Preparing for the SAT need not be a PERNOCUTENOUS task marked by PORTENTOUS or OBSCURITY questions. Don’t ignore Benjamin Franklin’s Axiom: “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”

In the latest edition of Direct Hits Toughest Vocabulary for the SAT, you will meet Mark Zuckerberg, the ENTREPRENEUR who founded Facebook, Britain’s complaining but YACIOUS chancellor, on Glee and Paul Di, the Jersey Shore star whose DODGYGRASIS include using PRODIGIOUS amounts of hair gel to sculpt his signature blowout style.

The second volume of the ACCLAIMED Direct Hits series rounds out the words you absolutely have to know with some of the most challenging vocabulary on the SAT.
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INTRODUCTION

Why is a superior vocabulary important, you ask?

Words are our tools for learning and communicating. A proficient and robust vocabulary is critical to your success in school, business, the professions, and particularly, on the PSAT and SAT. Yet most students agree that memorizing long lists of seemingly random words is a tedious chore.

Like its companion book Volume 1, Direct Hits Toughest Vocabulary of the SAT Volume 2 offers a different approach. Each word is illustrated through relevant examples from popular movies, television, literature, music, historical events, and current headlines. Students can place the words in a context they can easily understand and remember.

While Volume 1 covers the core SAT vocabulary, this book tackles 215 of the SAT’s most challenging words, that often appear in Level 4 and Level 5 questions.

We begin with 62 essential academic terms taken from the disciplines of science, literature, and the social sciences—all words that appear in your textbooks and on the SAT.

Our next chapter defines 22 words that look familiar but actually have multiple meanings. These everyday words such as FLAG, CHECK, and COIN have surprising secondary meanings that can trick unsuspecting students. A high score can depend on your knowing the alternate definitions.

Finally, we take on the SAT’s toughest words. Their meanings can be nuanced in such a way as to elude all but the most diligent (persistent) students. Without a precise understanding of their definitions, many students will miss the subtle differences between the answer choices.

Building on the success of previous editions, the authors of Direct Hits Toughest Vocabulary of the SAT consulted secondary school teachers, tutors, parents, and students from around the world to ensure that these words and illustrations are exactly on target to further prepare you for success on the SAT.
Rhetorical/Literary Terms

Rhetic is the art of using words effectively in both speaking and writing, often in order to influence or persuade others. It is a term often used to describe the art of prose composition, and under its umbrella are many figures of speech.

You might think that Literary terms such as Metaphor, Anecdote, and Allusion are only useful in English class. NOT so. Rhetorical and literary terms show up in many places, even in our everyday lives. In this chapter we explore 15 terms that have frequently turned up on PSAT, SAT, and AP tests. Recognizing them will result in higher scores, but even better, using a variety of rhetorical devices can enhance your writing and speaking and result in richer, more powerful, more effective expression.
229 | PERSONIFICATION

A figure of speech in which an inanimate object is given human qualities or abilities

PERSONIFICATION is often used in literary works to enhance the mood or power of an image. In “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” Wordsworth describes a “host of golden daffodils” on the hillside beside the lake, giving them human actions and emotions with which he can identify:

“The waves beside them danced; but they
Outdid the sparkling waves in glee.”

Advertising slogans also utilize PERSONIFICATION. Goldfish crackers are “the snack that smiles back.”

230 | PARALLELISM/PARALLEL STRUCTURE

A rhetorical device or SYNTACTICAL (relating to sentence structure) construction which involves using matching grammatical patterns to establish the equivalent relationship or importance of two or more items. PARALLELISM provides balance and authority to sentences.

Here is an illustration of a sentence where PARALLEL STRUCTURE is used in two places:

<table>
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<th>PARALLEL STRUCTURE</th>
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<td>“Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.”</td>
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More examples are:

“Shane was torn between achieving his goal of forgetting his past and starting a new life or saving his friends in the valley.”
Note that both ideas are expressed with the “-ing” form of the verbs.

“Lies are usually told to protect the teller and to deceive the listener.” Note the repetition of the “to” in the infinitive form of the parallel ideas.

Charles Dickens’s novels are full of rich parallelism. Here is one example from the novel Great Expectations, with part of the young boy Pip’s description of the “fearful man” he has encountered:

“A man with no hat, and with broken shoes, and with an old rag tied round his head. A man who had been soaked in water, and smothered in mud, and lamed by stones, and cut by flints, and stung by nettles, and torn by briars; who limped, and shivered, and glared and growled; and whose teeth chattered in his head as he seized me by the chin.”

231 | Irony

Literary irony: A figure of speech in which what we say or write conveys the opposite of its literal meaning; situational irony: incongruity between the actual result of a sequence of events and the normal or expected result.

Irony involves the perception that things are not what they are said to be or what they seem.

Here are some examples of irony:

In Star Wars, Han Solo tells Jabba the Hutt, “Jabba, you’re a wonderful human being.” Jabba is, in fact, neither wonderful nor a human being!

In Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar, Marc Antony gives a famous ironic speech in which he repeats “And Brutus is an honorable man,” when Brutus has just killed Julius Caesar and is not honorable at all!

In Sophocles’ Oedipus Rex it is ironic that Oedipus thinks he is the detective in finding out who killed his predecessor, when he is actually, ironically, the murderer.

For situational irony: In 1912 the Titanic was proclaimed to be “100 percent unsinkable,” yet it sank on its maiden voyage.
An important note: Alanis Morissette’s song “Ironic” is actually devoid of true examples of **IRONY**; they are just unfortunate situations. That, in and of itself, is **IRONIC**!

**SYNOPSIS**

A brief summary of the major points of a thesis, theory, story or literary work; an abstract; a **PRÉCIS**

Has you ever been asked to summarize a movie, television show, or a YouTube clip? If so, you would have provided that person with a **SYNOPSIS** or brief summary. Here is a **SYNOPSIS** of the movie *The Hangover*: Three groomsmen inexplicably lose their soon-to-be-married buddy during a wild bachelor party in Las Vegas and must try to find him by following strange clues that include a tiger, a missing tooth, and a six-month-old baby. The sequel, *The Hangover Part II*, has a similar **SYNOPSIS**. The four men wake up after a wild night in Bangkok and must piece together what happened to them while they also search for a missing member of the wedding party. Will the much-anticipated third film have a similar **SYNOPSIS**? We will have to wait until 2013 to find out!

**SATIRE, LAMPOON, PARODY**

A work that ridicules human vices, follies, and **FOIBLES**; comic criticism. **Note that LAMPOON and PARODY are often used as verbs meaning to ridicule.**

The ancient Greek playwright Aristophanes mastered the art of using **SATIRE** to mock public figures. In his play *The Clouds*, Aristophanes **LAMPOONS** Socrates as an **ABSTRUSE** (very abstract, hard to understand) philosopher who operates a “Thinking Shop.” Perched in a basket suspended from the ceiling, Socrates teaches his students how to prove anything, even if it is false.

Many centuries later, *Saturday Night Live* is still using **SATIRE** to mock public figures and expose their **FOIBLES** (minor weaknesses or failings of character). **SNL skits frequently are PARODIES of political**
speeches and debates, meant to **SATIRIZE** political figures. The *SNL* cast members are famous for their **PARODIES** of celebrities. Tina Fey **SATIRIZED** Sarah Palin, Andy Samberg often **LAMPOONED** actor Nicholas Cage, and Will Ferrell played Alex Trebek in *SNL's* *Celebrity Jeopardy* **PARODIES**.

### 234 HYPERBOLE

*A figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect; extreme exaggeration*

Have you ever exaggerated something to make a point? We all do, often for comic effect. In show business these exaggerations are called hype. In literature and daily life they are called **HYPERBOLES**. Here are some commonly used **HYPERBOLES**:

“*I’m so tired I could sleep for a year.*”

“*I’m so hungry I could eat a horse.*”

“*This book weighs a ton.*”

From poetry:

“*I’ll love you, dear, I’ll love you*  
*Till China and Africa meet,*  
*And the river jumps over the mountain*  
*And the salmon sing in the street,*  
*I’ll love you till the ocean*  
*Is folded and hung up to dry*  
*And the seven stars go squawking*  
*Like geese about the sky*”

From “As I Walked Out One Evening” by W. H. Auden

From literature:

“A day was twenty-four hours long but seemed longer. There was no hurry, for there was nowhere to go, nothing to buy and no money to buy it with, nothing to see outside the boundaries of Maycomb County.”

*From *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee*
Learning new vocabulary words is a challenge when a word has a single meaning. Many students are surprised to discover that there are words that have multiple meanings. For example, everyone knows that a flag is a rectangular piece of fabric with a distinctive design that is used to symbolize a nation. But FLAG can also mean to lose energy or interest.

SAT test writers have long been aware of words with multiple meanings. Students who know only one of the meanings often eliminate the word and miss the question. In fact, words like FLAG and CHECK are among the most-missed words on the SAT.

This chapter will examine and illustrate 22 commonly-used words with multiple meanings. Our focus will be on these words’ secondary definitions, the ones SAT test writers use to test your knowledge. So be prepared to learn that everyday words like CHECK, COIN, and even PEDESTRIAN have less commonly-used secondary meanings.
288 | ARREST

*To bring to a stop; to halt*

What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word *ARREST*? For most, *ARREST* probably calls to mind a police officer and handcuffs. *ARREST* does mean to seize and hold under the authority of the law.

The word *ARREST* has other meanings. SAT test writers will use *ARREST* to mean to bring to a stop or halt. Environmentalists, for example, hope to *ARREST* the growth of carbon dioxide emissions in the Earth’s atmosphere. One way to remember this use of *ARREST* is to think of a cardiac *ARREST*. This condition takes place when there is an abrupt stoppage of normal blood circulation due to heart failure.

289 | GRAVITY

*Serenousness; dignity; solemnity; weight*

Everyone has heard the expression, “What goes up must come down.” This saying is true because of the law of *GRAVITY*. In physics, *GRAVITY* refers to the natural force of attraction exerted by a celestial body.

On October 22, 1962, President Kennedy informed a stunned nation that the Soviet Union had *SURREPTITIOUSLY* (Word 17) placed intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Cuba. The President underscored the *GRAVITY* of the crisis when he ordered a naval blockade of Cuba and sternly warned that the United States would react to any missile launched from Cuba with a “full retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union.”

290 | PRECIPITATE

*To cause, to bring about prematurely, hastily, or suddenly; IMPULSIVE*

Most people associate the word *PRECIPITATION* with rain, snow, or sleet. However, *PRECIPITATE* can also refer to a result or outcome of an action. Test writers often use *PRECIPITATE* on AP US History questions,
as when the discovery of Soviet missiles in Cuba precipitated the Cuban Missile Crisis.

In chemistry, a precipitate is a substance that separates out of a solution or a result of a chemical reaction.

291 | RELIEF

_Elevation of a land surface_

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word relief? In everyday usage, relief most commonly refers to the feeling of ease when a burden has been removed or lightened. For example, in baseball a relief pitcher eases the burden of the starting pitcher.

However, relief can also be used as a geographic term that refers to the elevation of a land surface. For example, relief maps of the United States rise at the Appalachian Mountains in the East and at the Rocky Mountains in the West.

292 | CHECK

_To restrain; halt; hold back; contain_

We are all familiar with the word check. We earn checks, cash checks, and check our work on math problems. Airline passengers check in at the ticket counter, and hotel guests check in at the registration counter. SAT test writers know that you are familiar with these everyday uses of the word check.

But the word check can also mean to restrain, halt, or hold back. For example, our Constitution calls for a system of checks and balances to restrain each branch of government. During the Cold War, the U.S. policy of containment was designed to check the expansion of Soviet power and influence. And hockey and lacrosse fans know that a check is when one player blocks or impedes the movement of an opponent.
Quick Definitions

Volume 2 contains 215 words, each of which is illustrated with vivid pop culture, historic, and literary examples. The Fast Review is designed to provide you with an easy and efficient way to review each of these words. We recommend that you put a check beside each word that you know. That way you can quickly identify the words you are having trouble remembering. Focus on each hard-to-remember word by going over its definition, reviewing its examples, and trying to come up with your own memory tip.

Good luck with your review. Don’t expect to learn all of these words at once. Frequent repetition is the best way to learn and remember new words.
CHAPTER 7: RHETORICAL/LITERARY TERMS

226. FIGURATIVE/METAPHORICAL LANGUAGE—A general term referring to language that describes a thing in terms of something else. The resemblance is FIGURATIVE, not LITERAL, as the reader is carried beyond the LITERAL meaning to consider the NUANCES and connotations of the words used in the comparison.

227. SIMILE—An EXPLICIT (clearly stated) figure of speech that is a comparison between two essentially unlike things, usually using the words “like” or “as,” which points out a FIGURATIVE way that the two things ARE alike.

228. METAPHOR—In its more narrow sense, a figure of speech in which one thing is described in terms of another using an IMPLICIT or implied comparison, without the use of “like” or “as.”

229. PERSONIFICATION—A figure of speech in which an inanimate object is given human qualities or abilities

230. PARALLELISM/PARALLEL STRUCTURE—A rhetorical device or SYNTACTICAL (relating to sentence structure) construction which involves using matching grammatical patterns to establish the equivalent relationship or importance of two or more items. PARALLELISM provides balance and authority to sentences.

231. IRONY—Literary IRONY: A figure of speech in which what we say or write conveys the opposite of its literal meaning; Situational IRONY: Incongruity between the actual result of a sequence of events and the normal or expected result.

232. SYNOPSIS—A brief summary of the major points of a thesis, theory, story or literary work; an abstract; a PRÉCIS

233. SATIRE, LAMPOON, PARODY—A work that ridicules human vices, follies, and FOIBLES; comic criticism. Note that LAMPOON and PARODY are often used as verbs meaning to ridicule.

234. HYPERBOLE—A figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect; extreme exaggeration

235. CARICATURE—Visual art or descriptive writing that deliberately exaggerates distinctive features or peculiarities of a subject for comic or absurd effect
Each SAT contains 19 sentence completion questions and 7-8 vocabulary-in-context questions about the reading passages. These vocabulary-based questions determine 30-40 percent of your critical reading score.

Each sentence completion will always have a key word or phrase that will lead you to the correct answer. The following 35 questions are designed to give you practice using your knowledge of the toughest vocabulary in Volume 2. You’ll find the answers and explanations on pages 132–136.
In the movie *300*, director Zack Snyder compares Sparta to a lonely citadel of freedom valiantly holding out against the tyrant Xerxes and his vast horde of Persian soldiers. This heroic image of indomitable Spartans determined to fight to the death remains dominant in popular culture. Without slighting Sparta’s contribution to the defense of ancient Greece, it is important to remember that it was the Athenians who sacrificed their city and then defeated the Persian fleet at the watershed battle of Platea.

1. The author suggests that the “lonely citadel of freedom” (line 2) is best understood as

   A. an anecdote relaying an important message
   B. an unflattering flashback
   C. a vivid metaphor for heroic resistance
   D. a satirical commentary on Spartan bravery
   E. an uninspired simile

Mr. Williams praised Alex’s short story for its descriptive vocabulary and impressive use of metaphorical language. However, as an honest and incisive critic, Mr. Williams admonished Alex for failing to explore the relationship between the literal meaning of what his protagonist said and what he really implied.

2. Mr. Williams criticized Alex’s short story for its

   A. outstanding use of metaphors and similes
   B. magisterial tone
   C. incoherent structure
   D. lack of dramatic irony
   E. unrealistic hyperboles

A stunning lack of attention to plot and dialogue are by far the most egregious flaws that plague a movie that should never have been filmed, let alone released.

3. The tone of this sentence is best described as

   A. scathing
   B. tempered
   C. archaic
   D. convivial
   E. ambiguous

As a dedicated reformer, I.N. Stokes fought against dumbbell tenements, calling them “dirty, overcrowded, degraded places run by exploitive landlords.” Stokes’ housing reform efforts culminated when, serving on the New York State Tenement House Commission, he co-authored the Tenement House Law of 1901, which required tenements to have a host of new features, including deep backyards, larger rooms, and broad side-courts.
4. I.N. Stokes's attitude toward dumbbell apartments is best described as
   A enlightened advocacy
   B resolute opposition
   C paralyzing ambivalence
   D tempered acquiescence
   E nostalgic reminiscence

At that time, I was a traveling reporter assigned to Frederickson's Senate campaign. As the days turned into weeks, I heard his basic stump speech dozens of times. I soon became bored as Frederickson endlessly repeated clichés and slogans about standing up to the Russians, cutting government waste, and building a new and better America.

5. The author believed that Frederickson's speeches were
   A scintillating
   B divisive
   C truculent
   D supercilious
   E trite

6. The new labor contract was reached by ________ and compromise, not by force and ________.
   A allusion .. hyperbole
   B malfeasance .. manifesto
   C avarice .. disenfranchisement
   D consensus .. coercion
   E osmosis .. appeasement

7. The forceful personality and generous patronage of Pope Julius II acted as ________, triggering an outpouring of artistic creativity now known as the High Renaissance.
   A a pretext
   B a metaphor
   C a catalyst
   D an allusion
   E an accord

8. Approved in 1920, the 19th Amendment ________ millions of American women who had been denied the right to vote since the ratification of the Constitution in 1789.
   A enfranchised
   B depreciated
   C remunerated
   D enlightened
   E nullified