

Question ID f962a28e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: f962a28e

It would be a mistake to _____ the exhibit that artist and curator Joe Baker, who is a member of the Lenape (Delaware) people, has organized at the Brooklyn Public Library. The exhibit, which includes Lenape beadwork from the 1850s as well as modern works that use traditional patterns, is essential viewing.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. complicate
- B. amplify
- C. overlook
- D. assemble

Question ID 642b20a5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 642b20a5

The following text is from Jhumpa Lahiri’s 2003 novel *The Namesake*. Gogol, a child, is at a beach in Massachusetts with his father.

On the beach Gogol collects rocks, digs tunnels in the sand. He and his father wander barefoot, their pant legs rolled halfway up their calves.

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As used in the text, what does the word “collects” most nearly mean?

- A. Increases
- B. Makes
- C. Ignores
- D. Gathers

Question ID 8d3810bf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 8d3810bf

Botanist Al Kovalski has pointed out that maple trees already thrive in a wide variety of climates and thus may _____ changes in climate better than some other tree species do. The alterations maples may undergo in response to a changing climate are likely to be relatively small and easily achieved.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. relocate from
- B. refer to
- C. originate from
- D. adapt to

Question ID 27c0fc5c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 27c0fc5c

The following text is adapted from John Matheus’s 1925 short story “Fog.”

The fog extended its tentacles over city and river, gradually obliterating traces of familiar landscapes. At five-thirty the old Panhandle bridge, supported by massive sandstone pillars, stalwart, as when erected fifty years before to serve a generation now passed behind the portals of life, had become a spectral outline against the sky.

As used in the text, what does the word “supported” most nearly mean?

- A. Held up
- B. Encouraged
- C. Improved on
- D. Defended

Question ID 98cb9c5a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 98cb9c5a

Ancient Inca inhabiting the Andes Mountains used terraces, rows of flattened land with built-in irrigation systems, to grow crops at different altitudes. This method of farming proved to be highly _____, as evidenced by the great number and variety of crops grown at that time.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. chaotic
- B. uniform
- C. effective
- D. burdensome

Question ID 182ef9b0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 182ef9b0

Taking photographs in the mid-1800s was complicated and expensive, but this changed with the 1854 invention of the *carte de visite*, a small photo that cost little to make. *Carte de visite* photos helped to _____ photography: they made it easy and enjoyable for everyday people to have their pictures taken, and people at the time loved exchanging these small photos with friends and family.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. weaken
- B. praise
- C. popularize
- D. isolate

Question ID 775cfbc8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 775cfbc8

According to statistician Nassim Nicholas Taleb, the best way to predict the amount of time a nonperishable entity (such as a building or a technology) will continue to exist is to examine how long it has survived so far. In this view, an item’s age is the strongest _____ how much longer it will last.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. uncertainty about
- B. indicator of
- C. motivation for
- D. criticism of

Question ID e90dd7ce

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: e90dd7ce

In the 1990s, conservationists began planting more than 500,000 native trees in the habitat of the Azores bullfinch to boost the bird’s numbers. This approach was apparently _____. the Azores bullfinch’s population size increased from as few as 100 birds at the end of the 1980s to around 1,300 in 2023.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. amusing
- B. costly
- C. successful
- D. disastrous

Question ID 130e12c6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 130e12c6

Scientists previously thought that all electric eels belong to a single species, but a team of researchers led by zoologist C. David de Santana proved this idea wrong by _____ that there are in fact three distinct species of electric eels.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. pretending
- B. complaining
- C. requiring
- D. demonstrating

Question ID cc2c5c31

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: cc2c5c31

US traffic signals didn’t always contain the familiar three lights (red, yellow, and green). Traffic lights only _____ red and green lights until the three-light traffic signal was developed in the 1920s.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. avoided
- B. featured
- C. appreciated
- D. disregarded

Question ID ea040600

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: ea040600

The general store was essential to daily life in the rural United States during the 1800s because it provided the supplies that the people living in nearby communities needed. Also, the store was a _____ of information. People socializing at the general store would share news and help spread it throughout their communities.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. source
- B. rival
- C. condition
- D. waste

Question ID d744412d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: d744412d

The following text is from the 1913 story “The King’s Coin” by Emily Pauline Johnson, a Kanienkahagen (Mohawk) writer also known as Tekahionwake. Fox-Foot, a young Ojibwe man, is guiding a group of fur traders who are traveling by canoe and suspects that they are being followed.

At supper time, Fox-Foot would allow no fire to be built, no landing to be made, no trace of their passing to be left. They ate canned meat and marmalade, drank again of the stream and pushed on, until just at dusk they reached the edge of a long, still lake, with shores of granite and dense fir forest.

As used in the text, what does the word “trace” most nearly mean?

- A. Evidence
- B. Blemish
- C. Amount
- D. Sketch

Question ID aa32794f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: aa32794f

Painter Alma W. Thomas was fascinated by the colors and shapes found in nature. The flowers and trees in the garden at her home in Washington, DC, _____ her work. For example, Thomas’s use of broken brushstrokes was inspired by the way that light would shine through the leaves of a tree in front of her house.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. restricted
- B. announced
- C. distracted
- D. influenced

Question ID b82697bf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: b82697bf

The following text is from Booth Tarkington’s 1921 novel *Alice Adams*.

Mrs. Adams had always been fond of vases, she said, and every year her husband’s Christmas present to her was a vase of one sort or another—whatever the clerk showed him, marked at about twelve or fourteen dollars.

As used in the text, what does the word “marked” most nearly mean?

- A. Staged
- B. Priced
- C. Stained
- D. Watched

Question ID d919f97f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: d919f97f

The following text is adapted from Mercedes de Acosta’s 1921 poem “Spring and You.”

Now, Love and April, and the gold of your
hair,
Are all mingled together
Like the blending of an exotic dream plant
With the fragrant perfume of a strange, frail
flower.

As used in the text, what does the word “mingled” most nearly mean?

- A. Identified
- B. Combined
- C. Remembered
- D. Celebrated

Question ID 4777ca40

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 4777ca40

Urban planning expert Francisco Lara-Valencia and colleagues have argued that managing environmental matters along the US-Mexico border _____ coordination between the two countries’ governments. Since ecosystems extend across the border, actions taken on one side can have environmental effects on the other side, making international cooperation essential.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. requires
- B. praises
- C. reports
- D. advises

Question ID 86e238a1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 86e238a1

One challenge of generating electricity from ocean waves is that wave power isn't _____. it varies in unpredictable ways that pose technological and planning problems for electricity generation.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. accidental
- B. confident
- C. expensive
- D. consistent

Question ID f9c76849

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: f9c76849

A team of paleontologists has found a rich fossil deposit near Gulgong, Australia. The fossils are so well preserved that the team has been able to _____ detailed information about the life forms that left them behind, such as color patterns and how they interacted with other species.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. occupy
- B. hoard
- C. reserve
- D. obtain

Question ID e1dd712b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: e1dd712b

Predatory animals differ widely in how they _____ food for their young. Some leave dead prey nearby for their young to consume, some bring live prey to their young, and some feed their young directly from their own mouths.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. avoid
- B. guess
- C. provide
- D. describe

Question ID 5ff87c7a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 5ff87c7a

The works of Chicana artist Ester Hernandez are now _____ in museums both in the United States and abroad, but the murals she contributed to as a member of Las Mujeres Muralistas early in her artistic career were displayed in outdoor public spaces across San Francisco.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. invented
- B. adjusted
- C. featured
- D. recommended

Question ID 8596e73e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 8596e73e

The Appalachian Trail is a hiking path in the eastern United States. Much of the 2,000 mile trail passes through wilderness areas. In order to _____ those areas, the United States Congress passed the National Trails System Act in 1968, ensuring that the trail would not be sold or commercially developed.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. borrow
- B. postpone
- C. protect
- D. decorate

Question ID 8c760c1a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 8c760c1a

The following text is from Yann Martel’s 2001 novel *Life of Pi*. The narrator’s family owned a zoo when he was a child.

It was a huge zoo, spread over numberless acres, big enough to require a train to explore it, though it seemed to get smaller as I grew older, train included.

©2001 by Yann Martel

As used in the text, what does the word “spread” most nearly mean?

- A. Hidden
- B. Discussed
- C. Extended
- D. Coated

Question ID 4e2353a4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 4e2353a4

The following text is adapted from Lewis Carroll’s 1871 novel *Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There*. Alice, a child, is talking to her cat.

“Do you hear the snow against the window-panes, Kitty? How nice and soft it sounds! Just as if someone was kissing the window all over outside.”

As used in the text, what does the word “soft” most nearly mean?

- A. Gentle
- B. Sensitive
- C. Shapeless
- D. Bland

Question ID ec46d490

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: ec46d490

Art scholars have noted that some colors seem to be more _____ viewers than others. For example, people tend to find paintings featuring blues and greens more appealing than paintings featuring yellows and oranges.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. confusing for
- B. attractive to
- C. corrected by
- D. similar to

Question ID 52a89edd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 52a89edd

The following text is from Alice Kaplan’s 1993 memoir *French Lessons*.

When I started to talk on my own, I couldn’t be stopped. When I was in first grade, my sister’s friends could hardly stand to ride to school with me in the car. I was loud and unrelenting.

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As used in the text, what does the author most nearly mean by “I couldn’t be stopped”?

- A. She had a hard time sitting still.
- B. She often changed her mind.
- C. She was well liked as a child.
- D. She seemed to talk all the time.

Question ID 18e5996b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 18e5996b

The following text is adapted from Frances Hodgson Burnett’s 1905 novel *A Little Princess*. Sara is a young student at a school in London.

Sara not only could tell stories, but she adored telling them. When she sat or stood in the midst of a circle and began to invent wonderful things, her green eyes grew big and shining, her cheeks flushed, and, without knowing that she was doing it, she began to act and made what she told lovely or alarming by the raising or dropping of her voice.

As used in the text, what does the word “invent” most nearly mean?

- A. Mislead
- B. Disguise
- C. Create
- D. Discover

Question ID 4849b011

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 4849b011

Dance choreographer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar aims to give people the opportunity to be _____ her creative process. For example, live performances of her dance *HairStories*, which debuted in 2001, featured videos of people across the United States talking about their hair and audience members sharing pictures of their interesting hairstyles.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. nervous about
- B. completed by
- C. delayed by
- D. involved in

Question ID 49fce8ad

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 49fce8ad

On the basis of extensive calculations and models, astronomers in the 1990s predicted that the collision of two neutron stars or a neutron star and a black hole could release a massive burst of gamma rays in an event called a kilonova. This _____ was confirmed with observations in 2017.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. theory
- B. evidence
- C. constant
- D. experiment

Question ID 47a8acb5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 47a8acb5

The following text is adapted from Charles Chesnutt’s 1899 story “The Wife of His Youth.” Mr. Ryder is hosting a formal gathering where he will propose marriage to the woman he has been courting.

[A] younger and less cautious man would long since have spoken. But he had made up his mind, and had only to determine the time when he would ask her to be his wife. He decided to give a ball in her honor, and at some time during the evening of the ball to offer her his heart and hand.

As used in the text, what does the word “determine” most nearly mean?

- A. Choose
- B. Influence
- C. Demonstrate
- D. Measure

Question ID 1faacb62

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 1faacb62

Bioluminescent beetles called fireflies may seem to create flashes of light randomly, but each species of firefly actually has its own special series of repeated flashes and pauses. These unique _____ allow fireflies of the same species to find each other.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. quantities
- B. decorations
- C. patterns
- D. agreements

Question ID fec04ce2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: fec04ce2

The following text is adapted from Elizabeth von Arnim’s 1922 novel *The Enchanted April*. Mrs. Wilkins and her friend Rose are traveling in Italy.

“I’m going to have one of these gorgeous oranges,” said Mrs. Wilkins, staying where she was and reaching across to a black bowl piled with them. “Rose, how can you resist them. Look—have this one. Do have this beauty—” And she held out a big one.

As used in the text, what does the phrase “reaching across to” most nearly mean?

- A. Joining with
- B. Gaining on
- C. Stretching toward
- D. Arriving at

Question ID d0e0693d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: d0e0693d

When marine biologist Brittany Williams played different ocean recordings to groups of oyster larvae, groups that heard sounds of a healthy oyster reef were the most _____. They were twice as likely as other groups to show signs of making a permanent home. This suggests that playing recordings of a healthy ocean reef may encourage oysters to create such a reef.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. responsive
- B. inactive
- C. liked
- D. distressed

Question ID f9663707

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: f9663707

Many ancient sculptures of people’s heads are missing their noses. This is because the nose is the most _____ part of a sculpture of a person’s head. It is delicate and sticks out from the rest of the sculpture, making it especially easy to break.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. recognizable
- B. fragile
- C. common
- D. sophisticated

Question ID 8452e60b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 8452e60b

Charles “Teenie” Harris was a photographer for the *Pittsburgh Courier* from 1936 to 1975. During his career he took over 70,000 photographs documenting everyday life in Pittsburgh’s Black communities. The Carnegie Museum of Art maintains thousands of his photographs, carefully _____ them so that audiences can continue to view them well into the future.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. replacing
- B. inventing
- C. preserving
- D. counting

Question ID 3cbff2ab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 3cbff2ab

The following text is adapted from Ida B. Wells’s 1970 autobiography *A Crusade for Justice*. Mr. Watts is a reference to George Frederic Watts, an English painter.

[Manchester’s] art galleries are so arranged that the name of every picture is plainly seen and one has no need of a catalogue to pick out the name and the artist. This is a convenience to the general public, which other art galleries, which shall be nameless, might copy to advantage. To her treasure of art Manchester has added Mr. Watts’ latest picture, the Good Samaritan.

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As used in the text, what does the word “arranged” most nearly mean?

- A. Organized
- B. Ranked
- C. Scheduled
- D. Discussed

Question ID 4b26f60a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 4b26f60a

Ezra Pound’s poetry can be hard to _____. It is dense, experimental, and so full of references and allusions that many readers have a difficult time even identifying the poems’ subjects.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. comprehend
- B. dislike
- C. interrupt
- D. overlook

Question ID c69db835

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: c69db835

The following text is from Anita Desai’s 2011 novella *Translator Translated*. While working on her translation of a novel written in Odia (a language of India) into English, the narrator looks out her window at night to clear her mind.

I tried to distract myself with these sights of the ordinary world, but in my mind it was the lines I had been translating and the lines that I had been writing that remained in the forefront. I longed for sleep to obliterate them but it eluded me. Perhaps everything would be normal again once I had sent off the manuscript, I thought, and looked forward to completing the work.

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As used in the text, what does the word “completing” most nearly mean?

- A. Destroying
- B. Finishing
- C. Advertising
- D. Rejecting

Question ID f2171e11

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: f2171e11

The unique *subak* water management system used to irrigate the rice paddy fields of the Indonesian island of Bali has a rich cultural, philosophical, and historical significance dating back to the ninth century. The many elements of subak—terraces, canals, and water temples—are _____. they are joined together into a single cohesive unit.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. outmoded
- B. informal
- C. interconnected
- D. optional