

Reason Prep's SAT Grammar Diagnostic Test

You won't find "SAT style" questions on this diagnostic test – if you want to know your current grammar score, try a real practice section instead. These questions test your knowledge of SAT grammar rules in a relatively straightforward way. Use this test 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, either with the included answer sheet or the answer explanation videos. Circle the problems you got wrong and highlight the topics you had trouble with. View the relevant videos of the SAT Grammar Bootcamp and SAT Grammar Tactics series. Then start practicing with real SATs.

Circle or underline the error in the sentence and suggest a correction.

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. Each student who is taking classes are required to buy textbooks.
4. Either Mary or John are responsible for this disaster.
5. After the holidays have passed and the buying season ends is the newly formed committee and the CEO going to decide which departments get cut and which stay.
6. While Bobby looked for his car keys.
7. When the huge explosion echoed through the valley, everyone looking to see where it came from.

8. The new player wanted to prove his value to the team but sitting on the bench for nearly the entire season.
9. Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, and now has transitioned into a life of philanthropy.
10. In an effort to clean up the lake, a new committee created by a joint commission.
11. The new theory answers the original problem but also comes along with their own weaknesses.
12. Every student should bring their book to class.
13. The workers in the new factory want stock options in addition to a raise in his or her salary.
14. The pack of dogs was severely dehydrated, but they somehow managed to make it through the harsh heat wave.
15. The last chapter is when the main character and the villain fight the final battle.
16. Medical doctors which pick a specialty often make more money than those who go into general practice.
17. The notarized letter should be delivered directly to Mr. Franklin or myself.
18. Watching TV and texting his friends, Martin's attention drifted from the task at hand – homework!

19. After going to the bathroom outside and not in the house, John praised his puppy.
20. Wondering how to handle the negotiations, I decide to do a bit more research before I left the office.
21. More than forty years after the moon landing captures the world's imagination, humanity has still not sent manned missions to other planets.
22. Since last January I am working as a bank teller.
23. After Sally won the debate, she has been elected President in 2002.
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. Mr. Wilson decided to cancel the final exam and making us do a project instead.
26. The new regulations are not only expensive but also they are ineffective.
27. Robin's dream job is to write for the New York Times, he wouldn't mind working for other newspapers though.
28. The first step is to determine what you want, then you have to come up with a plan to accomplish those goals.
29. If you don't learn how to think for yourself, you will always be dependent to others for your opinions.

30. The general of the opposing army has the tendency of extending his troops too far beyond their supply lines.
31. When comparing Robert Jordan's books to George R. R. Martin, it's obvious that the two authors have different storytelling philosophies.
32. Sergio's music is better reviewed than Alex's, but I still think Alex's tunes are best.
33. The brothers spent their allowance to purchase ingredients being needed for the production of a birthday cake for their mother.
34. The legislator couldn't lie himself out of this mess because of the police's evidence, which was strong enough to convict him easily.
35. Even though there was no moonlight, Bigfoot was easily seen by the investigators.
36. Asbestos was used as a fireproofing material in high-rise buildings, which is now known to cause lung cancer.
37. After his amazing performance, the tournament winner that went on to get million dollar endorsement deals but eventually fell from grace after allegations of steroid use.
38. I found my wallet returning to where we had originally set up camp.
39. The evidence against the defendant was overwhelming, and the jury found him innocent, much to the surprise of the public.

40. Luigi didn't want to be late for the party; but his good intentions were foiled by the traffic jam.
41. The cries for justice were so insistent and the corrupt leaders couldn't ignore them any longer.
42. The essay is not only a grand indictment of the government's policies, it is also a fine piece of writing.
43. Mr. Brown and Mr. Jiggsby have loaned his son nearly a million dollars to start a business.
44. The billionaire earned much praise after donating half of his wealth to charities, and this has caused many other wealthy individuals to follow suit.
45. I fought against the committee's decision with all my energy, but they are still moving forward with the plan.
46. It's quite funny to think that I and my four brothers became a lawyer after college.
47. These beautifully maintained national parks are a place for all of us to return to nature and breathe some fresh air.
48. The hasty composed essay won top honors; perhaps the competition wasn't as fierce as I had thought.
49. Even after we downloaded his favorite music, the grouchy old man was still rudely.

50. The two companies have agreed establishing a joint venture.
51. I was touched by my town's effort restoring my childhood home to its former glory.
52. We spent all day watching the first season of the show; my friends and me have never laughed as hard as we did watching those episodes.
53. My dad's boss gave my siblings and I tickets to the concert.
54. Between you and I, that painting looks like a complete mess; I hope he doesn't think it's good!
55. My professor was such a wonderful teacher that I felt more smarter after each lecture.
56. If one is to get a job in the music industry, you have to be willing to make sacrifices.
57. The new center's skill set complimented the skills of his linemates.

ANSWER KEY

Each section of questions is labeled with the appropriate error – watch the videos from the SAT Grammar Bootcamp and SAT Grammar Tactics series if you got the questions wrong and/or don't understand the rule.

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'd like to see me work through these problems, check out the Video Answer Explanations on the Reason Prep website. (Go to the "Grammar Diagnostic" page.)

Subject-Verb Agreement

1. Students who major in chemistry ~~is~~ are able to get a good job after college.
2. The representative of the people ~~are~~ is responsible for listening to the concerns of the public.
3. Each student who is taking classes ~~are~~ is required to buy textbooks.
4. Either Mary or John ~~are~~ is responsible for this disaster.
5. After the holidays have passed and the buying season ends ~~is~~ are the newly formed committee and the CEO going to decide which departments get cut and which stay.

Fragments

6. While Bobby looked for his car keys, I sat on the front porch waiting for him.
7. When the huge explosion echoed through the valley, everyone ~~looking~~ looked to see where it came from.
8. The new player wanted to prove his value to the team but ~~sitting~~ sat on the bench for nearly the entire season.
9. Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, ~~and~~ now has transitioned into a life of philanthropy.
10. In an effort to clean up the lake, a new committee was created by a joint commission.

Pronoun Agreement

11. The new theory answers the original problem but also comes along with ~~their~~ its own weaknesses.
12. Every student should bring ~~their~~ his or her book to class.
13. The workers in the new factory want stock options in addition to a raise in their ~~his or her~~ salary.
14. The pack of dogs was severely dehydrated, but ~~they~~ it somehow managed to make it through the harsh heat wave.
15. In ~~The~~ the last chapter ~~is when~~ the main character and the villain fight the final battle.
16. Medical doctors ~~which~~ who pick a specialty often make more money than those who go into general practice.

17. The notarized letter should be delivered directly to Mr. Franklin or ~~myself~~ me.

Dangling Modifier

18. ~~As Martin~~ ~~Watching~~ watched TV and ~~texting~~ texted his friends, ~~Martin's~~ his attention drifted from the task at hand – homework!
19. After going to the bathroom outside and not in the house, ~~John praised his puppy~~ the puppy was praised by John.

Tense

20. Wondering how to handle the negotiations, I decided to do a bit more research before I left the office.
21. More than forty years after the moon landing ~~captures~~ captured the world's imagination, humanity has still not sent manned missions to other planets.
22. Since last January I ~~am~~ have been working as a bank teller.
23. After Sally won the debate, she ~~has been~~ was elected President in 2002.

Parallelism

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. Mr. Wilson decided to cancel the final exam and ~~making~~ made us do a project instead.
26. The new regulations are not only expensive but also ~~they are~~ ineffective.

Comma Splice

27. Robin's dream job is to write for the New York Times, but he wouldn't mind working for other newspapers though.
28. The first step is to determine what you want; then you have to come up with a plan to accomplish those goals.

Idiom

29. If you don't learn how to think for yourself, you will always be dependent ~~to~~ on others for your opinions.
30. The general of the opposing army has the tendency ~~of extending~~ to extend his troops too far beyond their supply lines.

Comparisons

31. When comparing Robert Jordan's books to George R. R. Martin's books, it's obvious that the two authors have different storytelling philosophies.
32. Sergio's music is better reviewed than Alex's, but I still think Alex's tunes are ~~best~~ better.

Wordiness

33. The brothers spent their allowance to purchase ingredients ~~being-needed-for-the~~
~~production-of-a~~ for a birthday cake for their mother.
34. The legislator couldn't lie himself out of this mess because ~~of~~ the police's evidence;
~~which~~ was strong enough to convict him easily.
35. Even though there was no moonlight, ~~Bigfoot-was-easily-seen-by-the-investigators~~ the
investigators easily saw Bigfoot.

Improper Modification/Subordination

36. Asbestos was used as a fireproofing material in high-rise buildings, ~~which~~ and is now known to cause lung cancer.
37. After his amazing performance, the tournament winner ~~that~~ went on to get million dollar endorsement deals but eventually fell from grace after allegations of steroid use.
38. I found my wallet ~~returning~~ when I returned to where we had originally set up camp.

Coordination

39. The evidence against the defendant was overwhelming, ~~and~~ but the jury found him innocent, much to the surprise of the public.
40. Luigi didn't want to be late for the party; ~~but~~ his good intentions were foiled by the traffic jam.

Word Pair

41. The cries for justice were so insistent ~~and~~ that the corrupt leaders couldn't ignore them any longer.
42. The essay is not only a grand indictment of the government's policies, ~~it is~~ but also a fine piece of writing.

Ambiguous/Dummy Pronouns

43. Mr. Brown and Mr. Jiggsby have loaned ~~his~~ Mr. Brown's son nearly a million dollars to start a business.
44. The billionaire earned much praise after donating half of his wealth to charities, and this generosity has caused many other wealthy individuals to follow suit.
45. I fought against the committee's decision with all my energy, but ~~they are~~ the committee is still moving forward with the plan.

Noun Agreement

46. It's quite funny to think that I and my four brothers became ~~a lawyer~~ lawyers after college.

47. These beautifully maintained national parks are ~~a place~~ places for all of us to return to nature and breathe some fresh air.

Adjective/Adverb

48. The ~~hasty~~ hastily composed essay won top honors; perhaps the competition wasn't as fierce as I had thought.
49. Even after we downloaded his favorite music, the grouchy old man was still ~~rudely~~ rude.

Verb Form

50. The two companies have agreed ~~establishing~~ to establish a joint venture.
51. I was touched by my town's effort ~~restoring~~ to restore my childhood home to its former glory.

Case

52. We spent all day watching the first season of the show; my friends and ~~me~~ I have never laughed as hard as we did watching those episodes.
53. My dad's boss gave my siblings and ~~I~~ me tickets to the concert.
54. Between you and ~~I~~ me, that painting looks like a complete mess; I hope he doesn't think it's good!

Redundant

55. My professor was such a wonderful teacher that I felt ~~more~~ smarter after each lecture.

Pronoun Consistency

56. If one is to get a job in the music industry, ~~you have~~ one has to be willing to make sacrifices.

Diction

57. The new center's skill set ~~complimented~~ complemented the skills of his linemates.