



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Certainty & Doubt

26 focused words in Certainty & Doubt

26

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 choose *verb · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

to select from available options

You may **choose** any dessert from the menu, making the degree of certainty clear from the surrounding circumstances and available evidence.

MEMORY CUE: A hand reaches past several options and picks one; that deliberate selection is to choose.

002 conclude *verb · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

to bring to an end; to reach a decision through reasoning

Based on the data, we can **conclude** that the treatment is effective, making the degree of certainty clear from the surrounding circumstances and available evidence.

MEMORY CUE: Conclude by crossing the finish line or by following reasoning arrows to a final decision.

003 confident *adjective · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

having strong belief in oneself or something

She felt **confident** about her chances of winning the competition, leaving the audience to weigh carefully what could and could not be known.

MEMORY CUE: A confident person plants both feet firmly and trusts their ability before beginning.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: feeling certain about something

004 confirm *verb · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

to establish the truth or correctness of something

Please **confirm** your attendance by Friday, making the degree of certainty clear from the surrounding circumstances and available evidence.

MEMORY CUE: Confirm a claim by checking it twice and pressing a solid TRUE stamp.

005 deciding *verb · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

making a choice or reaching a conclusion about something

After much deliberation, she was finally **deciding** which university to attend, leaving the audience to weigh carefully what could and could not be known.

MEMORY CUE: Deciding means standing at a fork and selecting one path after considering both.

006 decision *noun · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

a conclusion or resolution reached after consideration

The committee announced their **decision** to approve the new policy, shaping how confidently the people involved could reach a defensible conclusion.

MEMORY CUE: A decision is the final check mark placed beside one considered choice.

007 determined *verb/adjective · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

having made a firm decision; resolved; having discovered through investigation

The **determined** athlete trained for months to compete in the marathon, leaving the audience to weigh carefully what could and could not be known.

MEMORY CUE: A determined person locks onto a decision; a detective determines a fact by pinning down evidence.

008 doubts *noun/verb · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

feelings of uncertainty; questions or reservations

She had serious **doubts** about the accuracy of the financial report, leaving the audience to weigh carefully what could and could not be known.

MEMORY CUE: Doubts are small question marks that keep certainty from closing the case.

009 ensuring *verb · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

making certain that something happens or is the case

Quality control is essential for **ensuring** customer satisfaction, leaving the audience to weigh carefully what could and could not be known.

MEMORY CUE: Ensuring a result means fastening a safety lock around the final check mark.

010 guess *verb · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

to estimate or suppose something without sufficient information to be certain

I can only **guess** what he meant by that cryptic message, making the degree of certainty clear from the surrounding circumstances and available evidence.

MEMORY CUE: A guess chooses beneath a question mark because there is not enough information for certainty.

011 indicator *noun · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

a thing that indicates the state or level of something

Rising unemployment is often an **indicator** of economic trouble, shaping how confidently the people involved could reach a defensible conclusion.

MEMORY CUE: An indicator is the gauge needle that reveals a machine's current state or level.

012 inevitable *adjective · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

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 arrive at its destination.

013 opinion *noun · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

a personal view or judgment not necessarily based on fact

In my **opinion**, the book was better than the movie adaptation, making the degree of certainty clear from the surrounding circumstances and available evidence.

MEMORY CUE: An opinion belongs inside one person's thought bubble rather than under a universal FACT stamp.

014 predicted *verb · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

stated that something would happen in the future

Scientists **predicted** the storm would make landfall by evening, leaving the audience to weigh carefully what could and could not be known.

MEMORY CUE: A forecast arrow showed the future event before it happened; it was predicted.

015 prediction *noun · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

a statement about what will happen in the future

Her **prediction** about the election results proved to be accurate, leaving the audience to weigh carefully what could and could not be known.

MEMORY CUE: A prediction is a statement placed on tomorrow's calendar before the event occurs.

016 probability *noun · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

the likelihood that something will happen

There is a high **probability** of rain tomorrow according to forecasts, shaping how confidently the people involved could reach a defensible conclusion.

MEMORY CUE: Probability is the needle on a likelihood gauge running from impossible to certain.

017 question *noun/verb · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

a sentence or phrase used to find out information; to ask or express doubt about something

She raised an important **question** during the meeting, making the degree of certainty clear from the surrounding circumstances and available evidence.

MEMORY CUE: A question mark asks for information and can also cast doubt on a claim.

018 questioned *verb · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

asked questions of someone; expressed doubt about something

The detective **questioned** the witness for several hours, shaping how confidently the people involved could reach a defensible conclusion.

MEMORY CUE: The witness was asked for answers while the claim's truth was also questioned.

019 realistic *adjective · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

having a sensible and practical idea of what can be achieved; representing things as they actually are

We need to set **realistic** goals for the project, shaping how confidently the people involved could reach a defensible conclusion.

MEMORY CUE: A realistic plan keeps both feet on solid ground and depicts things as they are.

020 select *verb/adjective · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

to carefully choose as being the best or most suitable

Please **select** the items you wish to purchase, making the degree of certainty clear from the surrounding circumstances and available evidence.

MEMORY CUE: Select by comparing the alternatives and placing a check beside the best fit.

021 suspect *noun/verb/adjective · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

to believe something is likely or true without proof; a person thought to be guilty

Police **suspect** the fire was started deliberately, leaving the audience to weigh carefully what could and could not be known.

MEMORY CUE: A suspect stands beneath an evidence question mark because guilt is believed but not proved.

022 uncertain *adjective · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

not able to be relied on; not known or definite

The outcome of the election remained **uncertain** until the final votes were counted, leaving the audience to weigh carefully what could and could not be known.

MEMORY CUE: An uncertain answer balances between two question marks with no firm footing.

023 uncertainty *noun · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

the state of being unsure or doubtful; something that is not known

There was great **uncertainty** about what the future would bring, leaving the audience to weigh carefully what could and could not be known.

MEMORY CUE: Uncertainty is fog surrounding a decision that cannot yet be known.

024 convinced *adjective · Foundational***CERTAINTY & DOUBT**

completely certain about something

She was **convinced** of his innocence, leaving the audience to weigh carefully what could and could not be known.

MEMORY CUE: A convinced mind places an unshakable CERTAIN seal on the conclusion.

025 certain *adjective · Foundational*

CERTAINTY & DOUBT

known for sure; established beyond doubt

It is **certain** that changes will occur, shaping how confidently the people involved could reach a defensible conclusion.

MEMORY CUE: A certain fact stands beyond doubt beneath a locked check mark.

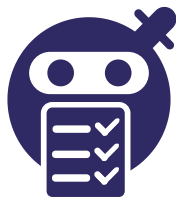
026 positive *adjective · Foundational*

CERTAINTY & DOUBT

with no possibility of doubt; certain

She was **positive** she had seen him before, shaping how confidently the people involved could reach a defensible conclusion.

MEMORY CUE: A positive answer carries a firm YES with no possibility of doubt.



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.

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