



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Cause & Effect

54 focused words in Cause & Effect

54

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 accidental *adjective***CAUSE & EFFECT**

happening by chance or without intention

The discovery of penicillin was largely **accidental**, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: A dent from an accident was not planned; accidental events happen by chance.

002 attract *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to draw interest or attention toward something

Bright colors **attract** bees to the flowers in the garden, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: A magnet attracts metal by pulling it closer; attention can be drawn the same way.

003 cause *noun***CAUSE & EFFECT**

something that produces an effect or result

Investigators are still determining the **cause** of the fire, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: The first domino is the cause; it produces every falling domino that follows.

004 coincidence *noun***CAUSE & EFFECT**

a remarkable occurrence of events happening at the same time by chance

It was a **coincidence** that they both arrived at the same moment, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: Two unrelated clocks chime together after a roll of the dice: a coincidence.

005 contingent *adjective***CAUSE & EFFECT**

dependent on certain conditions being met

The deal is **contingent** upon board approval, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: A contingent result waits behind an IF gate and occurs only when its condition is met.

006 create *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to bring something into existence

The artist hopes to **create** a sculpture for the new park, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: Create means moving an idea from a blank space into existence.

007 created *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

brought into existence

The new software **created** opportunities for remote collaboration, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: A once-empty workbench now holds the invention that was created.

008 creating *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

bringing something into existence

She spent months **creating** the intricate tapestry, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: Creating is the act of turning an imagined blueprint into something that exists.

009 depended *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

relied on for support or maintenance

The success of the project **depended** on the cooperation of all team members, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: A bridge depended on its central pillar because it relied on that support.

010 derived *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

obtained or developed from a source or origin

Many English words are **derived** from Latin and Greek roots, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: An arrow from SOURCE to RESULT shows that the result was derived from that origin.

011 engendering *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

causing or giving rise to a feeling or situation

The new policies are **engendering** a sense of hope among employees, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: A spark engenders a fire; one cause gives rise to a new feeling or situation.

012 establishes *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

sets up on a permanent or official basis; proves or demonstrates

The treaty **establishes** clear guidelines for international cooperation, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: A foundation stone establishes a lasting structure; a proof stamp establishes a fact.

013 **inadvertently** *adverb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

without intention; accidentally

She **inadvertently** revealed the surprise party plans, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: Knocking over a cup while looking elsewhere is doing it inadvertently, without intention.

014 **incentives** *noun*

CAUSE & EFFECT

things that motivate or encourage someone to do something

The company offered financial **incentives** to boost employee productivity, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: Incentives are carrots placed before the finish line to motivate action.

015 **inspirational** *adjective*

CAUSE & EFFECT

providing motivation or encouragement; uplifting

Her **inspirational** speech moved the audience to tears, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: An inspirational message fills an empty motivation battery and lifts the listener upward.

016 **inspire** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

to fill someone with the urge to do something creative or meaningful

Great teachers **inspire** their students to reach their full potential, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: Inspire someone by striking the spark that lights a creative or meaningful urge.

017 **inspired** *adjective*

CAUSE & EFFECT

filled with creative motivation; guided by a divine or extraordinary influence

The **inspired** artist created a masterpiece in a single night, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: An inspired mind glows with a newly lit bulb of creative motivation.

018 **intentional** *adjective*

CAUSE & EFFECT

done on purpose; deliberate

The error appeared to be **intentional** rather than accidental, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: An intentional action travels from a marked purpose through a deliberate arrow.

019 involuntarily *adverb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

without conscious control or intention; done against one's will

She **involuntarily** flinched when the balloon popped, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: A knee jerks before conscious choice; it moves involuntarily.

020 makes *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

causes something to exist, happen, or be done; creates or produces

She **makes** her own bread every weekend using a traditional family recipe, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: A maker's hands cause a new object to exist; makes means creates or produces.

021 motivation *noun***CAUSE & EFFECT**

the reason or reasons for acting or behaving in a particular way; enthusiasm

Her **motivation** for studying medicine was a desire to help others, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: Motivation is the fuel explaining why a person starts and keeps moving.

022 originate *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to have one's origin in a specified place or situation

Many English words **originate** from Latin and Greek roots, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: A river originates at the spring marked SOURCE.

023 originates *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

has its origin or beginning in a particular place or source

The river **originates** in the mountains and flows to the sea, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: An arrow traces the idea back to the source where it originates.

024 precursors *noun***CAUSE & EFFECT**

things that come before and indicate the approach of something else

Early symptoms can be **precursors** to more serious illness, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: Dark clouds are precursors because they arrive before and signal the approaching storm.

025 **produced** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

made or manufactured; created or brought into existence

The factory **produced** thousands of units each day, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: The factory output shows what was produced: made and brought into existence.

026 **produces** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

makes or manufactures; creates or generates

This region **produces** some of the finest wines in the world, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: A working machine produces new output by making or generating it.

027 **provokes** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

stimulates or incites a reaction or emotion

The controversial artwork **provokes** strong reactions from viewers, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: A finger pressing a reaction button provokes an immediate emotion or response.

028 **react** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

to respond or behave in a particular way in response to something

How did your parents **react** when you told them the news, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: A reaction arrow springs out immediately after a trigger presses the button.

029 **source** *noun/verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

a place, person, or thing from which something originates

The journalist refused to reveal her **source**, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: Trace the river or idea backward to the spring marked SOURCE where it begins.

030 **stimulated** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

encouraged or aroused interest or enthusiasm; increased activity in

The discussion **stimulated** new ideas among the team members, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: A spark stimulated the engine, raising both activity and interest.

031 **unintended** *adjective*

CAUSE & EFFECT

not planned or meant; accidental

The new policy had several **unintended** consequences that needed to be addressed, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: An unintended spill occurs when an elbow moves without a plan to knock the cup.

032 **yield** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

to produce or provide; to give way to pressure or demands

The fertile soil will **yield** an abundant harvest this season, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: A field yields crops; a bent sign yields by giving way to pressure.

033 **incite** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

to encourage or stir up violent behavior

The speech **incited** the crowd to riot, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: A fiery megaphone incites a crowd by stirring it toward violence.

034 **precipitate** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

to cause to happen suddenly or prematurely

The scandal **precipitated** his resignation, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: A pushed domino precipitates an event before it would normally occur.

035 **forestall** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

to prevent or obstruct by taking advance action

Quick action **forestalled** a larger crisis, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: Forestall a problem by building the barrier before the danger arrives.

036 **catalyst** *noun*

CAUSE & EFFECT

a person or thing that precipitates change

The protest was a **catalyst** for reform, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: A catalyst is the spark that starts change without becoming the final product.

037 consequence *noun***CAUSE & EFFECT**

a result or effect of an action

The **consequences** of the decision were severe, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: A consequence is the final domino that falls because the first action occurred.

038 trigger *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to cause an event or situation to happen

The comment **triggered** a heated debate, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: Pressing a trigger button causes the event to begin.

039 avert *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to prevent or ward off

Swift action **averted** the disaster, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: A shield redirects the approaching danger and averts it.

040 engender *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to cause or give rise to

The policy **engendered** widespread resentment, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: A seed engenders a new plant by giving rise to it.

041 preclude *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to prevent from happening

The injury **precluded** him from competing, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: A locked gate precludes entry by making it impossible beforehand.

042 spawn *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to cause something to develop

The book **spawned** numerous adaptations, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: One source spawns many new developments that spread outward.

043 **inhibit** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

to hinder or restrain an action

Fear can **inhibit** creative thinking, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: A tight brake inhibits motion by restraining it.

046 **paralyze** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

to render unable to move or act

Fear **paralyzed** her into inaction, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: A paralysis freeze turns a moving figure into an unable statue.

044 **instigate** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

to bring about or initiate

He was accused of **instigating** the riot, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: An instigator tips the first domino and initiates the action.

047 **propagate** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

to spread and promote widely

The internet helped **propagate** the idea, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: Propagate an idea by sending copies outward through many channels.

045 **galvanize** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

to shock or excite into taking action

The tragedy **galvanized** the community, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: An electric shock galvanizes a motionless crowd into action.

048 **stem** *verb*

CAUSE & EFFECT

to stop or restrict the flow of

Measures were taken to **stem** the spread, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: A barrier across the stream stems and restricts its flow.

049 culminate *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to reach a climax or point of highest development

Years of work **culminated** in success, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: A climb culminates at the highest peak and final climax.

052 provoke *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to stimulate or give rise to a reaction

His remarks **provoked** an angry response, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: A poke at the reaction button provokes an immediate response.

050 ramification *noun***CAUSE & EFFECT**

a consequence of an action or event

The **ramifications** of the decision were far-reaching, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

MEMORY CUE: A ramification is one branch of consequence growing from an action.

053 elicit *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to evoke or draw out a response

The question **elicited** an unexpected answer, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

MEMORY CUE: A skillful question draws a hidden response out into the open.

051 emanate *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to issue or spread out from a source

Light **emanated** from the window, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

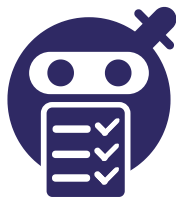
MEMORY CUE: Light rays emanate outward from a central source.

054 invoke *verb***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to cite or appeal to as authority

The lawyer **invoked** the Fifth Amendment, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

MEMORY CUE: Invoke an authority by opening its rulebook and citing it in support.



SAT VOCABULARY

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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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