SAT Flashcards — Bonus Deck

Printable flashcard deck: 60 cards, generated from the TemplateForge concept list for this guide.

HOW TO PRINT:
1. Print this file double-sided on Letter, flip on SHORT edge.
2. Front pages show the Terms; each back page shows that same page's answers in the identical grid layout.
3. Cut along the grid lines. The card number in the top-right corner matches each front to its back.

STUDY TIP: quiz yourself with the Anki deck (import the CSV into Anki — it's free — note type Basic, fields by comma). Review daily; space your reviews instead of cramming.

Source: TemplateForge study guide concept list. Facts are the guide's own verified content — always confirm exam details at the official testing organization's website.

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#1

Words in Context

The SAT asks you to choose the word or phrase that best fits the author's exact meaning in context - not the dictionary definition alone. Read the sentence and the sentences around it.
Tip: Substitute each answer choice into the sentence and read the whole sentence aloud in your head. Only the choice that keeps the tone AND the precise meaning works.
Example: In 'the findings were (debatable/conclusive)', the adjoining evidence decides: if the study was well controlled, 'conclusive'.

#2

Connotation & Tone

Connotation is the emotional or associative weight a word carries beyond its denotation (literal meaning). 'Slim', 'thin', and 'scrawny' denote similar size but differ sharply in tone.
Tip: Ask: does the author approve, disapprove, or stay neutral? Match the answer to that attitude.
Example: 'Cheap' vs 'inexpensive' - 'inexpensive' is neutral-positive, 'cheap' can imply low quality.

#3

Main Idea / Central Claim

The central claim is the single idea the whole passage supports. Supporting details, examples, and evidence all point back to it.
Tip: The correct summary is the one that covers the WHOLE passage - an option that only covers one paragraph is a detail trap.
Example: A passage about recycling rates ending with policy recommendations supports the claim that current recycling policy is underperforming.

#4

Supporting Details

Details are the specific facts, examples, and data an author uses to build the central claim. The SAT asks which detail most directly supports a stated conclusion.
Tip: Match the detail to the claim term-by-term: if the claim mentions a specific group, year, or direction of change, the right detail mirrors it.
Example: To support 'sales fell after the price rise', you need data showing sales dropping AFTER the price changed, not before.

#5

Author's Purpose & Perspective

Purpose = why the passage exists (inform, persuade, entertain, critique). Perspective = the author's stance or point of view on the topic.
Tip: Purpose answers 'what does the author want the reader to take away?'; perspective answers 'where does the author stand?'.
Example: A passage praising electric trucks while noting grid limits has the purpose 'inform about a transition' and a cautiously favorable perspective.

#6

Point of View (Narrative)

Narrative point of view identifies who tells the story: first person (I), second person (you), third person limited (he/she, one character's mind), third person omniscient (all minds).
Tip: Look for the pronouns and whose inner thoughts you can access - that defines the POV this passage uses.
Example: 'I had always feared the water' = first person; the reader is inside the narrator's mind.

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Central Ideas & Details

The 'big idea' question asks for the main point of the passage; the 'detail' question asks for a specific piece the passage states. Know the difference before you answer.
Tip: For a big-idea question, the right answer covers the whole passage; for a detail question, it restates a specific sentence.
Example: A passage on electric grids: big idea = 'grids need modernization'; detail = 'cables are buried in conduit'.

#8

Summarizing a Passage

A concise restatement of the passage's main point in your own head, then matched against options - the summary must cover all paragraphs' shared thrust.
Tip: If an option covers only the first paragraph, it summarizes a detail, not the passage.
Example: 'The passage traces how jazz moved from New Orleans clubs to global concert halls.'

#9

Cross-Text Connections

Two short passages appear together; questions ask how the second responds to the first (agrees, challenges, extends, qualifies, or provides counter-evidence).
Tip: Name the relationship FIRST: strengthen, weaken, or reframe - then pick the option that matches that verb.
Example: If Passage A argues for school uniforms and Passage B describes a district's mixed results, B challenges A with counter-evidence.

#10

Comparing Arguments

Questions pair two arguments and ask which claim, assumption, or evidence they share - or where they diverge.
Tip: List one line of each argument; the shared element is what BOTH depend on or BOTH address.
Example: Both passages might agree that cost is the main barrier while disagreeing about whether public funding should expand.

#11

Underlined Text Purpose

The SAT underlines a sentence and asks why the author included it: to illustrate, to concede, to contrast, to provide context, to define a term.
Tip: The purpose is the role the sentence plays for the CLAIM, not what the sentence says.
Example: A sentence defining 'photosynthesis' before the argument uses it = 'to provide context / define a key term'.

#12

Cause & Effect Links

Trace which event caused which. The SAT asks which statement correctly identifies the causal relationship in a passage or study description.
Tip: Check direction: does the text say A caused B or B caused A? Correlations described in the text are not automatically causes.
Example: 'Heavy rainfall caused the landslide' - the text must say the rain came FIRST and triggered the slide.

#13

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Boundaries: Fragments vs Complete Sentences

A complete sentence has a subject and a verb and can stand alone. Fragments are pieces punctuated as sentences (missing a subject, verb, or both; or starting with a subordinator with no main clause).
Tip: Every sentence you are given must be checked for subject + verb + independence. 'Because the train was late' is a fragment - it needs a main clause.
Example: Fragment: 'Although she studied.' Fixed: 'Although she studied, she was still nervous.'

#14

Boundaries: Run-Ons

Two independent clauses joined without punctuation (run-on) or with only a comma (comma splice).
Tip: Two full sentences need a period, semicolon, or comma + a coordinating conjunction. A comma alone never joins them.
Example: 'It rained, the game continued' -> add 'but': 'It rained, but the game continued.'

#15

Boundaries: Combining Sentences

Choosing the correct way to join two sentences: coordinating conjunction, subordinator, semicolon, or period - the option must be grammatical AND keep the logical relationship.
Tip: Test each join by reading the result as one sentence; if it reads as two ideas with no connector, it is wrong.
Example: 'She was tired. She finished.' -> 'Although she was tired, she finished.'

#16

Subject-Verb Agreement

The verb matches its subject in number. Ignore interrupting phrases (prepositional phrases, clauses, 'as well as' add-ons).
Tip: Cross out everything between subject and verb; then match. '-s' on the verb = singular subject.
Example: 'The box of books (is/are) heavy' -> 'box' is the subject -> 'is'.

#17

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

A pronoun agrees with its antecedent in number, gender, and person. 'Each', 'everyone', 'anybody' are singular.
Tip: Words ending in -one, -body, or -thing are singular antecedents: 'Everyone brought his or her book' (or rewrite to avoid the issue).
Example: Each of the girls brought (her/their) own lunch -> 'her'.

#18

Pronoun Case

Subject pronouns (I, he, she, we, they, who) act; object pronouns (me, him, her, us, them, whom) receive. Use the case that fits the pronoun's job in its own clause.
Tip: Test by isolating the pronoun: 'John and (I/me) went' -> 'I went' works -> 'I'.
Example: Between you and (I/me) -> 'me' (object of the preposition 'between').

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Transitions: Logical Relationship

Transition words signal the relationship between ideas: however/nevertheless (contrast), moreover/furthermore (add), therefore/thus (result), for example (illustrate), in conclusion (summarize), similarly (compare).
Tip: Name the relationship between the two sentences BEFORE picking the word: contrast, addition, result, example, sequence.
Example: 'The plan is costly. (However/Therefore), it will pay for itself' -> 'However' (contrast).

#20

Transitions: Placement

Some questions test WHERE a transition word goes, or which sentence the transition belongs to - the word must sit at the boundary of the ideas it connects.
Tip: The transition belongs between the idea it contrasts-or-continues and the idea it introduces - read the sentence with the word in each candidate spot.
Example: 'The data were clear. (Nevertheless, the board delayed.)' - the contrast word pairs the clear data against the delay.

#21

Rhetorical Synthesis: Combining Notes

A four-bullet 'notes' prompt (a student's research notes) asks which option blends the notes into ONE clear sentence without inventing facts.
Tip: Every true fact in the option must come from the notes; the option must include the key specifics and no fabrication or irrelevant detail.
Example: Notes on a subway's opening year and ridership -> the best option states both: 'Opened in 1932, the line now carries 1.5M riders daily.'

#22

Concision & Wordiness

Delete words that repeat an idea ('repeat again', 'at this point in time' = now). The shortest grammatical option that keeps the meaning is usually right.
Tip: Cut redundant pairs (free gift, end result, personal opinion) and empty fillers (it should be noted that).
Example: 'She returned the book back' -> 'She returned the book.'

#23

Precision of Wording

Choosing the most exact word for the context - the 'best revision' replaces a vague or wrong word with a precise one.
Tip: Ask 'does this word say exactly what the sentence means?' - vague words like 'stuff' or 'thing' are almost always wrong in revision questions.
Example: 'The experiment measured (satisfaction/feelings)' -> 'satisfaction' when the survey asked about satisfaction specifically.

#24

Tone & Audience Fit

Match the writing to its audience: a formal report avoids slang and contractions; a blog post may use them. Revision questions ask which option fits the register.
Tip: Match register to context - 'kids' vs 'children', 'stuff' vs 'materials'. The SAT tests the same vocabulary in style questions.
Example: In a museum caption, 'the vase is (totally awesome/a fine example of the period)' -> 'a fine example of the period'.

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Linear Equations: One Variable

An equation like 3x + 5 = 20. Solve by isolating the variable: undo addition/subtraction first, then multiplication/division.
Tip: Whatever you do to one side, do to the other. Move terms by adding/subtracting, and clear multiplication by dividing.
Example: 3x + 5 = 20 -> 3x = 15 -> x = 5.

#26

Linear Equations: Two Variables

Standard form Ax + By = C and slope-intercept y = mx + b both describe a line. Convert between them freely.
Tip: To find the slope from standard form, rewrite as y = (-A/B)x + (C/B). The slope is -A/B.
Example: 2x + 4y = 8 -> y = -0.5x + 2: slope -0.5, y-intercept 2.

#27

Slope & Rate of Change

Slope = rise/run = change in y / change in x. It is the constant rate of change of a linear relationship.
Tip: Slope formula m = (y2 - y1)/(x2 - x1). A zero slope is flat; an undefined slope is vertical.
Example: Through (1, 2) and (4, 8): m = (8-2)/(4-1) = 6/3 = 2.

#28

Slope-Intercept Form

y = mx + b: m = slope, b = y-intercept (where the line crosses the y-axis). Master reading both from the equation.
Tip: Given y = 3x - 7, the line crosses the y-axis at -7 and rises 3 per 1 of x.
Example: y = -2x + 5: slope -2, y-intercept 5.

#29

x- & y-Intercepts

The y-intercept is where x = 0; the x-intercept is where y = 0. Graphically, where the line crosses each axis.
Tip: Set the other variable to zero and solve to find an intercept. The x-intercept is the solution of Ax + B(0) = C.
Example: 3x + 6y = 12: x-intercept (4, 0); y-intercept (0, 2).

#30

Parallel & Perpendicular Lines

Parallel lines have equal slopes. Perpendicular lines have slopes that are negative reciprocals (m and -1/m).
Tip: Check slopes, never y-intercepts: same slope = parallel; product of slopes = -1 = perpendicular.
Example: y = 2x + 1 and y = 2x - 4 are parallel; y = 2x + 1 and y = -0.5x are perpendicular.

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Quadratic Expressions: Multiplying

FOIL (First, Outer, Inner, Last) multiplies two binomials: (x + a)(x + b) = x^2 + (a + b)x + ab.
Tip: Practice the shortcut: (x + a)(x + b) -> middle term = sum of a and b, last term = product.
Example: (x + 3)(x - 5) = x^2 - 2x - 15.

#32

Factoring Quadratics

To factor x^2 + bx + c, find two numbers that multiply to c and add to b. Factor out a GCF first when there is one.
Tip: If you cannot factor quickly, use the quadratic formula. The SAT accepts equivalent expressions - factoring is about recognizing the pair.
Example: x^2 - 5x + 6 = (x - 2)(x - 3).

#33

Quadratic Formula

x = -b +/- sqrt(b^2 - 4ac)/(2a) for ax^2 + bx + c = 0. Works for every quadratic.
Tip: Memorize in pieces: numerator -b, then +/- sqrt(b^2 - 4ac), all over 2a.
Example: x^2 - 4x - 5 = 0 -> x = 4 +/- sqrt(16 + 20)/2 = 5 or -1.

#34

The Discriminant

The discriminant b^2 - 4ac counts real roots: > 0 = two, = 0 = one (double), < 0 = no real roots.
Tip: Compute only b^2 - 4ac to decide; you do not need the roots to answer a 'number of solutions' question.
Example: x^2 + 4 has b^2 - 4ac = -16 < 0: no real solutions.

#35

Vertex Form & Completing the Square

y = a(x - h)^2 + k has vertex (h, k). Complete the square to convert standard form into vertex form.
Tip: The vertex x-coordinate is always -b/(2a) - use this shortcut instead of completing the square.
Example: y = x^2 + 6x + 8 -> vertex x = -3 -> y = (x + 3)^2 - 1.

#36

Roots & Solutions of Quadratics

The roots (solutions, zeros) are the x-values where y = 0 - where the parabola crosses the x-axis.
Tip: The vertex lies midway between the roots: x_vertex = (r1 + r2)/2. Use this to check your work.
Example: Roots 2 and 8 -> vertex x = 5.

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Mean, Median, Mode

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#37

Mean, Median, Mode

Mean = sum/n. Median = middle value of sorted data (average of the two middles if even count). Mode = most frequent value.
Tip: Median NEEDS sorted data; the mean is pulled toward outliers. The SAT asks which measure best describes the data.
Example: Data 2, 3, 7, 10, 13: mean 7, median 7.

#38

Range & Outliers

Range = max - min. An outlier is a value far from the rest; it drags the mean but not the median.
Tip: When a question asks which statistic an outlier most affects, answer the MEAN.
Example: Data 4, 5, 6, 100: range 96; median 5.5; mean ~28.75.

#39

Standard Deviation (Concept)

Standard deviation measures spread around the mean: small = tightly clustered, large = widely spread.
Tip: You never compute it by hand - you compare it: which data set is more spread out?
Example: Heights 5'10, 5'11, 6'0 have a smaller SD than 5'4, 5'11, 6'6.

#40

Interpreting Box Plots

A box plot shows min, Q1, median, Q3, max. The box holds the middle 50% of the data.
Tip: The median is the line inside the box, not the middle of the box lines; the whiskers reach to min/max.
Example: A box from 10 to 30 with median 20: half the data is between 20 and 30, not 10 and 30.

#41

Dot Plots & Histograms

Dot plots show each value as a dot; histograms group values into bars. Read the shape: symmetric, skewed, or clustered.
Tip: For a histogram, use the bar MIDPOINT for approximate values; the tallest bar is the most common range.
Example: A histogram peaking at the 50-59 bar and trailing left is roughly symmetric around that range.

#42

Scatterplots: Association

Scatterplots show two variables per point. Points rising together = positive association; falling = negative; no pattern = none.
Tip: Association is about the SHAPE of the cloud - not single points. Add context: 'as x increases, y increases'.
Example: Hours studied (x) vs score (y) rising together = positive association.

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Angles: Types & Relationships

Complementary = 90 total; supplementary = 180 total; vertical angles are equal; adjacent angles on a line sum to 180.
Tip: Mark the diagram: any two angles across an X are equal; any two on a straight line sum to 180.
Example: If angle A = 40 and it is supplementary to B, angle B = 140.

#44

Parallel Lines & Transversals

A line crossing parallel lines creates equal corresponding angles, equal alternate interior angles, and supplementary same-side interior angles.
Tip: Look for the Z shape (alternate interior) and the F shape (corresponding) - they are equal.
Example: With parallel lines, the angle matching the given 70-degree angle is also 70.

#45

Triangle Angle Sum & Exterior

Interior angles sum to 180. An exterior angle equals the sum of the two remote interior angles.
Tip: Given two interior angles, subtract from 180 for the third; for an exterior, add the two remote angles.
Example: Angles 50 and 60 -> third = 70; the exterior at the 70 corner = 50 + 60 = 110.

#46

Triangle Inequality

Any two sides of a triangle must sum to MORE than the third side - otherwise the triangle cannot close.
Tip: Test all three pairings; the side that fails the rule makes the answer impossible.
Example: Sides 2, 3, 8: 2 + 3 < 8, so no such triangle.

#47

Isosceles & Equilateral Triangles

Isosceles: two equal sides, two equal base angles. Equilateral: three equal sides, three 60-degree angles.
Tip: In an isosceles triangle, the base angles (opposite the equal sides) match - the apex differs.
Example: Isosceles with apex 40 -> base angles are (180 - 40)/2 = 70 each.

#48

Pythagorean Theorem

a^2 + b^2 = c^2 with c the hypotenuse (opposite the right angle).
Tip: Identify the hypotenuse FIRST; the legs can be any order in a^2 + b^2. Watch for 3-4-5 and 5-12-13 triples.
Example: Legs 6 and 8 -> c = sqrt(36 + 64) = 10.

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Digital SAT Overview

98 questions, ~2 hours 14 minutes: Reading & Writing (54 questions / 64 min) then Math (44 questions / 70 min). Fully digital since spring 2024 in the US.
Tip: Practice at full length in Bluebook at least once - stamina and the interface are real factors.
Example: R&W 54 + Math 44 = 98 questions across ~134 minutes of testing.

#50

Reading & Writing Structure

Two modules of 27 questions, 32 minutes each. Four domains: Craft & Structure, Information & Ideas, Standard English Conventions, Expression of Ideas.
Tip: Each domain recurs in both modules - expect conventions (11-15) and craft & structure (13-15) to dominate.
Example: In a 27-question module, roughly 4-6 questions are typically conventions.

#51

Math Structure

Two modules of 22 questions, 35 minutes each. Domains: Algebra, Advanced Math, Problem-Solving & Data Analysis, Geometry & Trigonometry.
Tip: Algebra and Advanced Math together are ~70% of the section - weight your prep accordingly.
Example: In a 22-question module, roughly 5 questions are usually grid-ins.

#52

Adaptive Module Logic

Module 1 is identical for everyone; Module 2 difficulty adapts to your Module 1 performance. Harder Module 2 = higher ceiling.
Tip: Treat Module 1 like a qualifying round: accuracy there decides the difficulty you face - and the top scores you can earn.
Example: A strong Module 1 usually routes you to the harder Module 2, where near-perfect performance scores higher.

#53

Module 1 Strategy

Because adaptation happens AFTER Module 1, you cannot 'fix' a weak Module 1 with a great Module 2 - the ceiling is set.
Tip: Maximize Module 1: never skip to save time for Module 2; every Module 1 question affects the difficulty and your score.
Example: Rushing Module 1 to 'save time' for Module 2 is backwards - do your best on both, and never rush Module 1.

#54

Within-Module Difficulty

Within each module, questions get harder as you go - the early questions are easier, the later ones weight the score more.
Tip: Do not panic when questions feel hard at the end of a module; that is by design and may mean you are taking the harder path.
Example: If the first questions feel easy and the last ones hard, you are likely in the harder Module 2 - a good sign.

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The Night Before

Sleep is measurable points: go to bed early, and have your ID, ticket, calculator, and charger packed before you sleep.
Tip: The SAT rewards a rested brain more than a last cram - light review only, then stop.
Example: Pack tonight: photo ID, admission ticket, approved calculator with fresh batteries, charger, water, snack.

#56

Morning Logistics

Eat something, allow extra travel time, and arrive early - the check-in (including device setup) happens at the center.
Tip: Arrive at least 15-30 minutes early; rushing raises your heart rate before Module 1, which is exactly wrong.
Example: A 15-minute stress buffer before check-in keeps you calm when the screen first lights up.

#57

Device Readiness

Your testing session runs in the Bluebook app with lock-down mode; it must be installed and your laptop/tablet must be charged (test-day rules may specify outlets).
Tip: Install Bluebook and run the practice session days ahead - the app must be updated before test morning.
Example: A fully charged, Bluebook-ready device plus a backup plan for charging beats a last-minute install.

#58

Calculator & Scratch Work

Use the built-in Desmos (plus an approved handheld if you prefer) and the scratch paper/pen provided at the center.
Tip: Write out intermediate steps - the provided scratch paper is free; your working memory is not.
Example: On a long word problem, sketch the setup on scratch before typing numbers into Desmos.

#59

Pacing: Reading & Writing

27 questions in 32 minutes = about 71 seconds per question. Spending long on one reading question starves the module.
Tip: If a question eats 90+ seconds, flag it and move on; return only after finishing the module's quick wins.
Example: A 71-second budget: read the passage (~25-150 words) fast, pick the best answer, flag if unsure.

#60

Pacing: Math

22 questions in 35 minutes = about 95 seconds per question; grid-ins can take longer, so bank time on the easy ones.
Tip: Do the easy questions first in number order, use Desmos to verify, and flag anything past 2 minutes.
Example: A fast first pass through 15 quick questions builds the cushion for the 5-7 harder ones.