



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Difficulty & Complexity

13 focused words in Difficulty & Complexity

13

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 accessible *adjective · Foundational***DIFFICULTY & COMPLEXITY**

easy to approach, reach, or use

The new building design makes all facilities **accessible** to people with disabilities, helping the group recognize which parts of the problem required the greatest effort.

MEMORY CUE: An access ramp makes a building accessible: easy to approach, reach, and use.

002 awkward *adjective · Foundational***DIFFICULTY & COMPLEXITY**

causing difficulty or discomfort; clumsy

There was an **awkward** silence after the controversial comment, helping the group recognize which parts of the problem required the greatest effort.

MEMORY CUE: Picture a giraffe squeezed into a tiny elevator: clumsy, uncomfortable, and awkward.

003 complexity *noun · Foundational***DIFFICULTY & COMPLEXITY**

the state of having many interconnected parts

The **complexity** of the issue requires careful analysis, helping the group recognize which parts of the problem required the greatest effort.

MEMORY CUE: Complexity looks like a machine with many gears connected to one another.

004 complicated *adjective · Foundational***DIFFICULTY & COMPLEXITY**

consisting of many interconnecting parts; difficult to understand

The instructions were too **complicated** for most users to follow, helping the group recognize which parts of the problem required the greatest effort.

MEMORY CUE: A complicated machine has many interlocking parts and no obvious path through them.

005 delicate *adjective · Foundational***DIFFICULTY & COMPLEXITY**

easily broken or damaged; requiring careful handling

The **delicate** porcelain vase required extra padding during shipping, showing how demanding the task became for the people responsible for completing it.

MEMORY CUE: A delicate glass flower needs careful hands because it can break easily.

006 demanding *adjective · Foundational***DIFFICULTY & COMPLEXITY**

requiring much skill, effort, or attention

Medical school is a **demanding** program that requires years of dedication, showing how **demanding** the task became for the people responsible for completing it.

MEMORY CUE: A demanding climb consumes skill, effort, and close attention at every step.

007 easily *adverb · Foundational***DIFFICULTY & COMPLEXITY**

without difficulty or effort; readily

She **easily** solved the puzzle that had stumped everyone else, making the challenge more apparent as additional details and constraints emerged.

MEMORY CUE: An open, obstacle-free door lets the task pass easily and without effort.

008 feasible *adjective · Foundational***DIFFICULTY & COMPLEXITY**

possible and practical to accomplish; likely to succeed

The engineers determined that the project was technically **feasible**, showing how demanding the task became for the people responsible for completing it.

MEMORY CUE: A feasible plan crosses both bridges marked POSSIBLE and PRACTICAL.

009 incomplete *adjective · Foundational***DIFFICULTY & COMPLEXITY**

not having all the necessary parts; unfinished

The application was rejected because it was **incomplete**, helping the group recognize which parts of the problem required the greatest effort.

MEMORY CUE: An incomplete puzzle still has an empty space where a necessary piece belongs.

010 simple *adjective · Foundational***DIFFICULTY & COMPLEXITY**

easily understood or done; not elaborate or complicated

The instructions were **simple** enough for anyone to follow, making the challenge more apparent as additional details and constraints emerged.

MEMORY CUE: A simple route is one straight path with no maze or extra machinery.

011 simply *adverb · Foundational***DIFFICULTY & COMPLEXITY**

in a straightforward or plain manner; merely; just

I **simply** wanted to help, nothing more, making the challenge more apparent as additional details and constraints emerged.

MEMORY CUE: Simply means taking the plain, straightforward path without additions.

012 struggling *verb/adjective · Foundational***DIFFICULTY & COMPLEXITY**

striving to achieve something in the face of difficulty

Many small businesses are **struggling** to survive, making the challenge more apparent as additional details and constraints emerged.

MEMORY CUE: A climber slipping on a steep slope is struggling against difficulty toward the goal.

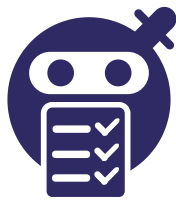
013 elementary *adjective · Foundational*

DIFFICULTY & COMPLEXITY

relating to the basic elements; simple

The course covers **elementary** principles of chemistry, helping the group recognize which parts of the problem required the greatest effort.

MEMORY CUE: Elementary knowledge forms the simple first blocks of a subject.



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