

Mag^{✓✓}sh

1 Month SAT Study Schedule

What's included:

- A four week study schedule designed to help you get a high score and build your reading and math skills
- Free video lessons and resources
- Supplemental reading list



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Introduction

If you're taking the SAT, you obviously want the highest score you can get. No [average SAT score](#) for you – you're going to wow all those colleges with scores that represent your very best effort.

But...the SAT is in a month and you haven't really started studying. Don't worry, we've got you!

Unless it's the summer right now, you will have to balance SAT prep with schoolwork, and that's not easy to do. But look at it this way: in four weeks, you're going to make a significant difference in the strength of your college application. Will four weeks in any one class have that kind of impact on your admissions chances? Probably not.

That being said, *don't* let your grades slip noticeably in order to make time for the SAT. You have to strike a balance.

The SAT won't be all about taking a lot of practice tests to hone your performance; it'll be about learning lots of fundamentals, from math to reading. After all, the test you'll be taking is designed to measure how much high school math you remember and how well you can handle a wealth of ideas packed into a 700-word passage. With that in mind, we've devised an SAT Study Schedule that will help you not only become a better test taker, but also develop strong skills in reading and math.

How to Follow This Study Schedule

- **This schedule is broken up in sections, guiding you through how to study for the SAT on a daily basis.** The intention is not for you to knock everything out in one sitting. Rather, you should spread the prep out over the week, studying in 45- to 90-minute chunks.

Some weeks are lighter than others, but as the test approaches, we've ramped up the study sessions. In the beginning, you might only be spending four to five hours per week on the study schedule; as the test nears you might be spending as many as eight hours per week.

- **You should not feel that you always have to study math and verbal separately.** While the study schedule breaks up math and verbal into separate sections, this is for convenience's sake, so that is easier for you to navigate. In fact, you should make sure that each study session contains a mixture of the two. It's good to get in the habit of having your brain switch back and forth between math and verbal, the way it will on the real test.
- **The plan is also broken up between “review” and “practice”.** Again, you'll want to do a little of both each time. That practice doesn't always have to relate directly to what you've just reviewed (that's why we've assigned Magoosh prep questions at random). This way, you'll be ready for the random assortment of questions the test throws at you.
- **One last thing: if you can't finish everything in the first week, don't despair.** You can move on to the following week without having completed all the work. Do as much as you can for a given day. If you have limited time, don't try to finish all of one task. Move on to another assignment for the day.

For instance, if the day calls for 25 math questions and 20 reading questions, do half of both. Basically, we're providing you materials for the maximum amount of practice that can be helpful in a one-week period – but doing less will still help you! *Falling a bit short won't hurt you. In fact, you can always revisit previous weeks later on — a good way of reviewing.*

Materials and Resources

Magoosh SAT Prep

That's us! Our [New SAT Prep](#) includes lessons and questions that you will work through, thereby increasing your SAT efficiency.

You can also study with us on your phone. Our [SAT Test Prep App](#) makes studying on the go easy for both iPhone and Android users.

Magoosh High School Blog

If you are struggling with how to study for the SAT on a budget, the Magoosh High School Blog is an invaluable (and free!) resource. If you want extra help on a section or general advice, you can search for posts relating to the SAT (make sure you don't click on posts relating to the old SAT!). [This section of the blog](#) is completely dedicated to the Redesigned (New) SAT.

****The Official SAT Study Guide (2016 Edition) - OG, or Official Guide, will be the shorthand used in this schedule***

This is the SAT bible—questions created by the writers of the test (the College Board). You'll have plenty of practice tests and content to give you a sense of the actual difficulty and complexity of the test (it's more difficult than the content found in the other books). [Find it on Amazon](#) for under \$20.

We also have [Official SAT Study Guide video explanations](#) to the College Board questions. Check them out!

Magoosh SAT eBook: Complete Guide to the New SAT (free download)

An overview of the SAT with many helpful examples, the free [Complete Guide to the New SAT](#) eBook is a great resource for understanding how the test is designed, and the fundamentals you'll need to know to answer questions.

Official SAT Practice by College Board + Khan Academy

This is a free resource offered in conjunction with the College Board, which is the company that designs the SAT. Perhaps the best part of the [College Board/Khan Academy partnership](#) is that it brings us practice materials that are completely free. These free materials include the same practice tests

offered in *The Official SAT Study Guide*. The Official Guide does have lots of practice material offered in the first half of the book, which will be used in the study schedule. So make sure you get that book, too.

Here is a [direct link to the free practice tests](#).

Supplemental Reading

As I mentioned, doing well on the SAT isn't just about cracking open an SAT prep book and practicing. You'll also want to do a lot of extra reading. As part of your SAT study plan, you should expose yourself to the types of ideas and syntax that might appear in an SAT article.

The following articles come from [The New Yorker](#) and [The New York Times](#). The articles below give you a taste for the length and tone of the pieces you should be reading. It is best to stick with the Science & Tech and Business sections of *The New Yorker* since they best mirror the kinds of passages that you'll see on the test.

For the first few weeks, I've provided you with enough reading. After that, you'll have to hunt the passages down yourself. (Just google "new york times business", for instance, to get you to that section.)

The New Yorker

- Science & Tech: [Stone's Throw](#)
- Business: [Is China Moving Fast Enough to Save the African Elephant?](#)

The New York Times

- Science: [IBM Scientists Find New Way to Shrink Transistors](#)
- Science: [Crows May Learn Lessons from Death](#)
- Science: [Testing Neurons With Ultrasound](#)
- Business: [College Rankings Fail to Measure the Influence of the Institution](#)

One other resource is [The Electric Typewriter](#). This website has pooled excellent writing from many sources (including the two above) and broken them down into easy to navigate categories. If you are struggling to find reading from *The New Yorker* or *The New York Times*, I highly recommend this website. Here are some articles that might be interesting:

- [Bad Education](#)
- [Creation Myth](#)
- [A History of Violence: Edge Master Class 2011](#)

When you read these articles, you should be in a quiet place. You shouldn't just be skimming to finish the articles, you won't improve that way. Instead, force yourself (yes, it won't be easy at first) to come up with a quick mental summary of each piece.

Something along the lines of:

The article talks about the power of ancient tsunamis to dramatically alter the landscape, but that scientists can't determine if these big waves have global implications, the way volcanos or global warming does.

If you struggle to come up with a mental summary, write or type a quick one the way I just did.

Your reading list is not complete yet! The pre-20th century passages, those typically taken from British novelists and essayists long dead, will be an unavoidable fixture of the new SAT reading section. At least one of the passages will force you to grapple with English as it was written over 100 years ago. Like most things, you need exposure and practice to improve.

Since it is difficult to read this stuff even when it is assigned reading at school, I've chosen entertaining novels, or at least as entertaining as pre-20th literature could be. I recommend spending the next month reading **one** of these works. Frankenstein is relatively short, so it might make for the best reading if you don't mind Gothic horror.

Mary Shelley

- [Frankenstein](#)

Edgar Allan Poe

- [The Fall of the House of Usher](#)
- [The Masque of the Red Death](#)
- [Murders in the Rue Morgue](#)
- [The Gold-Bug](#)

Additional Works

- [Dracula, by Bram Stoker](#)
- [The Picture of Dorian Gray, by Oscar Wilde](#)
- [Pride and Prejudice, by Jane Austen](#)

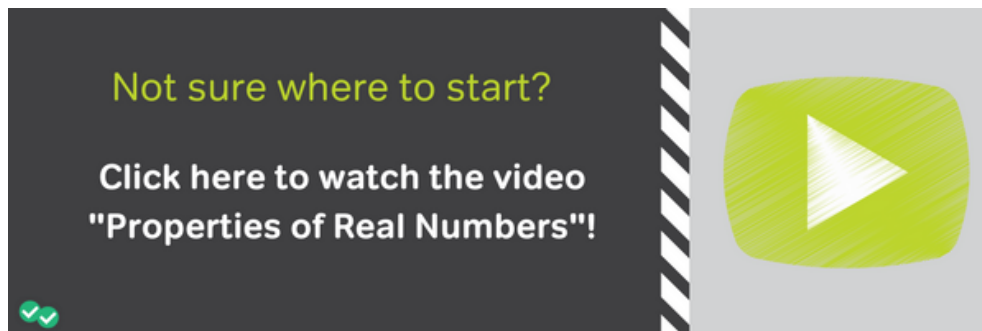
One Month SAT Study Schedule: Week 1

Week 1, Day 1

Math

- [Magoosh SAT eBook](#): Read Intro
- [Magoosh SAT Test Prep Lessons](#): Watch Arithmetic and Fractions (any five videos*)
- **Magoosh SAT Test Prep Questions**: In Magoosh, under Practice, select the box for “Algebra” and complete five questions.

*The videos should be of your own choosing. All of us have different skill sets, areas where we thrive and areas where we are not quite as good. You know yourself best. These are all fundamental videos, so if you find you already know all the information, use that time to finish the writing and reading components of the study schedule.



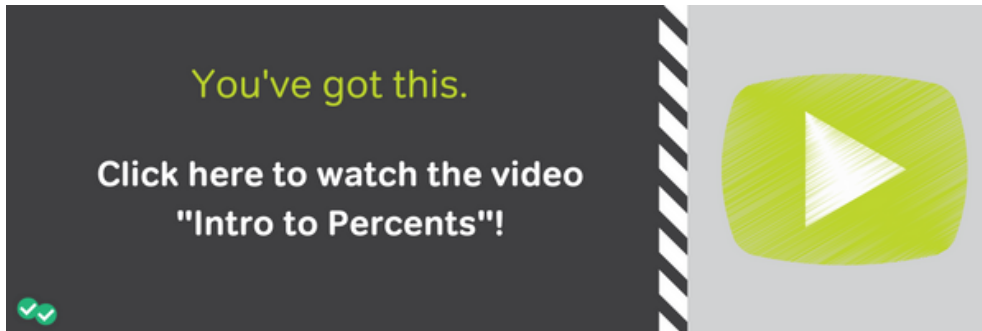
Writing

- [Magoosh SAT eBook](#): Read Intro
- **Official SAT Study Guide (OG)**: Immediately after reading the eBook, go to page 156 of the Official SAT Study Guide and complete all of the questions up to #11 on page 164. Cover up the answers that come right after the question, otherwise you are wasting your time.

Week 1, Day 2

Math

- [eBook](#): Read Ratio, Proportion, Units, and Percentage
- [Lessons](#): Watch Percents and Ratios* (the first five videos. Listen at 1.25 speed when necessary, or even skip parts. You don't get extra points slogging through the whole video.)

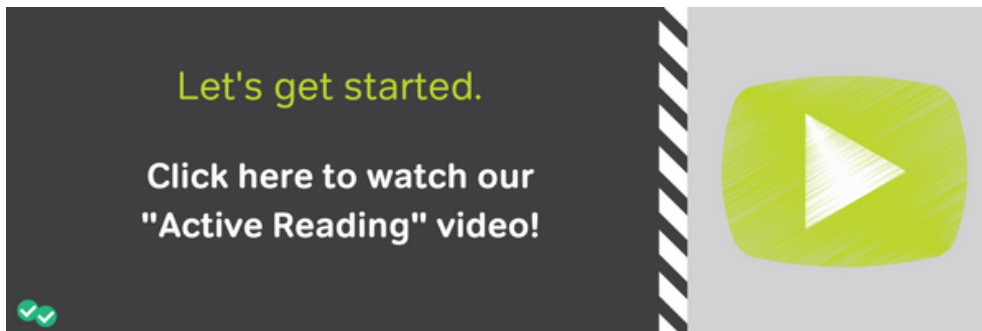


- **OG**: After watching the lessons, see if you can answer questions 1-5 on pages 246-249.

*When watching the videos, remember that you won't learn just by watching the instructor. Always pause the video and attempt any question that comes up.

Reading

- [Lessons](#): Watch first three videos



- **OG**: Do sample passage from pages 95-100
- **Article reading**: [Stone's Throw](#)

Week 1, Day 3

Math

- **Day off**, BUT review anything from the first two days that you weren't confident in.

Writing

- **eBook:** Read Standard English Conventions and start Sentence Structure (up to the end of "Parallel Structure")
- **OG:** Complete passage on pages 164-172, making sure to cover up answers and explanations that come right after the question. (Yes, I know. What was the College Board thinking?!)

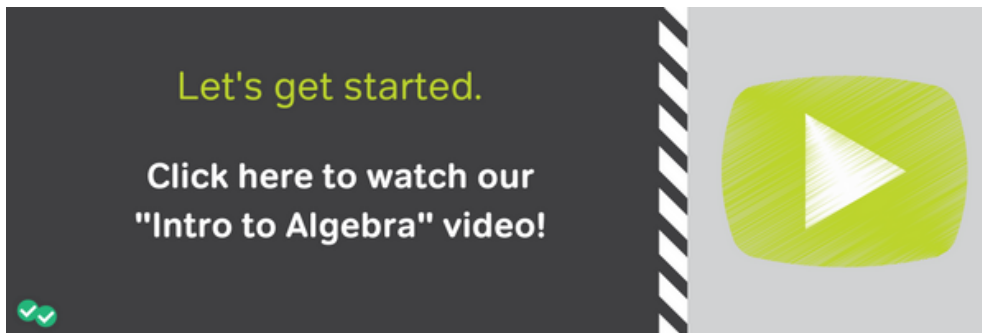
Reading

- **Questions:** In Magoosh, do one complete passage (around 10 or 11 questions).

Week 1, Day 4

Math

- **eBook:** Read Heart of Algebra
- **Lessons:** Watch Algebra, Equations, and Inequalities (first eight videos). Again, you do not have to watch all the videos, or even all of any one video. If something is familiar to you and it is boring to listen to, then don't listen to it. Find those videos in which you are shaky on the concepts. That's where you'll get the best use of your time.



- **OG:** Do examples 1-10 on pages 234-239. Try to solve the problem before skipping ahead.

Writing

- **eBook:** Finish Sentence Structure
- **Questions:** In Magoosh, complete two whole passages (22 questions total). Make sure to watch the explanation videos. This will help you learn from your mistakes and understand the test at a deeper level.

Reading

- **Article:** Read [Is China Moving Fast Enough to Save the African Elephant?](#)

Week 1, Day 5

Math

- [eBook](#): Re-read Ratio, Proportion, Units, and Percentage. Throughout the study schedule, you'll revisit concepts from earlier in the week or in the previous weeks. That way you allow time for the principle to sink in, and the more you review these concepts throughout the weeks, the better you'll become at them.

Writing

- **Day off**

Reading

- [eBook](#): Read Intro (all the way up to "Pacing")

Week 1, Weekend

Use this first weekend to to catch up.

If you have extra time, do practice from the Magoosh product for any of the sections you want to work on. Though there are many concepts you haven't learned, doing random mixed practice sets will help get you prepared for the test.

Still, make sure to watch the video explanations, since you'll be able to learn a lot this way, too. That way, when you do encounter the concept later, you will already have some familiarity with it.

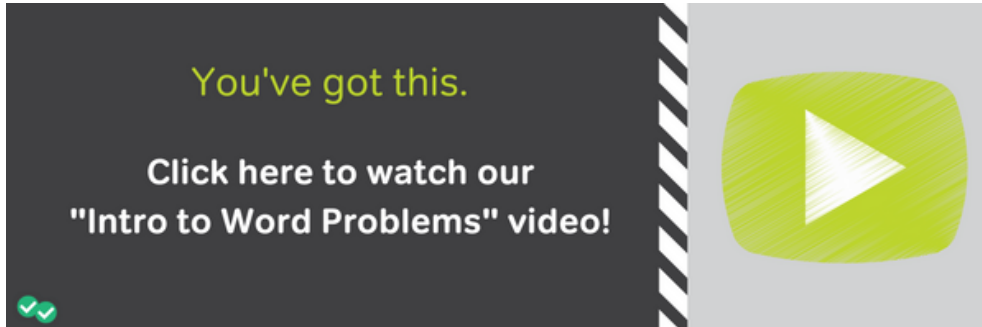
Also, begin one of the classics. This can even be one of the short stories by Edgar Allan Poe. Curl up next to a fireplace with a latte, or whatever your beverage of choice is, and enjoy. Of course be patient, since the writing style will be a little unfamiliar at first. Keep a dictionary handy.

One Month SAT Study Schedule: Week 2

Week 2, Day 1

Math

- [Lessons](#): Watch Word Problems (first 6 videos)



- [eBook](#): Read Graphs, Tables, and Scatterplots up to end of “Histograms”
- **Questions**: In Magoosh, complete 10 Word Problems practice questions. (Set to “easy” or “medium” by clicking “Practice” and adjusting the difficulty level.)

Writing

- [eBook](#): Read Conventions of Usage up to “Logical Comparison”
- **Questions**: Do two Magoosh practice passages (22 questions total)

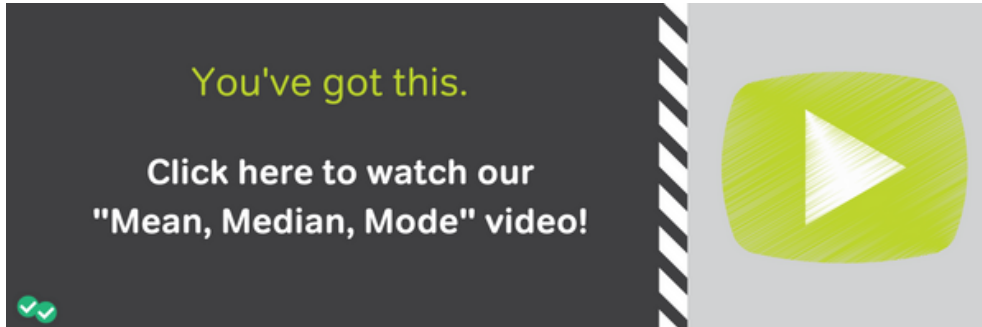
Reading

- [eBook](#): Read “Pacing” section and Passage Types

Week 2, Day 2

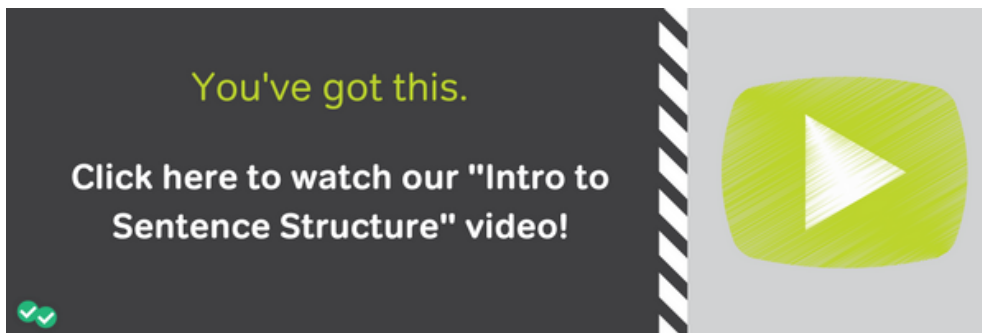
Math

- **OG:** Do examples 6-12 on pages 250-256. Remember, attempt to solve each question before looking at the answer. For the advanced among you, give yourself a two-minute limit. For the rest of us, relax, take a deep breath, and do your best.
- **Lessons:** Watch Statistics (all four videos. Do these only after answering the questions above.)



Writing

- **Lessons:** Watch Sentence Structure (all six videos)



- **Questions:** Do two Magoosh practice passages (22 questions total)

Reading

- **eBook:** Read The Paired Passage up to Words in Context
- **Questions:** Complete one passage

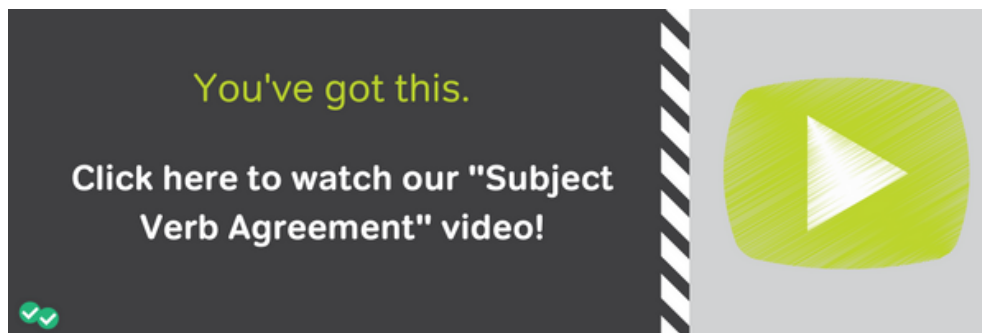
Week 2, Day 3

Math

- [eBook](#): Read Additional Topics in Math
- **OG**: Do examples 1-10 on pages 279-90

Writing

- [eBook](#): Finish Conventions of Usage
- [Lessons](#): Watch Usage (all five videos)



- **Questions**: Do one Magoosh practice passage

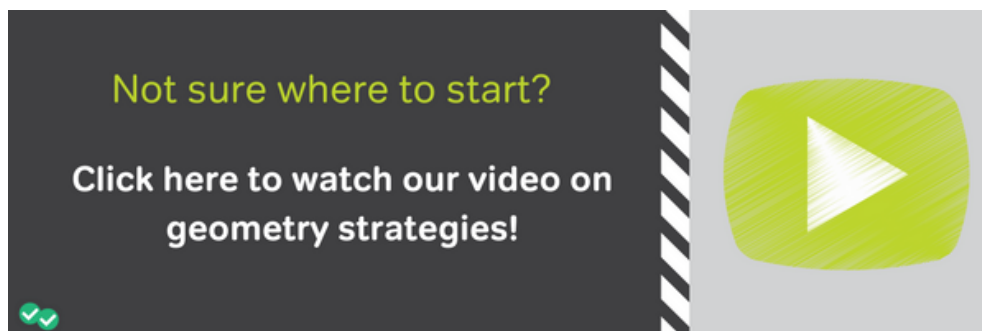
Reading

- **Day off**
- **Additional reading**: [Bad Education](#)

Week 2, Day 4

Math

- **Lessons:** Based on your performance on examples 1–10 from Day 3, watch five to seven Geometry and/or Coordinate Geometry videos, depending on where you struggle the most.



Writing

- Day off

Reading

- **Questions:** Do one Magoosh passage
- **eBook:** Read “Words in Context” to the end of “Inference Questions”
- **Additional reading:** [A History of Violence: Edge Master Class 2011](#)

Week 2, Day 5

Math

- **Day off.** Review areas from week 1 and 2 where you are struggling the most. If you have time, do 10 practice questions on Magoosh.

Writing

- **eBook:** Read Conventions of Punctuation to “Nonrestrictive and Parenthetical Elements” section
- **Questions:** Do one practice passage in Magoosh (11 questions)

Reading

- **Day off**
- **Additional reading:** Spend an hour reading a novel (this can spill into the weekend).

Week 2, Weekend

Take first full-length practice test on pages 334 to 388.

This is a major milestone. You’ve yet to see all the concepts you’ll be dealing with, but by now you should have a decent understanding of about half of the concepts you’ll see on the test. The practice test is really about getting ready for the ordeal that is a three-hour practice test.

Find a quiet place where you’ll be uninterrupted. I know it’ll require Herculean effort on your part to detach from your cell phone. But when you take the actual test that’s exactly what you’ll have to do, and it’s better to go through withdrawal symptoms now.

Also make sure to spend at least an hour or even two reviewing your mistakes. When marking your test do not put the correct answer next to the question, just mark it as wrong. That way you can take a second stab at it before reading the explanation.

Do some additional reading: Make sure to keep up on your 19th century novel in your spare time.

One Month SAT Study Schedule: Week 3

Week 3, Day 1

Writing

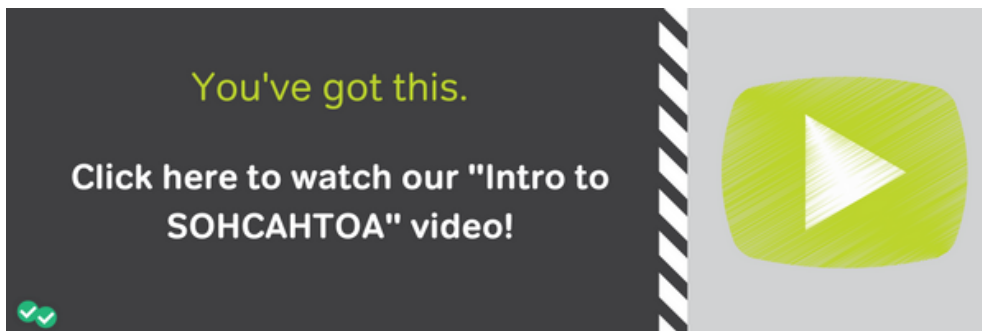
- **eBook:** Read from “Nonrestrictive and Parenthetical Elements” section to Expression of Ideas
- **Questions:** Do one Magoosh practice passage (11 questions)

Reading

- **eBook:** Read How to Improve on New SAT Reading to the end of “Stop subvocalization”
- **Questions:** Do one Magoosh practice passage (10-11 questions)

Math

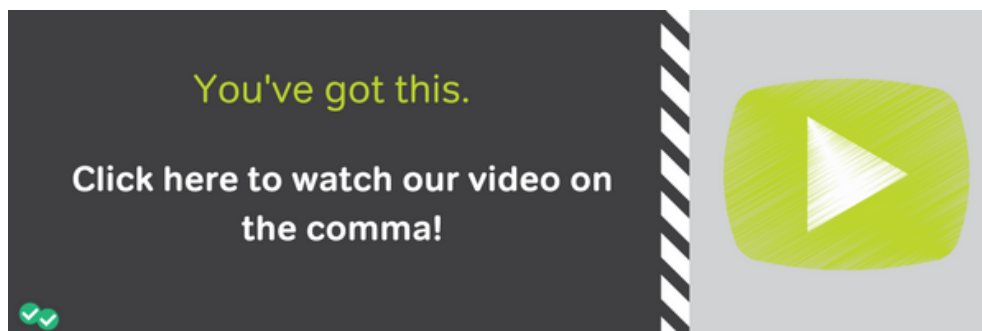
- **Lessons:** Watch Passport to Advanced Math: Trigonometry (first three lessons)



Week 3, Day 2

Writing

- [eBook](#): Read up to Practice Passage
- [Lessons](#): Watch Punctuation (all four videos)



- **Questions:** Do one Magoosh practice passage

Reading

- [eBook](#): Read up to Practice Passage
- **Questions:** Do one Magoosh practice passage
- **Additional reading:** [Creation Myth](#)

Math

- [Lessons](#): Watch Passport to Advanced Math: Trigonometry (next three lessons, up to “More on the Unit Circle”)

Week 3, Day 3

Writing

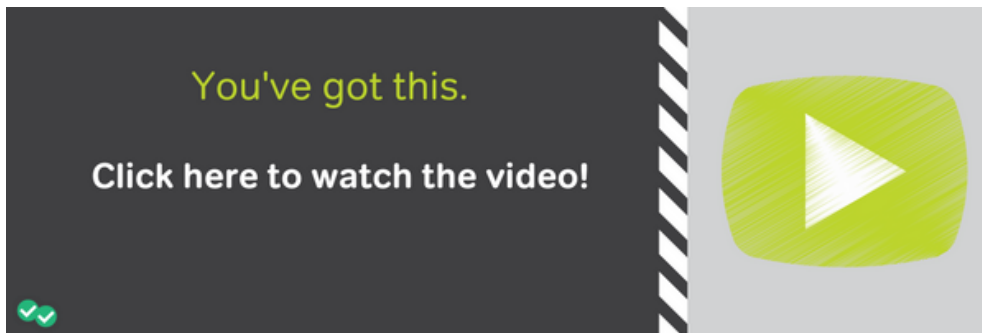
- [eBook](#): Do “Sequoyah” practice passage

Reading

- [eBook](#): Do “Ethan Frome” practice passage

Math

- [eBook](#): Read Passport to Advanced Math
- [Lessons](#): Quadratic Formula video (it’s under Passport to Advanced Math: Extra Topics)



- **Questions:** Complete 25 Magoosh questions

Up until now, we’ve been mainly using Magoosh material for practice. For the rest of the test we will shift to mainly using official material. This material is closest to what you’ll see test day, so it will provide the best practice. The remaining study sessions will be formed from sections from the third and fourth test in the OG (*The Official SAT Study Guide*).

After doing these sets, always mark the questions you got wrong. Then spend a few minutes going through them. I should warn you that the explanations in the OG are often pretty terrible so try not to get too frustrated.

Week 3, Day 4

Math

- **OG:** Complete Test #3, Section 3, page 594, the entire section.

Reading

- **OG:** Complete Test #3, Section 1, page 564, questions 1-30.

Writing

- **OG:** Complete Test #3, Section 2, page 578, questions 1-22.

Review [Magoosh lessons](#) for any of the three sections based on where you feel you need practice.

Week 3, Day 5

Math

- **OG:** Complete Test #3, Section 4, page 602, questions 1-20.

Reading

- **OG:** Complete Test #3, Section 1, questions 31-52.

Writing

- **OG:** Complete Test #3, Section 2, questions 23-44.

Review [Magoosh lessons](#) for any of the three sections based on where you feel you need practice.

Week 3, Weekend

- **Take your second – and final – practice test.** Follow the same instructions for the first practice test.
- **Additional reading:** Finish reading the 19th century novel.

One Month SAT Study Schedule: Week 4

Week 4, Day 1

Math

- **OG:** Complete Test #3, Section #4, the rest of the questions.

Writing

- **OG:** Complete Test #4, page 690, questions 1-22.

Reading

- **OG:** Complete Test #4, page 676, questions 1-30.

Week 4, Day 2

Math

- **OG:** Complete Test #4, page 704, entire section.

Writing

- **OG:** Complete Test #4, page 690, questions 23-44.

Reading

- **OG:** Complete Test #4, page 676, questions 31-52.

Week 4, Day 3

Math

- **OG:** Complete Test #4, page 712, all 38 questions in one sitting!

Writing

- **Questions:** Complete 33 Magoosh practice questions.

Reading

- **Questions:** Complete 30-32 Magoosh practice questions.

Week 4, Day 4

Math

- **OG:** Complete pages 296-326, 20 MC questions from sample test and 10 questions from response test.

Writing

- **[PSAT College Board Test*](#):** Complete entire section.

*The PSAT is slightly easier in terms of there being more “easy”-level questions and fewer “difficult”-level questions. Otherwise, the content is the exact same.

Reading

- **Entire section.**

Week 4, Day 5

Math

- **It's up to you.** You can take a break, or you can take one (or even both) of the math sections. Though, this is the day before the test and you might want to rest up and relax as much as possible.

Writing

- **Review previous practice tests.**
- Watch [Magoosh lessons](#) in areas in which you are struggling.

Reading

- **Review previous practice tests.**
- Watch [Magoosh lessons](#) in areas in which you are struggling.

Week 4, Weekend

Make sure to get a good night's rest. Indeed, you should figure out what time you need to go to bed so that you get at least eight hours of sleep (I recommend 10 p.m.). Starting Wednesday, go to bed at this time. That way your body will get used to falling asleep then. Otherwise, you are likely to toss and turn the night before the test.

Trust me: it is only for a few days.

Test Day

- Stay hydrated!
- Bring snacks (and don't forget to read our [SAT Test Day Checklist](#) for what else to pack).
- If doing a quick review in the morning helps wake up your brain, then go for it. But don't feel you have to prep. If you followed this plan on how to study for the SAT in a month, you should be ready to go!
- Stay positive!

You made it through the One Month SAT Study Schedule! Congratulations, and good luck on your SAT!