



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Speech & Expression

61 focused words in Speech & Expression

61

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 **account** *noun*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

a report or description of events; a financial record

He gave a detailed **account** of what happened during the meeting, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: An accountant records both stories and sums; an account is a report or financial record.

002 **advertising** *noun*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

the activity of producing promotions for commercial products or services

The company spent millions on **advertising** for the new product launch, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: An AD announces "buy this"; advertising is the work of creating those promotions.

003 **advises** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

offers suggestions or recommendations

The doctor **advises** patients to exercise regularly for better health, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: An adviser points toward the wiser path; advises means offers guidance or recommendations.

004 **annotate** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to add explanatory notes or comments to a text

Students were asked to **annotate** the poem with their interpretations, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: The word annotate contains NOTE; to annotate is to add explanatory notes to a text.

005 **announced** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

made a public or formal declaration

The company **announced** plans to expand into international markets, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: An announcer uses a public microphone; announced means formally declared for others to hear.

006 **apologize** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to express regret for a mistake or wrongdoing

He called to **apologize** for missing the important meeting, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: An apology puts regret into words; to apologize is to express that regret.

007 **asserted** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

stated confidently and forcefully

The lawyer **asserted** that her client was innocent of all charges, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: He planted a statement like a flag; asserted means stated it confidently and forcefully.

008 **asserting** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

stating confidently and forcefully

He kept **asserting** his right to speak at the meeting, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: Asserting a claim is planting it like a flag and stating it with force.

009 **characterization** *noun*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

the description of distinctive qualities or features

The author's **characterization** of the villain was complex and nuanced, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: Characterization shines a spotlight on the distinctive qualities that describe a person or thing.

010 **cited** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

quoted or referenced as evidence or authority

The researcher **cited** several studies to support her conclusions, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: A citation tag ties a claim back to the source cited as evidence or authority.

011 **consulting** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

seeking information or advice from someone

After **consulting** with experts, they made their decision, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: Consulting an expert means bringing a question to someone who can provide advice.

012 **convey** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to communicate or express an idea or feeling

The painting manages to **convey** a sense of deep melancholy, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: A conveyor belt carries a message forward; to convey is to communicate or express it.

013 **demonstrate** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to show or prove something clearly; to explain by practical example

The scientist will **demonstrate** how the chemical reaction occurs, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: Demonstrate by putting the idea under a spotlight and showing how it works.

014 **demonstrating** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

showing or proving something clearly through example or evidence

The instructor spent the afternoon **demonstrating** proper safety techniques, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: Demonstrating turns a claim into a visible example or a clear piece of evidence.

015 **describe** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to give an account of something by stating its characteristics

Can you **describe** what the suspect looked like to the police officer, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: Describe an object by painting its portrait with words about its characteristics.

016 **described** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

gave an account of something by stating its characteristics

The witness **described** the accident in great detail to the investigators, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: The witness described the object by giving a word-picture of its features.

017 **discussed** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

talked about something with others; considered by talking

The board **discussed** several options before making their final decision, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: An idea placed at the center of a round table has been discussed by the group.

018 **displayed** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

showed or exhibited something for others to see

The museum **displayed** rare paintings from the Renaissance period, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: An object displayed in a lit glass case is deliberately shown for others to see.

019 **disseminate** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to spread information or knowledge widely

The organization works to **disseminate** accurate health information to the public, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: Disseminate information like seeds scattered widely across many fields.

020 **explains** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

makes something clear by describing it in detail

The manual **explains** how to assemble the furniture step by step, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: An explanation turns a foggy mechanism into a clear, labeled diagram.

021 **illustrate** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to explain or make something clear by using examples or pictures

The teacher used diagrams to **illustrate** the concept of photosynthesis, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: Illustrate an idea by placing a clear picture or concrete example beside it.

022 **illustrated** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

explained or made clear with examples or pictures

The book **illustrated** the history of art through beautiful reproductions, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: The explanation became illustrated when pictures and examples made it clear.

023 **indicated** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

pointed out or showed; suggested as appropriate

The survey results **indicated** strong support for the new policy, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: A pointing arrow indicated the item by showing exactly where to look.

024 **interjected** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

suddenly inserted a remark into a conversation

He **interjected** a witty comment that made everyone laugh, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: An interjected remark jumps through the conversation's line like a sudden pop-up.

025 popularize *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to make something widely liked or known

The television series helped **popularize** interest in history, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: Popularize an idea by moving it from one small room onto everyone's screens.

026 proclaims *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

announces officially or publicly

The sign proudly **proclaims** the town's historical significance, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: A proclamation sends an official announcement through a public megaphone.

027 recommend *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to suggest that someone or something would be good or suitable for a particular purpose

I highly **recommend** this restaurant for its authentic cuisine, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: A recommendation points toward an option judged good and suitable for the purpose.

028 recommended *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

suggested as being good or suitable; advised

The doctor **recommended** plenty of rest and fluids, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: A green arrow marked GOOD CHOICE shows the option was recommended.

029 refer *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to mention or allude to; to direct someone to a source of information

Please **refer** to the manual for detailed instructions, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: A reference arrow mentions the source and directs the reader toward it.

030 reports *noun/verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

gives a spoken or written account of something; formal accounts or statements

The journalist **reports** on international affairs, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: Reports place observed facts into a formal spoken or written account.

031 **represented** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

acted or spoke on behalf of; symbolized or stood for

The lawyer **represented** her client in court, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: One symbol stood for the idea while one delegate spoke for the group; both represented them.

032 **signaling** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

transmitting information or instructions by means of a gesture or sign

The flashing lights were **signaling** an emergency, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: A raised flag transmits information by signaling with a visible sign.

033 **sketch** *noun/verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

a rough or unfinished drawing; to make a rough drawing of

The artist made a quick **sketch** of the landscape, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: A sketch uses quick, unfinished lines to capture a rough version.

034 **sketched** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

made a rough drawing of; gave a brief account of

She **sketched** the outline of her plan for the committee, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: A few rough lines or brief words show that the subject was only sketched.

035 **suggest** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to put forward for consideration; to cause one to think of something

I **suggest** we take a different approach to the problem, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: Suggest an idea by placing it gently on the consideration table rather than commanding it.

036 **synopsis** *noun*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

a brief summary or general survey of something

The publisher asked for a **synopsis** of the novel before reading the full manuscript.

MEMORY CUE: A synopsis compresses a long book into one short summary card.

037 **warned** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

informed someone in advance of a possible danger or problem

The meteorologist **warned** residents to prepare for the approaching hurricane, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: A warning sign shown in advance means someone was warned of possible danger.

038 **retract** *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to withdraw a statement or opinion

The newspaper was forced to **retract** the inaccurate story, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: Retract a statement by pulling its speech ribbon back into the mouth.

039 **articulate** *adjective*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

able to express thoughts clearly

The **articulate** speaker captivated the audience, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: An articulate speaker turns complex thoughts into clear, well-shaped words.

040 **reticent** *adjective*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

not revealing one's thoughts readily

He was **reticent** about discussing his past, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: A reticent person keeps thoughts behind a zipped mouth.

041 **taciturn** *adjective*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

reserved or uncommunicative in speech

The **taciturn** man rarely spoke in meetings, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: A taciturn speaker carries only two words and keeps the rest locked away.

042 **loquacious** *adjective*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

tending to talk a great deal

The **loquacious** tour guide shared endless stories, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: A loquacious speaker unrolls a very long ribbon of talk.

043 garrulous *adjective*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

excessively talkative, especially about trivial matters

The **garrulous** neighbor talked for hours about nothing, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: A garrulous person fills an endless speech ribbon with trivial chatter.

046 succinct *adjective*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

briefly and clearly expressed

Her **succinct** summary captured all the key points, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: A succinct statement fits clear meaning into one short line.

044 eloquent *adjective*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

fluent and persuasive in speaking or writing

The **eloquent** orator moved the audience to tears, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: Eloquent words flow smoothly and persuasively from thought to audience.

047 laconic *adjective*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

using very few words

His **laconic** reply revealed nothing about his true feelings, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: A laconic speaker answers with only two carefully chosen words.

045 verbose *adjective*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

using more words than needed

The **verbose** report could have been half as long, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: A verbose speaker uses an enormous scroll for a small message.

048 terse *adjective*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

sparing in the use of words; abrupt

The **terse** email conveyed his displeasure, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: A terse reply is short, clipped, and sharp at the edges.

049 concise *adjective***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

giving information clearly in few words

Write a **concise** summary of the main arguments, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: Concise writing cuts away extra words while keeping the information clear.

052 rambling *adjective***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

lengthy and confused; lacking direction

His **rambling** explanation only added to the confusion, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: A rambling speech wanders down many side roads without clear direction.

050 prolix *adjective***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

using too many words; tediously lengthy

The **prolix** speech tested the audience's patience, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: A prolix speech winds through a tediously long scroll of excess words.

053 cogent *adjective***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

clear, logical, and convincing

She presented a **cogent** argument for reform, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: A cogent argument builds a clear logical bridge that carries the listener to agreement.

051 pithy *adjective***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

concise and full of meaning

The columnist was known for her **pithy** observations, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: A pithy sentence packs dense meaning into a tiny verbal seed.

054 persuasive *adjective***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

good at convincing others

His **persuasive** speech won over the skeptics, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: Persuasive words act like a magnet pulling judgment toward their conclusion.

055 rhetorical *adjective*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

relating to effective or persuasive language

The politician used **rhetorical** devices to sway voters, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: Rhetorical skill shapes language into an effective instrument of persuasion.

056 inarticulate *adjective*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

unable to express oneself clearly

He became **inarticulate** with rage, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: An inarticulate speaker has clear thoughts trapped behind a knotted speech cord.

057 fluent *adjective*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

able to express oneself easily and articulately

She is **fluent** in four languages, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: Fluent speech flows like an unobstructed stream, easily and articulately.

058 stammer *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to speak with sudden pauses and repetitions

He tends to **stammer** when nervous, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: A stammer makes one syllable catch, pause, and repeat before speech continues.

059 enunciate *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to pronounce words clearly

The teacher asked students to **enunciate** their words, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: Enunciate by shaping every syllable distinctly and clearly.

060 mumble *verb*

SPEECH & EXPRESSION

to speak quietly and indistinctly

He **mumbled** an apology under his breath, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

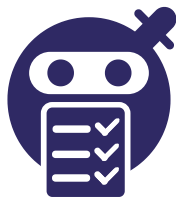
MEMORY CUE: Mumbled words stay low and blurred behind nearly closed lips.

061 proclaim *verb***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

to announce officially or publicly

The governor **proclaimed** a state of emergency, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: Proclaim an announcement through an official public megaphone.



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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