

Reason Prep's SAT Grammar Diagnostic Test
Version 1.1

This Diagnostic Test is designed to assess your ability on the GRAMMAR portion of the SAT Writing & Language section; these questions make up approximately half of the test. The other half of the test, comprising questions that test your ability to revise a passage to more clearly and effectively communicate ideas, is not covered in this Diagnostic.

The questions in this Diagnostic are not in the format you'll find them on the SAT. If you want to know your current score on the Writing & Language test, take an official practice exam. These questions, however, will test your knowledge of SAT grammar rules in a relatively straightforward way to determine which rules and grammar topics you are familiar with and which rules and topics you need to review.

Though you should use this test to analyze your weaknesses, don't ignore your strengths. Simply use this diagnostic as a starting point for your study plan.

Directions: Take the test untimed. Check your answers with the key located at the back of the packet. **VIDEO SOLUTIONS** for each problem are also available (see answer key).

At the end of this packet, you'll also find a listing of the grammar rules covered in these questions. Make sure to circle the problems you got wrong and identify the grammar rules you need to review.

Circle or underline the error(s) in the sentence and suggest a correction. Some questions may have no error.

1. Students who major in chemistry is able to get a good job after college.
2. The representative of the people are responsible for listening to the concerns of the public.
3. The analysis of the samples brought back from the outer three planets reveal the presence of water and other molecules necessary for life.
4. While Bobby looked for his car keys.
5. Because I found the treasure chest on my own, I get to keep all of the gold coins.

6. When the huge explosion echoed through the valley, everyone looking to see where it came from.
7. The new player wanted to prove his value to the team but sitting on the bench for nearly the entire season.
8. Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, and now has transitioned into a life of philanthropy.
9. In an effort to clean up the lake, a new committee created by a joint commission.
10. The new theory answers the original problem but also comes with their own weaknesses.
11. Every student should bring their book to class.
12. The workers in the new factory want stock options in addition to a raise in his or her salary.
13. The pack of dogs was severely dehydrated, but they somehow managed to make it through the harsh heat wave.
14. Medical doctors which pick a specialty often make more money than those who go into general practice.
15. I came up with a list of six clients who we need to call tomorrow.
16. The notarized letter should be delivered directly to Mr. Franklin or myself.
17. To increase the publicity around the new novel, the publishing company asked Joy Jones herself to appear at the press conference.
18. Hearing the snorting and screeching coming closer, the dinosaur was almost at our hiding spot.

19. Watching TV and texting his friends, Martin's attention drifted from the task at hand – homework!
20. After going to the bathroom outside and not in the house, John praised his puppy.
21. Wondering how to handle the negotiations, I decide to do a bit more research before I left the office.
22. I really wanted to go to the new Broadway show, but the tickets sell out before I can get them.
23. More than forty years after the moon landing captures the world's imagination, humanity has still not sent manned missions to other planets.
24. The regional director is responsible for motivating the sales staff, devising new sales strategies, and to ensure that all projects come in under budget.
25. The new regulations are not only expensive but also they are ineffective.
26. I chased the dog under the bridge he was too fast to catch.
27. Robin's dream job is to write for the New York Times, he wouldn't mind working for other newspapers though.
28. Marcus failed his last three math tests in advanced mathematics, it is a topic that he has always had trouble with.
29. The first step is to determine what you want, then you have to come up with a plan to accomplish those goals.
30. No test is more feared than the MCAT, an exam necessary for admission into medical school.

31. One of my fondest memories is playing Resident Evil with my friends, a game that epitomizes the “survival horror” genre.
32. My brother, John is well known in the skateboarding community.
33. The teacher graded the tests and, was disappointed by the students’ scores.
34. Felipe spent all morning locked away in his room, typing furiously in an effort to complete the code before the deadline.
35. The one person whom I trust to never give me up, never let me down, and never run around and desert me, is my wife.
36. I am a big fan of the composers of classical music, such as, Beethoven, Mozart, and Kermit the Frog.
37. We were excited to interview John J. Jay – the owner of the New York Generals, and the conversation didn’t disappoint.
38. Although Nina spends ten hours per day practicing the violin – she never gets bored.
39. The soldier looked through his scope, however, it was too foggy to see the target clearly.
40. The responsibilities of the team leader are limited to: recruiting new hires, making sales calls, and meeting with prospective clients.
41. I found my keys in the last place I thought I would find them: underneath the dogs bed.
42. The teams’ effort was admirable even though the Coyotes lost the game.
43. My uncle wanted me to fix his bike, but motorcycle’s are not my specialty.
44. I almost took the job with ABC Industries until I found out the CEO is in investigation.

45. The spy is believed to hide in the underground tunnels on the outskirts of the city.
46. The general of the opposing army has the tendency of extending his troops too far beyond their supply lines.
47. When comparing Robert Jordan's books to George R. R. Martin, it's obvious that the two authors have different storytelling philosophies.
48. The population analysis shows that the growth in population of deer is far outstripping that of predators like mountain lions and bears.
49. Mr. Rutherford and I will talk and undertake an important and critical conversation.
50. The temporary changes to the checkout procedures were not permanent.
51. The brothers spent their allowance to purchase ingredients being needed for the production of a birthday cake for their mother.
52. The legislator couldn't lie himself out of this mess because of the police's evidence, which was strong enough to convict him easily.
53. Asbestos was used as a fireproofing material in high-rise buildings, which is now known to cause lung cancer.
54. I found my wallet returning to where we had originally set up camp.
55. I gave the coin to my brother that Marissa found with her metal detector.
56. The evidence against the defendant was overwhelming, and the jury found him innocent, much to the surprise of the public.
57. Luigi didn't want to be late for the party; but his good intentions were foiled by the traffic jam.

58. Until we rework the entire library of training materials; we will need to meet with all new recruits one-on-one.
59. I pleaded with my brother to not forget to turn the oven off after the last incident; a huge fire that destroyed my bottle cap collection.
60. The essay is not only a grand indictment of the government's policies, it is also a fine piece of writing.
61. Mr. Brown and Mr. Jiggsby drove his car to the concert.
62. Astronomers are fascinated by black holes due to their mysterious origin.
63. The partners agreed to redistribute the company's stock in a fair manner, but this is not acceptable to the regulators.
64. If one has never driven a high performance vehicle before, you should take it on a few test drives to make sure you can handle it safely.
65. It's quite funny to think that I and my four brothers became a lawyer after college.
66. These beautifully maintained national parks are a place for all of us to return to nature and breathe some fresh air.
67. The essay that Billy wrote actually converts the opposing argument more effectively than he intended.
68. There are two ways to complete the deal, but the negotiators couldn't get past their differences.
69. I didn't want to go into the scary house any more than Jerry did.
70. In this official report, we intend to reveal the corruption at all levels of the organization, offer suggestions for reform, and blow the lid off this sketchy thing.

ANSWER KEY

While some changes to the sentences are more than suggestions, some errors can be fixed in multiple ways. The correction I give may not be the only possible change.

If you want answer explanations, check out the video solutions at the following links:

Problems	Video Link	Problems	Video Link
#1-5	http://rprep.co/11	#36-40	http://rprep.co/18
#6-10	http://rprep.co/12	#41-45	http://rprep.co/19
#11-15	http://rprep.co/13	#46-50	http://rprep.co/20
#16-20	http://rprep.co/14	#51-55	http://rprep.co/21
#21-25	http://rprep.co/15	#56-60	http://rprep.co/22
#25-30	http://rprep.co/16	#61-65	http://rprep.co/23
#31-35	http://rprep.co/17	#65-70	http://rprep.co/24

- Students who major in chemistry ~~is~~ are able to get a good job after college.
- The representative of the people ~~are~~ is responsible for listening to the concerns of the public.
- The analysis of the samples brought back from the outer three planets ~~reveal~~ reveals the presence of water and other molecules necessary for life.
- While Bobby looked for his car keys-, I sat on the front porch waiting for him.
- Because I found the treasure chest on my own, I get to keep all of the gold coins. NO ERROR
- When the huge explosion echoed through the valley, everyone ~~looking~~ looked to see where it came from.
- The new player wanted to prove his value to the team but ~~sitting~~ sat on the bench for nearly the entire season.
- Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, ~~and~~ now has transitioned into a life of philanthropy.
- In an effort to clean up the lake, a new committee was created by a joint commission.
- The new theory answers the original problem but also comes with ~~their~~ its own weaknesses.
- Every student should bring ~~their~~ his or her book to class.
- The workers in the new factory want stock options in addition to a raise in their ~~his or her~~ salary.
- The pack of dogs was severely dehydrated, but ~~they~~ it somehow managed to make it through the harsh heat wave.
- Medical doctors ~~which~~ who pick a specialty often make more money than those who go into general practice.
- I came up with a list of six clients ~~who~~ whom we need to call tomorrow.
- The notarized letter should be delivered directly to Mr. Franklin or ~~myself~~ me.

17. To increase the publicity around the new novel, the publishing company asked Joy Jones herself to appear at the press conference. NO ERROR
18. Hearing the snorting and screeching coming closer, we realized the dinosaur was almost at our hiding spot.
19. ~~As Martin~~ Watching ~~watched~~ TV and ~~texting~~ texted his friends, ~~Martin's~~ his attention drifted from the task at hand – homework!
20. After going to the bathroom outside and not in the house, ~~John praised his puppy~~ the puppy was praised by John.
21. Wondering how to handle the negotiations, I decided to do a bit more research before I left the office.
22. I really wanted to go to the new Broadway show, but the tickets ~~sell~~ sold out before I ~~can~~ could get them.
23. More than forty years after the moon landing ~~captures~~ captured the world's imagination, humanity has still not sent manned missions to other planets.
24. The regional director is responsible for motivating the sales staff, devising new sales strategies, and ~~to ensure~~ ensuring that all projects come in under budget.
25. The new regulations are not only expensive but also ~~they are~~ ineffective.
26. I chased the dog under the bridge, but he was too fast to catch.
27. Robin's dream job is to write for the New York Times, but he wouldn't mind working for other newspapers though.
28. Marcus failed his last three math tests in advanced mathematics, ~~it is~~ a topic that he has always had trouble with.
29. The first step is to determine what you want_; then you have to come up with a plan to accomplish those goals.
30. No test is more feared than the MCAT, an exam necessary for admission into medical school. NO ERROR
31. One of my fondest memories is playing Resident Evil, a game that epitomizes the "survival horror" genre, with my friends_; ~~a game that epitomizes the "survival horror" genre~~.
32. My brother, John_, is well known in the skateboarding community.
33. The teacher graded the tests and_; was disappointed by the students' scores.
34. Felipe spent all morning locked away in his room, typing furiously in an effort to complete the code before the deadline. NO ERROR
35. The one person whom I trust to never give me up, never let me down, and never run around and desert me_; is my wife.
36. I am a big fan of the composers of classical music_; such as_; Beethoven, Mozart, and Kermit the Frog.
37. We were excited to interview John J. Jay – the owner of the New York Generals_; and the conversation didn't disappoint.
38. Although Nina spends ten hours per day practicing the violin_, – she never gets bored.

39. The soldier looked through his scope_;; however, it was too foggy to see the target clearly.
40. The responsibilities of the team leader are limited to_; recruiting new hires, making sales calls, and meeting with prospective clients.
41. I found my keys in the last place I thought I would find them: underneath the ~~dogs~~ dog's bed.
42. The ~~teams'~~ team's effort was admirable even though the Coyotes lost the game.
43. My uncle wanted me to fix his bike, but ~~motoreycle's~~ motorcycles are not my specialty.
44. I almost took the job with ABC Industries until I found out the CEO is ~~in~~ under investigation.
45. The spy is believed to ~~hide~~ be hiding in the underground tunnels on the outskirts of the city.
46. The general of the opposing army has the tendency ~~of extending~~ to extend his troops too far beyond their supply lines.
47. When comparing Robert Jordan's books to George R. R. Martin's books, it's obvious that the two authors have different storytelling philosophies.
48. The population analysis shows that the growth in population of deer is far outstripping that of predators like mountain lions and bears. NO ERROR
49. Mr. Rutherford and I will ~~talk and undertake~~ have an important ~~and critical~~ conversation.
50. The ~~temporary~~ changes to the checkout procedures were not permanent.
51. The brothers spent their allowance to purchase ingredients ~~being needed for the production of a~~ for a birthday cake for their mother.
52. The legislator couldn't lie himself out of this mess because ~~of~~ the police's evidence, ~~which~~ was strong enough to convict him easily.
53. Asbestos was used as a fireproofing material in high-rise buildings, ~~which~~ and is now known to cause lung cancer.
54. I found my wallet ~~returning~~ when I returned to where we had originally set up camp.
55. I gave the coin that Marissa found with her metal detector to my brother ~~that Marissa found with her metal detector~~.
56. The evidence against the defendant was overwhelming, ~~and~~ but the jury found him innocent, much to the surprise of the public.
57. Luigi didn't want to be late for the party; ~~but~~ his good intentions were foiled by the traffic jam.
58. Until we rework the entire library of training materials_;; we will need to meet with all new recruits one-on-one.
59. I pleaded with my brother to not forget to turn the oven off after the last incident_;; a huge fire that destroyed my bottle cap collection.
60. The essay is not only a grand indictment of the government's policies, ~~it is~~ but also a fine piece of writing.
61. Mr. Brown and Mr. Jiggsby drove ~~his~~ Mr. Brown's car to the concert.
62. Astronomers are fascinated by black holes due to ~~their~~ the objects' mysterious origin.

63. The partners agreed to redistribute the company's stock in a fair manner, but this agreement is not acceptable to the regulators.
64. If ~~one has~~ you have never driven a high performance vehicle before, you should take it on a few test drives to make sure you can handle it safely.
65. It's quite funny to think that I and my four brothers became ~~a lawyer~~ lawyers after college.
66. These beautifully maintained national parks are ~~a place~~ places for all of us to return to nature and breathe some fresh air.
67. The essay that Billy wrote actually ~~converts~~ conveys the opposing argument more effectively than he intended.
68. ~~They're is~~ There are two ways to complete the deal, but the negotiators couldn't get past ~~there~~ their differences.
69. I didn't want to go into the scary house any more ~~then~~ than Jerry did.
70. In this official report, we intend to reveal the corruption at all levels of the organization, offer suggestions for reform, and ~~blow the lid off this sketchy thing~~ expose the truth.

GRAMMAR RULES

Here is a list of the grammar rules covered by each question. You can then view the associated New SAT Writing Course videos to learn more about the rule and try more examples.

QUESTION NUMBERS	GRAMMAR RULE
1, 2, 3	Subject-Verb Agreement
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Fragments & Subordination
10, 11, 12, 13, 64	Pronoun Agreement
14, 15, 53	Relative Pronouns & Clauses
16, 17	Reflexive Pronouns
18, 19, 20, 54, 55	Dangling & Misplaced Modifiers
21, 22, 23	Tense
24, 25	Parallelism
26, 27, 28, 29, 39	Run Ons & Comma Splices
30, 31	Appositive Phrases
32, 33, 35, 36	Comma Usage
34	Participial Phrases
37, 38	Dashes
40, 41	Colons
42, 43	Apostrophes
44, 45, 46, 60	Idioms
47, 48	Comparison Errors
49, 50, 51, 52	Redundancy & Wordiness
56	Coordination
57, 58, 59	Semicolons
61, 62, 63	Ambiguous Pronouns
65, 66	Noun Agreement
67, 68, 69, 70	Diction & Tone