

ACT/SAT Writing

TOP FIVE WRITING TIPS

THOUGHT #1

THE TEST ALWAYS
PREFERS _____

LANGUAGE. OFTEN,
THE _____
ANSWER IS THE
CORRECT ONE.

THOUGHT #2

IF TWO ANSWERS

_____,
CROSS THEM BOTH
OUT-- THEY CAN'T
BOTH BE RIGHT, SO
THEY MUST BOTH BE
WRONG!

1 A SENTENCE IS COMPLETE IF IT HAS A _____ AND _____.

- Separate complete thoughts with a _____, _____, or _____.
- Do not put one comma between a subject and its verb.

2 VERB _____ IS DECIDED BY OTHER PARTS OF SENTENCE OR PARAGRAPH.

- Match conjugation to _____ (plural or singular?)
- Match conjugation to _____ in sentence (past? present?)

3 READ _____ WORDS IN THE QUESTION.

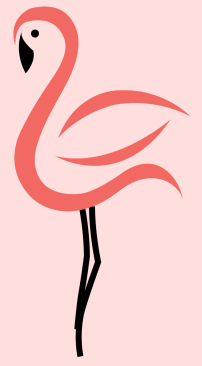
- The correct answer answers THAT question.

4 TRANSITIONS ARE DETERMINED BY THE TWO SENTENCES THEY RELATE.

- Read the sentence before and the sentence the transition is in.
- Determine the relationship... does the second sentence offer a contrast? example? continuation? no relation?
- Insert the appropriate transition.

5 SIMILAR IDEAS SHOULD BE _____ IN A SENTENCE OR PARAGRAPH.

ACT/SAT Vocabulary



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THAN VS THEN

THAN-

THEN-

WHO VS WHOM

WHO-

WHOM-

ILLUSION VS ALLUSION

ILLUSION-

ALLUSION-

AFFECT VS EFFECT

AFFECT-

EFFECT-

ITS VS IT'S

ITS-

IT'S-

ITS'-

PRACTICE

1. He asked who / whom came to the door.
2. The dog chased it's / its / its' tail.
3. She did not let the teasing effect / affect her.
4. I would rather take the test than / then study any more.
5. He ran up on stage; its / it's / its' curtain fell.
6. He didn't know who / whom the candy is for: its / it's / its' mine.
7. They achieved the effect / affect of thunder with a tin sheet.
8. The dog barked once than / then went back to sleep.

ACT/SAT Punctuation



A colon comes after a main idea and before a clarifying statement (example, clarification, or list).

Ex:



A semicolon does the same work as a period.

Ex:

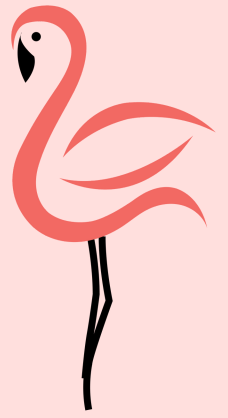


A dash can be used two ways-- one replaces a colon, two replaces two commas.

Ex:



singular noun 's ● The bag's zipper
plural noun ending in s ' ● The bags' zippers
plural noun not ending in s 's ● The group's bag
Ex:



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PRACTICE

1. I packed my bag ticket, ID, pencils, and calculators.
2. The clock ticked I kept working.
3. I rushed late again to get out the door.
4. The womans dog admired the five girls lunches.
5. The proctors eyes were soothing calm and blue.
6. My pencils erasers are all worn down I packed spares.
7. The class teacher had a different job today proctoring.
- 8.