



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Clarity & Obscurity

19 focused words in Clarity & Obscurity

19

UNIQUE WORDS

1

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.

Copyright and permitted use

© 2026 Test Ninjas. All rights reserved. A lawful purchaser may print this document for personal study or for students in one class directly taught by that purchaser. Redistribution, resale, public posting, dataset extraction, and use for training or evaluating automated systems are prohibited without written permission.

Independent publication. SAT, ACT, GRE, GMAT, and LSAT are trademarks of their respective owners. Their owners are not affiliated with, and do not endorse, Test Ninjas.

001 conceal *verb · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

to hide or keep secret

He tried to **conceal** his disappointment with a forced smile, making its degree of transparency or comprehensibility clearer from the surrounding details.

MEMORY CUE: Pull a curtain over an object to conceal it from view and keep it secret.

002 concealed *adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

hidden from view; kept secret

The entrance was **concealed** behind a bookshelf, making its degree of transparency or comprehensibility clearer from the surrounding details.

MEMORY CUE: A concealed object sits behind a curtain or camouflage cloak, hidden from view.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: kept from sight; hidden

003 confusing *adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

difficult to understand; bewildering

The **confusing** instructions made assembly nearly impossible, making its degree of transparency or comprehensibility clearer from the surrounding details.

MEMORY CUE: Confusing directions point every way at once and leave the traveler bewildered.

004 exposed *verb/adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

revealed or uncovered; left unprotected or vulnerable

The investigation **exposed** widespread corruption within the organization, making its degree of transparency or comprehensibility clearer from the surrounding details.

MEMORY CUE: Removing a protective cover leaves what was hidden visible and vulnerable.

005 hidden *adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

kept out of sight; concealed

The **hidden** treasure remained undiscovered for centuries, making its degree of transparency or comprehensibility clearer from the surrounding details.

MEMORY CUE: A hidden object waits behind a curtain, kept completely out of sight.

006 hiding *verb · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

the action of concealing something or oneself

The cat was **hiding** under the bed during the thunderstorm, giving observers more context for judging what could be seen or understood.

MEMORY CUE: Hiding means moving oneself or an object behind cover to avoid being seen.

007 obscure *adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

not clearly understood or easily seen; not well-known

The professor specialized in **obscure** medieval manuscripts, shaping how easily the relevant information could be perceived and interpreted.

MEMORY CUE: Fog obscures an object until it is hard to see, understand, or recognize.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: not clearly expressed or easily understood

008 obvious *adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

easily perceived or understood; clear and evident

It was **obvious** from her expression that she was disappointed, giving observers more context for judging what could be seen or understood.

MEMORY CUE: An obvious answer glows in huge letters directly under the spotlight.

009 reveal *verb · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

to make known something previously secret or unknown

The investigation will **reveal** the truth about what happened, giving observers more context for judging what could be seen or understood.

MEMORY CUE: Pull away the curtain to reveal what was secret or unknown.

010 subtle *adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

so delicate or precise as to be difficult to analyze or describe; not obvious

There was a **subtle** change in her attitude after the meeting, shaping how easily the relevant information could be perceived and interpreted.

MEMORY CUE: A subtle change is one faint shade between two nearly identical colors.

011 transparent *adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

allowing light to pass through so objects can be seen clearly; open and honest

The company promised to be **transparent** about its financial dealings, shaping how easily the relevant information could be perceived and interpreted.

MEMORY CUE: Transparent glass lets light and sight pass through; transparent speech hides nothing.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: easy to perceive; obvious

012 vague *adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

of uncertain, indefinite, or unclear character or meaning

His **vague** response left everyone wondering what he actually meant, giving observers more context for judging what could be seen or understood.

MEMORY CUE: A vague message has blurred edges and disappears into uncertain fog.

013 vivid *adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

producing powerful feelings or strong, clear images in the mind; intensely bright

She gave such a **vivid** description that we could picture the scene perfectly, giving observers more context for judging what could be seen or understood.

MEMORY CUE: A vivid image glows in intensely bright color and remains sharply clear in the mind.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: producing powerful feelings or clear images

014 explicit *adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

stated clearly and in detail

The contract contains **explicit** terms and conditions, shaping how easily the relevant information could be perceived and interpreted.

MEMORY CUE: An explicit instruction labels every detail clearly and leaves nothing hidden.

015 tangible *adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

perceptible by touch; clear and definite

We need **tangible** evidence before making accusations, making its degree of transparency or comprehensibility clearer from the surrounding details.

MEMORY CUE: A tangible idea becomes a solid object that the hand can grasp.

016 abstract *adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

existing in thought but not having physical existence

The concept of justice is **abstract** but essential, shaping how easily the relevant information could be perceived and interpreted.

MEMORY CUE: An abstract idea floats inside a thought bubble without a physical body.

017 evident *adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

clearly seen or understood

It was **evident** that she was upset, shaping how easily the relevant information could be perceived and interpreted.

MEMORY CUE: An evident fact stands clearly visible beneath a bright light.

018 covert *adjective · Foundational***CLARITY & OBSCURITY**

not openly acknowledged or displayed

The **covert** operation was kept secret, making its degree of transparency or comprehensibility clearer from the surrounding details.

MEMORY CUE: A covert operation remains hidden behind an unmarked door.

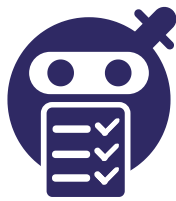
019 patent *adjective · Foundational*

CLARITY & OBSCURITY

easily recognizable; obvious

His **patent** dishonesty fooled no one, shaping how easily the relevant information could be perceived and interpreted.

MEMORY CUE: A patent fact is immediately recognizable beneath an obvious sign.



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