

**Always look for WRONG answers
DON'T look for the RIGHT ones
WHY?**

Because it's much easier to find the correct answer after eliminating all the WRONG choices than finding it directly.

READING COMPREHENSION

1. **Is a treasure hunt section** (neither a test of reading nor comprehension)
2. **3 types of passages**
 - ✓ ***Specific science passages:***
 - Tone (neutral or objective);
 - Contains lots of jargons (don't pay too much attention to them);
 - Need to focus on the MAIN IDEA only
 - ✓ ***General science passages:***
 - History of science discovery; development of a scientific procedure or method; why it fails or succeeds in explaining certain phenomenon.
 - Tone (neutral or objective, may expressing an opinion),
 - Contains more point of views
 - ✓ ***Non-science passage:***
 - Humanities/social studies topics (literature/art) (history; sociology; cultural studies)
 - Humanities: Take a specific point of view // compare several views
 - Social studies: introduce era/event focusing on specific problem/topic/person/group of persons
 - Tone: Vary (neutral – contains descriptions of facts and ideas) (opinionated – judgments and criticisms)
3. **Basic approach**
 - ✓ Get a sense of passage (Skimming – Kind of it but not exactly)
 - Don't read and try to memorize all details – DON'T be such that FOOL
 - 1-2 minutes: Get the sense of the passage (remember to TAKE NOTE)
 - ➔ Main idea (what's the passage saying)
 - *Read the first and last sentences of each paragraph.*
 - *Skim through to find KEY WORDS (help identify paragraph's organization)*
 - ➔ Organization (How the author structured the passage – the function of each paragraph – trying to convey what fragment of the main idea)- **VERY IMPORTANT**
 - ***Point and example:*** *A theory/idea + supporting details (examples/arguments)*
 - ***Point-and-counterpoint:*** *some theories for explaining a phenomenon (Another, in addition, etc.)*
 - ***Theory and critique:*** *common theory/idea/notion/belief + its flaws (admittedly, Yet, however, etc.)*

- **Pros vs. cons:** both sides of an issue (however...contrast....)
- **Compare and contrast:** similarities + differences between some objects (similarly, in the same way, analogous, parallel, likewise, just as, also, as, etc.) (however, alternatively, by contrast, on the other hand, rather than, while, yet)
- **Historical cause and effect:** Sequences in chronological or the reverse order (prior to, as a result, therefore, consequently, then, thus, accordingly, since, because, due to, in light of, etc.)
- **Classification:** identifies/distinguishes between some types + branches to some subclasses (first, in addition, finally, also, another, division, divide, etc.)
- ✓ Figure out what question is asking (LEAD WORDS) – especially important to SPECIFIC question types.
- ✓ Find the relevant material in the passage (LEAD WORDS)
 - Read the sentence containing that LEAD WORD
 - Read 5 lines below and above that sentence
- ✓ **Put the answer in your own words (NEW) – Why? Because it helps you use POE properly**
- ✓ Use POE eliminate answer that *disagree with your answer*
 - **Extreme statements are BAD:** must, the first, each, every, all, the best, only, totally, always, no. You shouldn't eliminate the answer containing those words immediately but should pay close attention to it.
 - **Moderate statements are GOOD:** may, can, some, many, sometimes, often
 - **Direct repetition from the passage:** ETS's favorite tricks are information taken from different paragraphs that are not relevant to the question → DON'T answer relying on your MEMORY
 - **Ambiguous answer choices:** Remember the CORRECT answer should be indisputable. The wrong (even half-wrong-half-right) answer which is disputable (or could be analyzed in different ways) must be INCORRECT.
 - **For MAIN IDEA/PURPOSE/STRUCTURE questions**
 - ➔ Too specific (partly right or right on behalf of specific paragraph only)
 - ➔ Too broad
 - ➔ Not mentioned
 - ➔ **If you've got more than 1 choice. Refer back to the passage then use POE again**
 - **For TONE/ATTITUDE/STYLE questions, wrong choices would be**
 - ➔ Portrays minorities, women or any modern nations in a negative light
 - ➔ Disrespect the authors/the subjects of the reading passage
 - ➔ Too negative/extreme. (ETS's reading passages don't have strong emotions → The style would never be violent, the author will never be irrational)
 - ➔ The author is never detached (has no emotion at all): **apathy, indifference, detached ambivalence**. Rather, it might be 'objective', 'impartial', 'unbiased'.
 - **For I, II, III question:**
 - ➔ LEAD WORDS
 - ➔ Refer back to the passage, read and paraphrase with your own words (in mind)
 - ➔ Read each I, II, III. If you find one that correct (e.g. I) – eliminate all the answer

choices that do not contain it (I). Then you will find the correct answer choice at the end of POE

- DO NOT eliminate any choice just because you don't understand or know the meaning of some words in it. You should work on choices which you could define/understand it properly.

Sentence Completion

1. TRIGGERS that show relationship

- Contrast – *although, but, by contrast, despite, however, nevertheless, nonetheless, on the other hand, unlike, yet.*
- Similarity – *as, in the same way, like, likewise, similarly, by the same token, not unlike.*
- Restatement – *in fact, in other words, in short, namely, that is.*
- Cause and effect – *because, hence, consequently, due to, leads to, produces, results in, since, therefore, thus.*

2. Scan to identify keywords showing relationship - TRIGGERS

1. Similar: -/- or +/+
 2. Contrast: -/+ or +/-
 3. Causal: -/- or +/+
 4. Explanation: -/- or +/+
3. Identify the clue: **POSITIVE (+)** OR **NEGATIVE (-)**. Mark each blank with **(+)** or **(-)**. (Take a look at KAPLAN verbal workout)
 4. Think of your own words or phrases *(do not be so serious of wrong/right at this step. It just helps get you to the context of question. But it is a must-be-done step. Without it, you would be confused by many given answer choices).*
 5. Eliminate other choices
 6. Pay attention only to what you're sure about (you can confirm it's **WRONG** → eliminate. Otherwise, leave it there)

Antonyms

1. If you know the STEM WORD (ST)

- Think of the SIMPLEST definition of the STEM WORD - **DST**
- Think of the opposite meaning/word/phrase of that definition - **OD**
- Use POE to cross out BAD answer choices
 - 1.1. Words that don't have the same meaning as **OD**
 - 1.2. Make opposites for the remaining possible choices - **OC**
 - 1.3. Work backward to the **ST** (compare **OC** with **ST**)

2. If you 'kind of know' the STEM WORD

- The STEM WORD is a **POSITIVE (+)** or **NEGATIVE (-)** word or Neither of them?

(Kaplan GRE's Verbal workout)

- Or think about WORD ASSOCIATIONS of the **ST** (e.g. *Alleviate – Alleviate pain – Do something with the pain – Now think about answer choices that can do something with the pain*)
- POE
 - 2.1. Words that don't have the **OPPOSITE** connotation with **STEM WORD**
 - 2.2. Words that cannot have any **OPPOSITE** at all
 - 2.3. Make opposites for the remaining possible choices - **OC**
 - 2.4. Work backward to the **ST** (compare **OC** with **ST**)

3. If you don't know the **STEM WORD**

- Check the parts of speech for **ST**
- Think about the **ST**'s secondary meanings
- Pay attention to **EXTREME** words (they might be true!?)
- POE
 - Words that cannot have any **OPPOSITE** at all
 - Make opposites for the remaining possible choices - **OC**
 - Work backward to the **ST** (compare **OC** with **ST**)

Analogies

1. Always pay attention to **PARTS of SPEECH** first

2. When you know both words in the stem pair

- 1.1. WRITE DOWN a defining sentence showing the relationship between two **STEM WORDS**
- 1.2. Apply that sentence to the answer choice
- 1.3. Use POE
- 1.4. If necessary, make another more specific sentence
- 1.5. If you don't know some words in answer choices, it doesn't matter at all. Look at this example

DRAWL:SPEAK::

1. spurt:expel
2. foster:develop
3. scintillate:flash
4. pare:trim
5. saunter:walk

Defining sentence with stem pair: A = B slowly (DRAWL is to SPEAK slowly)

1. Makes no sense – Cross out
2. Make no sense – Eliminate
3. Don't know what's *scintillate* – leave it there
4. Make no sense – Cross out
5. Saunter = walk slowly

Now look at 3rd answer choice: flash - shine suddenly → Is there any word existing that means 'flash slowly'. It makes no sense at all – Eliminate

Ok, now the only remaining choice is SAUNTER is to WALK slowly

2. When you don't know one of words in the stem pair

- 2.1. **TRY** make defining sentence with the answer choices (just TRY fairly don't push it too

- hard)
- 2.2. Eliminate those with unable-to-define relationship pairs
- 2.3. With the remaining answer choices, work backward to see which defining sentences fit with the stem pair
- 3. **When you don't know either of the words in the stem pair**
 - 3.1. **TRY** make defining sentence with the answer choices (just TRY fairly don't push it too hard)
 - 3.2. Eliminate those with unable-to-define relationship pairs
 - 3.3. Make an educated guess about which remaining answer choice has the **STRONGEST** relationship

SOME COMMON ANALOGY CATEGORIES

1. Characteristic

- ***Defining characteristic***
 - ✓ *A is a key characteristic of B or vice versa*
 - ✓ *A is a characteristic that defines what a B is (Brave:Hero)*
 - ✓ **By definition, A is B**
- ***Ideal (but not necessary) characteristic***
 - ✓ *An ideal/effective A must/should be B (Sword:Sharp)*

2. Function or use

- ***Inherent purpose (function)***
 - ✓ **A is a function or use of B**
 - ✓ **A is a tool designed to B**
 - ✓ **The chief purpose of A is to B (Key:Unlock)**
- ***One of several possible uses or applications***
 - ✓ **A can, but need not, be used to B (Finger:point) (speech:inspire)**
 - ✓ **A can server several functions, one of which is to B**
 - ✓ **A can B, although it isn't designed for this purpose**

3. Contrary meaning

- ***Impossible characteristic***
 - ✓ **By definition, A cannot be characterized by B (Mineral:Organic) (Fructose:sour)**
 - ✓ **A describes precisely what B is not**
- ***Mutually exclusive conditions***
 - ✓ **Something that is A would probably not be described as B**
 - ✓ **A person cannot also be B (timid:experimental) (obvious:clandestine)**

- ***Lack or absence is part of the definition***
 - ✓ A describes a lack/absence of B (dizzy:equilibrium)
 - ✓ If something is A, it lacks B (deflated:air; neophyte:experience)

4. Operates against

- ***Correction, reversal, elimination***
 - A corrects/reverses/eliminates B (sustenance:malnutrition) – sustenance: food/nourishment
- ***Lessening (decrease) in degree, extent, amount, quantity***
 - A lessens the degree/extent/amount of B (compression:amplitude)(filter:spectrum)
- ***Prevention***
 - A prevents B from occurring (blockade:progress)
- ***Opposing functions***
 - A and B server opposing functions (fertilizer:sickle)
 - A and B work at cross-purposes (anchor:cork)

5. Type, form or example

- ***Specific example or category***
 - A is one category/example of B (anthology:collection)
- ***Neutral vs. negative form***
 - To A is to B in an unlawful/immoral/harmful manner (scribble:write)
 - A is a negative/poor/bad form of B (mock:mimic)
 - To A is to B, but with an improper purpose (pedant:scholar)
- ***Difference in degree, rate, scale, extent, amount, quantity***
 - A takes B to an extreme (counsel:admonish)
 - A is a faster/larger/stronger form of B (malaise:distraught)
 - A is the same as B but on a larger scale

6. Place or environment

- ***The general place generally associated with the object/event***
 - A usually occurs in B (cook:kitchen) (honeycomb:hive)
 - A is the only place you find B (elegy:funeral)
- One of many places associated with the object/event

- A is one activity that might occur at a B (observe:laboratory)
- A is one place where B might be found (lake:poach)

7. Condition for OR ingredient of

- ***Necessary condition or ingredient***
 - A is needed to B (wind:sail) (ego:conceit)
 - A can't happen without B (election:voters)
 - A is necessary ingredient for B
- ***Helpful but not necessary condition***
 - A promotes/assists B (quiet:concentrate)
 - A thrives in condition described as B (concentrate:quiet)
 - A is one possible ingredient for producing B (tailwind:racer)

8. Part, element or aspect

- ***Intrinsic aspect or quality***
 - A is one intrinsic aspect of B, and it cannot be separated from the whole (temperature:climate)
 - Every A includes some kind of B, which can't be separated from the whole (personality:attitude)
- ***Part-to-whole (essential part)***
 - A is a distinct physical component/part of every B (wall:house); (screen:television)
- ***Part-to-whole (non-essential part)***
 - A is one possible component/part of B (coda:composition) (adjudication:trial)
- ***Individual-to-group***
 - Several A(s) make up a B (patron: clientele)
 - A group of A(s) is called B (lion:pride) (patch:mosaic)

9. Evidence or result

- ***Cause and effect (naturally or likely outcome or consequence)***
 - If A occurs, so will B (monotony:boredom)
 - A is a by-product of B (obsolescence:innovation) – obsolescence: a state of being obsolete
- ***Process and product (the result is intentional)***

- You create a A by the process of B (smooth:shave) (deal:negotiate)
- A is the intentional result of B (coffee:brew) (deal:negotiate)
- ***Symptom, sign, or manifestation***
 - A is an indication that B has occurred (blush:embarrassed)
 - A is one possible symptom of B (tumor:cancer) (isolation:misanthrope)