



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Speech & Expression

21 focused words in Speech & Expression

21

UNIQUE WORDS

1

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.

Copyright and permitted use

© 2026 Test Ninjas. All rights reserved. A lawful purchaser may print this document for personal study or for students in one class directly taught by that purchaser. Redistribution, resale, public posting, dataset extraction, and use for training or evaluating automated systems are prohibited without written permission.

Independent publication. SAT, ACT, GRE, GMAT, and LSAT are trademarks of their respective owners. Their owners are not affiliated with, and do not endorse, Test Ninjas.

001 account *noun · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

a report or description of events; a financial record

He gave a detailed **account** of what happened during the meeting, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: An accountant records both stories and sums; an account is a report or financial record.

002 advertising *noun · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

the activity of producing promotions for commercial products or services

The company spent millions on **advertising** for the new product launch, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: An AD announces "buy this"; advertising is the work of creating those promotions.

003 announced *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

made a public or formal declaration

The company **announced** plans to expand into international markets, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: An announcer uses a public microphone; announced means formally declared for others to hear.

004 apologize *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

to express regret for a mistake or wrongdoing

He called to **apologize** for missing the important meeting, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: An apology puts regret into words; to apologize is to express that regret.

005 cited *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

quoted or referenced as evidence or authority

The researcher **cited** several studies to support her conclusions, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: A citation tag ties a claim back to the source cited as evidence or authority.

006 convey *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

to communicate or express an idea or feeling

The painting manages to **convey** a sense of deep melancholy, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: A conveyor belt carries a message forward; to convey is to communicate or express it.

007 describe *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

to give an account of something by stating its characteristics

Can you **describe** what the suspect looked like to the police officer, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: Describe an object by painting its portrait with words about its characteristics.

008 described *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

gave an account of something by stating its characteristics

The witness **described** the accident in great detail to the investigators, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: The witness described the object by giving a word-picture of its features.

009 discussed *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

talked about something with others; considered by talking

The board **discussed** several options before making their final decision, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: An idea placed at the center of a round table has been discussed by the group.

010 displayed *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

showed or exhibited something for others to see

The museum **displayed** rare paintings from the Renaissance period, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: An object displayed in a lit glass case is deliberately shown for others to see.

011 explains *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

makes something clear by describing it in detail

The manual **explains** how to assemble the furniture step by step, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: An explanation turns a foggy mechanism into a clear, labeled diagram.

012 illustrated *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

explained or made clear with examples or pictures

The book **illustrated** the history of art through beautiful reproductions, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: The explanation became illustrated when pictures and examples made it clear.

013 indicated *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

pointed out or showed; suggested as appropriate

The survey results **indicated** strong support for the new policy, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

MEMORY CUE: A pointing arrow indicated the item by showing exactly where to look.

014 recommend *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

to suggest that someone or something would be good or suitable for a particular purpose

I highly **recommend** this restaurant for its authentic cuisine, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: A recommendation points toward an option judged good and suitable for the purpose.

015 recommended *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

suggested as being good or suitable; advised

The doctor **recommended** plenty of rest and fluids, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: A green arrow marked GOOD CHOICE shows the option was recommended.

016 refer *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

to mention or allude to; to direct someone to a source of information

Please **refer** to the manual for detailed instructions, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: A reference arrow mentions the source and directs the reader toward it.

017 reports *noun/verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

gives a spoken or written account of something; formal accounts or statements

The journalist **reports** on international affairs, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: Reports place observed facts into a formal spoken or written account.

018 represented *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

acted or spoke on behalf of; symbolized or stood for

The lawyer **represented** her client in court, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: One symbol stood for the idea while one delegate spoke for the group; both represented them.

019 sketch *noun/verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

a rough or unfinished drawing; to make a rough drawing of

The artist made a quick **sketch** of the landscape, making the speaker's central point easier for listeners to identify and evaluate.

MEMORY CUE: A sketch uses quick, unfinished lines to capture a rough version.

020 suggest *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

to put forward for consideration; to cause one to think of something

I **suggest** we take a different approach to the problem, influencing how the audience interpreted the wording and intent of the message.

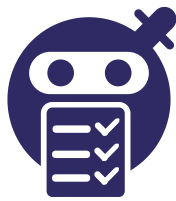
MEMORY CUE: Suggest an idea by placing it gently on the consideration table rather than commanding it.

021 warned *verb · Foundational***SPEECH & EXPRESSION**

informed someone in advance of a possible danger or problem

The meteorologist **warned** residents to prepare for the approaching hurricane, showing how the choice of language shaped the response of the intended audience.

MEMORY CUE: A warning sign shown in advance means someone was warned of possible danger.



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