

# SAT Vocabulary Teaching Plan

## Grades 9–12 | 8-Week Instructional Sequence

This plan is designed to build deep academic vocabulary knowledge for the SAT through direct instruction, reading integration, speaking/writing practice, retrieval routines, morphology study, and repeated exposure in authentic contexts.

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## Course Goals

Students will:

- Master high-frequency SAT vocabulary
  - Use context clues effectively
  - Analyze word roots, prefixes, and suffixes
  - Apply vocabulary in reading and writing
  - Improve SAT Reading and Writing performance
  - Build long-term vocabulary retention
  - Increase academic language fluency
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## Core Instructional Principles

Effective SAT vocabulary instruction should emphasize:

1. Repetition over memorization
  2. Context over isolated lists
  3. Word relationships and morphology
  4. Academic reading integration
  5. Retrieval practice and spaced review
  6. Student production (speaking/writing)
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## Weekly Structure

### Monday

- Introduce 10–15 new words
- Morphology mini-lesson
- Context analysis practice

## **Tuesday**

- Reading integration
- Annotation and vocabulary in passages
- Context clue exercises

## **Wednesday**

- Writing workshop using vocabulary
- Sentence combining
- SAT-style revision tasks

## **Thursday**

- Games and retrieval practice
- Debate/discussion using target words
- Word relationships and analogies

## **Friday**

- Quiz
- Spiral review
- Timed SAT-style practice

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# **Suggested SAT Vocabulary Categories**

## **Academic Verbs**

- analyze
- infer
- synthesize
- contrast
- evaluate
- substantiate
- illustrate
- corroborate

## **Tone and Attitude Words**

- cynical
- reverent
- ambivalent
- skeptical
- disdainful
- nostalgic
- pragmatic
- objective

## **Argumentation Vocabulary**

- assertion
- premise
- rebuttal
- concession
- implication
- validity
- rhetoric
- evidence

## **High-Frequency SAT Words**

- obscure
- mitigate
- ubiquitous
- anomaly
- advocate
- plausible
- paradox
- concise
- eloquent
- arbitrary

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# **Week-by-Week Teaching Plan**

## **Week 1 — Foundations of SAT Vocabulary**

### **Focus**

Understanding how SAT vocabulary works in context

## **Skills**

- Context clues
- Denotation vs. connotation
- Word families

## **Morphology Focus**

Common prefixes:

- bene-
- mal-
- anti-
- pre-
- post-

## **Activities**

- Vocabulary anticipation guide
- Context clue stations
- Vocabulary journals
- Partner sentence creation

## **Assessment**

Short context-based quiz

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# **Week 2 — Academic Language and Analysis**

## **Focus**

Words used in nonfiction and argument

## **Skills**

- Academic verbs
- Author purpose vocabulary
- Precision in writing

## **Morphology Focus**

Greek roots:

- graph
- logy
- phon
- chrono

## **Activities**

- SAT passage annotation
- Replace vague language exercises
- Academic discussion circles

## **Writing Task**

Rewrite weak paragraphs using stronger academic diction

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# **Week 3 — Tone, Mood, and Attitude**

## **Focus**

Interpreting tone words

## **Skills**

- Tone analysis
- Nuance
- Synonym shades of meaning

## **Morphology Focus**

Suffixes:

- -ous
- -ive
- -ity
- -ism

## Activities

- Tone sorting activities
- SAT paired-passage comparison
- Tone continuum exercises

## Assessment

Tone identification practice

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# Week 4 — Precision and Concision

## Focus

SAT Writing vocabulary

## Skills

- Concise phrasing
- Eliminating redundancy
- Transitional language

## Vocabulary Types

- transitions
- rhetorical verbs
- formal academic language

## Activities

- Sentence revision workshops
- Concision races
- Editing stations

## Writing Task

SAT-style revision paragraphs

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# Week 5 — Argument and Rhetoric

## Focus

Persuasive language and rhetoric

## Skills

- Argument terminology
- Logical relationships
- Evidence language

## Morphology Focus

Latin roots:

- dict
- cred
- ject
- scrib/script

## Activities

- Debate using target vocabulary
- Rhetorical triangle labeling
- Claim/evidence analysis

## Assessment

Argument vocabulary application quiz

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# Week 6 — Science and Technical Vocabulary

## Focus

Vocabulary found in science passages

## Skills

- Interpreting unfamiliar terminology
- Using roots to infer meaning

## **Morphology Focus**

Scientific roots:

- bio
- geo
- therm
- aqua
- astro

## **Activities**

- Scientific article annotation
- Word dissection practice
- Vocabulary inference games

## **Writing Task**

Explain a scientific process using academic vocabulary

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# **Week 7 — Advanced Nuance and Multiple Meanings**

## **Focus**

Subtle differences in meaning

## **Skills**

- Multiple-meaning words
- Precision
- Figurative language

## **Activities**

- Semantic gradient charts

- Word association mapping
- SAT distractor analysis

## **Assessment**

SAT-style vocabulary-in-context practice

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# **Week 8 — Review and SAT Simulation**

## **Focus**

Mastery and application

## **Skills**

- Rapid retrieval
- Strategic elimination
- Vocabulary transfer to writing

## **Activities**

- Vocabulary escape room
- Full SAT practice passages
- Team competitions
- Peer teaching stations

## **Final Assessment**

- SAT-style vocabulary exam
  - Writing sample using target vocabulary
  - Oral presentation
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# **Daily Lesson Template**

## **Warm-Up (5–10 min)**

- Retrieval practice

- Spiral review
- Quick-write using vocabulary

## **Mini-Lesson (10–15 min)**

Direct instruction:

- meaning
- usage
- morphology
- connotation

## **Guided Practice (15–20 min)**

- Annotation
- Sentence analysis
- Collaborative tasks

## **Application (15–20 min)**

- Reading
- Writing
- Discussion
- SAT-style practice

## **Exit Ticket (5 min)**

- Context clue question
  - Sentence creation
  - Synonym/antonym check
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# **Recommended Instructional Strategies**

## **Fruyer Models**

Students define:

- definition
- examples
- non-examples
- characteristics

# Morphology Trees

Break words into:

- roots
- prefixes
- suffixes

Example:

- incredulous
    - in = not
    - cred = believe
    - ulous = full of
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# Vocabulary Retention Strategies

## Spaced Retrieval

Review words:

- 1 day later
- 3 days later
- 1 week later
- 1 month later

## Interleaving

Mix:

- old words
- new words
- multiple contexts

## Student Production

Require students to:

- speak words
- write words
- teach words

- debate using words
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## Suggested Assessments

### Formative

- Exit tickets
- Context clue checks
- Vocabulary notebooks
- SAT mini-practice

### Summative

- Vocabulary exams
  - SAT Reading passages
  - SAT Writing revisions
  - Analytical writing tasks
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## SAT Vocabulary Notebook Structure

Students maintain sections for:

1. Word
  2. Definition
  3. Root/prefix/suffix
  4. Synonyms
  5. Antonyms
  6. Original sentence
  7. SAT passage example
  8. Visual memory cue
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## High-Impact SAT Vocabulary Activities

### Vocabulary Auction

Students “bid” on correct definitions.

## **Four Corners**

Students move based on:

- synonym
- antonym
- tone
- usage

## **Vocabulary Debate**

Students must use target vocabulary naturally.

## **Context Clue Detective**

Students infer meaning from authentic passages.

## **Vocabulary Ladder**

Students rank words by intensity.

Example:

annoyed → irritated → exasperated → furious

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# **Recommended Reading Sources**

Use authentic SAT-style texts from:

- speeches
- scientific journalism
- historical nonfiction
- literary fiction
- editorials
- essays

Excellent public-domain sources include:

- The Federalist Papers
- Self-Reliance
- Civil Disobedience
- Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

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## Recommended SAT Vocabulary Resources

- [College Board SAT Practice](#)
  - [Khan Academy SAT Prep](#)
  - [Merriam-Webster Word Games](#)
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## Evidence of Mastery

Students can:

- Infer vocabulary meaning from context
- Use morphology to decode unfamiliar words
- Apply vocabulary accurately in writing
- Recognize tone and rhetorical nuance
- Improve SAT Reading and Writing performance
- Transfer vocabulary knowledge across disciplines