



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Perception & Understanding

19 focused words in Perception & Understanding

19

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 distracted *verb/adjective · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

unable to concentrate due to being preoccupied; diverted from attention

The **distracted** driver failed to notice the red traffic light, helping the observers form a more accurate understanding of the underlying issue.

MEMORY CUE: Five flashing alerts pull the mind away from its task and leave it distracted.

002 evaluate *verb · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

to assess or judge the value, quality, or importance of

The committee will **evaluate** all proposals before making a decision, helping the observers form a more accurate understanding of the underlying issue.

MEMORY CUE: Evaluate by placing quality, value, and importance on a judgment scale.

003 evaluated *verb · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

assessed or judged the value, quality, or importance of

The candidates were **evaluated** based on their skills and experience, revealing how perspective influenced the conclusions people drew from the same evidence.

MEMORY CUE: The item was evaluated after its value and quality were weighed on a scale.

004 exposure *noun · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

the state of being exposed to something; experience or contact with

Limited **exposure** to sunlight can lead to vitamin D deficiency, helping the observers form a more accurate understanding of the underlying issue.

MEMORY CUE: Exposure places something outside its shield and in contact with the surrounding force.

005 hearing *noun · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

the faculty of perceiving sounds; a legal proceeding where evidence is presented

The court scheduled a **hearing** to review the new evidence, revealing how perspective influenced the conclusions people drew from the same evidence.

MEMORY CUE: An ear receives sound; a courtroom hearing receives evidence.

006 identified *verb · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

established or recognized the identity of something

The detective **identified** the suspect from the security footage, shaping how the audience interpreted the information that followed in the discussion.

MEMORY CUE: A matching name tag shows that the object's identity has been identified.

007 ignore *verb · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

to refuse to take notice of or acknowledge; to disregard intentionally

You should never **ignore** the warning signs of a serious illness, shaping how the audience interpreted the information that followed in the discussion.

MEMORY CUE: Turn your eyes and ears away from the ringing bell to ignore it intentionally.

008 imagine *verb · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

to form a mental image or concept of something not present

Can you **imagine** what life was like before electricity, shaping how the audience interpreted the information that followed in the discussion.

MEMORY CUE: Imagine by projecting a mental picture of something that is not present.

009 interpretation *noun · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

an explanation or understanding of the meaning of something

Her **interpretation** of the poem was both unique and insightful, shaping how the audience interpreted the information that followed in the discussion.

MEMORY CUE: An interpretation is one reader's labeled key to the meaning of a message.

010 judges *verb · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

forms an opinion about something; presides over legal proceedings

The panel **judges** contestants based on creativity and skill, helping the observers form a more accurate understanding of the underlying issue.

MEMORY CUE: A judge weighs evidence on a scale to form an opinion or legal ruling.

011 recognition *noun · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

acknowledgment of something's existence, validity, or legality; identification of someone or something

She received **recognition** for her contributions to the field, helping the observers form a more accurate understanding of the underlying issue.

MEMORY CUE: Recognition joins a familiar face to its name and places an acknowledgment stamp beside it.

012 recognize *verb · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

to identify someone or something from having encountered them before; to acknowledge the existence or validity of

I didn't **recognize** her with her new haircut, revealing how perspective influenced the conclusions people drew from the same evidence.

MEMORY CUE: Recognize a familiar face by matching it to memory, or recognize a fact with an acknowledgment stamp.

013 recognized *verb · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

identified from previous encounters; acknowledged as valid or important

He is **recognized** as one of the leading experts in his field, helping the observers form a more accurate understanding of the underlying issue.

MEMORY CUE: The face matched memory and the claim received approval; both were recognized.

014 reflect *verb · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

to throw back light, heat, or sound; to think deeply or carefully about something

Take some time to **reflect** on what you want to achieve, helping the observers form a more accurate understanding of the underlying issue.

MEMORY CUE: A mirror reflects light; a quiet mind mirrors an idea while thinking deeply.

015 reviewed *verb · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

examined or assessed something formally; wrote a critical evaluation

The committee **reviewed** all applications carefully, helping the observers form a more accurate understanding of the underlying issue.

MEMORY CUE: A reviewed work has passed under a formal magnifying glass and critical pen.

016 trace *noun/verb · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

to find or discover by investigation; a mark or line left by something

Detectives were able to **trace** the phone call to a nearby location, revealing how perspective influenced the conclusions people drew from the same evidence.

MEMORY CUE: Trace a trail by following the faint marks back to their source.

017 traced *verb · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

followed or discovered the course or origin of something

She **traced** her ancestry back five generations to Ireland, revealing how perspective influenced the conclusions people drew from the same evidence.

MEMORY CUE: Investigators traced the line backward until they discovered its course and origin.

018 watched *verb · Foundational***PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING**

looked at or observed attentively over a period of time

She **watched** the sunset from the balcony until the last light faded, shaping how the audience interpreted the information that followed in the discussion.

MEMORY CUE: An open eye followed the subject attentively over time; it watched.

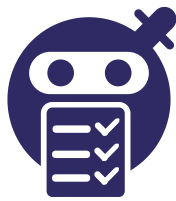
019 profound *adjective · Foundational*

PERCEPTION & UNDERSTANDING

very deep or intense; showing great insight

The book offers **profound** insights into human nature, revealing how perspective influenced the conclusions people drew from the same evidence.

MEMORY CUE: A profound idea descends far below the surface into deep insight.



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