

Vocabulary Questions:

Strategy #1: Use examples given to deduce the meaning of the word

Strategy #2: Use transition words which show contrast to deduce meaning.

Strategy #3: Use your common sense and knowledge of the world.

Strategy #4: Use the broader context

Detailed Questions:

- Sometimes it helps to restate the question in a more straightforward way in your mind.
- Always read the questions carefully and find keywords in the question.
- Scan the passage for the keywords and try to guess the answer before you look at the answer choices.
- Eliminate answers that change the meaning, mixed answers (answers that combine information that does not belong together), and answers that only repeat information from the passage but do not answer the question. Eliminate any answers that use a verb with a different meaning than the original passage.
- Be aware that the correct answer may use synonyms.
- Remember that often, correct answers are very simple answers.
- Be aware that negative factual information questions will take longer, and you must use the process of elimination. Work on your skimming and scanning skills.

Sentence Insertion Questions

Clue #1: The target sentence has a pronoun referent in it.

Clue #2: The target sentence has transition words in it.

Clue #3: The information is general, or it is specific.

Clue #4: Consider logical flow. Do not break up a happy marriage.

Clue #5: There is repetition of a word, or a synonym, which links the target sentence to the sentence before or after it.

Clue #6: Look at both the beginning and the end of the target sentence to make sure it fits coherently between the sentences where you put it.

Paraphrase Questions:

QUICK TIP #1: Omit dependent clauses before you look at the answer choices.

QUICK TIP #2: Quickly eliminate answer choices that add information that is not in the original.

Summary Question (two point):

1- You are not looking for right answers. You are eliminating wrong answers.

2- When several key ideas are combined, we get a correct answer. But, if you see an answer with only one detail, eliminate it.

3- Be careful, some answers combine the ideas and distort them and make them wrong. These are evils!

BIG TIP #1!

Sometimes, two answer choices will look VERY SIMILAR to each other. If that is the case ONE will be correct, and the other will be INCORRECT.

BIG TIP #2!

The correct answers are often the main topics of each paragraph. The main topics are usually in the first sentence of each paragraph. Look for these in the answer choices.

BIG TIP #3!

This is probably the most important tip. Many of the correct answer choices will be from questions that were asked in the same reading passage. The TOEFL gives you a hint by directing your attention to important information, especially in the paraphrase question and the factual information questions. If you see an answer choice that reminds you of an answer you chose earlier, it is probably a correct

choice.

BIG TIP #4!

Always finish the last paragraph, because the TOEFL has a trap: sometimes they will not ask any questions that require you to read most of the last paragraph, but then they will use main points from the last paragraph as a correct answer choice. Finish the last paragraph, even if the questions did not require you to do so.

Beware of traps: Answers that are details, answers that aren't related to the topic sentence, answers that are not mentioned in the passage, and answers that distort information from the passage.

Fill-in table Questions (3 points):

We should fill 5 answers. For each wrong answer, we lose a point.

The biggest trap here is the answers which are not used.