

VERBAL STRATEGIES

1. Sentence completion

- a. Covering up the answers and making up your own word which fits the sentence will often make the answer jump out at you and save a lot of time.
- b. In the double sentence completion it is frequently easier to find the answer to one blank or the other. Make up a word which will fit that blank while covering the appropriate list.
- c. Transition words like: although, but, yet, conversely, etc are extremely important to take note of.

2. Critical Reading

- a. **Do Not Read** long passages first. You will just end up re-reading them anyway and waste a lot of time.
- b. Read the first question first. If it is a general question like what is the theme of the entire selection or what is the attitude of the author, skip it and go onto a specific question.
- c. If you are given a line reference, read one line above and below it and “mine” the answer.
- d. After answering several questions like these, you will get the gist or flow of the passage and be able to answer general questions last.
- e. If you are still unsure, skim the passage to find the answer you’re looking for.

3. Vocabulary

- a. Get in the habit of looking up words you don’t know and using them in a sentence.
- b. Get a hold of a good word list and put on index cards
- c. Study roots as well as words.
- d. Foreign language vocabulary can be extremely helpful.

4. Vocabulary Mnemonics

VERBAL TRICKS

1. He was a _____ businessman, but in his personal life he was kind, thoughtful, and _____.
 - A. A competent.....self-centered
 - B. An avaricious.....menacing
 - C. A surreptitious.....tactful
 - D. A ruthless.....magnanimous
 - E. An amiable.....compassionate

2. Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* centers on a scientist's _____, the overweening pride that makes him believe he can usurp nature.
 - A. obstinacy
 - B. hubris
 - C. impetuosity
 - D. valor
 - E. callousness

3. A judicious biography must be _____ representation that depicts both the strengths and the weaknesses of the subject, avoiding the two extremes of _____ and indictment.
 - A. a polarized.....vindication
 - B. an imaginative.....discernment
 - C. a holistic.....censure
 - D. a complimentary.....animosity
 - E. an equitable.....eulogy

SAT VOCABULARY

abash	bellicose	coy	espouse	innate	obstinate	rebuttal	tenet
aberration	blithe	crass	ethereal	innocuous	obtrusive	recalcitrant	tenuous
abhor	bourgeois	craven	ethos	insolence	odometer	reclamation	terminate
abrogate	broach	curmudgeon	etymology	insular	ominous	recluse	terse
abstemious	brusque	curtailed	euphonious	insure	omniscient	recommence	timorous
abstruse	burgeoning	dearth	evanescent	interlocutors	opaque	reconcile	tirade
abysmal	buttress	debacle	evinced	intransigent	opulent	rectify	torpid
accolade	cabal	debunk	exacerbate	intrepid	ostentacious	remiss	torpor
acerbic	cacophony	decorous	exculpate	invariable	pallid	renounce	torrid
acumen	cajole	deft	exploit	inveterate	paradox	replete	transcendent
adage	calamity	deleterious	expropriated	invulnerable	paramount	reprehensible	transitory
aesthetic	calumny	deliberate	expurgated	irrelevant	parched	repudiate	tremulous
affable	camaraderie	delineated	extant	itinerant	parochial	repugnant	trenchant
aggregate	candor	demagogue	extenuating	jargon	parsimonious	resolute	trite
alacrity	canon	demography	facile	jollity	partisan	salvageable	truant
allocate	cantankerous	dessicate	feign	laconic	pastiche	sanguine	truncate
ambiguous	canvass	detrimental	feral	lamentation	patent	satiated	tumultuous
ambivalent	capacious	didactic	fetid	lampoon	paucity	scrupulous	undermine
amenable	capitulate	dilatory	fickle	lavish	pejorative	sentinel	unfettered
ample	capricious	dilettante	florid	levity	penchant	shroud	unheralded
anachronistic	captious	diplomatic	fortuitous	listless	pervasive	skeptical	unpalatable
anathema	carp	discomfited	fractious	lucid	philanthropist	slander	unseemly
ancillary	cartography	discretion	furtive	magnate	phlegmatic	slothful	untenable
annul	castigate	disingenuous	ghastly	malediction	pious	sobriety	urbane
anomaly	catalyst	disparate	glower	malfeasance	plethora	solvent	usurp
anthropology	catharsis	dither	gourmand	marred	ploy	soporific	utility
antidote	caustic	diurnal	hackneyed	maverick	pluralism	spendthrift	vacillation
antithetical	cavil	divergent	harbinger	maverick	poignant	spurious	vacuous
apathy	censure	divisive	headstrong	maxim	portend	staid	vanquish
apostate	chagrin	draconian	hedonist	meager	pragmatist	stevedore	vapid
apt	charlatan	dubious	heresy	meddlers	preclude	stoic	venerable
arbiter	chicanery	dupe	hoard	mercurial	preclude	stragem	verbose
archipelago	chimerical	ebullient	hutch	meticulous	premonition	strident	versatile
archtype	choleric	eclectic	idyllic	miser	presumptuous	stupefy	versatile
ardent	circumvent	effigy	immutable	mitigate	pristine	sty	vestige
arduous	clandestine	effusive	impenitent	mollify	procure	stymied	vigilant
arsenal	clemency	egregious	impervious	morose	prodigal	subordinate	vigor
ascertain	coalesce	elliptical	impetuous	mosaic	prodigious	substantiates	vilify
assiduous	cogent	emollient	impinge	mundane	proliferate	subtle	vindicated
assuage	cogitate	empathy	implausible	myriad	promulgated	succinct	virtue
asylum	cohesive	emphatic	implausible	naive	propagated	succumb	virtuoso
attrition	colloquial	emulate	impudence	narcissistic	prosaic	sullen	vivid
augury	conciliatory	endemic	impugn	nascent	provincial	superfluous	vociferous
auspices	conflagration	enervate	inaudible	notorious	prudent	surfeit	waning
auspicious	conflated	enfranchised	incorrigible	novel	pugnacious	surreptitious	wheelde
austere	conscript	enmity	incumbent	novice	pundit	swindle	whimsical
avarice	contemptuous	ephemeral	indelible	obdurate	purgation	tacit	zealous
avuncular	contemptuous	epidemiologist	indifference	obfuscate	purist	taciturn	
barometer	convoluted	equanimity	indigenous	obliterate	quandary	taint	
beguile	copious	equine	indomitable	obscure	quibble	talisman	
behest	corroborate	equivocal	infallible	obscure	rancorous	tantamount	
beleaguer	coterie	ersatz	inferred	obsolete	rapport	temper	
belie	coup	esoteric	ingrate	obsolete	raze	tenacity	

MATH STRATEGIES

1. Approach

- Read through the whole question carefully
- Decide whether to answer the question now or later
- Look for the fastest approach

2. PEMDAS

It is essential to know the order of operations
(Parentheses, exponents, multiplication, division, addition, subtraction)

3. “Ballparking”

- It is important to step back from the problem and see the “big picture”.
- Frequently there are a couple of answers which make **no** sense at all and can be eliminated.

4. Process of Elimination

If even one answer can be eliminated as wrong your chances of guessing the correct answer are statistically improved but, once again, often 2 or more can be eliminated and at that point aggressive guessing is a must.

5. Degree of Difficulty

- Questions on the SAT are arranged easy-to-hard. Therefore the “easy” or “obvious” answer on the first ten questions is likely correct.
- The “easy” or “obvious” answer on the last five questions is definitely wrong and can be eliminated
- By answering questions incorrectly 1/4 of a point is deducted whereas if a question is skipped there is no penalty. By skipping the toughest questions your score can actually improve since no points are deducted and you spend more time on the questions you have a better chance of answering correctly.

6. Substitute numbers for variables in problems;

Be sure to check special cases like fractions and negatives.

7. Backsolving:

Use their answer choices in a problem if you don’t know how to proceed from the “front end”.
Start with choice C and look for a trend if answers are in numerical sequence.

8. Calculator: When do I use it?

- After setting up the problem first in the test booklet
- Not** on every problem
- Comparing fractions, decimals, percents, roots

9. Grid Ins:

- Do all of these since there are no points taken off for wrong answers.
- Always start from the far left
- Use all the spaces if it’s a decimal
- Don’t grid in mixed numbers (Ex. $1\frac{1}{2}$ should be grid as $3/2$)

10. Write all over the booklet.

- Put given info on the figures
- Do calculations in booklet

11. Skip problems that take you too long and come back later to save time.

If a problem takes too long it is likely that your approach is wrong.

MATH TRICKS

1. Joe orders 3 donuts and a cup of coffee and is charged \$2.25. Stella orders 2 donuts and a cup of coffee and is charged \$1.70. What is the cost of two donuts?
 - A. \$.55
 - B. \$.60
 - C. \$ 1.10
 - D. \$ 1.30
 - E. \$ 1.80

2. $2^{90} - 2^{89} =$
 - A. 2^{89}
 - B. 2^1
 - C. 2^0
 - D. $2^{90 / 89}$
 - E. Florida

3. A student finishes the first half of an exam in $\frac{2}{3}$ of the time it takes to finish the second half. If the entire exam takes him an hour, how many minutes does he spend on the first half of the exam?
 - A. 20
 - B. 24
 - C. 27
 - D. 36
 - E. 40

4. The first number in a series is -3. Every number thereafter is 5 more than the previous number. What is the 101st term?
 - A. 495
 - B. 497
 - C. 502
 - D. 505
 - E. 507