

Tips & Tricks

COMPREHENSION

1 Read Question Stems First

This tells your brain what to look for (feelings, facts, inference, tone).

Underline any trap words in the question – not, never, least, most, only, except

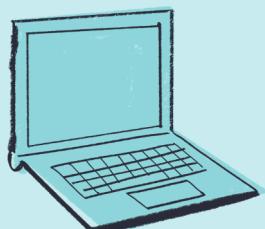


2 Read the Passage ONCE – Slow and Active

While reading, underline:

- Names
- Possible answer to a question
- Facts

Don't over-underline – just key ideas.



3 Start with the first question

Always eliminate wrong answers first. Between two close ones, check which fits the whole sentence or tone. If unsure, pick the answer that matches the mood of the passage.



4 Mark passage with Q Numbers

Write a tiny Q number (e.g., "Q4") in the margin next to that line. Answers appear in passage order. So, if you cannot find Q6, check just after the place where you found Q5.

Don't search the whole passage – it wastes time.



5 Skip Fast, Return Later

Never get stuck. If an answer takes more than 30 seconds, skip and come back. Often, the next question gives a clue.



QUESTION TYPES



Retrieval (Find & Copy)

Clues: According to the text,
Find/copy,
Who/What/Where/When



Vocabulary in Context

Clues: What does ___ mean?,
Closest in meaning,
Synonym/Antonym



Inference

Clues: What does this suggest?,
How do you know?, Why do you
think?



Writer's Technique / Effect

Clues: How does the writer make
this..., What technique is used...,
Effect on the reader



Main Idea / Summary

Clues: Which sentence best sums
up..., What is the main idea?, Best
title



True / False / Not Given

Clues: Decide True/False/Not
Given, Is this statement
supported?



Sequencing

Clues: Put events in order, What
happened first/next/last?

TRUE/FALSE/NOT GIVEN

Rules

True (T): The statement agrees with the passage.

False (F): The statement contradicts the passage (opposite meaning).

Not Given (NG): The passage does not say enough to decide.

How to answer

Read the statement carefully. Break it into keywords and main ideas. Find the information in the passage.

If the passage and statement mean the same thing → True

If the passage says the opposite → False

If the passage says nothing (or not enough) → Not Given

Key Tips

Don't use outside knowledge – only the passage.

Watch for trap words like always, never, all, only.

Be careful with numbers, times, and dates.

If you find yourself guessing or assuming, the answer is usually Not Given.

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

How to answer

Read the whole sentence, not just the word.

Look before and after for clues.
Replace the word with your own guess.

Choose the option that matches the meaning in THIS context, not the dictionary meaning.

Clues

Contrast words: but, although, however

Examples: such as, for example

Definitions hidden in the sentence

Tone or emotion that the word creates

Key Tips

Ignore words that "sound similar."

Choose meaning based on THIS text, not your outside knowledge.

Eliminate options that don't match the mood or sentence meaning.

INFERENCE

How to answer

Be a detective: look for clues in actions, words, or descriptions.

Always answer with evidence from the text.

Clues

Use this frame if you are stuck: "I think [idea] because the text says '[quote]'."

Examples

Look at actions: "He shuffled his feet and looked away." → He feels nervous.

Look at dialogue: "I suppose... if I must," she said reluctantly. → She doesn't want to.

Look at descriptions: "Dark clouds gathered and the wind howled." → Suggests something bad is coming.

MAIN IDEA

How to answer

The main idea is the most important point.

Other sentences give details, examples, or explanations.

Clues

Ask yourself: "What is this mostly about?"

Use this frame: "The main idea is [idea] because all the sentences support it."

One-sentence rule: Can you explain the whole paragraph in one sentence?

Examples

Headline test: Imagine this paragraph was a news story. What headline would fit?

Elimination: In MCQs, remove options that are too narrow (detail only) or too broad (covering the whole text, not just one paragraph).

FIGURE OF SPEECH



A Rude Snake Makes People Often Hide on Icy Islands Alone!



ALLITERATION

Does the sentence repeat the same starting sound?
Example: "Silent shadows slipped softly."

REPETITION

Does it repeat key words or phrases for effect?
Example: "Work hard, dream big, shine bright."

SIMILE

Does it use "like" or "as" to compare two things?
Example: "As brave as a lion."

METAPHOR

Does it say one thing is another (without "like/as")?
Example: "The world is a stage."

PERSONIFICATION

Is something non-human doing a human action?
Example: "The wind whispered through the trees."

ONOMATOPOEIA

Does it describe a sound with a sound word?
Example: "Bang! Buzz! Whoosh!"

HYPERBOLE

Is it an exaggeration that can't really happen?
Example: "I've told you a million times!"

OXYMORON

Do two opposite words appear together?
Example: "Deafening silence."

IMAGERY

Does it create a vivid picture (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste)?
Example: "The golden sunlight danced on the calm sea."

IDIOM

Is it a common saying that doesn't make literal sense?
Example: "It's raining cats and dogs."

ALLUSION

Does it refer to someone or something famous?
Example: "He's a real Einstein in maths."