

## SAT/PSAT Reading Section

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqNYFJgyD3w>

1. **Look up every word you don't know from the practice test.** If you know what the word means you will understand ideas and questions that are being asked on the exam.
2. **Make sure that you read the excerpt to the passage.** It helps you make connections to the passages you are about to read.
3. **Read for meaning (read once and read it well).** Don't rush through text. Slow down, reread when necessary, and ask yourself "what idea(s) is the author trying to communicate here". Actively read the passage look for the authors tone, what is the plot, the main idea and map the passage (where things are in the passage).
4. **Annotate the passage, this helps you to focus on the passage and understand what you are reading.**
5. **Look for evidence in the text to support the correct answer choice, and to eliminate incorrect answer choices.** When looking at the answer choices never bring your opinion of the passage or think what might sound like a reasonable answer choice. *Focus on answers in the passage.*
6. **Try not to keep revisiting the reading passage for every answer.** You are wasting valuable time on the test. For questions that refer to which specific lines it is best to go back to the text, but the main idea, main purpose or the vocab questions you should be able to answer without revisiting the passage. This will save you time on the test.
7. **Read answer choice completely.** Every word in the answer choice needs to be supported from the answer to be correct, if not the answer choice is wrong.
8. **Vocabulary** -use vocabulary in context of the reading passage on the exam.
9. **Pace yourself for the exam to make sure that you can complete the entire section.**
10. **Don't linger too long on one question.** If you're stuck, mark the question in the test booklet, and come back to it later.
11. **You are reading for performance for this exam you are not reading for leisure.** Goal is to answer all questions correct in the allotted time. Make yourself focus of the passage you are reading like it is the best thing you have ever read. Avoid being distracted it will waste time because it will cause you to revisit/reread the passage.
12. **Be confident in your ability to select the correct answer.**
13. **You have 12 minutes per passage (5 total passages), that included reading the passage and answering the 9-10 questions for each passage.** Pace of the test is very important part of testing.
14. **Passages include 500-750 words.**
  - One passage on US or global fiction.
  - One passage on Economics, Sociology and Psychology.
  - One passage or 2 shorter passages from US founding documents or Global Conservations.
  - Two passages from scientific works Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

## SAT/PSAT Writing Section and Language

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7hqqFc\\_GQQ&list=PLScKhefeeFHvEAJ71\\_e2GSMbAKvbTfdfE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7hqqFc_GQQ&list=PLScKhefeeFHvEAJ71_e2GSMbAKvbTfdfE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3HrzNnJL4A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHMOVUJtMzI>

In this section you will edit passages that contain deliberate errors. The passages are 400-450 words in length and may contain chart, graph, and infographics that you must interpret. You must answer 44 questions under 35 minutes time limit. This means you have 45 seconds to answer each question plus you will read the passage. Students will have about nine minutes per passage, that includes time to answer questions (35 min for 4 passages).

Punctuation

- Periods (.) break up two separate standalone statements.
- Use commas (,) whenever you NEED a brief pause. If you don't need a brief pause, leave it out. \*\* Should not be used to connect two standalone thoughts. A period or semicolon must be used.
- Semicolons (;) connect two related statements that could still stand on their own as complete sentences.
- Colons (:) introduce a list (even a list of one item, just don't use after the phrase "such as"), explanation, or description. It will appear in this order 1. Thing to be listed/explained/described. 2. The colon 3. List/explanation/description.
- The Em-Dash (-) A single em-dash can be used anywhere a colon can be used, following the rule above. However, for a list, description, or explanation in the middle of a sentence, use the double em-dash. "All of the creative elements of a film – casting, acting, cinematography, effects, and editing – are the responsibility of the director."

### Possessives

- (Singular) "That is the girl's sweater."
- (Plural) "The boys' favorite game is football."
- Pay attention to commonly confused possessives with NO apostrophes – Its vs. It's – "The dog ate its food." Vs. "It's going to rain." (a contraction) Also Their vs. They're and Your vs. You're.

### Choose the Right Word in Context

- For transition word questions follow this formula: 1. Read the sentence before the one with the transition word. 2. Read the following sentence (without reading the underlined transition word) 3. Identify the relationship between the two ideas and pick the matching transition word.
- Common transition words – for **contrast** (however, nonetheless, nevertheless, but), **similarity** (furthermore, likewise, moreover, also, and), indication **cause-and-effect** (because, therefore, thus, given that, so), and **providing examples** (for example, for instance, in fact)
- Commonly confused words – accept vs. except, affect vs. effect, access vs. excess, precede vs. proceed, then vs. than, etc.
- Who (subject), Whom (always preceded by a preposition – to whom, for whom, of whom, by whom), and whose (possessive)
- General vocabulary!

### Keep it simple

- Whenever possible, say it with fewer words. (Incorrect) "The ice begins thawing in late summer, and such thawing follows several weeks of higher temperatures." (Correct) "The ice begins thawing in late summer, following several weeks of higher temperatures."
- You don't have to use fancy words or complex sentence structure. Say it simply and clearly. Also avoid the passive voice when possible. (Incorrect) "The dogs were taken for a walk by me."
- Avoid unnecessarily repetitive statements. (Incorrect) "Avoid redundant statements that are unnecessarily repetitive."
- When combining two sentences, avoid answer choices with more than one subject.

### Good Introductions, Transitions and Conclusions

- Good introductions prepare the reader to easily understand the ideas being presented in a passage – you may have to read ahead in the paragraph/passage before you decide how to best introduce it!
- Along with good introductions, good transition sentences are fundamental to good writing. Good transition sentences reference a previous idea and connect it to a new idea. The underlined portion above is an example of a good transition sentence. (You will usually see this at the beginning of a new paragraph.)

- Good conclusions summarize the main point of a passage or article. Re-read the title and the first paragraph of the passage to find the main idea.

### **Back up Claims with Relevant Evidence**

- Carefully study all graphs starting with the title, Y and X axis, and key.
- Supporting claims with SPECIFIC evidence is a good idea (if it's relevant).
- Providing examples or definitions of technical and unfamiliar terms is always a good idea too.

### **Avoid Misplaced Modifiers**

- The modifying (descriptive) phrase must always come immediately before, or immediately after the word it is modifying.
- (Incorrect) "Blazing through the night sky for brief periods of time, human have long been fascinated by comets." (Correct) "Blazing through the night sky for brief periods of time, comets have long fascinated humans."

### **Make it Match**

- Number – "A pack of wild wolves is roaming through the neighborhood!"
- Tense – "The band played its hit tune, and the audience erupted in applause."
- Style/Tone – (Incorrect) "The polar bear is a carnivorous bear whose native range lies largely within the Arctic Circle. They are super cute, but they sure can be mean!"
- Parallel Structure – "Along with running and rock climbing, surfing is one my favorite activities."
- Not only...but (...) also", "Neither...nor", "Either...or"
- Compare Only Directly Related Ideas (Incorrect) – "Compared to working at a desk, marine biologists get a lot more fresh air and exercise." (Correct) "Compared to office secretaries, marine biologists get a lot more fresh air and exercise."

### **Logical Order**

- Avoid interrupting the flow of thought – (Incorrect) "The bear population in Alaska has grown by 15% in the past decade. There is an abundance of other fish and wildlife in Alaska. The exact reason for the increase in bear populations is currently unknown."
- Use the "Sentence Sandwich" method for logical order questions.

### **Trust your Ear, and Trust Your Instincts**

- You may not always know the exact rule that applies. So, when in doubt, trust your ear and go with your first instinct. You may be wrong some of the time, but it is always your best bet!

### **SAT/PSAT Grammar Tips**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qpw5JVwAeSk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8eZ0oJzEZY&t=0s>