



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Change & Transformation

58 focused words in Change & Transformation

58

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 **acquire** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to obtain or gain possession of something

She worked hard to **acquire** the skills needed for the promotion, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: A choir acquires a new piano; it obtains the instrument and now possesses it.

002 **acquired** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

obtained or gained possession of something

He **acquired** a taste for classical music during his time abroad, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: The choir acquired the piano: the group obtained it and made it theirs.

003 **adjusted** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

altered or modified to fit new circumstances

She **adjusted** her schedule to accommodate the new meeting time, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Turn an adjustable dial until it fits the new setting; adjusted means altered to fit.

004 **advances** *noun*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

forward movements or developments; improvements

Recent **advances** in technology have transformed how we communicate, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: Advance a game piece toward the finish; advances are forward steps or improvements.

005 **aggravate** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to make a problem or situation worse

Scratching the wound will only **aggravate** the irritation, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: Scratch an already sore spot and you aggravate it: you make the problem worse.

006 **coated** *adjective*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

covered with a layer of something

The chocolate-**coated** strawberries were a hit at the party, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: A coat of paint forms a new outer layer; the surface is coated.

007 corrected *verb***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

made free from errors; fixed

The teacher **corrected** the essays over the weekend, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: An eraser removes each error and replaces it with the right mark: the work is corrected.

008 destroying *verb***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

causing severe damage to something; ruining completely

The wildfire was **destroying** thousands of acres of forest land, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: A wrecking ball reducing a structure to ruins captures destroying it completely.

009 develop *verb***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

to grow or cause to grow more mature, advanced, or elaborate

The company plans to **develop** a new software application next year, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: A seed develops through stages into a mature, more elaborate plant.

010 developed *verb***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

grew or caused to grow more mature, advanced, or elaborate

Scientists **developed** a new vaccine in record time, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: The finished plant developed from a small seed through increasingly mature stages.

011 developments *noun***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

events constituting a new stage in changing circumstances; advances or improvements

Recent **developments** in technology have transformed how we communicate, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: Developments are new steps on the staircase of changing events or improvement.

012 evolving *verb***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

developing gradually over time; changing or transforming

Technology is constantly **evolving** to meet new demands, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: An evolving creature changes gradually through a row of small stages.

013 fluctuations *noun*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

irregular rising and falling in number or amount; variations

The stock market experienced significant **fluctuations** throughout the week, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: Fluctuations trace an uneven graph line that repeatedly rises and falls.

014 gaining *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

acquiring or obtaining something; increasing in amount or degree

The company is **gaining** market share through its innovative products, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: An upward arrow enters the basket as it gains possessions, amount, or strength.

015 improve *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to make or become better; to enhance in quality or condition

Regular practice will help **improve** your musical skills, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: Move the quality dial upward to improve something and make it better.

016 improved *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

made better; enhanced in quality or condition

The patient's condition **improved** significantly after the treatment, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: The after-picture sits higher on the quality scale because it has been improved.

017 innovative *adjective*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

featuring new methods or ideas; original and creative

The company is known for its **innovative** approach to technology, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: An innovative workshop opens a NEW box filled with original methods and ideas.

018 introduced *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

brought something into use or operation for the first time; presented formally

The scientist **introduced** a revolutionary new theory, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: A curtain opens as something is presented formally or brought into use for the first time.

019 **mitigate** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to make something less severe, serious, or painful

Planting trees can help **mitigate** the effects of urban pollution, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: Turn the severity dial downward to mitigate pain or seriousness.

020 **preserve** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to maintain something in its original state; to protect from harm

The museum works to **preserve** artifacts for future generations, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: A glass shield preserves the object in its original state and protects it from harm.

021 **preserving** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

maintaining something in its original state; protecting from decay

Preserving natural habitats is essential for wildlife conservation, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: Preserving places a protective seal around something to prevent damage or decay.

022 **reconstituted** *verb/adjective*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

rebuilt or reorganized; restored to original form by adding water or other liquid

The **reconstituted** orange juice tasted almost like fresh, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: Add water to the separated pieces and watch the original whole become reconstituted.

023 **rectify** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to put right; correct an error or undesirable situation

The company promised to **rectify** the billing error immediately, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: Rectify an error by straightening the crooked mark and making it right.

024 **redefined** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

defined again or differently; gave new meaning to

The internet has **redefined** how we communicate with each other, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Erase the old label and write a new meaning to show the term was redefined.

025 refinements *noun***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

small changes or improvements made to something to make it better

The latest version includes several **refinements** to the user interface, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Refinements are small polishing strokes that make an already good object better.

026 reforms *noun/verb***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

changes made to improve a system, organization, or law; makes changes to improve something

The government announced major education **reforms**, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Reforms replace broken system gears with improved ones.

027 relocate *verb***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

to move to a new place and establish one's home or business there

The company decided to **relocate** its headquarters to another city, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: Relocate by packing the location pin and moving it to a new place.

028 replaced *verb***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

took the place of; provided a substitute for something

Digital cameras have largely **replaced** film cameras, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: A new part moved into the exact space of the old one; the old part was replaced.

029 replacing *verb***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

taking the place of; providing a substitute for

The company is **replacing** outdated equipment with modern technology, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Replacing means removing one item while a substitute takes its place.

030 restored *verb***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

brought back to a former condition; returned something to its original state

The old painting was carefully **restored** by experts, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: A restored object moves from its damaged picture back to its original condition.

031 retain *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to continue to have; to keep possession of

The company wants to **retain** its best employees, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: Retain the key by closing your hand and continuing to keep it.

032 shifting *verb/adjective*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

moving or changing from one position or direction to another

The **shifting** sands made it difficult to navigate the desert, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: A shifting arrow slides from one position or direction to another.

033 superseded *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

replaced by something newer or more effective; took the place of

The old regulations have been **superseded** by new guidelines, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: A newer, more effective model rolls in and supersedes the old one.

034 transformed *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

changed in form, appearance, or character; converted

The renovation **transformed** the old warehouse into a modern apartment complex, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: A caterpillar emerging as a butterfly has been transformed in form and character.

035 transposed *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

caused two or more things to exchange places; transferred to a different context

The musician **transposed** the piece to a lower key for the vocalist, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Two musical notes exchange positions when they are transposed.

036 variable *noun/adjective*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

not consistent or having a fixed pattern; liable to change

The **variable** winds made sailing conditions challenging that day, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: A variable line changes height instead of remaining fixed.

037 **weaken** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to make or become weaker in power, resolve, or structure

The continuous rain began to **weaken** the foundation of the old building, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Remove support beams to weaken a structure and reduce its power.

038 **metamorphosis** *noun*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

a complete change in form or character

The company underwent a complete **metamorphosis** under new leadership, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: A caterpillar-to-butterfly sequence displays a complete metamorphosis.

039 **ameliorate** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to make something better or more tolerable

The new policies helped **ameliorate** working conditions, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Ameliorate a harsh condition by turning its pain dial toward better.

040 **exacerbate** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to make a problem or situation worse

The drought **exacerbated** the food shortage crisis, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: Exacerbate a crack by widening it and turning the damage dial upward.

041 **fluctuate** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to rise and fall irregularly

Stock prices **fluctuate** based on market conditions, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: A fluctuating graph rises and falls irregularly.

042 **transmute** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to change in form, nature, or substance

Alchemists dreamed of **transmuting** lead into gold, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: A transmutation chamber changes one substance completely into another.

043 transition *noun*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

the process of changing from one state to another

The **transition** to renewable energy will take decades, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: A transition bridge carries something from one state into the next.

046 evolve *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to develop gradually over time

Languages **evolve** naturally over centuries, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Evolution climbs through many small stages of gradual development.

044 convert *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to change from one form or function to another

They **converted** the warehouse into luxury apartments, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: A converter takes one form in and sends a different form out.

047 regress *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to return to a less developed state

Without practice, her skills began to **regress**, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Regress by walking backward down the development staircase.

045 revert *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to return to a previous state or condition

After the experiment, the system **reverted** to its original state, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: A reverse arrow returns the object to its previous condition.

048 progress *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to move forward or develop

The negotiations **progressed** smoothly, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Progress moves forward and upward along the development path.

049 deteriorate *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to become worse in quality or condition

His health began to **deteriorate** rapidly, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: A once-solid wall crumbling over time shows it deteriorating.

052 renovate *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to restore to good condition by repairing

They spent a fortune to **renovate** the historic building, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: Renovate a damaged room by repairing it back into good condition.

050 revitalize *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to give new life or vigor to

The new mayor promised to **revitalize** the downtown area, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: A fresh energy charge revitalizes a wilted plant.

053 modify *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to make partial changes to something

The engineer **modified** the design to improve efficiency, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Modify a machine by changing one part while leaving the whole recognizable.

051 rejuvenate *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to make young or fresh again

The spa treatment **rejuvenated** her tired skin, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Rejuvenate an old leaf by making it fresh, green, and young again.

054 alter *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to change or make different

The accident **altered** his perspective on life, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Alter a design by making it visibly different from its earlier form.

055 **mutate** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to undergo a genetic or structural change

Viruses can **mutate** rapidly to evade treatments, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: A mutation changes the genetic or structural pattern inside the organism.

058 **fluctuating** *adjective*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

rising and falling irregularly

The **fluctuating** prices caused concern, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: A fluctuating line repeatedly rises and falls without a steady level.

056 **oscillate** *verb*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

to move back and forth regularly

His mood **oscillated** between optimism and despair, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: A pendulum oscillates in a regular back-and-forth path.

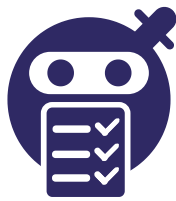
057 **immutable** *adjective*

CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION

unchanging over time or unable to be changed

The laws of physics are considered **immutable**, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: An immutable rule is carved into stone that cannot be changed.



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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