

The SAT test requires test-takers to read passages on diverse, sometimes very challenging topics and answer questions based on the content. These passages are excerpted from the English classics, general interest magazines and scientific journals. Comprehending the material in these passages requires students to read carefully and also to read between the lines to understand the nuances of meaning. Usually, Indian students find the reading and answering process a major challenge as they are not really used to, or required to, deal with this kind of material in their academic studies. They find Reading Comprehension difficult not only because of the alien subject matter but also because of their incomprehension of hard words (vocabulary) frequently used in the passages. In other words, because of their limited vocabulary, their understanding of the text read is hampered. Both these related factors contribute to their inability to finish doing the Reading and Writing sections on time, which is severely limited.

To address these issues, and manage their time effectively, we suggest some pro-active measures for SAT students. First, cultivate the profoundly good habit of reading eclectically (look up the word in a good dictionary! - we recommend the excellent resource for SAT Prep – the Merriam-Webster, which is easily downloadable). Read what you find interesting at first, then graduate to magazines such as *National Geographic* or *Forbes*. When reading, make a journal in which you write down those words you find tough to understand and look them up. Second, pace yourself. Give yourself a target. Plan to finish a 1000-word article in about 10-15 minutes. Read daily till it becomes second nature. Be passionate about acquiring knowledge and know that knowledge is power. Read stuff that can make a massive and positive impact on your career and life. Third, because grammar is the underlying framework on which language is based, take time out to familiarize yourself with the rules of English language and usage. Harness the power of the Internet to make yourself an expert (as far as possible) in the language that can contribute significantly to your growth – career-wise and in life. Good Luck!