



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Effectiveness & Quality

68 focused words in Effectiveness & Quality

68

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 acceptable *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

meeting the required standards; satisfactory

The quality of work was **acceptable** but not exceptional, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: An acceptable paper earns a plain PASS: it meets the standard without needing to be exceptional.

002 accuracy *noun*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

the quality of being correct or precise

The **accuracy** of the measurements was critical to the experiment's success, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: An archer's arrow hits the exact bull's-eye: accuracy is correctness and precision.

003 advantageous *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

providing a benefit or favorable position

Living near the office proved **advantageous** during the transit strike, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: An advantage moves you ahead of the field; advantageous conditions give you a benefit.

004 appropriate *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

suitable or proper for a particular situation

Wearing formal attire is **appropriate** for the gala event, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: The appropriate key fits this particular lock; it is suitable for the situation.

005 beneficial *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

producing good results; advantageous

Regular exercise is **beneficial** to both physical and mental health, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: BENE means good, so something beneficial produces a good or advantageous result.

006 beneficially *adverb*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

in a way that produces good results

The new policies have **beneficially** impacted employee morale, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: When a change works beneficially, its arrow points toward a good result.

007 bland *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

lacking strong flavor or character; uninteresting

The soup tasted **bland** and needed more seasoning, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: Plain oatmeal with no spice is bland: weak in flavor and uninteresting.

008 calibrations *noun*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

precise adjustments or measurements for accuracy

Regular **calibrations** ensure the equipment produces accurate readings, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: Calibrations turn a scale's tiny adjustment knob until zero is exactly accurate.

009 compelling *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

evoking strong interest or attention; convincing

The documentary presented a **compelling** case for environmental reform, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: A compelling idea is a magnet for attention: it pulls the audience in and convinces them.

010 competent *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

having sufficient skill or knowledge to perform a task

She proved herself to be a **competent** leader during the crisis, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: A competent worker has the knowledge and tools needed to complete the job correctly.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: having the necessary ability or skills

011 condition *noun*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

the state of something; a requirement for something else

The house was in excellent **condition** when they bought it, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: A condition can be a state shown on a gauge or a requirement that opens an IF gate.

012 conditions *noun*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

circumstances affecting the way people live or work

Working **conditions** have improved significantly over the past decade, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: Conditions are the surrounding circumstances, like weather that changes how everyone can work.

013 correct *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

free from error; accurate

Please verify that all information is **correct** before submitting, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A correct answer lands exactly on the bull's-eye with no error.

014 creative *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

having the ability to produce original ideas

Her **creative** approach to problem-solving impressed the team, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: A creative mind opens a box of original ideas instead of copying an old pattern.

015 creativity *noun*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

the use of imagination to produce original ideas

The project encouraged **creativity** among the young students, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: Creativity uses imagination as a workshop for producing original ideas.

016 criteria *noun*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

standards by which something is judged or decided

Applicants must meet all **criteria** to be considered for the position, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: Criteria are the labeled rulers used to judge and decide among choices.

017 efficient *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

achieving maximum productivity with minimum wasted effort

The new software made the workflow much more **efficient**, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: An efficient machine produces a full output while its waste bin stays nearly empty.

018 enhance *verb*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

to intensify, increase, or improve the quality or value of

Adding spices will **enhance** the flavor of the dish, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: Turn the quality dial upward to enhance something and make it better or more valuable.

019 **exactitude** *noun*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

the quality of being exact; precision and accuracy

The surgeon performed the procedure with remarkable **exactitude**, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: Exactitude is a needle landing precisely on the thinnest line of a ruler.

020 **extraordinary** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

very unusual or remarkable; beyond what is ordinary

The young musician displayed **extraordinary** talent at the competition, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: Extraordinary literally steps outside the ordinary line and shines as unusually remarkable.

021 **fragile** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

easily broken or damaged; delicate

The **fragile** ecosystem could be destroyed by pollution, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A fragile glass bird can break from one careless touch.

022 **handmade** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

made by hand rather than by machine

The **handmade** quilt had been passed down through three generations, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: Visible fingerprints on a crafted bowl remind you it was handmade, not machine-made.

023 **healthy** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

in good physical or mental condition; conducive to good health

Eating a **healthy** diet can significantly improve your energy levels, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: A healthy body shows a full battery and a steady heart.

024 **imaginative** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

having or showing creativity and original ideas

The **imaginative** architect designed buildings that defied convention, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: An imaginative mind combines ordinary pieces into original, creative ideas.

025 **impractical** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

not sensible or realistic; not adapted for actual use

Wearing high heels on a hiking trail is completely **impractical**, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: An impractical paper bridge looks possible in theory but collapses in actual use.

026 **improvise** *verb*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

to create or perform spontaneously without preparation

When the teleprompter failed, she had to **improvise** her speech, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: Improvise by stepping onstage before a script or plan has been prepared.

027 **inadequate** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

lacking the quality or quantity required; insufficient

The **inadequate** funding forced the program to shut down, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: An inadequate supply falls below the bright line marked ENOUGH.

028 **ineffective** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

not producing the desired effect; unsuccessful

The medication proved **ineffective** against the new strain of virus, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: An ineffective tool works noisily but never produces the intended result.

029 **ineffectual** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

not producing the intended result; lacking the ability to achieve goals

The **ineffectual** leadership led to the company's decline, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: An ineffectual key turns repeatedly but cannot open the goal's lock.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: not producing the desired effect

030 **infallible** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

incapable of making mistakes or being wrong

No system is **infallible**, so we must prepare for potential errors, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: An infallible archer hits the bull's-eye every time and never makes an error.

031 **invent** *verb*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

to create or design something that has not existed before

Thomas Edison helped **invent** the modern electric light bulb, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: Invent by turning an original blueprint into something that has never existed.

032 **invented** *verb*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

created or designed something new

Alexander Graham Bell **invented** the telephone in 1876, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: The new device bears a FIRST-EVER tag because it was invented.

033 **inventing** *verb*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

creating or designing something new

She spent years **inventing** a more efficient solar panel, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: Inventing happens while an original design moves from imagination to the workbench.

034 **inventive** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

having the ability to create or design new things; showing creativity

The **inventive** engineer found solutions to complex problems, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: An inventive person carries a tool belt for building creative new solutions.

035 **manageable** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

able to be controlled, handled, or dealt with without great difficulty

Breaking the project into smaller tasks made it much more **manageable**, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: A manageable problem fits within two steady hands instead of towering beyond control.

036 **mastery** *noun*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

comprehensive knowledge or skill in a subject or activity

His **mastery** of multiple languages opened many career opportunities, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: Mastery fills every shelf of a subject with comprehensive knowledge and practiced skill.

037 measure *verb*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

to ascertain the size, amount, or degree of something using an instrument or standard

Scientists **measure** temperature changes to track global warming trends, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: Measure by placing an object against a ruler, scale, or other standard.

038 optimize *verb*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

to make the best or most effective use of something

Engineers worked to **optimize** the engine's fuel efficiency, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: Optimize a machine by tuning every dial to produce the best result with what is available.

039 preventable *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

able to be stopped from happening

Many diseases are **preventable** through proper vaccination, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A preventable accident stops at a barrier that could be placed before it happens.

040 proficient *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

competent or skilled in doing something

She is **proficient** in three programming languages, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: A proficient craftsman handles the tools smoothly with proven skill.

041 satisfactory *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

fulfilling expectations or needs; acceptable but not outstanding

The student's performance was **satisfactory** but could be improved, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: Satisfactory lands on PASS: expectations are met, though excellence is not claimed.

042 scratchy *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

rough or irritating to the touch; making a harsh sound

The old wool sweater was too **scratchy** to wear comfortably, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: Scratchy wool irritates skin, while a scratchy recording irritates the ear.

043 skilled *adjective***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

having or showing the knowledge and ability to perform a task well

The company employs highly **skilled** engineers, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A skilled worker handles the tools confidently and completes the task well.

044 smoothly *adverb***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

in an even and regular manner; without difficulties or problems

The transition to the new system went **smoothly**, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A wheel rolling along an even, obstacle-free road moves smoothly.

045 standard *noun/adjective***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

a level of quality or attainment; used or accepted as normal or average

The hotel offers a high **standard** of service, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: A standard is the marked quality line used for comparison and accepted as normal.

046 sturdily *adverb***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

in a strong and solid manner; robustly

The cabin was **sturdily** built to withstand harsh winters, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A sturdily built table stands solid and unmoved beneath a heavy load.

047 suitable *adjective***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

right or appropriate for a particular person, purpose, or situation

This dress is **suitable** for a formal occasion, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A suitable key fits the particular lock and purpose correctly.

048 superficial *adjective***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

existing or occurring at or on the surface; lacking depth of character or understanding

The article provided only a **superficial** analysis of the issue, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A superficial shell covers only the surface and has no depth beneath it.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: existing only on the surface; shallow

049 **useful** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

able to be used for a practical purpose; helpful

The guidebook proved **useful** for navigating the unfamiliar city, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: A useful tool fits a practical task and helps complete it.

050 **useless** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

not fulfilling or not expected to achieve the intended purpose; pointless

Without batteries, the flashlight was completely **useless** during the power outage, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A useless key fits no lock and accomplishes no intended purpose.

051 **waste** *noun/verb*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

to use or expend carelessly or to no purpose; unwanted material

It would be a **waste** to throw away perfectly good food, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: Waste pours useful resources into a bin without achieving any purpose.

052 **exemplary** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

serving as a desirable model; outstanding

Her **exemplary** conduct earned her a promotion, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: An exemplary model stands on the standard's highest pedestal for others to copy.

053 **mediocre** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

of only moderate quality; not very good

The **mediocre** performance disappointed the audience, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: Mediocre rests in the dull middle: acceptable, but not very good.

054 **meticulous** *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

showing great attention to detail

The **meticulous** researcher checked every source, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A meticulous inspector checks every tiny detail with a precision lens.

055 impeccable *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

faultless; without defects

Her **impeccable** taste in fashion was legendary, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: An impeccable surface passes inspection without a single fault mark.

056 flawless *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

without any blemishes or imperfections

The gymnast delivered a **flawless** performance, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: A flawless diamond shows no blemish even under magnification.

057 pristine *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

in its original condition; unspoiled

The **pristine** wilderness had never been explored, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: A pristine object remains sealed in its original, unspoiled condition.

058 inferior *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

lower in quality or status

The **inferior** product failed quality tests, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: An inferior item sits on the lower rung of quality or status.

059 superior *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

higher in quality or status

The **superior** craftsmanship justified the high price, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: A superior item occupies the higher rung of quality or status.

060 adequate *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

satisfactory or acceptable in quality

The facilities were **adequate** for the event, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: Adequate reaches the line marked ENOUGH and earns a satisfactory pass.

061 optimal *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

best or most favorable

The scientist found the **optimal** conditions for the experiment, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: Optimal is the highest point on the results gauge: the best possible condition.

062 suboptimal *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

below the highest standard; not ideal

The **suboptimal** results prompted further testing, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: Suboptimal falls below the best mark even if it still functions.

063 adept *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

very skilled or proficient at something

He was **adept** at solving complex problems, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: An adept craftsman handles difficult tools with smooth skill.

064 inept *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

having or showing no skill; clumsy

The **inept** handling of the crisis worsened the situation, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: An inept worker drops every tool and cannot perform the task skillfully.

065 incompetent *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

not having the necessary skills

The **incompetent** contractor caused numerous delays, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: An incompetent worker lacks the skill required to complete the job.

066 efficacious *adjective*

EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY

successful in producing a desired result

The **efficacious** treatment cured most patients, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: An efficacious treatment reaches the desired-result target successfully.

067 viable *adjective***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

capable of working successfully

The committee approved the **viable** proposal, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

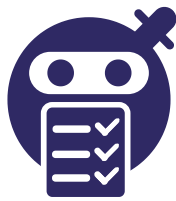
MEMORY CUE: A viable plan crosses a bridge marked CAN WORK SUCCESSFULLY.

068 trite *adjective***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

lacking originality; overused

The movie relied on **trite** plot devices, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A trite phrase comes from a stamp that has printed the same words too many times.



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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