Common SAT Words SAT “Hot List”

**Cursory**- hasty; without attention

**Nostalgia**- bittersweet longing for the past

**Aesthetic**-having to do with visual appeal or beauty (noun: aesthete or aesthetician)

**Pragmatic**-practical; realistic

**Anachronistic**-chronologically misplaced

**Temperance**-restraint; mildness

**Censure**- to criticize harshly

**Dubious**-doubtful; questionable

**Irreverent**- disrespectful; blasphemous

**Sullen**-ill-natured; moody; dark

**Ominous-**threatening or foreshadowing ill-fortune

**Benign**- harmless, pleasant or beneficial

**Malignant** – harmful, malevolent or malicious

**Inane**-foolish, mindless, asinine  
  
**Extrapolate** - gain knowledge; to infer from something that is known; conjecture

**Adroit-** skilled, adept

**Nefarious**-evil, wicked

**Byzantine** - complex; involved

**Acumen**-shrewdness; insightfulness

**Epitome**-standard or typical example; paradigm   
  
**Nebulous-**lacking definition, cloudy, indefinite

**Insolent-** boldly rude or disrespectful

**Pacifist**-peace maker (**pacify** – to calm, **assuage**, appease)

**Tenacious-** determined; stubbornly persistent  
  
**Exacerbate**-to make worse

**Ameliorate-** to make better

**Fastidious-** showing attention to detail, meticulous

**Disparage**-criticize; express a negative opinion of

**Meticulous**-marked by careful attention to details, precise, picky

**Anomaly**-deviation from the norm; abnormality  
  
**Incredulous**-disbelieving; skeptical; unbelievable

**Satiated** - satisfied  
  
**Indulgent-** tolerant or lenient

**Nonchalant** – casual, unconcerned

**Somber-**sullen, ill-tempered

**Obstinate**- stubborn; resistant to guidance or discipline

**Superfluous**-extra, more than what's needed, excess

**Plausible**- possible; within the realm of credibility, believable

**Stupefied**- dazed

**Opulent**-lavish, wealthy

**Abhor** – to loathe, detest, hate

**Ascetic (adj) or aescete**(noun) - abstainer, non-indulgent; practicing self-denial

**Pious-**holier than thou; devout, holy  
  
**Somber** – grave or gloomy; cheerless  
  
**Salubrious** – promoting health; healthful

**Adept** - skilled, expert

**Petulant** – easily annoyed

**Conciliatory –** compromising, flexible, appeasing

**Acumen** – quickness of perception**;** insightfulness; **shrewd**ness; **astute**ness, **perspicacity**

**Lucid** – clear; coherent; having a clear mind

**Fissure** – narrow opening, crack

**Fallacy** – misconception; false belief

**Amiable** – friendly, **affable**, cordial, good-humored

**Philanthropy** – someone who makes charitable donations to increase human well-being

**Vicarious** – suffered or done by one person as a substitute for another “To live vicariously through someone”

**Congenial** – agreeable, friendly

**Eclectic** – varied, assorted, miscellaneous – “an eclectic mix of music”

**Quixotic** –not sensible about practical matters; unrealistic; foolishly impractical especially in the pursuit of ideals, romantic or wild-eyed

**Pliant** – flexible; adaptable, capable of being shaped or bent

**Elusive** – evasive; difficult to detect or grasp; skillful at eluding capture

**Extol** – to praise

**Naïve** (noun: Naivete) – lacking sophistication or life experience; unworldly

**Inept** – generally incompetent; clumsy

**Conduit**-pipe or channel (can be used figuratively too)

**Cognizant** – aware; having knowledge or understanding

**Additions:**

**Copious** - abundant, plentiful

**Languid** - dreamy, lacking energy and liveliness

**Conflagration** - a great fire

**Innate** – inborn; present at birth

**Alleviate** - to lessen "alleviate the pain" (root: lev = to lighten as in “levitate”)

**Debacle** – a great disaster; fiasco

**Esoteric, arcane** - requiring hidden or specialty knowledge

**Dearth** - complete lack of (a “dearth of knowledge”)

**Abstruse** - deep, incomprehensible

**Unequivocal** – absolute, leaving no doubt, clear

**Vacillate** - be undecided about something**; waver** between conflicting positions or courses of action (*The politician vacillates on the issues, so he’s been accused of inconsistency*.)

**Capricious** – impulsive; unpredictable

**Discern** - distinguish, pick out, detect with the senses

**Emphatically** - without question and beyond doubt; marked by emphasis; tending to express oneself in forceful speech or to take decisive action

**Rhetoric** – empty talk; empty words

**Imminent** - close in time; about to occur; bound to happen; impending

**Calamity** – tragedy; disaster; an event resulting in great loss and misfortune;

**Dire** - alarming; critical; causing fear or dread or terror; (“dire consequences”)

**Marred** - blemished by injury or rough wear; ruined, scarred, damaged

**Supersede** – replace; take the place or move into the position of 

**Acumen** – insightfulness, shrewdness; marked by keen insight

**Indigenous** – native; originating where it is found (*Polar bears are not indigenous to this area*.)

**Impetus** – driving force; force that moves something along (*What was the impetus for your decision to quit your job?)*