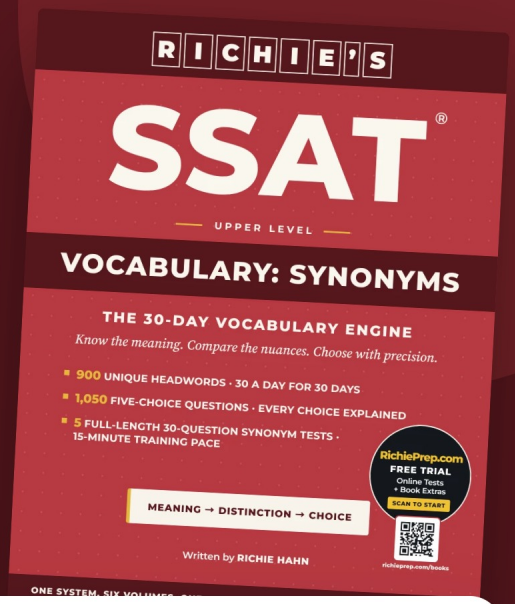
INSIDE THE BOOK · 376 pages · 8.5 × 11 in

Vocabulary: Synonyms

THE 30-DAY VOCABULARY ENGINE

Move from word recognition to a defensible five-choice decision.

SSAT synonym questions do not reward a vague sense of a word; they ask for the one choice closest in meaning, often among words that feel

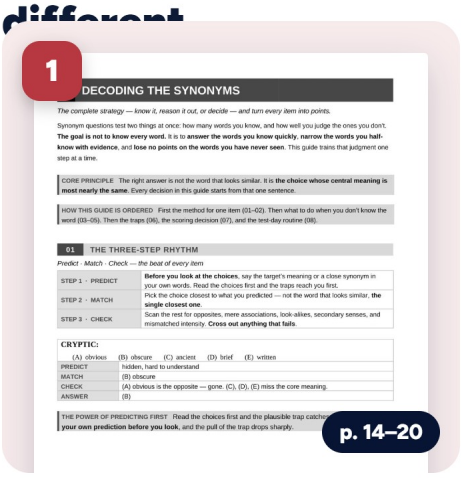


900	30 × 30	1,050	3,600
CORE HEADWORDS	DAYS × HEADWORDS	FULL EXPLANATIONS	ORIGINAL DISTRACTORS

Three corners that make this book different

REAL PAGES

1


DECODING THE SYNONYMS

The complete strategy — know it, reason it out, or decide — and turn every item into points.

Synonym questions test two things at once: how many words you know, and how well you judge the ones you don't. **The goal is not to know every word.** It is to **answer the words you know quickly, narrow the words you half-know with evidence,** and **lose no points on the words you have never seen.** This guide trains that judgment one step at a time.

CORE PRINCIPLE · The right answer is not the word that looks similar. It is **the choice whose central meaning is most nearly the same.** Every decision in this guide starts from that one sentence.

HOW THIS GUIDE IS ORDERED · First the method for one item (01–02). Then what to do when you don't know the word (03–05). Then the traps (06), the scoring decision (07), and the test-day routine (08).

01 THE THREE-STEP RHYTHM

Predict · Match · Check — the beat of every item

STEP 1 · PREDICT	**Before you look at the choices**, say the target's meaning or a close synonym in your own words. Read the choices first and the traps reach you first.
STEP 2 · MATCH	Pick the choice closest to what you predicted — not the word that looks similar, **the single closest one.**
STEP 3 · CHECK	Scan the rest for opposites, mere associations, look-alikes, secondary senses, and mismatched intensity. **Cross out anything that fails.**

CRYPTIC:

(A) obvious (B) obscure (C) ancient (D) brief (E) written

PREDICT	hidden, hard to understand
MATCH	(B) obscure
CHECK	(A) obvious is the opposite — gone. (C), (D), (E) miss the core meaning.
ANSWER	(B)

THE POWER OF PREDICTING FIRST · Read the choices first and the plausible trap catches **your own prediction before you look,** and the pull of the trap drops sharply.

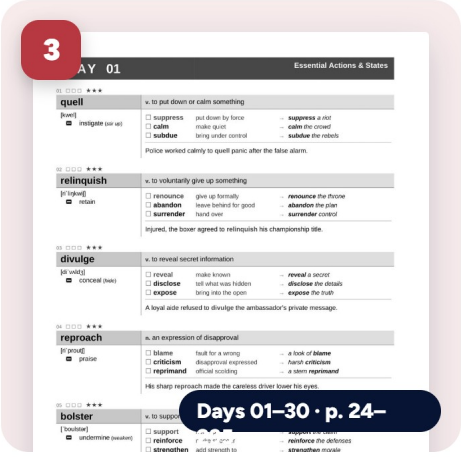
p. 14–20

Decoding the Synonyms — Strategy Guide 01–08

The complete method in eight lessons: Predict · Match · Check, the three axes (direction, intensity, scope), three kinds of words, the etymology toolbox, the

→ **Answer the words you know fast, narrow the ones you half-know with evidence, and lose no points on the ones you have never seen.**

3


AY 01 Essential Actions & States

quell v. to put down or calm something

☐ suppress	put down by force	→ *suppress a riot*
☐ calm	make quiet	→ *calm the crowd*
☐ subdue	bring under control	→ *subdue the rebels*

Police worked calmly to quell panic after the false alarm.

relinquish v. to voluntarily give up something

☐ renounce	give up formally	→ *renounce the throne*
☐ abandon	leave behind for good	→ *abandon the plan*
☐ surrender	hand over	→ *surrender control*

Injured, the boxer agreed to relinquish his championship title.

divulge v. to reveal secret information

☐ reveal	make known	→ *reveal a secret*
☐ disclose	tell what was hidden	→ *disclose the details*
☐ expose	bring into the open	→ *expose the truth*

A loyal aide refused to divulge the ambassador's private message.

reproach n. an expression of disapproval

☐ blame	fault for a wrong	→ *a look of blame*
☐ criticism	disapproval expressed	→ *harsh criticism*
☐ reprimand	official scolding	→ *a stern reprimand*

His sharp reproach made the careless driver lower his eyes.

bolster

Days 01–30 · p. 24–

Headword cards — 30 a Day

Each entry: pronunciation, a short definition, a contrasting word, three synonyms — each with its shared meaning and the phrase it lives in — one

→ **Learn the phrase, not the word: suppress a riot, calm the crowd, subdue the rebels.**

5


DAILY PRACTICE Choose the Closest Meaning

Directions: Choose the option that comes closest in meaning to the capitalized word.

1. **QUELL:** (A) inflame (B) frustrate (C) scatter (D) suppress (E) necessitate
2. **RELINQUISH:** (A) reclaim (B) inherit (C) conserve (D) renounce (E) postpone
3. **DIVULGE:** (A) withhold (B) distort (C) verify (D) attest (E) reveal
4. **REPROACH:** (A) blame (B) suspicion (C) incentive (D) pardon (E) scapegoat
6. **MEANDER:** (A) accelerate (B) recede (C) explore (D) wander (E) straighten
7. **ADVOCATE:** (A) resist (B) tolerate (C) influence (D) publicize (E) champion
8. **REITERATE:** (A) summarize (B) repeat (C) reconsider (D) revise (E) reinterpret
9. **EXPEL:** (A) harbor (B) suspend (C) eject (D) convene (E) instruct
11. **CONFER:** (A) revoke (B) donate (C) inspect (D) bestow (E) apportion
12. **DISSEMINATE:** (A) conceal (B) circulate (C) rummage (D) censor (E) emit
13. **ALLOCATE:** (A) retain (B) allot (C) stockpile (D) authorize (E) request
14. **CULTIVATE:** (A) desert (B) trample (C) irrigate (D) transplant (E) foster

Every Day · 30 questions on the

Daily Practice — Choose the Closest Meaning

The same thirty words in five-choice questions under time; the card's first synonym is always the keyed answer.

→ **What you study is exactly what you recall and apply.**

THE LEARNING FLOW

STEP 1 **30 Words / Day** → STEP 2 **Warm-Up** → STEP 3 **Daily Practice** → STEP 4 **Explanations** → STEP 5 **Practice Tests 01–05**

Every corner, and why it is there

1 **Decoding the Synonyms — Strategy Guide 01–08**
Answer the words you know fast, narrow the ones you half-know wi...

2 **Final Check — 240 Test-Day Synonyms**
A last pass that fits in one sitting — no new words at the last minut...

3 **Headword cards — 30 a Day**
Learn the phrase, not the word: suppress a riot, calm the crowd, sub...

4 **Warm-Up — Synonyms & Antonyms in Context**
Say the meaning first; the sentence tells you whether it is really ther...

5 **Daily Practice — Choose the Closest Meani...**
What you study is exactly what you recall and apply.

6 **Six Stages — Core 600 + Top-Score Extension 300**
The Essential Core first; the Top-Score Extension when the core hol...

7 **Synonyms Practice Tests 01–05**
The real synonym count, five times, before the real on...

8 **Answer Keys & Explanations — every choice defined**
Log the trap every time; after ten entries, the one that appears mos...

30-Day Plan + 5-Day Test Week

Days 01–20	Essential Core 600 · one Day per day (about 60 minutes) with Warm-Up + Practice
Days 21–30	Top-Score Extension 300 · one Day per day · re-check every box you left empty
Final week	Practice Tests 01–05 · one per day · ★★★ review between tests

14-Day Priority Plan

Days 1–10	★★★ cards only (about 25 per day) · Warm-Up + Practice items on those words
Days 11–12	Second pass on every unchecked box · ★★☆ cards of Days 21–30
Days 13–14	Practice Tests 01–05 + wrong-answer review

FREE BOOK EXTRAS

Word Lists & Tests

30 Days · 900 words · a Word List and two tests for every Day

30 UNITS · **900** WORDS · **122** PDF PAGES

richieprep.com/b/s4e1

A 30-MINUTE SESSION

- **0–20** Read each card aloud — the headword, then its three phrases.
- **20–30** Cover the right side, say the phrases back, then take the Warm-Up.
- **30–60** Take the Daily Practice on the clock, then review every miss in the explanations.

Start free · Free SSAT Half-Length Test — 75 questions + writing sample, four timed sections. Marked the moment you submit; every question explained. No account, no card.

START HERE **Verbal-first path: Vocabulary: Synonyms → Analogies. Build the meanings first, then the relationships.**

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