

Reading Comprehension Cheat Sheet v.1.0

1. Preview the 1st question

- a. Question only. Don't read answers!

2. Read the text

- a. Show **interest** in the story
- b. Write **very short** notes for better comprehension (in best case scenario, you should not refer back to your notes)
- c. Simplify story
 - 5-10 word / paragraph
 - Watch out for twists
- d. Visualize and connect with the text. Link it to what you already know
- e. Unpack the beginning, because generally it's the most important part
 - Translate to 1 subject and 1 verb structure
 - 1 idea / sentence
- f. Link new information to the main idea
 - Expected info or surprised
 - Support or oppose
 - Answer or new question
- g. Watch for signals
 - Paragraph breaks are for reason
 - Specific strong word
- h. Speed-up reading at the end. Exceptions:
 - Beginning of each paragraph
 - Big surprises/turns

3. When reading

- a. Identify point/idea
- b. Find background, supporting evidence, future implications
- c. Signs of **main point**
 - Problem -> **resolution**
 - Question -> **answer**
 - Old idea -> **new idea**
 - Observation -> **reason / new idea**

4. Passage type

- a. Short passage (2 – 3 minutes to read)
 - Text version of each paragraph (text = very short and concise, < 10 words)
 - Read the rest, pay attention to turns/surprises
 - After all, identify the main point
- b. Long passage (3 – 4 minutes to read)
 - Text every sentence for 1st paragraph

- 1 short summary for each of remaining paragraphs
- After reading, glance back at your notes and find the main point of the passage

5. Answering questions

- Applies to general question (main idea, main point, etc.)
 - **Don't** re-read the passage
 - Stuck between two choices? Use Scoring System: for every relation to the 1st paragraph, choice gets +2 points, +1 point for the rest. Highest score = answer
- Applies to specific questions
 - Identify key words
 - Re-read the specific part of the passage before reading answer choices
 - Read choices after understanding the specific part
 - Find proof sentence for your choice (usually 1 or 2 sentences)
- Applies to both
 - In answer, every word **MUST** relate to the passage
 - **AVOID** strong word if can (all, never, must, etc.)
 - Infer only tiny bit. Don't go too far.