
How to Take True-False Tests

Students often get "tripped up" by true-false questions because they don't read the question carefully. The key to doing well in true/false tests is to read the questions very carefully. Read over these basic principles with your mentee. Ask him/her practice questions that illustrate these principles.

1. Look for any word in the question that could make it false.

If you can falsify an answer by providing a counter-example, the answer is obviously false.

2. There are generally more true answers than false answers on a test.

3. Look out for extreme modifiers that tend to make a question false: all, none, never, only, etc.

Once again, try to think of a counter-example that falsifies the answer.

4. Identify qualifiers that tend to make questions true: usually, frequently, often, probably, etc.

5. Questions that state a reason tend to be false.

Words that justify a statement -- since, because, when -- tend to make the statement false because they introduce a reason that is incorrect.