

## Strong Active Terms (SAT) Workout

The following sentences provide context clues to the meaning of words that appear in the February/March 2007 issue of Writing. Use them to help you select the correct definition.

**Example:**

I understand your **quandary**—as an animal lover, you don't want to dissect a frog. However, dissecting an avocado is not a logical substitute.

Ⓐ excitement Ⓑ dilemma Ⓒ nervousness Ⓓ joy

The correct answer is Ⓑ dilemma. Why? Notice how the context clues *don't want to dissect a frog* and *however* tell you that *quandary* has a negative connotation. It is not a positive word. If you're still not sure of the answer, try plugging in each of the answer choices to see what fits.

- Tony is an **exemplary** soldier. His courage and determination earned him a Purple Heart award.  
Ⓐ model      Ⓑ sample      Ⓒ exempt      Ⓓ important
- This **brumal** weather makes my lips chapped.  
Ⓐ brilliant      Ⓑ wintry      Ⓒ sunny      Ⓓ humid
- Gill's hair looks like a bird's **nidifice**. It is wiry, bushy, and wild.  
Ⓐ cocoon      Ⓑ nest      Ⓒ maze      Ⓓ garden
- The **gormless** duo tripped and fell all over each other.  
Ⓐ balanced      Ⓑ envious      Ⓒ athletic      Ⓓ stupid
- The librarian's **archaic** methods of research stunned the young children. They, after all, had started using laptops when they were toddlers.  
Ⓐ ambiguous      Ⓑ outdated      Ⓒ alert      Ⓓ fast
- Have you ever been **transfixed** by the sunset? I can't tear my eyes away from the gorgeous scenery. .  
Ⓐ captivated      Ⓑ disgusted      Ⓒ tired      Ⓓ interested
- Pirate Puzzles* is a **defunct** magazine. You won't find it at any newsstands; only in library archives.  
Ⓐ defiant      Ⓑ dead      Ⓒ dramatic      Ⓓ flimsy
- The thought of having to parallel park was so **daunting** to Philip that he decided not to take the road test on his birthday.  
Ⓐ exciting      Ⓑ dividing      Ⓒ alarming      Ⓓ inspiring
- You really need to **marshal** your thoughts and look at the situation from a calm perspective.  
Ⓐ scramble      Ⓑ organize      Ⓒ scratch      Ⓓ permit
- The Internet has become an **inextricable** part of contemporary life, both in terms of how we get things done at work and how we get things done in our personal lives.  
Ⓐ new      Ⓑ difficult      Ⓒ tiring      Ⓓ essential