

SAT Writing Course (1-55 videos)

① Introduction

- How to use the book
- Download the practice tests.
- Additional videos.

② Writing Test Breakdown

(35min/4 questions)

Directions

- "improve the expression of ideas" ← rhetorical skills
- "sentence structure, usage, or punctuation" ← Grammar
- 4 passages, 11 questions each
- 1 Narrative, 1-2 Informative, 1-2 Argumentative
- Topics: Careers, humanities, history / social science.

★ GRAMMAR: subject verb agreement, pronoun agreement, punctuation use, sentence structure, idoms, etc.

★ RHETORICAL SKILLS: adding/deleting/revising sentences, providing smooth transitions, sentence arrangement, etc.

★ Pacing shouldn't be a problem

★ For time make sure to Circled Return

③ How Writing is Scored

Right: +1

Wrong: 0

Guess? Always!

Example: 37 Right → Go to chart → 34 score
(Reading + Writing) × 10 = 200-800

Writing - 41 Right → Go to chart → 33 score

(33 + 34) × 10 = 670

④ Core Strategy

1. Begin reading the passage

2. When you get to the first box or underlined portion, finish the sentence.

3. "Go to the question." If it's a grammar question answer it. If it's a rhetorical, try to answer it, but be ready to refer back to the paragraph.

4. FOCUS on eliminating wrong answers.

5. If you're having trouble identifying an error or correction look at the difference among the choices.

⑤ Additional Writing Tips

- ① All things being equal, shorter is better
- ② Be careful with how a choice "sounds" - the sound of a sentence is a useful ally, but you should always back up your answers with grammar rules.
- ③ Always check all four choices.
- ④ Use Process of Elimination (POE) to get rid of wrong choices and help focus you on the best contenders
- ⑤ Don't be afraid to pick no change "it's correct quite often!"
- ⑥ Answer choices that correct the original error may ~~introduce~~ introduce new ones.
- ⑦ Sometimes crossing out stuff in between commas - or other unnecessary words can help you understand the structure.
- ⑧ "Being" is almost wrong - creates wordiness and fragments.

Example: John, my friend ~~since~~ 2007, is

⑥ STOP! Do this first

- complete practice #1

⑦ Fragments

- I walking. ← Fragment, not a verb,
Fixed: I walk, I was walking,
- John and Mary ~~spending~~ ^{spend → main verb} their weekends.
John is
- ~~Thinking~~ ^{is} over all his options (subject + main verb)
- ~~Working~~ ^{John is} for 70 hours per week on a project.
- The mansion ^{is or was} located on the outskirts of town.
- ~~To~~ ^{I need} improve your SAT skills.
- In France, after the French Revolution
- The violinist, ^{who trained with the great masters,} ~~playing~~ ^{played} at the theater right now.

- Steve Jobs, a visionary inventor and businessman, ^{was ambitious} ~~and~~ placed many demands on his employees.

⑧ Run ons and Comma Splices

- I walk, I run. (Run on sentence)
- I walk then I run. (Run on)
- He visited the aquarium ^{and} stole the seal.

RUN ON: Two independent clauses (sentences that can stand on it's own) smashed together with no attempt at coordination

(I walk, I run) comma splice.

⑨ Coordination

- I walk, I run ^{run on}

- I walk, then I run. ^{comma splice}

and

coordinating conjunction.

- He visited the aquarium, and ^{additional} stole a seal.

⑩ Semicolons

- [The first thing I do is take off my shoes, after coming home from work.]

★ remember that semicolons separate two ~~se~~ complete sentences.

- when I arrived at the Medical Center for surgery; I met with the surgeon who would be leading the operation.

not necessary because it isn't a complete sentence.

- I totally forgot that the gymnastics meet was today, not tomorrow!

★ A semicolon must connect two complete sentence (independent clauses)
no fragments allowed!

⑪ Colons

The manager is responsible for:
ordering inventory, setting employee schedules, and handling customer complaints.

Independent +

complete sentence

★ colons MUST follow an independent clause but basically anything can follow a colon.

I never thought I'd see the day:
My cat graduated.

(12) DASHES

Pinconning cheese — named after Pinconning, Michigan, has a unique texture and flavor.

Dashes function like commas and colons while also adding emphasis. be consistent — don't mix commas!

- Everyone I know — even BOB Mary, and John — attend.

⑬ SUBORDINATION

◦ unless Elizabeth joins the club. (fragment)

take out
OR put a
sentence
subordinating
conjunction

she won't have
any friends

Dependent/subordinate clause:
clause that can't stand by
itself without creating a fragment.

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------|
| after | now that | unless |
| although | once | until |
| as | provided that | when |
| because | rather than | whenever |
| before | since | where |
| even if | so that | whereas |
| even though | than | wherever |
| if | that | whether |
| in order that | though | while |

Although I pretend otherwise, I love practicing
DC IC

⑭ SENTENCE COMBINATION

1. Separate sentences with a period.
I brought the computer. I need it for work.

2. FANBOYS

I brought the computer, for I need it for work.

③ semicolon

I brought the computer; I need it for work.

④ Transform one ~~etc~~ independent clause into a subordinate clause or a phrase.

I bought the computer because I need it for work.

Needing the computer for work, I bought it.

⑤ Colon

There is one good reason I bought the computer: I need it for work.

15) Participial Phases

◦ Kicking the can as he walked, the boy worried about the broken window.

← Participial phase.

★ They ~~begin~~ ^{have} at the end -ing! ★

16) Dangling & Misplaced Modifiers

Finally understanding what he meant by his cryptic warning, lightning flashed, and the skies rumbled.

I followed my keys walking down the street.

Participial phrases (and other modifiers) generally apply to the noun they're closest to.

17) Essential vs Nonessential

The Participial phrases, relative clauses and appositive phrases that appear in the middle of a sentence will either take two commas or none depending on whether the clause/phrases

← non-essential

○ The man, flying over Metropolis, used his X-ray vision to find the bank robbers.

← essential.

○ The man flying over Metropolis used X-ray vision to find the bank robbers.

This is the "TWO or NOIN RULE"

○ My brother, who is in the Army, came home yesterday. (relative clause) ← essential

○ My brother, who is in the Army, came home yesterday. ← nonessential

○ He who must NOT be NAMED, is a bad

⑱ Relative Pronouns

The book is written by sixteen lawyers which have all studied this issue in depth, so you should cite the source.

The juggler ^{whom} ~~who~~ I wanted to meet turned out to be a real jerk.

Relative clauses modify nouns and pronouns. They begin with relative pronouns (which, that, whom, whose) or relative adverbs (where, when, why). They can either be essential or nonessential.

⑱ APPOSITIVE Phrases

Fragment

o The mysterious stranger [a wanderer who finds his way into the castle every winter,] who cannot be trusted.
phrase. appositive

★ An appositive is a noun or noun phrase that modifies the noun it follows or precedes. You can think of its "renaming" or "defining" the noun.

★ Most of the time you will set off the rest of the sentence.

o This soldier, James Francis Ryan, was the last of five brothers to survive World War II.

o My favorite team, the New York Rangers, did not win the Stanley Cup this year.

o My favorite hobby, cooking at home, is relatively inexpensive.

20) Parallelism

o The new science textbooks teaches experimental methods, theoretical concepts, and instructs students on proper technique.

o He wants to meet Bill Gates, build a computer, and a new desk < buy

21) Comparison ERRORS

o I like John's cookies as much as Mary (does) ← add

o I think Google's strategy is better than Microsoft's strategy ↓ add

22) Comma Usage

- o The most popular dog in the United States, is the Labrador Retriever. ↑

In this sentence we get rid of the comma

- o I ate Thanksgiving dinner, and fell asleep.

"Use a comma when the reader pauses or takes a breath."

OK beginner rule, but inadequate for the SAT.

23) NOUN AGREEMENT

- o John and Mary want to become an astronaut.

- o Different kinds of elements have a different atomic mass.

24 Subject Verb Agreement

The ^{ins} investigation of the financial crimes committed by pyramid schemes are being conducted by the top lawyers in the state. ← extra

★ Make sure your subjects and verbs agree in number: singular or plural.

★ Remember the singular verbs end in -s, and plural verbs do not end in -s.

25 Tense PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Bob ^{part} tried to hold in laughter as Grandpa Roland ~~says~~ ^{present} grace mashed potatoes on his nose.

Ten years ago, the traveling circus came to town and displays its assortment of acts and wonders. ← displayed Past

Important
↓

★ Look for the tense of other verbs ★
in the sentence and/or paragraph
★ and use that as your guide ★

26 Pronoun Agreement

antecedent

★ singular ★

A student might want to determine
their major before starting
college.

his or her

★ singular ★

Every student should bring
~~their~~ books to class.

his or her

★ plural ★

Teachers who want to be
effective should focus their
efforts on helping students take
control of ~~our~~ own interests
and work habits. their

★ Make sure your pronouns agree
with their antecedents in
numbers singular or plural ★

| subject | object | Possessive |
|-----------|------------|-------------|
| I | me | my |
| you | you | your |
| he/she/it | his/her/it | his/her/its |
| we | us | our |
| they | them | their |

27. Ambiguous Pronouns

○ In the (magazine article) ^{← company} it reported a huge budget deficit

★ Every pronoun must have a clear and unambiguous antecedent ★

★ Watch out for troublesome pronouns; It, its, they, their, them, this. ★

28. Apostrophes

○ Removing toxies from our body is one of the livers' core function

○ The wolves' ^{← take out} circling the camp apparently unfazed by our ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~rocks~~

★ Use 's with singular nouns to show possession.

- o The boy's car
- o The dog's bone

★ Use 's' with plural

- o The boys' club
- o The wolves' pack

★ DO NOT use to pluralize nouns

- o I like eating apple's and orange's.

Do not = don't

Are not = aren't

(29) Reflexive Pronouns

- o Direct any inquiries to Bob or Myself.

Me →

★ Reflexive Pronoun: used when the subject of the sentence does some action to him/herself. ★

themselves, himself NO!!

30) Diction

o They're not going to get their share of skurimp without a fight.

→ they are

their

o It's obvious from your're youtube comment that you're a total idiot.

→ you are

→ you are

31) Idioms

★ They are expressions and phrasings that simply must be learned as you speak, read, write, and listen

Prepositions: small words like after
at, in, on,

32) Redundancy

- The meal tasted amazing, and it was tasty too. redundant.
- At first, my initial thought was that there was some kind of mistake.

General tip: shorter phrases are often better than longer ones. Why? Style, ease of reading, and to avoid redundancy.

33) Wordiness

- The subject is ~~being~~ hard to study.
 ← unnecessary, always wrong!

- I wrote the essay with ~~purpose~~ to ~~be~~ the relating of the prisoners
 to wordiness.

34) Rhetorical Skills

- Improve the passage develop into and ideas.

35) Four Principles

- 1) Stay on TOPIC
- 2) Pay Attention
- 3) Focus on what the question specifically asking
- 4) Pick the clear and concise choice

36) Details

They can add it to livestock feed as a protein supplement. [and people can make their own greek style yogurt at home by straining regular yogurt.]

37) Adding & Deleting Sentences

- Through these conservation methods can be mostly of time consuming they are well known the efforts

Read - Think - Delete.

38) Transitions

Set up the next idea.

However, despite its many ultimate benefits, colleges have not always supported the study of philosophy.

39) Opening Words

- Provides the flow of the sentence
- Also, because it is more concentrated
Greek yogurt contains slightly
far in stance.

40) Sentence Placement

- Look for details and question yourself about the order.

41) Graphs

- Find the best summarize answer that goes with the graph.

72 Tone/Style

Formal vs informal
(professional) (conversation)

Always know who your audience is.