



**Test Ninjas**

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

# PSAT 8/9 Vocabulary: Trust & Deception

16 focused words in Trust & Deception

**16**

UNIQUE WORDS

**1**

CATEGORIES

**PSAT 8/9**

EXAM FOCUS



# About this study guide

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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 disguise** *noun/verb · Foundational***TRUST & DECEPTION**

to give a different appearance to conceal identity; a means of concealment

The spy used an elaborate **disguise** to infiltrate the enemy headquarters, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

**MEMORY CUE:** A disguise is a mask that changes appearance to conceal identity.

**002 genuine** *adjective · Foundational***TRUST & DECEPTION**

truly what something is said to be; authentic and sincere

Her **genuine** concern for others made her a beloved community leader, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

**MEMORY CUE:** A genuine object passes the authenticity test and contains no fake mask.

**003 legitimate** *adjective · Foundational***TRUST & DECEPTION**

conforming to the law or rules; able to be defended with logic

She had **legitimate** concerns about the safety of the product, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

**MEMORY CUE:** A legitimate claim passes both the rulebook test and the logic test.

**004 misleading** *adjective · Foundational***TRUST & DECEPTION**

giving the wrong idea or impression; deceptive

The **misleading** statistics painted an inaccurate picture of the economy, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

**MEMORY CUE:** A misleading sign confidently points away from the true destination.

**005 pretending** *verb · Foundational***TRUST & DECEPTION**

acting as if something is true when it is not

The children were **pretending** to be astronauts exploring space, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

**MEMORY CUE:** Pretending means wearing a mask and acting as though its false appearance were true.

**006 staged** *verb/adjective · Foundational***TRUST & DECEPTION**

presented or performed on stage; planned and carried out deliberately

The photograph turned out to be **staged** rather than candid, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

**MEMORY CUE:** A staged scene occurs beneath theater lights because it was deliberately arranged.

**007 suspicious** *adjective · Foundational***TRUST & DECEPTION**

having or showing cautious distrust; causing one to suspect something is wrong

The police found his behavior **suspicious**, giving observers evidence for deciding whether the claim could be trusted.

**MEMORY CUE:** A suspicious observer watches through narrowed eyes and checks for signs that something is wrong.

**008 validate** *verb · Foundational***TRUST & DECEPTION**

to confirm or prove the truth or accuracy of something

The experiment was designed to **validate** the researcher's hypothesis, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

**MEMORY CUE:** Validate a result by checking its evidence and pressing a TRUE AND ACCURATE stamp.

**009 validated** *verb · Foundational***TRUST & DECEPTION**

confirmed or proved to be true, accurate, or justified

Her concerns were **validated** when the audit revealed significant errors, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

**MEMORY CUE:** The evidence check confirmed the result, so it received a VALID stamp.

**010 candid** *adjective · Foundational***TRUST & DECEPTION**

truthful and straightforward; frank

His **candid** assessment surprised everyone, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

**MEMORY CUE:** A candid speaker removes the mask and gives the truth directly.

**011 sincere** *adjective · Foundational***TRUST & DECEPTION**

free from deceit; honest

Her **sincere** apology was accepted, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

**MEMORY CUE:** A sincere person removes every mask and speaks honest words.

**012 trustworthy** *adjective · Foundational***TRUST & DECEPTION**

able to be relied on as honest

She proved to be a **trustworthy** friend, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

**MEMORY CUE:** A trustworthy bridge bears repeated RELIABLE and HONEST inspection seals.

013 **sly** *adjective · Foundational*

**TRUST & DECEPTION**

having cunning and deceit

The **sly** fox evaded the hunters, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

**MEMORY CUE:** A sly fox reaches the goal through a hidden, deceitful path.

016 **authentic** *adjective · Foundational*

**TRUST & DECEPTION**

of undisputed origin; genuine

The museum acquired an **authentic** Picasso, shaping whether the audience considered the account reliable and worthy of confidence.

**MEMORY CUE:** An authentic object carries a verified-origin seal and no imitation mark.

014 **cunning** *adjective · Foundational*

**TRUST & DECEPTION**

having skill in achieving one's ends by deceit

The **cunning** strategist outmaneuvered opponents, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

**MEMORY CUE:** A cunning planner uses clever hidden tactics to achieve the desired end.

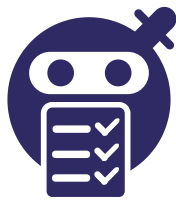
015 **credible** *adjective · Foundational*

**TRUST & DECEPTION**

able to be believed; convincing

The witness provided **credible** testimony, revealing how honesty or deception influenced the response of the people involved.

**MEMORY CUE:** A credible claim stands firmly on believable evidence.



PSAT 8/9 VOCABULARY

# Keep building your edge.

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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](https://test-ninjas.com)**