



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Pride & Humility

22 focused words in Pride & Humility

22

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 unpretentious *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

not attempting to impress others; modest and genuine

Despite her wealth, she maintained an **unpretentious** and down-to-earth demeanor, showing how the speaker viewed personal success in relation to the contributions of others.

MEMORY CUE: An unpretentious person steps off the pedestal and sets aside the showy crown.

002 diffident *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

modest or shy due to lack of self-confidence

The **diffident** student rarely raised her hand, revealing whether confidence or modesty guided the person's response to recognition.

MEMORY CUE: A diffident person shrinks from the spotlight because confidence is low.

003 arrogant *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

having an exaggerated sense of one's importance

His **arrogant** attitude alienated his colleagues, revealing whether confidence or modesty guided the person's response to recognition.

MEMORY CUE: An arrogant figure wears an oversized crown above everyone else.

004 humble *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

having a modest view of one's importance

Despite her success, she remained **humble**, influencing how others interpreted the person's sense of importance and accomplishment.

MEMORY CUE: A humble person steps off the pedestal and carries no oversized crown.

005 haughty *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

arrogantly superior and disdainful

The **haughty** aristocrat looked down on everyone, influencing how others interpreted the person's sense of importance and accomplishment.

MEMORY CUE: A haughty figure looks down from a high throne with disdain.

006 conceited *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

excessively proud of oneself

His **conceited** attitude made him unpopular, showing how the speaker viewed personal success in relation to the contributions of others.

MEMORY CUE: A conceited figure admires an oversized portrait of himself.

007 modest *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

unassuming about one's abilities

Despite her achievements, she remained **modest**, revealing whether confidence or modesty guided the person's response to recognition.

MEMORY CUE: A modest achiever steps away from the spotlight and keeps the trophy low.

010 self-effacing *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

not claiming attention for oneself; modest

Her **self-effacing** manner belied her talents, influencing how others interpreted the person's sense of importance and accomplishment.

MEMORY CUE: A self-effacing person erases their own name from the spotlight.

008 pretentious *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

attempting to impress by affecting importance

The **pretentious** restaurant failed to deliver quality food, showing how the speaker viewed personal success in relation to the contributions of others.

MEMORY CUE: A pretentious person wears a fake crown to appear more important.

011 boastful *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

showing excessive pride in oneself

His **boastful** claims were often exaggerated, showing how the speaker viewed personal success in relation to the contributions of others.

MEMORY CUE: A boastful speaker uses a megaphone to announce every personal trophy.

009 egotistical *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

excessively conceited or self-centered

His **egotistical** behavior alienated his colleagues, showing how the speaker viewed personal success in relation to the contributions of others.

MEMORY CUE: An egotistical world has one person's face at its center.

012 unassuming *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

not pretentious or arrogant; modest

The **unassuming** hero downplayed his bravery, influencing how others interpreted the person's sense of importance and accomplishment.

MEMORY CUE: An unassuming expert quietly leaves the crown and spotlight unused.

013 vain *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

having excessive pride in one's appearance

She was too **vain** to admit her mistakes, showing how the speaker viewed personal success in relation to the contributions of others.

MEMORY CUE: A vain person stares proudly into a mirror framed by appearance medals.

016 demure *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

reserved, modest, and shy

Her **demure** smile charmed everyone, influencing how others interpreted the person's sense of importance and accomplishment.

MEMORY CUE: A demure person sits quietly with a modest, reserved posture.

014 meek *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

quiet, gentle, and easily imposed on

The **meek** assistant never questioned orders, revealing whether confidence or modesty guided the person's response to recognition.

MEMORY CUE: A meek figure speaks gently and yields space when others push forward.

017 ostentatious *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

characterized by vulgar display; showy

The **ostentatious** mansion featured gold fixtures, influencing how others interpreted the person's sense of importance and accomplishment.

MEMORY CUE: An ostentatious display flashes jewels and signs demanding LOOK AT ME.

015 pompous *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

affectedly grand or self-important

The **pompous** official lectured everyone condescendingly, showing how the speaker viewed personal success in relation to the contributions of others.

MEMORY CUE: A pompous speaker stands on a grand pedestal built from self-importance.

018 understated *adjective***PRIDE & HUMILITY**

presented or expressed with restraint

His **understated** elegance was admired by all, showing how the speaker viewed personal success in relation to the contributions of others.

MEMORY CUE: An understated achievement appears in small, restrained lettering without fanfare.

019 **grandiose** *adjective*

PRIDE & HUMILITY

impressive and imposing; pompous

His **grandiose** plans exceeded the budget, revealing whether confidence or modesty guided the person's response to recognition.

MEMORY CUE: A grandiose plan arrives as an enormous palace model with pompous banners.

022 **smug** *adjective*

PRIDE & HUMILITY

having excessive pride in oneself

His **smug** expression irritated everyone, influencing how others interpreted the person's sense of importance and accomplishment.

MEMORY CUE: A smug smile rests above folded arms and an oversized self-satisfaction medal.

020 **flamboyant** *adjective*

PRIDE & HUMILITY

tending to attract attention; showy

Her **flamboyant** style made her stand out, revealing whether confidence or modesty guided the person's response to recognition.

MEMORY CUE: A flamboyant outfit uses dramatic color and movement to attract every eye.

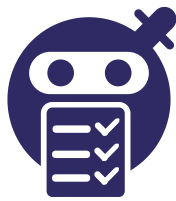
021 **brash** *adjective*

PRIDE & HUMILITY

self-assertive in a rude or overbearing way

His **brash** comments offended the committee, showing how the speaker viewed personal success in relation to the contributions of others.

MEMORY CUE: A brash person shoves to the front with loud, rude self-assertion.



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