SAT Vocabulary Lesson

1. **irrefutable** adj. cannot be disproved.
   - Technological advances have forced us to question theories that were once thought to be *irrefutable*.
   - The prosecutor shook the defense with the *irrefutable* argument that three people witnessed the murder and could identify the killer.
   - People of faith see *irrefutable* proof of the hand of God in human destiny.

2. **irrelevant** adj. not to the point; not relating to the subject.
   - The judge instructed the jury to ignore the *irrelevant* testimony.
   - Beth’s opinion of the dress is *irrelevant*, considering her obvious poor taste.
   - Her writing suffers from an emphasis on *irrelevant* details.

3. **jargon** n. the specialized vocabulary of members of a group.
   - The club members adopted a *jargon* that made them feel exclusive.
   - The *jargon* of sports writers is bright, sharp, and exciting.
   - Martin likes to use the *jargon* of the ignorant street hood, but in reality he is a clever and capable conversationalist.

4. **judicious** adj. wise; careful; showing sound judgment, prudent.
   - Gary thought it more *judicious* to speak to his mother rather than his father about extending his curfew time.
   - A *judicious* approach to the use of drugs would weigh the long-term risks against the fleeting pleasure of the moment.
   - A *judicious* investment he made when the children were toddlers now provided for their college tuition.

5. **kindle** v. to ignite; to catch fire.
   - With the wind blowing so furiously, Ted found it difficult to *kindle* a fire.
   - Mr. Danby managed to *kindle* student interest in independent reading by providing class time, a variety of books, and awards as incentives.
   - Whenever Mrs. Gladstone heard another story about her grandson, a warm glow would *kindle* her gentle face.

6. **labyrinth** n. a maze; a complicated, perplexing arrangement or course of affairs.
   - Once inside the cave, the searchers were confronted with a *labyrinth* that defied them to find the route to the wounded explorer.
   - Greg decided against majoring in philosophy, finding it a *labyrinth* which would only confuse him.
   - After leading the class through a *labyrinth* of hypotheses, Professor Lander emerged with a crystal-clear explanation.

7. **lackluster** adj. lacking brightness; dull.
   - His *lackluster* response to our suggestions made us lose our initial enthusiasm.
   - After a *lackluster* road trip, the team caught on fire when they returned to the home field.
   - The *lackluster* applause indicated to the comedian that he was no Bob Hope.

8. **laconic** adj. brief or terse in speech; using few words.
   - The tense situation called for a *laconic* reply, not a lengthy exposition.
   - Harriet’s *laconic* speech gave her a reputation for wisdom.
   - If Marla were as frugal with her money as she is *laconic* with her words, she would be a rich woman today.

9. **lampoon** v. to satirize in writing  n. strong, satirical writing, usually attacking or ridiculing someone.
   - Tim found it easy to *lampoon* his classmates but hard to find a friend.
   - The college quarterly featured a *lampoon* of fraternity hazing.
   - To *lampoon* teachers has become the favorite pastime of the failing student.

10. **lassitude** n. state or feeling of being tired and listless; weariness.
    - *Lassitude* comes from a feeling of hopelessness.
    - Because of the depression over his injury, Ronald lapsed into a state of *lassitude*.
    - The long flight and the jet lag brought on a *lassitude* of several days duration.

**SPOTLIGHT ON**

**jargon** One meaning of *jargon* is akin to “slang.” Which usually starts out as sub-standard usage but may in time be upgraded to acceptability. Jargon is also related to dialect, which is the language that is peculiar to a particular region or group and does not have a derogatory connotation.

**labyrinth** The In Greek mythology, Daedalus built and intricate network of winding passages within a cave to house the minotaur, a creature that was half-man half-bull. King Minos of Crete had to feed seven youths and seven maidens annually to this monster until Theseus finally slew him and escaped from the labyrinth with the help of Ariadne, the king’s daughter.

1. latent adj. present but invisible or inactive; lying hidden and undeveloped
   - The appearance of the famous actor at the school awakened Lisa’s latent interest in a stage career.
   - AIDS researchers have discovered there is a latent period for the disease during which time tests would not give an indication of the presence of the virus.
   - Marilyn’s latent charm came to the fore after she got a few tactful pointers from her sister.

2. laudable adj. worthy of praise.
   - Despite the pressure of coping with a hostile crowd, Mark made a laudable showing in his relief effort on the mound.
   - Admitting his error in misjudging the new employee was a laudable act on Mr. Brinkley’s part.
   - The board rewarded Ellen’s laudable achievements by promoting her to chief executive officer.

3. lethargic adj. drowsy; dull; sluggish; indifferent.
   - Eating a heavy meal tends to make me lethargic, which may explain why I become a couch potato after a big dinner.
   - The strain of working long hours an a labyrinth of problems had a lethargic effect on the young scientist.
   - The debilitating illness left Paul in a lethargic state.

4. levity n. lightness; lack of seriousness; fickleness.
   - Brad’s levity contrasted sharply with his roommate’s solemnity.
   - There’s nothing like a little judicious levity to ease the strain after tense negotiations.
   - Such levity is improper on this serious occasion.

5. listless adj. indifferent; marked by a lack of energy or enthusiasm.
   - We had expected him to be full of enthusiasm and were surprised by his listless attitude.
   - Mark’s friends tried to rouse him from his listless frame of mind.
   - The counselor attributed Penny’s listless and lackluster performance in school to the illness of her mother.

6. lucid adj. easily understood; rational; clear; clear-minded.
   - The lecturer’s lucid explanation left no question unanswered.
   - After a few moments of unintelligible ravings, Mr. Turner became lucid again.
   - Laconic speech is not necessarily less lucid than lengthy discourse.

7. malicious adj. spiteful; intentionally mischievous or harmful.
   - The malicious behavior of the accused brought a stern reprimand from the judge, who then imposed the maximum.
   - The widespread and pointless destruction in the house left no doubt as to the malicious intent of the burglar.
   - The malicious con man led the widow through a labyrinth of schemes to deprive her of her fortune.

8. marred adj. injured; spoiled; damaged; disfigured.
   - The flight in the corridor marred Lorna’s otherwise perfect record as a model student.
   - The beauty of the graceful statue was marred by the incongruous graffiti scrawled over it.
   - Marlo thought her freckles marred her appearance, but her family assured her they were among her best features.

9. meager adj. thin; lean; of poor quality or small amount.
   - The visiting team lampooned the meager dinner served by their hosts.
   - The survivors of the shipwreck clung to the desperate hope that their meager rations would last till they were rescued.
   - Israel, with its meager resources, has tapped the skills and intelligence of its people to build a viable economy.

10. meandering adj. winding back and forth; rambling.
    - We spent a pleasant afternoon sailing on the meandering stream.
    - Dr. Feller had a habit of meandering from one subject to another until his conversation became totally irrelevant.
    - Meandering through the crowded streets of a foreign city is my idea of a tourist’s delight.

SPOTLIGHT ON

latent Though at first glance latent may appear to be related to late, the two words do not have a common origin. The former is derived from a Latin root meaning “hidden,” while the latter comes from and Old English word meaning “slow” or “tardy.”

lethargic In Greek mythology, Lethe was the river of forgetfulness. Drinking its waters produced loss of memory and a condition of apathy and laziness that we associate with lethargy.

Matching

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. irrefutable</td>
<td>a) spiritless</td>
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<td>2. irrelevant</td>
<td>b) satire</td>
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<td>3. jargon</td>
<td>c) prudent</td>
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<td>4. judicious</td>
<td>d) official</td>
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<td>5. kindle</td>
<td>e) unquestionable</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. labyrinth</td>
<td>f) intricacy</td>
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<td>7. lackluster</td>
<td>g) specialized vocabulary</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. laconic</td>
<td>h) concise</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. lampoon</td>
<td>i) inapplicable</td>
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<td>10. lassitude</td>
<td>j) sluggishness</td>
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Fill in the blank

1. A simple no is the most __________________________ negative response I can give.

2. Though the ____________________________ aimed some vicious barbs at him, Fred tried to retain his sense of dignity.

3. He will __________________________ their hopes of victory with his rousing speech.

4. As the pendulum swung back and forth, a general __________________________ overcame those who had volunteered to be hypnotized.

5. We were duly impressed with Miranda’s __________________________ logic.

6. Computerese, pedagogese and Pidgin English are examples of __________________________.

7. The brain is a __________________________ with unfathomable secrets.

8. You can discount most of Lynn’s remarks as __________________________.

9. The coach’s halftime pep talk jolted the team out of its __________________________ attitude.

10. A __________________________ compromise may be preferable to a hollow victory.

True or False

Based upon the way the new words are used, identify the following sentences as T (True) or F (False).

1. ____ Calvin’s frequent use of electronics jargon made his meaning unmistakably clear to the audience.

2. ____ The candidate’s former position as a union official was entirely irrelevant to his electability in the blue collar district.

3. ____ Henry’s lackluster performance in the preliminaries eliminated him from the competition.

4. ____ The lampoon of the university president in the student newspaper was a grievous error.

5. ____ Overcome by a feeling of lassitude, Brent charged through the defense and scored a touchdown.
Lesson 20  Name____________________________ period___________

Matching

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<td>10. meandering</td>
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Fill in the blank
1. The lingering flu left her so _______________ she didn’t even want to leave her bedroom.
2. The club’s _______________ efforts to collect donations for the Haitian refugees was reported in the newspaper.
3. Rose spread the _______________ rumor knowing it would get back to her victim.
4. After a concussion it is critical to ask the victim questions to see if they can give a _______________ answer.
5. When Samson landed the part in the musical, we were surprised and impressed with his _______________ musical talent.
6. We followed the _______________ pathway that wound among the redwoods.
7. She couldn’t afford real antiques, so Susie _______________ the surface with a heavy chain for a distressed look.
8. Mrs. H. took herself so seriously that Mr. H. had to tease her just to add some _______________ to her life.
9. Warm summer afternoons remind me of _______________ days at the beach doing nothing but soaking up the sun.
10. His _______________ savings was not enough to buy the diamond bracelet, so he gave her a single red rose.

True or False
Based upon the way the new words are used, identify the following sentences as T (True) or F (False).
1. _____ He was condemned in the press for his laudable contributions to the campaign.
2. _____ The jury appreciated the lucid presentation of the facts by the prosecuting attorney.
3. _____ The child prodigy’s latent musical talent was obvious from the time he first touched a piano.
4. _____ The listless linoleum layers quickly and efficiently lay the linoleum samples in a line despite the lack of an itemized agenda.
5. _____ When he saw the meager contents of the refrigerator Horatio realized it was time to go shopping.