SAT Word-in-Context Questions

Word-in-Context questions on the SAT require you to identify or interpret the meaning of commonly used words based on the context in which they appear. These words frequently appear in classroom readings across various subjects and are essential for understanding the meaning of texts in both high school and college.

To tackle these questions, you must focus closely on the context of the sentence. By analyzing context clues, you can eliminate incorrect options and select the correct answer, even if you are unfamiliar with the exact definition of the word being tested.

You should avoid reading the question and immediately jumping to the answer choices, trying each one to see what "sounds" right. This approach often leads to falling for traps. Instead, you should take control by identifying the key word or words in the sentence that provide context for the missing word.

After identifying the context, you should anticipate what the missing word might be. Once you have a predicted word in mind, you can systematically review the answer choices, compare them to your prediction, and select the best match.

- Read the sentence carefully
- Take note of any thought reversers (but, yet, however, although) – thought reversers indicate a switch
- Take note of any "because" or colon – both indicate a direct definition
- Pick out a key word or phrase
- Anticipate an answer
- Compare your prediction with each answer choice and pick the best match

Strategy:

1. Read the Passage Carefully
2. Find Key Word/s
3. Summarize Key Idea
4. Make a Prediction
5. Match Your Prediction