



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Success & Failure

11 focused words in Success & Failure

11

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 completed *verb · Foundational***SUCCESS & FAILURE**

finished; brought to an end

She **completed** the marathon in under four hours, giving the team a concrete basis for judging the outcome of its work.

MEMORY CUE: A final check mark and a FINISHED stamp show that the task has been completed.

002 finishing *noun/verb · Foundational***SUCCESS & FAILURE**

completing or bringing to an end; the final treatment of a surface

She is **finishing** her thesis before the graduation deadline, allowing the final result to show whether the effort achieved its intended purpose.

MEMORY CUE: Finishing crosses the final task off or applies the last smooth coat to a surface.

003 obtain *verb · Foundational***SUCCESS & FAILURE**

to get or acquire something through effort

She worked hard to **obtain** her medical license, revealing which choices contributed most directly to the eventual result.

MEMORY CUE: Obtain the key by reaching the end of an effortful path and taking possession.

004 obtained *verb · Foundational***SUCCESS & FAILURE**

acquired or gained through effort

The researcher **obtained** permission to access the archives, revealing which choices contributed most directly to the eventual result.

MEMORY CUE: The prize in hand was obtained after effort successfully gained it.

005 overcome *verb · Foundational***SUCCESS & FAILURE**

to succeed in dealing with a problem or difficulty

She managed to **overcome** her fear of public speaking, allowing the final result to show whether the effort achieved its intended purpose.

MEMORY CUE: Climb over the wall and raise a success flag to show the difficulty was overcome.

006 resolved *verb/adjective · Foundational***SUCCESS & FAILURE**

settled or found a solution to a problem; firmly determined to do something

The dispute was finally **resolved** through mediation, giving the team a concrete basis for judging the outcome of its work.

MEMORY CUE: A tied-off solution knot shows the problem is resolved; a firm anchor shows determination.

007 successful *adjective · Foundational***SUCCESS & FAILURE**

accomplishing a desired aim or result; having achieved fame or prosperity

The campaign was **successful** in raising awareness about the issue, giving the team a concrete basis for judging the outcome of its work.

MEMORY CUE: A successful effort crosses the intended finish line and raises the result trophy.

008 accomplished *adjective · Foundational***SUCCESS & FAILURE**

highly trained or skilled

She was an **accomplished** pianist, giving the team a concrete basis for judging the outcome of its work.

MEMORY CUE: An accomplished musician displays years of training through polished skill.

009 thriving *adjective · Foundational***SUCCESS & FAILURE**

prospering; flourishing

The **thriving** community attracted newcomers, giving the team a concrete basis for judging the outcome of its work.

MEMORY CUE: A thriving garden grows vigorously and prospers.

010 conquer *verb · Foundational***SUCCESS & FAILURE**

to overcome and take control of

She **conquered** her fears, revealing which choices contributed most directly to the eventual result.

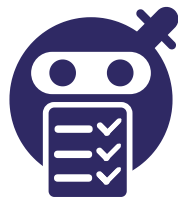
MEMORY CUE: Conquer a fortress by overcoming its walls and taking control.

011 ascend *verb · Foundational***SUCCESS & FAILURE**

to go up or climb

She **ascended** to the position of CEO, giving the team a concrete basis for judging the outcome of its work.

MEMORY CUE: Ascend by climbing the staircase toward a higher point.



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