



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Relevance & Importance

50 focused words in Relevance & Importance

50

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 **accessory** *noun*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

a supplementary item that adds to or enhances something else

She bought a matching handbag as an **accessory** to her outfit, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: An accessory comes after the main outfit: an extra item that enhances the whole.

002 **basic** *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

forming an essential foundation; fundamental

Understanding **basic** grammar is essential for learning a new language, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: The basic block sits at the bottom of the tower; it forms the essential foundation.

003 **critical** *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

expressing disapproval; extremely important

Timing is **critical** to the success of this operation, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A critical red pen points out faults; a critical bridge support is too important to fail.

004 **discounted** *verb*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

reduced in price; disregarded as being unreliable or unimportant

The store **discounted** all winter merchandise by fifty percent, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A discounted price has a slash through it; a discounted claim is crossed out as unreliable.

005 **dismiss** *verb*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

to send away or allow to leave; to treat as unworthy of consideration

The judge decided to **dismiss** the case due to lack of evidence, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: Dismiss a person with an exit gesture or dismiss an idea into a bin marked unworthy.

006 **disregarded** *verb*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

paid no attention to; ignored

The warnings were **disregarded**, leading to the preventable accident, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A ringing bell that everyone ignores is being disregarded.

007 extraneous *adjective***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

irrelevant or unrelated to the subject; coming from outside

The editor removed all **extraneous** details from the manuscript, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: An extraneous puzzle piece sits outside the picture because it is unrelated and unnecessary.

008 featured *verb/adjective***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

given special prominence; included as a main element

The article **featured** interviews with several industry experts, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: A featured item stands in the center spotlight as a main element.

009 foundational *adjective***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

serving as a base or foundation; fundamental

Mathematics is **foundational** to understanding physics and engineering, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A foundational stone sits at the base and supports everything built above it.

010 highlight *verb***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

to emphasize or draw attention to something important

The report will **highlight** the key findings of our research, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: A yellow highlighter and a spotlight both draw attention to what matters.

011 ignored *verb***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

refused to take notice of; disregarded

Her advice was **ignored**, and the project failed as a result, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: The ringing bell received no glance or response because it was ignored.

012 important *adjective***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

of great significance or value; having high rank or influence

Education is **important** for personal and professional development, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: An important object stands on a high-value pedestal because it has great significance.

013 inconsequential *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

not important or significant; trivial

The minor error was **inconsequential** to the overall project, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: An inconsequential speck is swept aside because it has no meaningful importance.

014 insignificance *noun*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

the quality of being too small or unimportant to be worth consideration

Standing beneath the vast stars, she felt a sense of her own **insignificance**, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: Insignificance shrinks an item into a speck too unimportant to consider.

015 irrelevant *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

not connected with or related to something; not applicable

The lawyer objected, stating that the question was **irrelevant** to the case, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: An irrelevant puzzle piece has no connection to the picture and belongs outside the frame.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: not connected with the matter at hand

016 overshadowed *verb*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

made to seem less important or successful in comparison

Her achievements were **overshadowed** by her more famous sibling, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A huge spotlight on one achievement leaves the other overshadowed and less noticeable.

017 peripheral *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

relating to the edge or outer boundary; of secondary importance

The **peripheral** issues distracted from the main topic of discussion, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: Peripheral items sit at the edge of the circle, outside the main center.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: of secondary or minor importance

018 prioritize *verb*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

to designate or treat something as more important than other things

You need to **prioritize** your tasks to meet the deadline, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: Prioritize by moving the most important task to the top of the stack.

019 redundant *adjective***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

not or no longer needed or useful; superfluous; using more words than necessary

The phrase 'free gift' is **redundant** since gifts are always free, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A redundant piece remains after the puzzle is complete, extra and no longer useful.

020 require *verb***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

to need for a particular purpose; to demand as necessary

This recipe will **require** three cups of flour, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A missing essential piece shows what the task requires before it can work.

021 required *verb/adjective***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

needed for a particular purpose; officially compulsory

All students are **required** to complete the assignment by Friday, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: A required item carries both a NECESSARY label and an official command stamp.

022 requirement *noun***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

something that is needed or demanded; a necessary condition

A college degree is a **requirement** for this position, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A requirement is the necessary key that must be present before the gate opens.

023 requires *verb***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

needs for a particular purpose; demands as necessary

The job **requires** excellent communication skills, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: The machine requires the missing gear because it cannot operate without it.

024 significant *adjective***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention; meaningful

There has been a **significant** improvement in her grades, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A significant item stands under an IMPORTANT spotlight because it deserves attention.

025 underscore *verb*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

to emphasize or highlight the importance of something

The report served to **underscore** the need for immediate action on climate change, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: An underscore literally draws a line beneath an important point to emphasize it.

026 unimportant *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

lacking in significance or value; not mattering much

The minor details seemed **unimportant** compared to the larger issues at hand, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: An unimportant speck sits outside the spotlight because it has little significance.

027 unnecessary *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

not needed; more than is needed or wanted

The lengthy introduction seemed **unnecessary** and wasted valuable time, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: An unnecessary spare piece remains after the finished machine already works.

028 unremarkable *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

not particularly interesting or surprising; ordinary

The town appeared **unremarkable** at first but had a rich hidden history, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: An unremarkable object blends into an ordinary gray row without attracting notice.

029 superfluous *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

unnecessary; more than is needed

The editor removed **superfluous** words from the article, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A superfluous piece remains after every need is already met.

030 paramount *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

more important than anything else; supreme

Safety is of **paramount** importance in this industry, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: The paramount concern sits alone at the mountain's highest point.

031 negligible *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

so small as to be not worth considering

The impact on the environment was **negligible**, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: A negligible amount shrinks into a speck too small to matter.

034 tangential *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

diverging from a main subject

His **tangential** comments delayed the meeting, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A tangential remark leaves the main subject along a side road.

032 trivial *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

of little value or importance

Don't waste time on **trivial** matters, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: A trivial speck is too small in value or importance to deserve the spotlight.

035 germane *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

relevant to a subject under consideration

Only **germane** information should be included, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: A germane point fits squarely inside the current subject.

033 pertinent *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

relevant to the matter at hand

She made several **pertinent** observations, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A pertinent fact connects directly to the question at hand.

036 salient *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

most noticeable or important

The **salient** points were highlighted, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: The salient feature projects above the rest and attracts notice first.

037 apropos *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

very appropriate to a particular situation

Her comment was **apropos** to the discussion, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: An apropos response fits the situation like the correct puzzle piece.

038 digressive *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

tending to stray from the main point

His **digressive** style frustrated listeners, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A digressive speaker repeatedly exits the main road for side topics.

039 material *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

significant or relevant

The information was **material** to the case, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A material fact carries enough significance and relevance to affect the matter.

040 incidental *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

happening as a minor consequence

The **incidental** costs added up, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: An incidental effect appears as a small side branch of the main event.

041 pivotal *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

of crucial importance

It was a **pivotal** moment in history, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A pivotal pin holds the whole mechanism at its crucial turning point.

042 crucial *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

of great importance; critical

The **crucial** vote determined the outcome, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A crucial support bears the entire bridge and cannot fail.

043 central *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

of greatest importance; principal

This is **central** to our strategy, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: The central issue sits at the middle and controls the surrounding discussion.

044 marginal *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

of minor importance

The **marginal** improvements weren't enough, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A marginal detail rests at the page's edge because it has minor importance.

045 essential *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

absolutely necessary; extremely important

Water is **essential** for survival, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: The essential gear is the one piece without which the machine cannot run.

046 dispensable *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

able to be replaced or done without

No employee is truly **dispensable**, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A dispensable part can be removed or replaced while the system still works.

047 vital *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

absolutely necessary or important

Oxygen is **vital** for life, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A vital component is as necessary as a beating heart.

048 fundamental *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

forming a necessary base or core

These are **fundamental** principles, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A fundamental block forms the necessary base and core.

049 ancillary *adjective*

RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE

providing support to primary activities

Ancillary services included catering, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

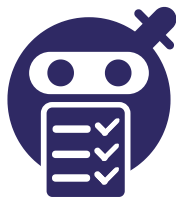
MEMORY CUE: An ancillary tool stands beside and supports the primary operation.

050 integral *adjective***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

necessary to make a whole complete

She was an **integral** part of the team, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: An integral puzzle piece is necessary to complete the whole picture.



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.

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