



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Time & Duration

39 focused words in Time & Duration

39

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 **antecedent** *noun*

TIME & DURATION

something that comes before and influences what follows

The **antecedent** events leading to the war are well documented, clarifying whether the condition or event was brief, repeated, or long-lasting.

MEMORY CUE: ANTE means before: an antecedent comes earlier and helps shape what follows.

ALSO · NOUN: a thing that existed before or precedes another

002 **arriving** *verb*

TIME & DURATION

reaching a destination or coming to a place

Guests are **arriving** at the venue for the ceremony, clarifying whether the condition or event was brief, repeated, or long-lasting.

MEMORY CUE: Crossing the destination marker means you are arriving: finally reaching the place.

003 **constant** *adjective*

TIME & DURATION

occurring continuously; unchanging

The **constant** noise from construction made it hard to concentrate, clarifying whether the condition or event was brief, repeated, or long-lasting.

MEMORY CUE: A constant light never flickers and a constant rhythm never stops or changes.

004 **foretells** *verb*

TIME & DURATION

predicts or prophesies a future event

The ancient legend **foretells** the return of a great hero, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

MEMORY CUE: A forecast arrow pointing into tomorrow foretells what will happen.

005 **immature** *adjective*

TIME & DURATION

not fully developed or grown; emotionally or intellectually undeveloped

His **immature** behavior embarrassed everyone at the formal dinner, making the sequence and length of the relevant events easier to understand.

MEMORY CUE: An immature fruit is still small and green because it has not fully developed.

006 **imminent** *adjective*

TIME & DURATION

about to happen; impending

Dark clouds signaled that a storm was **imminent**, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

MEMORY CUE: An imminent event stands one second away on a countdown clock.

007 impending *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

about to happen; approaching or looming

The **impending** deadline created a sense of urgency among the team, making the sequence and length of the relevant events easier to understand.

MEMORY CUE: Dark clouds looming just overhead signal an impending storm.

008 incident *noun***TIME & DURATION**

an event or occurrence, especially one that is unusual or unpleasant

The security team investigated the **incident** thoroughly, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

MEMORY CUE: An incident is one event circled on the timeline, often because it was unusual or unpleasant.

009 infrequent *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

not occurring often; rare

Rain is **infrequent** in desert climates, making the sequence and length of the relevant events easier to understand.

MEMORY CUE: An infrequent event appears on only one square of a long calendar.

010 newfound *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

recently discovered or acquired

She embraced her **newfound** freedom after graduating from college, making the sequence and length of the relevant events easier to understand.

MEMORY CUE: A newly opened treasure chest holds a newfound object discovered only recently.

011 ongoing *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

continuing without interruption; still in progress

The **ongoing** investigation has uncovered new evidence, making the sequence and length of the relevant events easier to understand.

MEMORY CUE: An ongoing road continues past the horizon with no interruption or finish marker.

012 persistent *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

continuing firmly despite opposition or difficulty

Her **persistent** efforts finally paid off when she got the job, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

MEMORY CUE: A persistent climber keeps gripping the rope through wind and difficulty.

013 **postpone** *verb*

TIME & DURATION

to arrange for something to take place at a later time

They decided to **postpone** the wedding until next spring, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

MEMORY CUE: Postpone an event by sliding it to a later square on the calendar.

014 **prefiguring** *verb*

TIME & DURATION

being an early indication or version of something that will happen later

The early protests were **prefiguring** the larger revolution to come, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

MEMORY CUE: A small early sketch prefigures the full structure that appears later.

015 **prolong** *verb*

TIME & DURATION

to extend the duration of something

The treatment can **prolong** life but cannot cure the disease, making the sequence and length of the relevant events easier to understand.

MEMORY CUE: Prolong an event by pulling its timeline beyond the original finish.

016 **protracted** *adjective*

TIME & DURATION

lasting for a long time or longer than expected

The **protracted** negotiations finally resulted in an agreement, making the sequence and length of the relevant events easier to understand.

MEMORY CUE: A protracted road keeps extending far beyond the expected finish marker.

017 **rarely** *adverb*

TIME & DURATION

not often; seldom

She **rarely** misses a day of work, making the sequence and length of the relevant events easier to understand.

MEMORY CUE: A rare event appears on only one square of a long calendar.

018 **scheduled** *verb/adjective*

TIME & DURATION

planned for a certain time; arranged according to a timetable

The meeting is **scheduled** for three o'clock, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

MEMORY CUE: A scheduled event is pinned to one exact square and time on the calendar.

019 traditional *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

existing in or as part of a tradition; long-established

The family prepared a **traditional** meal for the holiday celebration, clarifying whether the condition or event was brief, repeated, or long-lasting.

MEMORY CUE: A traditional practice travels down a long chain from earlier generations.

022 ephemeral *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

lasting for a very short time

Fame can be **ephemeral** in the entertainment industry, clarifying whether the condition or event was brief, repeated, or long-lasting.

MEMORY CUE: An ephemeral soap bubble shines briefly and vanishes.

020 uninterrupted *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

without a break in continuity; continuous

She enjoyed three hours of **uninterrupted** sleep for the first time in weeks, clarifying whether the condition or event was brief, repeated, or long-lasting.

MEMORY CUE: An uninterrupted line crosses the page without a single break.

023 perpetual *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

never ending or changing

The **perpetual** motion machine is impossible to create, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

MEMORY CUE: A perpetual wheel turns forever without an end or change.

021 obsolete *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

no longer produced or used; out of date

The **obsolete** equipment was replaced, making the sequence and length of the relevant events easier to understand.

MEMORY CUE: An obsolete device gathers dust in a museum because it is no longer used.

024 transient *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

lasting only for a short time

The **transient** population made community building difficult, clarifying whether the condition or event was brief, repeated, or long-lasting.

MEMORY CUE: A transient visitor arrives briefly and soon follows the exit arrow.

025 chronic *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

persisting for a long time or constantly recurring

He suffers from **chronic** back pain, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

MEMORY CUE: A chronic condition stretches along a long calendar and repeatedly returns.

028 momentary *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

very brief or short-lived

There was a **momentary** pause before the applause, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

MEMORY CUE: A momentary light flashes for one brief instant.

026 sporadic *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

occurring at irregular intervals

Sporadic violence continued throughout the region, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

MEMORY CUE: Sporadic dots appear at irregular, widely separated points on a timeline.

029 enduring *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

lasting over a period of time; durable

Their **enduring** friendship lasted decades, making the sequence and length of the relevant events easier to understand.

MEMORY CUE: An enduring bridge remains solid through years of storms.

027 fleeting *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

lasting for a very short time

She caught a **fleeting** glimpse of the celebrity, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

MEMORY CUE: A fleeting shadow crosses the wall and disappears almost immediately.

030 eternal *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

lasting or existing forever

The philosopher pondered **eternal** truths, clarifying whether the condition or event was brief, repeated, or long-lasting.

MEMORY CUE: An eternal loop has no beginning or ending point.

031 **temporary** *adjective*

TIME & DURATION

lasting for only a limited time

The **temporary** shelter housed flood victims, making the sequence and length of the relevant events easier to understand.

MEMORY CUE: A temporary structure carries an expiration date and will not remain.

032 **permanent** *adjective*

TIME & DURATION

lasting or remaining without change

The injury caused **permanent** damage, making the sequence and length of the relevant events easier to understand.

MEMORY CUE: A permanent mark is carved into stone to remain without change.

033 **intermittent** *adjective*

TIME & DURATION

occurring at irregular intervals; not continuous

The **intermittent** rain continued all day, clarifying whether the condition or event was brief, repeated, or long-lasting.

MEMORY CUE: An intermittent light blinks on and off with gaps between.

034 **incessant** *adjective*

TIME & DURATION

continuing without pause or interruption

The **incessant** noise kept everyone awake, clarifying whether the condition or event was brief, repeated, or long-lasting.

MEMORY CUE: An incessant alarm sounds continuously without pause.

035 **continual** *adjective*

TIME & DURATION

happening repeatedly with breaks between

The **continual** interruptions disrupted her work, making the sequence and length of the relevant events easier to understand.

MEMORY CUE: Continual rain returns again and again, though brief breaks occur.

036 **continuous** *adjective*

TIME & DURATION

forming an unbroken whole; without interruption

The **continuous** line stretched for miles, clarifying whether the condition or event was brief, repeated, or long-lasting.

MEMORY CUE: A continuous line runs unbroken from start to finish.

037 abbreviated *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

shortened; cut short

The **abbreviated** version omitted key details, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

MEMORY CUE: Scissors cut a long word ribbon into a shortened, abbreviated form.

038 prolonged *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

continuing for a long time

Prolonged exposure to the sun can cause damage, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

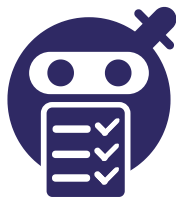
MEMORY CUE: A prolonged event stretches its timeline far beyond the expected end.

039 brief *adjective***TIME & DURATION**

of short duration

The meeting was surprisingly **brief**, showing how timing and duration affected the situation described in the example.

MEMORY CUE: A brief event fits between two nearby ticks of a clock.



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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