



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

SAT VOCABULARY

SAT Vocabulary: Trust & Deception

47 focused words in Trust & Deception

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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 contrived *adjective***TRUST & DECEPTION**

deliberately created rather than arising naturally; artificial

The plot twist felt **contrived** and unconvincing, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: A contrived scene shows visible puppet strings: deliberately arranged rather than naturally occurring.

002 corroborate *verb***TRUST & DECEPTION**

to confirm or support with evidence

Additional witnesses came forward to **corroborate** her testimony, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: Corroborate a claim by adding another independent evidence brick beneath it.

003 corroboration *noun***TRUST & DECEPTION**

evidence that confirms or supports a statement

The detective sought **corroboration** for the suspect's alibi, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: Corroboration is the extra evidence pillar that supports and confirms a statement.

004 deceptive *adjective***TRUST & DECEPTION**

giving an appearance or impression different from the true one; misleading

The **deceptive** advertisement made the product seem more effective than it actually was, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: A deceptive mask shows a pleasant face while hiding a different truth underneath.

005 disguise *noun/verb***TRUST & DECEPTION**

to give a different appearance to conceal identity; a means of concealment

The spy used an elaborate **disguise** to infiltrate the enemy headquarters, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: A disguise is a mask that changes appearance to conceal identity.

006 distrusted *verb***TRUST & DECEPTION**

regarded with suspicion; lacked confidence in

The villagers **distrusted** strangers who came asking too many questions, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: A cracked bridge marked SUSPICION is distrusted because no one has confidence in it.

007 **exaggerate** *verb*

TRUST & DECEPTION

to represent something as larger or more important than it really is

People tend to **exaggerate** the size of fish they have caught, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: Exaggeration inflates a small fish into a gigantic one in the telling.

008 **fabricates** *verb*

TRUST & DECEPTION

invents or makes up something false; constructs or manufactures

The witness **fabricates** stories to avoid telling the truth, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: A fabricator either builds a real object or stitches together a story that is false.

009 **genuine** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

truly what something is said to be; authentic and sincere

Her **genuine** concern for others made her a beloved community leader, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: A genuine object passes the authenticity test and contains no fake mask.

010 **legitimate** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

conforming to the law or rules; able to be defended with logic

She had **legitimate** concerns about the safety of the product, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: A legitimate claim passes both the rulebook test and the logic test.

011 **mislead** *verb*

TRUST & DECEPTION

to cause someone to have a wrong idea or impression about something

The advertisement was designed to **mislead** consumers about the product's effectiveness, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: A false arrow misleads the traveler onto the wrong road.

012 **misleading** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

giving the wrong idea or impression; deceptive

The **misleading** statistics painted an inaccurate picture of the economy, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: A misleading sign confidently points away from the true destination.

013 **misrepresent** *verb*

TRUST & DECEPTION

to give a false or inaccurate account of something

The journalist was accused of trying to **misrepresent** the politician's views, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: To misrepresent is to hang a false label over the accurate account.

014 **pretending** *verb*

TRUST & DECEPTION

acting as if something is true when it is not

The children were **pretending** to be astronauts exploring space, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: Pretending means wearing a mask and acting as though its false appearance were true.

015 **sincerity** *noun*

TRUST & DECEPTION

the quality of being free from pretense or deceit; genuineness

The **sincerity** in his apology convinced her to forgive him, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: Sincerity removes every mask and speaks with a transparent, genuine heart.

016 **spurious** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

not genuine or authentic; false or fake

The detective quickly identified the **spurious** evidence, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: A spurious coin looks genuine until its fake coating peels away.

017 **staged** *verb/adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

presented or performed on stage; planned and carried out deliberately

The photograph turned out to be **staged** rather than candid, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: A staged scene occurs beneath theater lights because it was deliberately arranged.

018 **substantiate** *verb*

TRUST & DECEPTION

to provide evidence to support or prove the truth of something

Can you **substantiate** your claims with documentation, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: Substantiate a claim by stacking strong evidence bricks underneath it.

019 **substantiating** *verb*

TRUST & DECEPTION

providing evidence to support or prove the truth of something

The lawyer spent weeks **substantiating** her client's alibi, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: Substantiating evidence builds a firm support beneath the truth of a claim.

020 **suspicious** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

having or showing cautious distrust; causing one to suspect something is wrong

The police found his behavior **suspicious**, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: A suspicious observer watches through narrowed eyes and checks for signs that something is wrong.

021 **validate** *verb*

TRUST & DECEPTION

to confirm or prove the truth or accuracy of something

The experiment was designed to **validate** the researcher's hypothesis, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: Validate a result by checking its evidence and pressing a TRUE AND ACCURATE stamp.

022 **validated** *verb*

TRUST & DECEPTION

confirmed or proved to be true, accurate, or justified

Her concerns were **validated** when the audit revealed significant errors, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: The evidence check confirmed the result, so it received a VALID stamp.

023 **verifying** *verb*

TRUST & DECEPTION

making sure or demonstrating that something is true or accurate

The bank spent several days **verifying** the authenticity of the documents, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: Verifying means checking the facts until truth and accuracy receive a firm mark.

024 **verisimilitude** *noun*

TRUST & DECEPTION

the appearance of being true or real; the quality of seeming authentic

The historical novel achieved remarkable **verisimilitude** through meticulous research, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: Verisimilitude is a stage set so convincing that it appears genuinely real.

025 **veritable** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

used as an intensifier to qualify a metaphor; true or genuine

The garden was a **veritable** paradise filled with exotic flowers and birdsong, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: A veritable treasure receives a TRUE AND GENUINE stamp that intensifies the description.

026 **vindicate** *verb*

TRUST & DECEPTION

to clear of blame or suspicion; to justify

The new evidence **vindicated** the accused man completely, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: Evidence erases the blame mark and vindicates the accused.

027 **candid** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

truthful and straightforward; frank

His **candid** assessment surprised everyone, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: A candid speaker removes the mask and gives the truth directly.

028 **forthright** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

direct and outspoken; honest

Her **forthright** manner won her many admirers, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: A forthright answer travels in a straight line from honest thought to speech.

029 **evasive** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

tending to avoid commitment or direct answer

His **evasive** responses raised suspicions, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: An evasive answer keeps dodging around the direct question.

030 **duplicitous** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

deceitful in speech or conduct

The **duplicitous** politician made contradictory promises, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: A duplicitous speaker wears two faces and hides crossed fingers.

031 **devious** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

showing a skillful use of underhanded tactics

His **devious** scheme eventually unraveled, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: A devious route uses hidden trapdoors and underhanded turns to reach its goal.

032 **sincere** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

free from deceit; honest

Her **sincere** apology was accepted, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: A sincere person removes every mask and speaks honest words.

033 **treacherous** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

guilty of betrayal; deceptive

The **treacherous** advisor plotted against the king, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: A treacherous handshake hides a betrayal knife behind the back.

034 **trustworthy** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

able to be relied on as honest

She proved to be a **trustworthy** friend, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: A trustworthy bridge bears repeated RELIABLE and HONEST inspection seals.

035 **deceitful** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

guilty of deceiving people

His **deceitful** actions destroyed their trust, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: A deceitful person hides the truth behind a convincing false mask.

036 **veracious** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

speaking or representing the truth

The **veracious** witness provided reliable testimony, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: A veracious report carries an unbroken TRUTH seal.

037 **disingenuous** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

not candid or sincere; pretending ignorance

His **disingenuous** response fooled no one, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: A disingenuous smile hides insincerity and pretended ignorance behind a mask.

040 **clandestine** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

kept secret or done secretly

The **clandestine** meeting took place at midnight, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: A clandestine meeting occurs behind a locked, unmarked door.

038 **guileless** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

innocent and without deception

The child's **guileless** honesty was refreshing, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: A guileless person shows open, empty hands with no deceptive trick.

041 **furtive** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

attempting to avoid notice; secretive

His **furtive** behavior aroused suspicion, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: A furtive figure glances around while sneaking beneath cover.

039 **surreptitious** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

kept secret because improper or illicit

She cast a **surreptitious** glance at the document, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: A surreptitious act slips behind a curtain because it would not be approved.

042 **sly** *adjective*

TRUST & DECEPTION

having cunning and deceit

The **sly** fox evaded the hunters, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: A sly fox reaches the goal through a hidden, deceitful path.

043 cunning *adjective***TRUST & DECEPTION**

having skill in achieving one's ends by deceit

The **cunning** strategist outmaneuvered opponents, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: A cunning planner uses clever hidden tactics to achieve the desired end.

044 artless *adjective***TRUST & DECEPTION**

without guile or deception

Her **artless** charm won everyone over, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

MEMORY CUE: An artless person shows empty hands and no deceptive craft.

045 mendacious *adjective***TRUST & DECEPTION**

not telling the truth; lying

The **mendacious** witness perjured himself, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

MEMORY CUE: A mendacious speaker sends lies through a long-nosed mask.

046 credible *adjective***TRUST & DECEPTION**

able to be believed; convincing

The witness provided **credible** testimony, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

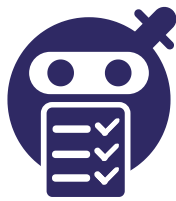
MEMORY CUE: A credible claim stands firmly on believable evidence.

047 authentic *adjective***TRUST & DECEPTION**

of undisputed origin; genuine

The museum acquired an **authentic** Picasso, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

MEMORY CUE: An authentic object carries a verified-origin seal and no imitation mark.



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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