



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Attitude & Behavior

48 focused words in Attitude & Behavior

48

UNIQUE WORDS

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CATEGORIES

SAT

EXAM FOCUS



About this study guide

This vocabulary guide was prepared and published by Test Ninjas as an independent study resource. It is designed to help students build the precise word knowledge needed for demanding academic reading and reasoning.

How to use this guide

Study in short, repeated sessions. Read each definition, say the word aloud, and use the example to understand how the word functions in context. Return to unfamiliar words until you can explain them without looking at the definition.

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001 aggressive *adjective***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

ready to attack or confront; forceful in pursuit of goals

The company adopted an **aggressive** marketing strategy to gain market share, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: An aggressive ram charges first, ready to attack or push forcefully toward its goal.

002 careful *adjective***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

taking caution to avoid mistakes or danger

Be **careful** when handling the fragile glassware, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: Carry a full glass without spilling it: being careful means watching for mistakes and danger.

003 carelessly *adverb***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

without proper attention or caution

She **carelessly** left her keys on the restaurant table, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: Looking away while carrying a full glass makes it spill; that is acting carelessly.

004 committed *adjective***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

dedicated to a cause or activity

She is **committed** to improving education in underserved communities, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: A committed climber anchors the rope to the goal and refuses to abandon it.

005 cordially *adverb***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

in a warm and friendly manner

You are **cordially** invited to attend the annual gala, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: A cordial greeting combines a warm smile, an open door, and a friendly handshake.

006 discretion *noun***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

the quality of behaving in a way that avoids causing offense; freedom to decide

The matter was handled with the utmost **discretion** to protect everyone's privacy, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: Discretion quietly chooses considerate words; it can also hold the key to a personal decision.

007 **earnest** *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

sincere and serious in intention; showing deep conviction

His **earnest** apology convinced her that he truly regretted his actions, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: An earnest promise joins a serious face to a sincere heart.

008 **gentle** *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

mild, soft, or kind in manner or action; not harsh or severe

The **gentle** breeze carried the scent of blooming flowers, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: A gentle hand holds a butterfly softly rather than squeezing it.

009 **habitual** *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

done regularly or as a habit; customary

His **habitual** morning routine included a five-mile run, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: A habitual action follows the same worn path every day.

010 **harsh** *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

unpleasantly rough or severe; cruel or unkind

The **harsh** winter conditions forced many animals to migrate south, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: Harsh sandpaper feels rough; harsh treatment feels severe and unkind.

011 **individualistic** *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

characterized by independence and self-reliance; favoring individual freedom

The artist had an **individualistic** style that set her apart from her peers, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: An individualistic figure cuts its group strings and chooses a self-reliant path.

012 **indulge** *verb*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

to allow oneself to enjoy a pleasure; to satisfy a desire

On weekends, she likes to **indulge** in her favorite desserts, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: To indulge is to open the pleasure box and allow yourself the desired treat.

013 misanthropic *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

having or showing a dislike or distrust of other people

The **misanthropic** hermit avoided all contact with his neighbors, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: A misanthropic figure locks the gate against people because of deep dislike or distrust.

014 moderation *noun*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

the avoidance of excess or extremes; restraint

Eating sweets in **moderation** is acceptable as part of a balanced diet, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: Moderation keeps the level between TOO MUCH and TOO LITTLE.

015 mother *noun*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

a female parent; to care for or protect like a mother

His **mother** taught him the importance of honesty and hard work, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: A mother is a female parent; to mother is to wrap someone in parental care.

016 neglect *verb*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

to fail to care for properly; to disregard or ignore

Parents should never **neglect** their children's emotional needs, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: A dusty, wilted plant shows what happens when someone neglects proper care.

017 neglected *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

not receiving proper attention or care; ignored

The **neglected** garden was overgrown with weeds and dead plants, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: Cobwebs and dry soil show that the plant was neglected and ignored.

018 neglects *verb*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

fails to give proper attention or care to something

The report **neglects** to mention several important factors, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: Whoever neglects a duty walks past its warning light without giving it care.

019 offhand *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

without previous thought or preparation; casual

His **offhand** comment unintentionally hurt her feelings, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: An offhand remark jumps out before the planning clock has even started.

020 outgoing *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

friendly and socially confident; leaving a position

Her **outgoing** personality made her popular at social gatherings, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: An outgoing person walks toward the crowd; an outgoing official walks toward the exit.

021 pragmatic *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

dealing with things in a practical rather than theoretical way

She took a **pragmatic** approach to solving the budget problems, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: A pragmatic thinker chooses the sturdy working bridge, not the beautiful bridge that exists only on paper.

022 prudently *adverb*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

in a way that shows care and thought for the future

She **prudently** saved money each month for emergencies, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: Act prudently by checking the road ahead before taking a careful step.

023 reciprocate *verb*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

to respond to a gesture or action by making a corresponding one; to return a favor

She helped me move, so I wanted to **reciprocate** by helping her paint, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: Reciprocate a handshake, gift, or favor by returning a corresponding one.

024 reciprocates *verb*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

responds to a gesture or action by making a corresponding one

He always **reciprocates** kindness with generosity, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: A mirror gesture shows one person reciprocates the other's action.

025 reserve *noun/verb***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

to keep back for future use; a supply kept for use when needed

Please **reserve** a table for four at seven o'clock, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: Reserve a supply by placing it behind a FOR LATER label.

026 reserved *verb/adjective***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

kept for future use; slow to reveal emotions or opinions

She was quiet and **reserved** at social gatherings, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: A reserved seat is saved for later; a reserved person keeps feelings behind a quiet door.

027 restrained *verb/adjective***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

held back; characterized by reserve or moderation

She gave a **restrained** response despite her anger, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: A restraint belt holds force back and keeps expression moderate.

028 restraint *noun***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

the action of keeping something under control; self-control

He showed great **restraint** by not responding to the insults, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: Restraint is the control brake that stops an impulse from going too far.

029 thoughtfulness *noun***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

the quality of showing consideration for the needs of others or careful thought

Her **thoughtfulness** in remembering everyone's birthday made her beloved by all, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: Thoughtfulness pauses to notice another person's needs before choosing a considerate action.

030 tolerate *verb***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

to allow the existence or occurrence of something without interference; to endure

The teacher would not **tolerate** any disruptions during the exam, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: To tolerate noise is to let it continue without interference while enduring it.

031 vigilance *noun***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

the action or state of keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties

Constant **vigilance** is required to protect the endangered species from poachers, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: Vigilance is a watchtower eye that never stops scanning for danger.

032 austere *adjective***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

severe or strict; lacking comfort

The monk lived an **austere** life in the monastery, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: An austere room has bare stone walls, strict lines, and no comfort.

033 complacent *adjective***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

showing smug or uncritical satisfaction

The team became **complacent** after their early success, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: A complacent winner naps on one trophy and stops checking for weaknesses.

034 zealous *adjective***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

showing great enthusiasm or devotion

The **zealous** advocate fought tirelessly for the cause, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: A zealous supporter guards the cause with a bright flame of devotion.

035 gregarious *adjective***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

fond of company; sociable

The **gregarious** host made every guest feel welcome, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: A gregarious person happily moves toward the center of every group.

036 aloof *adjective***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

not friendly or forthcoming; distant

She remained **aloof** from office gossip, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: An aloof person stands behind a distant closed gate while others gather.

037 affable *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

friendly, good-natured, and easy to talk to

The **affable** manager was popular with staff, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: An affable host opens the door with a friendly smile and easy conversation.

040 magnanimous *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

generous or forgiving, especially to rivals

The **magnanimous** winner praised his opponent, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: A magnanimous winner offers a generous hand to the defeated rival.

038 amiable *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

having a friendly and pleasant manner

His **amiable** personality made him easy to work with, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: An amiable neighbor greets everyone with a pleasant, friendly manner.

041 vindictive *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

having a strong desire for revenge

His **vindictive** nature made him a dangerous enemy, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: A vindictive person keeps a revenge arrow beside a list of old injuries.

039 genial *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

friendly and cheerful

The **genial** host greeted guests warmly, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: A genial face combines warm friendliness with cheerful sunshine.

042 benevolent *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

well-meaning and kindly

The **benevolent** donor funded the entire project, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: A benevolent hand gives kind help with genuinely good intentions.

043 **malevolent** *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

having or showing ill will; malicious

The **malevolent** villain plotted destruction, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: A malevolent figure sends a malicious arrow powered by ill will.

046 **fickle** *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

changing frequently, especially in loyalties

The **fickle** public quickly forgot the scandal, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: A fickle weather vane repeatedly changes the loyalty direction it points.

044 **capricious** *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

given to sudden changes of mood or behavior

The **capricious** weather ruined their plans, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: A capricious mood arrow changes direction without warning.

047 **benign** *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

gentle and kindly; not harmful

The **benign** tumor required no treatment, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: A benign presence offers a gentle hand that causes no harm.

045 **steadfast** *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

resolutely firm and unwavering

She remained **steadfast** in her beliefs, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: A steadfast anchor remains firm while waves and pressure strike it.

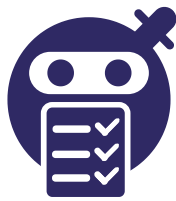
048 **reckless** *adjective*

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

without thinking about the consequences

His **reckless** driving caused the accident, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: A reckless driver races past the CONSEQUENCES sign without looking.



SAT VOCABULARY

Keep building your edge.

Vocabulary grows through repeated exposure and deliberate use.
Revisit this list, write with the words, and practice recognizing their
meaning in context.

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