



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Power & Authority

37 focused words in Power & Authority

37

UNIQUE WORDS

1

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 assigned *verb***POWER & AUTHORITY**

allocated or designated for a particular task

Each student was **assigned** a topic for their research paper, making the balance of influence within the group easier for observers to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A name written beside a task shows that the task has been assigned to that person.

002 authoritative *adjective***POWER & AUTHORITY**

having recognized knowledge or expertise;
commanding respect

The professor wrote the **authoritative** textbook on the subject, making the balance of influence within the group easier for observers to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: An authoritative expert holds both a credential and the room's attention: knowledgeable and commanding respect.

003 command *noun***POWER & AUTHORITY**

an authoritative order or instruction

The general issued a **command** to advance at dawn, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: A commander points and gives an order; a command carries authority.

004 delegate *noun/verb***POWER & AUTHORITY**

to entrust a task or responsibility to another person; a representative

The manager learned to **delegate** tasks to her capable team members, making the balance of influence within the group easier for observers to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A leader delegates by passing a task baton to another person; a delegate carries the group's voice.

005 demands *noun/verb***POWER & AUTHORITY**

insistent requests or requirements; asks for forcefully

The job **demand**s excellent communication skills and attention to detail, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: Demands arrive as forceful requests stamped REQUIRED, not gentle suggestions.

006 dictate *verb***POWER & AUTHORITY**

to state or order authoritatively; to control or influence

Market conditions will **dictate** the pricing strategy for the new product, making the balance of influence within the group easier for observers to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A dictator's commanding voice dictates what others must write or do.

007 **directed** *verb*

POWER & AUTHORITY

guided or aimed toward a particular direction or purpose

The officer **directed** traffic away from the accident scene, showing who possessed the authority to determine what would happen next.

MEMORY CUE: A compass arrow directed the traveler toward one particular destination and purpose.

008 **dominance** *noun*

POWER & AUTHORITY

power and influence over others; the state of being dominant

The company maintained its market **dominance** for over a decade, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: Dominance places one crown above the controls that direct everyone else.

009 **influence** *noun*

POWER & AUTHORITY

the capacity to have an effect on someone's character, development, or behavior

Her parents had a strong **influence** on her career choice, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: Influence acts like an invisible magnet that bends another person's path or development.

010 **influenced** *verb*

POWER & AUTHORITY

had an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something

The artist was greatly **influenced** by the Impressionist movement, showing who possessed the authority to determine what would happen next.

MEMORY CUE: The compass needle changed direction because a nearby magnet influenced it.

011 **instituting** *verb*

POWER & AUTHORITY

establishing or introducing a system, policy, or practice

The government is **instituting** new regulations to protect consumers, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: Instituting a policy means setting its first official foundation stone into place.

012 **invalidate** *verb*

POWER & AUTHORITY

to make something legally or officially unacceptable; to prove wrong

New evidence could **invalidate** the previous research findings, showing who possessed the authority to determine what would happen next.

MEMORY CUE: A red X over an approval stamp invalidates it and proves it unacceptable.

013 **mandatory** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

required by law or rules; compulsory

Attendance at the safety training session is **mandatory** for all new employees, showing who possessed the authority to determine what would happen next.

MEMORY CUE: A mandatory task carries a REQUIRED stamp from the rulebook or law.

014 **powerful** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

having great power, influence, or effect

The **powerful** speech inspired the crowd to take action, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: A powerful force lifts a heavy weight and moves every nearby needle.

015 **prescribed** *verb*

POWER & AUTHORITY

recommended or authorized officially; ordered as a medical treatment

The doctor **prescribed** antibiotics for the infection, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: A prescribed treatment arrives on an official order signed by an authorized professional.

016 **regulate** *verb*

POWER & AUTHORITY

to control or maintain the rate or speed of something; to control by means of rules

The government must **regulate** the financial industry more effectively, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: A regulator holds the speed needle steady and enforces the rules controlling it.

017 **authoritarian** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

favoring strict obedience to authority

The **authoritarian** regime restricted press freedom, showing who possessed the authority to determine what would happen next.

MEMORY CUE: An authoritarian ruler demands strict obedience from a high command chair.

018 **autonomous** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

having self-government; independent

The **autonomous** region manages its own affairs, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: An autonomous figure holds its own steering wheel and governs itself.

019 **autocratic** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

taking no account of other people's wishes

His **autocratic** management style alienated staff, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: An autocratic ruler controls every decision with one personal lever.

022 **democratic** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

supporting or practicing democracy

The **democratic** process allows citizen participation, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: A democratic circle gives each citizen a ballot and a voice.

020 **egalitarian** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

believing in equal rights for all

The **egalitarian** society valued equal opportunity, making the balance of influence within the group easier for observers to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: An egalitarian scale places every person at the same level of rights.

023 **tyrannical** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

exercising power in a cruel or arbitrary way

The **tyrannical** boss terrorized employees, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: A tyrannical hand uses arbitrary power to crush people beneath it.

021 **despotic** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

of or typical of a despot; tyrannical

The **despotic** ruler crushed all dissent, showing who possessed the authority to determine what would happen next.

MEMORY CUE: A despotic ruler presses cruel controls from an unchecked throne.

024 **oppressive** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

unjustly harsh or authoritarian

The **oppressive** laws restricted basic freedoms, making the balance of influence within the group easier for observers to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: An oppressive system is a heavy ceiling pressing people under unjust authority.

025 **lenient** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

permissive, merciful, or tolerant

The **lenient** judge gave a light sentence, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: A lenient judge lowers the punishment gauge toward mercy.

028 **sovereign** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

possessing supreme power

The **sovereign** nation rejected foreign interference, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: A sovereign crown sits at the very top with supreme power.

026 **domineering** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

asserting one's will over others

His **domineering** personality overwhelmed others, showing who possessed the authority to determine what would happen next.

MEMORY CUE: A domineering figure grabs every steering wheel and forces others to follow.

029 **subordinate** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

lower in rank or position

The **subordinate** officer followed orders, showing who possessed the authority to determine what would happen next.

MEMORY CUE: A subordinate position occupies a lower rung beneath a superior.

027 **submissive** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

ready to conform to authority

The **submissive** employee never challenged decisions, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: A submissive person lowers resistance and readily follows authority.

030 **imperious** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

assuming power or authority without justification

Her **imperious** manner irritated colleagues, showing who possessed the authority to determine what would happen next.

MEMORY CUE: An imperious person wears an unauthorized crown and issues commands.

031 **subservient** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

prepared to obey others unquestioningly

The **subservient** assistant anticipated every need, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

MEMORY CUE: A subservient figure stands below another and obeys without question.

032 **coercive** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

using force or threats

Coercive tactics were used to extract confessions, showing who possessed the authority to determine what would happen next.

MEMORY CUE: A coercive hand uses a threat rope to force compliance.

033 **optional** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

available to be chosen but not obligatory

The extra credit assignment is **optional**, making the balance of influence within the group easier for observers to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: An optional choice stands beside doors marked DO or SKIP.

034 **compulsory** *adjective*

POWER & AUTHORITY

required by law or rule

Education is **compulsory** until age sixteen, showing who possessed the authority to determine what would happen next.

MEMORY CUE: A compulsory action carries a REQUIRED BY RULE stamp.

035 **hegemony** *noun*

POWER & AUTHORITY

leadership or dominance, especially by one country

The empire's **hegemony** extended across continents, making the balance of influence within the group easier for observers to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: Hegemony places one nation's control tower above the surrounding states.

036 **subjugation** *noun*

POWER & AUTHORITY

the action of bringing under domination

The **subjugation** of indigenous peoples was brutal, demonstrating how control was distributed among the people and institutions involved.

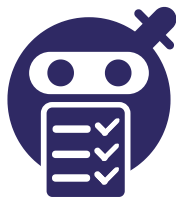
MEMORY CUE: Subjugation forces a group beneath another power's controlling chain.

037 empower *verb***POWER & AUTHORITY**

to give power or authority to

Education can **empower** disadvantaged communities, showing who possessed the authority to determine what would happen next.

MEMORY CUE: Empower someone by handing them both authority and the controls.



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