The Princeton Review 2007 Edition

# Reading and Writing Workout for the

# 新SAT 阅读和写作

Geoff Martz 杰夫・马茨 *- 公果* 例とま 版 公司 The Princeton Review 2007 Edition

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Workout for the

A CONSTANT

新SAT

阅读和写作

Geoff Martz 杰夫・马茨 必要用まま版いる

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# ABOUT THE AUTHOR 关于作者

After attending Dartmouth and Columbia, Geoff Martz joined The Princeton Review as a teacher and writer. He is the author or co-author of Cracking the GMAT, Cracking the ACT, Cracking the GED, Paying for College, How to Survive Without Your Parents' Money, and the CD-ROM software program Inside the SAT.

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第1部分:介绍

# Introduction

# 简介

# READ THIS STUFF FIRST 开篇之语

Wouldn't it be great if all the problems on the Grammar sections of the SAT looked like this?

- 2. The armadillo, like the sloth and the anteater, have teeth that lack both enamel and roots.
  - (A) have teeth that lack both enamel and roots
  - (B) has teeth that lack both enamel and roots (Hev you! Pick this one!)
  - (C) having teeth that are lacking in both enamel and roots
  - (D) all have teeth that lack both enamel and roots
  - (E) each with teeth that are lacking enamel and roots
- 16. During the early years of WWII, it seemed as

though <u>Germany's army</u> would

prove stronger than any other nation. No error

This one's too hard. Just put down (D). We know you're smart.

-Love, ETS

Only in our dreams is ETS (Educational Testing Service, the company that writes the SAT) this benevolent. But believe it or not, the ETS test writers *do* provide clues (sometimes on purpose, sometimes inadvertently) to every single question. This workbook will show you how to find those clues so that you can get every point you "deserve" on the Critical Reading and Writing parts of the test—and maybe even a few that you don't.

In our section on Sentence Completions, we'll show you how to spot the clues ETS has left for you. In our section on Critical Reading passages, we'll demonstrate how to find the important information in a passages—and skip the rest. In our Grammar section we'll reveal exactly what types of errors to keep your eyes peeled for. And our Writing section will help you write the perfect ETS essay.

The techniques we'll show you are not just based on our opinions or private theories. They've been proven by the students who have taken our SAT course over the past 20-plus years.

But let's start at the beginning.

# WHAT IS THE CRITICAL READING SAT? 分析性阅读SAT是什么?

The traditional "Verbal" section of the SAT has been renamed the "Critical Reading" section. But the three sections of Critical Reading are no longer the only tests of verbal skills on the SAT. Now, there's also a three-part Writing section, for a total of six sections that test some kind of verbal skills. This book will help you with what's tested in the Critical Reading and Writing sections, including sentence completions, critical reading, grammar, and essay writing.

The first thing you'll see on the SAT is the Writing section's essay, which will give you 25 minutes to write an essay. The Writing section also includes one 25-minute section and one 10-minute section, which test your grammar and writing skills by asking you to identify grammatical errors and improve sentences and paragraphs.

In the Critical Reading section, two 25-minute multiple-choice sections will test what ETS calls your "critical reading" abilities with sentence completions and short and long reading passages. An additional 20-minute section will focus solely on reading comprehension.

Here's what the breakdown looks like:

- 1. One 25-minute Writing section made up of
  - 1 essay question
- 2. One 25-minute Writing section made up of
  - error identification questions
  - improving sentences questions
  - improving paragraphs questions
- 3. One 10-minute Writing section made up of
  - error identification questions
  - another type of question, such as paragraph improvement
- 4. Two 25-minute Critical Reading sections made up of
  - sentence completion questions
  - short reading comprehension questions
  - long reading comprehension questions
- 5. One 20-minute Critical Reading section made up of
  - long reading comprehension questions

### HOW THE CRITICAL READING SAT IS SCORED 分析性阅读SAT如何评分

There are a total of 98 Critical Reading questions on the SAT. Each correct answer earns you one "raw point." For each incorrect answer, ETS subtracts a quarter of a raw point. Your total raw score is then converted to a 200- to 800-point scale. Your Critical Reading SAT score (along with your Math and Writing SAT scores) will be sent to you (and the colleges to which you are applying) about five weeks after you take the test. These scores are reported in 10-point increments. In other words, you can get a 510 or a 520, but never a 514. Your essay will be scored by two separate graders for a combined raw score of 2–12 points. Through a magic conversion formula this score will count for 30 percent of your score on the Writing section. The multiple-choice questions in the Writing section will be graded similarly to the Critical Reading section, with each correct answer earning you one raw point and each incorrect answer losing you a quarter of a raw point.

# WHAT IS CONSIDERED A GOOD SCORE ON THE SAT? SAT高分

The average Critical Reading SAT score is approximately 500. If you want to find out what scores are required at particular colleges, you should consult one of the college guides found in bookstores (we are partial to *The Princeton Review Guide to the Best 345 Colleges*). Bear in mind that the colleges report either average or median scores, which means that many students with SAT scores well below the published average or median scores are accepted by those colleges.

In addition, colleges consider several factors when making admissions decisions. Your SAT score is a big factor, but not the only one.

# HOW YOU TRULY SCORE HIGHER ON THE SAT 如何在SAT中取得高分

The real way to improve your SAT Critical Reading and Writing scores is to answer more questions correctly. However, many students become frustrated on the Critical Reading and Writing portions of the SAT because they are not sure why the answer they pick isn't the "best" answer. This book will show you exactly how to find what ETS considers the best answer and thus help you increase the number of questions you answer correctly.

# IMPROVING YOUR VOCABULARY 增加词汇量

From a long-term perspective, a good vocabulary will win you good grades in college, jobs and promotions, and may even attract sophisticated and desirable members of whichever sex you find attractive.

And from a long-term perspective, the best way to build a better vocabulary is to read. A lot.

We heartily recommend this course of action, but we also recognize that if you have only one month until the SAT, there isn't time to read the collected works of Thackeray or even of Dave Barry.

However, from a short-term perspective, it turns out that learning a very small number of carefully selected words can really increase your Critical Reading SAT score. We fed a computer all the words that have appeared on the old Verbal SAT over a ten-year span; it generated a list of roughly 250 words that are likely to

INTRODUCTION ◆ 5

continue to appear on the Critical Reading sections of the New SAT. These words (called the Hit Parade), along with the techniques for memorizing them, make up the bulk of the vocabulary section of this book. The words are arranged in small, useful groups, by situations.

At the back of the book, you will find detachable flash cards, each of which have Hit Parade words on one side and definitions on the other.

Before you go on, turn to our Vocabulary section and think about a feasible schedule to memorize the Hit Parade words in the time remaining before you take the SAT. We promise you won't regret it.

# A NOTE TO OUR STUDENTS 给学生的公告

This book contains the most up-to-date information on the New SAT available as of press time. We at The Princeton Review want to make sure you have access to the most accurate and current information possible. Please be sure to visit our website at **PrincetonReview.com** for periodic updates on all things related to the New SAT. And while you're there, don't forget to check out all the cool resources we have to help you with every part of the college admissions process.

Now let's talk strategies.

# Strategies

策略

# THE ART OF ELIMINATION 排除法的艺术

Take a look at the following sentence completion—in an unusual format that you will never see on the SAT:

> 7. Bien qu'il soit trés vieux, il parait touiours -----.

You may think the unusual thing about this question is that it's in French, (okay, we admit that's pretty unusual), but the really unusual thing about this question—the thing that makes it different from every question on the Critical Reading and Writing parts of SAT—is that it's not in a multiple-choice format.

You might be saying, "Who cares? Multiple-choice or fill-in—I can't answer it anyway. It's in French."

As it stands right now, unless you speak French, you have no idea what word goes in the blank (and by the way, there are no questions in French on the SAT). But let's turn this question into a multiple-choice question and see if you can figure out the answer now:

- 7. Bien qu'il soit trés vieux, il parait toujours -----.
  - (A) earnest
  - (B) timid
  - (C) exhausted
  - (D) jeune (E) elated

All of a sudden, this problem doesn't seem so hard, does it? Multiple-choice tests (in any language) always give test takers an inherent advantage: there are only a finite number of possible choices. And while you might not know the correct answer to this problem, you know that four choices are probably wrong. (The correct answer is choice D.)

# ELIMINATING WRONG ANSWERS 排除错误答案

There will be many problems on the SAT for which you will be able to identify the correct answer (particularly if you learn the Hit Parade words). However, there will be others about which you will not be sure. Should you simply skip these problems? The answer is: not if you can eliminate wrong answers. Wrong answers are often easier to spot than right answers. Sometimes they just sound weird. Other times they are logically impossible. While you will rarely be able to eliminate all the incorrect answer choices on an SAT question, it is often possible to eliminate two or three. And each time you eliminate an answer choice, your odds of guessing correctly get better.

### GUESSING IS GOOD 积极推测

Every time you get a question right, ETS gives you one raw point. To discourage you from guessing at random, ETS deducts a quarter of a raw point from your score for each incorrect answer you choose. ETS calls this a guessing penalty, but in fact, it is not a penalty at all. Let's say you guess at random on five questions. The laws of probability say that you will get one of these questions right (so ETS gives you 1 raw point) and the other four wrong (so ETS takes away 4 quarter points). In other words, you will come out dead even. This means that guessing completely at random on the SAT won't help your score, and it won't hurt your score.

Ah, but who said anything about guessing at random?

Let's look at the same question again, but with slightly different answers:

- 7. Bien qu'il soit trés vieux, il parait toujours -----
  - (A) earnest
  - (B) timid
  - (C) sérieux
  - (D) jeune
  - (E) elated

This time, even without knowing French, we can eliminate three of the answer choices. This gives us a fifty-fifty guess—much better than random guessing. It turns out that if you can eliminate even one answer choice, then it is in your interest to guess. You will find that our techniques for sentence completions will help you eliminate answer choices, even when you don't know the words.

# ORDER OF DIFFICULTY 难度的区分

Sentence completion questions on the SAT are arranged in order of difficulty. For example, the 25-question Critical Reading section begins with seven or eight sentence completions. These questions are arranged so that the easiest question comes first, the most difficult question comes last, and the others are arranged in ascending order of difficulty in between.

The critical reading questions are *not* arranged in order of difficulty. Instead, these questions appear in the order in which the information that is required to answer them is found in the passage.

The difficulty level of a question reflects the percentage of test takers who usually get that question correct. Depending on which words you happen to know, a question that is considered "hard" might be easy for you, while you might find an "easy" question to be difficult if it contains unfamiliar words. Nevertheless, it is a good idea to think of each group of questions in sentence completions as being in thirds. The first third is relatively easy. The second third is medium. The last third contains the questions that most people find difficult.

### EASY QUESTIONS HAVE EASY ANSWERS— 容易的问题总是易答 HARD QUESTIONS HAVE HARD ANSWERS 困难的问题总是难答

The order of difficulty is important because it will prevent you from overthinking. An easy question is supposed to have an easy answer. A difficult problem will have a difficult answer. If you find yourself wrestling with the first sentence completion, you are probably looking for subtlety that isn't there. If you find yourself picking the first choice that comes into your head on the last sentence completion, you may want to think it through again.

# DISTRACTERS 多项题中的错误选项

The ETS test writers think constantly about the order of difficulty because they are obsessed with making sure that students correctly answer only the questions that they "deserve to get right." The average test taker is supposed to get all of the easy questions right, some of the medium questions right, and all of the difficult questions wrong.

There's only one potential problem here: What if the average test taker were to guess correctly on a difficult question? The ETS test writers hate this idea so much that in the difficult third of a group of questions they sometimes include distracter answers that are designed to trick the average test taker.

### JOE BLOGGS

Joe Bloggs is our name for the average test taker. He's the guy who always writes down the first answer that comes into his head. Because the first answer that comes into his head is correct on easy questions, he gets all the easy questions correct. And because the first answer that comes into his head is sometimes correct on medium questions, he gets some of the medium questions correct. But the first answer that enters Joe's mind is always wrong on difficult questions, so Joe Bloggs gets all of the difficult questions wrong.

To make sure this remains true, the ETS test writers will occasionally help Joe to make the wrong decision. Let's see how this works. Here's a sentence completion from the last and hardest third of a group of sentence completions:

- 8. Despite the ---- of evidence against the suspect, the jury found him guilty on all counts.
  - (A) preponderance
  - (B) weight

  - (C) paucity (D) deliberation
  - (E) objection

# DON'T BE LIKE JOE 不要像Joe那样

We're going to talk about how to approach sentence completions later in the book, so don't worry if you're not sure how to get the correct answer. For now, let's discuss how Joe tries to tackle this problem (and if Joe's method is similar to yours, that's okay; there's a little of Joe Bloggs in each of us). When Joe reads a sentence completion, he likes to pick an answer that sounds good in the sentence. Usually the word that sounds good to Joe reminds him of the other words in the sentence. Do any of the answers seem like something he'd like?

If you said choice D or E, you've got the idea. When Joe isn't entirely sure of what the sentence is saying, he's likely to pick a choice that feels right to him. Because this sentence has a courtroom theme, Joe might go with "objection" or "deliberation," two words he's probably heard on popular TV court shows. Of course, ETS knows this, and both of those choices are wrong. The best answer is C.

Remember, though, that the only time you need to look out for distracter answers is in the last third of a group of questions (the hardest questions in the set).

# PACING 步骤

Each of the 25-minute Critical Reading sections will contain three types of questions: sentence completions, short reading, and critical reading. In general, the reading questions take longer to do than the sentence completions. If you have a good vocabulary, tackle the sentence completions first and then move on to the reading questions. If vocabulary isn't your strong point, spend more time with the reading questions (but be sure to study vocabulary using the flash cards provided in the back of this book; the better your vocabulary, the better your reading level—and your score). Use whatever time you have left to deal with the sentence completions.

The two Writing sections will contain questions broken down into three types: error identification, improving sentences, and improving paragraphs. The error identification questions generally take the least amount of time and should be done first. After you've finished them, move on to the improving sentences questions. Save the improving paragraphs questions for last.

You don't have to answer every question on the test to get a good score; it's okay if you skip questions as you work. However, as you learn the strategies in this book, you'll see that on most questions you will be able to eliminate at least one answer. In that case, it pays to be aggressive and guess. The higher you aim to score, the more questions you'll need to attempt.