**SAT Preparation:** An important skill for the SAT is recognizing patterns in sentences and selecting an answer that maintains the pattern. Review the two following skills that the SAT might use to assess and check your understanding of patterns in writing.

**Skill 1:**

**Parallel Structure:** Using balanced or similar phrases or words to describe similar ideas. Pay attention to:

- Conjunctions (**FANBOYS**=For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So)
- Semicolons
- Phrases that have verbs that end in -ing
  
  *Ex. Running, jumping, and swimming*
- Phrases that begin with to
  
  *Ex. He needed to find his wallet and to buy groceries for dinner.*

Look at the following sentence and notice the pattern or repetition of similar phrases linked by the semicolon.

*Ex. As a leader Lincoln inspired a nation to throw off the chains of slavery; as a philosopher, he proclaimed the greatness of the little man; as a human being, he served as a timeless example of humility.*

**Exercise 1: Review the following sentences and select the best answer.**

1. Select the sentence that illustrates the use of proper parallel construction.
   
   A. Phuong Tran has wit, charm, and she has an extremely pleasant personality.
   B. Phuong Tran has wit, charm, and a pleasing personality.
   C. Phuong Tran has wit, an ability to charm others, and a pleasing personality.

2. Select the sentence that illustrates the use of proper parallel construction.
   
   A. In English class, Tashonda learned to read poems critically and to appreciate good prose.
   B. In English class, Tashonda learned to read poems critically and she appreciated good prose.
   C. In English class, Tashonda learned to read poems critically and appreciating good prose.

3. Select the sentence that illustrates the use of proper parallel construction.
A. He wanted three things out of college: to learn a skill, to make good friends, and to learn about life.
B. He wanted three things out of college: to learn a skill, to make good friends, and learning about life.
C. He wanted three things out of college: learning a skill, to make good friends, and learning about life.

4. Select the sentence that illustrates the use of proper parallel construction.
A. Coach Espinoza was a strategist with skill, a caring mentor, and a wise friend.
B. Coach Espinoza was a brilliant strategist, a caring mentor, and friend.
C. Coach Espinoza was a brilliant strategist, a caring mentor, and a wise friend.

5. Select the sentence that illustrates the use of proper parallel construction.
A. Professor Ali rewarded his students for working hard on the final project and to go beyond the call of duty.
B. Professor Ali rewarded his students for their hard work on the final project and going beyond the call of duty.
C. Professor Ali rewarded his students for working hard on the final project and going beyond the call of duty.

Skill 2: Pronoun Agreement

A Pronoun is a word used to take the place of one or more nouns or pronouns. A pronoun must agree in number, gender, and person with the word it replaces.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subject (Before the verb)</strong></td>
<td>He, She, It</td>
<td>They</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Possessive</strong></td>
<td>His, Her, Its</td>
<td>Their</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Object (After the verb)</strong></td>
<td>Him, Her, It</td>
<td>Them</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ex. Squirrels often dunk ________ food in water before eating.

The pronoun their must be used here because squirrels is the subject and plural.

Exercise 2:
**Directions:** The following sentences contain errors in pronoun-antecedent agreement. The pronoun for the sentence is already underlined. Think about the word the pronoun replaces and select the correct pronoun.

1. The students who left her uniforms on the bus should report to the front hall.

2. In the summer, the team made Sarasota their home.

3. Tim bought the oranges at the market because it was very sweet.

4. “The Stars and Stripes Forever” has been popular for decades, and they will probably continue to be a favorite.

5. Does the band post their rehearsal schedule on the bulletin board?

**Exercise 3:** Review the following passage from the SAT and select the answer that best replaces the underlined portion of the sentence. Each of these sample FOUR SAT questions will check your understanding of the two skills covered in this packet.

*Life in Traffic*
A subway system is expanded to provide service to a growing suburb. A bike-sharing program is adopted to encourage nonmotorized transportation. 1. **To alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area, stoplight timing is coordinated.** When any one of these changes 2. **occur, it is** likely the result of careful analysis conducted by transportation planners.

The work of transportation planners generally includes evaluating current transportation needs, assessing the effectiveness of existing facilities, and improving those facilities or 3. **they design** new ones. Most transportation planners work in or near cities, 4. **but some are employed in rural areas.** Say, for example, a large factory is built on the outskirts of a small town.

1. 
   A. No change
   B. Coordinating stoplight timing can help alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area.
   C. Stoplight timing is coordinated to alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area.
   D. In a congested downtown area, stoplight timing is coordinated to alleviate rush hour traffic jams.

2. 
   A. No change
   B. occur, they are
   C. occurs, they are
   D. occurs, it is

3. 
   A. No change
   B. to design
   C. designing
   D. design

4. A. No change
   B. where job opportunities are more plentiful.
   C. and the majority are employed by government agencies.
   D. **DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.**