



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Support & Opposition

63 focused words in Support & Opposition

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UNIQUE WORDS

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CATEGORIES

SAT

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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 antagonistic *adjective***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

showing opposition or hostility

His **antagonistic** attitude made collaboration impossible, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: An antagonist stands against the hero; antagonistic behavior shows opposition or hostility.

002 avoid *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to keep away from or prevent from happening

She tried to **avoid** making the same mistake twice, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: Take a detour around the hazard to avoid it: keep away or prevent contact.

003 avoided *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

kept away from or prevented

He **avoided** the crowded subway by taking an alternate route, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: The path curved around the danger; it was avoided rather than encountered.

004 buttress *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to support or strengthen something

Additional evidence was needed to **buttress** the argument, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: A stone buttress braces a cathedral wall, supporting and strengthening it.

005 bypassed *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

avoided or went around something

The new highway **bypassed** the congested downtown area, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: The detour bypassed downtown by curving around it instead of going through.

006 challenged *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

questioned or disputed; faced with difficulties

The lawyer **challenged** the validity of the evidence presented, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: A challenged claim gets a large question mark; a challenged climber faces a steep mountain.

007 circumvent *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to find a way around an obstacle or rule

They tried to **circumvent** the regulations through legal loopholes, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: CIRCUM means around; to circumvent a barrier is to find a path around it.

008 circumvents *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

finds a way around an obstacle or rule

The new software **circumvents** traditional security measures, revealing whether the action enabled or restricted progress toward the intended goal.

MEMORY CUE: When a route circumvents a rule or wall, it curves around the obstacle.

009 counteract *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to act against something to reduce its effect

The medication helps **counteract** the effects of the allergy, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: Two equal arrows push opposite ways; one counteracts the other and reduces its effect.

010 defended *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

protected from attack or harm; spoke in favor of

The lawyer **defended** her client against the false accusations, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: A shield and a supporting speech show that someone or something was defended.

011 defends *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

protects from attack or harm; speaks in favor of

The mother bear fiercely **defends** her cubs from any potential threat, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: Whoever defends raises a shield against attack or speaks in support of a position.

012 discourage *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to cause someone to lose confidence or enthusiasm; to prevent or dissuade

The initial setbacks did not **discourage** her from pursuing her dreams, revealing whether the action enabled or restricted progress toward the intended goal.

MEMORY CUE: Discouraging words let the air out of a person's confidence balloon.

013 encourage *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to give support, confidence, or hope to someone

Teachers should **encourage** students to ask questions freely, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: Encouragement adds air to a confidence balloon and helps a person rise.

014 encouraged *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

gave support, confidence, or hope to someone

Her mentor **encouraged** her to apply for the prestigious scholarship, revealing whether the action enabled or restricted progress toward the intended goal.

MEMORY CUE: Supportive words refilled the person's confidence balloon; they felt encouraged.

015 encourages *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

gives support, confidence, or hope to someone

The program **encourages** young people to pursue careers in science, revealing whether the action enabled or restricted progress toward the intended goal.

MEMORY CUE: A good coach encourages by supplying support, confidence, and hope.

016 endorse *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to publicly support or approve of something or someone

Several celebrities agreed to **endorse** the new product line, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: An endorsement is a public signature of support and approval.

ALSO · VERB: to declare public approval of

017 foster *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to encourage or promote the development of something

The program aims to **foster** creativity among young students, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: A fostered seed receives water and encouragement so its development can grow.

018 hinder *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to create difficulties that delay or prevent progress

Poor weather conditions could **hinder** the rescue operation, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: A heavy barrier across the road hinders progress by delaying or preventing it.

ALSO · VERB: to create difficulties resulting in delay

019 **impede** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

to delay or prevent progress by obstructing

Heavy traffic will **impede** our journey to the airport, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: A fallen tree impedes travelers by blocking and delaying the road.

020 **inhibited** *adjective*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

unable to act naturally due to self-consciousness; restrained

He felt **inhibited** around strangers and rarely spoke up in groups, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: An inhibited performer freezes inside an invisible cage of self-consciousness.

021 **marginalize** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

to treat a person or group as insignificant or peripheral

The new policies threatened to **marginalize** workers who lacked technical skills, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: To marginalize people is to push them from the center to the insignificant edge.

022 **negating** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

nullifying or making ineffective; denying the truth of something

His rude behavior was **negating** all the goodwill he had built up, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: A large zero and red X negate a statement by canceling its force or truth.

023 **nullify** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

to make legally void or ineffective; to cancel out

The court's decision could **nullify** the previous agreement, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: A legal VOID stamp nullifies a rule by canceling its effect.

024 **obstructed** *adjective*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

blocked or hindered; prevented from passing through

The fallen tree **obstructed** the road and caused a traffic jam, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: A doorway filled by a fallen cabinet is obstructed and cannot be passed.

025 **obviated** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

removed or prevented a difficulty or need

The new software **obviated** the need for manual data entry, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: Removing the obstacle before arrival obviated both the difficulty and the need for a detour.

026 **opposed** *adjective*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

in conflict or disagreement with something

Many residents were **opposed** to the construction of the new highway, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: Two arrows pushing directly against each other are opposed.

027 **outstrip** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

to exceed or surpass in a competition or comparison

Demand for the product began to **outstrip** supply within weeks, revealing whether the action enabled or restricted progress toward the intended goal.

MEMORY CUE: One runner outstrips another by moving beyond the comparison line.

028 **prevail** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

to prove more powerful or superior; to be widespread

Justice will **prevail** in the end despite current setbacks, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: The side that prevails remains standing above the contest as the stronger force.

ALSO · VERB: to prove more powerful than opposing forces

029 **prevented** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

stopped something from happening or someone from doing something

Quick action by firefighters **prevented** the fire from spreading, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: A locked barrier stopped the event before it occurred; it was prevented.

030 **promote** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

to support or actively encourage; to raise to a higher position

The campaign aims to **promote** awareness of mental health issues, revealing whether the action enabled or restricted progress toward the intended goal.

MEMORY CUE: Promote an idea by lifting it upward with support, or raise a worker to a higher rung.

031 proponent *noun***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

a person who advocates for something; a supporter

She is a strong **proponent** of renewable energy sources, revealing whether the action enabled or restricted progress toward the intended goal.

MEMORY CUE: A proponent stands behind a proposal holding a large SUPPORT sign.

032 protect *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to keep safe from harm or injury

Parents naturally want to **protect** their children from danger, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: Protect something by placing a sturdy shield between it and harm.

033 protective *adjective***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

capable of or intended for protection

Workers must wear **protective** gear in the laboratory, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: Protective equipment forms a barrier designed to keep danger out.

034 rebellion *noun***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

an act of violent or open resistance to an established government or ruler; defiance of authority

The **rebellion** against the king lasted for three years, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: Rebellion tears up the ruler's command and raises a flag of open resistance.

035 reinforcing *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

strengthening or supporting, especially with additional material or assistance

The teacher kept **reinforcing** the lesson through repetition, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: Reinforcing a wall adds a second support beam so it becomes stronger.

036 repressed *verb/adjective***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

restrained, prevented, or inhibited; subdued by force

He had **repressed** memories of his difficult childhood, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: A heavy lid forces emotion or action downward and keeps it repressed.

037 reprieve *noun/verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

a cancellation or postponement of punishment;
temporary relief from harm

The governor granted a last-minute **reprieve** to the prisoner, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: A reprieve pauses the punishment clock and opens a temporary door of relief.

038 resistance *noun***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

the refusal to accept or comply with something; the
ability to withstand

There was strong **resistance** to the proposed changes, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: Resistance is a shield that refuses pressure and withstands the force pushing against it.

039 retaliates *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

makes an attack in return for a similar attack; takes
revenge

When provoked, she never **retaliates** with harsh words, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: A returning attack arrow shows someone retaliates in revenge for the first attack.

040 rival *noun/verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

a person or thing competing with another; to compete
with

The two companies have been **rivals** for decades, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: Rivals race side by side because each competes against the other.

041 stymie *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to prevent or hinder the progress of something

Lack of funding could **stymie** the research project, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: A wall dropped across a racetrack stymies progress by stopping it.

042 subversive *noun/adjective***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

seeking to undermine an established system or
institution

The government banned what it considered **subversive** literature, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: A subversive force secretly loosens the foundation bolts beneath an established system.

043 **negate** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

to nullify or make ineffective

His poor performance **negated** all the progress he had made, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: A large zero cancels the statement and negates its effect.

046 **undermine** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

to weaken or damage gradually

The scandal **undermined** public trust in the government, revealing whether the action enabled or restricted progress toward the intended goal.

MEMORY CUE: Undermine a structure by secretly removing soil from beneath its foundation.

044 **advocate** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

to publicly recommend or support

She **advocated** for better working conditions, revealing whether the action enabled or restricted progress toward the intended goal.

MEMORY CUE: An advocate raises a public SUPPORT sign for a person or cause.

047 **facilitate** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

to make an action or process easier

Technology **facilitates** communication, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: Facilitate a process by removing the barrier and opening an easier path.

045 **bolster** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

to support or strengthen

New evidence **bolstered** the prosecution's case, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: Bolster a weak wall by adding a thick supporting beam.

048 **thwart** *verb*

SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

to prevent from accomplishing something

Security forces **thwarted** the terrorist plot, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: A locked gate thwarts the runner before the goal can be reached.

049 champion *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to vigorously support or defend a cause

She **championed** the rights of minorities, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: To champion a cause is to defend it vigorously like its strongest competitor.

052 resist *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to withstand the action or effect of

She **resisted** the urge to respond angrily, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: A strong shield resists the force that presses against it.

050 espouse *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to adopt or support a cause or belief

He **espoused** progressive political views, revealing whether the action enabled or restricted progress toward the intended goal.

MEMORY CUE: Espouse a belief by adopting it and holding its SUPPORT banner.

053 hamper *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to hinder or impede movement or progress

Bad weather **hampered** rescue efforts, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: A heavy basket tied to the runner hampers forward movement.

051 oppose *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to actively resist or disagree with

Many citizens **opposed** the new law, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: Opposing arrows push actively against each other.

054 obstruct *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to block or get in the way of

Debris **obstructed** the road after the storm, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: Obstruct a doorway by placing a solid block directly in the way.

055 suppress *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to forcibly put an end to

The regime **suppressed** all opposition, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: A forceful lid pushes the uprising down and suppresses it.

058 nurture *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to care for and encourage growth

Parents **nurture** their children's talents, revealing whether the action enabled or restricted progress toward the intended goal.

MEMORY CUE: Nurture a young plant with care, support, and encouragement to grow.

056 cultivate *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to try to develop or acquire

She **cultivated** relationships with influential people, revealing whether the action enabled or restricted progress toward the intended goal.

MEMORY CUE: Cultivate a skill like a garden by tending it until it develops.

059 sabotage *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to deliberately destroy or obstruct

Someone **sabotaged** the company's computer systems, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: Sabotage secretly breaks a vital gear so the whole operation fails.

057 stifle *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to restrain or prevent

Rules **stifled** creativity in the workplace, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: A tight cover stifles the flame by preventing it from growing.

060 abet *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to encourage or assist in wrongdoing

He was accused of aiding and **abetting** the crime, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: An accomplice abets wrongdoing by handing the thief the needed tool.

061 deter *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to discourage from acting by fear of consequences

High penalties **deter** illegal activities, making the source of assistance or resistance apparent as the situation developed.

MEMORY CUE: A consequence warning deters action by making the risk frightening.

062 quell *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to put an end to by force

Police were called to **quell** the disturbance, revealing whether the action enabled or restricted progress toward the intended goal.

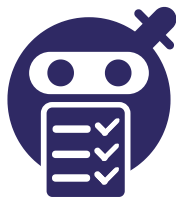
MEMORY CUE: A heavy force presses an uprising flat and quells it.

063 quash *verb***SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

to reject or suppress forcibly

The court **quashed** the conviction, showing how the situation affected what people could support, express, or advance.

MEMORY CUE: A heavy official stamp forcibly crushes and quashes the proposal.



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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