CHAPTER 1: CORE VOCABULARY – PART I

1. AMBIVALENT – mixed feelings
2. ANOMALY and ATYPICAL – a deviation from the norm
3. SARCASTIC and SARDONIC – derisive mocking comments
4. DEARTH and PAUCITY – a scarcity or shortage
5. PRATTLE – to babble incessantly
6. WRY – dry humor
7. UNCONVENTIONAL and UNORTHODOX – not ordinary or typical
8. PAINSTAKING, METICULOUS, EXACTING – highly detailed
9. AUDACIOUS – very bold; daring
10. INDIFFERENT and APATHETIC – lack of interest or concern
11. DIFFIDENT – lacking self-confidence
12. PRAGMATIC – practical, sensible
13. EVOCATION – an imaginative recreation
14. PRESUMPTUOUS – overbearing; impertinently bold
15. RECALCITRANT and OBDURATE – very stubborn, defiant
16. BOON – a timely benefit
   BANE – a source of harm
17. CLANDESTINE and SURREPTITIOUS – secretive; not aboveboard; covert
18. AFFABLE, AMIABLE, GENIAL, GREGARIOUS – agreeable; friendly
19. CONFOUNDED, PERPLEXED, MYSTIFIED – puzzled; confused
20. PRODIGIOUS – enormous; massive
21. AMBIGUOUS – unclear; not definitive
22. REPROACH and CENSURE – to scold; rebuke
23. NOSTALGIA – a sentimental longing for the past
24. CONJECTURE and SUPPOSITION – an inference
25. OBSOLETE – no longer in use
26. AUSPICIOUS – very favorable
27. MOROSE and DESPONDENT – very depressed
28. IMPASSE – failure to reach an agreement
29. ANACHRONISM – not in the proper time period
30. BELIE – to give a false impression
31. MITIGATE, MOLLIFY, ASSUAGE, ALLEVIATE – to ease; relieve; lessen
32. COVET – to strongly desire; to crave
33. ANTITHESIS and ANTIPODAL – direct opposite
34. PROTOTYPE – an original model
35. ALOOF – detached; reserved
36. TRITE, HACKNEYED, PEDESTRIAN, PLATITUDINOUS, BANAL – commonplace
37. ANTECEDENT and FORERUNNER – a preceding event
38. PLAUSIBLE – believable
   IMPLAUSIBLE – not believable
39. PRUDENT – careful; cautious
40. AESTHETIC – an appreciation of what is beautiful or attractive
41. PARADOX – a seeming contradiction that expresses a truth
42. ENIGMATIC and INSCRUTABLE – mysterious; baffling
43. ACQUIESCE – to comply
44. NAIÊVE and CREDULOUS – unsophisticated
45. AUTONOMOUS – independent
46. FUTILE – doomed to failure
47. INDIGENOUS and ENDEMIC – native to an area
48. UBIQUITOUS and PREVALENT – everywhere; widespread; prevalent
49. PANDEMIC – widespread epidemic
50. FORTITUDE – strength of mind

51. DIMINUTIVE – very small
52. ARCHAIC – out of date; old-fashioned
53. EXHORT – to strongly encourage
54. ANTIPATHY and ANIMOSITY – strong dislike
55. DIGRESS – to depart from a subject
56. TENACIOUS – showing great determination
57. INDULGENT – overly tolerant
58. POLARIZE and DIVISIVE – to break into opposing factions
59. NEBULOUS – vague; lacking a fully developed form
60. ANALOGY and ANALOGOUS – a similarity or likeness
61. FLEETING and EPHEMERAL – very brief; short lived
62. PENCHANT and PREDILECTION – a preference for something; an inclination
63. CAPRICIOUS and MERCURIAL – fickle; constantly shifting moods
64. BOORISH and UNCOUTH – vulgar; crude
65. INDIGNANT – outrage at something that is unjust
66. INNUENDO – a veiled reference
67. THWART and STYMIE – to stop; frustrate
68. ADROIT, DEFT, DEXTEROUS – skillful
69. ADMONISH – to earnestly caution
70. INCONTROVERTIBLE – indisputable; beyond doubt
71. VORACIOUS and RAVENOUS – a huge appetite; cannot be satisfied; insatiable
72. CALLOUS - insensitive
73. INTREPID and UNDAUNTED – fearless; courageous
74. NONCHALANT – casual indifference
75. CONVOLUTED – twisted; intricate
76. ITINERANT – mobile; not sedentary
77. POIGNANT – touching; heartrending
78. IMPETUS – a stimulus or encouragement
79. BUCOLIC, RUSTIC, PASTORAL – charmingly rural
80. EQUANIMITY – calmness; composure
81. PANACHE and VERVE – dash and flamboyant
82. PROVOCATIVE – provokes controversy
83. PLACID and SERENE – very calm; quiet
84. FORTUITOUS – an accidental but fortunate occurrence
85. DISPEL – to drive away; scatter
86. AMALGAM – a mixture; combination of different elements
87. VIABLE and FEASIBLE - possible
88. ANGUISH – agonizing physical or mental pain
89. INTEMPERATE – lacking restraint; excessive
   TEMPERATE – exercising moderation
90. SUPERFICIAL – shallow; lacking depth
91. LAUD, EXTOL, TOUT, ACCLAIM – praise; applaud
92. DISMISSIVE – to reject; disregard
93. DISPARAGE – belittle; slight
94. POMPOUS – pretentious; filled with excessive self-importance
95. CRYPTIC – mysterious; having a hidden meaning
96. SUBTLE – a gradual almost imperceptible change
97. DISPARITY – an inequality; an imbalance
98. CURTAIL – to cut short or reduce
99. INNOCUOUS - harmless
100. DIATRIBE and TIRADE – a bitter denunciation
CHAPTER 3: YOU MEET THE MOST INTERESTING PEOPLE ON THE SAT

101. CHARLATAN – a fake; a fraud; a cheat
102. SKEPTIC – a doubter
103. RHETORICIAN – an eloquent writer or speaker
104. HEDONIST – seeker of pleasure
105. ASCETIC – a person who leads a life of self-denial
106. RACONTEUR – a person who excels in telling anecdotes
107. ICONOCLAST – someone who attacks cherished ideas and institutions
108. DILETTANTE – an amateur or dabbler
109. PARTISAN – a person with biased beliefs
110. MENTOR – a teacher; a guide; an advisor
111. DEMAGOGUE – a speaker who appeals to emotions, fears or prejudices
112. AUTOMATON – a person who acts in a mechanical fashion; a mindless follower
113. RECLUSE – a person who leads a secluded, solitary life
114. BUNGLER – a clumsy or inept person
115. CLAIRVOYANT – a person who uses intuition to see into the future; a seer
116. PROGNOSTICATOR – a person who makes predictions based upon data
117. PUNDIT – a professional commentator
118. ZEALOT – a very enthusiastic person
119. NEOPHYTE, NOVICE and GREENHORN – a beginner

120. BENEFACTOR – a person who gives gifts
    BENEFICIARY – a person who receives benefits
121. DISSEMBLER and PREVARICATOR – a liar; deceiver
122. PROPONEHT and ADVOCATE – a champion of a cause
123. PRODIGY – a young genius
124. ORACLE – a person who is a source of wise counsel and prophetic advice
125. MISANTHROPE – a person who hates humankind
126. INNOVATOR – a person who introduces something new
127. SYCOHANT and OBSEQUIOUS – a person who behaves in a servile manner; a toady
128. STOIC – a person who is impassive and emotionless
129. REPROBATE – a morally unprincipled person
130. RENEGADE – a disloyal person
CHAPTER 4: EVERY SAT WORD HAS A HISTORY

131. DRACONIAN – very strict laws and rules
132. LACONIC, SUCCINCT, TERSE – very concise; brief
133. SPARTAN and AUSTERE – plain; simple
134. HALCYON – idyllically calm and tranquil
135. SOPHISTRY – a deliberately misleading argument
136. CHIMERICALLY – a fantastic scheme; unchecked imagination
137. OSTRACIZE – to deliberately exclude from a group
138. IMPECUNIOUS – poor; penniless; not affluent
139. NEFARIOUS – extremely wicked; vile
140. JOVIAL and JOCULAR – good-humored; cheerful
141. DIRGE – a funeral hymn; mournful music
142. MAUDLIN – excessively sentimental
143. QUIXOTIC – foolishly impractical
144. PANDEMONIUM – a wild uproar; tumult
145. MARTINET – a strict disciplinarian
146. FIASCO and DEBACLE – a complete failure
147. BOWDLERIZE – to remove or delete objectionable parts of a book
148. GALVANIZE – to electrify; stir into action
149. PICAYUNE – something of small value; petty; trifling
150. GERRYMANDER – to divide a district so as to give one side an advantage

151. MAVERICK – an independent person
152. JUGGERNAUT – an irresistible force
153. SERENDIPITY – an accidental but fortunate discovery
154. ZENITH and APEX – the highest point
155. NADIR – the lowest point
CHAPTER 5: THE MIGHTY PREFIXES

156. EXPUNGE, EXCISE, EXPURGATE – delete; remove
157. ECCENTRIC – an odd, unconventional person
158. EXTRICATE – to get out of a difficult situation
159. EXEMPLARY – outstanding
160. ENUMERATE – to list; to tick off
161. ELUSIVE – out of reach; difficult to catch
162. EXORBITANT – unreasonably expensive
163. REPUDIATE, RECANT, RENOUNCE – to take back; disavow
164. REDUNDANT – doing or saying something again and again
165. RELINQUISH – to give something back
166. RESILIENT – to bounce back
167. REAFFIRM – to assert again
168. RETICENT – to hold back one’s thoughts and feelings
169. REBUFF – to repel or drive back; to reject
170. RENOVATE – to make new again
171. REJUVENATE – to make young again
172. RESURGENT – to rise again; surge back
173. DELETERIOUS – harmful; injurious
174. DECRY – to express strong disapproval
175. DESPONDENT and FORLORN – feeling downcast; dejected
176. DENOUNCE – to speak against
177. DEMISE – the final ending of something; the downfall
178. DEBUNK – to put down by exposing false claims
179. DERIDE – to put down with contemptuous jeering
180. DEVOID – completely lacking in something
181. IMPECCABLE – faultless; perfect
182. IMPLACABLE – not capable of being appeased
183. INEXORABLE – relentless, unstoppable
184. INCOHERENT – lacking organization or logic
185. INSURMOUNTABLE – not capable of being overcome
186. IRREVERENT – lacking proper respect; disrespectful
187. CIRCUMSPECT and PRUDENT – cautious; careful
188. CIRCUITOUS – circular and therefore indirect
189. CIRCUMVENT – to avoid by artful maneuvering
190. CIRCUMSCRIBE – to narrowly restrict; to limit action; to draw a line around
191. MAGNANIMOUS – generous and forgiving
192. ERRONEOUS – filled with errors; wrong
193. MOMENTOUS – of great importance
194. MELLIFLUOUS – smooth and sweet flowing
195. MINUS – threatening and menacing
196. ACRIMONIOUS – great bitterness
197. COPIOUS – abundant; a great amount
198. ABSTEMIOUS – moderate in eating and drinking
199. MALODOROUS – foul smelling
200. TEDIOUS – boring and tiresome
CHAPTER 6: KEY LITERARY TERMS

201. SYNOPSIS – a brief summary
202. SIMILE – a figure of speech using like or as to compare two unlike things
203. METAPHOR – a figure of speech comparing two unlike things
204. IRONY – things are not what they are said to be or what they seem
205. SATIRE – a work that ridicules human vices and foibles
206. HYPERBOLE – an exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect
207. CARICATURE – a deliberately exaggerated portrait
208. EPIC – a long narrative poem
   SAGA – a long narrative story
209. EUPHONY – soothing, pleasant sound
   CACOPHONY – jarring, grating sound
210. FORESHADOW – suggest or indicate a future action; presage
211. SUBPLOT – a secondary plot in fiction or drama
212. MEMOIR – a personal journal
213. ANECDOTE – a short account of an interesting incident
214. EUOLOGY – a laudatory speech or written tribute
215. ALLUSION – an indirect or brief reference to a person, place or event

CHAPTER 7: SCIENCE AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

216. CATALYST – an agent that provokes or triggers a change
217. CAUSTIC – a stinging or bitter remark
218. SYNTHETIC – produced artificially
219. OSMOSIS – a gradual often unconscious process of assimilation
220. SEDENTARY – settled; not mobile
221. VIRULENT – very toxic or poisonous
222. EMPIRICAL – guided by practical experience and not theory
223. ENTOMOLOGY – the scientific study of insects
224. GESTATE – to conceive and develop in the mind
225. PARADIGM – a framework or model of thought
226. ENTREPRENEUR – a person who organizes and runs a business
227. LUCRATIVE – very profitable
228. EXTRAVAGANT – excessive
229. AVARICE – excessive greed
230. GLUT, PLETHORA, SURFEIT – a surplus
   PAUCITY – a shortage
231. DESTITUTE, IMPOVERISHED, INDIGENT
   – very poor
   AFFLUENT and OPULENT – very wealthy
232. MUNIFICENT – very generous
233. PARSIMONIOUS – excessively cheap; stingy
234. DEPRECIATION – a decrease in value
235. REMUNERATE – to compensate; a salary
236. ACCORD – a formal agreement
237. ENLIGHTEN – to illuminate
238. APPEASEMENT – to grant concessions to maintain peace
239. NULLIFY – to make null; declare invalid
240. TRIUMVIRATE – a group of three leaders
241. PRETEXT – an excuse; an alleged cause
242. WATERSHED – a critical turning point
243. CONSENSUS – a general agreement
244. AUTOCRAT and DESPOT – a ruler with unlimited power
245. MANIFESTO – a public declaration of beliefs
246. ENFRANCHISE – to receive the right to vote
   DISENFRANCHISE – to lose the right to vote
247. COERCE – to compel someone to do something
248. EGALITARIAN – belief in a society based upon equality
249. BELLIGERENT – hostile and aggressive; warlike
250. INQUISITION – a severe interrogation; a systematic questioning
251. AMELIORATE – to make better
   EXACERBATE – to make worse
252. CONTIGUOUS – sharing an edge or boundary; touching
253. DESICCATE – to thoroughly dry out; totally arid
254. PERTINENT – relevant and to the point
255. COMPLICITY – association or participation in a wrongful act

256. EXONERATE and EXCULPATE – to free from blame or guilt
257. INDISPUTABLE – not open to question; irrefutable
258. PRECEDENT – an action or decision that serves as an example
259. UNPRECEDENTED – without a previous example
260. MALFEASANCE – misconduct or wrongdoing by a public official
CHAPTER 8: WORDS WITH MULTIPLE MEANINGS

261. ARREST – to bring to a stop; halt
262. GRAVITY – a serious situation or problem
263. PRECIPITATE – a result or outcome of an action
264. RELIEF – elevation of a land surface
265. CHECK – to restrain; halt; contain
266. FLAG – to become weak; to lose interest
267. DISCRIMINATING – selective or refined taste
268. ECLIPSE – overshadow; surpass
269. COIN – to devise a new word or phrase
270. STOCK – a stereotypical or formulaic character
271. CURRENCY – general acceptance or use
272. BENT – a strong tendency; a leaning or inclination
273. COURT – to attempt to gain the favor or support of a person or group
274. NEGOTIATE – to successfully travel through, around or over an obstacle
275. TEMPER – to soften; moderate
276. PEDESTRIAN – undistinguished; ordinary; conventional
277. CAVALIER – an arrogant attitude
278. SANCTION – official approval/disapproval of an action
279. COMPROMISE – to reduce quality or value of something
280. CHANNEL – to direct along a desired course

CHAPTER 9: THE TOUGHEST WORDS – I

281. SCATHING – harshly critical
282. QUIESCENT – inactive; very quiet
283. PROVISIONAL - temporary
284. LURID – sensational; shocking
285. TRUCULENT and PUGNACIOUS – defiantly aggressive; eager to fight
286. PROPITIATE – to appease; conciliate
287. ÉLAN – great enthusiasm
288. PERFUNCTORY – performed in a mechanical, spiritless manner
289. APLOMB – admirable poise under pressure
290. OPACITY – impenetrably dense; hard to understand
291. CRAVEN - cowardly
292. VENAL – corrupt; open to bribery
293. LICENTIOUS and DISSOLUTE – immoral; debauched
294. NOXIOUS – harmful; injurious to physical, mental or moral health
295. SUPERFLUOUS and EXTRANEOUS – unnecessary; extra
296. DUPLICITOUS – deliberate deceptiveness
297. PROFLIGATE – very wasteful, especially of time and money
298. EPIPHANY – a sudden realization
299. INSIDIOUS – causing harm in a subtle or stealthy manner; devious
300. VACUOUS – empty; lacking serious purpose
301. HARBINGER, PORTENT, PRESAGE – an omen that something will happen
302. BELEAGUER – to be beset with problems
303. BURGEON – to rapidly grow and expand
304. IMPERIOUS – domineering and arrogant
305. PETULANT – peevish; irritable
306. COMPLAISANT – agreeable; amiable
307. FAWN – to behave in a servile manner; subservient
308. OBDOURATE and INTRACTABLE – very stubborn; unyielding
309. REDOLENT – exuding fragrance
310. CHICANERY – deception by artful subterfuge; deliberate trickery
311. CONUNDRUM – a difficult problem; a dilemma with no easy solution
312. SLIGHT – a disrespectful or disparaging remark; a put down
313. CAPITULATE – to surrender; comply without protest
314. DISHEARTENING – very discouraged
315. APOCRYPHAL – of questionable authenticity
316. MAGISTERIAL – learned and authoritative
317. PLASTICITY, MALLEABLE, PLIABLE – can be molded into any shape
318. CHAGRIN – feeling of distress caused by humiliation or embarrassment
319. OBSTREPEROUS – nosily and stubbornly defiant; boisterous

320. IDYLLIC – charmingly simple and carefree
321. DILAPIDATED – broken-down; in deplorable condition
322. EXTEMPORIZE and IMPROVISE – to speak without notes
323. MYRIAD – many; numerous
324. UNGAINLY – awkward; clumsy
325. DILATORY – habitually late; tardy
326. VITUPERATIVE – bitter criticism
327. DISCORDANT – a note of disharmony
328. PERFIDIOUS – treacherous; traitorous
329. SUPINE – lying on one’s back
330. INDOMITABLE and RESOLUTE – very determined
331. MORIBUND – approaching death
332. NUANCE – a slight degree of difference
333. FLIPPANT – treating serious matters lightly
334. CREDULOUS – easily convinced; gullible
335. FLORID – very flowery; excessively ornate
336. EXCORIATE and LAMBASTE – to express strong disapproval
337. INTERLOPER – an intruder; a gatecrasher
338. CEREBRAL – intellectual rather than emotional
339. NONPLussed – completely puzzled
340. FLAMBOYANT – showy
CHAPTER 10: THE TOUGHEST WORDS — II

341. IDIOSYNCRASIES — a trait or mannerism peculiar to an individual
342. CENSORIOUS — highly critical
343. CONSTERNATION — a state of great dismay and confusion
344. DIDACTIC and EDIFY — intended to provide instruction
345. ELUCIDATE — to make clear or plain
346. EFFUSIVE — unrestrained praise
347. PROLIFIC — very productive
348. FUROR — a general commotion; an uproar
349. PARANOIA — irrational fear
350. MARGINAL — of secondary importance; not central
351. OBFUSCATE — to deliberately confuse
352. FLUMMOX — to confuse; perplex
353. SPATE — a large number or amount
354. INEFFABLE — a feeling that cannot be put into words
355. HISTRIONIC — excessively dramatic
356. PLACATE — to soothe or calm
357. ESCHEW — to avoid
358. STOPGAP — a temporary solution
359. FLOTSAM — floating wreckage; debris
360. RESTITUTION — compensating for a loss
361. CHURLISH, SULLEN, SURLY — ill-tempered; rude

362. DISQUIETING — disturbing; upsetting
363. ORNATE — characterized by elaborate and expensive decorations; lavish
364. EXECRABLE, ODIOUS, REPUGNANT — detestable and repulsive
365. PERSPICACIOUS, PRECIENT, DISCERNING — very insightful
366. ECLECTIC — using a variety of sources
367. HIATUS — an interruption in time or continuity; a break
368. VERTIGINOUS — dizziness
369. ESOTERIC and ARCANE — obscure information known by a few people
370. SUPERcilious — haughty and arrogant
371. CUPIDITY — excessive greed
372. UNDERWRITE — to assume financial responsibility for a project
373. DISCOMFITED — to make uneasy; state of embarrassment
374. TACITURN — habitually quiet
375. SINECURE — a job that provides income but requires little work
376. LUGUBRIous — sad and mournful music
377. COSMOPOLITAN — worldly; sophisticated
   PROVINCIAL, PAROCHIAL, INSULAR — isolated from the mainstream
378. FECUND — intellectually productive or inventive
379. OSTENTATIOUS — showy
380. GUILE — treacherous cunning; skillful deceit
Fast Review

381. SANGUINE – cheerfully confident; optimistic
382. SCINTILLATING – sparkling; shining
383. PRISTINE – pure and uncorrupted
384. RAMPANT – unrestrained; unchecked
385. PERNICIOUS – highly injurious; destructive
386. OBLIVIOUS - unaware
387. REFRACTORY – obstinately resistant to authority or control
388. GARRULOUS, VERBOSE, LOQUACIOUS – very talkative
389. CONVIVIAL – fond of feasting, drinking and good company
390. BRUSQUE and CURT – abrupt; discourteously blunt
391. TEPIID – lukewarm; mild
392. PROTEAN – taking on many shapes and forms
393. SOLICITOUS – showing great care; attentive
394. DISINGENUOUS – not candid; insincere
395. VENERATE and REVERE – to greatly respect
396. CONTENTIOUS – argumentative; disputatious
397. PRECLUDE – to make impossible; to rule out
398. COMPUNCTION, CONTRITION, REMORSE – sincere and deep regret
399. DEMOGRAPHY – the study of the characteristics of human populations
400. AXIOM – a statement universally excepted as true; a maxim

Good Luck!