



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Relevance & Importance

17 focused words in Relevance & Importance

17

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 basic *adjective · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

forming an essential foundation; fundamental

Understanding **basic** grammar is essential for learning a new language, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: The basic block sits at the bottom of the tower; it forms the essential foundation.

002 critical *adjective · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

expressing disapproval; extremely important

Timing is **critical** to the success of this operation, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A critical red pen points out faults; a critical bridge support is too important to fail.

003 featured *verb/adjective · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

given special prominence; included as a main element

The article **featured** interviews with several industry experts, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: A featured item stands in the center spotlight as a main element.

004 highlight *verb · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

to emphasize or draw attention to something important

The report will **highlight** the key findings of our research, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: A yellow highlighter and a spotlight both draw attention to what matters.

005 ignored *verb · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

refused to take notice of; disregarded

Her advice was **ignored**, and the project failed as a result, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: The ringing bell received no glance or response because it was ignored.

006 important *adjective · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

of great significance or value; having high rank or influence

Education is **important** for personal and professional development, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: An important object stands on a high-value pedestal because it has great significance.

007 require *verb · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

to need for a particular purpose; to demand as necessary

This recipe will **require** three cups of flour, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A missing essential piece shows what the task requires before it can work.

008 required *verb/adjective · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

needed for a particular purpose; officially compulsory

All students are **required** to complete the assignment by Friday, showing why the information deserved attention within the broader discussion.

MEMORY CUE: A required item carries both a NECESSARY label and an official command stamp.

009 requirement *noun · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

something that is needed or demanded; a necessary condition

A college degree is a **requirement** for this position, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A requirement is the necessary key that must be present before the gate opens.

010 requires *verb · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

needs for a particular purpose; demands as necessary

The job **requires** excellent communication skills, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: The machine requires the missing gear because it cannot operate without it.

011 significant *adjective · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention; meaningful

There has been a **significant** improvement in her grades, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A significant item stands under an IMPORTANT spotlight because it deserves attention.

012 material *adjective · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

significant or relevant

The information was **material** to the case, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: A material fact carries enough significance and relevance to affect the matter.

013 crucial *adjective · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

of great importance; critical

The **crucial** vote determined the outcome, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A crucial support bears the entire bridge and cannot fail.

016 vital *adjective · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

absolutely necessary or important

Oxygen is **vital** for life, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

MEMORY CUE: A vital component is as necessary as a beating heart.

014 central *adjective · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

of greatest importance; principal

This is **central** to our strategy, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: The central issue sits at the middle and controls the surrounding discussion.

017 fundamental *adjective · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

forming a necessary base or core

These are **fundamental** principles, helping the group judge how the detail related to the larger issue.

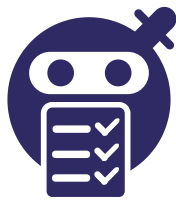
MEMORY CUE: A fundamental block forms the necessary base and core.

015 essential *adjective · Foundational***RELEVANCE & IMPORTANCE**

absolutely necessary; extremely important

Water is **essential** for survival, making the subject's practical significance or supporting role easier to recognize.

MEMORY CUE: The essential gear is the one piece without which the machine cannot run.



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