



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Similarity & Difference

26 focused words in Similarity & Difference

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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 among *preposition · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

surrounded by; in the company of

She was **among** the first to arrive at the conference, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: One red marble surrounded by blue marbles sits among them.

004 common *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

occurring frequently; shared by many

It is **common** for students to feel nervous before exams, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: A common room is shared by many; common events also appear frequently.

002 attached *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

joined or connected to something

Please review the documents **attached** to this email, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: A paper clip keeps two sheets attached: physically joined and connected.

005 consistent *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

acting or done in the same way over time; unchanging

Her **consistent** performance earned her a promotion, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A metronome keeps the same beat over time; that dependable sameness is consistent.

003 combined *verb · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

joined together to form a single unit

The **combined** efforts of the team led to success, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Two puzzle pieces click together and become one unit: they are combined.

006 distant *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

far away in space or time; not closely related; reserved in manner

The **distant** mountains were barely visible through the morning fog, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: A distant mountain needs a telescope; a distant person keeps a closed gate between relationships.

007 distinct *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

recognizably different; clearly separate or unique

Each region has its own **distinct** culture and traditions, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: One bright shape separated from the others is distinct: clearly different and recognizable.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: recognizably different in nature

008 diverse *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

showing great variety; including people of different types

The city is known for its **diverse** population and multicultural neighborhoods, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A diverse garden contains a wide variety of colors, shapes, and species.

009 examples *noun · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

things that serve as models or illustrations; instances

The teacher provided several **examples** to clarify the concept, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: Examples are concrete sample cards that show what a general idea looks like.

010 independent *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

free from outside control; self-reliant and not dependent on others

She valued her **independent** lifestyle and made her own decisions, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: An independent figure cuts its control strings and stands on its own feet.

011 match *verb · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

to correspond or be equal to something; to pair appropriately

The curtains **match** the carpet perfectly in both color and pattern, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Matching pieces align as equals and click into their appropriate pair.

012 novel *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

new and original; not like anything seen before

The scientist proposed a **novel** approach to solving the energy crisis, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A novel idea steps out of a box stamped NEW and ORIGINAL.

ALSO · ADJECTIVE: new or unusual in an interesting way

013 ordinary *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

with no special or distinctive features; normal

It seemed like an **ordinary** day until the surprise party began, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: An ordinary object stands in an unmarked row with no special feature.

014 original *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

present from the beginning; creative and not copied

The artist is known for her **original** style of painting, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: The original carries both FIRST and NOT COPIED stamps.

015 particular *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

specific or individual; especially great or intense

She has a **particular** talent for solving complex puzzles, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: A particular item is the one specific object circled out of the group.

016 personal *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

belonging to or affecting a particular individual

He keeps his **personal** life separate from his professional work, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: A PERSONAL name tag marks what belongs to or affects one particular individual.

017 relate *verb · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

to make or show a connection between; to feel sympathy or identify with

Many teenagers can **relate** to the struggles depicted in the film, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Relate two ideas by drawing a connection line; relate to a person by sharing their feeling.

018 representative *noun/adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

typical of a class or group; a person chosen to act or speak for others

The survey results are **representative** of the general population, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A representative sample resembles its group; a representative person speaks for that group.

019 routine *noun/adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

a sequence of actions regularly followed; performed as part of a regular procedure

Exercise has become part of her daily **routine**, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A routine follows the same circular sequence of actions each day.

020 similar *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

resembling without being identical; having characteristics in common

The two paintings are **similar** in style but different in subject, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: Similar twins share many features but wear one small difference.

021 uniform *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

remaining the same in all cases; consistent and unchanging

The company implemented **uniform** policies across all its branches, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: A uniform row repeats the same shape and color without change.

022 parallel *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

similar or corresponding

The **parallel** stories shared common themes, giving observers a more precise basis for comparing the two subjects.

MEMORY CUE: Parallel lines travel side by side like similar, corresponding ideas.

023 varied *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

incorporating a number of different types

The menu offered **varied** options, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: A varied collection includes many different types, colors, and forms.

024 equivalent *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

equal in value, function, or meaning

The two qualifications are **equivalent**, making the important points of resemblance and contrast easier to identify.

MEMORY CUE: Equivalent items balance equally in value, function, or meaning.

025 identical *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

exactly alike

The twins looked **identical**, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity for everyone involved.

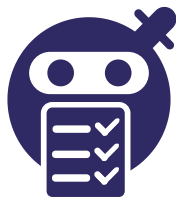
MEMORY CUE: Identical twins match exactly in every visible detail.

026 corresponding *adjective · Foundational***SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE**

analogous or equivalent in character

Each number has a **corresponding** letter, helping the audience distinguish superficial likeness from meaningful similarity.

MEMORY CUE: Corresponding parts occupy matching positions and share equivalent roles.



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