

TIPS & TRICKS

FOR THE ENGLISH/READING SECTION OF THE SAT

1. Complete Sentences

They must have a subject and predicate.

Subject = what the sentence is about.

Predicate = what the subject is "doing".

2. Colons

Rule 1: complete sentence before the colon

Rule 2: an explanation after the colon

Note: After the colon can be a complete sentence or an incomplete sentence.

3. Semicolons

Must have a complete sentence before and after the semicolon.

A semicolon is interchangeable with a period when the sentences relate.

4. Em-dashes

1. Two Em-Dash can replace two parenthesis.
2. Two Em-Dash can replace two commas.
3. One Em-Dash can replaces one colon.

5. Commas

1. Commas in a list.
2. Commas between two or more adjectives describing a noun.
3. Commas placed around additional information.
4. Commas must be placed before "FANBOYS" when it is a compound sentence.
5. Commas are placed after an introduction and before an afterthought.
6. Commas are placed between an independent clause and a dependent clause when the dependent clause comes before the independent clause.
7. Commas are placed before a quote when the quote is part of the sentence.

6. Pronouns

Pronouns must agree with an antecedent in 3 ways.

1. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person
2. Singular and Plural
3. Gender (masculine, feminine, neither)

It's = It is

Its = possession

Who's = Who is

Whose = possession

Who = he/she/they

Whom = him/her/them/preposition before

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7. Apostrophes

Contraction = she's, it's, they're, etc.

Singular Possessive = lawyer's, book's, child's, etc.

Plural Possessive = lawyers', books', children's, etc.

8. Subject/Verb Agreement

Singular Subject = no "s"

Singular Verb = has an "s"

Plural Subject = has an "s"

Plural Verb = no "s"

9. Modifiers

The modifier must be directly next to the thing it is modifying.

Example: Walking to the bus stop, the man got drenched with rain.

10. False Comparison

A person must compare to a person.

A place must compare to a place.

Singular = that, this

Plural = these, those

11. Wordiness/Redundancy

Make sure your sentences are as concise as possible.

Also, make sure not to repeat any concepts. Look out for synonyms!

12. Types of Wrong Answers

- 1) Contain extra information or are slightly off
- 2) Represent the opposite of the relationship
- 3) Irrelevant or are just a combination of concepts
- 4) Answers that are plausible interpretations but are not supported by any direct evidence

13. Reading Tips!

1. Read above and below the lines
2. Tackle dual passages 1 at a time
3. Complete the main idea questions last
4. Do the passages you are good at first
5. Try to answer the questions before looking at the answer choices
6. If you run out of time for the last passage, don't read the passage. Just refer to the questions with a specific line.
7. Annotate the passages to help you actively read (1-4 word summary after each paragraph)
8. Read the questions first, annotate the passage, and answer the questions as you read.