



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Attitude & Behavior

16 focused words in Attitude & Behavior

16

UNIQUE WORDS

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CATEGORIES

PSAT 8/9

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 aggressive *adjective · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

ready to attack or confront; forceful in pursuit of goals

The company adopted an **aggressive** marketing strategy to gain market share, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: An aggressive ram charges first, ready to attack or push forcefully toward its goal.

002 careful *adjective · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

taking caution to avoid mistakes or danger

Be **careful** when handling the fragile glassware, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: Carry a full glass without spilling it: being careful means watching for mistakes and danger.

003 committed *adjective · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

dedicated to a cause or activity

She is **committed** to improving education in underserved communities, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: A committed climber anchors the rope to the goal and refuses to abandon it.

004 discretion *noun · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

the quality of behaving in a way that avoids causing offense; freedom to decide

The matter was handled with the utmost **discretion** to protect everyone's privacy, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: Discretion quietly chooses considerate words; it can also hold the key to a personal decision.

005 earnest *adjective · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

sincere and serious in intention; showing deep conviction

His **earnest** apology convinced her that he truly regretted his actions, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: An earnest promise joins a serious face to a sincere heart.

006 gentle *adjective · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

mild, soft, or kind in manner or action; not harsh or severe

The **gentle** breeze carried the scent of blooming flowers, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: A gentle hand holds a butterfly softly rather than squeezing it.

007 harsh *adjective · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

unpleasantly rough or severe; cruel or unkind

The **harsh** winter conditions forced many animals to migrate south, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: Harsh sandpaper feels rough; harsh treatment feels severe and unkind.

008 mother *noun · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

a female parent; to care for or protect like a mother

His **mother** taught him the importance of honesty and hard work, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: A mother is a female parent; to mother is to wrap someone in parental care.

009 neglect *verb · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

to fail to care for properly; to disregard or ignore

Parents should never **neglect** their children's emotional needs, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: A dusty, wilted plant shows what happens when someone neglects proper care.

010 neglected *adjective · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

not receiving proper attention or care; ignored

The **neglected** garden was overgrown with weeds and dead plants, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: Cobwebs and dry soil show that the plant was neglected and ignored.

011 outgoing *adjective · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

friendly and socially confident; leaving a position

Her **outgoing** personality made her popular at social gatherings, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: An outgoing person walks toward the crowd; an outgoing official walks toward the exit.

012 reserve *noun/verb · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

to keep back for future use; a supply kept for use when needed

Please **reserve** a table for four at seven o'clock, giving observers a clearer basis for interpreting the person's motives and behavior.

MEMORY CUE: Reserve a supply by placing it behind a FOR LATER label.

013 reserved *verb/adjective · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

kept for future use; slow to reveal emotions or opinions

She was quiet and **reserved** at social gatherings, showing how personal conduct affected the outcome of the broader situation.

MEMORY CUE: A reserved seat is saved for later; a reserved person keeps feelings behind a quiet door.

016 reckless *adjective · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

without thinking about the consequences

His **reckless** driving caused the accident, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: A reckless driver races past the CONSEQUENCES sign without looking.

014 restraint *noun · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

the action of keeping something under control; self-control

He showed great **restraint** by not responding to the insults, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

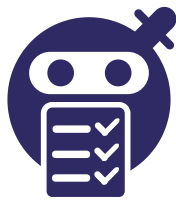
MEMORY CUE: Restraint is the control brake that stops an impulse from going too far.

015 tolerate *verb · Foundational***ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR**

to allow the existence or occurrence of something without interference; to endure

The teacher would not **tolerate** any disruptions during the exam, revealing an attitude that strongly influenced how the other people responded.

MEMORY CUE: To tolerate noise is to let it continue without interference while enduring it.



PSAT 8/9 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