



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Effectiveness & Quality

23 focused words in Effectiveness & Quality

23

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 acceptable *adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

meeting the required standards; satisfactory

The quality of work was **acceptable** but not exceptional, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: An acceptable paper earns a plain PASS: it meets the standard without needing to be exceptional.

002 accuracy *noun · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

the quality of being correct or precise

The **accuracy** of the measurements was critical to the experiment's success, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: An archer's arrow hits the exact bull's-eye: accuracy is correctness and precision.

003 appropriate *adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

suitable or proper for a particular situation

Wearing formal attire is **appropriate** for the gala event, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: The appropriate key fits this particular lock; it is suitable for the situation.

004 competent *adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

having sufficient skill or knowledge to perform a task

She proved herself to be a **competent** leader during the crisis, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: A competent worker has the knowledge and tools needed to complete the job correctly.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: having the necessary ability or skills

005 condition *noun · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

the state of something; a requirement for something else

The house was in excellent **condition** when they bought it, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: A condition can be a state shown on a gauge or a requirement that opens an IF gate.

006 conditions *noun · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

circumstances affecting the way people live or work

Working **conditions** have improved significantly over the past decade, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: Conditions are the surrounding circumstances, like weather that changes how everyone can work.

007 correct *adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

free from error; accurate

Please verify that all information is **correct** before submitting, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A correct answer lands exactly on the bull's-eye with no error.

008 creative *adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

having the ability to produce original ideas

Her **creative** approach to problem-solving impressed the team, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: A creative mind opens a box of original ideas instead of copying an old pattern.

009 criteria *noun · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

standards by which something is judged or decided

Applicants must meet all **criteria** to be considered for the position, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: Criteria are the labeled rulers used to judge and decide among choices.

010 efficient *adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

achieving maximum productivity with minimum wasted effort

The new software made the workflow much more **efficient**, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: An efficient machine produces a full output while its waste bin stays nearly empty.

011 enhance *verb · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

to intensify, increase, or improve the quality or value of

Adding spices will **enhance** the flavor of the dish, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: Turn the quality dial upward to enhance something and make it better or more valuable.

012 extraordinary *adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

very unusual or remarkable; beyond what is ordinary

The young musician displayed **extraordinary** talent at the competition, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: Extraordinary literally steps outside the ordinary line and shines as unusually remarkable.

013 healthy *adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

in good physical or mental condition; conducive to good health

Eating a **healthy** diet can significantly improve your energy levels, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: A healthy body shows a full battery and a steady heart.

014 invented *verb · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

created or designed something new

Alexander Graham Bell **invented** the telephone in 1876, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: The new device bears a FIRST-EVER tag because it was invented.

015 measure *verb · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

to ascertain the size, amount, or degree of something using an instrument or standard

Scientists **measure** temperature changes to track global warming trends, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: Measure by placing an object against a ruler, scale, or other standard.

016 skilled *adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

having or showing the knowledge and ability to perform a task well

The company employs highly **skilled** engineers, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A skilled worker handles the tools confidently and completes the task well.

017 standard *noun/adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

a level of quality or attainment; used or accepted as normal or average

The hotel offers a high **standard** of service, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: A standard is the marked quality line used for comparison and accepted as normal.

018 suitable *adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

right or appropriate for a particular person, purpose, or situation

This dress is **suitable** for a formal occasion, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A suitable key fits the particular lock and purpose correctly.

019 useful *adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

able to be used for a practical purpose; helpful

The guidebook proved **useful** for navigating the unfamiliar city, allowing the final outcome to reveal how well the approach worked in practice.

MEMORY CUE: A useful tool fits a practical task and helps complete it.

020 useless *adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

not fulfilling or not expected to achieve the intended purpose; pointless

Without batteries, the flashlight was completely **useless** during the power outage, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A useless key fits no lock and accomplishes no intended purpose.

021 waste *noun/verb · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

to use or expend carelessly or to no purpose; unwanted material

It would be a **waste** to throw away perfectly good food, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

MEMORY CUE: Waste pours useful resources into a bin without achieving any purpose.

022 superior *adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

higher in quality or status

The **superior** craftsmanship justified the high price, giving the reviewers concrete evidence for judging the quality of the completed work.

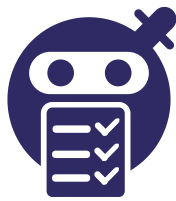
MEMORY CUE: A superior item occupies the higher rung of quality or status.

023 adequate *adjective · Foundational***EFFECTIVENESS & QUALITY**

satisfactory or acceptable in quality

The facilities were **adequate** for the event, showing whether the method achieved its purpose under realistic conditions.

MEMORY CUE: Adequate reaches the line marked ENOUGH and earns a satisfactory pass.



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