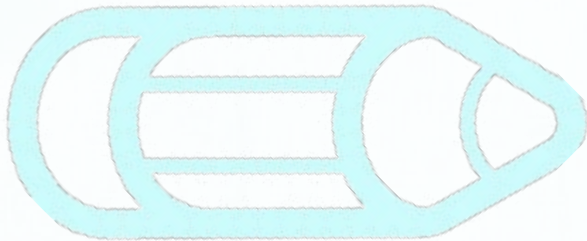



The PSAT/SAT:

OFFICIAL



STUDY GUIDE TO

MASTER
the EXAMS

for College 

What they are. Why they're important. How to master them.



We show you how!

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- 04** Chapter 1: What are they? Why are they important?
- 12** Chapter 2: Test Overview & Test Structure
- 17** Chapter 3: How to Master Them
- 27** Recap + Test Prep Class Information

Additional resources throughout this book:

Get into elite universities
(like Stanford and more).



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Find an amazing tutor
(online or inhome).



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Earn money for college
(no matter household income).



Learn More!

CHAPTER 1

The PSAT & SAT:

What are they?

**Why are they
important?**



“S.A.T.”

S.A.T. originally stood for Scholastic Aptitude Test. And the “P” in “PSAT” stands for “preliminary” since it is taken before the SAT and is a shorter version.

Purpose of the PSAT

The PSAT is the exam taken by students wishing to practice for the SAT, and even more importantly, be eligible to be named as a National Merit Scholarship finalist or semi-finalist.

Doing well on this test can lead to scholarship money potentially covering a student’s entire 4-year program and money on top of that for housing and supplies to hundreds of schools across the U.S.! **Some as much as \$150,000 in scholarships!**

- Held once a year in October
- Counts junior year of h.s.

Purpose of the SAT

The SAT is used as one of the measures for college admissions personnel to accept or reject applicants.

The test’s goal is to be a measure by which all students entering college can be compared as ‘equally’ as possible since some high schools give GPAs that are more inflated than others. Universities need something that can compare apples to apples and predict the likelihood of success in college for the applicant. **It can count as much as 40% of the college application!**

- Held about 7 times a year
- Can send highest score

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Importance of the PSAT

The importance of the PSAT cannot be overstated. Not only is it great practice for the upcoming SAT, it can lead to a lot of money for college. It's amazing!

It is also called the "NMSQT" or National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, so this is when students can earn big bucks by doing well.

The opportunities that abound are truly worth the time and effort to practice before-hand and be well-prepared for test day in October.

Ways to get \$\$ from high PSAT scores!

NMS Committee

\$2500 one-time payment to winners



Private Scholarships

Various \$ amounts. Can be one-time or renewable.



College Merit Scholarships

Partial & full-ride scholarships, up to \$150,000!



See next slide for a few examples or [click here](#) for longer list

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Importance of the PSAT continued...

Here is just a partial list showing examples of what will be given to students by universities simply from doing well on the PSAT!



- Alabama State University**
- Arizona State University**
- Auburn University**
- Baylor University**
- Cleveland State University**
- Eastern Kentucky University**
- Louisiana State University**
- Mississippi State University**
- New Mexico State University**
- Northeastern University**
- Ohio State University**
- University of Arizona**

National Merit Finalist	National Merit Semi-Finalist
Full-ride guaranteed	Full-ride guaranteed
In-state: full-ride (\$15,000); out-of-state: full tuition plus (\$23,000)	In-state: full tuition plus (\$9,000); out-of-state: (\$10,500) guaranteed
Full tuition plus guaranteed	Full tuition plus guaranteed
Full tuition guaranteed	Full tuition guaranteed
Full tuition guaranteed	Full tuition guaranteed
In-state: full-ride; out-of-state: full tuition	In-state: full-ride; out-of-state: full tuition
Full tuition	Full tuition
Full tuition plus	Full tuition guaranteed
Full-ride	Full tuition plus guaranteed
Full tuition competitive	Full tuition competitive
\$1000-4000	\$1000-4000
tuition guaranteed	tuition guaranteed

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[Click here](#) for longer list!

Importance of the SAT

Getting top scores on the SAT will not only lead to free cash for college opportunities like the PSAT, but it also helps get kids into top choice colleges!

The SAT, like the ACT, is a college entrance exam. High scores here will help students get into the college of their choice and be stronger contenders for more scholarship money.

Benefits of high scores make it worth the time and effort to prepare and practice before-hand.

Benefits to high SAT scores!



College Entrance

Universities place as much as 40% of admissions on score



● See next page for more data!



Private Scholarships

High SAT scores improve your chance to win private award money



College Merit Scholarships

Strong SAT score + GPA combos = big cash stipends!



● See page 10 for an example!

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SAT helps with College Entrance

It is important to do some research at your schools of choice to see what their average SAT score is for admitted students. This can help you set some goals for raising your own score.

To get you started, let's look at some data from 2012 and 2013 published reports:

Remember:

Critical Reading top score	800
Mathematics top score	800
+ Writing top score	800
<hr/>	<hr/>
Top total score	2400

Note: Many schools and scholarships only care about the combined math and critical reading score out of 1600.

<u>College</u>	<u>Average SAT Score</u>	
nationally	1500	(about 500 per section)
U of Arizona	1635	
ASU	1660	
ASU-Barrett	1310	*math/verbal out of 1600
UCLA	2055	
Stanford	2215	
Harvard	2255	

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● *What is the average SAT score of admitted students at your top schools?*

SAT helps you get College Merit Scholarships!

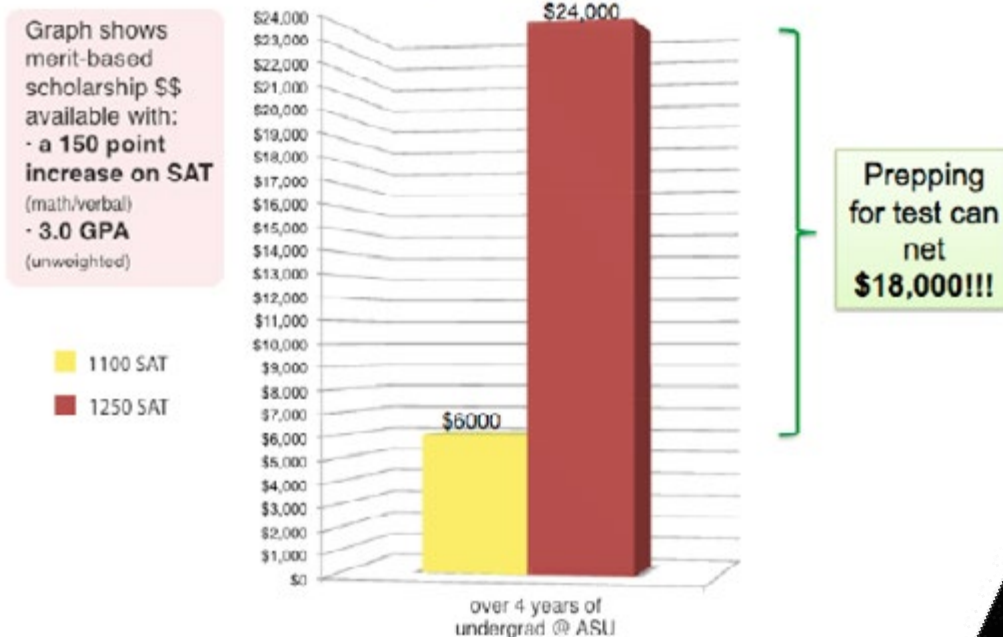
To give an example of just how much money an improved SAT score can yield, let's take a look at data from ASU that we researched and analyzed for a student who has a 3.0 unweighted GPA. (average for incoming freshman is about 3.42).

SAT Score 1st Attempt: 1100 (math & critical reading)

SAT Score 2nd Attempt: 1250 (after studying & preparing)

This score increase makes the student eligible for a total of \$18,000 over the 4-year degree program! (up from \$2500/year)

And the picture is even brighter for higher GPAs and higher SAT gains.
Clearly, preparation is more than worth the effort!



What is your
GPA + SAT
scholarship
potential?

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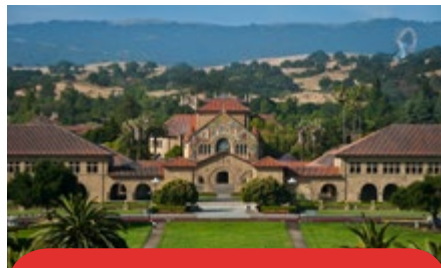
Have elite university goals? But not sure if you ...make the grade?

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Save your seat in an upcoming webinar now! -->

Get into elite universities
(like Stanford and more).



Learn More!

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CHAPTER **2**

The PSAT & SAT:

Test Overview, Facts, & FAQs

PSAT & SAT Test Overview

Who administers the exams?

The College Board contracts the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to develop and administer both the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT.



Who decides what is on the exams?

There is a group called the SAT Test Development Committee approved by ETS and composed of college professors and high school teachers.






This committee designs the exam questions with the goal of making them fair and equally challenging to all students no matter their race, their gender, or in what part of the country they grew up.

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PSAT & SAT Test Facts

	PSAT	SAT
 Time	≈ 2.5 hours offered in October	≈ 4 hours offered about 7 times a year
 Sections	Critical Reading (2) Mathematics (2) Writing (1)	Critical Reading (3) Mathematics (3) Writing (3) Experimental Section (1) *unscored
 Scoring	800/section = 2400 total 1440 (average for juniors) 1290 (average for sophomores)	800/section = 2400 total 500/section = 1500 total (average)
 Types of Questions	Critical Reading Sentence Completion Reading Comprehension Mathematics Multiple Choice & Grid-in Writing Error Identification Improving Sentences Improving Paragraphs	Critical Reading Sentence Completion Reading Comprehension Mathematics Multiple Choice & Grid-in Writing Error Identification Improving Sentences Improving Paragraphs Essay
 Math Concepts	Numbers & Operations; Algebra & Functions; *through Algebra 1 Geometry & Measurement; Data Analysis, Statistics, Probability.	Numbers & Operations; Algebra & Functions; *through Algebra 2 Geometry & Measurement; Data Analysis, Statistics, Probability; Basic Trigonometry & Right Triangles.

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PSAT & SAT Test FAQs



When is it best for students to take the PSAT and SAT?

PSAT:

Minimum: Take junior year to qualify for NMS.

Better: Take sophomore year (practice) then junior year (to qualify).

Best: Take every October you can prior to junior year for practice, then junior year (to qualify).

SAT:

Minimum: Take fall of senior year for college applications.

Better: Take spring of junior year (practice) then fall of senior year (for apps.)

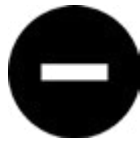
Best: Take exam as many times as you need to get your goal score.

RECOMMENDED: Take prep classes before each exam, get private tutoring for individualized help, and study, study, study! Start prepping now with a [free SAT e-class!](#)



Can I use a calculator?

Yes! Just make sure it is “approved” by visiting the College Board website.



Do I lose points for wrong answers?

Yes. An unanswered question counts as 0 points, but an incorrect answer is -1/4 point.



Should I ever guess?

Yes! Even though you lose 1/4 a point for an incorrect answer, if you can eliminate a few answer choices, the odds come out in your favor. Plus in SAT classes you will learn how to make more educated guesses.

See strategies section later!

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Realize that your child may need some help with SAT strategies and focused studying?

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CHAPTER

3

The PSAT & SAT:

**How to master
them.**

FREE Online Resources

Nothing beats free! So here is a set of 3 free resources we have tried and tested and want to share with you. *Check them out!*

- ① **The Khan Academy** (<http://www.khanacademy.org>)
This is a great FREE resource designed to help anyone and everyone learn.

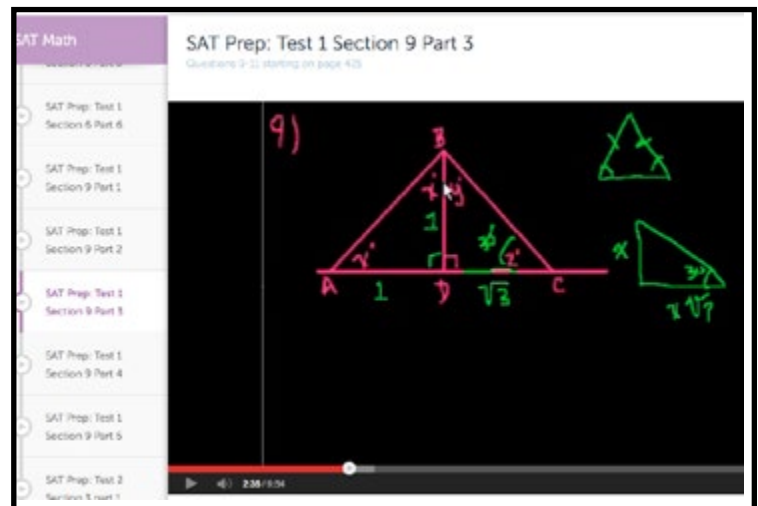
How They Teach

Videos:

Over 4100 videos on subjects like Math, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Humanities, & Finance.

Adaptive Assessments:

Work out problems, see correct solutions, and the move on to the next level of difficulty. The computer decides what the next problem should be based on previous performance.



Examples:

- Want to better understand the Quadratic Formula?
- Want to explore Basic Trigonometry?
- Need help with multiplying and dividing fractions?
- Want to see a few SAT Math problems explained?

...The Khan Academy has a video on it!

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2 SAT Connect by Watermelon Express

This is a great FREE app for studying for all sections of the SAT!



Features:

- **REVIEW:** test facts, reading/writing/math sections, in detail!
- **VOCAB BUILDER:** Review the most ubiquitous words via flashcards and matching games
- **TESTS:** Take timed practice tests that are graded immediately once done
- **PRACTICE QUESTIONS:** create custom “tests” of 1-25 questions in sections you need more review in
- **PROGRESS REPORTS:** view progress reports on your work in “overall,” antonyms, math, reading comprehension & sentence completions
- **SAT-o-METER:** view progress overall and by test
- **SAVE:** save your data to a computer
- **STUDY GROUPS:** locate other students in your area who would like to form a study group
- **EXTRA:** you can even “take notes” and bookmark items to review later!



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● *Students in our SAT Prep Classes rave about this app! And it's free!*

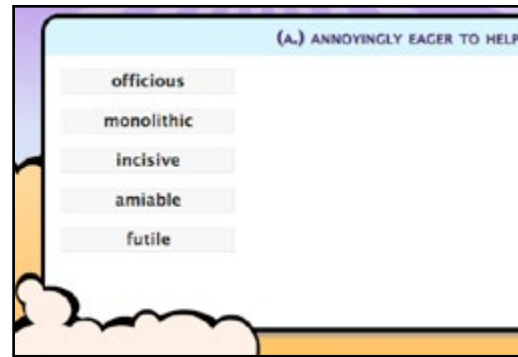
3 SAT Games to Practice Vocabulary

These are online games we have discovered to help students practice one of the most important keys to strong critical reading scores: vocabulary!

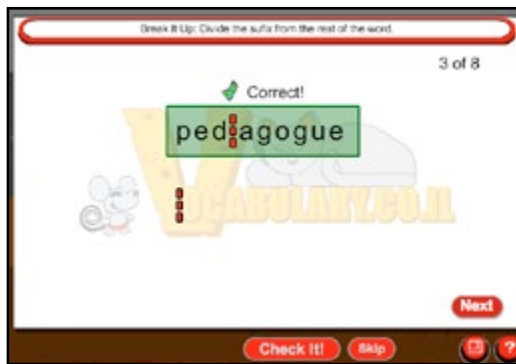
[SAT word synonyms](#)



[SAT word definitions \(1\)](#)



[SAT word prefixes & suffixes](#)



[SAT word definitions \(2\)](#)



click each hyperlink to visit game!

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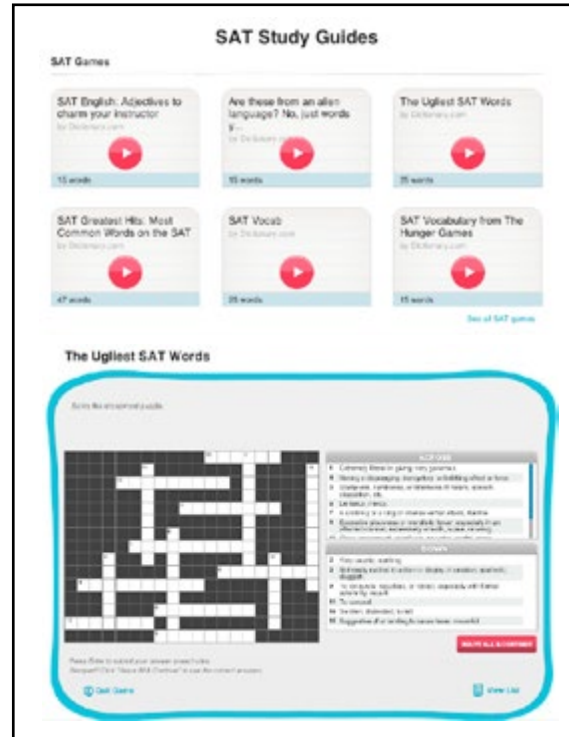
[SAT word flash cards \(online or click to print\)](#)

Quiz 1 Words 1 - 50	Flash Cards	Print
Quiz 2 Words 51 - 100	Flash Cards	Print
Quiz 3 Words 101 - 150	Flash Cards	Print
Quiz 4 Words 151 - 200	Flash Cards	Print
Quiz 5 Words 201 - 250	Flash Cards	Print
Quiz 6 Words 251 - 300	Flash Cards	Print
Quiz 7 Words 301 - 350	Flash Cards	Print
Quiz 8 Words 351 - 400	Flash Cards	Print
Quiz 9 Words 401 - 450	Flash Cards	Print

[PSAT word games like matching, concentration, word search, and flash cards.](#)



[SAT word lists that you can turn into crossword puzzles, matching games, flash cards and more!](#)



click each hyperlink to visit game!

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● *Make improving your vocabulary fun, and you will be amazed at the increased critical reading scores!*

Proven Test-Taking Strategies


Before we launch into some strategies, let's talk myths and facts for a moment...

Myth: The PSAT and SAT is like an IQ test in that you can't really improve your score much with practice.

FACT: Students can and DO see significant score improvement from preparation, study, and practice. We see it everyday in our SAT classes!

Myth: You either know the material on the test, or you don't.

FACT: There are proven strategies that help students get more questions correct even when (1) they are not sure of the right answer, (2) they do not remember the math content, and (3) they do not know many of the vocab words.



In our SAT prep classes we teach tons of strategies that students master and apply to great success!

But there are too many to include in this e-book.

...so today we will share with you our...

Top 3 Test Mastering Strategies!



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1

Test Strategy: Pace Yourself

Given:

- Many sections' questions increase in the level of difficulty.
- Easy questions first. Then medium. Then hard ones.
- This is true for math multiple choice, math grid-in, critical reading sentence completion, writing error identification, writing sentence improvement. (The exceptions are critical reading passages and writing paragraph improvement).

Therefore:

- Most students will do better by slowing down and really attacking the easy and medium problems without feeling rushed to get to the end of each section. Instead of rushing, making careless errors on problems, and getting to the last few difficult questions only to hit a wall and waste time wondering how on earth to solve a tough problem, pace yourself.
- **You do not have to finish the section!** In fact, unless you are shooting for 2100-2400 for an overall score, you should not be answering every question. Leave some hard ones sitting and make sure you get all that you can on the easier areas.

Pace Guide:

Spend more time on 1st 1/3 (easy)

and 2nd 1/3 (medium)

only then, use what time is left for last 1/3 (hard)

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● *Find a tutor & have an individualized pacing guide made for your student!*

2

Test Strategy:

Math Strategy: Answers First

Math multiple choice problems give test-takers an advantage, if they know how to capitalize on it! The answer is right there waiting for be to picked. But watch out! The test makers like to give multiple options that are alluring but incorrect. To do well, we need strategies! “Answers First” is one of our favorites.

Useful when: math questions are complex word problems, the answer choices are numbers, and you want to write multiple algebraic expressions to solve

What you do: plug-in answer choice into problem and see if it works. Start with C!

EXAMPLE:

If one worker can pack 15 boxes every two minutes, and another can pack 15 boxes every three minutes, how many minutes will it take these two workers, working together, to pack 300 boxes.

- A) 10 D) 24
B) 12 E) 30
C) 15

SOLUTION:

Assume C is correct, so if it took 15 minutes for the two workers to pack 300 boxes, does that match with facts given in the first part of the problem?

Worker 1 packs 15 every 2min
 $15\text{min}/2\text{min} * 15 = 112.5$ boxes

Worker 2 packs 15 every 3min
 $15\text{min}/3\text{min} * 15 = 75$ boxes

$112.5 + 75 = 187.5$ boxes.

That is too low! (We needed 300).
So we know A, B, & C won't work.

Try D next and you have your answer.

Did you know?

Answer choices are in order from smallest to biggest!

That means if we can 'test' C and it's too big, cross off C, D & E. If it's too small, cross off A, B & C! (Then if we have to guess it's 50-50!)

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3

Test Strategy: Know Your Grammar Rules

Sentence Examples:

“Him and me went to the store.”

“Send a picture of your dog and I.”

“I shop at Target because the prices are lower than the mall.”

All of these sentences above contain an error.

...*But it ‘sounds right,’* many will proclaim.

“It is how I hear it every day!”

That may be true, but people making these statements are 100% incorrect and the PSAT & SAT test will mark you wrong even if it is how all your friends and family speak.

Corrections:

“He and I went to the store.”

“Send a picture of your dog and me.”

“I shop at Target because the prices are lower than those at the mall.”

Make sure to review the common grammar topics tested on the PSAT and SAT.

Oh, and reading high level literature is a sure-fire way to improve your grammar, vocabulary, and own writing abilities too!



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Now that you see how important the SAT and PSAT are for earning money for college, let's explore even more scholarship earning ways!

30-minute webinar [free]

We jam tons of valuable insights into a 30 minute discussion to help alleviate the stress around getting scholarships.

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Recap

Recap:

In this PSAT & SAT E-Book we have covered many important things including:

- what the PSAT & SAT are
- why they are important
- what is their structure
- important test facts
- what are answers to some FAQs
- how to master them with free resources and proven, effective test-taking strategies!

Here again below are links to the additional resources that provide. Please take advantage!

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Thank you for reading!

Please **share** with other families and friends so they can **benefit** from this great information as well!



Happy Learning!



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