



Secrets From the Perfect Scorers

Tips From Students
Who Earned Perfect
(or Nearly Perfect!)
Scores on the SAT

WELCOME

I'm Erica Abbett

A former English and history teacher, the author of the young adult novel *Ahead of Her Time*, and the founder of the vocabulary company Vocabbett, I help students improve their vocabulary and English skills for the SAT, ACT, and life itself.

In my capacity as an educator, I've come across a wide range of students.



While all uniquely wonderful, only a handful of them have received perfect (or nearly perfect!) scores on the SAT.

In this PDF, I'm sharing some of the common themes I've heard among them — specifically their mindset and how they prepared for the SAT.

Now, I must make one thing perfectly clear: just reading these tips cannot guarantee you a perfect score on the SAT. Nor can implementing them, quite frankly.

However, emulating how the perfect-scorers prepared can give you an added advantage. As the English poet John Dryden once said:

"First we make our habits, then our habits make us."



TIP NUMBER ONE

They Start Early

There are exceptions to any rule, but valuing education and intellectual curiosity from a young age seems to pay off.

When I've spoken with perfect scorers, none of them "winged it."

In fact, they have been low-key preparing for the SAT for years, becoming strong readers and valuing education from an early age.

Their preparation usually became more overt, with the introduction of practice tests and more SAT-specific material, around 9th grade.

More on that on the next page!



TIP NUMBER TWO

They Take Practice Tests Differently

Not only do perfect scorers actually prepare for the SAT, they tend to take their preparation to the next level.

First, they take practice tests, which many people don't.

Second, they don't just take the test, look at the score, and say, "Oh, I need to work more on XYZ section."

No — in my experience, they go back through every question they missed and figure out why they got the answer wrong.

Doing this — instead of simply saying, "I need to get better at math" — helps you most effectively zero in on what you need to improve.

TIP NUMBER THREE

They're Big Readers

One way in which the intellectual curiosity displayed by perfect-scorers tends to manifest is through their reading habits.

Personally, I've never met a perfect-scorer who was not also a big reader.

And yes, I know — correlation is not the same as causation. There are also plenty of big readers who don't receive perfect scores!

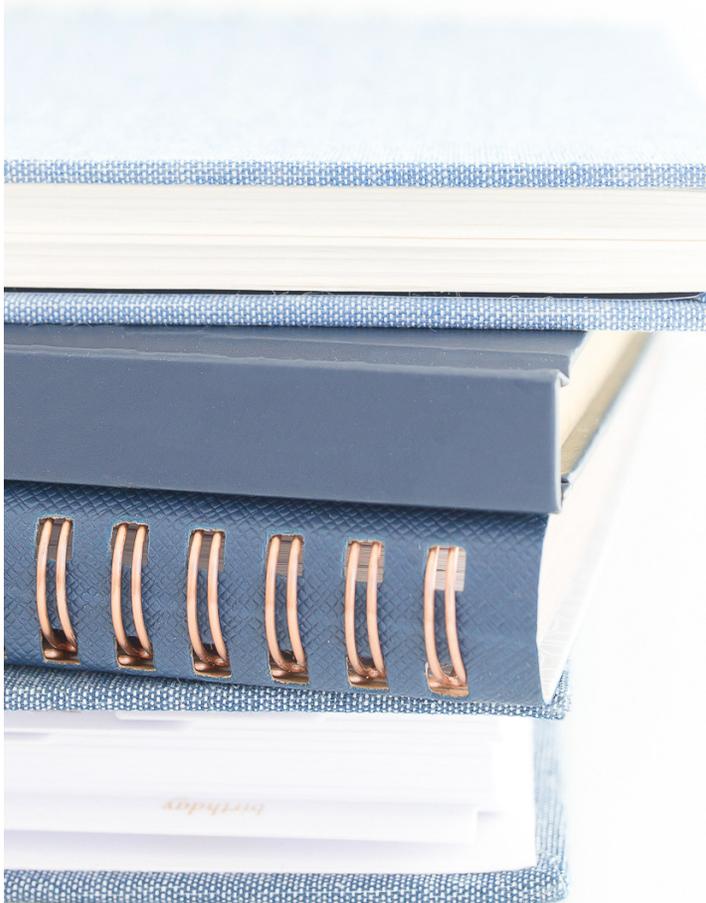
However, I find Harry Truman's quote about leaders also applies to perfect-scorers. As he said...

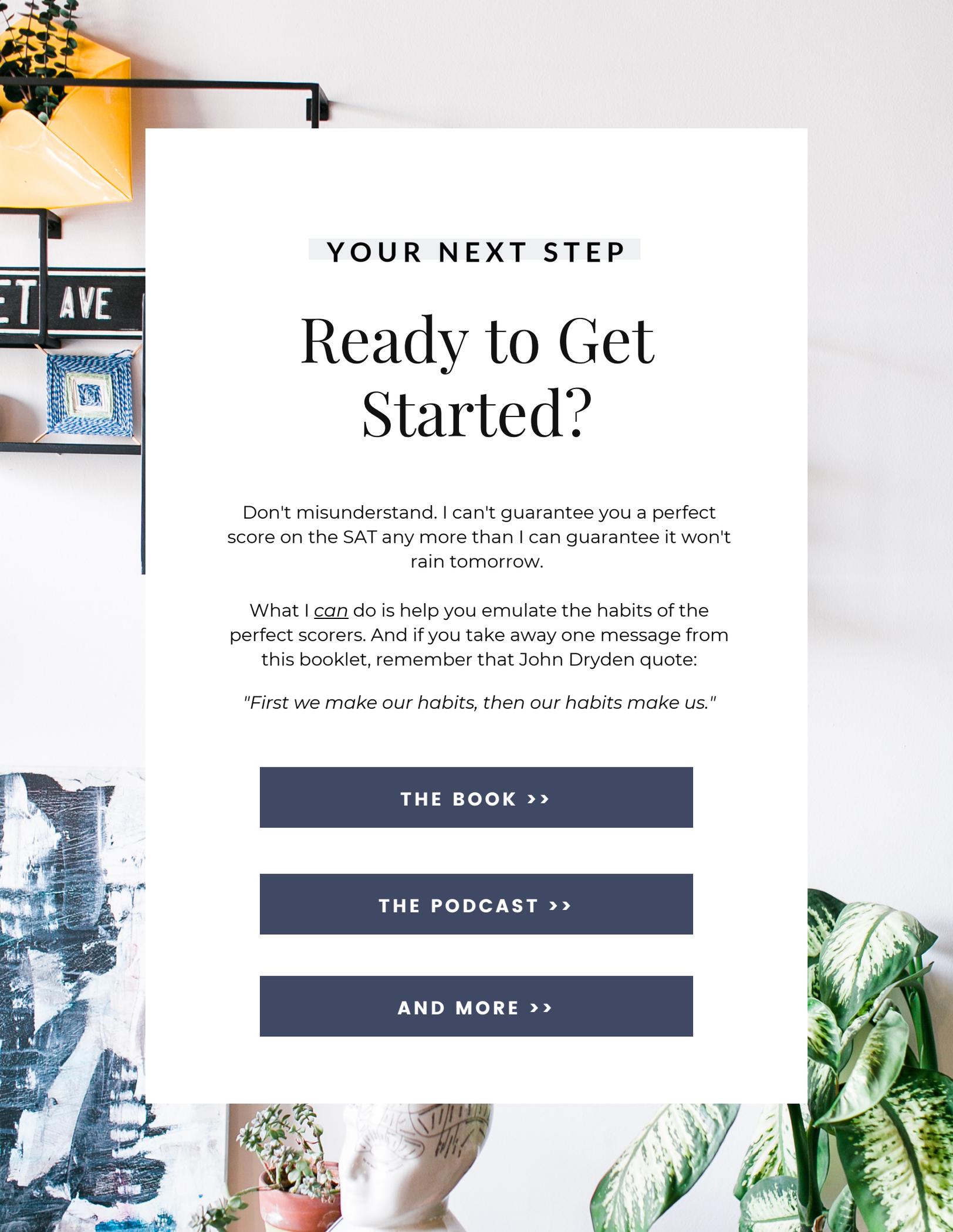
"Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers."

Or in this case...

"Not all readers are perfect-scorers, but all perfect-scorers are readers."

Or most of them, at any rate!





YOUR NEXT STEP

Ready to Get Started?

Don't misunderstand. I can't guarantee you a perfect score on the SAT any more than I can guarantee it won't rain tomorrow.

What I can do is help you emulate the habits of the perfect scorers. And if you take away one message from this booklet, remember that John Dryden quote:

"First we make our habits, then our habits make us."

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