



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Praise & Criticism

15 focused words in Praise & Criticism

15

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 admire *verb · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

to regard with respect and approval

I **admire** her dedication to helping others in need, shaping how the audience judged the person or achievement being discussed.

MEMORY CUE: To admire someone is to place that person high in your mind and look up with respect.

002 appreciated *verb · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

recognized the value or significance of something

Her hard work was **appreciated** by everyone on the team, shaping how the audience judged the person or achievement being discussed.

MEMORY CUE: A valued painting gains a bright price tag; appreciated means recognized as valuable or significant.

003 celebrated *adjective · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

widely known and praised; honored with festivities

The **celebrated** author received a standing ovation at the ceremony, making the speaker's evaluation unmistakable to everyone who heard the response.

MEMORY CUE: A celebrated person stands beneath confetti with a trophy: widely known, praised, and honored.

004 complaining *verb · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

expressing dissatisfaction or annoyance

Instead of **complaining**, he decided to take action, making the speaker's evaluation unmistakable to everyone who heard the response.

MEMORY CUE: A squeaky wheel keeps protesting; complaining repeatedly expresses dissatisfaction.

005 complaint *noun · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

an expression of dissatisfaction or grievance

The customer filed a formal **complaint** about the defective product, revealing whether the work received approval or disapproval from the people reviewing it.

MEMORY CUE: A complaint is dissatisfaction placed into words, like a grievance written on a red form.

006 criticism *noun · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

the expression of disapproval based on perceived faults

She accepted the constructive **criticism** gracefully, revealing whether the work received approval or disapproval from the people reviewing it.

MEMORY CUE: Criticism is disapproval expressed as red marks beside perceived faults.

007 criticize *verb · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

to express disapproval of someone or something

It is easy to **criticize** but harder to offer solutions, revealing whether the work received approval or disapproval from the people reviewing it.

MEMORY CUE: To criticize is to point a red pen at faults and express disapproval.

008 esteem *noun/verb · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

respect and admiration; to regard highly

She is held in high **esteem** by her colleagues and students alike, revealing whether the work received approval or disapproval from the people reviewing it.

MEMORY CUE: Esteem places someone on a pedestal of respect and admiration.

009 praise *verb · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

to express approval or admiration for someone or something

Critics **praise** the film for its innovative storytelling, shaping how the audience judged the person or achievement being discussed.

MEMORY CUE: Praise places a gold approval medal around someone or something admired.

010 prestige *noun · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

widespread respect and admiration based on achievement or quality

The university has gained international **prestige** for its research, making the speaker's evaluation unmistakable to everyone who heard the response.

MEMORY CUE: Prestige is a high pedestal built from achievement, quality, and widespread respect.

011 reputation *noun · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

the beliefs or opinions that are generally held about someone or something

She built her **reputation** through years of honest business dealings, revealing whether the work received approval or disapproval from the people reviewing it.

MEMORY CUE: Reputation is the cluster of opinion stars that other people place beside a name.

012 respected *verb/adjective · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

admired deeply as a result of one's abilities, qualities, or achievements

He is widely **respected** in the scientific community, shaping how the audience judged the person or achievement being discussed.

MEMORY CUE: A respected person stands beside medals earned through admired ability, quality, or achievement.

013 condemn *verb · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

to express complete disapproval of

World leaders **condemned** the terrorist attack, shaping how the audience judged the person or achievement being discussed.

MEMORY CUE: A judge's severe CONDEMNED stamp expresses complete disapproval.

014 compliment *verb · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

to politely express praise or admiration

She **complimented** him on his excellent work, making the speaker's evaluation unmistakable to everyone who heard the response.

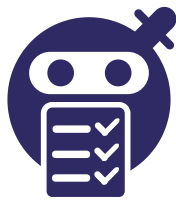
MEMORY CUE: A compliment is a polite verbal medal of praise or admiration.

015 insult *verb · Foundational***PRAISE & CRITICISM**

to speak or treat disrespectfully

His remarks **insulted** the entire community, shaping how the audience judged the person or achievement being discussed.

MEMORY CUE: An insult throws disrespectful words that crack another person's dignity.



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