



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

ACT VOCABULARY

ACT Science Vocabulary: Models, Claims & Evidence

20 focused words in Models, Claims & Evidence

20

UNIQUE WORDS

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CATEGORIES

ACT

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 **premise** *noun*

MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE

A proposition from which another is inferred or follows as a conclusion; the basis of an argument

The entire argument rests on a **premise** that the author never actually defends—that human nature is fundamentally selfish.

MEMORY CUE: A premise is the starting platform from which an argument's conclusion rises.

002 **inference** *noun*

MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE

A conclusion reached by reasoning from stated facts rather than by direct statement.

From the repeated references to drought, readers can draw the **inference** that water shaped the migration.

MEMORY CUE: Clues enter a funnel and a reasonable new idea emerges; that idea is an inference.

003 **conclusion** *noun*

MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE

The claim that an argument's supporting reasons are intended to establish.

Although the survey shows a correlation, the committee's **conclusion** claims a causal relationship without further evidence.

MEMORY CUE: At the close of a reasoning chain sits its destination claim: the conclusion.

004 **verifiable** *adjective*

MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE

Capable of being tested or confirmed through reliable evidence.

The panel requested **verifiable** records instead of relying on the consultant's unsupported recollection of events.

MEMORY CUE: If a claim can earn a verified checkmark after inspection, it is verifiable.

005 **corroborated** *verb (past tense)*

MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE

Confirmed or gave support to (a statement, theory, or finding)

Eyewitness testimony **corroborated** the forensic evidence, strengthening the prosecution's case considerably.

MEMORY CUE: A second witness corroborated the story by adding independent support.

006 **refute** *verb*

MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE

To prove a statement or theory to be wrong or false

The archaeologist presented compelling evidence to **refute** the long-standing claim that the site was a ceremonial center.

MEMORY CUE: Refute a false claim by striking it with decisive contrary evidence.

007 substantiate *verb***MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE**

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.

008 plausible *adjective***MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE**

seeming reasonable or probable; believable.

Her explanation seemed **plausible** because the timeline matched every piece of available evidence, showing how the term functions naturally in an everyday academic context.

MEMORY CUE: A plausible explanation crosses the bridge marked REASONABLE AND BELIEVABLE.

009 conjecture *noun/verb***MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE**

An opinion formed on the basis of incomplete information; to form such an opinion

Without hard evidence, any explanation at this point is merely **conjecture**.

MEMORY CUE: Conjecture sketches a conclusion in pencil because the evidence is incomplete.

010 speculative *adjective***MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE**

Based on conjecture or theory rather than firm evidence; tentative

The final chapter ventures into **speculative** territory, imagining how the technology might evolve over the next century.

MEMORY CUE: A speculative claim is penciled in because evidence remains uncertain.

011 presumption *noun***MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE**

A belief accepted as true without proof; an assumption

The legal system operates on the **presumption** that a defendant is innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

MEMORY CUE: A presumption takes a belief as true before proof arrives.

012 counterexample *noun***MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE**

An example that disproves or contradicts a general claim

A single **counterexample** is sufficient to disprove a universal claim in formal logic.

MEMORY CUE: One black swan is a counterexample disproving "all swans are white."

013 **fallacious** *adjective*

MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE

Based on a mistaken belief; embodying a fallacy; logically unsound

The argument that correlation implies causation is a classic example of **fallacious** reasoning.

MEMORY CUE: A fallacious argument contains a logical fall and cannot support its conclusion.

014 **inconclusive** *adjective*

MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE

Not leading to a firm conclusion; not decisive

The autopsy results were **inconclusive**, leaving investigators without a definitive cause of death.

MEMORY CUE: Inconclusive evidence ends with a question mark instead of a final verdict.

015 **definitive** *adjective*

MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE

Done or reached decisively and with authority; providing a final, authoritative answer

Her biography of the composer is widely regarded as the **definitive** account of his life and work.

MEMORY CUE: A definitive answer stamps the question FINAL with decisive authority.

016 **model** *noun*

MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE

A simplified representation used to explain, describe, or predict how a system behaves.

The climate **model** predicts regional rainfall by representing interactions among oceans, land, and the atmosphere.

MEMORY CUE: A model is a manageable stand-in that helps explain a larger, more complicated system.

017 **validity** *noun*

MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE

The degree to which evidence or a method supports the conclusion it is intended to support.

The experiment's **validity** weakened because the two groups differed in both temperature and light exposure.

MEMORY CUE: Validity asks whether the evidence bridge truly reaches the conclusion it claims to support.

018 **falsifiable** *adjective*

MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE

Capable of being tested in a way that could show a claim to be false.

The hypothesis is **falsifiable** because a measured decrease in growth would directly contradict its prediction.

MEMORY CUE: A falsifiable claim leaves an unlocked door through which contrary evidence could defeat it.

019 replication *noun***MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE**

The repetition of a study or experiment to determine whether its result can be reproduced.

Successful **replication** by an independent laboratory increased confidence that the unusual effect was genuine.

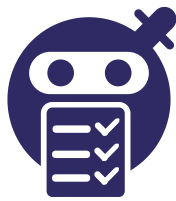
MEMORY CUE: Replication presses the experiment's copy button to see whether the same result appears again.

020 limitation *noun***MODELS, CLAIMS & EVIDENCE**

A feature of a method, dataset, or model that restricts what can reasonably be concluded.

The short observation period is a **limitation** because delayed effects would remain entirely undetected.

MEMORY CUE: A limitation is a boundary fence around what the study can safely claim.



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.

More focused practice at test-ninjas.com