



# TARGET CAT 2025



## MBA

VARC

**ESSENTIAL TO ACE READING  
COMPREHENSION IN CAT**

Lecture – 1

By – JUHI NARULA MA'AM





# Juhi Narula

- 13 years of experience in training students for CAT, GMAT & GRE
- Life skills coach
- Content Creator
- B.Tech, M.B.A

# TOPICS *to be covered*

- 1) ESSENTIALS TO ACE RC ✓
- 2) SOURCES TO READ FROM
- 3) PRACTICE PASSAGES





## Topic : Essentials to ACE Reading Comprehension in CAT



### 1. Understanding the Passage Structure

Control

Mapping a. focus  
b. specific  
ques  
(revisit)

- **Topic:** Identify the subject of the passage.
- **Main Idea:** Determine the central argument or thesis. This often appears in the introduction or conclusion.   
Primary purpose - Why?   
What -   
C. gen questions
- **Tone:** Pay attention to the author's attitude, whether it is critical, supportive, neutral, etc.   
how?
- **Structure:** Identify how the passage is organized – whether it's descriptive, argumentative, or analytical.   
flow / key words





## Topic : Essentials to ACE Reading Comprehension in CAT



### 2. Skimming and Scanning

+ve/-ve/=

How? ~~What~~?

→ Mapping

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- **Skimming:** Read through the passage quickly to get a general understanding of the topic, tone, and structure. Focus on the introduction, conclusion, and first/last sentences of paragraphs.  
*discussion*  
*how?*  
*flow of ideas*

general reading

- **Scanning:** When answering specific questions, scan the passage to locate key details, figures, dates, or specific arguments.

— Scanned —  
— ph —  
— proper nouns —  
Dates



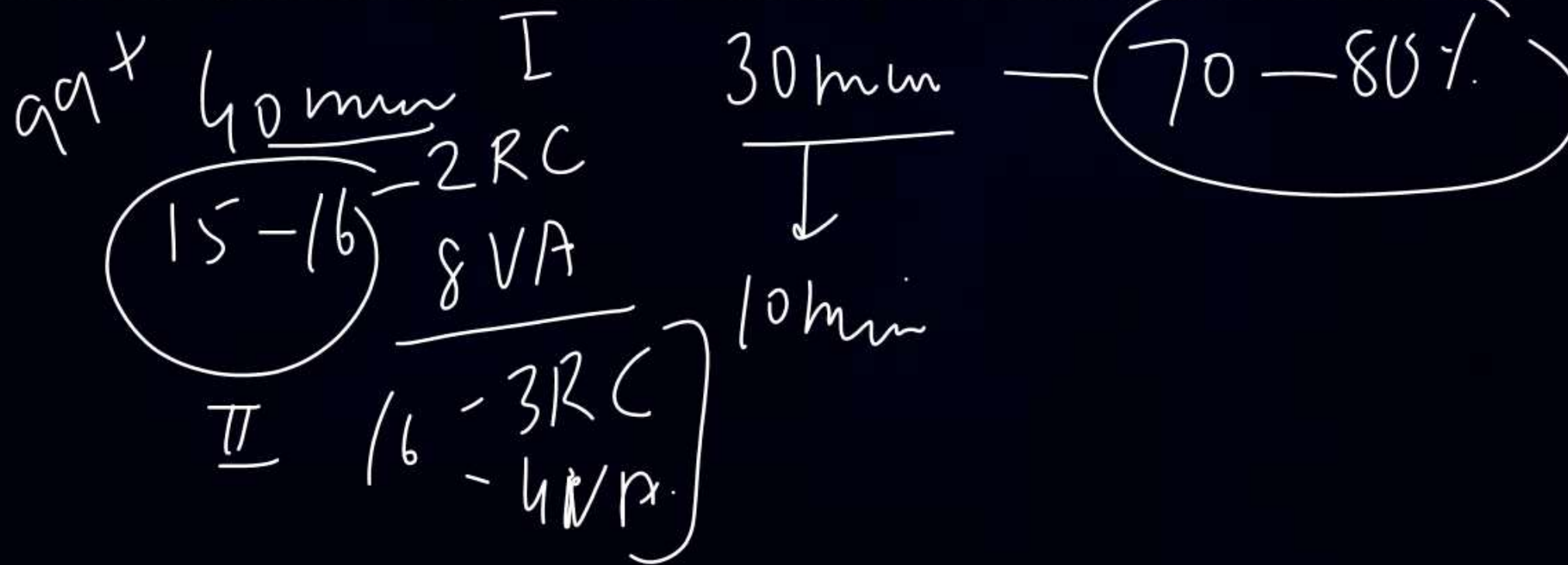


## Topic : Essentials to ACE Reading Comprehension in CAT



### 3. Building Reading Speed <sup>POOD</sup> (Important) Time bound

- Regular practice of reading newspapers, editorials, and long articles can help you build speed without losing comprehension. Focus on reading materials from diverse genres like economics, philosophy, science, etc.



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CAT 24 Ques

— 4RC  $\times 4 = 16$  Ques.

VA — Para Jumbles

— Para completion

— Odd one out

— Para Summary

$\times 2 = \underline{8}$





### 4. Elimination Technique – Process of Elimination

- For multiple-choice questions, eliminate incorrect or irrelevant answers. Sometimes, you can identify the wrong choices quickly, leaving you with one or two possible answers, which increases your odds of selecting the correct one.

~~A~~      Selection X  
~~B~~  
~~C~~  
~~D~~





### 5. Types of Questions and Strategies

- **Direct/Factual:** Look for specific information from the passage. Scan the text for keywords.
- **Inference-based:** These require you to read between the lines. Understand the implications and deeper meanings of statements. *Retrieval*
- **Tone and Style:** Identify the author's tone by focusing on adjectives and verbs used in the passage. *Conclusion*
- **Main Idea/Theme:** These require an understanding of the passage's overall message. Often, the first or last paragraph contains hints. *how?*
- **Assumptions:** For assumption-based questions, infer what the author is assuming to be true without directly stating it. *What*
- **Title/Heading:** Think about what title best captures the essence of the entire passage. *weakening / strengthening / Assumption*





### 6. **Manage Time Efficiently**

- Divide your time equally among passages. Don't spend too much time on one question; if stuck, move on and return later.
- Tackle easier passages first to build confidence and secure marks before approaching the more challenging ones.





### 7. Improve Vocabulary ✓✓ techniques

- Reading a wide variety of texts helps you naturally improve your vocabulary. This helps in understanding complex sentences and difficult words in the passage without losing time

✓✓ Word Power Made Easy  
(Pdf)

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### 8. Practice with CAT-level Material

- Regularly practice RCs from previous CAT papers and mock tests. Familiarize yourself with CAT's difficulty level and passage style.
- Analyze your mistakes after every practice session. Learn why a particular answer is correct and why the others are wrong.





### 9. Focus on Comprehension, Not Just Speed

- While reading speed is important, comprehension is key. If you read too fast and miss key points, you'll struggle to answer questions. Strike a balance between speed and understanding.

*Reading + Comprehension*



### 10. Develop Analytical Thinking *analyse*

- CAT RCs often have passages that require critical thinking and analysis. Try to engage with the text by questioning the author's assumptions, the validity of arguments, and the logical flow of ideas.

*Passage — Summary  
— basic questions*





## Topic : How to Begin-Read



### 1. Newspapers & Magazines

1 hr - 1.5 hr gen reading

N. K. Sinha  
Arjun Sharma

1 - 1.5 months

Lectures + 2 pps  
+ PYQs + sectional tests  
20 mocks overall

- **The Hindu or The Indian Express:** Focus on the editorial section to understand complex arguments and viewpoints.
- **The Economist:** Covers a wide range of topics from economics, politics, science, and technology. It helps in understanding dense, analytical writing.
- **The New York Times:** For reading well-researched articles on global issues.
- **Scientific American:** Provides insight into scientific topics written for the general reader, helping with complex passages in CAT.
- **Business Standard or Financial Times:** Helps you get familiar with business and economic jargon, which is common in CAT passages.





## Topic : How to Begin-Read



### 2. Books on Diverse Subjects ✓

Books

- **Sapiens:** A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari: This book explores human history from a broad perspective and is intellectually stimulating.
- **Guns, Germs, and Steel by Jared Diamond:** It focuses on the evolution of societies and civilizations, offering passages rich in historical analysis.
- **Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman:** Improves analytical thinking and the ability to understand nuanced discussions.
- **The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell:** Easy to read yet conceptually rich, this book helps with understanding sociology and psychology themes.





## Topic : How to Begin Read



- **A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking:** Good for practicing reading scientific and philosophical concepts in a simplified manner.
- **Outliers:** The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell: Offers insights into various topics related to success, psychology, and sociology.
- **1984 by George Orwell:** A literary classic that helps you deal with politically heavy and dystopian themes, which may appear in CAT RCs.



## Topic : How to Begin Read



### 3. <sup>Troubled</sup> Philosophy and Psychology ✓

- **Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor E. Frankl:** An introspective psychological exploration that sharpens comprehension skills for abstract topics.
- **Meditations by Marcus Aurelius:** This ancient philosophy book (Stoicism) helps build reading patience and critical analysis.
- **The Social Animal by Elliot Aronson:** Explores human social behavior, which is useful for handling passages related to psychology and sociology.





## Topic : How to Begin Read



### 4. Fiction ✓

Beg.

- **To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee:** A well-written novel that touches on societal issues, offering a blend of legal and ethical arguments.
- **Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen:** Enhances your understanding of complex language, sentence structures, and societal themes.
- **The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger:** A book about identity and societal expectations, which can aid in understanding themes of human psychology.



## Topic : How to Begin Read



### 5. Essays and Short Articles

- **"A Room of One's Own" by Virginia Woolf:** A long essay on women, writing, and identity.
- **Essays by George Orwell:** Orwell's essays like "Politics and the English Language" will improve your analytical skills and offer insights into politics, society, and language.





## Topic : How to Begin Read



### 6. Online Resources

*AEON - online*

- **Aeon.co:** Offers long-form essays on a variety of topics, including philosophy, psychology, and culture.
- **Project Syndicate:** Provides articles on global economic and social issues.
- **The Atlantic:** A great source for well-argued articles on politics, society, and technology.



## Topic : How to Begin Read



### 7. Critical Thinking Books

- **Critical Thinking by Richard Paul and Linda Elder:** Helps sharpen reasoning skills.
- **How to Read a Book by Mortimer J. Adler:** A guide on effectively reading and understanding different genres and complexities of text.





## Topic : Practice Passage

Para 1

1. place - L (France)  
2. complain  
L. wolves  
3. Fp
- Tourists (enjoy)



Merriman Webster

CAT - 2023

The passage below is accompanied by four questions. Based on the passage, choose the best answer for each question.

RESIDENTS of Lozère, a hilly department in southern France, <sup>name of a place</sup> recite complaints familiar to many rural corners of Europe. In remote hamlets and villages, with names such as Le Bacon and Le Bacon Vieux, mayors <sup>complain</sup> grumble about a lack of local schools, jobs, or phone and internet connections. Farmers of grazing animals add <sup>say</sup> another concern: the return of wolves. Eradicated <sup>far</sup> from France last century, the predators are gradually creeping back to more forests and hillsides. "The wolf must be taken in hand," said an aspiring parliamentarian, Francis Palombi, when pressed by voters in an election campaign early this summer. Tourists enjoy visiting a wolf park in Lozère, but farmers fret over their livestock and their livelihoods. . .

complain animals





## Topic : Practice Passage



9th century - Office of the Luparii - Wolf catchers

As early as the ninth century, the royal office of the Luparii—wolf-catchers—was created in France to tackle the predators. Those official hunters (and others) completed their job in the 1930s, when the last wolf disappeared from the mainland. Active hunting and improved technology such as rifles in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, plus the use of poison such as strychnine<sup>name</sup> later on, caused the population<sup>reduction</sup> collapse. But in the early 1990s the animals reappeared.

Reasons/  
Factors  
1. active hunting  
2. improved tech.  
3. poison

1930's eradication—





## Topic : Practice Passage



To worst  
Env happy - perspective -

route

They crossed the Alps from Italy, upsetting sheep farmers on the French side of the border. Wolves have since spread to areas such as Lozère, <sup>making happy</sup> delighting environmentalists, who see the predators' presence as a sign of wider ecological health. Farmers, who say the wolves cause the deaths of thousands of sheep and other grazing animals, are less cheerful. They <sup>complain</sup> grumble that green activists and politically correct urban types have allowed the return of an old enemy.

→ Farmers ↓



## Topic : Practice Passage



In the mid-to-late 20<sup>th</sup> century over 2m hunters regularly spent winter weekends tramping in woodland, seeking boars, birds and other prey. Today the Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs, the national body, claims 1.1m people hold hunting licences, though the number of active hunters is probably lower. The mostly protected status of the wolf in Europe—hunting them is now forbidden, other than when occasional culls are sanctioned by the state—plus the efforts of NGOs to track and count the animals, also contribute to the recovery of wolf populations.





## Topic : Practice Passage



Various factors explain the changes of the past few decades. Rural depopulation is part of the story. In Lozère, for example, farming and a once-flourishing mining industry supported a population of over 140,000 residents in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Today the department has fewer than 80,000 people, many in its towns. As humans withdraw, forests are expanding. In France, between 1990 and 2015, forest cover increased by an average of 102,000 hectares each year, as more fields were given over to trees. Now, nearly one-third of mainland France is covered by woodland of some sort. The decline of hunting as a sport also means more forests fall quiet.

factors - return  
WP ↑

growing

1. Depopulation
2. Forest expansion





## Topic : Practice Passage



As the lupine <sup>wolves</sup> population of Europe spreads westwards, with occasional reports of wolves seen closer to urban areas, expect to hear of more clashes between farmers and those who celebrate the predators' return. Farmers' losses are real, but are not the only economic story. Tourist venues, such as parks where wolves are kept and the animals' spread is discussed, also generate income and jobs in rural areas.

CAT 2023

Tourists  
Env

300 words - 400 words



## Question - 01



111

Retention/Factual  
different words

#Q. The inhabitants of Lozère have to grapple with all of the following problems, EXCEPT.

residents

Paraphrased

struggle

A. Poor rural communication infrastructure. X

B. Lack of educational facilities. X

C. Decline in the number of hunting licences. ✓

D. Livestock losses. X

Process of  
elimination

#Q. The author presents a possible economic solution to an existing issue facing Lozère that takes into account the divergent and competing interests of:

- A. Tourists and environmentalists. ~~X~~
- B. Environmentalists and politicians. ~~X~~
- C. Politicians and farmers. ~~X~~
- D. Farmers and environmentalists.

Farmers

Env  
Tourists



## Question - 04



#Q. Which one of the following statements, if true, would weaken the author's claims?

- A. Wolf attacks on tourists in Lozère are on the rise.
- B. Having migrated out in the last century, wolves are now returning to Lozère.
- C. The old mining sites of Lozère are now being used as grazing pastures for sheep.
- D. Unemployment concerns the residents of Lozère.

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आर ही मा- damage  
हमारे

→ The Hindu / Indian Express  
A EON



## 2 Min Summary



- 1) ESSENTIALS TO ACE RC
- 2) SOURCES TO READ FROM
- 3) PRACTICE PASSAGES





*Thank  
You*