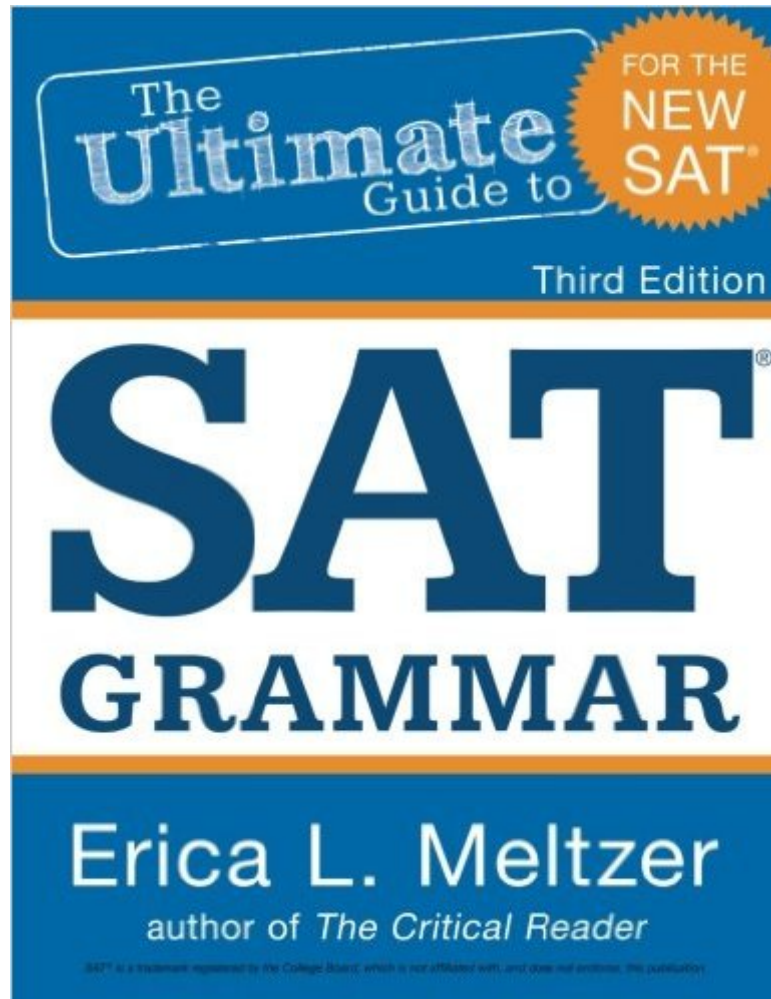


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# 3rd Edition, The Ultimate Guide To SAT Grammar



## Synopsis

This updated edition of *The Ultimate Guide to SAT Grammar* provides comprehensive coverage of all the grammar and rhetoric tested on the redesigned SAT multiple choice Writing section. Dozens of exercises help students move from studying concepts individually to applying their skills in a passage-based context. Includes complete indices of College Board/Khan Academy questions, arranged both by category and by test. This book is intended to be used in conjunction with the *Official College Board Guide, 3rd Ed.* and with the *Ultimate Guide to SAT® Grammar Workbook, 3rd Ed.* (<http://www.collegeboard.com/Edition-Ultimate-Grammar-Workbook-Volume/dp/1518794106>). Errata p. 37, question 4. Choice D should read "sentence 3" (books purchased before 4/29/16). p. 56, question 5.3: A p. 88, question 5.1: A p. 119, question 3.2: A p. 121, question 6.2, answers should read as follows (books purchased before 4/29/16): A) NO CHANGE B) painting American Gothic C) painting American Gothic, D) painting, American Gothic

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## Customer Reviews

As an SAT tutor, I recommend certain books to my students so that they can accomplish as much as possible outside of my office. *The Ultimate Guide to SAT Grammar* is the most helpful book I've yet seen for the new SAT (which will debut in March of 2016). Here are a few reasons why: 1. The book is comprehensive. I've been teaching SAT prep for a long time, and most of my students are fairly to highly serious about their scores. I'm glad to be able to offer them a workbook that covers everything, rather than one that covers most of the test. 2. Practice question realism is very good. It's

essential that students get used to the nuances and style of the real test, and unlike books published by most companies, this one aptly mimics the complexities of real SAT passages and questions.<sup>3</sup> It's up-to-date. The new SAT writing section is much different than that of the current SAT. This book reflects all the changes we know about right now.<sup>4</sup> The book cross-references the College Board / Khan Academy tests, so that students can look up authentic questions on which to practice concepts. The only real criticism I have of the book is the formatting and look - it might be easier for certain students to use if the graphic design and layout were more engaging. But this is easily the best book on the market for students who truly want to understand the material.

I agree with Vince Kotchian on all his points. I am a tutor and I know my students work well with the lessons in this book. They read the grammar rules for a topic like subject-verb agreement, then they do her exercises. Step by step, my students master each rule. I'm so glad she took the time to make up so many questions for practice. I can assign some for HW after we do a few together. It's great for self-prep as well.

I have to update my previous review. While taking the exercises as practice tests, my students caught several mistakes, which I confirmed with disappointment. In a couple of questions, the answers are duplicative. An "(A) No Change" is an option, but another answer choice restates what is already written in the original text (thus, no change). The answer is both (A) and that second letter. Another passage underlines one too many words, rendering all of the answer choices incorrect without that last word. With that out of the way, the actual substance is easy to understand and comprehensive. I like the exercises in each section, notwithstanding the errors. I will update this as my students and I go along. Update: I love the practice that this book provides my students. Our favorite so far is the non-essential words chapter. All of my students struggle with this area of grammar. When we read Meltzer's explanations of how to identify non-essential words and thereby determine when commas have/have not correctly or at least necessarily been used, they all instantly get it. Even though we have caught even more typos since my last review, I recommend this book even more because the pros far outweigh the cons.

I like how this book offers an extensive storage full of strategies and explanations as well as a small practice test. It covers each section well with an organized format that flows from the next section easily. If you were to look closely at some of its writings, this book contained a lot of minor errors in spelling and sometimes omitting words. However, due to the content I think that the overall usage of

this book is a great choice when considering what book to buy.

If you only purchase one book to prepare for the SAT writing section, make sure this is it. Erica Meltzer really knows this test. Her materials offer exceptional preparation. There's really nothing else like them on the market. The strength of Meltzer's materials lies in her careful explanation of concepts, followed by exercises that allow you to put your new understanding into practice. The exercises are supported by answers that carefully explain why the right answer is right and the others are not. Even when I get the answer right, I always read Meltzer's explanation because I know it will deepen my understanding of the concept being taught. Meltzer knows what the test is evaluating and how to carefully build the skills required in order to score well. Compared with her work, other guides are simply "tips and tricks" and "tips and tricks" only get you so far. To build understanding of the way the test works and the skills to tackle it, you need Meltzer's books. Same goes for her book on the Critical Reading section of the SAT and all her ACT materials. Don't waste time on other test prep books!

Like the others who have reviewed this book, I am a professional test prep instructor (GMAT, SAT and ACT). I'm not sure what the other instructors see in this book, but there are clearly a lot of errors. Since this is about the new SAT, I'd expected the usual errors, such as typos and mistakes in underlining or answer choices. What I did not expect were mistakes with basic subject-verb agreement and rudimentary grammar. For example, in English, the words some, any, none, all and most can be used as singular or plural. "Some food is on the table." "Some guests are sitting at the table." Yet the author says "any" and "none" are only singular while the others are only plural. Thus, in the book, the use of "any" (I forgot the exact sentence) was used incorrectly in a sentence in a practice exercise. I believe it was something like, "If any participants are sick..." This, according to the book, is grammatically incorrect. It should read, "If any participants is sick..." After seeing this, we no longer use this book at work. I realize I'm in the minority here, so for the sake of the students learning from this book I sincerely hope the author corrects her mistakes in later editions.

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