



NVTutoring Quarterly

Going beyond tutoring to help our customers.

nvtutoring.com

Spring 2006

Professional, Courteous,
In-Home Service
Since 1995

Elementary - College

Introducing “College Corner”

Here at Northern Virginia Tutoring Service, we are always trying to think of new ways to help our customers. So recently, we introduced the College Corner—just click on the graduation cap on the left side of our homepage, and you’ll find a wealth of information about financing college, links to all the Virginia public universities, and more! Updated monthly.

Here’s an excerpt from this month’s article: “Some Tax Financing Help.”

Education weighs in as a big personal and family investment. When the time arrives to finance college directly, out of pocket, the investment can be big enough to ruin a family budget. Some of that expensive investment can be recovered through the federal tax system thanks to several options made available by Congress. There are three subsidies available for education that can be claimed on Form 1040, no doubt your favorite form. The education subsidies that will help finance your son or daughter’s education show up on line 33, line 34, and line 50.

Line 33 allows a deduction from gross income for interest paid on a loan taken out to finance higher education expenses. The deduction cannot exceed \$2500 a year. You must have an income less than \$135,000 if filing jointly as a married couple, or \$65,000 for single, head of household or widower. No one listed as a dependent on a parent’s return can take these deductions.

Line 34 is even better. It is billed as simply a tuition and fees deduction....

Last month: February: “Do You Qualify For Financial Aid?” You may be surprised.

<http://nvtutoring.com/ccorner.htm>

On the back:

- **Helpful Hints: Spanish on the Internet**
- **SAT v. ACT compared and contrasted**

Upcoming SAT/ACT:

SAT	Apr 1
ACT	Apr 8
SAT	May 6
SAT-subjects	May 6
SAT	Jun 3
SAT-subjects	Jun 3
ACT	Jun 10

SAT Prep

Northern Virginia Tutoring Service

33 hours

August 14-31, 2006; Monday to Thursday; 6-8:30pm (8/14 and 8/31: 6-10pm)

Convenient Arlington location, produced by the company you trust.

25 hours of class time, plus 8 hours for pre- and post-tests. Materials and snacks provided.

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"We're All Here for the Kids!"

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Helpful Hints: Spanish on the Internet

Learning a foreign language in school used to be all about the books. The internet is changing that. Here are a few sites that I always recommend to my students:

Online dictionary: <http://www.wordreference.com>
NOT an online translation site—type in the word you want to say and a variety of entries will appear, allowing you to say exactly what you meant. The Oxford Spanish dictionaries are the best in paper, but this is the best (and easiest) online.

Verb conjugations: <http://www.verbix.com/languages/spanish.shtml>
Found the perfect verb, but aren't sure how to conjugate it? Just type it in online, or download the program. If you prefer a book, I recommend All Spanish Verbs from A to Z by Larousse. ISBN: 2-03-533133-1

Grammar and vocab: <http://spanish.about.com>
Try to ignore the ads, and you'll find everything from basic conjugating instructions to lists of commonly confused words.

-Danielle Smallwood

How do the SAT and ACT compare?

Parents and students are often confronted with the question: How do the SAT and ACT exams differ? Generally, it is thought that the SAT exam tests "innate" analytical thinking skills while the ACT is more content-based.

Whether you should take the SAT or the ACT depends on two factors:

1. What scores will your college accept? Most colleges require SAT, but some will accept ACT in addition to or instead of the SAT.
2. Which of the tests plays to your strengths? Are you great at getting past the tricky language of the SAT, or are you more comfortable with the more straight-forward subject-matter of the ACT?

Tip: For either test, begin preparing early (3 months or more). Build vocabulary, strengthen math and writing.

SAT

3 sections (in 10 segments)
-3 critical reading, 3 math, 3 writing
-1 experimental segment

Math: up to Geometry and Algebra II;

Reading: sentence completion, short and long critical reading passages and reading comprehension

Writing: grammar, usage, word choice and an essay based on a writing prompt (30% of overall writing score).

Scoring: each section 200-800.
maximum score: 2400.

Length: 225 minutes (+25 min. for experimental section)

ACT

4-5 sections
-Math, Science, Reading, English
-Optional Writing section

Math: up to Trigonometry

Reading: four passages: prose fiction, social science, humanities and natural science

English: stresses grammar

Writing: 30-minute exercise based on a writing prompt

Science: Examines reasoning, using charts, graphs, and data interpretation

Scoring: each section 1-36.
Scores averaged for a composite.

Length: 175 min. (+30 min for optional writing test)