
- d) condemn the procedure.

They are so tiny and **evanescent** that they flash into and out of existence in just a few trillionths of a second.

As used in the line above, the word *evanescent* most nearly means:

a) vulnerable b) flagrant c) transient d) solemn

LESSON 43

WITHOUT PROOF

Many journalists and scientists could be making assertions that are purely hypothetical and have no empirical support. Make sure you identify those assertions as such by learning the words on this page.

unfounded (adj.) having no empirical support *As a researcher, he should avoid making such **unfounded** assumptions.*

unwarranted (adj.) not justified or authorized *Using elevated vocabulary correctly in public would bestow **unwarranted** credibility on you.*

baseless (adj.) not grounded in fact
*The populists' accusations were, of course, **baseless** and resulted in a hoax.*

ACTIVITY

Many economists said the investor panic led to **unwarranted** declines in many stocks.

It can be most reasonably inferred that the panic was

- a) pragmatic.
- b) inconspicuous.
- c) data-driven.
- d) unreasonable.

The city's internal and external auditors deemed the allegations against the mayor to be **unfounded**.

It can be most reasonably inferred that the auditors regarded the mayor as a) an adversary.

- b) a confidant.
- c) malignant.
- d) irreproachable.

Other words that can mean ***without proof*** : ill-founded, idle

LESSON 44

CHANGING

Scientists always study subjects that are changing. Recognizing change and the process of transformation is critical to solid reading comprehension on the SAT reading portion.

diversify (v.) to change or alter; to create variety *Many investors recommend that you **diversify** your portfolio of stocks to hedge the risks.*

fluctuate (v.) to change often
*The price of gold **fluctuates** daily.*

permutation (n.) variation
*A myriad of **permutations** are possible inside a long molecule.*

ACTIVITY

There are many competing theories for how species **diversify** and become extinct.

As used in the line above, the word *diversify* most nearly means:

- a) advent b) vanquish c) change d) condone

Future **permutations** of the Coachella blueprint are just waiting to become reality.

It can be most reasonably inferred that the narrator finds Coachella a) inconsequential.

- b) vague.

- c) exemplary.
- d) contingent.

Other words that can mean ***changing*** : altering, permutating, undulating

LESSON 45

UNCHANGING

Along with changing subjects, scientists examine subjects that remain the same. Make sure you know the words that define elements that remain permanent.

unvarying (adj.) unchanging

*The judge's courtroom style was **unvaryingly** rigid.*

uniform (adj.) same; alike

*The inflatable bed was **uniformly** filled with air.*

homogenous (adj.) being of a similar kind or nature

*Although they may look **homogenous**, every grain of sand on the beach is unique.*

ACTIVITY

Many families moved to suburban districts that were more **homogeneous** and devoid of New York City's diversity.

As used in the line above, the word *homogeneous* most nearly means:

- a) fluctuating b) equivocal c) candid d) consistent

After trying different pricing models for a few days, Amazon went back to the **uniform** price.

It can be most reasonably inferred that Amazon found uniform pricing a) financially unsound.

- b) economically viable.
c) economically ambiguous.

d) socially pragmatic.

Other words that can mean ***unchanging*** : systematic, rigid

LESSON 46

RANDOM

Randomness is a major component of any scientific experiment. Studying these words will help you understand that aspect of the passage.

haphazard (adj.) random; disorganized *Although hummingbirds may look **haphazard** in flight, they're actually very precise flyers.*

*To most of its users, the Internet might seem like an inexplicably **haphazard** system.*

arbitrary (adj.) based on random choice or personal preference *Many scientists try to segment the sky in an **arbitrary** way, creating a multitude of problems for future progress.*

erratic (adj.) uneven; unpredictable in nature *The nation needed a rigid monetary approach after many years of **erratic** policies.*

ACTIVITY

Due to its **haphazard** design, the study didn't produce any meaningful insight.

As used in the line above, the word *haphazard* most nearly means:

a) random b) immaculate c) sinister d) dated

The choice of direction is **arbitrary**; conventionally, players chose z-direction.

It can be most reasonably inferred that z-direction is

- a) superior to others.
- b) less practical than others.
- c) neither good or bad.
- d) infinitely poignant.

Other words that can mean ***random*** : volatile, desultory

LESSON 47

WITHOUT RESOLUTION

Some questions in science simply cannot be resolved. Understanding the following terms will tip you off if that is the case.

irreconcilable (adj.) incapable of being solved *If you like Drake and your parents prefer Mozart, choosing a concert to attend as a family may be too great a hurdle to overcome—your **irreconcilable** differences in music may have you attending two different shows.*

*The professor had some nearly **irreconcilable** objections to this version of the study.*

uncompromising (adj.) unwilling to concede or make compromises; stubborn *Both researchers took an **uncompromising** stance, which ultimately prevented them from reaching a consensus.*

ACTIVITY

The research team found themselves stuck between two **irreconcilable** forces: satisfying the funding agency and reporting the authentic results of the study.

As used in the line above, the word *irreconcilable* most nearly means:

- a) tenacious b) malevolent c) unwarranted d) conflicting
- The general was soon struck by the **uncompromising** warfare between the miners and the coal company.

As used in the line above, the word *uncompromising* most nearly means:

- a) haphazard b) stubborn c) endearing d) evanescent

Other words that can mean ***without resolution*** :
inflexible, unbending, adamant

LESSON 48

PRODUCE

In the scientific world, some common words take on additional meanings. Make sure you study the words on this page to avoid confusion.

yield (v.) to generate or produce Please note that this is the second meaning of the verb *yield*. The first meaning is to surrender or give way.

*The research project **yields** data that initiated a new set of questions.*

*Most genes can **yield** a variety of transcripts through a process called splicing.*

yield (n.) the full quantity or amount *When you start baking, you will find that the **yield** for the cupcake dough varies from 12 cupcakes to 16 or even 18.*

accrue (v.) to grow by accumulation *Students try to **accrue** extra-credit points to mitigate a possible bad final grade.*

ACTIVITY

The judge had to deem all accusations baseless since this factory was not **yielding** any food products.

As used in the line above, the word *yield* most nearly means:

- a) producing b) consuming c) diversifying d) impugning
Scientists concede that the carbon benefits of biomass could take years to **accrue**.

As used in the line above, the word *accrue* most nearly means:

- a) develop b) generate c) refute d) subjugate

Other words that can mean ***produce*** : amass, bring forth

LESSON 49

OBSTRUCT

Many different factors can obstruct research or a chemical reaction. Find out which words denote obstruction.

impede (v.) to stop, prevent, or delay progress *Biologists acknowledge that disrupting the activity of selected host proteins may **impede** viruses.*

*Agricultural zoning would **impede** commercial development in some areas.*

hinder (v.) to create obstacles that result in poor performance *Designers are often freed from dress codes and other constraints, like wearing a uniform, because they are considered to **hinder** creativity.*

thwart (v.) to prevent from accomplishing *This study could explain why some pathogens are able to **thwart** the human immune system.*

inhibit (v.) to prevent

*Cold water **inhibits** plant growth.*

*The poor economic conditions **inhibited** population growth.*

ACTIVITY

Many bottlenecks occur that **impede** improvements in science.

It can be most reasonably inferred that bottlenecks are
a) the necks or mouths of bottles.

- b) a hurdle.
- c) a provenance.
- d) a dogma.

These risks, if not handled properly, will ***hinder*** growth and even reverse the upward trend.

As used in the line above, the word *hinder* most nearly means:

- a) entice b) obstruct c) yield d) fluctuate

Other words that can mean ***obstruct*** : hamper, deter

LESSON 50

HARMFUL

Many factors can be damaging and produce harmful circumstances. Make sure you master the following terms that highlight a situation in dire straits.

detrimental (adj.) harmful

*This type of farming yields inferior produce and is **detrimental** to long-term productivity.*

pernicious (adj.) creating enormous harm, especially when done gradually or gone unnoticed *Any human is susceptible to the **pernicious** power of groupthink.*

adverse (adj.) unfavorable; hostile *So far the only **adverse** reactions to the new medication have been headaches and amplified restlessness.*

ACTIVITY

Overlooking contradictory data could have a **detrimental** effect on your research findings.

As used in the line above, the word *detrimental* most nearly means:

- a) vague b) harmful c) irreconcilable d) haphazard

Patients in the treatment group were also more likely to suffer **adverse** effects than patients in the control group.

It can be most reasonably inferred that the new treatment a) is viable.

- b) is effective.
- c) yields side effects.
- d) is ubiquitous.

LESSON 51

SPACE TERMINOLOGY

Oftentimes, natural science passages discuss space and space research. This topic comes with a set of terms you need to be familiar with to avoid confusion on the test.

celestial (adj.) related to the sky

*Astronomical observations tell us that all **celestial** objects are composed of matter.*

interstellar (adj.) occurring between the stars *As the shock wave travels through space, it bursts into **interstellar** material like constellations.*

pseudo star (n.) not a genuine star

*Any bright light coming from the sky could be identified as a star; in fact, this is a **pseudo star** .*

gravity (n.) the force that pulls toward the center of the Earth *Thrown darts would continue to travel forward if it weren't for **gravity** , which slows them down and brings them to the floor.*

ACTIVITY

The **celestial** sphere has inspired awe since the beginning of humankind. Its seemingly infinite expanse remains a constant topic of scientific exploration.

As used in the lines above, the word *celestial* most nearly means:

- a) remote b) voluminous c) astronomical d) round

Many pseudoscientists strive to explain ***interstellar*** movements through gravity, negating its staggering complexity.

It can be most reasonably inferred that the movements are a) misinterpreted.

b) oversimplified.

c) entrenched.

d) speculated.

Other words that relate to space: stellar, extraterrestrial

LESSON 52

OVERFILL

Journalists often point out overfilled and overcrowded places. Learning the words on this page will help you visualize this overload.

inundate (v.) to overwhelm or flood

*The dean was **inundated** with angry phone calls from parents.*

*The city in Japan was **inundated** right after a tsunami.*

glut (v.) to overfill or satisfy fully *Although the market is **glutted** with lawyers, many students pursue a legal education.*

saturate (v.) to fill

*Political advertisements are becoming ubiquitous and **saturate** both analog and digital space.*

ACTIVITY

Instead of having to look for gigs, Lucy is now **inundated** with offers to perform everywhere.

It can be most reasonably inferred that Lucy a) became evanescent.

- b) started a new career.
- c) gained popularity.
- d) remained inconspicuous.

Today the chip industry is **glutted** with excess capacity, and no niche is more glutted than communications.

As used in the line above, the word *glutted* most nearly means:

- a) overfilled b) impugned c) decreed d) implored

Other words that can mean ***to overfill*** : deluge, swamp

LESSON 53

MANAGEMENT

In both natural and social science passages, journalists either condone or condemn management or government agencies. Familiarity with these words will help you spot these discussions in the text. **stewardship** (n.) leadership; management *Under his **stewardship**, the company became lucrative after years of losses.*

*The executive is responsible for the fiscal **stewardship** of the Fleetwoods' budget.*

Another meaning for *stewardship* is care.

*Climate change and environmental **stewardship** have become international concerns.*

conservancy (n.) a public agency concerned with nature preservation *The **conservancy** and city parks' staff will install and maintain the garden.*

As a noun, *conservancy* can also mean care and preservation.

*He said the mismanagement of the site didn't hinder the **conservancy** of the Titanic artifacts.*

ACTIVITY

According to the survey, antimicrobial **stewardship** programs are slowly increasing.

As used in the line above, the word *stewardship* most nearly means:

a) management b) dominion c) exoneration d) consent Land used for grazing animals is generally unsuitable or less promising for cultivation. Often passed over, it frequently gets used for nature **conservancy** purposes.

It can be most reasonably inferred that after being used by grazing animals the land a) becomes enhanced with fertilizers.

- b) gains agricultural value.
- c) needs environmental protection.
- d) yields less crop.

LESSON 54

MENTION

It takes courage to mention certain issues in a conversation. Writers actually use a whole arsenal of words that mean *mention*, so be sure to master these words to help your reading comprehension.

broach (v.) to bring up a subject in conversation *During the meeting, we hardly **broached** the topic of environmental conservancy. Only a few economists have the guts to **broach** the fact that the market is glutted with homes.*

moot (v.) to raise a question *Cameron himself **mooted** a similar idea for a basic tax rate relief.*

*A number of possibilities have been **mooted** for gleaning more from the wealthy.*

advance (v.) to bring up an idea or argument *The author also **advanced** an alternative argument in his statement.*

ACTIVITY

There is no right way to **broach** such a vulnerable subject.

As used in the line above, the word *broach* most nearly means:

- a) evaluate b) beseech c) bring up d) negate It may seem paradoxical, but at every forum, the activists have to **advance** an argument that everyone recognizes in words but often disregards in actual fact.

As used in the line above, the word *advance* most nearly means:

- a) deny b) accrue c) put forward d) cease

Other words that can mean ***mention*** : foster, plug

LESSON 55

BE UNDERSTANDING

Even though science passages are more factual, a major component regards being and feeling understanding. This sentiment threads through the passages, so ensure that you master the words on this page to grasp it.

empathize (v.) to understand someone's feelings *It's easier to genuinely **empathize** with the reasonably upset customers than do it out of pretense.*

sympathize (v.) to share someone's feelings *Entrepreneurs often **sympathize** with each other.*

compassionate (adj.) caring; understanding *It takes a heart with **compassionate** reach to make the tender and slow journey in memory of others.*

relate (v.) to identify with
*Teachers make an extra effort to **relate** to their students.*

ACTIVITY

Ronald's shortcomings include an inability to **empathize** with his employees in any meaningful way.

It can be most reasonably inferred that, as a boss, Ronald is a)

- a) understanding.
- b) compassionate.
- c) complacent.
- d) indifferent.

Some writers can ***relate*** to the idea of writing to increase their life satisfaction.

As used in the line above, the word *relate* to most nearly means:

- a) share b) concede c) condemn d) yield

Other words that can mean ***be understanding*** :
solicitous, forbearing

LESSON 56

EXTRAORDINARY

Science often deals with extraordinary things. Make sure you learn all the words in this lesson to fully appreciate their scope.

phenomenon (n.) a remarkable event or person Note that the word is also used to describe an observable event, whether it's remarkable or not.

*Initially, people thought of comets as a natural celestial **phenomenon**.*

quirk (n.) an extraordinary feature *A **quirk** of human psychology could help explain these persistent underestimates.*

paradox (n.) a contradiction

*The poignant **paradox** is that by losing their identity, they have transcended it.*

*The fact that technology is creating and destroying jobs simultaneously is the greatest **paradox** of our time.*

ACTIVITY

This new study is one of the first to ever broach and demonstrate this **phenomenon** in humans.

As used in the line above, the word *phenomenon* most nearly means:

- a) stewardship b) fervor c) contention d) behavior

Blind spots occur because of a design **quirk** in the architecture of our eyes.

It can be most reasonably inferred that a blind spot is a result of a) weird architecture.

b) an extraordinary biological feature.

c) haphazard assembly.

d) an obsolete design.

LESSON 57

BRAIN TERMINOLOGY

Brain science is often at the center of science passages on the SAT—and, not surprisingly, such passages come with a set of potentially intimidating vocabulary. Don't let these big words scare you off! Familiarize yourself with the terms on this page.

cognitive (adj.) pertaining to the brain

*Many **cognitive** skills develop alongside the acquisition of language.*

cognition (n.) thinking and other mental processes *The frontal lobe is considered to be the hub for **cognition** and behavior in the brain.*

neural (adj.) related to the physical aspects of the brain and nervous system *This device finely transmits **neural** impulses to the brain.*

neuron (n.) a brain cell that transmits nerve impulses *For a **neuron** to fire, it must receive stimuli from two other neurons.*

synapse (n.) a connection in the brain that allows a neuron to pass an electrical or chemical signal to other brain cells *As people change habits, their neurons and **synapses** change accordingly.*

*This is one of the first studies to show how **synapses** in this region are altered.*

ACTIVITY

Neural plasticity confirms that the brain is **malleable** and can change with consistent training.

As used in the line above, the words *neural* and *malleable* most nearly mean:

- a) brain . . . baseless b) nerve . . . malicious c) brain . . . changeable d) nerve . . . negative
- The ***synapses*** of this nerve cell inhibit the flow of information of other cells.

It can be most reasonably inferred that the synapses

- a) hinder neural communication.
- b) enhance neural communication.
- c) accelerate neural reactions.
- d) moot neural suggestions.

LESSON 58

DATA VOCABULARY

Data in the right hands has proven an extremely powerful tool, and the SAT makes it the focus and foundation of many social science articles.

raw data (n.) a collection of information not yet processed or organized *When it comes to measuring population growth, **raw** census **data** become an essential tool.*

proxy (n.) an agent or a representative *They accuse him of being a **proxy** for his condemned predecessor.*

When data scientists use something as a proxy, they use it instead of the real thing to create an approximate prediction.

*Urbanization is not a **proxy** for an area's well-being.*

aggregate (n.) a whole created by combining distinct parts *An **aggregate** demand for cleaning services drove the business.*

Aggregate data describes data combined from several measurements.

correlation (n.) a connection between two or more things *There is a **correlation** between warm weather and the increase in ice-cream sales.*

However, it's important to know that a correlation doesn't always imply causation or a cause-and-effect relationship.

causation (n.) the initiation of a causal relationship between things *Although he was feeling better after taking the supplements, the doctor couldn't identify any medical **causation** .*

ACTIVITY

Before sharing the budget figures, the CEO presented a calculation of **aggregate** expenses.

As used in the line above, the word *aggregate* most nearly means:

- a) uniform and homogeneous b) unequivocal and absolute c) adverse and pernicious d) combined from different resources
- It seems reasonable to assume a **correlation** between wealth and entrepreneurship.

As used in the line above, the word *correlation* most nearly means:

- a) connection b) causation c) enigma d) hurdle

LESSON 59

MONEY TERMINOLOGY

Money is another frequent topic on the SAT, so expanding your vocabulary for describing financial matters can be essential for SAT success.

fiscal (adj.) pertaining to money, taxes, and government revenue *The company's current austere **fiscal** policy is hardly comparable to the former, more reckless one.*

prosperous (adj.) wealthy; abundant
*During two exceedingly **prosperous** decades, increased spending was justified.*

squanderer (n.) a spender; someone who likes wasting money and resources *The country was the biggest **squanderer** of the natural resources.*

squander (v.) to waste money or resources *The research team was presented with an opportunity they couldn't afford to **squander**.*

*He **squandered** the chance to assume a leadership position at his company.*

affluent (adj.) having a lot of money and wealth *Luxury stores target **affluent** customers.*

ACTIVITY

A small percentage of the population can call themselves **fiscally** responsible.

As used in the line above, the word *fiscally* most nearly means:

- a) financially b) personally c) tenaciously d) amiably
- Premium brands and imported grocery items may flourish, too, as people grow more ***affluent***.

As used in the line above, the word *affluent* most nearly means:

- a) earnest b) vulnerable c) wealthy d) erratic

LESSON 60

ADDITIONAL WORDS FROM SCIENCE PASSAGES

You'll find a list of scientific terms that frequently show up on the SAT natural science reading portion on this page. Understanding these will help you feel more confident and improve your comprehension as you read these passages.

compound (n.) a mixture

*Other findings implicated yet another potential **compound** involved in the damage.*

remnant (n.) a surviving trace

*The artwork was restored, but some say **remnants** of the damage can still be seen.*

surge (n.) a sudden, powerful movement *A recently published study about the healing property of probiotics have prompted a **surge** in their popularity.*

analogous (adj.) similar or comparable in a limited way *The process could be **analogous** to the mechanism for controlling DNA replication.*

rampant (adj.) actively growing; in an extravagant fashion *Cell phone addiction is **rampant** among teenagers.*

ACTIVITY

They removed an **analogous** section of DNA from mice, then tracked what happened.

As used in the line above, the word *analogous* most nearly means:

- a) parallel b) identical c) celestial d) compassionate
- In this mechanism, the second trigger arrests the ***surge*** of iodine created by the initial trigger.

As used in the line above, the word *surge* most nearly means:

- a) search b) flow
- c) occurrence d) advent

PART THREE

Vocabulary in Context: Secondary Meanings

On the reading section of the SAT, you will see 10 Vocabulary in Context questions. These questions account for up to 15 percent of your reading score. In this section, we will examine commonly tested words in different contexts and discuss a variety of strategies to answer such questions.

The SAT is testing your ability to determine the meaning of a word or phrase based on context. The word or phrase in question may look familiar: *service* , *position* , *touched* , *determine* , etc. However, these frequently used words possess more than one definition, and knowing these will help you find the correct answer.

As an example, let's evaluate the meaning of the word *degree* in this context: *This campaign was met with a slight **degree** of skepticism by many New Yorkers.*

As used in the line above, the word *degree* most nearly means: a) phase b) extent c) condition d) rank The word *degree* can be used in relation to temperature or education, but neither of these meanings apply here. Instead, the words *slight* and *skepticism* surrounding the word in question should clue you in the correct answer, *extent* .

In short, it's essential that you base your answer on the context, rather than choosing an answer that sounds plausible just because it is similar to the literal meaning of

the word. The key to success on these questions is identifying the contextual clues.

In the next 30 lessons, you will learn many examples of commonly tested words with secondary meanings. Keeping these secondary definitions in mind will help you identify the correct meanings throughout the questions.

LESSON 61

COMMON HOUSEHOLD NOUNS USED AS VERBS

The following common household words have secondary meanings that are not particularly common—they might surprise you.

couch (v.) to be expressed in a particular way *The issue was **couched** in relative terms.*

*The problem was **couched** in pseudo politeness.*

Usually, the verb *couch* is used to hide something from plain sight and make it less conspicuous. When you couch an issue, you express it obscurely and indirectly.

*He was able to restate the venom from his original post, but this time it was **couched** in pseudo politeness.*

shelve (v.) to decide not to proceed with a proposal or idea *After meeting with executives, the negotiations ended and the story was **shelved** .*

handle (v.) to overcome; to withstand *He **handled** those adverse conditions with grace.*

hamper (v.) to get in the way

*The team's effort was severely **hampered** by the lack of consensus.*

table (v.) to put aside for future consideration *The project will remain **tabled** until someone finds money.*

ACTIVITY

A disconcerting memo ***couched*** in legislative language has been circulating in the Capitol.

As used in the line above, the word *couched* most nearly means:

- a) hidden b) expressed c) unsettled d) troubled

The compound cured mice, but it was ***shelved*** because it also made mice lose weight rapidly.

As used in the line above, the word *shelved* most nearly means:

- a) placed b) managed c) rejected d) lamented

LESSON 62

MOOD AND CHARACTER WORDS

This lesson will teach you some common second meanings for words that describe mood or character.

air (n.) demeanor or mood

*She answered questions with an **air** of boredom.*

air (v.) to express, broadcast, or articulate publicly *He used social media to **air** his messages.*

nature (n.) character; disposition *Private by **nature**, he struggled when answering personal questions in interviews.*

natural (n.) a person for whom a skill is inherent or innate *Hollywood movies love a lone hero, and Edison was a **natural** for such hagiography.*

ACTIVITY

She insisted on being served first with the **air** of someone who just received a prestigious award.

As used in the line above, the word *air* most nearly means:

- a) atmosphere b) absence c) demeanor d) melody
Given the disruptive **nature** of their business, I am not surprised to see them dominate the market six months after inception.

As used in the line above, the word *nature* most nearly means:

a) physical world b) character c) role d) physical force

LESSON 63

MEDICAL TERMS

The following words commonly used in the medical field also have secondary meanings that may arise on the SAT.

doctor (v.) to alter or modify in order to deceive *Insiders have told investigators that reports may have been **doctored** for decades.*

*Many saw **doctored** screenshots in the past, which were passed off as original tweets.*

prescribed (adj.) given or ordered

*As her father's favorite, she will have no **prescribed** duties and responsibilities.*

*He was taking his time in everything, keeping up with the **prescribed** rhythm of slow suburbia.*

plastic (adj.) changeable; malleable *The use of human keratinocytes with gene suppression has proven to make the brain more **plastic**.*

*Bees' behavior is very **plastic**, which makes them perfect for this experiment on behavioral conditioning.*

stomach (v.) to approve of; to be able to enjoy *The eminent domain issue is the one the liberals will have to **stomach**.*

ACTIVITY

The picture was later **doctored** and even colored for various propaganda versions.

As used in the line above, the word *doctored* most nearly means:

- a) cured b) alleviated c) altered d) mused Risky situations emerge when new drivers don't follow ***prescribed*** directions.

As used in the line above, the word *prescribed* most nearly means:

- a) suggested by a doctor b) ordered c) entreated
d) implored

LESSON 64

WORDS THAT MEAN PRETEND

This lesson will teach you some common second meanings for words that describe pretending or faking.

affect (v.) to pretend or simulate *She **affected** a strong British accent.*

*Even though she was very touched by his words, she **affected** indifference.*

*He deliberately **affected** a Republican stance to avoid cutting remarks from his Republican friends.*

*Knowing that his teacher was looking in his direction, he **affected** a frown of concentration on his face while his mind was wandering somewhere else.*

embroider (v.) to elaborate, embellish, or exaggerate *Duke refused to **embroider** his story to make it any more exciting to listen to.*

*As a fiction writer, his purpose is to intensify mood and **embroider** emotion.*

ACTIVITY

Lolita **affected** ignorance when her sister asked if she was planning a surprise party.

As used in the line above, the word *affected* most nearly means:

- a) felt b) avoided c) simulated d) experienced

Many candidates **embroider** the truth to try to make themselves seem more interesting.

As used in the line above, the word *embroider* most nearly means:

- a) sew b) simplify c) embellish d) decorate

LESSON 65

REAL ESTATE TERMS

The following real estate terms have secondary meanings that may be tested on the SAT.

facility (n.) a talent or innate ability; aptitude *Robinson's creative **facility** with words was a quality no teacher could instill.*

*This camera can work with equal **facility** in the light and dark.*

foundation (n.) underpinnings; basis *These rumors have no solid **foundation**.*

store (n.) a reserve kept for future use *He was proud of his vast **store** of knowledge.*

in store coming in the future; about to happen *The team advising the CEO on tech policy offers a hint about what may be **in store**.*

maintain (v.) to remain unchanged

*The walls **maintained** their vibrant color regardless of the weather damage.*

ACTIVITY

Katherine definitely had a **facility** for languages, as she fluently spoke Mandarin, English, and had started to learn Italian.

As used in the line above, the word *facility* most nearly means:

- a) provision b) amenity c) aptitude d) feature

When she was upset, she frequently reached for her ***store*** of chocolates.

As used in the line above, the word *store* most nearly means:

- a) shop b) reserve c) brand d) compilation

LESSON 66

BANKING TERMS

The words in this lesson come from the banking field, but the SAT passages may focus on their secondary meanings instead.

account (n.) a detailed explanation *In her **account** of the study, she omitted an important detail.*

account (v.) to have an opinion *This study was **accounted** a success.*

bank on (v.) to rely on

*Jeff was **banking on** his dad's benevolence.*

bank (v.) to pile up high; to accumulate *Walker **banked** the wood against the wall.*

ACTIVITY

His step-by-step **account** of his scientific investigation is a model for this kind of thing.

As used in the line above, the word *account* most nearly means:

- a) statement b) importance c) description d) deposit
They were **banking on** getting something to eat at the store.

As used in the line above, the phrase *banking on* most nearly means:

- a) putting b) yielding c) counting d) proposing

LESSON 67

LAW ENFORCEMENT TERMS

The following words usually describe criminal activity, but it's just as important that you recognize their secondary meanings, which may be tested, as well.

arrest (v.) to put a stop to

*The board of directors failed to **arrest** the fall of the department.*

commit (v.) to promise to carry out in earnest *The president was **committed** to restoring constitutional fidelity.*

conviction (n.) a strong belief

*Peter's **conviction** that poetry must be embraced never wavered.*

ACTIVITY

It's vital that the CEO can foresee and **arrest** the company's decline.

As used in the line above, the word *arrest* most nearly means:

- a) capture b) notice c) predict d) prevent

Students should think carefully before **committing** themselves to taking out a loan to pay for their education.

As used in the line above, the word *committing* most nearly means:

- a) doing something illegal
- b) becoming loyal
- c) making a mistake
- d) making a promise

LESSON 68

ELECTRICITY TERMS

You may be familiar with the following terms in the area of electricity, but you may be surprised to learn the extent of their secondary meanings.

plug (n.) promoting an event or product *Everywhere he goes, he always manages to get in a **plug** for his new book.*

pull the plug (v.) to discontinue; to put to an end *After a few seasons, the production company finally **pulled the plug** on the project.*

fuse (v.) to merge to form something uniform *Atoms of hydrogen are **fused** to make helium.*

beam (v.) to smile fully, from cheek to cheek *When she heard she was getting a major salary increase, she couldn't help but **beam**.*

ACTIVITY

This institution has been on life support for years; it's surprising no one has **pulled the plug** yet.

As used in the line above, the phrase *pulled the plug* most nearly means:

- a) turned the lights off
 - b) disconnected electricity
 - c) discontinued it
 - d) disguised it
- In an attempt to **fuse** two research studies, a lot of raw data was compromised.

As used in the line above, the word *fuse* most nearly means:

- a) combine b) denounce c) muse d) end

LESSON 69

MONEY TERMS

While the following words usually come up in relation to money, the SAT may also delve into their secondary meanings.

coin (v.) to invent

*Evelyn Wood **coined** the term speed reading.*

currency (n.) acceptance of an idea *The coaching profession has gained **currency** all over America.*

exchange (n.) conversation

*In this **exchange**, they switched roles so the prosecutor became his confidant.*

credit (n.) praise

*The professor never took **credit** for his brilliant discoveries and always made them about the team's effort.*

ACTIVITY

Financial abundance always has greater **currency** than poverty.

As used in the line above, the word *currency* most nearly means:

- a) popularity b) rivalry c) ally d) system of money
The level of economic adversity was so high in 2008 that a new term had to be **coined** to describe it.

As used in the line above, the word *coined* most nearly means:

- a) ceased b) negated c) created d) condoned

LESSON 70

RESTAURANT TERMS

The following words from the hospitality field have secondary definitions which are commonly used and therefore may come up on the SAT as well.

host (n.) myriad

*A **host** of memories inundated her mind.*

check (v.) to control; to stop from proliferating *To **check** government spending, the committee decided to pause the program.*

to check yourself (v.) to stop yourself

*She wanted to tell him that she was leaving town, but she **checked herself** —it wasn't the right moment .*

reservations (n.) doubts

*She had a lot of **reservations** about marrying Jack.*

reserve (v.) to hold off; to postpone *She had to **reserve** her judgment until all the raw data were processed.*

ACTIVITY

After graduation, he faced a **host** of possibilities.

As used in the line above, the word *host* most nearly means:

- a) announcer b) presenter c) range d) party-giver
The vaccine **checked** the spread of the virus.

As used in the line above, the word *checked* most nearly means:

- a) stopped b) verified c) subjugated d) examined

LESSON 71

COOKING TERMS

The following words usually relate to cooking, but they also have secondary meanings—unconnected to food—which are likely to be tested on the SAT as well.

foil (n.) a background that amplifies contrast *Her mellow piano techniques are an ideal **foil** for his soaring voice.*

foil (v.) to put a stop to

*They were able to **foil** this robbery quickly.*

raw (adj.) not yet organized *This **raw** data needs further analysis.*

scale (n.) a relative size, extent, or degree *After the prototype was approved, the company was now ready to manufacture computers on a massive **scale**.*

grill (v.) to question intensely *They were **grilled** by detectives for several hours.*

mint (n.) a large amount of money *That book must be worth a **mint**.*

milk (v.) to obtain in a dishonest way *He has **milked** a small fortune from the company over the years.*

ACTIVITY

The TSA successfully **foiled** the attempt to smuggle an expensive painting from New York.

As used in the line above, the word *foiled* most nearly means:

- a) enhanced b) folded c) stopped d) concurred He refused to confirm any information about the pay ***scale*** for his staff.

As used in the line above, the word *scale* most nearly means:

- a) level b) wage c) interval d) scheme

LESSON 72

GEOMETRY TERMS

The following words usually come up in geometry class; at the same time, these terms have secondary, unrelated meanings that could easily surface on the SAT.

draw (v.) to attract

*The movie is **drawing** a large audience.*

distant (adj.) aloof; emotionally uninvolved *She gave him a **distant** look, as her mind was obviously focused on something else.*

broad (adj.) having variety; worldly *His article was clearly aimed at a **broad** audience.*

steep (adj.) high; big; sudden *We had to pay a **steep** price for this mistake.*

*The publisher anticipated a **steep** decline of sales in the summer.*

ACTIVITY

This writing program **draws** students from all over the country.

As used in the line above, the word *draws* most nearly means:

- a) paints b) moves c) impugns d) attracts After returning from the trip, he was still very **distant**.

As used in the line above, the word *distant* most nearly means:

a) far b) attached c) unfamiliar d) reserved

LESSON 73

CHEMISTRY TERMS

The following words usually come up in chemistry class, but their secondary meanings can pop up in unexpected ways on the SAT.

matter (n.) issue; affair; problem *It's a **matter** for the government.*

*They had important **matters** to discuss.*

compound (v.) to make more intense *Procrastination only **compounded** the problem.*

magnitude (n.) strength

*We didn't realize the **magnitude** of the matter. (See what we did there?)*

sap (v.) to drain or deplete

*The stress **sapped** him of his confidence.*

solvent (adj.) able to pay all debts *The company was able to stay **solvent** due to the recent funding influx.*

ACTIVITY

Many researchers cited alternative hypotheses about the pressing **matter**.

As used in the line above, the word *matter* most nearly means:

- a) substance b) compound c) issue d) fact
- The **magnitude** of appreciation is not directly linked with the monetary value of the gift.

As used in the line above, the word *magnitude* most nearly means:

- a) force b) amount c) strength d) proportion

LESSON 74

MATH TERMS

You may know the words on this page from math class—they, too, have secondary meanings that may surface on the SAT.

value (n.) a principle or belief *She always revered traditional **values**.*

fair (adj.) acceptable; appropriate *That was a **fair** question given his volatile situation.*

independent (adj.) separate or distinct *This matter was affected by four **independent** factors.*

term (n.) the end of a particular period of time *This view of the economy is approaching its **term** and will soon become outdated.*

ACTIVITY

Reporters' frames of **value** dictate which news stories they choose to cover.

As used in the line above, the word *value* most nearly means:

- a) price b) benefit c) character d) belief
- The results of the study were gathered from four **independent** experiments.

As used in the line above, the word *independent* most nearly means:

- a) self-governing b) distinct c) free d) confident

LESSON 75

PHYSICS TERMS

If you have taken a physics class you will be familiar with the scientific meanings of the following words. However, you won't necessarily guess their secondary meanings, which are just as likely to appear on the SAT—so be sure to take note.

gravity (n.) seriousness

*Sadly, the interns didn't realize the **gravity** of the situation.*

static (adj.) unchanging or fixed *Stock market prices, which have been **static**, are now experiencing a steep decline.*

observe (v.) to follow

*He religiously **observed** the set of laws that the state published.*

ACTIVITY

This neuropsychiatric report provides a **static** snapshot of your brain's development.

As used in the line above, the word *static* most nearly means:

a) electric b) obscure c) fixed d) dynamic When we designed the research study, we **observed** the rules to avoid any breach of protocol.

As used in the line above, the word *observed* most nearly means:

a) scrutinized b) contemplated c) noticed d)
followed

LESSON 76

GEOGRAPHY TERMS

The following terms you've likely learned in yet another class at school—geography—though once more, these all possess another level of meaning that may easily surface on the test.

state (n.) a condition or stage in the physical being of something *The US economy was in a bad **state** .*

state (n.) government

*When working in Washington, he was deeply involved in the matters of **state** .*

harbor (v.) to hold persistently in mind The verb *harbor* is more often used in the negative sense.

He still harbors ambitions of revenge.

flag (v.) to lose energy; to tire *Around the two-hour mark, the audience's attention began to **flag** , and by the third hour, half of them had walked out of the film.*

pine (v.) to long for intensely and persistently *She **pined** for him for months after he'd gone.*

ACTIVITY

To understand the character's emotional **state** , refer to the context.

As used in the line above, the word *state* most nearly means:

a) region b) ceremony c) condition d) level The research team began to **harbor** doubts about the outcome.

As used in the line above, the word *harbor* most nearly means:

a) entreat b) decree c) hold d) beseech

LESSON 77

ARTISTIC TERMS

The following words usually come up in art class, but you may discover it's their secondary definitions that are called for on the SAT.

style (v.) to cultivate a specific set of attributes *He **styled** himself after Mr. Crimsworth.*

impression (n.) an appearance

*He gave off an **impression** of great success.*

sound (adj.) valid or reasonable *She was making a **sound** argument.*

scrap (v.) to eliminate or replace *After the funding was delayed, they had to **scrap** their plans for this new research project.*

sheer (adj.) pure

*This casual exchange was a **sheer** delight.*

ACTIVITY

The government policies were environmentally **sound** .

As used in the line above, the word *sound* most nearly means:

- a) viable b) noisy c) impressive d) fair
- The 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. working days were **scrapped** in favor of longer 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. days, complete with midday office siestas.

As used in the line above, the word *scrapped* most nearly means:

- a) cut up b) disguised c) fabricated d) eliminated

LESSON 78

SPORTS TERMS

These words come to us from the world of sports and usually relate to athletes, but that's no reason their secondary meanings won't appear on the SAT.

train (v.) to fixate on

*He **trained** his eyes on the door.*

track (v.) to follow

*The research project entails **tracking** the careers of 800 college graduates.*

bent (n.) a strong liking or inclination *He had a **bent** for math.*

qualify (v.) to provide more information or a greater degree of detail *I want to **qualify** what I said earlier about my ability to carry out the project—I didn't mean I couldn't do the project by myself, only that I would need more time if I did it solo.*

unqualified (adj.) absolute; utmost *The **festival** was an unqualified success.*

weight (n.) importance; significance *People assign **weight** to immoral behavior.*

ACTIVITY

The research center refused to **qualify** the president's statement about the bias.

As used in the line above, the word *qualify* most nearly means:

- a) elaborate on b) fit the requirements c) make the cut d) violate She was shocked when her nemesis gave his ***unqualified*** support.

As used in the line above, the word *unqualified* most nearly means:

- a) bad quality b) adversarial c) absolute d) naive

LESSON 79

LEGAL TERMS

We normally associate the following words with the legal field but their secondary meanings can certainly appear on the SAT.

constitution (n.) an individual's physical makeup *The football player had a solid **constitution**.*

fine (adj.) well-developed; exceptional *This was a **fine** example of modern architecture.*

discriminating (adj.) able to judge and discern *Contemporary audiences have become more **discriminating**.*

patent (adj.) glaringly obvious *Her mother made the **patent** observation that taking the bus was going to be faster than walking.*

ACTIVITY

It was obvious that their delicate **constitutions** and amicable natures set them apart from other candidates.

As used in the line above, the word *constitutions* most nearly means:

- a) proclamations b) values c) figures d) musings
She's a **fine** actor and an even finer dancer.

As used in the line above, the word *fine* most nearly means:

- a) normal b) average c) outstanding d) healthy

LESSON 80

WORDS BEGINNING WITH **RE-**

represent (v.) to constitute

*The virus **represented** a significant threat to the patient's health.*

relay/relate (v.) to pass on information; to give an account of a story *The instructions were **relayed** to him by text.*

regular (adj.) even

*She smiled at him, showing off the two rows of white, **regular** teeth.*

reconcile (v.) to bring together

*The two countries couldn't **reconcile** their differences over trade policy.*

realize (v.) to achieve a goal

*She never **realized** her ambition for becoming a lawyer.*

ACTIVITY

This new law **represents** a significant departure from the previous policy.

As used in the line above, the word *represents* most nearly means:

- a) broadcasts b) speaks c) constitutes d) symbolizes
Being a professor helped him **realize** his scientific potential and quench his curiosity.

As used in the line above, the word *realize* most nearly means:

a) achieve b) understand c) become aware d)
reminisce

LESSON 81

COMMON VERBS WITH DOUBLE MEANINGS

The following common verbs all have additional meanings you must understand if you are to maximize your efforts on the SAT.

appreciate (v.) to increase in value *Their investments have **appreciated** over the years.*

appropriate (v.) to set aside for a specific purpose *Five million dollars have been **appropriated** for research into the rare disease.*

hobble (v.) to prevent; to impede *Our research is **hobbled** by the amount of bureaucracy involved.*

release (v.) to liberate

*The new building will be finished as soon as the government **releases** the funds.*

source (v.) to obtain from a particular place *We **source** our meat from organic farms in upstate New York.*

flush (v.) to force something out into the open *The authorities **flushed** the criminals out of hiding by releasing attack dogs.*

temper (v.) to soften the effect of *The summer heat was **tempered** by a light breeze.*

ACTIVITY

In the past two months, the euro has ***appreciated*** against the pound by 6 percent.

As used in the line above, the word *appreciated* most nearly means:

- a) grateful b) hampered c) implored d) increased in value
- The state's overbearing debt couldn't ***hobble*** the additional spending on local parks.

As used in the line above, the word *hobble* most nearly means:

- a) hamper b) terminate c) cease d) mar

LESSON 82

ACADEMIC TERMS

These words usually come up in relation to school or studies but their secondary meanings could arise on the SAT.

margin (n.) an amount above the minimum required *He won by a narrow **margin**.*

suspend (v.) to intentionally stop for a time; to defer *In the theater, we intentionally **suspended** disbelief.*

wax (v.) to increase in size *Public interest in the matter has **waxed** and waned over the years.*

ACTIVITY

Members of the board voted by a **margin** of 7 to 1 to do a public opening.

As used in the line above, the word *margin* most nearly means:

- a) empty space b) edge c) difference d) profit
Authorities **suspended** printing of one of the rival newspapers.

As used in the line above, the word *suspended* most nearly means:

- a) banned b) stopped temporarily c) inhibited d) diversified

LESSON 83

YOGA TERMS

Like the practice of yoga itself, its terminology has proven flexible to interpretation, with secondary meanings that could surface on the SAT.

bind (v.) to put under an obligation *The agreement **bound** him to secrecy.*

core (adj.) essential

*The use of new technology is **core** to our strategy.*

tender (v.) to offer up, usually something formal *He was so put off by the company's culture that he **tendered** his resignation after only three weeks.*

ACTIVITY

The agreement **binds** them to repay the debt within six months.

As used in the line above, the word *binds* most nearly means:

- a) ties b) bends c) unites d) obligates Any winning team is built around a **core** group of players.

As used in the line above, the word *core* most nearly means:

- a) tough b) preposterous c) affluent d) central

LESSON 84

CLOTHING TERMS

The words in this lesson usually relate to clothing, but they also possess secondary meanings that will come in handy during the SAT.

buckle (v.) to bend and give way under pressure or strain *A weaker player would **buckle** under such pressure.*

casual (adj.) without much thought or care *To a **casual** reader, the book may seem to end with a moment of triumph and freedom.*

fleece (v.) to cheat or swindle *It was only when Harry arrived at the theater that he realized he'd been **fleeeced** : the tickets were fake, and he was denied entry.*

ACTIVITY

Many businesses closed when the economy **buckled** last year.

As used in the line above, the word *buckled* most nearly means:

- a) closed b) collapsed c) foiled d) hampered
Sadly, they have a very **casual** attitude toward safety.

As used in the line above, the word **casual** most nearly means:

- a) informal b) candid c) relaxing d) careless

LESSON 85

TERMS OF GRIEF

The following words usually come up in circumstances of sadness, but many of them have unusual second meanings.

wake (n.) aftermath

*There have been demonstrations on the streets in the **wake** of the recent bomb attack.*

grief (n.) annoyance

*With his kind of temper, as a teenager, he caused his parents a lot of **grief** .*

subdued (adj.) unusually quiet; less active *She was in a **subdued** mood.*

*The company may suffer as consumer spending remains **subdued** .*

ACTIVITY

She never gave me **grief** over the money I owed her.

As used in the line above, the word *grief* most nearly means:

- a) pain b) suffering c) problems d) attention The recessing left a trail of austerity in its **wake** .

As used in the line above, the word *wake* most nearly means:

- a) return b) aftermath c) funeral d) surge

LESSON 86

WEATHER / SEASONAL TERMS

This cluster of words usually come up regarding the weather, but it's quite possible you may encounter their secondary meanings on the SAT.

weather (v.) to withstand

*The company just managed to **weather** the recession.*

august (adj.) esteemed; revered; impressive *We were faced with an **august** group of executives.*

precipitate (v.) to make something happen abruptly *This last pay cut **precipitated** the strike and remains the major cause of employees' dissatisfaction.*

ACTIVITY

A Wall Street meltdown **precipitated** the economic troubles of both periods.

As used in the line above, the word *precipitate* most nearly means:

- a) sparked b) inundated c) saturated d) thwarted

For those who have **weathered** all the stages of parenting, you already know this.

As used in the line above, the word *weathered* most nearly means:

- a) changed b) withstood c) badgered d) buckled

LESSON 87

COMMON ADJECTIVES WITH DOUBLE MEANINGS

becoming (adj.) suitable; appropriate; (regarding clothing) attractive or flattering *It was not very **becoming** behavior for a teacher.*

critical (adj.) essential or important *The clock is ticking over a **critical** decision.*

minute (adj.) tiny

***Minute** amounts of chemicals in the water didn't scare him and he drank it anyway.*

modest (adj.) minor; insignificant; unexceptional *He made some **modest** progress.*

telling (adj.) revealing

*Perhaps equally **telling** is that most Americans aren't all that focused on saving.*

ACTIVITY

As a 3-D printer producer, they may have a **modest** future.

As used in the line above, the word *modest* most nearly means:

- a) shy b) unexceptional c) lucrative d) prolific

That was a **becoming** suit.

As used in the line above, the word *becoming* most nearly means:

- a) starting b) flattering c) appropriate d) minute

LESSON 88

EASILY CONFUSED WORDS

sedulous (adj.) hardworking and attentive While this word might remind you of *sedentary* , it has a different Latin root, meaning busy or diligent. Think of *sedulous* as a combination of diligent and detail-oriented.

*The father **sedulously** painted each of the small toy trains before presenting them to his son.*

restive (adj.) restless; agitated Though this word might sound like *restful* , it signifies the exact opposite. Unruly and uncontrollable are two synonyms for *restive* .

*The citizens became **restive** in the wake of the earthquake, their supplies dwindling and little relief on the horizon.*

peruse (v.) to read carefully

Synonyms for *peruse* include *scrutinize* and *inspect* .

*It is always advisable to **peruse** legal documents.*

ACTIVITY

With the huge selection to sort through, set aside at least three hours to **peruse** the items.

As used in the line above, the word *peruse* most nearly means:

- a) ascertain b) read carefully c) evaluate carelessly
 - d) abate
- The government has since calmed the **restive** region, declaring it safe for tourism.

As used in the line above, the word *restive* most nearly means:

- a) agitated b) endangered c) obsolete d) formidable

LESSON 89

HOT! WORDS

Though the following words usually relate to intimacy and lust, they also have secondary meanings that may easily pop up on the SAT.

intimate (adj.) very detailed; thorough *The programmer had **intimate** knowledge of this software.*

want (n.) lack; deficiency

*This house is in **want** of a repair.*

for want of because of the lack of

*The project failed **for want of** organization.*

wanting (n.) lacking

*They were **wanting** in confidence.*

passion (n.) enthusiasm

*She had a great **passion** for her hometown.*

ACTIVITY

There was a conspicuous **want** of adequate medical facilities on the battlefield.

As used in the line above, the word *want* most nearly means:

a) desire b) lack c) yield d) misconception
We went for a walk for **want** of something better to do.

As used in the line above, the word *want* most nearly means:

a) enthusiasm b) desire c) fancy d) lack

LESSON 90

TRANSPORTATION TERMS

We associate the following terms with transportation, but their secondary, unconnected meanings may be called for on the SAT.

pedestrian (adj.) lacking wit and imagination *The movie was average, and it followed a **pedestrian** plot.*

rail against (v.) to criticize severely *But more than once recently, he has **railed against** bureaucratic obstructionism.*

ford (v.) to cross a river at a shallow place *At dusk we **forded** a stony riverbed, and saw that a village loomed on the bank.*

ACTIVITY

His technique was **pedestrian** and opponents took full advantage of the situation.

As used in the line above, the word *pedestrian* most nearly means:

- a) focused on walking b) focused on crossing streets
 - c) intimidating d) uninteresting
- She tightened her grip on the wheel and **forded** the rushing stream.

As used in the line above, the word *forded* most nearly means:

- a) purchased b) crossed c) approached d) railed

PART FOUR

Commonly Confused Words

Many consider English to be a tricky language, and homophones play a big part in this. Homophones are words that sound and are spelled similarly or almost identically but have drastically different meanings; for example, *aisle* and *isle* sound exactly the same, but one denotes a type of seat on an airplane while the other signifies a small island. Since homophones are ubiquitous in the English language, the ability to tell the difference between the correct and the incorrect spelling is critical to being a good writer. The SAT tests your ability to tell homophones apart by including two questions of this type in the writing test. The good news is that the SAT usually pulls from a small set of commonly confused words and reuses them from test to test. We will cover these words in the next 30 lessons.

LESSON 91

ACCEPT VS. EXCEPT / ACCESS VS. EXCESS / AFFECT VS. EFFECT

accept vs. except **accept** (v.) to receive something; to deem something as suitable
*He **accepted** all the suggested changes.*

except (prep.) apart from

*She works every day **except** Wednesdays.*

access vs. excess **access** (n.) the right to enter

*Software can give job seekers direct **access** to potential employers.*

access (v.) to be able to enter

*The data is stored in the cloud, so you can **access** it anywhere on any computer.*

excess (n.) beyond the necessary amount; overindulgence
*After a dozen years of **excess**, the overextended American consumer is tapped out.*

excess (adj.) unnecessary

affect vs. effect **affect** (v.) to influence or have an impact upon *The accumulation of*

*knowledge **affects** your decision-making ability.*

effect (n.) the result or consequence of (a cause or event)
*Accumulation of knowledge had a good **effect** on his decision-making ability.*

The best way to distinguish between *affect* and *effect* is to remember that one (affect) is a verb and the other (effect) is a noun.

Memory trick: **A**ffect with **A** denotes **A**ction.

ACTIVITY

The research team also found that inflammation can **affect** any part of the cell.

- a) NO CHANGE
b) effect c) affected d) effected Many assert that Catherine the Great's **excesses** caused Pugachev's Rebellion.

- a) NO CHANGE
b) access c) accesses d) excess

LESSON 92

ADHERE VS. ADHESIVE / ADHERE VS. COHERE / ADVERSE VS. AVERSE

adhere vs. adhesive **adhere** (v.) to stick firmly

*Cleaning the surface first will ensure that the paint can **adhere** well.*

*They reminisce about how it was not always easy to **adhere** to the anti-gossip program.*

adhesive (adj.) able to stick

*The diagrams show how the two wax layers reduce the **adhesive** ability of insects.*

adhere vs. cohere **cohere** (v.) to share a clear logical connection; to work well together *Sadly, trying to make collections **cohere** , some editors sacrifice vitality.*

*The author suggests that the main function of religion is to make society **cohere** .*

adverse vs. averse **adverse** (adj.) negative; unpleasant *Wanting in funding will have an **adverse** effect on the research project.*

averse (adj.) not wanting to do something *She was **averse** to the idea of emigrating from Russia in the next ten years.*

ACTIVITY

In clinical trials, subjects receiving the new drug exhibited a few **averse** reactions: dizziness, rash, and fatigue.

a) NO CHANGE

b) adverse c) inverse d) adversary His speech was filled with good lines that nevertheless failed to **adverse** into a rousing whole.

a) NO CHANGE

b) cohere c) averse d) adhesive

LESSON 93

ADVICE VS. ADVISE / ASCENT VS. ACCENT / ASCENT VS. ASSENT

advice vs. advise **advice** (n.) a suggestion about a correct course of action *My doctor's **advice** is to use a standing desk.*

advise (v.) to offer a suggestion *My doctor **advises** that I use a standing desk.*

ascent vs. accent **ascent** (n.) the process of rising or going upward *The **ascent** up the mountain was long and treacherous.*

accent (n.) a distinctive manner of expression, such as an English or German accent *She affected a French **accent** to avoid being recognized.*

Memory trick: Since the noun “a**cc**ent” affects **c**ommunication, it has two **c**'s.

assent vs. assent (v.) **assent** (n.) agreement or concurrence *The CEO gave her **assent** to the proposed solutions.*

assent (v.) to agree

*Nobody with minimal financial literacy would **assent** to the terms they proposed.*

Memory trick: Since the verb *assent* means to agree, the double **s** in the middle have to be in agreement, i.e., two of the same. (In *ascent* , the letters do not agree.)

ACTIVITY

If 90 percent or more give their ***assent*** , the deal will go ahead automatically.

- a) NO CHANGE
- b) accent c) ascend d) ascent Plane passengers experience twice the gravitational pull during every ***ascent*** .
- a) NO CHANGE
- b) accent c) ascend d) assent

LESSON 94

AFFLICT VS. INFLICT / A LOT VS. ALLOT

afflict vs. inflict **afflict** (v.) to affect in an unpleasant way *Concussions **afflict** many athletes, but football players seem to be more susceptible to them.*

The verb *afflict* is usually followed by the preposition *with*.

*About 40 percent of the country's population is **afflicted with** the disease **inflict** (v.) to make someone suffer negative consequences *It was a kind of verbal grenade uttered to **inflict** maximum emotional damage.**

Inflict is a transitive verb and it's always used with an object: inflict pain, inflict damage, inflict punishment.

a lot vs. allot **a lot** (n.) a great deal

*She finished **a lot** of work.*

allot (v.) to give or apportion as a share *There is only so much time and energy a woman can **allot** to children or a career.*

ACTIVITY

Fishing gear **afflicts** damage to coral and other seafloor habitats.

a) NO CHANGE

b) inflicts c) alludes d) illudes Local lending institutions also often **allot** resources for people with disabilities.

a) NO CHANGE

b) a lot c) appraise d) apprise

LESSON 95

ALLUDE VS. ELUDE / ALLUSION VS. ILLUSION

allude vs. elude **allude** (v.) to mention indirectly *In his letter he **alludes** to the possibility of stewardship, but nothing is certain.*

elude (v.) to evade or escape *It seems so easy to see other people's blind spots while our own often **elude** us.*

allusion vs. illusion **allusion** (n.) an indirect hint or reference *Her poetry is full of obscure literary **allusion**.*

illusion (n.) a false idea or belief *Using credit cards gave me the **illusion** I had more to spend than I actually had.*

ACTIVITY

They were very talented musicians but the success of being in the charts **eluded** them so far.

a) NO CHANGE

b) alluded c) inflicted d) afflicted They have crossed the treacherous border states and, so far, **alluded** slave catchers.

a) NO CHANGE

b) eluded c) illuded d) eludes

LESSON 96

AMONG VS. BETWEEN / ANECDOTE VS. ANTIDOTE

among vs. between **among** (prep.)
dealing with a group or company of three
or more *The negotiations **among** the
members of the EU are showing great
diplomacy.*

between (prep.) referring to distinct subjects *The
negotiations **between** Poland, Germany, and Latvia are
going smoothly.*

anecdote vs. antidote **anecdote** (n.) a
short story

*He seemed cheerful while recounting such an amusing
anecdote .*

antidote (n.) something that relieves or counteracts *They
told us they hiked up to twice a week, a good **antidote** to a
day in the office.*

*Meditations seems like a perfect **antidote** to the chaos
of our modern way of life.*

ACTIVITY

The pizza served at the office on Friday was the perfect **antidote** to a stressful week.

a) NO CHANGE

b) appraise c) anecdote d) allot I'm trying to decide **among** a black and blue suit, and I'm trying to choose **among** these ties.

a) NO CHANGE

b) between. . . among c) among . . . between d) between. . . between

LESSON 97

ANYONE VS. ANY ONE / APPRAISE VS. APPRISE / ASSURE VS. INSURE VS. ENSURE

anyone vs. any one **anyone** (pron.)
anybody at all

*Has **anyone** seen Brad?*

any one (adj.) any single member of a group (of either people or things) This phrase is commonly followed by the preposition *of*.

*If **any one** of your friends is single, please tell them that Brad is looking for a wife.*

Memory trick: When in doubt, remember that the pronoun *anyone* can be replaced with another pronoun: *anybody* or *anything*. If the replacement doesn't sound right, you must be looking at an adjective phrase: *any one*.

appraise vs. apprise **appraise** (v.) to
assess the value of *They **appraised** the
options offered by several different
vacation packages.*

apprise (v.) to inform

*They will be willing to **apprise** their new chief executive officer of some hard realities.*

assure vs. insure vs. ensure **assure** (v.) to inform positively *I **assure** you, you can trust me to do this job.*

ensure (v.) to make sure; to make certain *This new legislation would **ensure** that the city is rewarded for its business.*

insure (v.) to protect financially *We recommend **insuring** against a terminal sickness or injury at work.*

ACTIVITY

Where given the length of all three sides of a triangle, it's advisable to use the law of cosines to figure out the measure of **anyone** of the three angles.

a) NO CHANGE

b) any one c) anybody d) any body Some people say that neither real estate agents nor homeowners are trained to **apprise** homes.

a) NO CHANGE

b) a praise c) appraise d) appraised Today's victory **insured** them a place in the finals.

a) NO CHANGE

b) ensured c) assured d) ensued

LESSON 98

CENSOR VS. CENSURE / CITE VS. SITE

censor vs. censure **censor** (v.) to remove offensive or inappropriate parts *The government is known to **censor** reporting when an issue becomes too sensitive.*

censure (v.) to express severe disapproval; to punish *After it was discovered that the scientists compromised the sample intentionally, he was **censured** by his colleagues.*

Censor and *censure* can also be used as nouns. In that case, a *censor* is a person who does the censoring, while *censure* means punishment.

*Because the show is so popular, it has never had to face a **censor** or been **censured** for crossing boundaries.*

cite vs. site **cite** (v.) to quote evidence to support an argument *Students often **cite** the Supreme Court case decisions to support their arguments.*

site (n.) a location

*We logged onto the web **site** of that construction **site** .*

ACTIVITY

For years, developers have sought to redevelop the ***cite*** , which is near Old Town.

- a) NO CHANGE
- b) site c) sight d) sights

LESSON 99

CLIMACTIC VS. CLIMATIC / COLLABORATE VS. CORROBORATE

climactic vs. climatic **climactic** (adj.)
related to a climax; the high point or most
exciting part *The film's **climactic***
sequence, while predictable, is
unintentionally unsettling.

climatic (adj.) related to the climate *He became aware at*
*an early stage of the **climatic** challenges the world is*
facing.

collaborate vs. corroborate **collaborate**
(v.) to work with; to work together
Telecommunication made it much easier
*to **collaborate** on projects with*
multinational teams.

corroborate (v.) to confirm; to make certain *The*
*surveillance cameras were able to **corroborate** the*
plaintiff's defense.

ACTIVITY

He delighted in the idea that the new study is about to **corroborate** his theory.

a) NO CHANGE

b) collaborate c) censor d) censure Brian went to get more popcorn and missed the **climactic** scene of the movie, a dramatic car chase in which the hero comes face-to-face with the villain.

a) NO CHANGE

b) climacting c) climatic d) climactical

LESSON 100

COMPLIMENT VS. COMPLEMENT / CONCEDE VS. CONFESS

compliment vs. complement **compliment** (v.) to express esteem, respect, affection, or admiration *She **complimented** him on his excellent French.*

complement (v.) to complete or enhance by adding something *The good menu was **complemented** with a great wine list.*

concede vs. confess **concede** (v.) to unwillingly agree; to acknowledge validity *To strengthen your thesis, you can attempt to **concede** some points made in the critique.*

*She reluctantly **conceded** that there would be complications down the road.*

confess (v.) to acknowledge

*I have to **confess** to being a little reluctant to drive my car to our first date.*

ACTIVITY

Smith was skeptical that so many men would **concede** to a crime they didn't commit.

a) NO CHANGE

b) concur c) confess d) conform The team is looking for professional players to **complement** the existing ones.

a) NO CHANGE

b) compliment c) compliments d) complements

LESSON 101

DECEASED VS. DISEASED / DESCENT VS. DISSENT

deceased vs. diseased **deceased** (adj.)
dead; no longer living *Many widows and
widowers have pictures of their **deceased**
spouses in their homes.*

diseased (adj.) affected by a disease *The **diseased** cattle
were quarantined to prevent an outbreak.*

descent vs. dissent **descent** (n.) the
action of coming down *When the plane
begins the **descent**, the Wi-Fi will not be
working.*

dissent (n.) difference of opinion *Stability is possible in
such a poor country only because **dissent** has been
suppressed.*

Crackdown on dissent is a common phrase that describes
the brutal efforts of authorities to suppress opposition.

ACTIVITY

Those in power don't want **descent** to spread as easily
as it can on the Internet.

a) NO CHANGE

b) dissent c) deceased d) diseased

LESSON 102

DIFFUSE VS. DEFUSE / DISCREET VS. DISCRETE

diffuse vs. defuse **defuse** (v.) to make a situation less dangerous or tense *Local police are attempting to **defuse** the racial tension in the area.*

diffuse (v.) to spread or distribute over a large area *The problem with trade is that the benefits are **diffused** , while the pain is localized.*

discreet vs. discrete **discreet** (adj.) careful; reserved; not easily noticed *Digital technology means that modern hearing aids are both **discreet** and effective.*

discrete (adj.) separate and distinct *The books can be divided into **discrete** categories: science fiction, romance, and teen fiction.*

Memory trick: To ensure that you know the difference between the similar spellings of *discrete* and *discreet* , remember that *discrete* means separate, so the double e will be separated by t: *discrete* .

ACTIVITY

These latest tax cuts should help **diffuse** the financial burden.

a) NO CHANGE

b) defuse c) defused d) diffused She took a **discrete** glance at the clock and her interviewer did not notice her impatience.

a) NO CHANGE

b) diffused c) defused d) discreet

LESSON 103

ELICIT VS. ILLICIT / EMINENT VS. IMMINENT / ENLARGE VS. EXACERBATE

elicit vs. illicit **elicit** (v.) to get or draw out (information or a reaction) *The police could **elicit** no response from him.*

illicit (adj.) not allowed by law

*Studies have since found that only a fraction of **illicit** payments were revealed.*

eminent vs. imminent **eminent** (adj.) famous and respected *Surprisingly, no one challenged his calculations, although there were some **eminent** mathematicians in the audience.*

Eminent domain is a common phrase that denotes the government's right to repossess private property for public use.

*This is a nonprofit law firm dedicated to fighting abuses in **eminent domain** cases.*

imminent (adj.) likely to happen very soon *Prices have reached a floor, but this is a guarantee of an **imminent** bounce.*

enlarge vs. exacerbate **enlarge** (v.) to make something bigger *Reading will **enlarge** your vocabulary and dexterity of thought.*

exacerbate (v.) to make something worse; to aggravate *His insulting comment only **exacerbated** the situation.*

ACTIVITY

The vast majority of Europeans have never tried any **illicit** substances.

a) NO CHANGE

b) elicit c) illicit d) elicited Lord Darzi, an **imminent** surgeon, wrote of the need to restore quality to the NHS.

a) NO CHANGE

b) eminent c) eminent d) illicit

LESSON 104

EMIGRATE VS. IMMIGRATE / EXPRESSIVE VS. DRAMATIC

emigrate vs. immigrate **emigrate** (v.) to permanently move away from your home country to another *My father **emigrated** from Poland.*

immigrate (v.) to enter another country to live permanently *They **immigrated** to Canada in 2007.*

expressive vs. dramatic **expressive** (adj.) effectively communicating thoughts and feelings *Every word and gesture is **expressive** of the actress's sincerity.*

dramatic (adj.) sudden; substantial *The tax increase was followed by a **dramatic** influx of riots.*

ACTIVITY

The dean's announcement had a **dramatic** effect on the college's student body.

- a) NO CHANGE
- b) expressive c) tender d) immaterial **Migrating** animals don't have to worry about visas, unlike

many humans who often ***immigrate*** from their homeland seeking a better life.

- a) NO CHANGE
- b) Emigrating . . . migrate c) Immigrating . . . migrate
- d) Migrating . . . emigrate

LESSON 105

FAIR VS. FARE / FEWER VS. LESS / FORMER VS. LATTER

fair vs. fare **fair** (adj.) marked by honesty; conforming with the established rules *He demanded **fair** treatment from the host.*

fare (v.) to get along; to succeed *Generally, the store-brand ketchups **fares** better than the branded ones.*

fewer vs. less **fewer** (pron.) not as many

*He had **fewer** dollars in his pocket.*

Fewer is used with nouns you can count. When in doubt whether the noun is countable or not, try to make a plural out of it. For example: Can you give someone two cookies? Yes! Cookies are countable.

Can you give someone two skies? No! The sky is uncountable.

less (adj.) not as much

Less is used with uncountable nouns. For example: I will use less milk next time to ensure that the dough is not watery.

former vs. latter **former** (adj.) refers to the first of two persons or things *Former must be used with the article *the*.*

*The **former** option would be much more sensible.*

latter (adj.) refers to the second of two persons or things
*Red and blue are both popular colors, but the **latter** is more popular. (Blue is more popular.)*

ACTIVITY

If **less** people used disposable water bottles, there would be **less** plastic in landfills.

a) NO CHANGE

b) fewer . . . fewer c) fewer . . . less d) less . . . fewer
To be **fare**, the results of the party **fares** poorly after the recession.

a) NO CHANGE

b) fair. . . faired c) fare. . . faired d) fair. . . fared

LESSON 106

FARTHER VS. FURTHER / FORMALLY VS. FORMERLY

farther vs. further **farther** (adv.) at a great distance *She was exhausted and couldn't go any **farther**.*

Besides physical distance, *farther* can also refer to making a more advanced point or greater extent.

*As a family we were growing **farther** apart.*

*The money goes **farther** in the hands of a philanthropist.*

further (v.) to develop or make successful *She took the new job to **further** her career.*

Remember: While *further* and *farther* can both be used as adverbs, only *further* can be used as a verb.

formally vs. formerly **formally** (adj.) officially; in refined manner *The scientists **formally** suspended their research until the beginning of the next academic year.*

*My nephew is a fine man, and he always behaves **formally** when he is around us.*

formerly (adv.) previously

*Our house had **formerly** been a hotel.*

ACTIVITY

The **further** electricity has to travel, the more of it is consumed along the way.

a) NO CHANGE

b) farther c) far d) far away They are committed to **farthering** the interests of the board members.

a) NO CHANGE

b) furthering c) farther d) farthered

LESSON 107

FORBIDDING VS. FOREBODING / FOREGOING VS. FORGOING / FOREWORD VS. FORWARD

forbidding vs. foreboding **forbidding**
(adj.) grim; menacing

*The trail through the woods appeared dark and **forbidding**, filled with potential hazards.*

foreboding (n.) fearful apprehension *Such a record fills one with **foreboding** over the choice of the first association's president.*

foregoing vs. forgoing **foregoing** (adj.)
going or coming before something else *By reading the **foregoing** paragraphs, they were able to put the writer's thoughts in a clearer context.*

forgoing (v.) to give up or do without *I am **forgoing** ice cream for a while, as I am trying to avoid sweets late at night.*

foreword vs. forward **foreword** (n.) an
introductory section at the beginning of a
book *In the **foreword** to my memoir, I explain my intent in writing the book.*

forward (directional adv.) toward what is ahead *Forward* is the opposite of backward.

*They decided to move their chairs **forward** to see the speaker more clearly.*

ACTIVITY

They were looking **foreword** to the new house.

a) NO CHANGE

b) forward c) backward d) toward He has been **foregoing** health insurance, as he hasn't saved enough money for the fees.

a) NO CHANGE

b) forging c) forgoing d) forbidding

LESSON 108

IMPLICIT VS. COMPLICIT VS. EXPLICIT / INGENIOUS VS. INGENUOUS

implicit vs. complicit vs. explicit **implicit** (adj.) suggested without being directly expressed *The teacher's frustrated demeanor carried an **implicit** warning about poor classroom behavior.*

complicit (adj.) involved in illegal activity Several researchers were complicit in the cover-up.

In contrast to something *implicit*, whose meaning is only implied, something *explicit* is openly expressed.

explicit (adj.) clear and easy to understand *Which point about the research is **implicit** in passage 1 and **explicit** in passage 2?*

ingenious vs. ingenuous While they look and sound very similar, *ingenious* indicates cleverness or intelligence, while *ingenuous* refers to sincerity or a naive nature.

ingenious (adj.) very creative and inventive *By the age of three, Joanie established herself as a troublemaker, devising **ingenious** ways of stirring up mischief.*

*She was an **ingenious** cook.*

ingenuous (adj.) honest; innocent; willing to trust people
*Katherine was marveling at her birthday cake with the **ingenuous** eyes of a four-year-old.*

ACTIVITY

Although his letter is very kind on the surface, his accusations are **implicit** .

- a) NO CHANGE
- b) complicit c) explicit d) ingenuous Many universities are, shamefully, **implicit** with the college financing industry.
- a) NO CHANGE
- b) ingenuous c) explicit d) complicit

LESSON 109

IMPLY VS. INFER / INTO VS. IN TO / IT'S VS. ITS

imply vs. infer **imply** (v.) to suggest without saying directly *Her silence appeared to **imply** agreement.*

infer (v.) to deduce; to decide based on available information *Much of the meaning must be **inferred** from the context.*

into vs. in to **into** (prep.) position in or inside something *Into* often answers the question “*where?*”

*After a long night, she crawled **into** her bed to go to sleep.*

in to (prep. phrase) to enter to do something *In to* is often followed by a verb.

*I went **in to** eat dinner.*

*The firefighter ran **in to** save the dog.*

it's vs. its **it's** (contraction) it is; it has **It's** *late.*

its (possessive pron.) of or relating to itself as possessor *Despite **its** massive size, it appears harmless.*

ACTIVITY

They called the project “ingenuous might.” ***It’s*** unclear what they meant by ***it’s*** title.

a) NO CHANGE

b) It’s . . . it is c) Its. . . its d) It’s . . . its When we fail to leave a tip, we ***imply*** that we are less than happy with our meal.

a) NO CHANGE

b) infer c) implicit d) complicit

LESSON 110

LADDER VS. LATTER / LIFE'S VS. LIVES / LOOSE VS. LOSE VS. LOOSEN

ladder vs. latter **ladder** (n.) a device with rungs that can be climbed to reach high places *We gripped the sides of the **ladder** and hooked it onto the window opening.*

Figuratively, *ladder* can also mean a series of ascending stages.

*The program is designed to encourage more workers to climb the corporate **ladder**.*

latter (adj.) refers to the second of two persons or things *Red and blue are both popular colors, but the **latter** is more popular. (Blue is more popular.)* **life's vs. lives** **life's** (possessive noun) belonging to life *She embarked on discovering her **life's** purpose.*

lives (plural noun) more than one life *That change affected the daily **lives** of the city's commuting professionals.*

loose vs. lose vs. loosen **loose** (adj.) not firmly fixed; free from restraint *Apples were sold **loose**, not in bags.*

lose (v.) to miss from one's possession; to fail to find something; to fail to win *I am not going to **lose** this*

opportunity.

loosen (v.) to make less firm

*He **loosened** the knot on the tie.*

ACTIVITY

Loose lending standards allowed many people to buy and sell property and not **loosen** money.

a) NO CHANGE

b) Lose . . . loose c) Loose . . . lose d) Loosen . . . loose

LESSON 111

LAID VS. LAY VS. LIE / LOATH VS. LOATHE

laid vs. lay vs. lie

laid (v.) to place in a resting position

*Protesters **laid** down flowers on the monument in memory of the veterans.*

*She **laid** the baby down gently on the bed.*

lay (v.) to put something down

*I never **lay** my bag on the subway floor.*

*Dogs often **lay** their toys next to their water bowls.*

To ensure that you should use *lay*, insert the phrase “something down” after it. If it makes sense, the answer is *lay*.

lie (v.) to recline; to be in a flat position while resting

*Cats like to **lie** on the sofa.*

*You must **lie** on your back to ensure that your shoulder muscles are resting.*

*She **lies** on the floor when doing Pilates.*

Memory trick: To ensure that you can tell the difference between *lay* and *lie* in the present tense, try this mnemonic device: pLAcE and recLIne. *Lay* sounds like its meaning—to place—while *lie* sounds like recline.

loath vs. loathe

loath (adj.) reluctant; not eager

They were **loath** to try the green drink.

loathe (v.) to feel strong dislike or disgust

Natalie **loathed** salami, so she chose a turkey sandwich instead.

ACTIVITY

She **loath** all modern art.

- a) NO CHANGE
- b) loathe
- c) loathes
- d) loaths

Shelly **laid** the fragile porcelain figurine on some tissue paper and wrapped it carefully.

- a) NO CHANGE
- b) lay
- c) lain
- d) lied

I am going to let these photos **lay** idle before I do anything with framing.

- a) NO CHANGE
- b) lie
- c) laid
- d) lain

LESSON 112

PASSED VS. PAST / PHENOMENON VS. PHENOMENA / PLAIN VS. PLANE

passed vs. past **passed** (v.) to go by

*She **passed** me in the street without even saying hello.*

past (adv.) from one side to the other *I called out to him as he ran **past**.*

phenomenon vs. phenomena

phenomenon (singular noun) a

remarkable or significant fact or event

Note that the word is also used to describe an observable event, whether it's remarkable or not.

*The airborne **phenomenon** was observed off the coast of Edinburgh.*

phenomena (plural noun) a number of significant facts or events *We attribute these **phenomena** to confinement effects on the iodine molecules.*

To discern whether you are looking at a singular or plural noun, make sure you look at the surrounding words such as pronouns (*these* and *those*) as well as conjugated verbs (*are* and *were*).

plain vs. plane **plain** (adj.) easily seen

*She didn't hide her annoyance; in fact, she made it **plain***

plane (adj.) completely flat

*They lie down on the **plane** surface.*

ACTIVITY

What unified theory could possibly be rich enough to accommodate these **phenomenon** ?

- a) NO CHANGE
 - b) phenomens c) phenomena d) phenomenons
- In science, the facts are **plain** to see.

- a) NO CHANGE
- b) plane c) plainer d) planed

LESSON 113

PERSECUTE VS. PROSECUTE / PRECEDE VS. PROCEED / PRINCIPAL VS. PRINCIPLE

persecute vs. prosecute **persecute** (v.) to treat in a cruel and unfair way, especially based on race, religion, or political beliefs *People have been bullied and **persecuted** for who they are since the dawn of time.*

prosecute (v.) to officially charge someone in court of committing a crime or violating a law *They need to investigate and **prosecute** those responsible for threats and abuses.*

precede vs. proceed **precede** (v.) to happen or come before *A reception will **precede** the talk at 4 p.m., and a panel discussion will follow.*

proceed (v.) to continue after a pause or interruption *They are anxious to rebuild their lives yet remain uncertain of how to **proceed** .*

principal vs. principle **principal** (n.) main; most important of all *The **principal***

reason for this outcome is the lack of funding.

principle (n.) a moral rule or strong belief *Stick to your **principles** and tell him you are not going to help with the illicit activity.*

ACTIVITY

My **principal** concern is to get the job done quickly.

a) NO CHANGE

b) principle c) primal d) principled The government has used questionable methods to **persecute** members of the rival party.

a) NO CHANGE

b) prosecute c) proceed d) precede

LESSON 114

PEAK VS. PEEK VS. PIQUE

peak (n.) a pointed extremity

*He climbed to the **peak** of Mount Everest.*

As a noun, *peak* also means the point in greatest development, value, or intensity.

*She wrote this book at the **peak** of her career.*

peak (v.) to reach a climax

*The stock market **peaks** during the holidays.*

peak (adj.) maximum

*We are operating at **peak** efficiency.*

peek (v.) to glance quickly

*He **peeked** around the corner to see if anyone was coming.*

quipue (v.) to provoke or arouse

*You **quipued** my interest when you mentioned Da Vinci.*

ACTIVITY

Michael was past his **peak** during the last season.

- a) NO CHANGE
- b) peek
- c) quipue d) pick

A quick **peak** at the Christmas presents won't hurt anyone.

- a) NO CHANGE

- b) pique c) pic
- d) peek

LESSON 115

SORE VS. SOAR / STATIONARY VS. STATIONERY / SUMMERY VS. SUMMARY

sore vs. soar **sore** (adj.) painful; aching

*She felt **sore** after a workout.*

soar (v.) to rise quickly

*Unemployment rates **soared** during the recession.*

stationary vs. stationery **stationery** (n.) materials used for writing on *Unable to afford new **stationery**, he wrote on the reverse side of old manuscripts.*

stationary (adj.) fixed; immobile; not changing in condition
*The other car damaged in the accident was a **stationary** vehicle.*

summery vs. summary **summery** (adj.) resembling or suitable for summer *She wore a **summery** dress to the wedding.*

summary (n.) a short statement containing main points
*Researchers published the **summary** of the study on their portal.*

ACTIVITY

Blake likes to ride five miles on the **stationary** bike and then **precede** to weight lifting.

a) NO CHANGE

b) stationary . . . proceed c) stationery. . . proceed

d) stationery. . . preceed Their energy consumption usually **sore** by 84 percent during August.

a) NO CHANGE

b) soar c) soars d) sores

LESSON 116

THAN VS. THEN / THERE VS. THEIR VS. THEY'RE

than vs. then **than** (conj.) used to introduce the second part of a comparison
*I am better **than** you.*

Memory trick: When you are asked to choose between *then* and *than*, remember that *than* has only one use: comparison. Both *th* **a** *n* and *comp* **a** *rison* contain the letter *a*.

then (adv.) at that time; next in time or order; additionally; in that case; accordingly *I will see you **then**.*

*We visited the zoo, **then** walked around the park.*

*We applied the discount, but **then** we still had to pay the sales tax.*

*If it snows today, **then** your flight will be either delayed or canceled.*

there vs. their vs. they're **there** (adv.) at that place

*Do you want to come **there** with me?*

their (possessive adj.) belongs to them ***Their** thorough knowledge is a true phenomenon.*

they're (contraction) they are

***They're** lying on the floor, waiting for the yoga instructor to start the class.*

ACTIVITY

A 2014 study found that **there** is far more variability in facial structure **then** in other parts of the body.

a) NO CHANGE

b) their . . . then c) there . . . than d) they're . . .
than All of **there** bags were loaded in the trunk.

a) NO CHANGE

b) they're c) their's d) their

LESSON 117

THROUGH VS. THREW / THOROUGH VS. THOUGH

through vs. threw **through** (prep.) into or out of; by means of; finished *The burglar got in **through** the attic.*

*The car crashed right **through** the house's fence.*

*His business was **through** .*

threw (v.) to throw

*She **threw** away the letters from her old boyfriend.*

thorough vs. though **thorough** (adj.) Careful or complete *Kelly **thoroughly** cleaned her office—there was not even a speck of dust on the floor.*

though (conj.) however; nevertheless *She is really a sweetheart, **though** she looks aloof and opinionated on the outside.*

ACTIVITY

His girlfriend declared that they were **threw** —finished.

a) NO CHANGE

b) thorough c) through d) though The police undertook a **thorough** investigation.

a) NO CHANGE

b) threw c) though d) through

LESSON 118

VAIN VS. VEIN

vain (adj.) feeling a high level of self-importance; conceited

*A truly **vain** man gains 50 pounds and still thinks he looks like George Clooney.*

vain (adj.) useless

*In a **vain** attempt to hold back the tears, he closed his eyes tightly.*

vein (n.) a tubular vessel that transports blood through the body

*The nurse tried to find a suitable **vein** for drawing the patient's blood.*

ACTIVITY

I knocked loudly in the **vein** hope that someone might answer. Nobody answered.

- a) NO CHANGE
- b) vainly
- c) veins
- d) vain

LESSON 119

WELL VS. GOOD / WARY VS. WEARY

well vs. good **well** (adv.) in a good manner

good (adj.) favorable

The rule of thumb is that *good* is an adjective and modifies nouns, while *well* is an adverb and modifies verbs.

*The lesson was **good** , he taught us **well** .*

*I think I did **well** on the exam because my teacher was in a **good** mood when I spoke with her.*

wary vs. weary **wary** (adj.) cautious

*Be **wary** of strangers who offer you a ride.*

weary (adj.) very tired

*We greeted a **weary** traveler and offered her a place to stay and rest up.*

To grow *weary* of something is to become tired or bored.

*High school students soon grow **weary** of listening to a parade of scientific facts.*

ACTIVITY

The lasagna with ricotta was **well** cooked; the chef must have had training in **good** Italian cooking.

a) NO CHANGE

b) well. . . well c) good. . . well d) good. . . good
Other consumers remain **weary** about home buying,
still shaken by the bubble's pop.

a) NO CHANGE

b) wary c) wearied d) worry

LESSON 120

WHERE VS. WERE VS. WEAR / WEATHER VS. WHETHER

where vs. were vs. wear **where**
(adv./conj./pron.) relating to directions: in,
at, or to what place **Where** are you
heading?

Where can also mean *in which*.

*Anyone can recall a situation **where** they felt like a winner.*

were (v.) the past tense of *to be* *They **were** late again.*

wear (v.) to relate either to clothing or fatigue *She **wears** dresses every day.*

*Your complaints are **wearing** me out.*

weather vs. whether **weather** (n.) a
condition of the atmosphere *What is the
weather like today?*

whether (conj.) part of the paired conjunction *whether . . . or* *Whether* is often used to indicate alternative possibilities.

*He couldn't decide **whether** he should stay **or** go.*

ACTIVITY

I asked him **whether** he had done it all himself or **whether** someone had offered a helping hand.

a) NO CHANGE

b) whether . . . weather c) weather . . . whether d) weather . . . weather They **where** working on a car in which you didn't have to **wear** a seat belt.

a) NO CHANGE

b) wear . . . were c) where . . . wear d) were . . . wear

LESSON 121

WHO VS. WHOM / WHOSE VS. WHO'S

who vs. whom **who** (pron.) points to the person completing a sentence's action
***Who** is going to the party?*

*This is the guy **who** proposed to Clare and got rejected.*

whom (pron.) the object of a sentence; the person receiving an action *Whom* is an object pronoun, meaning if you can replace it with *him* , *her* , *me* , or *them* , you're good to go.

Preposition trick: Use *whom* after a preposition (*to*, *for*, *of* . . .). For all other cases, use *who* .

*The first employee they hired was Jeff Johnson, to **whom** Knight was friendly at Stanford.*

*Brandon, in **whom** she confided, said he would support her unconditionally.*

*Call the office to figure out how much you owe, to **whom** , and on what terms, and start paying it off.*

whose vs. who's **whose** (possessive pron.) used when asking (or telling) whom something belongs to *She's the dancer **whose** hair is dyed purple.*

who's (contraction) contraction of **who is** *I don't know **who's** coming to the party after 2:00 a.m.*

ACTIVITY

Koko is the name of the gorilla **who's** ability to understand and communicate via sign language has made her famous.

a) NO CHANGE

b) whom c) that d) whose The unexpected factor scared the organizers, many **of them** were heavily invested in the outcome.

a) NO CHANGE

b) of whom c) of who d) for whom

PART FIVE

Transition Words and Idioms

Choosing clever and thoughtful transition words is essential to good writing; transitions create a seamless flow of sentences, establishing relationships between discrete statements and phrases.

The College Board wants to test your composition skills and let your future college know how coherently you can organize your thoughts. Every SAT writing section includes four to six questions designed to test your ability to choose appropriate transitions. Some questions will be more straightforward, like asking you to pick *however* to signal a turn of ideas, while others will be more subtle, like asking you to determine the difference between *consequently* , *subsequently* , and *conversely* .

In the following lessons, you will get a closer look at the most frequent transitions. Most important, you will learn what type of connection they create within text. This section will be especially helpful for nonreaders—students who tend to read only for school. For these students, this information is absolutely necessary. Voracious readers, on the other hand, will generally have a good sense of transition words simply from sheer volume of experience with text; however, they will find this section helpful in clarifying those transitions' meanings.

LESSON 122

SIMILARLY / LIKEWISE / BY THE SAME TOKEN

Continuous Relationships Words in this lesson create a continuous transition between sentences and ideas by adding a similar example or logic.

similarly (adv.) continuing the argument by making a comparison to something alike *Echoes are created when sound waves bounce off of cave walls and reflect back to your ears. **Similarly**, light from supernovas reaches Earth by reflecting off of interstellar dust.*

likewise (adv.) in addition, also, or equally *The book sold well at the stores. **Likewise**, it sold well online.*

*Buying stocks is a risky business that requires a lot of thought. **Likewise**, real estate investment demands a thorough knowledge of the business.*

by the same token (idiom) in a similar fashion; for the same reason *It doesn't look like the recession is going to loosen its grip any time soon. **By the same token**, profit margins aren't growing either.*

*There was little evidence to substantiate the allegations and, **by the same token**, there was little to refute them.*

ACTIVITY

The penalty for failure will be high. But, ***by the same token*** , the rewards for success will be great.

- a) NO CHANGE
- b) similarly
- c) however
- d) therefore

The banks advise against sending cash. ***Therefore*** , sending money orders may be a problem.

- a) NO CHANGE
 - b) Nevertheless c) Likewise
 - d) By the same token
- Read the examples above and create two similar but original sentences that can be connected with the continuous transitions *similarly* , *likewise* , and *by the same token* .

LESSON 123

IN ADDITION / ALSO / MOREOVER / FURTHERMORE / BESIDES

Continuous Relationships Use these transitions to add another example or point. You'll see when a narrator is stating that something is true and wants to include another idea that's equally true. Sentences connected this way can be considered parallel, and the transition words emphasize the “too-ness” of what comes next.

*Unlike seasonal crops, Eucalyptus trees can be harvested year-round to supply a stable supply of biomass. **In addition**, the tree's extract has numerous health benefits due to its anti-inflammatory properties.*

*Eating acidic food may precipitate acid reflux. **Moreover**, citrus and tomato may cause an allergic reaction.*

*Asteroids have long been mistakenly considered rocky, while comets were believed to be icy. **Furthermore**, it was once believed that comets could have brought water to Earth.*

SAT pro tip: The transition *besides* is usually a wrong answer.

ACTIVITY

The survey concluded that just 15 percent of colleges in the US require students to take one philosophy course. Moreover, the survey indicated that nearly 250 philosophy departments had been shut down that year.

Read the example above and create two similar but original sentences that can be connected with any of the continuous transitions in this lesson.

LESSON 124

SUBSEQUENTLY / NEXT / THEN / ULTIMATELY / FINALLY

Continuous Relationships This is a true continuation. These transition words underscore that one thing or event came after another.

subsequently (adv.) at a later time

*This discovery was **subsequently** used to inhibit the formation of these proteins.*

Subsequently is frequently confused with *consequently* ; however, the former is a continuous transition while the latter denotes cause and effect. *Subsequently* can also be replaced with *next* or *then* .

Unlike *finally* , the transition *subsequently* is rarely used at the beginning of the sentence.

*Frequent flossing can reduce plaque, **subsequently** reducing tartar.*

*Lori graduated from college and **subsequently** moved to Springfield.*

next (adv.) immediately after; on the soonest occasion after
*A group of journalists attended a movie screening on Tuesday. **Next** , all newspapers were inundated with the movie reviews and commentaries.*

*He heard an announcer say his name. **Next** , he was standing on the stage receiving an Emmy for outstanding comedy series.*

then (adv.) at that time; at the time in question *We lived in LA **then** .*

When used as a transition, *then* means *after that* , *next* , or *afterward*.

*She wrote one book and **then** the second one.*

Additionally, *then* means *also* or *in addition* .

*I'm paid generously to teach, and **then** there's the advertiser money I make on my channel.*

ultimately (adv.) finally, especially after a long and often complicated series of events *Neal's campaign to raise awareness around voting rights was **ultimately** successful. He tells her that he will be gone a long time, but **ultimately** they will reunite.*

ACTIVITY

The project aimed to cure cattle experimentally infected with lice. *Then* , they tested different treatments until they found one that worked universally. *Finally* , they distributed the cure among farmers around the country.

Read the example above and create two similar but original sentences that can be connected with any of the continuous transitions in this lesson.

LESSON 125

IN FACT / INDEED / IN PARTICULAR

Continuous Relationships These continuous transitions don't simply add a new relevant idea or example. Indeed, they emphasize the preceding sentence.

in fact (n.) actually; in truth

This discourse marker adds more detailed information to what has just been said.

*Sabrina was a good driver. **In fact**, she never got a ticket in her 20 years of driving.*

*Many grow crops in Russia. **In fact**, more than 60 percent of citizens prefer to spend their summer caring for a garden instead of going on vacation.*

*Financial struggles create many hardships in life. **In fact**, money problems can be the source of friction that sours a relationship.*

indeed (adv.) as expected; as it happened; undeniably
*Kayla seemed anxious. **Indeed**, she was shaking when I approached her.*

*The economy was nowhere near recession. **Indeed**, the stock prices were soaring.*

*Environmentally conscious legislation is becoming more ubiquitous. **Indeed**, laws similar to the ones in California are pending in more than 28 states.*

in particular (n.) in distinction

Instead of simply adding a parallel idea, *in particular* builds on and substantiates the previous statement.

*A few facts **in particular** drove the legislature to tighten the regulations this quarter.*

*There is a definite shift toward global education. **In particular**, international exchange programs soared in the last few years.*

ACTIVITY

Although the study clearly shows the company's shipping process creates environmental hazards, some experts suggest that this impact is largely understated. **Indeed**, the report didn't account for the oil used by the company's suppliers.

- a) NO CHANGE
 - b) Also
 - c) Moreover
 - d) Similarly
- Read the example above and create two similar but original sentences that can be connected with any of the continuous transitions in this lesson.

LESSON 126

CONVERSELY / IN CONTRAST / ON THE OTHER HAND

Reversal Relationships Reversal relationships reverse a preceding idea. These words introduce an idea that is different from the preceding one.

conversely (adv.) in an opposite way

*You say the bag is a fake. **Conversely** , the seller claims it's real.*

The value of the language increases depending on how many people can speak it .

***Conversely** , the value of a local dialect decreases as people abandon it.*

in contrast (idiom) in a different way

In contrast introduces an opposite point or idea.

*Much of Europe suffered a financial setback in 2005. **In contrast** , India remained largely unharmed by the global economic downturn.*

*The company lost \$3 million this quarter **in contrast** to a profit of \$2.2 million earlier this year.*

on the other hand (idiom) presents opposing factors

*Social scientists say that married people live longer. **On the other hand** , marriage is one of the primary factors that create stress.*

*I want to go to the party; **on the other hand** , I ought to be studying.*

ACTIVITY

In a great market, the consumer will pull the product out of the seller's hands. **Conversely** , in a bad market, nobody will buy the product, even though it might be the best of its kind.

a) NO CHANGE

b) Furthermore c) Additionally d) Besides

Read the example above and create two similar but original sentences that can be connected with any of the reversal transitions in this lesson.

LESSON 127

DESPITE / NONETHELESS / NEVERTHELESS / NOTWITHSTANDING

Reversal Relationships **despite** (adv.) not affected by; in spite of ***Despite** three months of sluggish sales, the economy is headed in the right direction.*

*She persevered **despite** her learning disability.*

nonetheless (adv.) nevertheless

*These issues are not serious. **Nonetheless** , we need to tackle them methodically to prevent any negative effects.*

nevertheless (adv.) in spite of; however

The growth rate has fallen 23 percent this year, so it's clearly not without risk.

***Nevertheless**, researchers are getting valuable insights about bacteria development, which justifies the risk.*

*There is almost no chance that we will succeed in changing the world. **Nevertheless** , it is important that we try our best.*

notwithstanding (adv.) nevertheless; nonetheless
Notwithstanding has a more formal connotation than *nevertheless* and *nonetheless* .

***Notwithstanding** some major financial problems, the city government has had an effective year.*

Notwithstanding the president's commentary, this new regulation looks very convenient for China.

ACTIVITY

It's unclear how we are supposed to think of the North Pole other than something inconceivably far that must ***despite*** be pursued.

a) NO CHANGE

b) conversely c) nevertheless d) on the other hand

Read the example above and create two similar but original sentences that can be connected with any of the reversal transitions in this lesson.

LESSON 128

HOWEVER / ALTHOUGH

Reversal Relationships **however** (adv.) used to add a contradicting idea, similar to the conjunction *but* *However* is one of the most frequently used prepositions on the SAT and in the English language.

*I think the text is factually correct. **However** , I may have some style revisions.*

*There was little concrete data, **however** , about how the migration patterns had shifted.*

although (adv.) in spite of the fact **Although** *it was cold outside, we decided to wear light dresses.*

***Although** most of the performances are free, some venues may have a cover charge.*

However is usually followed by a main clause or idea, while the adverb *although* functions as a modifier.

*The business was lucrative; **however** , they were facing a major predicament with the licensing.*

***Although** the business was lucrative, it faced a licensing predicament.*

ACTIVITY

Most scientists believe that the universe is continually expanding. **Although** , some believe that it might

actually be shrinking.

a) NO CHANGE

b) However c) Likewise d) Despite Insert either *however* or *although* in the blank spaces below: -----
----- I speak English well, my native language is actually Russian. I speak English well; -----, my native language is Russian. I'll happily drink sparkling water, ----- I prefer still. ----- I prefer still water, I'll happily drink sparkling.

Read the sentences above and create two similar but original sentences that can be connected with either *however* or *although* .

LESSON 129

ALTERNATIVELY / INSTEAD

Reversal Relationships **alternatively** (adv.) signals a presentation of a different choice *Perhaps you may be on an overly high dose of medication. **Alternatively**, your dose may not be high enough.*

The concierge will buy concert tickets for you.

Alternatively, you can stand in line and get your last-minute ticket yourself.

Scientists are unsure about the exact mechanism birds use to stay in the air; they might be predicting the movement of air and aligning themselves with it.

Alternatively, they could be navigating the air until they find a strong air thrust.

instead (adv.) in place of something *Instead* is used to introduce something in substitute of something else. It has been a wrong answer more frequently than it has been a right answer on the SAT—very seldom is it the correct choice.

Instead of judging others, we have to start looking at our own mistakes. *Wind-generated waves can vary from ripples to 30 meters high, but those aren't the largest waves on Earth. **Instead**, the internal waves that never see the ocean's surface appear to be the largest.*

ACTIVITY

To increase the abundance of natural light in the office, some buildings may install wider windows. **Despite**, businesses can remove shades from existing windows to capture more sunlight during the day.

a) NO CHANGE

b) Alternatively c) Similarly d) In fact Creating novelty ice-cream flavors was not a priority for the research group. **Instead**, the team was anticipating a more consequential outcome of the study.

a) NO CHANGE

b) Similarly c) Likewise d) Conversely Read the examples above and create two similar but original sentences that can be connected with any of the reversal transitions in this lesson.

LESSON 130

MEANWHILE / WHEREAS / RATHER / STILL

Reversal Relationships **meanwhile** (adv.) on the other hand

This adverb is used to introduce a contradicting idea or theory that happened at the same time.

*Engineers say traditional solar panels can be time-consuming to build. **Meanwhile** , researchers have been using a new type of glass to make flexible solar cells.*

*Hanging clothes outside to dry saves me money on electricity. **Meanwhile** , many New Yorkers prefer to use the dryer to save time.*

whereas (adv.) to introduce a comparison, usually to a contradicting idea *Some of the trials show positive correlation, **whereas** others do not.*

*She appeared very aloof initially, **whereas** she turned out to be very friendly and communicative.*

rather (adv.) to introduce an idea that is different or opposite to the one stated previously *The resort was not expensive; **rather** , we found it quite affordable for the value it provided.*

*This wasn't the result of an inborn mathematical talent. **Rather** , this was the product of tedious, repeated practice.*

still (adv.) to introduce something counter to what was stated *Still* is often used with *despite* .

*The weather was bad. **Still** , we had a lot of fun.*
***Despite** the increasing use of digital transcription services, court reporters **still** appear to be important in capturing the details of a hearing.*

ACTIVITY

People are not spending money on jewelry and expensive cars like they used to. **Rather** , they have adopted the new modest mode of spending.

- a) NO CHANGE
 - b) Still
 - c) Whereas
 - d) Meanwhile
- Read the example above and create two similar but original sentences that can be connected with any of the reversal transitions in this lesson.

LESSON 131

YET / BUT

Reversal Relationships

These two words serve as coordinating conjunctions, connecting two independent clauses. Both words denote a specific reversal behavior.

yet (adv.) in spite of; nevertheless

*The marketing campaign was deemed to be very successful, **yet** it is not yielding the projected sales.*

*Every week her voice gets better, **yet** she is not ready for the competition.*

but (conj.) to introduce a statement that adds to a previous statement while contrasting with it in some way

But is often used to connect two statements with opposite meanings.

*Her sister told her to stay quiet, **but** she continued singing.*

*The dress is expensive **but** lacks elegance.*

but (adv.) no more than; only

*He is **but** a shadow of his strong father.*

You have but two weeks to study for the SAT.

but (prep.) except; apart from

*You have no choice **but** to leave.*

*I didn't tell anyone **but** my wife.*

When we are talking about using *but* as a transition, we are talking about the conjunction form of *but*.

*She hasn't narrowed down her choices yet, **but** she hopes to major in sports medicine.*

*He still has to prove he has the physical skills, **but** he clearly has the brains.*

ACTIVITY

Washing dishes is usually boring, and parents have to cajole their kids into doing it. **But** parents can make the chore fun by framing it as a competition.

- a) NO CHANGE
- b) Yet
- c) Conversely
- d) Nonetheless

Read the examples above and create two similar but original sentences that can be connected with any of the reversal transitions in this lesson.

LESSON 132

ACCORDINGLY / AS A RESULT / AS SUCH

Cause-and-Effect Relationships

accordingly (adv.) indicates that the following thought is logically appropriate to a given circumstance *Many students sent Benjamin their English literature papers for final review before submission. **Accordingly** , Benjamin was very busy correcting errors at the end of the school year.*

*I decided to start a new life on Monday. **Accordingly** , I wrote down a set of resolutions with the intention to keep them.*

as a result (idiom) indicates a result of a previous statement *David twisted his arm and, **as a result** , won't be taking part in the basketball tournament.*

*The new tax code allowed corporations to get new deductions. **As a result** , many have piled up record amounts of cash.*

as such (adv.) as that; therefore; thus *She is a style icon; **as such** , she will be a role model for years to come.*

*A pool of developers collectively owns half of the company. **As such** , they receive half of the company's revenue to split between them.*

ACTIVITY

He's a provocateur and, **as such** , his approach is likely to inspire lively debate.

a) NO CHANGE

b) likewise c) accordingly d) moreover After his breakup, Jack wanted to start a new relationship.

Accordingly , he downloaded a few dating apps.

a) NO CHANGE

b) Still

c) Whereas d) As such

LESSON 133

CONSEQUENTLY / HENCE / TO THESE ENDS

Cause-and-Effect Relationships

consequently (adv.) as a result

*Sales professionals get paid a commission and can create their own income based on their effort. **Consequently**, they earn, on average, more than workers with a set wage or salary.*

*Nitrogen is one of the most abundant nutrients in the atmosphere. **Consequently**, controlling and regulating nitrogen oxides in nature is fairly difficult.*

hence (adv.) as a consequence; for this reason *Public transportation doesn't really exist in that city; **hence** a bicycle is one of the only real options available.*

*Light-sensitive cells cannot grow where a bundle of nerves connects our eyes to our brain. **Hence**, we do not sense the light that hits this bundle, and a blind spot is a result.*

to these ends for that reason

*Kyle wants to become a stand-up comic. **To these ends**, he is writing jokes every single day.*

*The class wanted to throw a party. **To these ends**, they rented a boat for the night.*

ACTIVITY

An expansive offshore oil reserve remains untouched and jobs are waiting to be created. **However**, the young population of this energy-starved state is moving away and its future continues to look bleak.

a) NO CHANGE

b) Although c) Consequently d) Nonetheless
Heterosis can double the yield of grains like corn or rye. **Subsequently**, a corncob from a hybrid plant is usually much larger than that of a homozygous plant.

a) NO CHANGE

b) Also

c) Conversely d) Hence

LESSON 134

THEREBY / THUS / THEREFORE

Cause-and-Effect Relationships **thereby** (adv.) as a result of

*The machine uses AI to carry out identification. **Thereby** , you must stand still for a few seconds to get identified. Frequent cardio exercise helps support heart health, **thereby** reducing the threat of heart attack.*

thus (adv.) as a result of; because of something just mentioned *He is the eldest son and **thus** gets to inherit the throne.*

*We own the building. **Thus** , we are free to remodel and renovate however we want.*

therefore (adv.) introduces the logical result of something just stated *We haven't arrived at a consensus yet; **therefore** , we shall stay here another hour in hopes of coming to an agreement.*

*There is still much to discuss. We shall, **therefore** , stay here for the next hour and talk.*

ACTIVITY

Marriage is encouraged and **accordingly** incentivized through lower rates of taxation.

a) NO CHANGE

b) thereby c) furthermore d) similarly She's visiting her parents this weekend and **therefore** is not

available to attend the party.

a) NO CHANGE

b) furthermore c) subsequently d) for instance

LESSON 135

SINCE / SO / SO THAT / BECAUSE

Cause-and-Effect Relationships **since** (conjugation) because; as *We thought that, **since** we were in the area, we'd stop by and see them.*

***Since** she didn't want to be recognized, she affected a British accent.*

so (conjugation) showing the result of something *She didn't feel well, **so** she went to the doctor.*

*He wanted to become wealthy, **so** he worked hard.*

so that (conjugation) show the result or purpose of something *They planned out the research **so that** they wouldn't make mistakes.*

because (conjugation) demonstrate the reason for something *The company can afford to splurge **because** it has become increasingly prosperous.*

*I had to decide quickly **because** there was a caravan of coffee lovers behind me.*

ACTIVITY

He has said he doesn't attend the annual address **because** it has become partisan.

- a) NO CHANGE
- b) thus c) thereby d) yet

Consumer spending is critical, **therefore** it powers about 70 percent of the economy.

a) NO CHANGE

b) accordingly c) alternately d) since

LESSON 136

IDIOMS WITH **ABOUT**

Common Idioms with Prepositions **be curious about** to express interest

Everyone **was curious about** Mark's promotion.

be particular about fussy; careful

She's very **particular about** her clothes.

bring about to make happen; to cause

His presentation **brought about** a change of attitude.

come about to happen

The progress **came about** in waves.

complain about to say that something annoys you *She **complained** to the manager **about** this.*

set about to start doing

We need **to set about** finding a solution.

think about to contemplate

I usually **think about** my future.

wonder about to consider or think about with curiosity and doubt *I **wonder about** his college choice.*

worry about to think and anticipate possible negative outcomes *Parents always **worry about** their children.*

ACTIVITY

You need to **wonder about** your choice of words when you are speaking to the interviewer.

a) NO CHANGE

b) bring about c) be particular about d) complain about
We made the decision to quit, and then I began to **set about** the consequences.

a) NO CHANGE

b) bring about c) wonder about d) complain about
He **set about** the business of cleaning the house.

a) NO CHANGE

b) brought about c) worried about d) wondered about

LESSON 137

IDIOMS WITH *FROM*

Common Idioms with Prepositions **across from** opposite

*There is a store **across from** our school.*

apparent from easy to see and understand *The children's poor health was **apparent from** their physical appearance.*

defend from/against to protect

Many steps will be taken to defend the city against attack.

differ from to be different

*The two twins **differed from** each other in many respects.*

protect from to shield from harm

*Students huddled together to **protect** themselves **from** the wind.*

refrain from to stop yourself

*They asked us to **refrain from** smoking.*

ACTIVITY

Because he respected the hostess, he had to **refrain from** acting out.

a) NO CHANGE

b) apparent from c) protect from d) differ from

They arrived one after the other. Subsequently, they

were seated ***refrain from*** each other.

a) NO CHANGE

b) apparent from c) differ from d) across from
Dawn Wiener, as might be ***refrain from*** her name,
has experienced a tough time in junior high.

a) NO CHANGE

b) differ from c) apparent from d) across from

LESSON 138

IDIOMS WITH **BY**

Common Idioms with Prepositions

accompanied by taken place or appeared in association with *The snow was **accompanied by** the rain.*

confused by made unable to see clearly; thrown off by *The officer was **confused by** his actions.*

encouraged by inspired

Artists were greatly encouraged by the positive response of the audience.

obscured by made difficult to see and understand *The issue was **obscured by** an inability to speak to the eyewitnesses.*

outraged by to be shocked or angry

*He was morally **outraged by** their actions.*

stunned by to be very surprised or shocked *The troupe was **stunned by** the audience's ovations.*

perplexed by to be confused

*Students were **perplexed by** the reading passage on the SAT.*

puzzled by uncertain; unable to understand *The student was **puzzled by** his conclusions until it became clear he had gotten his sums wrong.*

ACTIVITY

The prose was **puzzled** by a series of stunning photographs.

a) NO CHANGE

b) perplexed by c) accompanied by d) stunned by I am so **obscured by** the advances of modern technology, and there never seems to be an end to it.

a) NO CHANGE

b) accompanied by c) confused by d) stunned by The view was **obscured by** fog.

a) NO CHANGE

b) stunned by c) puzzled by d) perplexed by

LESSON 139

IDIOMS WITH **FOR**

Common Idioms with Prepositions

celebrated for admired for

*Though he was quoted, praised, and **celebrated for** 200 years, today he's a ghost.*

compensate for to make up for

*No amount of cake icing can **compensate for** a recipe that wasn't sweet enough to begin with.*

endure for to remain in existence; to last *It began as a grassroots event and has **endured for** more than 20 years.*

famous for known for; celebrated for

*She was **famous for** her witty mind.*

named for or **after** given a name for

*The gallery is **named for** huge panes of glass that provide views of Central Park.*

necessary for needed; essential; required

*Obviously **necessary for** reasons of time, this device still can be a bit jarring.*

recognized for acknowledged

*Like most struggling actors, Omi wanted to be **recognized for** his talent.*

strive for to attempt to reach

*To reduce volatility, banks should also **strive for** a sort of diversity.*

ACTIVITY

The iron rivets were wider to **look for** the difference in strength.

a) NO CHANGE

b) endure for c) compensate for d) strive for It created a new world of publishing that has been **prized for** half a millennium.

a) NO CHANGE

b) endured for c) celebrated for d) famous for That's where I headed the next day to tackle Whispering Pine Trail. The trail is **named for** the shortleaf pines that do, indeed, whisper in the wind.

a) NO CHANGE

b) famous for c) compensated for d) endured for

LESSON 140

IDIOMS WITH *IN*

Common Idioms with Prepositions **adept** **in** skilled at

*She was **adept in** concealing the truth.*

confident in to feel secure in ability

*She was **confident in** tennis.*

engage in to get involved with

*In the future, students who **engage in** such behavior will be immediately ejected.*

interested in genuinely curious about

*They were **interested in** rap music.*

involved in to be a part of

*The study was **involved in** a scandalous article about scientific bias.*

succeed in to be accomplished at

*He wanted to **succeed in** life and therefore applied himself daily.*

take pride in to be proud of; to take care of Residents **take pride in** their neighborhood, as evidenced by the manicured lawns.

ACTIVITY

Many of the programmers were ***adept in*** writing software.

a) NO CHANGE

b) take pride in c) firm in d) outraged by We
engage in developing and nurturing every member of our outstanding team.

a) NO CHANGE

b) take pride in c) adept in d) interested in
Perfectionists ***engage in*** multiple problematic thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.

a) NO CHANGE

b) take pride in c) adept in d) endured for

LESSON 141

IDIOMS WITH **OF**

Common Idioms with Prepositions a **native of** a person born to a particular place *Cameron, **a native of Ontario**, had an opportunity to get both sides of the story.*

appreciation of gratitude and admiration for; increase in value *The noise in the background affected my **appreciation of** the art.*

*If you experience a sudden **appreciation of** assets, you should not use portability.*

command of knowledge of; aptitude for use *She had a good **command of** English.*

composed of made of, consists of

*Water is **composed of** two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen.*

devoid of lacking something

*Strict linear composition **devoid of** clutter is clearly central to his aesthetic.*

incapable of unable to do something

*The public repeatedly proves itself **incapable of** intelligently using information.*

mastery of deep knowledge or skill

*His **mastery of** visual and inspirational symbols gained him victory last November.*

ACTIVITY

The Commonwealth is largely **incapable of** countries with historic ties to Britain.

a) NO CHANGE

b) made of c) command of d) devoid of The readings are bare-bones productions, generally **devoid of** props and costumes.

a) NO CHANGE

b) incapable c) made of d) mastery of An **appreciation of** the dollar means it gains value against other currencies.

a) NO CHANGE

b) command of c) devoid of d) mastery of

LESSON 142

IDIOMS WITH ON

Common Idioms with Prepositions **based on** formed using a particular foundation
*The data is **based on** annual sample surveys and is not part of the 2010 Census.*

depend on to be affected by something *Their future career **depends on** how well they do in school.*

draw on to use as a supply
*I'll have to **draw on** my savings.*

dwell on to ruminate; to think about for a long time *He tends to **dwell on** the negative aspects of his performance.*

focus on to pay attention to; to concentrate on *They **focus on** companies they think are likely to beat the market's expectations.*

insist on to demand something
*She **insisted on** wearing a suit.*

reflect on to think about deeply
*It really made me **reflect on** my negative thoughts about this year's senior class.*

rely on to depend on
*Nowadays, humans **rely** heavily **on** computers to organize our work.*

ACTIVITY

Green politics are **reflect on** the belief that the resources of the planet are finite.

a) NO CHANGE

b) based on c) draw upon d) rely on The novel is heavily **based on** her personal experiences.

a) NO CHANGE

b) focused on c) drew on d) dwelled on I **dwell on** this not to be divisive, but to propose a decisive end to your vigil.

a) NO CHANGE

b) insist on c) draw upon d) reflect on

LESSON 143

IDIOMS USING *WITH*

Common Idioms with Prepositions

contrast with a difference clearly seen

*The sharp foliage in the foreground creates a **contrast with** the hazy trees behind.*

correlate with to have a mutual or reciprocal relationship
*Academy Award ratings often **correlate with** the popularity of the winning films.*

identify with to share the identity of
*First-generation immigrants frequently continue to **identify with** their homeland.*

consistent or **inconsistent with** compatible or incompatible with
*The proposals are **consistent with** the city's growth management plan.*

preoccupied with lost in thought about
*Many of us are so **preoccupied with** the busy nature of everyday life that we miss many opportunities.*

sympathize with to share a sentiment with
*As a homeowner, I completely **sympathize with** Jack, and I'm sorry about his never-ending battle with water damage.*

unfamiliar or **familiar with** uninformed or informed about
*Visitors **familiar with** Solomon's art will find her working with a new authority.*

ACTIVITY

Histone modifications have also been known to ***sympathize with*** gene expression.

a) NO CHANGE

b) correlate with c) identify with d) preoccupy with

Our results are ***consistent with*** those found in British and American populations.

a) NO CHANGE

b) sympathize with c) identify with d) preoccupied with
Journalism is often ***identified with*** matters barely remembered a week later.

a) NO CHANGE

b) preoccupied with c) contrasted with d)
sympathized with

LESSON 144

IDIOMS WITH TO

Common Idioms with Prepositions

manage to to find a way to

*She **managed to take** thorough notes while participating in all of those activities.*

offer to to propose to

*Finland and the United States have also **offered to host** the tournament.*

prepare to to get ready to

*You have **to be prepared to look after** a car that needs a lot of maintenance.*

promise to to make a promise

*New investors **promise to double** the skiable terrain over the next few years.*

refuse to to decline to

*The pilot **refused to fly** without him, and he was allowed to board the plane.*

reluctant to to be unwilling to

*He is **reluctant to make** a solemn promise to someone he doesn't trust.*

strive to to have a strong desire to

*We **strive to maintain** open and constructive communication with our stockholders.*

ACTIVITY

There's only three of us in the house, yet we **strive to** disagree over everything.

a) NO CHANGE

b) reluctant to c) manage to d) offer to Declining economic stability is also making consumers **reluctant to** spend at stores.

a) NO CHANGE

b) strive to c) managed to d) prepared to In addition to Spain, both the US and Chile have **strived to** grant them asylum.

a) NO CHANGE

b) inclined to c) offered to d) aspired to

LESSON 145

IDIOMS USING OTHER PREPOSITIONS

Common Idioms with Prepositions **in itself** separate from others; on its own *This data **in itself** does not necessarily mean that the skeptics are wrong, of course.*

power over control; the right of the last word *This lock-in gives the booksellers **power over** not only consumers but also publishers.*

enter into to come; to gain admission into a group *When you buy a ticket on an airline you **enter into** a contract with that airline* **insight into** the result of understanding something deeply *Her studies offer **insight into** the way muscles function more as springs than motors* **biased toward** favorable to

*They were obviously **biased toward** the East, but you never heard a negative gesture.*

have a tendency toward to have an inclination for *The natural **tendency toward** altruism has philosophical and political implications.*

recognized as acknowledgment of a particular role, status, position, event, etc.

*A day off is nice, but it's even better if it's legally **recognized as** a holiday.*

ACTIVITY

Many young people struggle with their newfound independence as they **power over** adulthood.

a) NO CHANGE

b) biased toward c) enter into d) recognize as If
you have some grandiose **insight into** the workings
of the world, **lay** it on us.

a) NO CHANGE

b) insight in to . . . lay c) power over . . . lie d)
power over . . . lay

ANSWER KEY

Lesson 1: d, d Lesson 2: d, b Lesson 3: b Lesson 4: b
Lesson 5: c, a Lesson 6: a, c Lesson 7: b, b Lesson 8:
a Lesson 9: c, c Lesson 10: a, d Lesson 11: a, c, a
Lesson 12: a, a Lesson 13: d, b Lesson 14: a, b
Lesson 15: b, b Lesson 16: c, b Lesson 17: c, a
Lesson 18: a Lesson 19: a, c Lesson 20: c, b Lesson
21: c, c Lesson 22: a Lesson 23: b, b Lesson 24: b, a
Lesson 25: c Lesson 26: c Lesson 27: d, d Lesson
28: a, b Lesson 29: a, c Lesson 30: a, d Lesson 31: c,
a Lesson 32: c, b Lesson 33: c, a Lesson 34: c, b
Lesson 35: a, c Lesson 36: a, d Lesson 37: d, d
Lesson 38: c, b Lesson 39: a, a Lesson 40: b, d
Lesson 41: b, d Lesson 42: d, c Lesson 43: d, d
Lesson 44: c, c Lesson 45: d, b Lesson 46: a, c
Lesson 47: d, b Lesson 48: a, b Lesson 49: b, b
Lesson 50: b, c Lesson 51: c, a Lesson 52: c, a
Lesson 53: a, d Lesson 54: c, c Lesson 55: d, a
Lesson 56: d, b Lesson 57: c, a Lesson 58: d, a
Lesson 59: a, c Lesson 60: a, b Lesson 61: b, c
Lesson 62: c, b Lesson 63: c, b Lesson 64: c, c
Lesson 65: c, b Lesson 66: c, c Lesson 67: d, d
Lesson 68: c, a Lesson 69: a, c Lesson 70: c, a
Lesson 71: c, a Lesson 72: d, d Lesson 73: c, c
Lesson 74: d, b Lesson 75: c, d Lesson 76: c, c
Lesson 77: a, d Lesson 78: a, c Lesson 79: c, c
Lesson 80: c, a Lesson 81: d, a Lesson 82: c, b
Lesson 83: d, d Lesson 84: b, d Lesson 85: c, b
Lesson 86: a, b Lesson 87: b, b Lesson 88: b, a
Lesson 89: b, d Lesson 90: d, b Lesson 91: a, a
Lesson 92: b, a Lesson 93: a, a Lesson 94: b, a
Lesson 95: a, b Lesson 96: a, b Lesson 97: b, c, b

Lesson 98: b **Lesson 99:** a, a **Lesson 100:** c, a **Lesson 101:** b **Lesson 102:** b, d **Lesson 103:** a, c **Lesson 104:** a, d **Lesson 105:** c, d **Lesson 106:** b, b **Lesson 107:** b, c **Lesson 108:** a, d **Lesson 109:** d, a **Lesson 110:** c **Lesson 111:** c, a, b **Lesson 112:** c, a **Lesson 113:** a, a **Lesson 114:** a, d **Lesson 115:** b, c **Lesson 116:** c, d **Lesson 117:** c, a **Lesson 118:** d **Lesson 119:** a, b **Lesson 120:** a, d **Lesson 121:** d, b **Lesson 122:** a, c **Lesson 125:** a **Lesson 126:** a **Lesson 127:** c **Lesson 128:** b; Although, however, however, Although **Lesson 129:** b, a **Lesson 130:** a **Lesson 131:** b **Lesson 132:** a, a **Lesson 133:** c, d **Lesson 134:** b, a **Lesson 135:** a, d **Lesson 136:** c, c, a **Lesson 137:** a, d, c **Lesson 138:** c, d, a **Lesson 139:** c, b, a **Lesson 140:** a, b, a **Lesson 141:** b, a, a **Lesson 142:** b, a, b **Lesson 143:** d, a, b **Lesson 144:** c, a, c **Lesson 145:** c, a

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Katya Seberson owns a busy private SAT tutoring practice in New York, where she personally runs group training, individual tutoring, and online lessons. Her Seberson Method has helped students around the world improve their test scores. After an SAT makeover in 2016 did away with sentence completion questions, she decided to rethink her strategy for teaching vocabulary. And after seeing great results in her students' scores, she decided to formalize the curriculum in this book and share it with the world. Katya is also the author of *Essential Speed Reading Techniques* .