

## SAT Grammar Rules Cheat Sheet

### Introduction

The SAT Writing & Language section assesses your ability to recognize and correct grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure errors. This cheat sheet summarizes essential grammar rules that frequently appear on the SAT. Use this as a quick reference guide while practicing questions and reviewing errors.

### How to Use this Cheat Sheet

- Review each grammar rule and understand its application.
- Practice identifying and correcting these errors in SAT-style questions.
- Use this sheet for last-minute revision before your test day.
- Pay attention to common traps and tricky SAT grammar questions.

### 1. Subject-Verb Agreement

- Singular subjects require singular verbs; plural subjects require plural verbs.
- Ignore phrases in between the subject and verb when determining agreement.
  - Example: "The list of books **is** on the table."

### 2. Pronoun Clarity & Agreement

- A pronoun must clearly refer to a specific noun.
- Ensure pronouns agree in number and gender with their antecedents.
  - Incorrect: "Each student must bring **their** book."
  - Correct: "Each student must bring **his or her** book."

### 3. Parallel Structure

- Items in a list or comparison must be in the same grammatical form.
  - Incorrect: "She likes reading, to swim, and biking."
  - Correct: "She likes reading, swimming, and biking."

### 4. Misplaced & Dangling Modifiers

- Descriptive phrases must be placed next to the noun they modify.
  - Incorrect: "Walking through the park, the flowers looked beautiful."
  - Correct: "Walking through the park, I saw beautiful flowers."

### 5. Sentence Fragments & Run-ons

- A complete sentence must have a subject and a verb.
- Use proper punctuation or conjunctions to fix run-ons.
  - Fragment: "Although she studied all night."
  - Correct: "Although she studied all night, she still felt nervous."

- Run-on: "He loves math he excels in it."
- Correct: "He loves math, and he excels in it."

## 6. Punctuation Rules

- **Commas:** Use for separating items in a list, after introductory elements, and between independent clauses with a conjunction.
- **Semicolons:** Connect closely related independent clauses without conjunctions.
- **Colons:** Introduce lists or explanations.
  - Example: "She bought three things: apples, oranges, and bananas."
- **Dashes:** Indicate a pause or emphasis.

## 7. Commonly Confused Words

- **Its vs. It's** – "Its" is possessive, "It's" means "It is."
- **Their vs. There vs. They're** – "Their" is possessive, "There" refers to place, "They're" means "They are."
- **Affect vs. Effect** – "Affect" is a verb, "Effect" is a noun.

## 8. Verb Tense Consistency

- Maintain the same verb tense within a sentence or passage.
  - Incorrect: "She **runs** every morning but **ate** a heavy breakfast today."
  - Correct: "She **runs** every morning but **eats** a heavy breakfast today."

## 9. Redundancy & Wordiness

- Eliminate unnecessary words that repeat the same idea.
  - Incorrect: "He made a **final** conclusion at the **end** of the debate."
  - Correct: "He made a conclusion at the end of the debate."

## 10. Logical Transitions

- Use appropriate transition words to clarify relationships between ideas.
  - **Contrast:** However, On the other hand, Although
  - **Cause & Effect:** Therefore, Consequently, As a result
  - **Addition:** Furthermore, Moreover, In addition

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