

## Section 1: Basic Grammar & Vocabulary

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**Reading & Writing:** Just as math is a language of numbers and symbols, English is a language of words, sentences, and rules that convey meaning, ideas, and relationships. The Reading & Writing section is designed to assess your ability to comprehend, interpret, and analyze written material, as well as to demonstrate a mastery of language skills. You will need to understand how words and sentences work together, interpret the writer's intent, and use language effectively to improve written prompts. It is not about memorizing vocabulary or grammar rules, but about understanding how language functions to communicate thoughts clearly and persuasively.

**Writing:** The writing portion focuses on the mechanics and structure of the English language. Passages test understanding of grammar, sentence structure, and the effective use of words. Just like the math section has rules like order of operations, writing follows its own rules of syntax and style. You will need to identify and correct errors, improve the clarity of ideas, and strengthen the overall structure of passages. It is not enough to simply know the rules of grammar; you need to apply them in context. Writing is about expressing ideas clearly and logically, using the right words to match the tone and purpose of the text.

**Tools of Communication:** Writing is the process of encoding thoughts and ideas into text. It provides a standardized framework that allows individuals to convey messages, share information, and express emotions. Grammar and Sentence Structure are the tools that are used for effective writing. The effectiveness of writing depends on several factors:

- **Clarity:** Writing should be clear and unambiguous, making it easy for the reader to understand the intended message. This involves choosing precise words, structuring sentences logically, and organizing ideas coherently.
- **Purpose:** Different types of writing serve various purposes, such as informing, persuading, or entertaining. The purpose dictates the style, tone, and structure of the text. For example, a research report is structured differently from a persuasive essay or a narrative story.
- **Audience Awareness:** Effective writing considers the audience's needs, expectations, and level of understanding. Tailoring the content to the audience helps ensure that the message is received as intended.

**Grammar:** Provides the rules and structures that govern how sentences are formed to ensure a consistent form of communication, making the message in written text understandable and free of errors. Nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs form the core of English sentences. Understanding the role each part of speech plays in a sentence is crucial for recognizing correct usage and for the construction of coherent and grammatically correct sentences. Proper grammar is essential for:

1. **Consistency and Standardization:** Grammar rules ensure that writing is consistent and follows a standardized format, which helps prevent misunderstandings. For example, correct subject-verb agreement and consistent verb tenses ensure that readers can follow the sequence of events accurately.
2. **Precision:** Grammar helps in choosing the right words and arranging them correctly to convey precise meanings. For instance, the difference between "I have only one question" and "I only have one question" can subtly change the emphasis of the statement.

3. **Avoiding Ambiguity:** Proper use of grammar reduces ambiguity and ensures that the message is clear. For example, the sentence “Let’s eat, Grandma” is clear, while “Let’s eat Grandma” could be misinterpreted as a suggestion of cannibalism.
- **Noun:** A noun represents a person, place, thing, or idea.
    - Example: “The cat slept on the mat.”
  - **Verbs:** Indicate actions or states of being.
    - Example: “She runs every morning.”
  - **Adjectives:** Describe or modify nouns, and adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.
    - Example: “The red ball bounced.”
  - **Adverb:** An adverb is a part of speech that modifies verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs, providing more information about how, when, where, or to what extent something happens. Adverbs often answer questions like “how?”, “when?”, “where?”, and “to what extent?”.
    - Example: “He spoke softly.”
  - **Participle:** A participle is a verb form that functions as an adjective. It describes a noun or pronoun and can be in present or past form. Present participle ends in “-ing” (e.g., running, jumping). Past participle often ends in “-ed” or is irregular (e.g., talked, eaten).
    - Example: The running water was cold. Exhausted, she fell asleep.
  - **Predicate:** A predicate tells something about the subject of the sentence, including what the subject does or is. It usually contains a verb and complements or modifiers.
    - Example: He runs fast. (Here, “runs fast” is the predicate.) The sky is clear. (“is clear” is the predicate.)
  - **Pronoun:** A pronoun is a word that replaces a noun to avoid repetition. Pronouns include he, she, it, they, this, that, who, etc.
    - Examples: He went to the park. The book is on the table, and it is heavy.
  - **Sentence:** A sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. It has a subject and a predicate and can be simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex.
    - Simple: She reads.
    - Compound: She reads, and he writes.
    - Complex: She reads because it helps her relax.
  - **Clause:** A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate. It can be independent (a complete sentence) or dependent (cannot stand alone).
    - Examples: Independent: She ran to the store. Dependent: Because she was late.
  - **Prepositional Phrase:** A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition (such as in, on, at, by, with) and ends with a noun or pronoun, forming a phrase that modifies something in the sentence.
    - Examples: She sat on the chair. The book on the table is mine.

- **Difference Between Clause, Phrase, and Sentence:**
  - A clause contains a subject and a verb (e.g., because she was late).
  - A phrase is a group of words without a subject and verb that acts as a unit (e.g., in the garden).
  - A sentence is a complete thought with a subject and predicate (e.g., She went to the store).
  
- **Conjunction:** A conjunction is a word that connects clauses, phrases, or words to form more complex sentences. Conjunctions are essential for creating more complex and varied sentence structures, making writing more fluid and connected. There are three main types of conjunctions:
  - Coordinating Conjunctions connect words, phrases, or clauses of equal rank.
    - Examples: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so. I wanted to go, but I was too tired. We can have pizza or burgers.
  - Subordinating Conjunctions connect dependent clauses to independent clauses.
    - Examples: because, although, since, unless, if, while. She stayed home because she was sick. Although it was raining, we went outside.
  - Correlative Conjunctions are paired conjunctions that work together.
    - Examples: either...or, neither...nor, both...and.
    - Neither the teacher nor the students were happy.
    - Both Tom and Jerry are coming to the party.

**Sentence Structure:** This is what organizes the content of a message into clear, coherent, and impactful statements. The components of grammar are integrated with rules of sentence structure to ensure effective communication. Sentence structure refers to how words and phrases are arranged to form sentences. Effective sentence structure enhances communication by:

1. **Building Coherence:** Well-structured sentences create a logical flow of ideas. For example, using a mix of simple, compound, and complex sentences can add variety and clarity to writing, making it more engaging and easier to follow.
  2. **Emphasizing Key Points:** Sentence structure can be manipulated to highlight important information. For instance, placing key details at the beginning or end of a sentence can emphasize them. “The project was completed successfully, achieving all its objectives” places emphasis on the success of the project.
  3. **Creating Rhythm and Style:** Varied sentence structures contribute to the rhythm and style of writing, which can make the text more compelling and easier to read. For example, short, punchy sentences can create a sense of urgency, while longer, more complex sentences can provide detailed explanations.
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- **Basic Sentence Elements**
    - Subject: The noun or pronoun that performs the action or is described by the predicate.  
Example: The cat slept on the mat.
    - Predicate: The part of the sentence that tells what the subject does or is. It usually includes a verb and any objects or modifiers.  
Example: The cat slept on the mat.

- **Types of Sentences:** Simple, compound, and complex sentences are the building blocks of written communication. Understanding these structures helps in varying sentence length and complexity in writing.
  - **Simple Sentences:** Contain a single independent clause with a subject and a predicate.  
Example: She reads books.
  - **Compound Sentences:** Contain two or more independent clauses joined by a conjunction or a semicolon.  
Example: She reads books, and he writes stories.
  - **Complex Sentences:** Contains one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.  
Example: She reads books because she enjoys stories.
  - **Compound-Complex Sentences:** Contains two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.  
Example: She reads books because she enjoys stories, and he writes novels.
- **Sentence Fragments and Run-Ons**
  - **Sentence Fragments:** Incomplete sentences that lack a main clause or essential component.  
Example: Because I went to the store. (This is a fragment because it lacks a complete thought.)
  - **Run-On Sentences:** Sentences that improperly combine two independent clauses without appropriate punctuation or conjunctions.  
Example: I went to the store I bought some milk. (Corrected: I went to the store, and I bought some milk.)
- **Sentence Variations and Complexities**
  - **Compound Sentences with Multiple Clauses:** Using multiple independent clauses and appropriate conjunctions to create more complex sentences.  
Example: I went to the store, and I bought some milk, but I forgot to buy eggs.
  - **Complex Sentences with Multiple Dependent Clauses:** Including several dependent clauses to add detail and depth.  
Example: Although I went to the store, where I bought some milk, I forgot to buy eggs.

Subject    Predicate    Prepositional Phrase    Dependent Clause  
 ↓            ↓            ↓            ↓  
 The dog barked loudly at the mail carrier because it was excited.

Dependent Clause            Independent Clause            Compound Predicate  
 ↓                                    ↓                                    ↓  
 Although the weather was cold, the children played outside and enjoyed the snow.

### Common Writing Section Errors:

- Sentence Structure and Punctuation are common areas where students make mistakes. Cover typical errors like run-on sentences, comma splices, and incorrect punctuation usage.
- Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement is another area of focus, where pronouns must agree in number and gender with their antecedents.
- Word Choice (Diction) is another common issue.

**Examples:** For the following examples, highlight the key grammatical and sentence structures that you can identify. Each phrase is identified by its unique characteristics with a description above.

#### 1. Compound-Complex Sentence with Multiple Clauses

"Even though the sky was cloudy, we decided to go for a walk, but we brought umbrellas in case it started to rain."

#### 2. Sentence with Participial Phrase, Prepositional Phrase, and Subordinate Clause

"Running quickly towards the finish line, John felt a surge of adrenaline, which carried him forward despite the pain in his legs."

#### 3. Sentence with Appositive, Adjective Clause, and Prepositions

"The Grand Canyon, one of the most breathtaking natural wonders, attracts millions of visitors who come from around the world to witness its beauty."

#### 4. Sentence with Multiple Verb Tenses and Pronouns

"After he had finished his homework, David relaxed on the couch, knowing that he would have to get up early the next day."

#### 5. Sentence with Infinitive Phrase, Gerund, and Conjunctions

"To prepare for the big exam, Maria spent hours studying, reviewing her notes, and practicing problems until she felt confident."

**Writing Styles:** Each style serves a unique purpose and employs specific techniques to convey the writer's message. Understanding how to implement these techniques to achieve a predetermined writing style is essential for success on the SAT as well as for writing compelling and successful essays. An effective writer must adapt their writing to different prompts and critically evaluate how different writing styles can be used to achieve a certain writing objective. Familiarization with these styles enhances the ability to communicate clearly and persuasively in both essays and test responses. The different styles of writing along with examples are provided below:

- **Persuasive Writing:** Persuasive writing aims to convince the reader to adopt a particular viewpoint or take a specific action. It uses logical arguments, emotional appeals, and rhetorical devices to persuade the audience.
- **Techniques:** Persuasion through logic, appeal to responsibility, future-oriented language, emotional appeal, urgency, call to action.

*The issue of climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time. Immediate action is necessary to mitigate its effects and protect our planet for future generations. While some argue that the cost of implementing green technologies is too high, the long-term benefits far outweigh the initial investment. Transitioning to renewable energy sources will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also create new job opportunities and foster economic growth. By taking proactive steps now, we can ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for all.*

- **Descriptive Writing:** Descriptive writing focuses on detailing the characteristics of a person, place, object, or event. It uses vivid language and sensory details to paint a picture in the reader's mind.
- **Techniques:** Vivid imagery, sensory details, personification.

*The sun dipped below the horizon, casting a golden hue over the tranquil meadow. The gentle breeze rustled through the tall grass, making it sway like a sea of green waves. A soft, sweet fragrance of blooming flowers filled the air, mingling with the earthy scent of fresh rain. The sky transformed into a canvas of warm oranges, pinks, and purples, reflecting the serene beauty of the evening. As the stars began to twinkle, the landscape became a peaceful haven, inviting all who gazed upon it to relax and enjoy its splendor.*

- **Technical Writing:** Technical writing provides clear, concise instructions or explanations about complex topics, often related to technology, science, or industry. It aims to make complex information accessible and understandable to its audience.
- **Techniques:** Clarity, concise instruction, use of mathematical examples, step-by-step instructions, logical progression.

*To properly install the software, first ensure that your computer meets the minimum system requirements: Windows 10 or later, 4 GB of RAM, and 2 GB of free disk space. Download the installation file from the official website and double-click the executable file to begin the setup process. Follow the on-screen instructions, including agreeing to the license terms and selecting the installation directory. Once the installation is complete, restart your computer to finalize the setup. Open the software and enter your activation key to start using the program.*

- **Narrative Writing:** Narrative writing tells a story or recounts events. It includes elements like characters, plot, setting, and conflict to engage the reader and create a cohesive storyline.
- **Techniques:** Storytelling, use of flashback, contrast between present and memory, action-oriented storytelling, internal tension, vivid descriptions.

*Sarah walked through the dense forest; her footsteps muffled by the thick layer of fallen leaves. She had always loved this place, finding solace in its quiet, hidden corners. As she ventured deeper, she stumbled upon an old, overgrown path that she had never seen before. Curiosity piqued, she decided to follow it, wondering where it might lead. The path twisted and turned, eventually opening up to a hidden clearing bathed in dappled sunlight. In the center of the clearing stood an ancient oak tree, its gnarled branches reaching towards the sky like welcoming arms.*

- **Expository Writing:** Expository writing aims to inform or explain a topic clearly and logically. It presents facts, explanations, and information without attempting to persuade or entertain.
- **Techniques:** Explanation of a scientific process, clear sequence of steps, clear explanation, scientific language, logical sequence of ideas.

*Photosynthesis is a critical process used by plants to convert light energy into chemical energy, enabling them to produce their own food. This complex procedure occurs primarily in the chloroplasts of plant cells, where chlorophyll—a green pigment—absorbs sunlight. The process begins when chlorophyll absorbs light, which excites electrons and initiates a chain of reactions. Water molecules are split into oxygen, protons, and electrons. The oxygen is released into the atmosphere, while the protons and electrons help in converting carbon dioxide and water into glucose. The glucose serves as an energy source for the plant's growth and development. Photosynthesis not only provides food for plants but also generates oxygen, which is essential for the survival of most life forms on Earth. Understanding photosynthesis is crucial for grasping how plants sustain themselves and contribute to the global ecosystem.*

- **Analytical Writing:** Analytical writing involves breaking down a subject into its component parts to understand it better. It often includes evaluating and interpreting information, and presenting arguments supported by evidence.
- **Techniques:** Literary analysis, discussion and exploration of theme, cause and effect, critical perspective.

*Harper Lee's novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" explores several profound themes, one of which is the moral nature of human beings. The story, set in the racially charged atmosphere of 1930s Alabama, presents a nuanced view of morality through the character of Atticus Finch. Atticus, a lawyer, defends Tom Robinson, an African American falsely accused of raping a white woman. Through Atticus's unwavering commitment to justice and equality, Lee illustrates the theme of moral integrity in the face of societal prejudice. Additionally, the novel examines the loss of innocence through Scout and Jem's experiences. As they witness the harsh realities of racism and injustice, they are forced to confront the complexities of human nature. Lee's use of Scout's perspective allows readers to see the gradual loss of childhood innocence and the harsh realities of their community. By analyzing these themes, readers gain insight into the moral and social fabric of the novel's setting.*

- **Reflective Writing:** Reflective writing involves exploring personal thoughts and feelings about an experience or topic. It often includes self-evaluation and consideration of how the experience has impacted the writer.

*Traveling to new countries has profoundly impacted my personal growth and worldview. My recent trip to Japan was a transformative experience, as it exposed me to a culture vastly different from my own. Initially, I was overwhelmed by the language barrier and unfamiliar customs. However, as I navigated these challenges, I learned to appreciate the nuances of Japanese culture, including its emphasis on politeness and respect. The experience of immersing myself in a different environment made me more adaptable and open-minded. I realized that stepping out of my comfort zone and embracing new experiences is essential for personal development. This journey has taught me to approach unfamiliar situations with curiosity rather than apprehension, and I now feel more confident in my ability to navigate diverse cultural contexts. Reflecting on this trip has reinforced my belief in the value of global experiences in fostering personal growth.*

- **Argumentative Writing:** Argumentative writing is similar to persuasive writing but focuses more on presenting and defending a specific argument with evidence and reasoning. It often involves addressing counterarguments and refuting opposing viewpoints.

*Renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, are essential for addressing the global climate crisis. Unlike fossil fuels, which emit greenhouse gases and contribute to global warming, renewable energy sources offer a cleaner and more sustainable alternative. Investing in renewable energy infrastructure reduces our dependence on finite resources and decreases environmental pollution. Furthermore, renewable energy technologies have advanced significantly, making them increasingly cost-effective. Critics argue that renewable energy is unreliable and expensive, but recent developments have demonstrated that these technologies can provide a stable and affordable energy supply. For example, the cost of solar panels has decreased dramatically, and wind power is now a major energy source in many countries. By transitioning to renewable energy, we not only combat climate change but also promote economic growth through job creation in the green energy sector. Therefore, it is crucial to prioritize renewable energy investments to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for generations to come.*

- **Informative Writing:** Informative writing aims to provide knowledge or information about a specific topic. It is similar to expository writing but can also include explanations and instructions.

*Vaccinations are one of the most effective public health measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. They work by stimulating the immune system to recognize and combat specific pathogens without causing the disease itself. When a person is vaccinated, their immune system is exposed to a weakened or inactive form of the pathogen, which prompts the production of antibodies. These antibodies provide immunity, making the body more prepared to fight off the actual disease if exposed in the future. Vaccinations have led to the eradication of diseases such as smallpox and have significantly reduced the incidence of diseases like polio and measles. Despite their proven benefits, some individuals remain hesitant about vaccines due to misinformation or concerns about safety. It is essential to address these concerns with accurate information and emphasize the role of vaccinations in safeguarding individual and public health. Educating people about the science behind vaccines and their historical impact on disease prevention is crucial for maintaining high vaccination rates and protecting communities from outbreaks.*



**Reading:** The reading section is designed to test your ability to comprehend and analyze texts from a variety of genres, including fiction, science, history, and social studies. Each passage presents its own challenges, from interpreting the author's point of view to drawing inferences about the text. Just as in math, where you learn to break down complex equations into understandable parts, reading comprehension requires you to break down a passage to understand the underlying arguments and ideas. Critical reading skills involve identifying the main point, understanding how evidence supports an argument, and recognizing how an author's tone and style contribute to the overall meaning of the text.

- **Process of Communication:** Understanding the Author's Purpose is crucial for reading. Explain how every passage is written with a goal, such as to inform, persuade, entertain, or explain. Need to be able to identify the author's intent behind the text.
- **The Structure of Written Texts:** Paragraph Structure is important in reading comprehension. Most paragraphs begin with a topic sentence, followed by evidence, examples, and conclusions. Recognizing this pattern can assist in understanding.
- **Reading as Problem Solving:** Contextual Meaning is a strategy for determining the meaning of unfamiliar words by using the surrounding text. It is possible to answer many vocabulary questions without knowing the word beforehand by analyzing the context.

**Reading Comprehension:** Reading comprehension is a vital skill that underpins success in both academic and real-world contexts. This section focuses on evaluating the ability to understand, interpret, and analyze texts across various genres and subjects. To excel, you'll need to develop strategies for identifying main ideas, recognizing supporting details, and making inferences based on the text. Effective reading comprehension also involves understanding the author's intent and grasping the nuances of language used. These skills are important to critically engage with and interpret written material in academia and in everyday life. This will be covered in more detail in later sections.

**Types of Questions on the SAT Reading Section:** The SAT reading section includes several types of questions.

- Main Idea/Primary Purpose Questions focus on understanding the big picture and the author's purpose.
- Detail Questions require students to find specific evidence or statements in the passage to answer questions.
- Inference Questions help students deduce information based on the passage even when it is not directly stated.
- Vocabulary in Context Questions ask students to determine word meaning using the context of the passage.
- Function/Purpose Questions ask why a particular sentence or phrase was included by the author, requiring a deeper understanding of the text's structure.

**Common Reading Section Errors:**

- Misreading the Question: Failing to fully understand what the question is asking can lead to selecting the wrong answer. It's crucial to carefully read and interpret each question to ensure that your response directly addresses it.
- Ignoring Key Details: Skipping over important details or focusing too much on minor aspects of the text can result in missing the main point or answering questions incorrectly. Pay attention to both the main ideas and supporting details.

- Overlooking Context: Sometimes readers misinterpret words or phrases by ignoring their context. Words can have different meanings depending on how they are used, so understanding the surrounding text is essential for accurate comprehension.
- Making Assumptions: Drawing conclusions based on personal beliefs or assumptions rather than evidence provided in the text can lead to errors. Ensure that your answers are supported by specific information from the passage.
- Failing to Identify the Author's Purpose: Misunderstanding the author's intent or the purpose of the passage can lead to incorrect answers. Identify whether the passage is meant to inform, persuade, entertain, or explain, and answer questions with this purpose in mind.
- Neglecting Passage Structure: Ignoring how the passage is organized can lead to confusion. Understanding the structure helps in locating key information and understanding how different parts of the text relate to each other.
- Relying on Memory Alone: Trying to remember specific details without referring to the text can be risky. Always use the passage to verify your answers, especially when questions ask for specific details or evidence.
- Reading Too Quickly: Rushing through the passage can lead to missing important information or misinterpreting the text. Take your time to read carefully and consider the meaning of each section.

**Vocabulary:** A robust vocabulary is essential for understanding and analyzing texts effectively. Vocabulary knowledge not only aids in grasping the meanings of complex passages but also enhances your ability to express ideas clearly and accurately in your writing. By familiarizing yourself with a broad range of words and their nuances, you will be better equipped for reading comprehension questions and to articulate your thoughts and ideas in paragraphs and essays.

- Context clues are words or phrases surrounding an unfamiliar word that help in determining its meaning.
- Prefixes, suffixes, and root words also offer clues to the meaning of a word.
- Practice by: analyzing words in reading materials; identifying root words, prefixes, and suffixes; and using context to infer meanings.

**Notes**

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