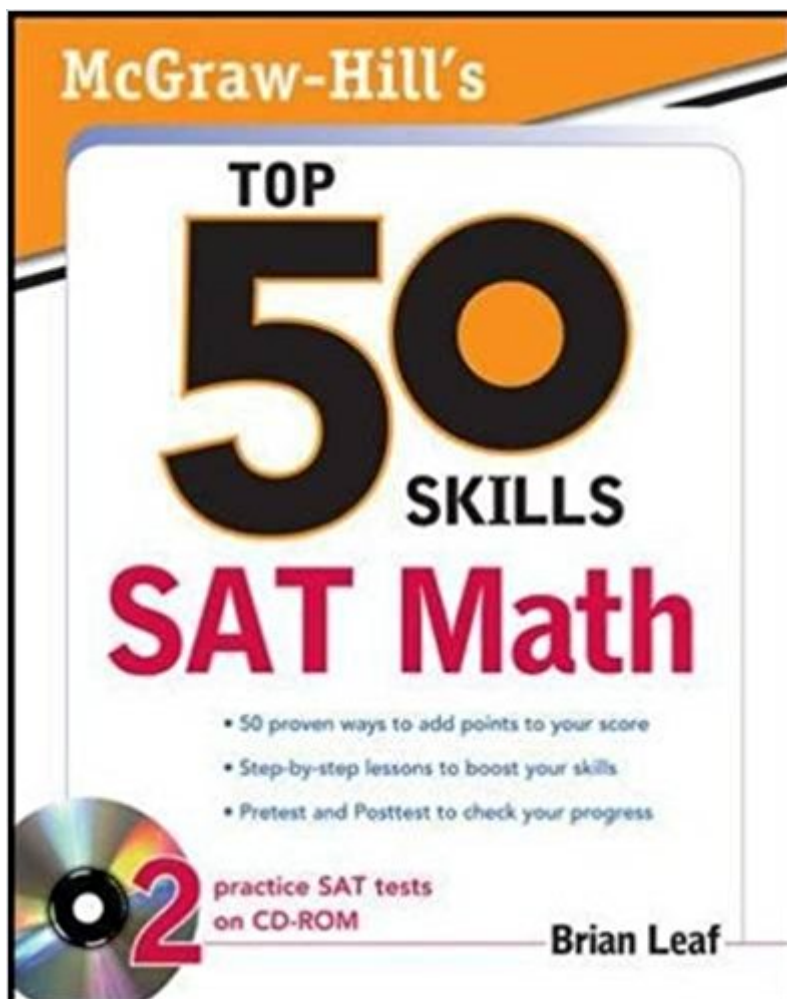


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# McGraw-Hill's Top 50 Skills For A Top Score: SAT Math



## Synopsis

We want to help you succeed on the math portion of the SAT\* "What a surprise, what a relief! An SAT guide that actually meets you where you are, talks to you with wit and compassion, and clears away the panic of test taking." -- Rebecca Pepper Sinkler, former Editor, The New York Times Book Review We've put all of our proven expertise into McGraw-Hill's Top 50 Skills for a Top Score. With this book, you'll master the essential skills identified by a prominent SAT instructor and add points to your score. You'll get focused instruction on these crucial skills, helpful exercises, pre- and posttests to check your weaknesses and progress, and two additional tests on the accompanying CD-ROM. With McGraw-Hill's Top Skills for a Top Score: SAT Math, we'll guide you step by step through your preparation and give you the tools you need to succeed. Inside you'll find: 50 essential skills with step-by-step sample exercises A pretest to identify your weaknesses and a posttest to track your progress Two additional tests on CD-ROM Strategies to help you answer every type of SAT math item

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Brian Leaf, M.A., is the founder and director of New Leaf Learning Center in Western Massachusetts. In his 17 years of private teaching and tutoring, Brian has instructed SAT and ACT preparation to thousands of students from throughout the United States and around the world. His

private tutoring sessions have a two-year wait list. Brian is a member of the American School Counselor Association and the Massachusetts School Counselors Association.

I disagree with Anuj -- I use this book (as a tutor) for students who are scoring in the 500-630 range in math and find it effective. There just aren't enough practice problems, though, to make it really comprehensive. Likewise, the book has a few types of problems that are very much missing. It doesn't really test exponents or function problems comprehensively, and also misses out on a lot of the algebra problems. The "Springboard" section is good, but entirely too short. The problems aren't tough enough to help you get an 800-- but if you're starting lower, this could be a useful tool. It's a good length for crammers, but not enough for anyone with over two months to prep. I've been tutoring for 10 years, and have scored perfectly (twice) on the exam myself.

Well written, focus is on useful tips to improve SAT score for math. Concepts are explained in greater detail as well, which is useful for areas you may have forgotten. Flash cards in back of the book help to reinforce concepts quickly and easily. You can spend time reviewing only the needed concepts, skim others, and still get helpful pointers to up your score. The way the book is structured, and the light tone used by the author make this very accessible. My daughter finally read through this (after I brought it up several times) and told me she found it very helpful. Said she would absolutely recommend it. Given the short amount of prep time, and the increase in her score (570 on SAT practice test, 700 on the March SAT) I would definitely buy it again. Time needed: 2 months ideally, 1 month very workable, 2 weeks if that's what you have left!

My son actually sort of enjoyed using this book, due to the author's sense of humor and straightforward way of explaining SAT problems. This is really a book about scoring higher on the SAT, not about mastering math concepts. For example, the author suggests using real numbers (picking some numbers) to solve some of the variable problems by plugging into the multiple choice answers. Although as a teacher this makes me cringe, as a test taking skill it is excellent advice. He also explains solving permutation problems (you have 10 players and want to make groupings of 5 people, or how many ways can you arrange 7 books) without ever mentioning factorials. In fact, I found this method of presentation so much more intuitive that I plan to use it in my classes (and then move onto actually using factorials!). The author also gives advice about when to guess, how to approach the test and so on, all good test taking strategies. Having the answers EXPLAINED at the back will be very useful for those who do not have a teacher around to explain. His explanations are

very straightforward. I found a few minor errors but none of them mathematical (things like saying the answer was A. 6 when really B was 6). Before taking the test I had my son take one sample math section to serve as a baseline. After working through this book I had my son take several math sections again using a timer. Overall his score increased by 150 points. I think this is an important addition, doing the problems under time pressure. If you (or whoever you are buying this for) will only do one book, choose this one. But if you have more time, then get another SAT book with practice tests and work those as well.

This is an excellent book! It doesn't try to be "sneaky" or "tricky" with the SAT, and it doesn't give you a bunch of long term, hard to understand problem-solving strategies. What it does do, however, is tell you the exact skills you'll need to do well on the math section of the SAT, and it gives you valuable practice. This book is GREAT if you don't have too long to study, because it lays out the skills in a clear, easy to read format, and it doesn't take too long to get through. While you could argue that it should go more in depth, it really does tell you everything you need to know, and, if you do the whole workbook and remember the concepts it teaches you (which, mind you, aren't hard to understand, even if you're horrible at math, like me), you can score decently on the SAT even if you have only done algebra. If you have a lot of time to study, I'd recommend getting *Gruber's Complete SAT Guide 2012, 15E* or *Gruber's Complete SAT Math Workbook, 2E*, but, if, like a lot of people, you've waited until the SAT is only a couple weeks away, you should buy this book -- it's worth it!

A very nice book with good practice problems. Humorous at times. It is very easy to understand. My score increased only by 40 points, not as much as I wanted. I am looking to get upwards of 720. This book doesn't cover everything you need for a near perfect score, but I would definitely recommend it as it covers its material very well. Just don't rely on this information alone.

My son found this to be helpful studying for the SATs. Math is his strongest subject; however, the practice helped him hone in on the SAT math questions and strategies.

The electronic download version does not have answer key.

Best review resource I've found for SAT prep! Hoping the author will update for test revisions due out this year.

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