

(It's not that bad...)

# SAT GRAMMAR SECTION

# Error ID

- ⦿ They give you a sentence
- ⦿ Four sections are underlined
- ⦿ E is ALWAYS “No error”
- ⦿ Your job is to identify which one, if any, is incorrect
- ⦿ There is not necessarily an error; ROUGHLY one-fifth of the answers will be E (“No Error”)
- ⦿ You DO NOT need to correct the sentence; you just need to identify the error

# Error ID Process

- ⦿ Read the entire sentence all the way through
- ⦿ Look **ONLY** at the underlined words
  - If it is not underlined, it is **CORRECT**, no matter how weird it may sound to you
  - Use the words that you **KNOW** are correct (the non-underlined parts) to gauge whether or not the underlined parts are correct or not
- ⦿ Identify what part of speech the underlined word is and test the rules

# The Rules

- ⦿ Generally, the SAT Grammar section is limited to the following parts of speech:
  - Verbs
  - Nouns
  - Pronouns
  - Prepositions
  - Adjectives/Adverbs
- ⦿ If you know the rules they test, you will know what to look for

# Verbs Are Pretty Tricky

## ⦿ Agreement

- Is the verb singular or plural? Is its subject singular or plural? Do they match?

## ⦿ Parallelism

- Is it part of a string? Are there other verbs that it needs to link up with? Do they match?

## ⦿ Tense

- Is there anything in the sentence that indicates what tense the verb should be in? Is the verb tense correct?

# Nouns Annoy

## ⦿ Agreement

- Is the noun singular or plural?
- Is it attached to a verb? Is that verb singular or plural?
- Is there a pronoun connected to it? Is the pronoun singular or plural?

# Pronouns Are Always Crazy

## ▣ Agreement

- Is the pronoun singular or plural?
- Is it attached to a verb? Is the verb singular or plural?
- Is it attached to any nouns? Are they singular or plural?

## ▣ Ambiguity

- Is it clear what the pronoun refers to? Could it refer to more than one thing in the sentence?

## ▣ Case

- Should the pronoun be a subject (I, you, he, she, they) or an object (me, you, him, her, them)?

# Prepositions Irritate

- ◎ Idioms... “Because that’s just the way it is.”
  - You just have to know whether or not the preposition is used correctly
- ◎ Prepositional Phrases
  - They love to separate a subject from its verb via a prepositional phrase to trip you up in terms of agreement, so watch for the word “of”
  - Ex: One of the men is **(not are)** young.

# Adjectives/Adverbs

- Should it be an adjective or an adverb?
- (Sorry... no fun mnemonic device for this one)

# Improving Sentences

- ⦿ They give you a sentence
- ⦿ One part will be underlined
- ⦿ The answers will be five different options for the underlined section
- ⦿ A is ALWAYS the “No Error” option
- ⦿ Your job is to identify which of the answers is the best way to phrase the underlined section
- ⦿ Anything that is not underlined is CORRECT
- ⦿ ROUGHLY one-fifth of the answers will be A

# The Process

- ⦿ First, decide whether or not there is an error
  - If there isn't, choose answer A
  - If there is, cross out any answer that does not fix the error
  - At this point, you will usually be down to two or three answers; choose the best one
- ⦿ If you're having trouble deciding whether or not there is an error, use the rules for the Parts of Speech

# Improving Paragraphs

## ◎ Revision Questions

- Very similar to Improving Sentences
- Read the sentence BEFORE and the sentence AFTER the sentence they point to so that you get the context
- If you spot the error, eliminate any answer choice that repeats it
- If you don't spot the error, go to the answer choices and eliminate any answer choices that contain errors of their own

# Improving Paragraphs

## ◎ Combination Questions

- They will ask you to combine two sentences into one
- Pay attention to the way the sentences flow together; do they say something similar or something different?
- Try combining it in your head; then take a look and see if any answers match your combination

# Improving Paragraphs

## ⦿ “Weird” Questions

- Many of these deal with the structure or organization of the paragraphs
- “Which is the best place to split the paragraph?” or “Which sentence should immediately follow the paragraph?”
- Pay close attention to the main idea in the paragraph and make sure that your answer is consistent with that
- Do these questions LAST; you will have already thought a whole lot about the paragraph, and that will make finding the answer easier