

6 Skills You Need to Master for the SAT

The SAT tests your Reading, Writing, and Math skills—and preparing for what’s on the test is important if you want to perform your best. Here are 6 skills you should master as you get ready for the SAT.

Reading

- **Finding evidence:** Some questions ask you to find evidence to support your answer to another question. One trick is to approach these pairs of questions together, looking at the lines of evidence before choosing an answer to the previous question.
- **Identifying the author’s purpose:** Consider the tone and theme of the passage. Ask yourself what a specific word, line, or paragraph contributes to the passage and why the author included it.

Writing

- **Connecting clauses:** Identify the independent and dependent clauses within a sentence. Make sure you know the rules for using periods, semicolons, colons, commas, and dashes between clauses.
- **Transitioning between ideas:** Read the whole sentence, both before and after the underlined portion. Ask yourself how the two ideas relate, and pick the most succinct answer choice that connects the ideas accordingly.

Math

- **Solving systems of equations:** Know how to use the substitution technique or the elimination method—whichever you’re more comfortable with—to find the solution to a system of linear equations.
- **Converting units:** Watch out for problems that refer to one unit in the question prompt and another unit in the answer choices. Master the proportion chain to convert measurements into different units.

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