



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Order & Chaos

33 focused words in Order & Chaos

33

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 arbitrary *adjective***ORDER & CHAOS**

based on random choice rather than reason

The selection process seemed **arbitrary** and unfair to the applicants, affecting how easily the group could coordinate its work and determine the next step.

MEMORY CUE: A blindfolded dart chooses the answer arbitrarily: by chance rather than reason.

002 assemble *verb***ORDER & CHAOS**

to gather together or put parts together

Workers **assemble** the car parts on the factory floor, making the level of organization apparent to everyone involved in the effort.

MEMORY CUE: Assembly instructions gather separate parts and put them together into one machine.

003 catalog *noun***ORDER & CHAOS**

a complete list of items arranged systematically

The library's **catalog** contains over a million book entries, affecting how easily the group could coordinate its work and determine the next step.

MEMORY CUE: A catalog is a master list whose items sit in neat, systematic order.

004 categorize *verb***ORDER & CHAOS**

to place into groups based on shared characteristics

Scientists **categorize** organisms based on their genetic similarities, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: To categorize, sort objects into labeled bins according to the features they share.

005 desultory *adjective***ORDER & CHAOS**

lacking a plan, purpose, or enthusiasm; random and unfocused

Their **desultory** conversation jumped from topic to topic without direction, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: Desultory effort wanders among random arrows with no plan, purpose, or enthusiasm.

006 disorganized *adjective***ORDER & CHAOS**

lacking order or systematic arrangement; chaotic

His **disorganized** desk made it impossible to find important documents, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: A disorganized desk has papers and tools scattered with no system.

007 **dispersed** *verb*

ORDER & CHAOS

distributed or spread over a wide area; scattered

The crowd **dispersed** quickly after the concert ended, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: Seeds blown across a wide field have been dispersed rather than kept together.

008 **haphazard** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

lacking any obvious principle of organization; random and disorderly

The **haphazard** arrangement of books made it impossible to find anything, affecting how easily the group could coordinate its work and determine the next step.

MEMORY CUE: Objects tossed without a plan form a haphazard, random arrangement.

009 **organized** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

arranged in a systematic way; well-planned

Her **organized** approach to studying helped her ace the exam, making the level of organization apparent to everyone involved in the effort.

MEMORY CUE: An organized shelf places every labeled item in a planned, systematic position.

010 **patterns** *noun*

ORDER & CHAOS

repeated decorative designs; regular forms or sequences

Scientists studied the **patterns** in the data to find trends, affecting how easily the group could coordinate its work and determine the next step.

MEMORY CUE: Patterns repeat the same shapes, colors, or steps in a recognizable sequence.

011 **scheme** *noun/verb*

ORDER & CHAOS

a large-scale systematic plan; a secret or underhanded plan

The government announced a new **scheme** to reduce unemployment, making the level of organization apparent to everyone involved in the effort.

MEMORY CUE: A scheme is a connected plan diagram, sometimes hidden behind a secret curtain.

012 **shapeless** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

lacking a definite or attractive shape; formless

She wore a **shapeless** dress that hid her figure, affecting how easily the group could coordinate its work and determine the next step.

MEMORY CUE: A shapeless blob has no stable or definite outline.

013 synchronization *noun***ORDER & CHAOS**

the operation or activity of two or more things at the same time or rate

The **synchronization** of the dancers' movements was flawless, affecting how easily the group could coordinate its work and determine the next step.

MEMORY CUE: Synchronization makes two clocks tick and strike at exactly the same rate and time.

014 methodical *adjective***ORDER & CHAOS**

done in a systematic way

Her **methodical** approach ensured accuracy, making the level of organization apparent to everyone involved in the effort.

MEMORY CUE: A methodical process follows numbered steps in systematic order.

015 chaotic *adjective***ORDER & CHAOS**

in a state of complete confusion

The **chaotic** scene overwhelmed rescuers, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: A chaotic room spins objects through complete confusion.

016 systematic *adjective***ORDER & CHAOS**

done according to a fixed plan

The **systematic** review took months, making the level of organization apparent to everyone involved in the effort.

MEMORY CUE: A systematic plan places every action on a fixed numbered path.

017 orderly *adjective***ORDER & CHAOS**

neatly and methodically arranged

The **orderly** files were easy to search, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: An orderly shelf arranges every item neatly and methodically.

018 disorderly *adjective***ORDER & CHAOS**

lacking organization; untidy

The **disorderly** crowd was dispersed, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: A disorderly space scatters unlabeled items without organization.

019 **careless** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

not giving sufficient attention or thought

Careless mistakes cost them the contract, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: A careless hand looks away while fragile objects begin to fall.

022 **precise** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

marked by exactness and accuracy

The surgeon's **precise** movements were impressive, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: A precise needle lands exactly on the ruler's thinnest mark.

020 **punctilious** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

showing great attention to detail

The **punctilious** editor caught every error, making the level of organization apparent to everyone involved in the effort.

MEMORY CUE: A punctilious editor checks every punctuation mark and minute detail.

023 **rigorous** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

extremely thorough and careful

The **rigorous** testing ensured safety, making the level of organization apparent to everyone involved in the effort.

MEMORY CUE: A rigorous inspection tests every part thoroughly and carefully.

021 **slapdash** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

done too hurriedly and carelessly

The **slapdash** work required revision, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: Slapdash work is thrown together so hurriedly that careless errors remain.

024 **lax** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

not sufficiently strict or careful

Lax security allowed the breach, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: A lax safety rope hangs too loose because standards are not strict enough.

025 **scrupulous** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

diligent and thorough

The **scrupulous** accountant found the error, affecting how easily the group could coordinate its work and determine the next step.

MEMORY CUE: A scrupulous worker examines every detail and completes every duty thoroughly.

028 **slovenly** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

messy and dirty; careless

His **slovenly** appearance hurt his chances, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: A slovenly workspace is messy, dirty, and carelessly maintained.

026 **negligent** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

failing to take proper care

Negligent behavior caused the accident, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: A negligent caretaker walks past a warning and leaves needed care undone.

029 **disciplined** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

showing controlled behavior

The **disciplined** athlete trained daily, affecting how easily the group could coordinate its work and determine the next step.

MEMORY CUE: A disciplined person keeps impulses inside a steady control line.

027 **fastidious** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

very attentive to accuracy and detail

The **fastidious** chef inspected every dish, making the level of organization apparent to everyone involved in the effort.

MEMORY CUE: A fastidious inspector spots one tiny speck and insists on exact accuracy.

030 **erratic** *adjective*

ORDER & CHAOS

not consistent or regular

His **erratic** behavior worried his family, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: An erratic path zigzags unpredictably without a regular pattern.

031 structured *adjective***ORDER & CHAOS**

planned or organized according to a framework

The **structured** program had clear goals, showing whether a clear structure guided the activity as conditions became more demanding.

MEMORY CUE: A structured plan fits each part into an organized framework.

032 amorphous *adjective***ORDER & CHAOS**

without a clearly defined shape or form

The **amorphous** blob defied identification, affecting how easily the group could coordinate its work and determine the next step.

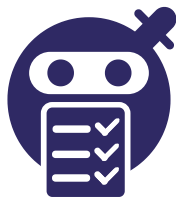
MEMORY CUE: An amorphous blob has no clearly defined shape.

033 regimented *adjective***ORDER & CHAOS**

very strictly organized or controlled

The **regimented** schedule left no free time, making the level of organization apparent to everyone involved in the effort.

MEMORY CUE: A regimented schedule marches in rigid, strictly controlled rows.



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