



**Test Ninjas**

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

# PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Cause & Effect

18 focused words in Cause & Effect

**18**

UNIQUE WORDS

**1**

CATEGORIES

**PSAT 8/9**

EXAM FOCUS



# About this study guide

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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 attract** *verb · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to draw interest or attention toward something

Bright colors **attract** bees to the flowers in the garden, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

**MEMORY CUE:** A magnet attracts metal by pulling it closer; attention can be drawn the same way.

**002 cause** *noun · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

something that produces an effect or result

Investigators are still determining the **cause** of the fire, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

**MEMORY CUE:** The first domino is the cause; it produces every falling domino that follows.

**003 create** *verb · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to bring something into existence

The artist hopes to **create** a sculpture for the new park, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

**MEMORY CUE:** Create means moving an idea from a blank space into existence.

**004 created** *verb · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

brought into existence

The new software **created** opportunities for remote collaboration, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

**MEMORY CUE:** A once-empty workbench now holds the invention that was created.

**005 creating** *verb · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

bringing something into existence

She spent months **creating** the intricate tapestry, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

**MEMORY CUE:** Creating is the act of turning an imagined blueprint into something that exists.

**006 derived** *verb · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

obtained or developed from a source or origin

Many English words are **derived** from Latin and Greek roots, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

**MEMORY CUE:** An arrow from SOURCE to RESULT shows that the result was derived from that origin.

**007 inspire** *verb · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to fill someone with the urge to do something creative or meaningful

Great teachers **inspire** their students to reach their full potential, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

**MEMORY CUE:** Inspire someone by striking the spark that lights a creative or meaningful urge.

**008 inspired** *adjective · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

filled with creative motivation; guided by a divine or extraordinary influence

The **inspired** artist created a masterpiece in a single night, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

**MEMORY CUE:** An inspired mind glows with a newly lit bulb of creative motivation.

**009 makes** *verb · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

causes something to exist, happen, or be done; creates or produces

She **makes** her own bread every weekend using a traditional family recipe, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

**MEMORY CUE:** A maker's hands cause a new object to exist; makes means creates or produces.

**010 motivation** *noun · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

the reason or reasons for acting or behaving in a particular way; enthusiasm

Her **motivation** for studying medicine was a desire to help others, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

**MEMORY CUE:** Motivation is the fuel explaining why a person starts and keeps moving.

**011 produced** *verb · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

made or manufactured; created or brought into existence

The factory **produced** thousands of units each day, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

**MEMORY CUE:** The factory output shows what was produced: made and brought into existence.

**012 produces** *verb · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

makes or manufactures; creates or generates

This region **produces** some of the finest wines in the world, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

**MEMORY CUE:** A working machine produces new output by making or generating it.

**013 react** *verb · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to respond or behave in a particular way in response to something

How did your parents **react** when you told them the news, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

**MEMORY CUE:** A reaction arrow springs out immediately after a trigger presses the button.

**014 source** *noun/verb · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

a place, person, or thing from which something originates

The journalist refused to reveal her **source**, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

**MEMORY CUE:** Trace the river or idea backward to the spring marked SOURCE where it begins.

**015 yield** *verb · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to produce or provide; to give way to pressure or demands

The fertile soil will **yield** an abundant harvest this season, producing consequences that became increasingly apparent as the situation continued to develop.

**MEMORY CUE:** A field yields crops; a bent sign yields by giving way to pressure.

**016 consequence** *noun · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

a result or effect of an action

The **consequences** of the decision were severe, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

**MEMORY CUE:** A consequence is the final domino that falls because the first action occurred.

**017 trigger** *verb · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to cause an event or situation to happen

The comment **triggered** a heated debate, setting in motion a chain of events that changed what happened afterward.

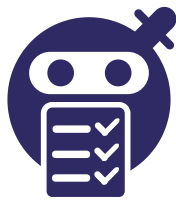
**MEMORY CUE:** Pressing a trigger button causes the event to begin.

**018 stem** *verb · Foundational***CAUSE & EFFECT**

to stop or restrict the flow of

Measures were taken to **stem** the spread, helping observers trace the final outcome back to its most important cause.

**MEMORY CUE:** A barrier across the stream stems and restricts its flow.



PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

# Keep building your edge.

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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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