

Introduction

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the Verbal section of the SAT (Reading and Writing sections). It will provide key SAT Reading strategies, including effective skimming, highlighting, and summarization strategies. It will also cover essential SAT Writing skills, such as identifying parts of speech and common grammar errors. Every three to four weeks, students will be assigned a complete official SAT Verbal test.

Weekly Class Topics:

1. Grand Overview
 - a. This class will discuss how to create a successful SAT study plan that is custom-tailored to your individual skills and weaknesses. We will look at the best SAT prep resources available on the market, and I'll tell you about the habits of top-scoring students.
2. Reading Test Deep Dive
 - a. This Masterclass will provide an overview of the Reading section of the SAT. We'll talk about what types of passages you're likely to see on test day, common styles of questions, and some easy-to-employ strategies that can increase your score.
3. Writing Test Deep Dive
 - a. This class will introduce you to format of the SAT Writing test, as well as the skills tested. I'll introduce 5 key strategies you need to know in order to succeed. We'll also discuss the fundamental grammar rules that the test emphasizes.
4. Reading: The Fiction Factor
 - a. This class will center on the SAT's Literature passages. You'll learn what types of passages have been used in the past as well as what types of passages are likely to show up on test day. We'll also discuss the kinds of
5. Writing: The Sentence Core
 - a. What exactly is a sentence? Many SAT questions are really testing whether you can determine if a string of words is truly a sentence. By learning to quickly recognize the basic elements that make a sentence (or ruin one), you can increase your score and improve your timing.
6. Reading: History
 - a. History passages are often some of the trickiest on the SAT Reading test. Tough, archaic language and unfamiliar people and ideas make things difficult for even the brightest students. This Masterclass will teach you what topics and time-periods are covered.
7. Writing: Expression of Ideas
 - a. More than half of the questions on the Writing Test aren't about grammar—rather, they're about your ability to, well, express yourself. Which word should you use? Which phrasing sounds least awkward? Should a detail be added to a paragraph? This Masterclass will give you the skills you need to answer these questions confidently.
8. Reading: Science Success

- a. Two out of the five passages you'll see on the SAT Reading Test will be about science. Learn about the types of passages that will be featured—and special techniques you can use to deal with them.
9. Writing: Punctuation
- a. Aren't sure exactly how to use semicolons (;), colons (:), commas, or dashes? Then this Masterclass is for you. We'll talk about the most commonly used types of punctuation on the SAT Writing test—and look at lots of example questions.
10. Reading: Social Science
- a. Social Science passages cover a huge range of topics—everything from Economics to Urban Planning to Psychology. This Masterclass will teach you what you need to know to be prepared. We'll talk about some of the most difficult social science passages, patterns you can use to help you succeed, and typical styles of associated questions.
11. Writing: Parallelism and Comparison
- a. These closely related skills are valuable across the Writing Test. In this masterclass you'll learn how the SAT requires lists to be structured, as well as some common mistakes students make when dealing with Parallelism and Comparison type questions.
12. Reading: Dual Passages
- a. Dual Passages are often considered the most difficult reading passages on the SAT—and each test includes one. This class will teach you must-know strategies for dealing with these passages.
13. Writing: Transition Words and Phrases
- a. One of the key skills tested on the Writing Test is your ability to determine the logical relationship between sentences and choose an appropriate transition word or phrase. This class will provide you with some techniques you can use to answer this style of question.
14. Reading and Writing: Infographics
- a. This class will teach you how to deal with the charts, tables, and graphs that pop up across the SAT. We'll solve graph questions and I'll point you towards resources that can help you develop your infographic interpretation skills.
15. ACT Verbal
- a. This class will cover the main differences between the SAT and ACT, so that students who are planning to take ACT will be prepared.

Textbooks:

1. Erica Meltzer's *Guide to SAT Reading*
2. Erica Meltzer's *Guide to SAT Grammar*