

**10 Tips for the PSAT**

1. Complex conjugate

$$Simplify \frac{8-5i}{6-3i}$$

Multiply numerator and denominator by the complex conjugate

$$\frac{8-5i}{6-3i}\* \frac{6+3i}{6+3i}=\frac{48-30i+24i-15i^{2}}{36-9i^{2}}=\frac{63-6i}{45}=\frac{7}{5}-\frac{2i}{15}$$

2. Possessive

Girl’s room=1 girl with 1 room

Girls’ rooms=many girls with many rooms

Girls’ room=many girls with 1 room

Girl’s rooms=1 girl with many rooms

3. Contractions vs. Possessive

They’re=They are

It’s=It is

Its=possessive (The dog chews its bone)

Its’ NOT A WORD NEVER PICK THIS

Their=Possessive plural (My friends like their Iphones.)

She’s=She is

4. Transition words

Be extremely careful when choosing the correct transition word. Several options may be grammatically correct, but only one will make sense in context.

Some transition words indicate a contrast: however, although, since, regardless, in contrast to

Some transition words are used for a concluding point or for cause and effect: therefore

Some transition words are used to make an additional remark without contrast: for example, indeed, in addition to

5. Parallel structure

Sarah enjoys the music of Chopin more than Beethoven.

-INCORRECT

-Corrected version: Sarah enjoys the music of Chopin more than the music of Beethoven.

Yael enjoys swimming, running, and to practice yoga.

-INCORRECT

Corrected version: Yael enjoys swimming, running, and practicing yoga.

To trust ones instinct is often being misguided.

INCORRECT

Corrected version: To trust one’s instinct is often to be misguided.

6. For $y=ax^{2}+bx+c, the sum of the roots is-\frac{b}{a}and the product of the roots is $c/a

7. Remember the top 3 rules for factoring:

1. GCF-take out what is common

2. DOS=difference of squares

3. Inverse foil-set up parentheses

\*\*\*Don’t forget, sometimes you factor out that which you are solving for.

Example: Find and expression for m in terms of n if 3mn+4n=9m+12

3mn-9m=12-4n

m(3n-9)=12-4n

$$m=\frac{12-4n}{3n-9}$$

8. READING: For vocab in context, reread the sentence 4 times plugging in each option.

9. READING: For reading passages, read the passage FIRST and then answer all questions.

10. Overall-stay calm. Remember how prepared you are. NO colleges will see your PSAT score. Do the best you can. Watch the clock and don’t let your nerves take over.