**Reading Comprehension**

Reading comprehension passages necessitates that active reading should be employed. Even if the passage is boring or seems off-topic to you which will happen most of the time, stick to it while pretending that you have to explain a 10-second story to your friend.

**Steps to employ to solve RC questions:**

**> Passage immersion:**

> Read 1st line carefully.

> Pause

> Think about the subject and predict a bit about the topic.

**> Summarize in your own words as you read along in your words.**

> Read a set of lines.

> Pause.

> Absorb the info as you read.

> Simplify as you take notes.

**> Predict the thoughts through keywords:**

> Do take note of transition words such as: However, Furthermore

**> Predict the direction of the author:**

> Whether author keeps in same direction or

> Author reverses direction using contrasting words.

> It helps you actively understand the passage

**> Shorten the technical terms mentioned in paragraph**

> This has to while you are going through the passage.

**> Identify and quickly go through details:**

> Identify when specific details are being presented and skim through

> Note just gist of it (important keywords)

> Do not try to understand all aspects of it.

**> Understand sentence structure**

> Identify clauses.

> Identify S-V pairs.

> Understand lists and modifiers.

**> Concentrate on the relationship in sentence structure.**

**> Infer the meaning of difficult words.**

**Steps to answer a question**:

> First interpret the question type.

**Main point Questions**

Main point questions generally ask for main idea or author’s primary purpose for writing the passage. Such types of questions generally express intent of passage and don’t contain examples. The answer to such type of questions spans complete passage and its scope includes the entire passage.

* Prephrase the answer.
* If it’s not possible to prephrase, go through the passage map.
* In case you find 2 choices, see which choice covers the whole passage, in case there are 3 or more choices left, guess and move on.

**Inference questions**

Inference means derive by reasoning; conclude or judge from premises. Inference based questions find our ability to find author’s intention. It’s also refers to logical deduction.

To answer such type of questions:

> Read nearby sentences (generally, 1 or 2) and try to infer the meaning of the content asked for.

> Logically deduce what author is trying to make out of that content.

Notes:

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| --- | --- |
| Signal | Implication |
| However; Yet; On one hand/On the other hand; While; Rather; Instead; In contrast; Alternatively | Indicate contrasting ideas |
| Granted; It is true that; Certainly; Admittedly; Despite; Although | Concede a point (author reluctantly agrees) |
| Actually; In fact; Indeed; Surprisingly | Indicate an unexpected result or phenomenon |
| Nevertheless; Nonetheless; That said; Even so | Assert a position after conceding a point |
| Supposedly; It was once thought; seemingly | Something appeared to be a certain way, but it really wasn’t that way at all |

**Details**: When you observe that some nitty-gritty things are talked about. Just parse over them keeping in mind why that information is mentioned.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signal | Implication |
| For example; As an example; In particular; For instance | Provide an example |
| Furthermore; Moreover; In addition; As well as; Also; Likewise; Too | Add to something that was already said |
| Likewise; In the same way | Provide a new example or detail that goes along with a previous one |
| In other words; That is; Namely; So to speak; a semicolon | Restate something that was already said (in this case, you can use whichever set of words is easier for you to interpret!) |

**Specific Questions**

**Type of questions:**

* **Specific Details:** These types of questions expect you to find specific details about something in the passage.
* **Inference based questions:** Not directly stated in paragraph, but it can be inferred directly by combining 2 or 3 statements. Following keywords can be used – imply, cite, suggest, infer etc.
* **Specific Purpose Questions:** These types of questions ask you why author mentioned that specific piece of information.

Steps to answer a question (Specific one):

* Identify the question.
* Check the relevant information in the passage map and go to that paragraph
* Prephrase the answer
* Eliminate and find a match.

Notes:

* Argue and refute represents different intensity of a proposed idea.
* ‘Refute’ is a kind of extreme keyword.
* If first para gives some contrasts and another following paras give the point of agreement then the overall purpose of passage is the point of agreement.
* Always try to find out the meaning from the context.
* Last line change should also be taken into account.
* Beware of one word off-choice, it might make the choice out-of-context.
* Look for surrounding tense in 'highlighted Question'
* Immediately prephrase the methodologies, if any, discussed in the paragraph.
* 'questioning the validity is an extreme version'
* When passage mention claims/theory of certain set of ‘people’ search for those people and what their thinking is, not of the other people in the passage