**3. The Text is Full of Clues**

Like in a good Agatha Christie book, there are lots of clues to the right answer.

What sort of clues are in a text?

* Names and pronouns (Jack... he... this...)
* Chronology (Then... Finally...)
* Quotation marks ("I couldn't believe it.")
* Contrast words (However, but)
* Verb tenses (had gone... will have finished)
* Cause and effect (Therefore... as a result...)
* Repetition (in other words...)

Let's look at each clue type in more detail.

**NAMES AND PRONOUNS 1**

Once upon a time there was a boy named **Jack**. [1] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Then he died.

Choose one of these sentences to go in gap [1]:

A - **He** ate all the chocolate in London.

B - **Their** house was on a hill.

That's pretty easy, isn't it? Jack is a 'he', not a 'their'. There's also a logical connection between eating all the chocolate and dying.

**NAMES AND PRONOUNS 2**

**The documentary** featured interviews with many of **top scientists**. [2] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  But the story was not funny, and many viewers complained about its depressing ending.

A - **It** was watched by 8 million people.

B - **One** was Simon Baron-Cohen, brother of the famous comedian.

This one is hard. A could be the answer because 'it' means 'the documentary'. But B could be the answer because 'one' refers to 'top scientists'. But it is still useful to look at names and pronouns because in the exam you will have 7 answers to choose from.

So in this example what do we do next? The three sentences must fit together like a lock fits a keyhole.

The clue is in the relationship between the words **but**, **funny**, and **comedian**. Those three words fit together perfectly.

The word 'but' is a good example of a contrasting phrase, which brings us to...

**CONTRASTING PHRASES**

We've seen an example of 'but'. Here's another one:

At first, the show was not popular. [3] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A - However, in 2014 more people watched it every week and it ended the year as the number 1 show in America.  
B - In 2014 more people watched it every week and it ended the year as the number 1 show in America.

Which do you think is a better story?

Answer A gives a nice contrast. At first the show was not popular but later it WAS popular. The word 'however' introduces the change from negative to positive.

**TIME PHRASES**

In the so-called **Golden Age** of Hollywood, actors and actresses **were tied** to one-sided contracts. [4] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A - **These days**, however, they are free to choose projects that interest them.  
B - More movies are **now** made in India than in Los Angeles.

'The golden age' is a time period in the past which contrasts with 'these days'. Basically it means 'in the past... but now...'

Sentence B might be true, but has nothing to do with this story.

**QUOTATION MARKS**

Sometimes the gap will be in speech marks ("") - that makes it pretty easy to find the answer. Which of the sentences sounds like it was said by a person? If there is a text written in a neutral tone and one of the answers has the word 'I' then that must be in quotation marks.

But there was more to his performance than scoring the winning goal. He also motivated his younger teammates. '[5]\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.'

A - He had become a true leader.  
B - I felt like I was on top of the world.

See? It can only be B.