



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Similarity & Difference

78 focused words in Similarity & Difference

78

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 affinity *noun*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

a natural liking or attraction to something or someone

She has always had an **affinity** for learning foreign languages, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Affinity acts like a magnet between kindred people or things: a natural liking or attraction.

002 among *preposition*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

surrounded by; in the company of

She was **among** the first to arrive at the conference, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: One red marble surrounded by blue marbles sits among them.

003 analogy *noun*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

a comparison between two things to highlight similarities

The teacher used an **analogy** comparing the heart to a pump, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: An analogy builds a comparison bridge between two things that share an important feature.

004 anomaly *noun*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

something that deviates from the normal or expected

The warm weather in December was an **anomaly** for this region, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: One red apple in a perfect row of green apples is an anomaly: it breaks the expected pattern.

005 attached *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

joined or connected to something

Please review the documents **attached** to this email, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: A paper clip keeps two sheets attached: physically joined and connected.

006 atypical *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

not representative of a type or group; unusual

His calm reaction to the crisis was **atypical** of his usual behavior, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: One purple sheep in a white flock is atypical: not representative of the group.

007 characteristic *noun*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

a typical feature or quality of something

Patience is a **characteristic** essential for teachers, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: A characteristic is like a fingerprint: a typical feature that helps identify something.

008 combined *verb*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

joined together to form a single unit

The **combined** efforts of the team led to success, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Two puzzle pieces click together and become one unit: they are combined.

009 common *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

occurring frequently; shared by many

It is **common** for students to feel nervous before exams, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: A common room is shared by many; common events also appear frequently.

010 commonalities *noun*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

shared features or characteristics

Despite their differences, they found many **commonalities** in their backgrounds, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: The overlap in a Venn diagram holds the commonalities: features both sides share.

011 commonplace *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

ordinary; not unusual or remarkable

Video calls have become **commonplace** in modern workplaces, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: Picture a gray object rolling off an assembly line of identical copies: ordinary and unremarkable.

012 comparable *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

similar enough to be compared

The two products are **comparable** in quality and price, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: Comparable items can stand side by side on the same scale because they are sufficiently similar.

013 complementary *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

combining well to enhance or complete something

The two research approaches are **complementary** rather than competing, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: Complementary puzzle pieces are different, but fit together to improve and complete the picture.

014 comprises *verb*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

consists of; is made up of

The committee **comprises** experts from various fields, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A toolbox comprises its tools: the whole consists of all the parts inside it.

015 conflated *verb*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

combined two or more things into one, often mistakenly

The reporter **conflated** two separate incidents in her article, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: Two differently labeled folders accidentally merged into one illustrate ideas being conflated.

016 consistent *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

acting or done in the same way over time; unchanging

Her **consistent** performance earned her a promotion, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A metronome keeps the same beat over time; that dependable sameness is consistent.

017 decoupled *verb*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

separated or disconnected from something else

The engineers **decoupled** the software modules to make the system more maintainable, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: Two train cars are decoupled when the link between them is released.

018 demarcated *verb*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

set the boundaries or limits of something

The property lines were clearly **demarcated** by a wooden fence, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: A bright boundary line demarcates exactly where one area ends and another begins.

019 **deviates** *verb*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

departs from an established course or norm

Any employee who **deviates** from the safety protocol will face disciplinary action, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A line that suddenly leaves the marked route deviates from the established course.

020 **distant** *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

far away in space or time; not closely related; reserved in manner

The **distant** mountains were barely visible through the morning fog, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: A distant mountain needs a telescope; a distant person keeps a closed gate between relationships.

021 **distinct** *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

recognizably different; clearly separate or unique

Each region has its own **distinct** culture and traditions, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: One bright shape separated from the others is distinct: clearly different and recognizable.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: recognizably different in nature

022 **diverge** *verb*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

to separate and go in different directions; to differ in opinion

The two paths **diverge** at the old oak tree in the forest, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: Two arrows diverge when they split from one path and travel in different directions.

023 **diverse** *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

showing great variety; including people of different types

The city is known for its **diverse** population and multicultural neighborhoods, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A diverse garden contains a wide variety of colors, shapes, and species.

024 **epitomize** *verb*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

to be a perfect example of a quality or type

Her dedication and hard work **epitomize** the values of our organization, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: The perfect model on a pedestal epitomizes every defining quality of its type.

025 epitomizing *verb*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

being a perfect example of a quality or type

The athlete is **epitomizing** perseverance by competing despite her injury, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: Epitomizing a quality means serving as its clearest, most perfect example.

026 examples *noun*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

things that serve as models or illustrations; instances

The teacher provided several **examples** to clarify the concept, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: Examples are concrete sample cards that show what a general idea looks like.

027 exemplifies *verb*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

serves as a typical example of; illustrates

Her career **exemplifies** what can be achieved through determination, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: A perfect sample under a spotlight exemplifies the larger type it represents.

028 homogeneous *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

of the same kind; uniform in structure or composition throughout

The scientist needed a **homogeneous** mixture for the experiment, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: A homogeneous mixture looks the same throughout, with no different pieces visible.

029 imitated *verb*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

copied or reproduced the actions or appearance of someone or something

The young artist **imitated** the style of the great masters, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: A mirror performer imitated every movement by copying it exactly.

030 imitation *noun*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

a copy or reproduction of something; the act of copying

The painting turned out to be an **imitation** of the original masterpiece, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: An imitation is the second object stamped COPY beside the original.

031 independent *adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

free from outside control; self-reliant and not dependent on others

She valued her **independent** lifestyle and made her own decisions, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: An independent figure cuts its control strings and stands on its own feet.

032 interchangeable *adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

able to be exchanged or substituted for one another

The parts are **interchangeable** between the two models, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Interchangeable parts trade places while the machine continues working the same way.

033 intersect *verb***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

to cross or meet at a point; to overlap or share common elements

The two roads **intersect** at the center of town, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: Two roads intersect where they cross and share one point.

034 isolate *verb***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

to set apart from others; to identify and examine separately

Scientists worked to **isolate** the virus in the laboratory, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: Place one sample alone under a glass dome to isolate and examine it separately.

035 match *verb***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

to correspond or be equal to something; to pair appropriately

The curtains **match** the carpet perfectly in both color and pattern, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Matching pieces align as equals and click into their appropriate pair.

036 mimic *verb***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

to imitate someone or something, especially for entertainment or learning

Parrots can **mimic** human speech with remarkable accuracy, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: A mimic becomes a living mirror by copying another person's actions or appearance.

037 multifaceted *adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

having many different aspects, elements, or features

Climate change is a **multifaceted** problem requiring solutions from many disciplines, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A multifaceted jewel shows many different faces, aspects, and features.

038 novel *adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

new and original; not like anything seen before

The scientist proposed a **novel** approach to solving the energy crisis, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A novel idea steps out of a box stamped NEW and ORIGINAL.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: new or unusual in an interesting way

039 oddity *noun***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

a strange or unusual person, thing, or trait

The museum displayed many curiosities and **oddities** from around the world, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: An oddity is the one strange purple object in a row of ordinary gray ones.

040 ordinary *adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

with no special or distinctive features; normal

It seemed like an **ordinary** day until the surprise party began, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: An ordinary object stands in an unmarked row with no special feature.

041 original *adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

present from the beginning; creative and not copied

The artist is known for her **original** style of painting, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: The original carries both FIRST and NOT COPIED stamps.

042 particular *adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

specific or individual; especially great or intense

She has a **particular** talent for solving complex puzzles, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: A particular item is the one specific object circled out of the group.

043 personal *adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

belonging to or affecting a particular individual

He keeps his **personal** life separate from his professional work, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: A PERSONAL name tag marks what belongs to or affects one particular individual.

044 relate *verb***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

to make or show a connection between; to feel sympathy or identify with

Many teenagers can **relate** to the struggles depicted in the film, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Relate two ideas by drawing a connection line; relate to a person by sharing their feeling.

045 repeatable *adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

able to be done or made again in the same way

The experiment must be **repeatable** for the results to be valid, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: A repeatable process follows the same circular arrow and produces the same result again.

046 repetitive *adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

containing or characterized by repetition, especially when unnecessary or tiresome

The **repetitive** tasks made the job monotonous, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A repetitive sound travels around the same loop until the repetition becomes tiresome.

047 replicable *adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

able to be exactly copied or reproduced

Scientific findings must be **replicable** by other researchers, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A replicable result can be copied exactly by repeating the same procedure.

048 representative *noun/adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

typical of a class or group; a person chosen to act or speak for others

The survey results are **representative** of the general population, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A representative sample resembles its group; a representative person speaks for that group.

049 reunite *verb***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

to come together or cause to come together again after a period of separation

The organization helps **reunite** families separated by war, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Two separated halves follow return arrows and reunite as one whole.

050 routine *noun/adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

a sequence of actions regularly followed; performed as part of a regular procedure

Exercise has become part of her daily **routine**, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A routine follows the same circular sequence of actions each day.

051 similar *adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

resembling without being identical; having characteristics in common

The two paintings are **similar** in style but different in subject, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: Similar twins share many features but wear one small difference.

052 similarities *noun***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

the state or quality of being similar; points of resemblance

Despite their differences, there are many **similarities** between the two cultures, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Similarities occupy the overlapping center of a Venn diagram.

053 simulate *verb***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

to imitate the appearance or character of; to produce a computer model of

The software can **simulate** real-world weather conditions, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: A simulator creates a working model that imitates the real system.

054 uniform *adjective***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

remaining the same in all cases; consistent and unchanging

The company implemented **uniform** policies across all its branches, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A uniform row repeats the same shape and color without change.

055 unoriginal *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

lacking originality or novelty; derivative

Critics dismissed the film as **unoriginal**, noting its many borrowed plot elements, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: An unoriginal idea rolls from a copier beside a stack of identical earlier versions.

056 discrepancy *noun*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

a lack of compatibility between facts or claims

There was a **discrepancy** between the two accounts of the event, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: A discrepancy appears when two supposedly matching facts fail to line up.

057 derivative *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

something obtained from another source

The design was **derivative** of earlier works, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A derivative result follows an origin arrow from an earlier source.

058 analogous *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

comparable in certain respects

The two situations are **analogous**, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: Analogous objects stand on a comparison bridge because certain features correspond.

059 disparate *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

essentially different in kind

The **disparate** groups struggled to agree, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: Disparate objects belong in separate boxes because they differ essentially in kind.

060 parallel *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

similar or corresponding

The **parallel** stories shared common themes, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Parallel lines travel side by side like similar, corresponding ideas.

061 divergent *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

tending to be different or develop differently

Their **divergent** views caused conflict, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: Divergent paths separate and develop in different directions.

064 congruent *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

in agreement or harmony

The findings were **congruent** with the theory, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: Congruent shapes overlap exactly, showing agreement and harmony.

062 akin *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

of similar character

His feelings were **akin** to despair, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: Two related shapes stand together because they are akin in character.

065 incongruous *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

not in harmony or keeping with surroundings

His casual attire was **incongruous** at the formal event, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: An incongruous piece clashes with its surroundings and will not fit.

063 dissimilar *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

not alike; different

The twins had **dissimilar** personalities, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: Dissimilar objects share no matching pattern and look clearly different.

066 heterogeneous *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

diverse in character or content

The **heterogeneous** group brought varied perspectives, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: A heterogeneous mixture visibly contains many different kinds of pieces.

067 varied *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

incorporating a number of different types

The menu offered **varied** options, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: A varied collection includes many different types, colors, and forms.

070 equivalent *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

equal in value, function, or meaning

The two qualifications are **equivalent**, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: Equivalent items balance equally in value, function, or meaning.

068 synonymous *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

having the same or similar meaning

His name became **synonymous** with excellence, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: Synonymous word cards point toward the same or nearly the same meaning.

071 identical *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

exactly alike

The twins looked **identical**, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity for everyone involved.

MEMORY CUE: Identical twins match exactly in every visible detail.

069 antonymous *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

having opposite meanings

Hot and cold are **antonymous** terms, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: Antonymous word cards face opposite meanings across a divide.

072 contrasting *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

differing strikingly

The **contrasting** colors created visual interest, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: Contrasting objects appear side by side with striking differences.

073 compatible *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

able to exist or work together

The software was **compatible** with all devices, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: Compatible gears fit together and work in harmony.

074 incompatible *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

unable to exist together in harmony

Their schedules were **incompatible**, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Incompatible gears grind against each other and cannot work together.

075 corresponding *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

analogous or equivalent in character

Each number has a **corresponding** letter, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: Corresponding parts occupy matching positions and share equivalent roles.

076 discordant *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

disagreeing or incongruous

The **discordant** notes jarred the ear, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Discordant notes clash rather than agreeing in harmony.

077 inconsistent *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

not staying the same throughout

His **inconsistent** behavior confused everyone, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: An inconsistent pattern changes color and direction instead of staying the same.

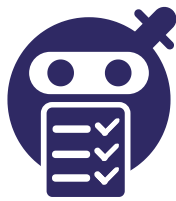
078 cognate *adjective*

SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE

having the same origin

English and German have **cognate** words, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Cognates grow as related branches from the same linguistic root.



SAT VOCABULARY

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