

## Strong Active Terms (SAT) Workout

The following sentences provide context clues to the meaning of words that appear in the November/December 2006 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.

1. May is the current **underdog** in the race for class president. The vote is stacked against her.  
Ⓐ puppy      Ⓑ loser      Ⓒ pushover      Ⓓ winner
2. The movie was so **compelling** that Jay forgot all about his stomach ache.  
Ⓐ interesting      Ⓑ morose      Ⓒ old      Ⓓ scary
3. The Rocking Pom Poms are unlikely to **cede** victory to the Blue Toothed Sharks. They're practicing day and night for the upcoming finals.  
Ⓐ combat      Ⓑ promote      Ⓒ surrender      Ⓓ invite
4. Baby photos of Suri Cruise were much **coveted** before they were first published by *Vanity Fair*. The magazine sold out quickly.  
Ⓐ despised      Ⓑ revered      Ⓒ understood      Ⓓ desired
5. I'm willing to **wager** \$5 that you didn't do your homework today. You were up all night watching reruns of Project Runway.  
Ⓐ pay      Ⓑ bet      Ⓒ track      Ⓓ invest
6. Taylor will **comply** with his customer's demands for more muffin tops. He's a baker who knows how to roll with the times.  
Ⓐ disobey      Ⓑ praise      Ⓒ agree      Ⓓ reason
7. Mr. Smith **exploited** the children's love of chocolate by hiking up the prices at his candy shop.  
Ⓐ abused      Ⓑ praised      Ⓒ pilfered      Ⓓ rejected
8. Shadowcat, a character from the X-Men comic books is a modern **sprite** who possesses the ability to pass through solid objects and walk on air.  
Ⓐ soft drink      Ⓑ fairy      Ⓒ demon      Ⓓ natural spring
9. Fluffy the duck was the first animal to **venture** into space. He was well-prepared, with a silver flight jacket and a suitcase full of nuts and seeds.  
Ⓐ hide      Ⓑ endanger      Ⓒ dare      Ⓓ advent
10. A dose of healthy **skepticism** can't hurt you, especially since you're probably going to come across some con artists during your many travels.  
Ⓐ mistrust      Ⓑ faith      Ⓒ confidence      Ⓓ atheism