

SAT English Section Tips

By Michel Liao

Reading

- When none of the answer choices seem correct, look at the answer choices you already struck out
- Use other knowledge to interpret graphs
 - Physics, chemistry, biology, etc.

Writing and Language

- When confused about the tense of a word/phrase, look at the phrasing in that sentence.
 - E.g. “Such volunteering, be it helping at a local animal shelter, when they pick up litter, or working at a health-care facility...” should have the underlined portion corrected as “picking up litter,” because it parallels “helping at...” and “working at...”
- Colons and semicolons require independent clauses (complete thought, verb + noun) to sandwich them
 - Colons are used to introduce examples, descriptions, explanations, lists, or quotations
- Common conventional phrases like “likely to” are important to know---they’re most likely correct
- Usually you want to introduce a person before you talk about them
- To determine if a sentence should be included, you can often look at the topic sentence of the paragraph to see if it fits
- To find the best ending sentence of the conclusion paragraph, look at the introduction paragraph