



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Beauty & Ugliness

31 focused words in Beauty & Ugliness

31

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 **adorn** *verb*

BEAUTY & UGLINESS

to decorate or add beauty to something

Fresh flowers **adorn** the tables at the wedding reception, giving viewers specific details on which to base their aesthetic judgment.

MEMORY CUE: Add an ornament to a door to adorn it: decorate it with beauty.

002 **attractive** *adjective*

BEAUTY & UGLINESS

pleasing to look at; appealing

The **attractive** storefront display drew many customers inside, making the visual effect an important part of the audience's reaction.

MEMORY CUE: Something attractive acts like a magnet for the eyes because it is appealing.

003 **blemish** *noun*

BEAUTY & UGLINESS

a flaw or imperfection that spoils appearance

A small **blemish** on the painting reduced its auction value, giving viewers specific details on which to base their aesthetic judgment.

MEMORY CUE: A dark ink spot on a white shirt is a blemish: one flaw that spoils the appearance.

004 **decorate** *verb*

BEAUTY & UGLINESS

to make something look more attractive by adding ornaments or embellishments

They hired a professional to **decorate** the venue for the wedding reception, shaping how observers responded to the object's appearance and overall design.

MEMORY CUE: Decorate a plain tree by adding lights and ornaments that make it more attractive.

005 **decorations** *noun*

BEAUTY & UGLINESS

ornaments or embellishments used to make something look more attractive

The holiday **decorations** transformed the plain room into a festive space, making the visual effect an important part of the audience's reaction.

MEMORY CUE: Decorations are the added ornaments that turn a plain space into an attractive one.

006 **melodic** *adjective*

BEAUTY & UGLINESS

having a pleasant tune; relating to melody

The **melodic** sound of the violin filled the concert hall with beauty, making the visual effect an important part of the audience's reaction.

MEMORY CUE: Melodic notes flow along a smooth, pleasant tune rather than crashing randomly.

007 ornamental *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

serving as decoration; not functional

The **ornamental** gate at the entrance was purely decorative, making the visual effect an important part of the audience's reaction.

MEMORY CUE: An ornamental gear sparkles on a shelf but performs no mechanical function.

008 stained *verb/adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

marked or discolored with something difficult to remove

The tablecloth was **stained** with red wine, shaping how observers responded to the object's appearance and overall design.

MEMORY CUE: A stubborn dark mark that will not wash away leaves the surface stained.

009 exquisite *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

extremely beautiful and delicate

The **exquisite** jewelry was handcrafted, giving viewers specific details on which to base their aesthetic judgment.

MEMORY CUE: An exquisite glass flower combines extreme beauty with delicate detail.

010 grotesque *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

comically or repulsively ugly

The **grotesque** mask frightened children, giving viewers specific details on which to base their aesthetic judgment.

MEMORY CUE: A grotesque mask twists features into comical or repulsive ugliness.

011 elegant *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

graceful and stylish in appearance

The **elegant** gown attracted attention, shaping how observers responded to the object's appearance and overall design.

MEMORY CUE: An elegant dancer moves with graceful, stylish lines.

012 crude *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

in a natural state; lacking refinement

The **crude** drawing showed talent, giving viewers specific details on which to base their aesthetic judgment.

MEMORY CUE: A crude object remains rough and unrefined from its natural state.

013 aesthetic *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

concerned with beauty or art

The **aesthetic** appeal drew visitors, giving viewers specific details on which to base their **aesthetic** judgment.

MEMORY CUE: An aesthetic eye judges the beauty and artistic form of what it sees.

014 unsightly *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

unpleasant to look at; ugly

The **unsightly** building was demolished, shaping how observers responded to the object's appearance and overall design.

MEMORY CUE: An unsightly stain makes the surface unpleasant to look at.

015 resplendent *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

impressive through being richly colorful

The **resplendent** palace dazzled tourists, making the visual effect an important part of the audience's reaction.

MEMORY CUE: A resplendent costume dazzles with rich, impressive color.

016 hideous *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

extremely ugly

The **hideous** wallpaper had to go, giving viewers specific details on which to base their aesthetic judgment.

MEMORY CUE: A hideous image causes the eyes to recoil from extreme ugliness.

017 sublime *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

of outstanding beauty or grandeur

The view from the summit was **sublime**, giving viewers specific details on which to base their aesthetic judgment.

MEMORY CUE: A sublime mountain scene rises to outstanding beauty and grandeur.

018 repulsive *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

arousing intense distaste or disgust

The **repulsive** smell drove them away, making the visual effect an important part of the audience's reaction.

MEMORY CUE: A repulsive smell pushes the whole body backward in disgust.

019 picturesque *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

visually attractive, especially in a quaint way

The **picturesque** village charmed visitors, making the visual effect an important part of the audience's reaction.

MEMORY CUE: A picturesque village looks like a charming scene ready for a painting.

020 drab *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

lacking brightness or interest

The **drab** decor needed updating, shaping how observers responded to the object's appearance and overall design.

MEMORY CUE: A drab room has had all brightness and interest drained into gray.

021 ornate *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

elaborately decorated

The **ornate** ceiling featured gold leaf, making the visual effect an important part of the audience's reaction.

MEMORY CUE: An ornate frame curls with elaborate decoration around every edge.

022 graceful *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

having elegance of form or movement

The **graceful** dancer captivated audiences, making the visual effect an important part of the audience's reaction.

MEMORY CUE: A graceful swan combines smooth movement with elegant form.

023 clumsy *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

awkward in movement or handling things

His **clumsy** attempt made things worse, giving viewers specific details on which to base their aesthetic judgment.

MEMORY CUE: A clumsy person bumps the table and drops the objects being handled.

024 refined *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

elegant and cultured

Her **refined** manners impressed everyone, making the visual effect an important part of the audience's reaction.

MEMORY CUE: A refined surface has been polished into elegant, cultured smoothness.

025 **coarse** *adjective*

BEAUTY & UGLINESS

rough in texture; unrefined

The **coarse** fabric irritated her skin, giving viewers specific details on which to base their aesthetic judgment.

MEMORY CUE: Coarse cloth feels rough and unrefined beneath the fingers.

026 **tarnished** *adjective*

BEAUTY & UGLINESS

lost luster; damaged

His **tarnished** reputation preceded him, making the visual effect an important part of the audience's reaction.

MEMORY CUE: Tarnished silver loses its shine beneath a dull damaged film.

027 **radiant** *adjective*

BEAUTY & UGLINESS

sending out light; shining brightly

The bride looked **radiant**, giving viewers specific details on which to base their aesthetic judgment.

MEMORY CUE: A radiant face sends bright beams of light outward.

028 **dull** *adjective*

BEAUTY & UGLINESS

lacking interest or excitement

The **dull** colors matched his mood, shaping how observers responded to the object's appearance and overall design.

MEMORY CUE: A dull presentation drains the interest gauge and leaves it gray.

029 **gorgeous** *adjective*

BEAUTY & UGLINESS

beautiful; very attractive

The **gorgeous** sunset painted the sky, making the visual effect an important part of the audience's reaction.

MEMORY CUE: A gorgeous view makes every eye stop at its striking beauty.

030 **unsavory** *adjective*

BEAUTY & UGLINESS

disagreeable to taste or smell

He had **unsavory** business associates, making the visual effect an important part of the audience's reaction.

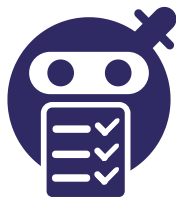
MEMORY CUE: An unsavory dish makes both nose and tongue turn away.

031 magnificent *adjective***BEAUTY & UGLINESS**

impressively beautiful, elaborate, or extravagant

The **magnificent** castle dominated the hillside, shaping how observers responded to the object's appearance and overall design.

MEMORY CUE: A magnificent hall overwhelms the eye with impressive beauty and elaborate scale.



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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