



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Emotion & Feeling

29 focused words in Emotion & Feeling

29

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 alarmed *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

feeling frightened or worried about potential danger

Residents were **alarmed** by the sudden increase in crime rates, making the emotional response visible to everyone who witnessed the interaction.

MEMORY CUE: An alarm makes your heart jump; alarmed means frightened or worried by possible danger.

004 comforting *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

providing solace or reassurance

Her **comforting** words helped ease his anxiety, shaping the mood of the group as the events continued to unfold.

MEMORY CUE: A warm blanket around a worried child is comforting because it offers solace and reassurance.

002 amusing *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

causing laughter or providing entertainment

The comedian told an **amusing** story about his childhood, shaping the mood of the group as the events continued to unfold.

MEMORY CUE: An amusing act puts laughter in the audience and turns boredom into entertainment.

005 concern *noun · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

a matter of interest or importance; worry

Safety is our primary **concern** during the renovation, making the emotional response visible to everyone who witnessed the interaction.

MEMORY CUE: A concern sits under a spotlight because it matters, while a worry cloud hangs above it.

003 collected *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

gathered together; calm and composed

Despite the chaos, she remained calm and **collected**, shaping the mood of the group as the events continued to unfold.

MEMORY CUE: Collected items gather in one basket; a collected person gathers their emotions and stays calm.

006 concerning *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

causing worry; relating to

The doctor found some **concerning** symptoms during the examination, revealing how strongly the experience affected the people involved in the situation.

MEMORY CUE: A concerning sign flashes a warning light; concerning can also mean relating to that subject.

007 concerns *noun · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

matters of interest or worry

She raised several **concerns** about the proposed budget cuts, revealing how strongly the experience affected the people involved in the situation.

MEMORY CUE: Concerns are important matters stored in a folder beneath a small cloud of worry.

008 drawn *verb/adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

pulled or attracted; depicted with lines; looking strained or tired

She was **drawn** to the mysterious painting hanging in the gallery, shaping the mood of the group as the events continued to unfold.

MEMORY CUE: A magnet pulls, a pencil sketches, and a tired face tightens: three images for drawn.

009 enthusiasm *noun · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval

Her **enthusiasm** for the project was contagious and motivated the entire team, revealing how strongly the experience affected the people involved in the situation.

MEMORY CUE: Enthusiasm is a bright inner engine of eager interest and enjoyment.

010 excited *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

very enthusiastic and eager; emotionally aroused

The children were **excited** about their upcoming trip to the amusement park, making the emotional response visible to everyone who witnessed the interaction.

MEMORY CUE: An excited person is a shaken bottle of eager energy ready to burst.

011 interest *noun · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

a feeling of curiosity about something; a quality that attracts attention

She developed an **interest** in astronomy after visiting the planetarium, making the emotional response visible to everyone who witnessed the interaction.

MEMORY CUE: Interest is a curiosity magnet that pulls attention toward a subject.

012 intriguing *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

arousing curiosity or interest; fascinating

The detective found an **intriguing** clue at the scene, making the emotional response visible to everyone who witnessed the interaction.

MEMORY CUE: An intriguing locked box pulls curiosity toward its unanswered question.

013 inviting *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

offering the promise of pleasure or satisfaction; attractive and tempting

The cozy fireplace and soft chairs made the room very **inviting**, making the emotional response visible to everyone who witnessed the interaction.

MEMORY CUE: An inviting doorway glows warmly and promises pleasure inside.

014 liked *verb · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

found agreeable or enjoyable; had affection for

Everyone **liked** the new employee because of her friendly attitude, revealing how strongly the experience affected the people involved in the situation.

MEMORY CUE: A bright heart beside the object shows it was found agreeable and liked.

015 lonely *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

sad because of having no friends or company; isolated

Living alone in the countryside made her feel **lonely** at times, making the emotional response visible to everyone who witnessed the interaction.

MEMORY CUE: One empty chair beside a solitary person captures the sadness of being lonely.

016 nervous *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

easily agitated or anxious; relating to the nerves

She felt **nervous** before her first job interview, shaping the mood of the group as the events continued to unfold.

MEMORY CUE: A nervous figure trembles while alarm signals race along visible nerves.

017 offended *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

resentful or annoyed due to a perceived insult

He felt **offended** by the remark about his work ethic, making the emotional response visible to everyone who witnessed the interaction.

MEMORY CUE: An insult arrow striking a respect shield leaves the person offended and resentful.

018 overwhelmed *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

overcome completely in mind or feeling; buried beneath a huge mass

She felt **overwhelmed** by the amount of work she had to complete, shaping the mood of the group as the events continued to unfold.

MEMORY CUE: A person buried beneath a mountain of tasks and feelings is overwhelmed.

019 regret *noun/verb · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

to feel sad, repentant, or disappointed over something that has happened or been done

I **regret** not spending more time with my grandparents, revealing how strongly the experience affected the people involved in the situation.

MEMORY CUE: Regret looks backward at a past action beneath a cloud of sadness and disappointment.

022 surprise *noun/verb · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

an unexpected event; to cause someone to feel astonishment

The party was a complete **surprise** to the birthday girl, making the emotional response visible to everyone who witnessed the interaction.

MEMORY CUE: A box opening to an unexpected sight creates surprise.

020 satisfying *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

giving fulfillment or pleasure; meeting expectations

Completing the marathon was an incredibly **satisfying** achievement, shaping the mood of the group as the events continued to unfold.

MEMORY CUE: A satisfying result fills both the needs gauge and the pleasure gauge.

023 surprising *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

causing astonishment or wonder; unexpected

It was **surprising** to learn that he had never traveled abroad, making the emotional response visible to everyone who witnessed the interaction.

MEMORY CUE: A surprising event jumps from an unopened box before anyone expects it.

021 sensitive *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

quick to detect or respond to slight changes; easily offended or upset

This is a **sensitive** topic that requires careful discussion, making the emotional response visible to everyone who witnessed the interaction.

MEMORY CUE: A sensitive detector reacts to one feather; a sensitive person reacts strongly to slight hurts.

024 tedious *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

long, slow, and tiresome; boring due to length or monotony

The **tedious** task of filing paperwork took the entire afternoon, shaping the mood of the group as the events continued to unfold.

MEMORY CUE: A tedious task repeats the same slow step along an extremely long road.

025 worried *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

feeling or showing anxiety or unease about actual or potential problems

The **worried** parents waited anxiously for news of their missing child, making the emotional response visible to everyone who witnessed the interaction.

MEMORY CUE: A worried mind circles a possible problem beneath an anxiety cloud.

026 volatile *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

liable to change rapidly and unpredictably

His **volatile** temper made negotiations difficult, revealing how strongly the experience affected the people involved in the situation.

MEMORY CUE: A volatile gauge swings suddenly and unpredictably from calm to explosive.

027 content *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

in a state of peaceful happiness

She felt **content** with her simple life, making the emotional response visible to everyone who witnessed the interaction.

MEMORY CUE: A content person rests peacefully beside a full needs gauge.

028 animated *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

full of life or excitement; lively

The **animated** discussion lasted for hours, making the emotional response visible to everyone who witnessed the interaction.

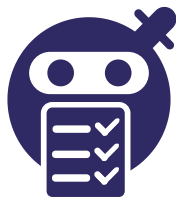
MEMORY CUE: An animated speaker seems powered by lively motion and excitement.

029 passionate *adjective · Foundational***EMOTION & FEELING**

showing strong feelings or beliefs

She gave a **passionate** speech about equality, revealing how strongly the experience affected the people involved in the situation.

MEMORY CUE: A passionate belief glows with a strong inner fire.



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