

MGMAT Verbal RC Notes

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➤ **Principle#1: Engage with the Passage:**

1. Pretend that you really like this stuff
2. Identify good guys and bad guys and engage relevant emotions towards them.

➤ **Principle#2: Look for the simple story:**

1. Simplify the passage to 10 words to get the gist.
2. Make Table of Contents
3. Look for content and judgment.
4. Content: subject matter of the passage
 - Causes (Effects, Evidence, Logical results)
 - Processes (steps, means, ends)
 - Categories (examples, generalities)
5. Judgment: author's belief about the content
 - Theories and Hypotheses
 - Evaluations and Opinions
 - Comparisons and Contrasts
 - Advantages and Disadvantages
6. Give attention to Twists.

➤ **Principle#3: Link to what you already know:**

1. Try Concretizing – Actively imagine/visualize what the words are referring to.

➤ **Principle#4: Unpack the beginning:**

1. Unpack complex sentences/paragraphs into few simple sentences

➤ **Principle#5: Link to what you have just read:**

1. Continue to ask yourself about meaning and purpose of sentence
2. Why this sentence is here?
3. Is the new sentence **expected or surprising**?
4. Does it **support or oppose** earlier material
5. Does it **answer or ask** question?

➤ **Principle#6: Attention to Signals:**

Relationship	Signal
Focus attention	As for; Regarding; In reference to
Add to previous point	Furthermore, Moreover, In Addition, As well as, Also, Likewise, Too
Contrast	On one hand/other hand, While, Rather, Instead, In contrast, Although, Admittedly, Despite
Emphatic contrast	But, However, Even so, Still, Nevertheless, Nonetheless, Yet, Otherwise.
Dismiss previous point	In any event, In any case
Similarity	Likewise, In the same way
Structured discussion	First, Second, Lastly, Finally, Again, Next
Sum Up	In conclusion, In brief, Overall, Except for, Besides
Logical result	Therefore, Thus, as a result, So, Accordingly, Hence
Strengthen	After all, Must, Have to, Always, Never

➤ **Principle 7# Pick up the Pace**

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Short Passages

- Less than 50 lines (computer screen) or 35 lines in OG.
- Identifying and writing down key elements of passage will force you to read **ACTIVELY** as opposed to passively.
- Create headline list (similar to table of contents) for short passages.
 1. Summarize the main idea of each paragraph (often from 1st or 2nd sentence)
 2. Pace up rest of the paragraph with an eye for hidden surprises or results.
 3. Once finished, identify the passage's point.
- Timing for Short passages:
 1. 6 Minutes for full RC with 3 questions
 2. 2.5-3 minutes for RC & headline list
 3. 60 Seconds or less for general questions
 4. 75 Seconds for specific questions
- Common Structures

POINT (First) Ex. X is true
SUPPORT Here's why (Optional implications) Here's what could result

BACKGROUND Ex. Phenomenon Q happens
SUPPORT Theory X Theory Y Pros & Cons
POINT (Last) Theory X is better

BACKGROUND Ex. Phenomenon Q happens
POINT (Middle) Theory X explains Q
SUPPORT Here's why (Optional implications)

Long Passages

- More than 50 lines (computer screen) or 35 lines in OG.
- The Skeletal Sketch
 1. **Skull (First paragraph):**
 - First paragraph of the long passage is often important (read carefully)

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- Take notes of every 1 or 2 sentences in the skull

2. Limbs (subsequent paragraphs):

- Generally not important as first paragraph
- Take one line notes per paragraph
- Read first & last line of limb paragraphs carefully
- Read remaining sentences quickly, intentionally skimming over details/examples, but watch out for surprises/results.
- Determine point/purpose of each paragraphs

3. Once finished – Identify the Point.

➤ Timing for Short passages:

1. 8 Minutes for full RC with 4 questions
2. 3.5-4 minutes for RC & headline list
3. 60 Seconds or less for general questions
4. 75 Seconds for specific questions

➤ Common Structures

POINT (First) Ex. X is true
SUPPORT Here's why (Optional implications) Here's what could result

BACKGROUND Ex. Phenomenon Q happens
SUPPORT Theory X Theory Y Pros & Cons
POINT (Last) Theory X is better

BACKGROUND Ex. Phenomenon Q happens
POINT (Middle) Theory X explains Q
SUPPORT Here's why (Optional implications)

➤ Common Structures

1. A Theory

- Here is an area of scientific or historical **research**.

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- Here is a **theory** of that area of research.
 - Here is **support** for that theory.
 - (Possibly) Here are **implications** of that theory.
 - **Point**: EITHER the **theory itself or assertion/opinion** about the theory.
2. **A couple of theories**
- Here is a **phenomenon** in some area of scientific or historical research.
 - Here are a **couple of theories** about the phenomenon.
 - Here is the **support** for **each** of those theories.
 - Point: Theory X is **best** or they all **fall short**.
3. **A Solution (rarer)**
- Here is a **problem** or a situation.
 - Point: I advocate this **solution** of this outcome.
 - Here is **support** for my position and possibly **implications**.

Seven Strategies for RC:

1. Use a **SCORING SYSTEM** when stuck between two answer choices. Two points for first paragraph and 1 point each for subsequent ones. In the event of tie, select the choice which resembles to First paragraph.
2. Match **KEY WORDS** in specific questions to keywords (synonyms) in the paragraph.
DON'T look at Answer Choices before re-reading paragraph.
3. Defend your answer choice with one or two **PROOF SENTENCE**.
4. **JUSTIFY** every word in your answer choice.
5. Avoid Answer Choices that contain **EXTREME** words (e.g. All, Never, or extreme verbs etc)
6. Choose the ANSWER CHOICE that **INFERS** as **LITTLE** as possible. Despite of inference language in questions, use this questions like Lookups.
7. **PREVIEW** the first question before reading the passage.

* For the section below: You should not attempt to classify wrong answers as your First line of attack. But keep these in mind when you narrow down to 2 Answer Choices and use it to eliminate one.

Types of Wrong Answer Choices:

1. **Out of Scope** (40-50% of wrong OG answers)
 - a. Introduces an **unwanted assertion** supported nowhere in the passage.
 - b. Might be "Real-World Plausible", however not supported in the passage.
 - c. Found in all question types, though less often in specific **Lookup** questions.
2. **Direct Contradiction** (20-25% of wrong OG answers)
 - a. **States exact opposite** of something asserted in the passage.
 - b. Paradoxically attractive, because it relates to the passage closely. If you miss one contrast or switchback in the trail, you can think of this answer choice is the right answer.
 - c. Found in all question types, though less often in specific **General** questions.

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3. **Mix-UP** (10-15% of wrong OG answers)
 - a. **Scrambles together** disparate content from the passage
 - b. Tries to trap student who simply matches language, but not meaning.
 - c. Found more often in Specific questions.
4. **One Word Wrong** (10-15% of wrong OG answers)
 - a. **Just one word (or maybe 2) is incorrect.** Includes extreme words.
 - b. More prevalent in General questions.
5. **True but Irrelevant** (~10% of wrong OG answers)
 - a. True according to passage, but does not answer the given question.
 - b. May be too narrow or simply unrelated
 - c. More prevalent in general questions.

Tone of Author:

Disinterested -> impartial or neutral (especially if the passage is all factual and no opinion expressed)

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