

SAT/ACT Concepts

Reading—Underline all the following as you read:

Fiction:

Figurative Language (metaphor, simile, etc.)

Setting—where and when

Theme—implicit and explicit lessons

Plot/Sequence of events

Tone Shift (changes in diction)

Conflict

Characterization (appearance, behavior, thoughts/dialogue)

Memorize: FigLang Set The PloToSh ConCh

Nonfiction

Jargon (technical words)

Tone Shift (transitional words)

Topic/Subject—social science, natural science, history, politics, humanities

Thesis—main argument

Purpose—inform or persuade or entertain

Charts/Graphs (summarize verbally)

Counter-argument and/or rebuttal

Memorize: JarToSh TopS The PurpChaG Count

Keyword Strategy

Memorize

1. SR. NAV: Specific, Relevant Nouns, Adjectives, and Verbs = Keywords

2. ISM: Isolate, Scan, Match

1. Isolate keywords in questions

2. Scan the passage for those words/synonyms/related terms

3. Match keywords in answers to keywords in passage

Reading Question Topics

- Vocabulary in Context: Re-read and replace your own word first, then insert answer and re-read the sentence to ensure logic.
- Organizational patterns/text structures
- Function/Purpose/Serves to
- Keywords in questions/passage/answers (**SR. NAV**)—isolate, scan, and match
- Textual Evidence/Keyword Confirmation (According to, Based on)
- Scanning—looking for keywords and/or synonyms
- Inferences—unstated connections
- Dual passages (answer P1 questions first, compare/contrast arguments)
- Paired-evidence questions (answer in reverse order sometimes)
- Process of elimination—remove answers with illogical, irrelevant, vague words

Writing and Language/English

Memorize: POELR CCCIA RAGCAR: Process of elimination (remove irrelevant, illogical, or vague answers), logical relevance (does it make sense based on the content of the passage), concision (fewest words), context clues (words/sentences before and after), insert answer, reread aloud (from the beginning of the sentence), grammatical correctness, ambiguity (lack of clarity), redundancy (repetitive wording)

- Parts of Speech: Noun, Pronoun, Verb (action, linking, phrase), Adjective, Adverb, Conjunction, Preposition, Interjection, Article (a, an, the)
- Verbals: Gerund, Infinitive, Participle
- Subject vs. Predicate
- Phrase vs. Clause
- Direct Object vs. Indirect Object vs. Object of Preposition
- Independent Clauses vs. Dependent Clauses
- Adjective Clause—essential vs. nonessential
- Adverb Clause (comma vs. no comma)
- Noun Clause
- Phrases: Prepositional, Gerund, Infinitive, Participial, Appositive, Absolute
- Sentence Types: Simple, Compound, Complex, Compound-Complex
- Run-on vs. Fragment
- Punctuation: Comma, Semicolon, Colon, Dash, Apostrophe, Parenthesis, Hyphen

Common Mistakes

- Redundancy
- Concision—fewest words
- Subject-Verb Agreement
- Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement
- Pronoun Case (Nominative [subject], Objective, Possessive)
- Parallelism
- Logical Comparison
- Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers
- Verb Tense Consistency
- Idioms
- Diction
- Transitional Words
- Reference Words
- Sentence/¶ placement
- Context Clues

Essay/Rhetorical Analysis

- Logos (logic): facts, statistics, reasoning, definitions, analogy, historical/real-world/hypothetical examples, cause/effect
- Ethos (credibility): conceding to the opposing view, objectivity, unbiased, personal experience, occupation, publication, diction, education, morality
- Pathos (emotion): positive/negative emotional diction, tone, mood, imagery, figurative language, emotional examples/stories, appeal to fear, anger, humor, etc.
- Syntax/sentence structure: question, command, declaration, exclamation.
- Repetition: anaphora, rhyme, alliteration, assonance, parallelism, antithesis
- Kairos: timeliness
- Analysis questions: How does the quote support the argument/thesis? How does the quote/device affect the audience (what they think, how they would act)? Why is the device itself persuasive (how does it demonstrate logos/ethos/pathos)?