

SSAT Advice: Analogies and Synonyms

Advice #1 for Synonyms and Analogies: **practise your vocabulary** in the Princeton and Kaplan books (each has a word-list section) **and be able to know synonyms for the words, not just the definition.** Often you'll know what a word means, but not be able to identify the meaning you recognize in the answers – you may have to think creatively. Which one of these is closest to the answer you know?

Advice #2 for dealing with Analogies: **identify to yourself what the relationship is between each of the terms.** Be able to tell someone **exactly what the relationship is.** **If several of the answers seem to have that relationship, look for the one that is closest.**

Some Common Relationships in the Analogies Section:

- Part to whole
- Member to group; leader to group (ie conductor is to orchestra)
- Object to maker or user (ie bread is to baker, horseshoe is to blacksmith, violin is to violinist)
- Link is to chain; sentence is to paragraph; paragraph is to chapter; chapter is to novel
- Similar things in different media (ie,)
- Tool is to user
- Little is to BIG, normal is to extreme
- Opposites (black and white, left and right, up and down)

Note: When you don't know one of your first terms, **Advice #3: check out the relationships between the terms in the answers** – for example, by using both words in a sentence. The ones that don't have a strong relationship you can discount.

When THAT fails, **Advice #4: try checking out connections between the words in the answers and in the questions.**

Example:

1) witch is to warlock as

→Cat is to kitten

→Goose is to gander

→Sheep is to shepherd

→Hammer is to nail

→Cat is to Dog

Now what is a warlock? If you know, great. If you don't, let's look at the answers....

→**Cat is to kitten** A kitten is a baby cat. Is a warlock a baby witch? Umm, unlikely.

→**Goose is to gander** Do you know what a gander is? If you don't, leave this as one of the options.

→**Sheep is to shepherd** Shepherds herd sheep. Do witches get herded? No. This is wrong.

→**Hammer is to nail** Hammers hammer nails. Are witches like hammers? No. Wrong.

→**Cat is to Dog** Cats and dogs are both common pets, but other than that they don't have a strong relationship. Can you think of a counterpart to witches? Maybe wizards, but dogs and cats can be either sex, and witches are only female. The relationship isn't strong. (Also, if there was a cat-dog relationship for witches, you would probably know the second word, and you don't.)

So, what have we got left?

→~~Cat is to kitten~~

→**Goose is to gander** ← **Even though you don't know what this is, this is the only answer left!**
A gander is a male goose. A warlock is a male witch. (Other names are wizards, sorcerers).

→~~Sheep is to shepherd~~

→~~Hammer is to nail~~

→~~Cat is to Dog~~

Use your powers of deduction and investigation!! Look for clues!!

