

# THE CRITICAL READER



# Publisher's Catalogue 2020

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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 as the most accurate and effective source of preparation for the Writing portion of the old exam. Since then, her books have collectively sold over 200,000 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](http://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.

# How to Write for Class: A Student's Guide to Grammar, Punctuation, and Style

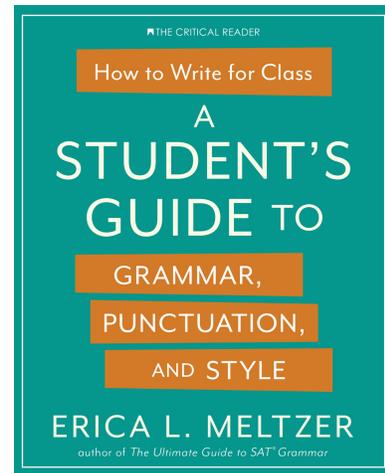
Erica L. Meltzer

*How to Write for Class* is designed to help students translate their best ideas from their heads onto the page in a clear, concise, and comprehensible manner. Although it focuses on the application of grammatical and stylistic concepts to the types of writing typically assigned at the high school and college levels, it is also intended to help students understand English language as a logical system rather than just a series of rules to be memorized or a tool for correcting errors.

Includes:

- A comprehensive overview of parts of speech, types of sentences, subject-verb and pronoun agreement, verb tense, adjectives and adverbs, conjunctions, commas, and more.
- Sentence-combining exercises to practice building complex statements from simpler ones in a variety of ways.
- A guide to punctuating different types of quotations.
- Dozens of practice questions to check understanding and consolidate skills.

Appropriate for students at an advanced middle-school through adult level.



**1st Edition**

**July 2019**

**ISBN: 978-1-7335895-0-5**

**List Price: \$26.95**

**298 pages**

# The Critical Reader: The Complete Guide to SAT® Reading

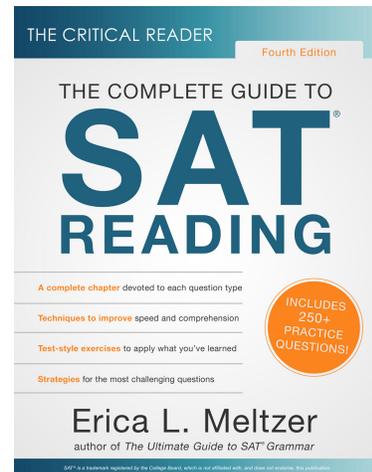
Erica L. Meltzer

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, 2020 Edition*, arranged both by category and by test.



4th Edition

September 2019

ISBN: 978-1-7335895-2-9

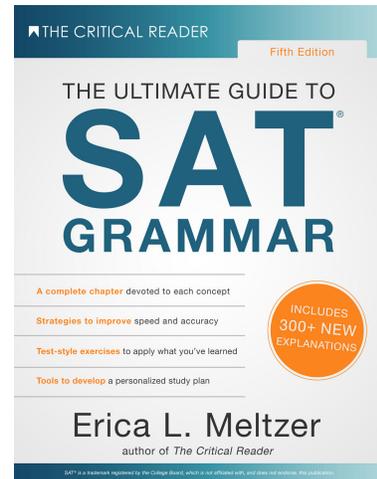
List Price: \$34.95

350 pages

# 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 SAT Writing and Language Test.



**5th Edition**  
**September 2019**  
**ISBN: 978-1-7335895-3-6**  
**List Price: \$32.95**  
**288 pages**

Includes:

- A complete chapter devoted to each grammar and rhetoric tested.
- Test-taking strategies, including discussions of common answer choice patterns, designed to improve speed and accuracy.
- In-depth explanations that teach students to recognize errors tested in many 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.
- Hundreds of detailed new explanations for end-of-chapter exercises.

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, 2020 Edition*, arranged both by category and by test.

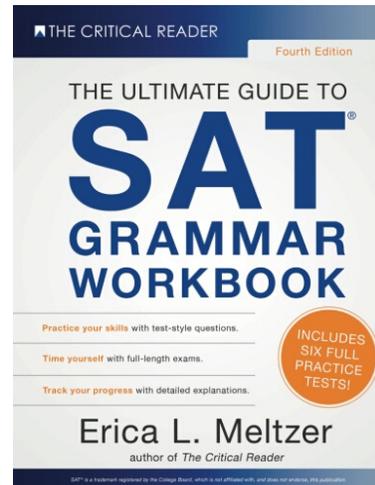
# The Ultimate Guide to SAT<sup>®</sup> Grammar Workbook

Erica L. Meltzer

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.

**Please note: because there have been no changes to the structure or content of the SAT since the release of this edition in 2017, it remains up to date and was not revised in 2019.**



3rd Edition

September 2017

ISBN: 978-0997517897

List Price: \$28.95

142 pages

# 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.

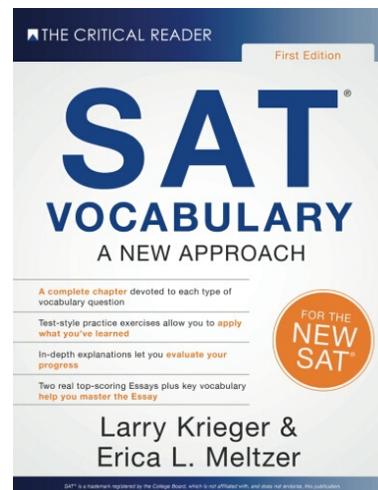
Rather than provide long lists of words and definitions for students to memorize, it features thorough explanations of the various contexts in which vocabulary is tested, then gives students the opportunity to practice applying their knowledge via carefully sequenced series of exercises.

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.



1st Edition

April 2017

ISBN: 978-0997517842

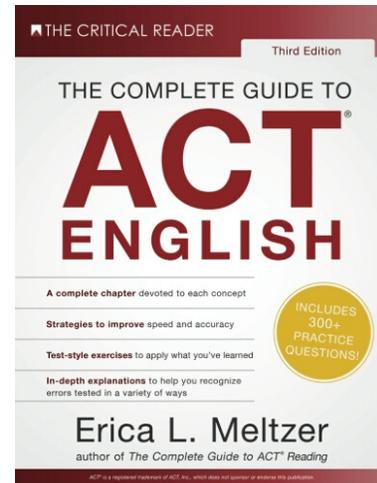
List Price: \$19.95

134 pages

# 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.



4th Edition

October 2019

ISBN: 978-1-7335895-4-3

List Price: \$32.95

315 pages

Includes:

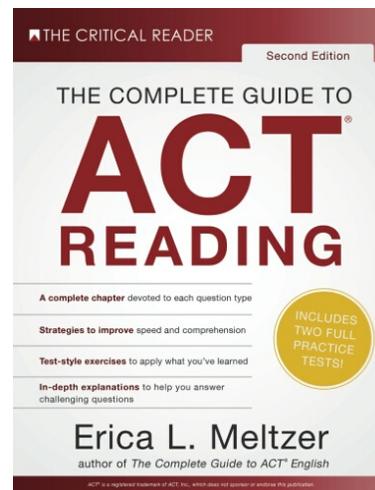
- A complete chapter devoted to each grammar and rhetoric concept covered on the exam.
- Test-taking strategies, including discussions of common answer choice patterns, designed to improve speed and accuracy.
- In-depth explanations that teach students learn to recognize errors tested in many ways.
-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

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, 2019-2020*, 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.



**3rd Edition**  
**September 2017**  
**ISBN: 978-0997517828**  
**List Price: \$29.50**  
**148 pages**

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.

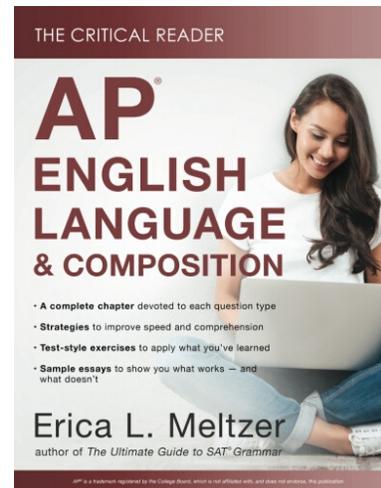
# The Critical Reader: AP<sup>®</sup> English Language and Composition Edition

Erica L. Meltzer

*The Critical Reader: AP<sup>®</sup> English Language and Composition Edition* provides a comprehensive review of all the reading and writing skills tested on the updated 2020 version of the exam.

Includes a complete chapter dedicated to each type of reading question; the new multiple-choice writing section; and the three essays, as well as dozens of exercises that allow students to practice each concept individually.

Student-produced sample essays accompanied by detailed scoring analyses demystify the new College Board rubric and help students master the components necessary to produce high-scoring responses.



1st Edition

Updated February 2020

ISBN: 978-0997517859

List Price: \$23.49

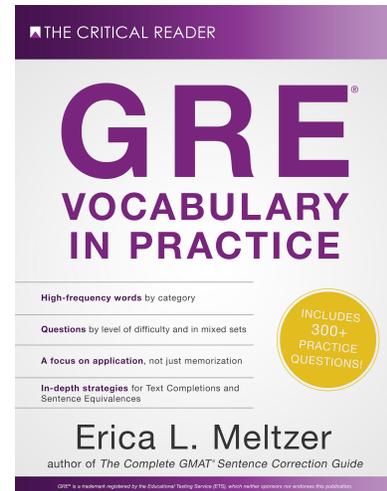
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# GRE® Vocabulary in Practice

Erica L. Meltzer

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.



1st Edition

September 2017

ISBN: 978-0997517835

List Price: \$21.95

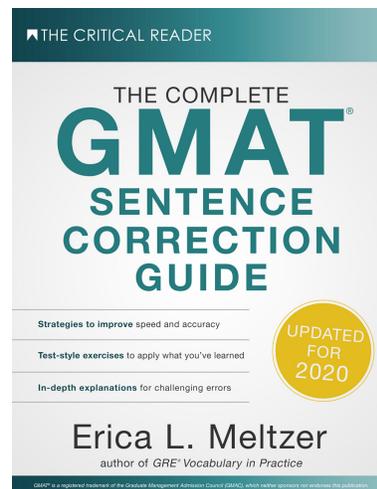
286 pages

# 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 2020* and the *Official Guide for GMAT® Verbal Review 2020*.

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.



**1st Edition**  
**Updated 2020**  
**ISBN: 978-0997517804**  
**List Price: \$24.95**  
**304 pages**

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