



SAT Grammar

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New SAT

600 - 2400

400 – 1600

3 Hours 45 Minutes
minute optional)

3 Hours (+50

Critical Reading: 200-800

Evidence-Based Reading

and Writing: 200-800

Writing: 200-800

Math: 200-800

Math: 200-800

Essay (included in Writing score)
(separately scored)

Optional Essay

Time per question:

Reading 72 sec

52 quest 65 min

Writing and Language 48 sec 44 quest 35 min



Subject Verb agreement

- She and her friends **are** at the fair.
- The book or the pen **is** in the drawer.
- His friends or the boy **runs** every day.
- Everyone has finished **his** or her homework.
- There **are** many questions.



Practice

- The President, accompanied by his wife, _____ traveling to India.
- The crew _____ preparing to dock the ship.
- Five dollars _____ a lot of money.
- The news _____ on at six.
- My glasses _____ on the bed.



Answer

- The President, accompanied by his wife, **is** traveling to India.
- The crew **is** preparing to dock the ship.
- Five dollars **is** a lot of money.
- The news **is** on at six.
- My glasses **are** on the bed.



Tricky one

- Either A or B
- Neither A nor B
- Must agree with A or B?
- agree with **B**, the noun **closer** to the **verb**.



Practice

- Either Kiana or Casey ____ helping today with stage decorations.
- *Either Kiana or Casey **is** helping today with stage decorations.*
- *Neither she, I, nor my friends ____going to the festival.*
- *Neither she, I, nor my friends **are** going to the festival.*



Singular or Plural?

- Phenomena
- Phenomenon
- Criteria
- Criterion
- Data
- Datum
- athletics



Alumni

Alumnus

Bacteria

Bacterium

Algae

Alga

Fungi

Fungus



Singular or Plural?

- each, anyone, anybody,
- anything, another, neither, either, every,
- everyone, someone, no one, somebody, everything,
- little, and much



none (of), any (of), some (of), most (of), more (of), and all (of).

All of them can be either singular or plural, according to the noun that follows

Phrases that start as well as . . . , together with . . . , along with . . . , or in addition to . . .

are not part of the main subject



How to “Trim” a Sentence

Step 1: Cross out all nonessential prepositional phrases.

e.g., The bird ~~in the cage~~ began singing.

Step 2: Cross out all interrupting phrases.

e.g., The committee, ~~ignoring tradition,~~ will approve the measure.

Step 3: Cross out all other nonessential modifiers and modifying phrases.

e.g., ~~Having traveled so far,~~ the ~~baseball~~ team hardly wanted to forfeit the ~~championship~~ game.



Can you spot an error?

Juggling the demands of both school and my social agenda often seem too much to bear.

Juggling ~~the demands of both school and my social agenda often~~ seem too much to bear.

~~Juggling the demands of both school and my social agenda often~~ **seems** too much to bear.



One more

Others on the committee, like the chairwoman Amanda Sanders, is concerned about the lack of attention given to school safety.

Others ~~on the committee, like the chairwoman Amanda Sanders,~~ is concerned about the lack of attention given to school safety.

~~Others on the committee, like the chairwoman Amanda Sanders,~~ **are** concerned about the lack of attention given to school safety.



Do some more practice!

McGraw-Hill, SAT (Grammar Section can be taken from any edition)

Lauren Starkey, SAT WRITING ESSENTIALS (Old SAT, but grammar is the same anyway)

My very favorite web-site on Grammar: Purdue Online Writing Lab

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/5/>