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About the Critical Reader

The Critical Reader was founded in 2014, with the goal of making the highest possible quality verbal test-prep materials available on a broad scale and for an affordable price. Prior to starting the company, Erica Meltzer tutored the SAT®, ACT®, GRE®, and GMAT® privately for nearly a decade, working with students ranging from home schoolers to prep schoolers and scoring at every level from the 6th percentile to the 99th.

In 2011, she published her first book, the original version of The Ultimate Guide to SAT Grammar, which was quickly recognized for being the most accurate and effective sources of preparation for the Writing portion of the old exam. Since then, her books have collectively sold over 125,000 copies and consistently ranked near the top of Amazon's SAT and ACT lists, outselling comparable guides by every major test-prep publisher in their respective categories. They are currently used by students, tutors, and schools throughout the United States and around the world.

The company website, www.thecriticalreader.com, also serves as a significant resource, featuring dozens of articles covering every aspect of the test-prep and college admissions process as well as free quizzes and a Question of the Day.
The Critical Reader: The Complete Guide to SAT® Reading

Erica L. Meltzer

Intended to clearly and systematically demystify what is often considered the most challenging section of the SAT, The Critical Reader: The Complete Guide to SAT® Reading, provides a comprehensive review of the reading skills tested on the redesigned exam for students who are serious about raising their scores.

Includes:

- A chapter-by-chapter breakdown of question types, with in-depth explanations and numerous examples demonstrating how to work through each type.

- Techniques for comprehending complex passages and identifying key information quickly and efficiently.

- Extensive strategies for simplifying and answering paired supporting evidence questions as well as graph- and chart-based data analysis questions.

- A list of alternate definitions of common words, plus strategies for using context clues to decipher the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary.

To allow students to apply the strategies outlined in this book to College Board material while focusing on the specific areas in which they are seeking to improve, this book also includes an index of all the Reading questions from The Official College Board SAT Guide, 2018 Edition, arranged both by category and by test.
The Ultimate Guide to SAT® Grammar

Erica L. Meltzer

The fourth edition of *The Ultimate Guide to SAT® Grammar* provides comprehensive coverage of all the grammar and rhetoric concepts tested on the multiple-choice portion of the redesigned SAT Writing and Language Test.

Includes:

- A complete chapter devoted to each grammar and rhetoric concept covered on the exam.

- Test-taking strategies, including discussions of common answer choice patterns, designed to improve speed and accuracy.

- In-depth explanations that teach students learn to recognize errors tested in a variety of ways.

- More than 300 practice questions that help students transfer their skills from targeted practice to test-style passages covering a wide range of concepts.

To allow students to apply the strategies outlined in this book to College Board material while focusing on the specific areas in which they are seeking to improve, this book also includes an index of all the Writing questions from *The Official College Board SAT Guide, 2018 Edition*, arranged both by category and by test.
This companion workbook to The Ultimate Guide to SAT Grammar provides rigorous, test-style practice designed to help students transfer their skills to full-length exams.

Includes six complete SAT Writing and Language Tests, directly aligned with College Board specifications. Each test contains four passages accompanied by a total of 44 questions testing a variety of topics in grammar, rhetoric, and basic data analysis. In-depth explanations reinforce the skills and strategies discussed in the main grammar book and allow students to monitor their progress.
SAT® Vocabulary: A New Approach
Erica L. Meltzer and Larry Krieger*

SAT® Vocabulary: A New Approach covers key vocabulary for the Reading Test, Writing and Language Test, and Essay of the redesigned SAT. It offers an approach that is aligned with the new exam’s focus on vocabulary in context.

Rather than provide long lists of words and definitions for students to memorize, it features thorough explanations of the various contexts in which vocabulary is tested, then gives students the opportunity to practice applying their knowledge via carefully sequenced series of exercises.

The book is divided into five main sections:

I. Vocabulary in Context

II. Passage-Based Vocabulary

III. Commonly Confused Words

IV. Transitional Words and Phrases

V. Key Essay Vocabulary

Ideal for high school students who need to strengthen their knowledge of core academic vocabulary, as well as those who need to focus on the most challenging words and concepts tested on the Verbal portion of the exam.

*Larry Krieger is an award-winning former AP® teacher and the author of the original Direct Hits SAT vocabulary series as well as books for AP® US History, European History, and Comparative Government.
The Complete Guide to ACT® English

Erica L. Meltzer

*The Complete Guide to ACT® English* offers a comprehensive review of all the grammar and rhetoric topics tested on the ACT English Test.

**Includes:**

- A complete chapter devoted to each grammar and rhetoric concept covered on the exam.
- Test-taking strategies, including discussions of common answer choice patterns, designed to improve speed and accuracy.
- In-depth explanations that teach students learn to recognize errors tested in a variety of ways.
- More than 300 practice questions that help students transfer their skills from targeted practice to test-style passages covering a wide range of concepts.

To allow students to apply the strategies outlined in this book to official material while focusing on the specific areas in which they are seeking to improve, this book also includes an index of all the English questions from *The Official ACT Prep Guide, 2018*, arranged both by category and by test.
The Complete Guide to ACT® Reading

Erica L. Meltzer

Contrary to popular belief, ACT Reading is not simply a test of speed but also one of logic and reasoning. The Complete Guide to ACT® Reading combines fundamentals of comprehension with test-taking techniques to explain how students of all levels can maximize their scores.

Includes:

- Extensive strategies for managing time while improving comprehension, whether you're just making it through all four passages or struggling to finish three.

- A complete chapter devoted to each type of question, including literal comprehension, main idea, inference, tone and attitude, point of view, and paired passages.

- A discussion of common passage themes and answer choice patterns, with tips for recognizing correct and incorrect answers more quickly and easily.

- Examples from The Official ACT Prep Guide, 2018, demonstrating how to apply specific strategies to actual exam questions.

- Two complete practice tests with thorough explanations that reinforce the concepts and strategies discussed throughout the book.
The Critical Reader: AP® English Language and Composition Edition

Erica L. Meltzer

The Critical Reader: AP® English Language and Composition Edition provides a comprehensive review of all the reading and writing skills tested on this exam.

Includes a complete chapter dedicated to each multiple-choice reading question and essay type, as well as dozens of exercises that allow students to practice each concept individually.

In addition, sample essays accompanied by detailed scoring analyses demystify the College Board rubric and help students master the components necessary to produce a high-scoring response.

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Unlike traditional vocabulary books, which provide students with long lists of words and definitions to memorize, *GRE® Vocabulary In Practice* focuses primarily on application. While the book does include lists of high-frequency words divided into groups of synonyms, it also offers prospective GRE-takers a comprehensive set of strategies for tackling both Text Completions and Sentence Equivalences.

This book also includes more than 300 practice questions grouped both by level of difficulty and in mixed sets, along with an in-depth explanation for each question.
The Complete GMAT® Sentence Correction Guide

*The Complete GMAT® Sentence Correction Guide* offers a thorough review of all the major grammatical concepts tested on the Sentence Correction portion of the GMAT, and is intended to be used in conjunction with the *Official Guide for GMAT® Review 2018* and the *Official Guide for GMAT® Verbal Review 2018*.

Each chapter covers both grammar and strategy, and is accompanied by a rigorous set of exercises as well as a list of relevant questions from the Official Guides. In addition, authentic GMAT material is referenced to illustrate the application of concepts throughout the book.

To help students transfer their grammar skills to the exam, this book also contains a chapter devoted to strategies for working through multi-concept questions with maximum efficiency, along with 150 GMAT-style multiple-choice questions accompanied by thorough explanations.
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