

READING TEST SAVVY



Savvy is a term derived from the Old Spanish word “saber,” which means “to know.” It is most often used to refer to one who is well-informed and has practical understanding of how to excel at a particular task. In this case, the task is understanding what is being asked during a reading test. To improve your chances for success on all types of reading skills tests, we suggest you become familiar with typical question stems for each of the five types of reading questions.

Understanding the common types of test questions will undoubtedly increase your comfort level and, thus, your chances for success.

VOCABULARY STEMS

- The underlined word _____ (most nearly) means...
- As used in the passage, _____ (most nearly) means...
- As used in the passage, _____ refers to...
- _____ underlined in the passage means...

LITERAL COMPREHENSION STEMS

- As stated in the passage...
- According to the passage...
- What does the author state as...
- The passage (or author) states that...
- The passage (or author) mentions...
- In the passage, the author discusses the following topics...
- The following topics are not discussed in the passage...
- The first (or last) event that occurred was...

INFERENTIAL COMPREHENSION STEMS

- The primary purpose of this passage is...
- The main idea (or central idea) of this passage is...
- As implied by the passage, the following best describes the main idea...
- A good title for this passage would be...
- The author is primarily concerned with...
- The most important idea in this passage is...
- The author wishes to emphasize that...

INFERENCE, CONCLUSION, GENERALIZATION STEMS

- The passage (or author) suggests...
- The author (or passage) implies...
- It can be inferred from the passage that...
- The following conclusions are supported by the passage...
- The author would probably agree that...
- Based on the passage, the author would most likely agree with the following statements...
- According to the passage, the reader can conclude that...

ANALYTICAL COMPREHENSION STEMS

- The author's tone is...
- The author develops the thesis by...
- The following best describes the author's method...
- The author organizes his/her discussion in the following manner...
- The author mentions _____ in order to...
- The author introduces _____ primarily to...
- The tone of this passage can best be described as...
- The author's attitude toward _____ is one of _____.
- The final sentence is an example of the following literary style...
- The word _____ would most logically join paragraphs _____ and _____.
- The following word, phrase or sentence could be added after the first paragraph to provide a smooth, logical transition to the second paragraph...
- The following could be classified as a fact rather than an opinion...

Additional Information and Online Exercises:

Main Idea Recognition: <http://www.testprepreview.com/modules/readingmainidea.htm>

Reading Comprehension 1: <http://www.testprepreview.com/modules/reading1.htm>

Reading Comprehension 2: <http://www.testprepreview.com/modules/readingtest2.htm>

Cleveland State University Writing Center: What is Critical Reading?:

<http://www.csuohio.edu/academic/writingcenter/critread.html>

Cuesta College Reading Comprehension: <http://academic.cuesta.edu/acasupp/AS/300INDEX.HTM>