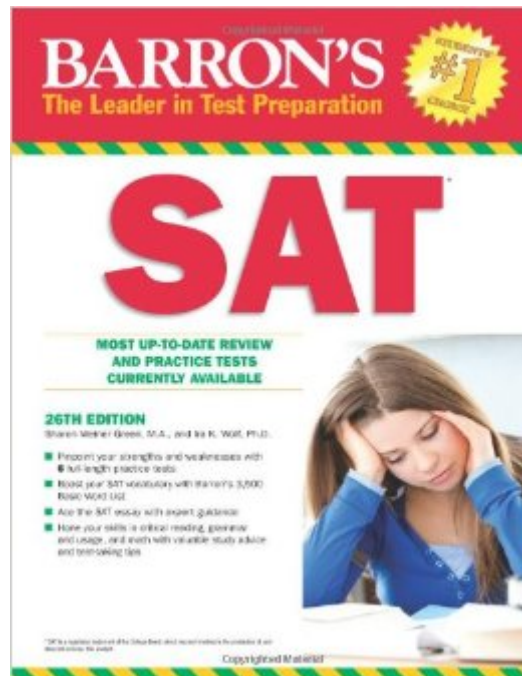


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Barron's SAT, 26th Edition



Synopsis

The newly revised edition of Barron's SAT manual presents: A diagnostic test and five full-length practice tests with all questions answered and explained Test-taking tactics for the exam as a whole, and special strategies for each part of the test Subject reviews covering critical reading, grammar and usage, and math Detailed instruction in writing the required SAT essay An overview of the SAT, an explanation of the test's scoring method, and study advice Year after year, Barron's continues to provide comprehensive test preparation help to thousands of college-bound students who are about to take one of the most important tests of their lives.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Normally I don't respond to critical reviews both because I think it is right for me as author to stand up and take my shots, and because I appreciate the efforts readers make to point out ways in which I can improve my texts. However, when a reviewer criticizes not only my use of the past perfect tense but James Joyce's use of it as well and calls my editors and publisher "neglectful," I have to speak up. Brad Johnston cites several sentences in the 26th edition of Barron's SAT that he says are "examples of putting 'had' in front of past tense verbs--which is where 'had' does NOT belong." Unfortunately, Mr. Johnston appears not to understand that in English the past perfect tense is formed by combining the auxiliary verb 'had' with the past participle ('given,' 'shown,' 'hoped,' 'worked'). Some past participles end in 'ed' and look like past tense verbs ('hoped' and 'worked,' for

example); others, past participles of irregular verbs like 'give' and 'show,' look nothing like their past tense. Mr. Johnston apparently cannot tell the two apart: he condemns the opening sentence of Joyce's "Clay" ("The matron had given her leave to go out as soon as the women's tea was over...") as ungrammatical. "Had gave" would be ungrammatical; "had given" is not. The past perfect tense may be dying out in English--native speakers often substitute the simple past tense for the past perfect--but that doesn't mean that the past perfect tense, properly constructed, is automatically incorrect. It's important that students taking the SAT understand this. If they don't, they may identify something as a sentence error that's actually correct. Consider, for example, this question from The Official SAT Study Guide (page 409): Jerome often referred [A]_to_ art history textbooks [B]_while he_ was sculpting; whenever he learned a new method in art class, he [C]_seeks out_ the work of sculptors who [D]_had used it_ in the past. [E]_No error_ Mr. Johnston might choose D, "had used it," as the error. He would be wrong. The actual error is C: to correct it, you need to replace "seeks out" with "sought out."

We've looked at three SAT review guides now, and Barron's seems to be the best of them. They're all based on the same test, so they present similar material and take similar approaches, but Barron's seems to have the best reading passages. They are more sophisticated in their use of language and structure, and they are the most instructive. That is, a student can learn more about how to extract meaning and intent from them than from less challenging, less well chosen passages. The explanations of the answers, both for the language and math sections, are very clear and helpful. This is where an SAT guide can make a major difference. It is important not only to know the right answer, but the reasoning behind that choice. Reading questions often have more than one right answer, but the goal is to find the best answer. This involves careful reading and logical thinking. No SAT guide is a magic bullet to a great score, but having a good guide can make studying for the SAT an important learning experience in and of itself.

I am an academic coach and professional tutor. I work with students individually to help them prepare for the SAT, ACT, and grad school entrance exams. I have had the opportunity to read and use pretty much every SAT prep book on the shelves at the major bookstores. This book continues to rank among the my top 3 choices. I require my students to get a copy of this book when we start prepping for the SAT and it is definitely a GREAT value for all that is included. What you get:- Diagnostic Test- an "SAT Dictionary"- Review of all major math topics + examples for each- Hundreds of practice problems arranged by topic- Grammar guide, Reading strategies and

no-nonsense guidelines for essay writing- Full length practice tests It is true that the 25th and 24th editions offer no significant revisions (perhaps a few typos have been corrected). So, if you happen to come across a slightly older edition at a lower price, it will work just as well as the current/new 26th edition. In addition to this book, I would suggest the "Official SAT" Prep book (The Official SAT Study Guide, 2nd edition) which includes REAL, released form SAT exams. While the questions in this book are excellent, nothing can substitute for practicing with REAL SATs. For most of my students, this book combined with the official guide are more than sufficient to get their scores into the 90th percentile and above. Highly recommended! A+

The book's strongest subject is Math. I reviewed the entire Math section and went from a 440 to a 630 in about 3 months of prep. The books weak points are in the Writing and Critical reading section. The book does not really go over the grammar rules, instead providing only sentences and examples which don't help with understanding the grammar. The reading section is overly complicated and 8 times more difficult than the real sat. I had a 540 on the writing before I used Barrons and received a 550 after using it, so it wasn't that helpful. I used the PWN writing blog on the internet and improved my writing section from a 550 to a 640, so the blog was a lot more helpful than Barrons for the writing. On the reading comprehension I also recommend using PWN the SAT, because it's written by a person who actually got a 2400 on the SAT and provided proof of it by posting his results. Just search up PWN the SAT and his page will pop up. Also I improved my Math section from a 630 (with the help of Barrons) to a 780, with the help of the book "PWN the SAT Math". You can get it for \$26.23 at . Honestly, if you need help with writing and reading, don't use Barrons, it really sucks in those sections. Only use it for Math. Scores before Barron: Math 440 Reading 560 Writing 540 Total: 1540 Scores with Barrons: Math 630 Reading 570 Writing 550 Total: 1750 Scores with PWN the SAT: Math 780 Reading 630 Writing 640 Total: 2050

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