



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Knowledge & Ignorance

39 focused words in Knowledge & Ignorance

39

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 **apprised** *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

informed or notified about something

The manager **apprised** the staff of the upcoming policy changes, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: A concise briefing keeps everyone apprised: informed and notified of what matters.

002 **discover** *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

to find or learn something for the first time

Scientists hope to **discover** new species in the unexplored rainforest, helping observers distinguish informed judgment from a conclusion based on limited knowledge.

MEMORY CUE: Lift the cover from a hidden chest to discover what was unknown.

003 **discovered** *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

found or learned something for the first time

The archaeologists **discovered** ancient artifacts buried beneath the temple, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: The lifted cover revealed what had been discovered for the first time.

004 **discovery** *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

the act of finding or learning something new; something that has been found

The **discovery** of penicillin revolutionized modern medicine, showing how access to accurate information changed the quality of the response.

MEMORY CUE: A discovery is the bright object revealed when a cover is removed from the unknown.

005 **empirical** *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

based on observation or experience rather than theory

The study provided **empirical** evidence to support the hypothesis, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: Empirical knowledge wears muddy field boots because it comes from observation and experience, not theory alone.

006 **evidence** *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

information indicating whether something is true or valid; proof

The detective gathered **evidence** at the crime scene, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: Evidence is a trail of facts leading a detective toward TRUE or FALSE.

007 experiment *noun/verb***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

a scientific test to discover something unknown; to try something new

The laboratory **experiment** yielded unexpected but promising results, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: An experiment puts a new idea into a test tube to discover what happens.

008 familiarize *verb***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

to make someone knowledgeable about or accustomed to something

New employees should **familiarize** themselves with company policies, helping observers distinguish informed judgment from a conclusion based on limited knowledge.

MEMORY CUE: Familiarize yourself by walking the same route until every landmark feels known.

009 foolishly *adverb***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

in a manner lacking good sense or judgment

He **foolishly** invested all his savings in a single stock, showing how access to accurate information changed the quality of the response.

MEMORY CUE: Following a broken compass over a cliff illustrates acting foolishly without good judgment.

010 forgetting *verb***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

failing to remember; neglecting or overlooking

She keeps **forgetting** where she placed her car keys, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: Forgetting lets a name fade from the memory board or leaves a duty overlooked.

011 forgotten *verb/adjective***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

no longer remembered; neglected or overlooked

The abandoned town has been largely **forgotten** by the outside world, helping observers distinguish informed judgment from a conclusion based on limited knowledge.

MEMORY CUE: A forgotten photograph fades until no one remembers the face.

012 inexperienced *adjective***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

lacking knowledge or skill gained from experience

The **inexperienced** driver made several mistakes during the test, helping observers distinguish informed judgment from a conclusion based on limited knowledge.

MEMORY CUE: An inexperienced worker stands at the first rung with an unused tool belt.

013 **inherited** *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

received from a predecessor or through genetic transmission

She **inherited** her grandmother's beautiful antique jewelry, helping observers distinguish informed judgment from a conclusion based on limited knowledge.

MEMORY CUE: An inherited key passes down a family tree from predecessor to receiver.

014 **investigations** *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

formal examinations or systematic inquiries to establish facts

The **investigations** revealed widespread corruption in the organization, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: Investigations follow organized trails of evidence to establish the facts.

015 **remember** *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

to have in or be able to bring to one's mind an awareness of past events

I can still **remember** the day we first met, helping observers distinguish informed judgment from a conclusion based on limited knowledge.

MEMORY CUE: Pull an old photograph from the mind's archive to remember the past.

016 **remembered** *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

brought to mind; recalled from memory

She suddenly **remembered** where she had left her keys, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: The faded photograph lit up again when the event was remembered.

017 **scholarly** *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

involving or relating to serious academic study; having the characteristics of a scholar

Her **scholarly** articles have been published in prestigious journals, showing how access to accurate information changed the quality of the response.

MEMORY CUE: A scholarly desk holds serious research books, careful notes, and an academic lamp.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: involving serious academic study

018 **theoretical** *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

concerned with or involving theory rather than practical application

The physicist spent years working on **theoretical** models before testing them experimentally, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: A theoretical machine remains on the idea board instead of working in practical reality.

019 theory *noun***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

a supposition or system of ideas intended to explain something based on general principles

Darwin's **theory** of evolution revolutionized our understanding of biology, helping observers distinguish informed judgment from a conclusion based on limited knowledge.

MEMORY CUE: A theory organizes connected ideas into a possible general explanation.

020 unknown *adjective***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

not known or familiar; not discovered or identified

The artist remained **unknown** during her lifetime but gained fame posthumously, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: An unknown object remains behind a question-mark curtain without a name.

021 cognizant *adjective***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

having knowledge or awareness

She was **cognizant** of the risks involved in the venture, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: A lit awareness bulb shows someone is cognizant of the fact.

022 naive *adjective***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

showing lack of experience or judgment

She was **naive** to trust the stranger, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: A naive traveler with an unused map trusts the first misleading sign.

023 erudite *adjective***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

having or showing great knowledge

The **erudite** professor quoted from memory, showing how access to accurate information changed the quality of the response.

MEMORY CUE: An erudite scholar's library glows with deep, extensive knowledge.

024 ignorant *adjective***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

lacking knowledge or awareness

He was **ignorant** of the local customs, helping observers distinguish informed judgment from a conclusion based on limited knowledge.

MEMORY CUE: An ignorant figure wears a blindfold beside an unopened knowledge book.

025 **learned** *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

having much knowledge acquired by study

The **learned** scholar published many papers, showing how access to accurate information changed the quality of the response.

MEMORY CUE: A learned person stands on a staircase built from years of study.

028 **benighted** *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

in a state of moral or intellectual darkness

The **benighted** population lacked basic education, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: A benighted mind remains in intellectual darkness with its knowledge lamp unlit.

026 **illiterate** *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

unable to read or write

The **illiterate** man asked for help with forms, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: An illiterate person faces letters that cannot yet be read or written.

029 **omniscient** *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

knowing everything

The novel used an **omniscient** narrator, helping observers distinguish informed judgment from a conclusion based on limited knowledge.

MEMORY CUE: An omniscient eye sees every page, place, and fact at once.

027 **enlightened** *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

having knowledge and understanding

The **enlightened** ruler introduced reforms, showing how access to accurate information changed the quality of the response.

MEMORY CUE: An enlightened mind switches on the lamp of knowledge and understanding.

030 **oblivious** *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

not aware of what is happening

She was **oblivious** to the danger, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: An oblivious person ignores the parade passing directly behind them.

031 informed *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

having knowledge of a subject

Voters should be **informed** about the issues, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: An informed mind has the subject's facts filed and ready.

034 literate *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

able to read and write

Universal education aims to make everyone **literate**, helping observers distinguish informed judgment from a conclusion based on limited knowledge.

MEMORY CUE: A literate person confidently reads and writes the letters on the page.

032 versed *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

experienced or skilled in

She was well **versed** in contract law, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: Someone versed in a skill has practiced through many pages of experience.

035 unschooled *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

lacking school education

Though **unschooled**, he was remarkably clever, showing how access to accurate information changed the quality of the response.

MEMORY CUE: An unschooled person has an empty classroom record rather than formal education.

033 uninformed *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

lacking awareness or knowledge

The **uninformed** public was easily misled, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: An uninformed person stands before an empty file where the facts should be.

036 unlettered *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

poorly educated; illiterate

The **unlettered** peasants could not read the decree, showing how access to accurate information changed the quality of the response.

MEMORY CUE: An unlettered person sees letters as an unopened educational door.

037 obtuse *adjective***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

annoyingly insensitive or slow to understand

The **obtuse** student missed obvious clues, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

MEMORY CUE: An obtuse mind is a blunt angle that is slow to catch a pointed idea.

038 foolish *adjective***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

lacking good sense or judgment

It was **foolish** to ignore the warnings, revealing how much the participants understood about the subject before making their decision.

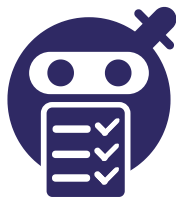
MEMORY CUE: A foolish traveler follows a broken compass without judging the danger.

039 prudent *adjective***KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE**

acting with care and thought for the future

The **prudent** investor diversified holdings, showing how access to accurate information changed the quality of the response.

MEMORY CUE: A prudent traveler checks tomorrow's weather and consequences before leaving.



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.

More focused practice at test-ninjas.com