

Strategies for Reading Comprehension

General	What to do		Why		
Applies to ALL RC-questions	1. Read the passage strategically, and make brief notes.		To focus on the most important parts of the passage, get the big picture, and know where to find details IF necessary.		
	2. Identify: - The main point of each paragraph and the passage - The structure of the passage - The tone of the passage		To get the right focus/scope. Some answers are wrong because they go beyond the score. To get the right understanding of the passage.		
	3. Identify the question type and where the relevant information is located in the passage.		To solve each question with the right method/strategy, and to use the right part of the passage to answer the question.		
	4. Predict the right answer (why is it right?) and match your prediction with the answer options (POE).		To keep focus and don't fall into the traps. To be aware of common characteristic of right and wrong answers		
RC	Main Idea/General	Specific Details	Structure	Inference	Application
Description	The main idea is usually stated in the last or first sentence of the first paragraph, or in the last sentence of the entire passage	Specific detail are one of the most common question types. These questions ask about a <i>specific part</i> of the passage.	Requires you to understand a given paragraph's function.	These are some of the most difficult RC problems. They generally ask you to draw an inference (about the same subject) from the passage.	≈ Inference questions, but with broader application range (scope). They generally ask you to derive new information to a new situation.
Step 1	Read the relevant sentences in the paragraphs and identify the main point of each paragraph.	Identify a target in the question stem, find it in the text, and then look below and above it.	Read the relevant paragraph.	Identify the main point of each paragraph, or one particular paragraph.	Read the passage, and identify the main point of each paragraph.
Step 2	Determine the main point of each paragraph, and what the paragraphs add up to (sum of parts ≈ whole).	Determine what the particular part of the passage explicitly says.	Identify what role it has in the passage.	Determine what can be <i>inferred from</i> the paragraphs <i>inside</i> the scope of the passage, or what can be <i>inferred from</i> the paragraph <i>inside</i> the scope of the paragraph.	Determine what can be learned <i>from</i> the passage <i>to</i> a new or different situation.
Step 3	Predict the right answer.	Predict the right answer.	Predict the right answer.	Predict the right answer. Often you do not have to infer very much, the right answer remains within the subject.	Predict the right answer. The right answer must <u>not</u> violate or contradict the main idea of the passage.
Step 4	Eliminate <i>wrong</i> answers: - Cover only a part of the passage (are too specific). - Go beyond the scope (are too broad). Pick the <i>right</i> answer. - Mirrors the text, using different words - Mirrors the passage as a whole (neither too broad or too narrow).	Eliminate <i>wrong</i> answers: - True but not relevant. - Refer to the wrong paragraph. Pick the <i>right</i> answer, - Says basically the same thing as in the passage, though often with different words or word order - Mirrors the passage, though usually with different words or word order.	Eliminate <i>wrong</i> answers: - Does not reflect the function/role of the stimulus. Pick the <i>right</i> answer. - Reflects the function/role of the stimulus.	Eliminate <i>wrong</i> answers: - Go beyond the scope (infer too much from the given premisses). Pick the <i>right</i> answer. - Make sure that the answer you answer does not contradict the main idea of the passage - if so, the answer choice is probably wrong. Answers that explicitly refers to or repeats a statement in the passage (same language traps) are often wrong. - Must mirror the passage, and will often paraphrase and extend a statement in the passage, but it will not directly quote it.	Eliminate <i>wrong</i> answers: - Violate/contradict the main idea, - Don't mirror the idea from the passage. Pick the right answer. - Says the same principle/idea as in the passage, though in a different situation. - Should mirror the idea from the passage.

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Question type Category	Question type Indicators	Requirement (what to do)	Read-strategy (how to do)	Difficult Level
General Questions	Main idea/Point Purpose Conclusion	Read-on-the lines => Understand the Big Picture – based on the different paragraphs.	First, Read the relevant sentences in the paragraphs and identify the main/central point. Second, determine what the paragraphs add up to (sum of parts ≈ whole)	Basic
Specific Details	Logical Details Specific Details According to the passage	Read-between-the lines => Understand the important details in the relevant paragraph.	First, use the question-stem to identify the relevant paragraph. Second, read the <i>relevant</i> sentence or paragraph <i>carefully</i> .	Intermediate
Inference They are the <i>most common</i> , and ask you to apply what you have learned from the passage to derive <i>new</i> information about the <i>same</i> subject.	Inferred from Implied Idea Implies that Suggest that Support for	Read-beyond-the lines => Understand the important details in the passage. Inference questions <i>require</i> you to draw an inference from the passage, to make a conclusion based on the passage.	First, Identify the main point of each paragraph. Second, determine what can be <i>inferred from</i> the paragraphs <u>inside</u> the scope of the passage. The correct answer must say <i>more</i> than what is said in the passage, and it will often both paraphrase and extend a statement in the passage, but not quote it directly.	Hard
Application (≈ Inference, but with broader application).	Best Supported Most likely (agree) Least likely Application	Read-beyond-the lines => Understand the important details in the passage. Application questions <i>require</i> you to apply what you have learned from the passage to a different or hypothetical situation.	First, read the passage. <i>carefully</i> . Second, determine what can be <i>inferred from</i> the paragraphs and be applied to a <u>different</u> situation. The right answer must <u>not</u> violate or contradict the main idea of the passage	Hard
Structure/Logic The most writing techniques commonly used are: 1. Compare and contrast two positions/elements. 2. Show cause and effect. 3. State a position and supporting evidence.	Logical Structure Organising Framing Mentions in according to	Read-between-the lines => Understand how the each paragraph's function individually and how, and as a part of the whole passage.	First, Read each paragraph and identify the main/central point. Second, determine how the different paragraphs interrelate.	Intermediate
Tone	Tone Opinion toward Feels about	Read-beyond-the lines => Understand the tone in the passage whether it is positive/negative/neutral and objective/subjective.	Focus on key words (adjectives). First, read the passage <i>carefully</i> . Second, identify key words (synonyms) that mirrors the writers tone.	Intermediate /Hard