

## Critical Reading and Writing, continued...

Many students believe that the Writing section is subjectively graded, and therefore based on whether the test sentences "sound" correct. Relying on the way a sentence sounds will often mislead your answer. Most, if not all, of the multiple choice questions in the Writing sections are *objectively* based on the following grammatical topics: Subject-Verb Agreement; Verb Tense; correct usage of Pronouns; Conjunctions; Parallelism; Idioms; and Prepositions, especially as they relate to pronoun cases (subjective, objective, and possessive).



Take the time to work both alone and with others to keep study interesting and relevant.

Also, be able to identify these grammatical pitfalls: Problems with Number Agreement; Double Negatives; confusion between Adjectives and Adverbs; Run-on sentences; Sentence Fragments; and problems with Punctuation.

If you review these grammar topics and become familiar with their subtleties, you will greatly improve your chance of achieving high scores on the SAT's Writing and Critical Reading sections.

## Studying Vocabulary for Critical Reading and Writing

Learning vocabulary is perhaps one of the most time-consuming, yet ultimately rewarding parts of studying for the SAT. The most effective way to learn vocabulary is to continually read books that challenge the limits of your diction. Read with a dictionary close by, and make a point of writing down words (and definitions) that you find difficult to remember. You will eventually be surprised at how much you can improve your vocabulary and how much this down-to-earth strategy will boost your SAT score!

Good luck! We hope this helps, and we at [www.double800.com](http://www.double800.com) look forward to answering more of your questions!

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Your future begins today!

## What is the SAT?

The SAT is a standardized test which allows college entrance examiners to pre-screen students who apply for admission. The SAT has therefore become one of the best opportunities



Use your education and the SAT as opportunities to become more worldly.

for a student to show that she or he is academically competent and motivated to learn. Most importantly, the scoring on the SAT is designed to reward those who grasp new concepts easily as well as use

accumulated knowledge in creative ways.

## Why study for the SAT?

The SAT is one of the most important events in your academic career. Also, in the eyes of many college entrance examiners, a good SAT score will have the effect of offsetting any bad grades you've accumulated in your high school career. Consider the SAT your chance to make a fresh new impression on the world. Therefore, to ensure that you do your best on the SAT, remember that "practice makes perfect" and focused study for the SAT is essential.

## How do I start studying for the SAT?

It is a good idea to make sure you find out how the SAT is structured and what test questions in each section look like **before taking the SAT**. You can do this easily by visiting [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), the website from the makers of the SAT.

One of most helpful strategies in preparing for the SAT, and in doing well academically, is to find your motivation. Try to visualize your admission into the college and program of your choice or the many scholarship awards that you may become eligible for, and then work towards that goal by preparing diligently for the SAT.

## What should I study to prepare for the SAT?

The SAT is comprised of three sections, Mathematical Reasoning, Writing and Critical Reading.

To prepare for the Mathematical Reading section, be sure to go over the math topic



Make an effort to plan a balanced schedule for yourself. Be sure to include regular opportunities to work on your more ambitious life goals.

areas covered in school up to and including Grade 10 Math. The good news is that there is no calculus or trigonometry on the SAT, but be sure to be very familiar with techniques in Algebra, Geometry, Mathematical Functions, solving

Linear and Quadratic Equations, Graphing, Word Problems and Statistics.

To cover these topic areas and some aspects of the Mathematical Reasoning section not contained in your high school curriculum, obtain a copy of "The Official SAT Study Guide" by the College Board, or sign up for a comprehensive local SAT prep course. Taking advantage of both of these resources will improve your math skills and greatly improve your chances of doing well on the SAT.

To prepare for the Writing section, first be sure to familiarize yourself with essays that have merited a perfect score of 6 on the SAT. These can be found in "The Official SAT Study Guide." To do well on the SAT essay, you should familiarize yourself *in detail* with various topics in Science and Technology, History, the Arts, and Literature. This will help give you pithy example topics to write about in the SAT essay. For example, if you have always been interested in the migration of birds and James Audubon, now is the time to research a little about these topics using the internet, your local libraries and other reliable sources of information. Once again, practice makes perfect, so be sure to practice writing expository essays to prepare for the SAT.

For both the Critical Reading and Writing sections of the SAT, good grammar is important. (Continued on back...)

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