



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Change & Transformation

20 focused words in Change & Transformation

20

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 acquire *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

to obtain or gain possession of something

She worked hard to **acquire** the skills needed for the promotion, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: A choir acquires a new piano; it obtains the instrument and now possesses it.

002 acquired *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

obtained or gained possession of something

He **acquired** a taste for classical music during his time abroad, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: The choir acquired the piano: the group obtained it and made it theirs.

003 adjusted *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

altered or modified to fit new circumstances

She **adjusted** her schedule to accommodate the new meeting time, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Turn an adjustable dial until it fits the new setting; adjusted means altered to fit.

004 develop *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

to grow or cause to grow more mature, advanced, or elaborate

The company plans to **develop** a new software application next year, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: A seed develops through stages into a mature, more elaborate plant.

005 developed *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

grew or caused to grow more mature, advanced, or elaborate

Scientists **developed** a new vaccine in record time, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: The finished plant developed from a small seed through increasingly mature stages.

006 gaining *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

acquiring or obtaining something; increasing in amount or degree

The company is **gaining** market share through its innovative products, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: An upward arrow enters the basket as it gains possessions, amount, or strength.

007 improve *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

to make or become better; to enhance in quality or condition

Regular practice will help **improve** your musical skills, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: Move the quality dial upward to improve something and make it better.

008 improved *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

made better; enhanced in quality or condition

The patient's condition **improved** significantly after the treatment, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: The after-picture sits higher on the quality scale because it has been improved.

009 innovative *adjective · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

featuring new methods or ideas; original and creative

The company is known for its **innovative** approach to technology, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: An innovative workshop opens a NEW box filled with original methods and ideas.

010 introduced *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

brought something into use or operation for the first time; presented formally

The scientist **introduced** a revolutionary new theory, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: A curtain opens as something is presented formally or brought into use for the first time.

011 preserve *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

to maintain something in its original state; to protect from harm

The museum works to **preserve** artifacts for future generations, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: A glass shield preserves the object in its original state and protects it from harm.

012 replaced *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

took the place of; provided a substitute for something

Digital cameras have largely **replaced** film cameras, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: A new part moved into the exact space of the old one; the old part was replaced.

013 replacing *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

taking the place of; providing a substitute for

The company is **replacing** outdated equipment with modern technology, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Replacing means removing one item while a substitute takes its place.

016 transition *noun · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

the process of changing from one state to another

The **transition** to renewable energy will take decades, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: A transition bridge carries something from one state into the next.

014 retain *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

to continue to have; to keep possession of

The company wants to **retain** its best employees, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: Retain the key by closing your hand and continuing to keep it.

017 convert *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

to change from one form or function to another

They **converted** the warehouse into luxury apartments, marking a noticeable shift from the conditions that had existed before.

MEMORY CUE: A converter takes one form in and sends a different form out.

015 variable *noun/adjective · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

not consistent or having a fixed pattern; liable to change

The **variable** winds made sailing conditions challenging that day, showing how substantially the original situation changed over the course of events.

MEMORY CUE: A variable line changes height instead of remaining fixed.

018 progress *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

to move forward or develop

The negotiations **progressed** smoothly, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Progress moves forward and upward along the development path.

019 modify *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

to make partial changes to something

The engineer **modified** the design to improve efficiency, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

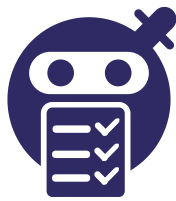
MEMORY CUE: Modify a machine by changing one part while leaving the whole recognizable.

020 alter *verb · Foundational***CHANGE & TRANSFORMATION**

to change or make different

The accident **altered** his perspective on life, allowing observers to compare the new result with its earlier form.

MEMORY CUE: Alter a design by making it visibly different from its earlier form.



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