



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Morality & Ethics

32 focused words in Morality & Ethics

32

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 exploit *noun/verb***MORALITY & ETHICS**

to use selfishly for profit; a bold or daring achievement

Some companies **exploit** workers by paying unfairly low wages, showing how principles influenced the choice made under challenging circumstances.

MEMORY CUE: To exploit can mean squeezing profit unfairly from someone or completing a daring feat.

002 exploited *verb***MORALITY & ETHICS**

used selfishly or unfairly for profit; taken advantage of

The vulnerable population was **exploited** by unscrupulous landlords, prompting others to judge whether the conduct met accepted ethical standards.

MEMORY CUE: A person treated like a coin machine has been exploited for another's unfair gain.

003 exploiting *verb***MORALITY & ETHICS**

using selfishly or unfairly for profit; taking advantage of

The documentary exposed companies **exploiting** natural resources irresponsibly, showing how principles influenced the choice made under challenging circumstances.

MEMORY CUE: Exploiting someone means pulling value out while giving fairness nothing in return.

004 impartial *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

treating all rivals or disputants equally; unbiased and fair

The judge remained **impartial** throughout the controversial trial, making the moral consequences of the decision difficult for the group to ignore.

MEMORY CUE: An impartial judge keeps both sides of the scale perfectly level.

005 innocuous *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

not harmful or offensive; harmless

What seemed like an **innocuous** comment sparked a heated debate, prompting others to judge whether the conduct met accepted ethical standards.

MEMORY CUE: An innocuous object touches a flower without damaging a single petal.

006 justify *verb***MORALITY & ETHICS**

to show or prove to be right or reasonable; to provide adequate grounds for

The results **justify** the investment we made in the project, showing how principles influenced the choice made under challenging circumstances.

MEMORY CUE: Justify a claim by building solid reasons beneath it until it stands.

007 obligated *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

bound legally or morally to do something

As a witness, she felt **obligated** to tell the truth in court, making the moral consequences of the decision difficult for the group to ignore.

MEMORY CUE: An obligated person is tied by a legal or moral cord to the required action.

008 predatory *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

relating to predators; exploiting others for personal gain

The company was criticized for its **predatory** lending practices, prompting others to judge whether the conduct met accepted ethical standards.

MEMORY CUE: A predatory figure circles prey or exploits weaker people for personal gain.

009 responsible *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

having an obligation to do something; being the primary cause of something

Parents are **responsible** for the well-being of their children, prompting others to judge whether the conduct met accepted ethical standards.

MEMORY CUE: A responsibility tag ties a person to an obligation or identifies the cause behind a result.

010 unbiased *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

showing no prejudice; impartial and fair

The judge was expected to remain **unbiased** throughout the trial, prompting others to judge whether the conduct met accepted ethical standards.

MEMORY CUE: An unbiased scale stays level and gives neither side extra weight.

011 virtuous *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

having high moral standards

She led a **virtuous** life dedicated to service, making the moral consequences of the decision difficult for the group to ignore.

MEMORY CUE: A virtuous person follows a high moral path beneath a clear compass.

012 corrupt *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

willing to act dishonestly for personal gain

The **corrupt** official accepted bribes, showing how principles influenced the choice made under challenging circumstances.

MEMORY CUE: A corrupt official trades honesty for a hidden bag of personal gain.

013 righteous *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

morally right or justifiable

His **righteous** anger was understandable, showing how principles influenced the choice made under challenging circumstances.

MEMORY CUE: A righteous action stands upright on the morally just path.

016 unscrupulous *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

having no moral principles

The **unscrupulous** dealer sold fake products, prompting others to judge whether the conduct met accepted ethical standards.

MEMORY CUE: An unscrupulous person throws away the moral rulebook for personal advantage.

014 depraved *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

morally corrupt; wicked

The **depraved** criminal showed no remorse, making the moral consequences of the decision difficult for the group to ignore.

MEMORY CUE: A depraved act descends a dark staircase of moral corruption.

017 principled *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

acting according to moral principles

The **principled** leader refused to compromise, showing how principles influenced the choice made under challenging circumstances.

MEMORY CUE: A principled person anchors every action to a moral code.

015 ethical *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

relating to moral principles

The **ethical** dilemma troubled her conscience, prompting others to judge whether the conduct met accepted **ethical** standards.

MEMORY CUE: An ethical choice follows the compass of moral principles.

018 immoral *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

not conforming to accepted standards of morality

Many considered the practice **immoral**, prompting others to judge whether the conduct met accepted ethical standards.

MEMORY CUE: An immoral action crosses the accepted moral boundary.

019 honorable *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

bringing credit or distinction

He chose the **honorable** course of action, showing how principles influenced the choice made under challenging circumstances.

MEMORY CUE: An honorable act earns a clean medal of credit and distinction.

020 dishonorable *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

bringing shame or disgrace

His **dishonorable** conduct led to dismissal, making the moral consequences of the decision difficult for the group to ignore.

MEMORY CUE: A dishonorable act stains the medal and brings shame.

021 upright *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

strictly honorable or honest

The **upright** judge was respected by all, showing how principles influenced the choice made under challenging circumstances.

MEMORY CUE: An upright column stands straight like a person who is strictly honest.

022 integrity *noun***MORALITY & ETHICS**

the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles

Her **integrity** was never questioned, making the moral consequences of the decision difficult for the group to ignore.

MEMORY CUE: Integrity is an unbroken moral compass joined to transparent honesty.

023 dishonesty *noun***MORALITY & ETHICS**

a disposition to lie, cheat, or deceive

Dishonesty destroyed his reputation, prompting others to judge whether the conduct met accepted ethical standards.

MEMORY CUE: Dishonesty hides lies, cheating, and deception behind a false face.

024 unprincipled *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

not acting in accordance with moral principles

The **unprincipled** attorney would do anything to win, showing how principles influenced the choice made under challenging circumstances.

MEMORY CUE: An unprincipled action cuts itself loose from the moral compass.

025 conscientious *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

wishing to do what is right

The **conscientious** worker always did extra, making the moral consequences of the decision difficult for the group to ignore.

MEMORY CUE: A conscientious person checks the right-action compass before completing a duty.

026 unethical *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

not morally correct

Unethical practices were exposed, making the moral consequences of the decision difficult for the group to ignore.

MEMORY CUE: An unethical choice steps outside the boundary of moral correctness.

027 reputable *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

having a good reputation

Choose a **reputable** contractor, making the moral consequences of the decision difficult for the group to ignore.

MEMORY CUE: A reputable name carries strong stars earned from others' trust.

028 disreputable *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

lacking respectability

He frequented **disreputable** establishments, prompting others to judge whether the conduct met accepted ethical standards.

MEMORY CUE: A disreputable name appears beneath cracked trust stars.

029 wholesome *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

conducive to moral well-being

The **wholesome** entertainment was family-friendly, making the moral consequences of the decision difficult for the group to ignore.

MEMORY CUE: A wholesome influence nourishes moral well-being like healthy food.

030 pernicious *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

having a harmful effect

The **pernicious** influence corrupted youth, showing how principles influenced the choice made under challenging circumstances.

MEMORY CUE: A pernicious poison causes harmful damage that spreads quietly.

031 noble *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

having high moral qualities

His **noble** sacrifice inspired others, showing how principles influenced the choice made under challenging circumstances.

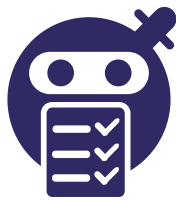
MEMORY CUE: A noble action rises above selfishness through high moral quality.

032 ignoble *adjective***MORALITY & ETHICS**

not honorable; base

His **ignoble** motives were eventually revealed, showing how principles influenced the choice made under challenging circumstances.

MEMORY CUE: An ignoble act drops the honor medal into disgrace.



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