



California Cadet Corps Curriculum on Study Skills



"Building Your Learning and College Prep"



Test Taking Agenda

- C1. SAT Test Taking Strategies
- C2. ACT Test Taking Strategies
- C3. Vocabulary Building Strategies
- C4. Current Events
- C5. Proofreading



SAT TEST TAKING STRATEGIES

C1. Identify the sections of the SAT, know the focus of each section, and describe test taking strategies



SAT

- Tests aptitude & knowledge for college entry eligibility
- Can be taken multiple times
 - Scores tend to rise when retesting
- Active prep raises scores
 - Class, online program, or self-study
- Max score = 1600 points
 - 800 pts. each for English & Math
 - Optional essay (scored separately) = 800 pts.






SAT Test-Taking Tips

- ✓ Read section instructions before test starts
- ✓ Be neat → No stray marks!
- ✓ Ensure you put answer to right question
 - ❖ Easy to get off track on answer sheet
- ✓ Quickly answer known questions
- ✓ Go back to difficult questions



SAT Test-Taking Tips

- ✓ Cross off incorrect answers 
(in **SAT booklet**, not answer sheet)
 - ❖ Often leads you to correct answer
- ✓ Review Section B5 (taking multiple choice tests)
- ✓ If needed, guess → Don't leave blanks!
 - No penalty for guessing
- ✓ First instinct is usually correct



SAT Test-Taking Tips

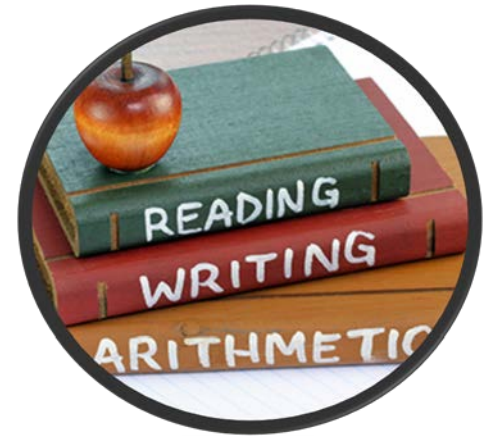
- ✓ Manage your time for each section
 - ✓ Don't spend a lot of time on any one question
 - ✓ Bring a watch (no cell phones)
- ✓ Read question & all answers before answering
 - ✓ Don't assume question is same as test prep book
- ✓ Be familiar with test
 - ✓ 52 Reading questions (65 minutes)
 - ✓ 44 Writing & Language questions (35 minutes)
 - ✓ 58 Math questions (80 minutes)
 - ✓ One Essay (50 minutes)





SAT Sections

- Critical Reading
 - Sentence Completion (25%)
 - Reading Comprehension (75%)
- Writing
 - Multiple Choice:
 - Usage, Sentence Correction, & Paragraph Correction
- Math
 - With Calculator
 - Without Calculator



Optional:

- Written Essay



Critical Reading - Sentence Completion

- 19 of 67 questions
- Fill in the blanks to complete meaning of statement
- Multiple choice answers
 - Two words to fill in blanks
 - Hint to correct answer in statements
 - Tests understanding vocabulary & reading comprehension



Critical Reading - Reading Comprehension

- 48 questions
- Tests ability to:
 - understand passage
 - answer based on stated & implied info
- Passage length & number of questions vary
- Identify passage main idea
 - Read italicized intro
 - Most important sentences: *first & last*
 - Focus majority of time answering questions



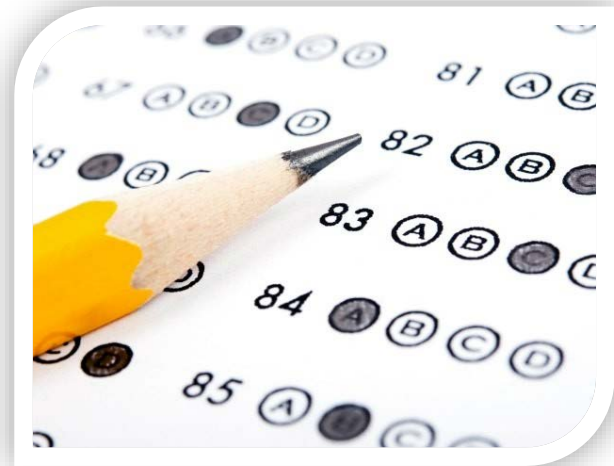
Practice!

- » Take free on-line tests
- » If needed, take reading comprehension course



Writing & Language Test

- 35 minutes
- 44 multiple choice
 - Grammar
 - Language usage
 - Syntax
- Fix mistakes in sentences & passages
- Revise to make better





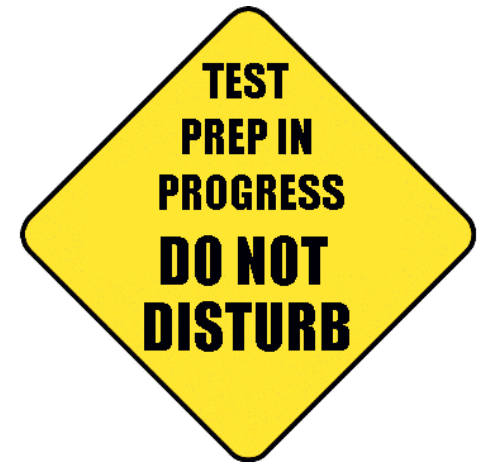
Math Section

- Two parts → 80 minutes
- Focus:
 - algebra (more than $\frac{1}{2}$ the questions)
 - arithmetic
 - probability & data analysis
 - plane geometry
 - trigonometry
- 58 multiple choice
 - 1 set “extended-thinking” grid-in questions (student-produced response questions)
 - Problems with no answer choices
 - Solve problem then enter answer in a grid



Math Section

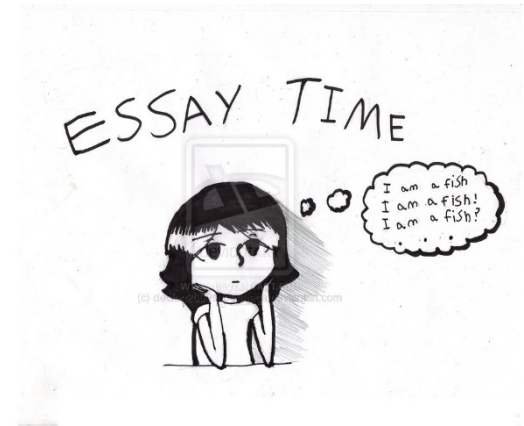
- Section 3, **without** calculator
 - 20 questions in 25 minutes
 - 15 multiple choice
 - 5 grid-in
- Section 4, **with** calculator
 - 38 questions in 55 minutes
 - 30 multiple choice
 - 8 grid-in



Take sample tests online or in a class!



SAT Essay



- Tests writing skills:
 - Do you write **Concisely? Coherently? Quickly?**
- Optional → some schools require
- Passage
 - Read
 - Explain how author builds persuasive argument
 - Support w/ evidence from passage
 - Not your personal opinion
- 50 minutes



SAT Strategies

SAT score = critical component of college app



PREPARE!

PRACTICE!

Take online or in-person courses (if needed)



Check on Learning

1. What are the six parts of the SAT (including the optional section)?
2. The Math section focuses on what five areas?
3. What area of the Math section has the most questions?
4. Do all schools require the Essay section?



ACT TEST TAKING STRATEGIES

C2. Identify the sections of the SAT, know the focus of each section, and describe test taking strategies



ACT

- College assessment test
- Either SAT or ACT (or both) for college app
 - All schools accept both
- Slightly different from SAT
- Includes four subjects + optional essay
 - Reading Comprehension
 - English
 - Science
 - Math
 - Essay (optional)





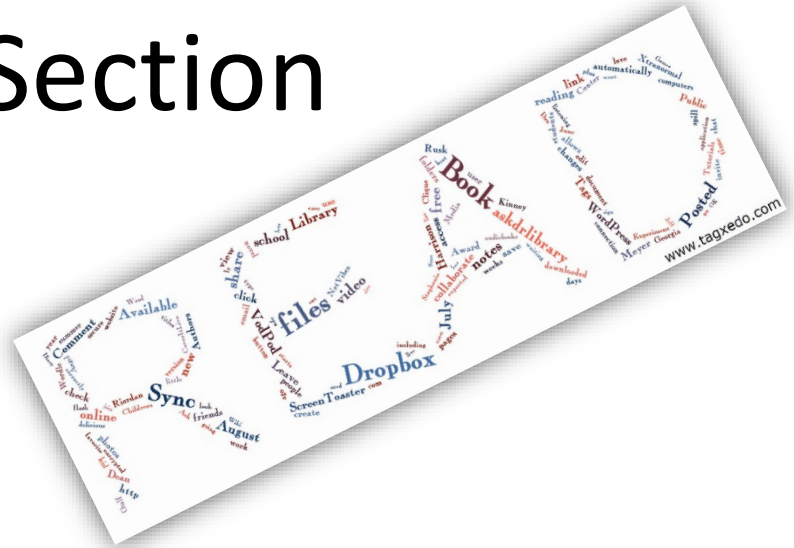
ACT

- Works better if you do well in time crunch
(SAT gives slightly more time to ponder questions)
- Science portion tests scientific reasoning skills
- 36 point scale
- Optional essay scored separately
 - Not added into composite score of other subjects
 - Not deducted for wrong answers
- Same test-taking tips as SAT



Reading Section

- 40 questions
- 35 minutes
- Four reading passages
 - Prose Fiction/Literary Narrative
 - Social Science
 - Humanities
 - Natural Science





English Section

- 75 questions → 45 minutes
- Five reading passages then multiple choice
 - Reading comprehension
 - Sentence structure
 - Grammar
 - Punctuation
 - Usage
 - Organization, strategy, & style
- Wide range of reading comprehension questions
 - ***Main point? Writer's tone? Intent? Point of view?***





Science Section



- 40 questions → 35 minutes
 - Avg. approx. 50 seconds per question
- Similar to Reading section
- 7 passages
 - Often contain charts, graphs, scientific opinions, or experiment summaries
 - 4 to 7 questions per passage



to success = quickly & accurately read & comprehend scientific findings, postulates, & data



Science Section

Three types of questions:

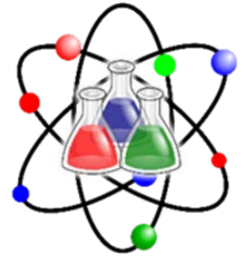
- ☐ Data Representation (30-40%)
- ☐ Research Summaries (45-55%)
- ☐ Conflicting Viewpoints (15-20%)



- Data representation
 - read & understand data in tables
 - read graphs & interpret scatterplots
- Research summaries
 - analyze and interpret experiment results
- Conflicting viewpoints
 - comprehend, analyze, & compare two conflicting viewpoints



Science Section



ACT requires success in science classes in high school

- At least 3 years high school science curriculum
 - ❖ incl. at least 1 class in biology, physical science, & earth science

Need to understand how to apply scientific method, collect & analyze data, & evaluate & test a hypothesis



Math Section

- 60 questions → 60 minutes
- Tests math skills & knowledge
- Eight categories
 - ✓ Number & Quantity (7-10%)
 - ✓ Algebra (12-15%)
 - ✓ Functions (12-15%)
 - ✓ Geometry (12-15%)
 - ✓ Statistics & Probability (8-12%)
 - ✓ Integrating Essential Skills (40-43%)
 - ✓ Modeling (>25%)

$\sqrt{-1}$ ❤️
Math



Math Section

Best approach:

- First read question
- Review info in both question & answers
- Solve question by backsolving, traditional math, picking numbers, or strategically guessing
- Make sure to answer specific question as posed
 - If integers in answers, plug them into problem to see what works

Whenever m and n are positive integers such that $m^n = 16$, which of the following is a possible value of m ?

A. 4
B. 8
C. 16
D. 32
E. 64

Solution:
 $m^n = 16$
 $m^4 = 16$
 $m = 4$
 $m^2 = 16$
 $m = 8$
The correct answer is **B**.

Backsolving Video

It's critical to keep moving!
Don't get bogged down!



Math Section

Be familiar with:

- Number properties (odd/even/prime/order of operation)
- Triangles (30-60-90 & 45-45-90 rules/Pythagorean triplets 3:4:5, 5:12:12 & their multiples)
- Common shapes & math relationships (values/ratios/percentages)
- Common theories & formulas



Check on Learning

1. What are the five sections of the ACT (including the optional section)?
2. The Math section focuses on what eight areas?
3. T/F: The key to success in the Science section is to be able to quickly & accurately read & comprehend scientific findings, postulates, & data.



VOCABULARY BUILDING STRATEGIES

C3. Identify vocabulary building strategies



Why Build A Strong Vocabulary?

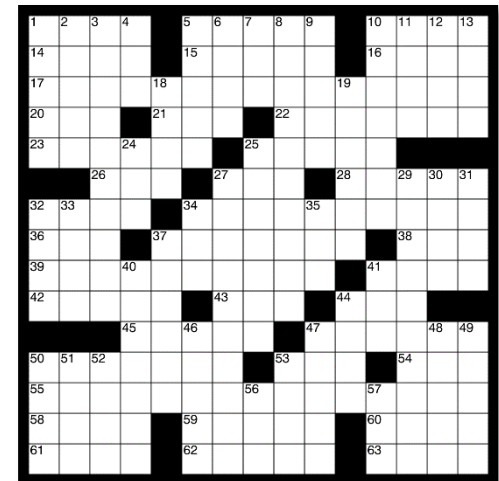
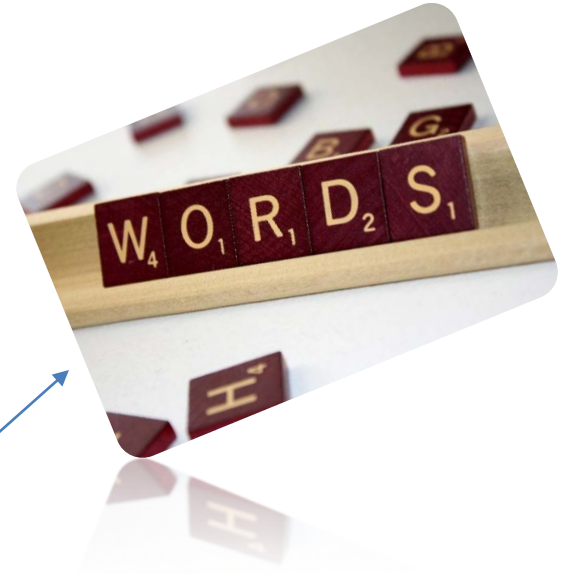
- Single biggest predictor of academic success
- Makes you a better communicator





Build Your Vocabulary

- Best way → read a lot!
 - Also improves general knowledge, comprehension, & writing skills
- Make it fun
 - Word games w/friends
 - Crossword puzzles
 - Read for pleasure, not just school





Build Your Vocabulary

Repetition works well

- Add new word every day
 - Find 10 ways to use it in sentences

day
n

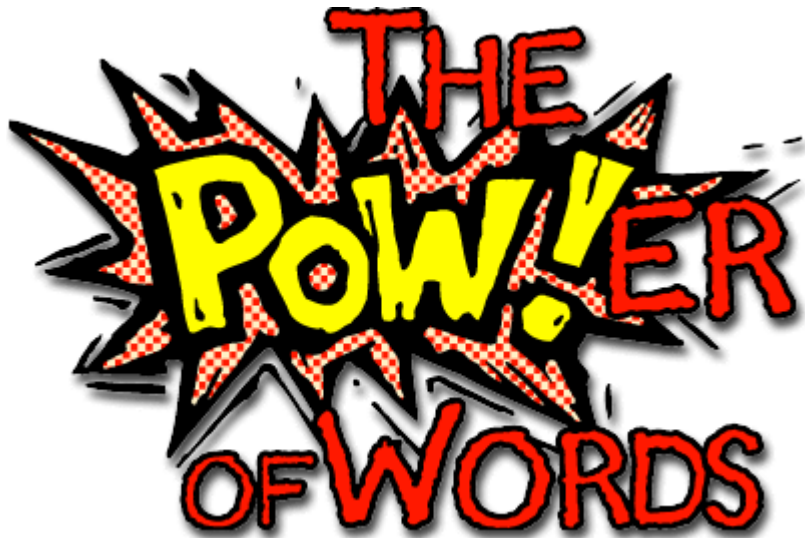


petition Repetition
Repetition Repetition
petition Repetition
petition Repetition
Repetition Repetition
on Repetition



Build Your Vocabulary

Make a personal word list:



- Don't know its meaning
- Introduced in books/TV/radio/class
- Look up definition
- Make a vocabulary card



Build Your Vocabulary

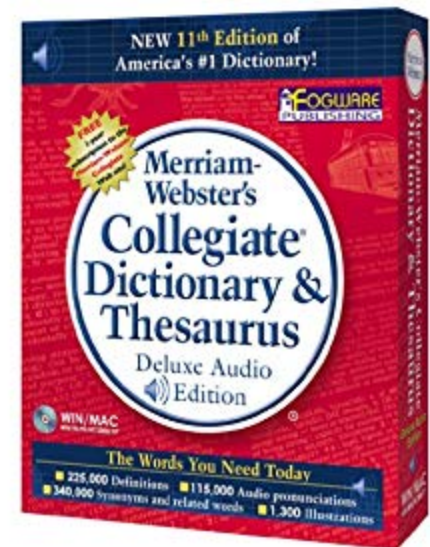
Example structure of a vocabulary card

The word	The meaning of the word using your own words
A sentence using the word properly	A picture or image that will help you remember the meaning of the word



Build Your Vocabulary

- Dictionary & Thesaurus
 - Know correct way to use
 - Have access at fingertips
- Know root of word
 - Can give clues to meaning





Vocabulary “Root” Chart

Prefix/Suffix	Meaning	Example
ad-	to	addict
-al	relating to	maternal
ambi-	both	ambidextrous
ante-	before	antecedent
anti-	against	antifreeze
-arium	place of	aquarium
auto-	self	autobiography
centi-	hundred	centimeter
circum-	around	circumvent
con-	with	concert

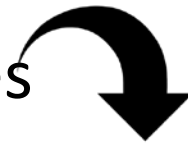
Prefix/Suffix	Meaning	Example
de-	from/down	depart
arch-	ancient	archetype
aster/astro-	star	astronomy
audi-	hear	audible
bene-	good/well	benefit
bio-	life	biology
olig-	few	oligarchy
op/oper-	work	operation
osteo-	bone	osteoporosis
path-	feeling	sympathy
ped-	child	pediatrics
phil-	love	philosophy



Build Your Vocabulary

A **context clue** is something in the way the word is used in the sentence or paragraph that gives you a clue as to its meaning.

- Use 'context clue' to determine word meaning
- Several types of context clues



described on the next slides



Antonym or Contrast Clue

- Phrase or words that indicate opposite:

**but, in contrast, however, instead of,
unlike, yet**

Example: Unlike his *quiet and low key* family,
Brad is *garrulous*.



Definition or Example Clue

- Phrase or words that define or explain:

is defined as, means, the term, [a term in boldface or italics] set off with commas

Example: *Sedentary* individuals, people who are not very active, often have diminished health.



General Knowledge Clue

- The meaning derived from experience & background knowledge of reader; "common sense" & logic:

The information may be something basically familiar to you.

Example: Lourdes is always sucking up to the boss, even in front of others. That *sycophant* just doesn't care what others think of her behavior.



Restatement or Synonym Clue

- Another word or phrase with the same or similar meaning is used.

**in other words, that is, also known as,
sometimes called, or**

Example: The *dromedary*, commonly called a camel, stores fat in its hump.



Context Clues Practice

- Read each sentence on the following slides
- Write down the closest meaning type of the context clue (contrast/antonym, restatement/synonym, example or general knowledge) that helps you define the meaning of the key term



Practice 1

Joan loves to buy ***exotic*** foods: vegetables and herbs from China, spices from India, olives from Greece, and cheeses from France.

- **expensive**
- **seasonings**
- **rare**
- **from other places**



Answer 1

FROM OTHER PLACES

How did we know?



Practice 2

Emotionally disturbed people may be troubled by ***morbid*** thoughts. For instance, they may often think about suicide or murder.

- **disturbing**
- **dealing with death**
- **psychologically ill**
- **scary**



Answer 2

- DEALING WITH DEATH

How did you know?



Practice 3

At first, the surgery seemed to be successful. But several hours later, the patient's condition began to ***deteriorate***, and it continued to worsen over the next few days.

- **stabilize**
- **surprise everyone**
- **change**
- **decay or decline**



Answer 3

- DECAY OR DECLINE

What gave us the clue?



Practice 4

In Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, the ***miserly*** Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by three spirits who changed him into a generous man.

- **cheapskate**
- **single and elderly**
- **unhappy**
- **wealthy**



Answer 4

- CHEAPSKATE

What if you did not know what a cheapskate was? What clue could you use to help you determine its meaning?



Practice 5

Raul is an ***indulgent*** father. For instance, he lets his daughter stay up as late as she likes and he never insists that she does her homework.

- lazy and caring
- stupid and kind
- strict and mean
- lenient and tolerant



Answer 5

- Lenient and tolerant

How do we know?



Check on Learning

Name vocabulary building strategies:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____



CURRENT EVENTS

C4. Describe the benefits of learning about Current Events and how to go about it.



Current Events

- Study what's going on
 - the world
 - our country
 - our state
 - our county, city, & neighborhood
- Know people's names in city, county, state, & national gov't
 - shape policy
 - make decisions for & about us
- Know names of important world leaders
 - find location of places in the news





Current Events

- Study at least 1x/week
 - Every day is better
- Info
 - News radio & magazines/newspapers/internet
 - Unbiased sources





Current Events



WHY?

- World is interconnected
- Sign of intelligence to know what's going on
 - Leaders need to know
 - Use info to make decisions



Current Events

How?



- Listen to news station in car
 - Read newspaper or review highlights on news website
- Watch news @ least 15 min./night
 - Talk current events w/family & friends
- Take weekly online current events quiz



Check on Learning

1. T/F: It's a sign of intelligence to be aware of what's going on around the world and closer to home.
2. Knowing what's going on around them helps leaders make _____.
3. Name four ways to learn about current events:
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____



PROOFREADING

C5. Describe how to effectively proofread written documents



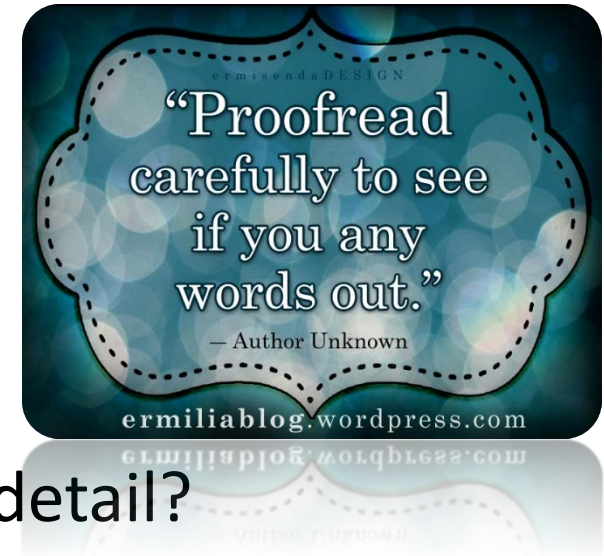
Proofreading

Proofreading means checking through a document to detect and correct errors



Proofreading

- Critical step in written work
- Our 'work' sends message
 - Quality? Sharp? Attention to detail?
 - Ignorant? Lazy, Uncaring?
- Online proofreading programs
 - Not 100% accurate
 - Don't always understand context or content





Proofreading

Proven Ways to Proofread:

- Have others check work
- Go through a checklist
- Take some time “away”
 - Review with “fresh eye” → Mistakes? Make sense?
- Use free online proofreading program



Use all the above methods—not just one

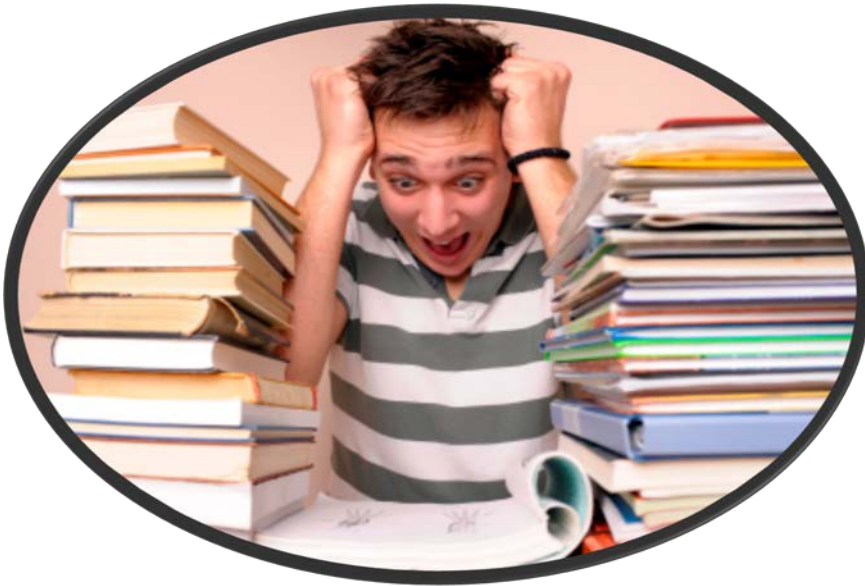


Proofreading Checklist

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Every sentence started w/ capital letter?✓ Every sentence end w/ punctuation?✓ All words spelled correctly?✓ Any run-on sentences?✓ Any incomplete sentences?✓ Legible? (Can others read it?)✓ When read out loud, does it make sense? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Clear beginning (introduction)?✓ Thesis or main idea supported w/ a lot of good details or ideas?✓ Does conclusion “sum up” important points?✓ Artwork properly inserted?✓ If text wrapping, any hanging ends?✓ Paragraphs, spacing, & numbering consistent throughout? |
|--|--|



When Not to Proofread



- While writing first draft
- In the middle of thoughts/while brainstorming
- Before some time “away” from your work



Check on Learning

1. T/F: Online proofreading programs can be relied on for accuracy.
2. T/F: It's a good idea to proofread as you write your document.
3. Name two of the four proven ways to effectively proofread:
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
4. T/F: All four proven proofreading methods should be used before turning in your work.