



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

ACT VOCABULARY

ACT Vocabulary: Medium Words

99 focused words in Medium Words

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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 **abbreviate** *verb · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

to shorten (a word, phrase, or text) by leaving out letters or using only the first letters.

Writers often **abbreviate** frequently repeated titles to keep technical explanations concise and readable, clarifying the term through details about the action, attitude, or result.

MEMORY CUE: Abbreviate a long phrase by cutting it down to a few letters.

002 **abstinence** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

the act of refraining from or not doing something (often referring to avoiding pleasurable activities like eating rich food, drinking alcohol, etc.).

Her **abstinence** from social media during exams gave her more uninterrupted time to study.

MEMORY CUE: Abstinence is a firm hand choosing not to take the tempting treat.

003 **adhere** *verb · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

to stick to something (literally, like glue, or figuratively, like a plan or belief).

All employees must **adhere** to the company's safety guidelines, making the relationship between the competing positions easier for observers to understand.

MEMORY CUE: Glue adheres a label to a surface; commitment adheres a person to a plan.

004 **adulation** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

excessive praise or flattery.

The actor received such intense **adulation** that ordinary praise began to seem strangely inadequate.

MEMORY CUE: Adulation stacks praise so excessively high that it becomes flattery.

005 **adversity** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

difficulties; misfortune; a difficult or unpleasant situation.

Despite financial **adversity**, the neighborhood organization continued providing meals and tutoring to local children.

MEMORY CUE: Adversity is a steep path filled with hardship and misfortune.

006 **aesthetic** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

related to beauty or the appreciation of beauty.

The **aesthetic** appeal drew visitors, giving viewers specific details on which to base their **aesthetic** judgment.

MEMORY CUE: An aesthetic eye focuses on beauty and artistic form.

007 amicable *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

friendly and peaceable (often describing relationships or agreements).

The two businesses reached an **amicable** settlement and continued sharing the same commercial space.

MEMORY CUE: An amicable agreement ends with friendly smiles and a peaceful handshake.

008 anachronistic *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

belonging to a different time period; out of chronological order.

The wristwatch looked **anachronistic** in a film supposedly set several centuries before its invention.

MEMORY CUE: A smartphone in an ancient castle is anachronistic because it belongs to another time.

009 anecdote *noun · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person.

The scientist opened her lecture with an **anecdote** about accidentally discovering an unusual mineral sample.

MEMORY CUE: An anecdote is one short story card recounting an interesting real incident.

010 anonymous *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

not identified by name; of unknown identity.

An **anonymous** donor paid the library's debts without revealing a name or requesting recognition.

MEMORY CUE: An anonymous person wears a blank name tag.

011 antagonist *noun · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

a person who opposes or is hostile to the protagonist (main character) or to a certain cause; an adversary.

The novel's **antagonist** blocks the hero's journey while claiming to protect the kingdom from disorder.

MEMORY CUE: The antagonist stands across the story from the protagonist as the opposing force.

012 anticipate *verb · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

to expect or predict; to look forward to.

We **anticipate** a large turnout for the annual festival, shaping how confidently the people involved could reach a defensible conclusion.

MEMORY CUE: Anticipate by placing an expectation marker on the future calendar.

013 **arid** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

extremely dry (often describing climate or land); lacking in interest or excitement.

Only drought-resistant shrubs survived in the **arid** valley, where rain had not fallen for months.

MEMORY CUE: An arid landscape is cracked and extremely dry; an arid lecture feels equally lifeless.

014 **assiduous** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

showing great care and perseverance; hard-working and diligent.

The **assiduous** detective solved the case, clarifying the kind and degree of activity taking place in the situation.

MEMORY CUE: An assiduous worker combines careful detail with persistent effort.

015 **asylum** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

1) protection granted by a nation to someone fleeing danger from another country (seeking refuge); 2) an outdated term for an institution for the care of people, especially those with mental illness.

The journalist sought **asylum** abroad after threats made it dangerous to return to her country.

MEMORY CUE: Asylum places a protective national shield over someone fleeing danger.

016 **benevolent** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

kind and generous; well-meaning.

The **benevolent** donor funded the entire project, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: A benevolent hand gives kind, generous help with good intentions.

017 **camaraderie** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together.

Weeks of difficult fieldwork created lasting **camaraderie** among researchers who had begun as strangers.

MEMORY CUE: Camaraderie is the trust holding a close team in a friendship circle.

018 **censure** *verb · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

to express strong disapproval of someone or something, especially in a formal statement.

The senate voted to **censure** the politician for misconduct, revealing whether the work received approval or disapproval from the people reviewing it.

MEMORY CUE: A formal red statement of strong disapproval delivers censure.

019 characteristic *noun · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

a distinguishing feature or quality belonging typically to a person, place, or thing.

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

MEMORY CUE: A characteristic is a distinguishing feature, like a fingerprint belonging to its subject.

020 circuitous *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

(of a route or journey) longer than the most direct way; roundabout.

A flooded bridge forced the bus to take a **circuitous** route through three neighboring towns.

MEMORY CUE: A circuitous route loops around several obstacles instead of taking the direct line.

021 clairvoyant *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

having the supposed ability to see events in the future or beyond normal sensory contact. (Also used as a noun for a person with this ability.)

The supposedly **clairvoyant** performer claimed she could predict events that no ordinary observer could foresee.

MEMORY CUE: A clairvoyant looks beyond ordinary senses into a crystal ball of future events.

022 collaborate *verb · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

to work jointly on an activity or project; to cooperate with others.

Engineers and artists will **collaborate** on an exhibit that explains complex machines through sculpture.

MEMORY CUE: Collaborators bring separate hands to work jointly on one project.

023 compromise *verb · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

to settle a disagreement by each side giving up something and coming to an agreement; (noun) an agreement reached by mutual concessions.

Both sides accepted a **compromise** that protected the forest while permitting limited recreational development.

MEMORY CUE: A compromise meets in the middle after both sides surrender part of their demand.

024 condescending *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

having or showing a patronizing attitude toward others, acting as though you are superior.

His **condescending** explanation irritated experienced volunteers because he spoke as though they understood nothing.

MEMORY CUE: A condescending speaker talks downward from a false pedestal of superiority.

025 conditional *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

subject to one or more conditions being met; not absolute.

The scholarship offer was **conditional** upon maintaining strong grades throughout the student's final semester.

MEMORY CUE: A conditional promise waits behind an IF gate.

026 conformist *noun · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

a person who conforms to accepted behavior or established practices; someone who follows the crowd.

As a strict **conformist**, Elias followed every office custom even when better alternatives were available.

MEMORY CUE: A conformist follows the crowd's footprints and matches its established pattern.

027 convergence *noun · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

the process or state of coming together from different directions (to form a union or uniformity).

The **convergence** of several hiking trails made the valley a natural meeting place, giving a careful reader enough context to infer the term's precise meaning.

MEMORY CUE: Convergence brings several paths together at one shared point.

028 critical *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

1) expressing disapproving judgments; 2) extremely important; 3) involving analysis.

Timing is **critical** to the success of this operation, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A critical pen judges faults; a critical support is essential; a critical mind analyzes.

029 deleterious *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

causing harm or damage.

Repeated exposure to the chemical had a **deleterious** effect on plant growth and soil quality.

MEMORY CUE: A deleterious substance leaves visible harm and damage behind.

030 demagogue *noun · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

a political leader who seeks support by appealing to popular desires, emotions, and prejudices rather than by using rational argument.

The **demagogue** gained followers by exploiting public fear instead of presenting evidence or practical policies.

MEMORY CUE: A demagogue uses emotional fire and prejudice, not reason, to pull a crowd.

031 **differentiate** *verb · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

to recognize or show the difference between things; to make something or someone appear different or distinct.

The field guide uses wing patterns to **differentiate** harmless butterflies from similar-looking toxic species.

MEMORY CUE: Differentiate two similar objects by circling the feature that separates them.

032 **digression** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

a temporary departure from the main subject in speech or writing.

A lengthy **digression** about childhood memories distracted listeners from the speaker's central argument, showing how the word contributes to the sentence's meaning and tone.

MEMORY CUE: A digression leaves the main road for a temporary side topic.

033 **diligent** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

having or showing care and conscientiousness in one's work or duties; hard-working.

Her **diligent** research uncovered the truth, clarifying the kind and degree of activity taking place in the situation.

MEMORY CUE: A diligent worker carefully completes every duty despite the time required.

034 **disdain** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

the feeling that someone or something is unworthy of one's respect; contempt. (Can also be used as a verb.)

The critic regarded the formulaic sequel with **disdain** and refused to recommend it, clarifying the term through details about the action, attitude, or result.

MEMORY CUE: Disdain turns up its nose and throws away the respect medal.

035 **divergent** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

tending to be different or develop in different directions; deviating.

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

MEMORY CUE: Divergent arrows split and develop in different directions.

036 **empathy** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

the ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

Listening to displaced residents helped planners develop **empathy** for families facing uncertain housing, giving a careful reader enough context to infer the term's precise meaning.

MEMORY CUE: Empathy steps into another person's emotional shoes and shares the feeling.

037 **emulate** *verb · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

to imitate or copy someone/something, especially with the aim to equal or surpass.

Younger musicians tried to **emulate** the composer's innovative rhythms without merely copying entire melodies.

MEMORY CUE: Emulate a champion by copying the method while trying to equal or surpass the result.

038 **enervating** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

causing one to feel drained of energy; tiring.

The **enervating** humidity drained the runners' energy long before they reached the steepest hill.

MEMORY CUE: An enervating heat drains the body's battery toward zero.

039 **ephemeral** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

lasting for a very short time; fleeting.

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

MEMORY CUE: An ephemeral bubble exists beautifully for only a moment.

040 **evanescent** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

quickly fading or disappearing, like vapor.

The artist photographed the **evanescent** rainbow before its colors faded completely from the mist.

MEMORY CUE: An evanescent image quickly fades into transparent vapor.

041 **exemplary** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

serving as a desirable model; representing the best of its kind.

Her **exemplary** conduct earned her a promotion, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: An exemplary model stands at the top of the standard for others to follow.

042 **extenuating** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

serving to lessen the seriousness of an offense (often used in the phrase 'extenuating circumstances').

The judge considered the emergency an **extenuating** circumstance that reduced the driver's responsibility, giving a careful reader enough context to infer the term's precise meaning.

MEMORY CUE: Extenuating circumstances turn the seriousness dial downward without erasing the offense.

043 **florid** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

1) having a red or flushed complexion; 2) excessively intricate or elaborate (as in florid writing or decoration).

The editor replaced the author's **florid** descriptions with direct language that strengthened the argument.

MEMORY CUE: Florid can mean a flushed red face or writing covered in excessive decoration.

044 **fortuitous** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

happening by a lucky chance; fortunate.

A **fortuitous** meeting at the station introduced the inventor to her future business partner.

MEMORY CUE: A fortuitous find arrives by lucky chance beneath a four-leaf clover.

045 **frugal** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

economical, thrifty, not wasteful with money; simple and costing little.

Her **frugal** habits allowed her to save money, illustrating the resources available to the people affected by the decision.

MEMORY CUE: A frugal shopper saves resources and chooses a simple low-cost option.

046 **gullible** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

easily deceived or tricked; too willing to believe things.

Gullible customers accepted the miraculous advertisement without asking for evidence or independent reviews, clarifying the term through details about the action, attitude, or result.

MEMORY CUE: A gullible listener swallows an unbelievable claim without checking for a trick.

047 **hackneyed** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

overused to the point of being uninteresting; lacking in originality.

The speech relied on **hackneyed** phrases that audiences had heard in countless earlier campaigns.

MEMORY CUE: A hackneyed phrase comes from a worn stamp used far too many times.

048 **haughty** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

arrogantly superior and disdainful; having or showing an attitude of contempt for others.

The **haughty** aristocrat looked down on everyone, influencing how others interpreted the person's sense of importance and accomplishment.

MEMORY CUE: A haughty figure looks down with contempt from an oversized crown.

049 hedonist *noun · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

a person who believes that the pursuit of pleasure is the most important thing in life.

The novel's **hedonist** pursues constant pleasure while ignoring every obligation to friends and family.

MEMORY CUE: A hedonist places pleasure on the highest throne in life.

050 hypothesis *noun · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

a proposed explanation for something, based on limited evidence, used as a starting point for further investigation.

The researcher developed a **hypothesis** to explain the unusual phenomenon, shaping how confidently the people involved could reach a defensible conclusion.

MEMORY CUE: A hypothesis is a possible explanation waiting at the start of an investigation.

051 impetuous *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

acting or done quickly without thought; impulsive.

His **impetuous** decision to quit immediately left no time to secure another position, giving a careful reader enough context to infer the term's precise meaning.

MEMORY CUE: An impetuous person leaps before the THINK sign can light.

052 impute *verb · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

to attribute or assign (especially something undesirable) to someone or something.

Investigators refused to **impute** dishonest motives to the clerk without stronger supporting evidence, clarifying the term through details about the action, attitude, or result.

MEMORY CUE: Impute blame by attaching its label to a person as the supposed source.

053 incompatible *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

unable to work together or exist together without conflict; not compatible.

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

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

054 inconsequential *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

not important or significant.

The minor error was **inconsequential** to the overall project, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: An inconsequential speck sits outside the importance spotlight.

055 **inevitable** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

certain to happen; unavoidable.

Change is **inevitable** in a rapidly evolving industry, shaping how confidently the people involved could reach a defensible conclusion.

MEMORY CUE: An inevitable train has only one track and must reach its destination.

056 **intrepid** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

fearless; adventurous (often used humorously).

The **intrepid** explorer ventured into the unknown, giving observers a clear view of the person's response to genuine danger.

MEMORY CUE: An intrepid explorer walks fearlessly toward the unknown.

057 **intuitive** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

understood or operated by intuition (instinct) rather than explicit instruction; easy to use or understand without explanation.

The software's **intuitive** controls allowed first-time users to complete complex tasks without instructions, giving a careful reader enough context to infer the term's precise meaning.

MEMORY CUE: An intuitive control seems to guide the hand without requiring instructions.

058 **jubilation** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

a feeling of great happiness and triumph; rejoicing.

Jubilation spread through the laboratory when the final test confirmed years of patient work.

MEMORY CUE: Jubilation erupts as a triumphant crowd celebrates beneath confetti.

059 **justify** *verb · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

to show or prove to be right or reasonable; to give a good reason for something.

The results **justify** the investment we made in the project, showing how principles influenced the choice made under challenging circumstances.

MEMORY CUE: Justify a claim by building strong reasons beneath it.

060 **lobbyist** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

a person who takes part in an organized attempt to influence legislators or government officials.

The environmental **lobbyist** urged legislators to strengthen protections for wetlands near growing cities, giving a careful reader enough context to infer the term's precise meaning.

MEMORY CUE: A lobbyist carries an organized message into the halls of lawmakers to influence policy.

061 **longevity** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

long life; long duration (particularly of life or service).

Regular maintenance increased the bridge's **longevity** and postponed the need for costly replacement, clarifying the term through details about the action, attitude, or result.

MEMORY CUE: Longevity stretches a life or service line across a very long calendar.

062 **mundane** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

lacking excitement or interest; dull; also can mean worldly as opposed to spiritual.

The documentary transforms **mundane** household routines into an engaging study of cultural traditions, showing how the word contributes to the sentence's meaning and tone.

MEMORY CUE: A mundane routine rolls through the same dull, everyday motions.

063 **nonchalant** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

feeling or appearing casually calm and relaxed; not displaying anxiety, interest, or enthusiasm.

Although the interview mattered greatly, Serena appeared **nonchalant** while calmly answering each difficult question.

MEMORY CUE: A nonchalant person calmly sips tea while a high-stakes clock ticks.

064 **novice** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

a person new to or inexperienced in a field or situation; a beginner.

As a **novice** gardener, Theo chose hardy plants that could survive occasional mistakes, clarifying the term through details about the action, attitude, or result.

MEMORY CUE: A novice stands at the first rung with a brand-new tool kit.

065 **omit** *verb · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

to leave out or exclude (someone or something), either intentionally or forgetfully.

Do not **omit** the control group's results merely because they weaken the original hypothesis.

MEMORY CUE: Omit an item by lifting it completely out of the list.

066 **opulent** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

very rich and luxurious or lavish.

The **opulent** mansion featured marble floors throughout, illustrating the resources available to the people affected by the decision.

MEMORY CUE: An opulent room overflows with rich fabric, jewels, and luxury.

067 **orator** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

a person who is a skilled public speaker.

The celebrated **orator** held the audience's attention through precise language and carefully timed pauses.

MEMORY CUE: An orator commands a public audience through skilled speech.

068 **ostentatious** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

characterized by vulgar or pretentious display; designed to impress or attract notice.

The **ostentatious** mansion featured gold fixtures, influencing how others interpreted the person's sense of importance and accomplishment.

MEMORY CUE: An ostentatious display flashes showy jewels beneath a LOOK AT ME sign.

069 **parched** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

extremely dry; thirsty.

After crossing the exposed ridge, the **parched** hikers eagerly refilled their empty water bottles.

MEMORY CUE: A parched throat and cracked ground both desperately need water.

070 **perfidious** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

deceitful and untrustworthy.

The **perfidious** adviser secretly aided the enemy while publicly promising loyalty to the queen.

MEMORY CUE: A perfidious handshake hides betrayal and cannot be trusted.

071 **precocious** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

(typically of a child) having developed certain abilities or proclivities at an earlier age than usual.

The **precocious** child composed short melodies before most classmates had begun studying musical notation.

MEMORY CUE: A precocious child reaches an advanced skill rung years earlier than expected.

072 **pretentious** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

attempting to impress by affecting greater importance or merit than is actually possessed; pompous, self-important.

The **pretentious** restaurant failed to deliver quality food, showing how the speaker viewed personal success in relation to the contributions of others.

MEMORY CUE: A pretentious figure wears a fake crown to appear more important.

073 prosaic *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

having the style or diction of prose; lacking poetic beauty; commonplace or dull.

The poet turned a **prosaic** bus ride into a vivid meditation on urban loneliness.

MEMORY CUE: A prosaic passage walks the plain prose road without poetic color.

074 provocative *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

causing a strong reaction (especially deliberately); intended to arouse curiosity, interest, or strong emotion.

The museum's **provocative** exhibit encouraged fierce debate about technology, privacy, and public responsibility, showing how the word contributes to the sentence's meaning and tone.

MEMORY CUE: A provocative action deliberately presses a button for a strong reaction.

075 prudent *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

acting with or showing care and thought for the future; wise and cautious.

The **prudent** investor diversified holdings, showing how access to accurate information changed the quality of the response.

MEMORY CUE: A prudent person studies future consequences before taking a cautious step.

076 querulous *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

complaining in a petulant or whining manner.

A **querulous** customer complained about every minor delay despite the staff's patient assistance, clarifying the term through details about the action, attitude, or result.

MEMORY CUE: A querulous voice whines repeatedly about every small irritation.

077 rancorous *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

characterized by bitterness or resentment.

Years of **rancorous** debate left both groups bitter and unwilling to negotiate, showing how the word contributes to the sentence's meaning and tone.

MEMORY CUE: Rancor stores bitter resentment in a jar that never empties.

078 reclusive *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

avoiding the company of other people; solitary.

The **reclusive** novelist rarely appeared publicly and communicated with readers only through letters, giving a careful reader enough context to infer the term's precise meaning.

MEMORY CUE: A reclusive person closes the door and lives apart from company.

079 **reconciliation** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

the restoration of friendly relations; the act of making up after a disagreement.

The shared rebuilding project encouraged **reconciliation** between communities divided by the earlier dispute, clarifying the term through details about the action, attitude, or result.

MEMORY CUE: Reconciliation repairs the handshake between former opponents.

080 **redundant** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

not needed or no longer useful; unnecessarily repetitive.

The phrase 'free gift' is **redundant** since gifts are always free, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A redundant part remains after the complete system already works.

081 **renovation** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

the act of restoring or improving something (especially a building) to a better state.

The library **renovation** preserved the historic exterior while creating brighter and more accessible rooms.

MEMORY CUE: Renovation repairs a worn building and raises its condition to better.

082 **resilient** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions; able to spring back into shape after bending or stretching.

Children are often more **resilient** than adults give them credit for, revealing how readily the plan could respond when the surrounding conditions changed.

MEMORY CUE: A resilient branch bends through the storm and springs back.

083 **restrained** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

controlled, repressed, or restricted; not excessive or extravagant.

She gave a **restrained** response despite her anger, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: A restrained display keeps emotion and excess behind a control line.

084 **reverence** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

deep respect for someone or something.

Visitors entered the memorial with **reverence**, speaking quietly and pausing before each name, giving a careful reader enough context to infer the term's precise meaning.

MEMORY CUE: Reverence bows quietly before someone or something held in deep respect.

085 **sagacity** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

wisdom; the quality of having keen judgment and good decision-making.

The mayor's **sagacity** became evident when her cautious investment protected the town during the recession.

MEMORY CUE: Sagacity combines a sharp judgment lens with a well-worn book of wisdom.

086 **scrutinize** *verb · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

to examine or inspect closely and thoroughly.

Independent reviewers will **scrutinize** the safety data before approving the device for public use.

MEMORY CUE: Scrutinize a surface by inspecting every detail under magnification.

087 **spontaneity** *noun · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

the condition of being spontaneous; acting on impulse or without planning.

The actor's **spontaneity** made each performance feel fresh even after months on stage, giving a careful reader enough context to infer the term's precise meaning.

MEMORY CUE: Spontaneity leaps onto the stage before any plan is written.

088 **spurious** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

not genuine, true, or valid; 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 reveals a fake layer beneath its surface.

089 **substantiate** *verb · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

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 statement by stacking evidence beneath its claim.

090 **superficial** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

existing or occurring at the surface level; not having depth (literal or figurative); shallow.

The article provided only a **superficial** analysis of the issue, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A superficial shell shows only the surface and lacks depth.

091 **superfluous** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

unnecessary, especially through being more than enough; excessive.

The editor removed **superfluous** words from the article, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A superfluous object is extra after the need is already fully met.

092 **surreptitious** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

kept secret, especially because it would not be approved of; stealthy.

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 secretly under cover to avoid disapproval.

093 **tactful** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

having or showing sensitivity in dealing with others or with difficult issues; considerate and discreet.

Her **tactful** response acknowledged the mistake without embarrassing the colleague who had made it.

MEMORY CUE: A tactful person wraps a difficult truth in considerate, discreet words.

094 **tenacious** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

very determined; persistent; not giving up easily.

The **tenacious** lawyer never gave up, making the contrast between adaptability and inflexibility especially clear in practice.

MEMORY CUE: A tenacious climber keeps a firm grip despite the storm.

095 **transient** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

lasting only for a short time; impermanent.

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

MEMORY CUE: A transient visitor stays briefly and then departs.

096 **uniform** *adjective · Medium*

MEDIUM WORDS

not changing in form or character; remaining the same in all cases and at all times. (Also a noun for a distinctive clothing worn by members of a group.)

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

MEMORY CUE: A uniform pattern remains identical throughout; a uniform outfit marks group membership.

097 venerable *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

deserving of respect because of age, wisdom, or character.

The **venerable** professor still taught introductory courses after five decades of influential research, clarifying the term through details about the action, attitude, or result.

MEMORY CUE: A venerable elder stands beneath respect earned by age, wisdom, and character.

098 vindicate *verb · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

to clear from blame or suspicion; to show or prove to be right or justified.

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

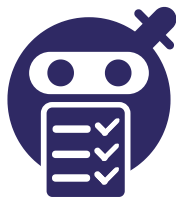
MEMORY CUE: Evidence erases the blame mark and vindicates the accused.

099 wary *adjective · Medium***MEDIUM WORDS**

feeling or showing caution about possible dangers or problems; cautious.

Residents remained **wary** of the proposal because earlier developers had broken similar promises, giving a careful reader enough context to infer the term's precise meaning.

MEMORY CUE: A wary traveler checks every step for possible danger.



ACT 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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