

TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES FOR READING

For students who have enrolled in this class shortly before taking

7.

18. For **vocabulary questions**, when you have to choose the correct meaning of a word, it is helpful to read the following:
The sentence that the word is in
The sentence right before
The sentence right after
This area of the passage surrounding the word is called the **context**. **Context clues** are the words, phrases, and sentences that surround the word you do not know.
Many sentences and paragraphs contain enough information for you to use the clues that the writer has left to figure out the meanings of many words you do not know.
19. Para los alumnos latinos – Cuando se encuentre una palabra desconocida en inglés, necesita preguntar a usted mismo si esta palabra es semejante a una palabra en español. Hay que usar su propio idioma porque existen muchas palabras en los dos idiomas que son casi iguales.
20. For **fact and opinion** questions:
Statements that contain words like good, bad, or great, which show personal values, are **opinions**:
 “We played a great game against Rancho High School.”
Statements reporting other people’s opinions are **facts**:
 “The dean said our students are very polite and respectful.”
The opinion itself is not a fact, but the statement reporting what someone says or believes is a fact.
Statements by the writer that something is necessary, or wanted, or liked are **opinions**:
 “Everyone can enjoy our new menu in the cafeteria.”
Predictions are **opinions**:
 “Students would welcome a change in the attendance policy.”
Facts can always be checked or verified to be either true or false. With a fact, there can be **no other reasonable point of view.**
21. Multiple choice answers that are often wrong:
Answers that seem humorous or ridiculous
Answers that contain extreme or absolute statements (all, always, never, no one everyone, impossible, must, absolutely, etc.)
Answer choices that are almost exactly alike or say the same thing in different words
22. When you are answering questions that contain the word **NOT** or **EXCEPT**, always read though your answer choices carefully. You can answer three of the answers choices with a *yes* based on what you read in the passage. The one answer choice that you can answer with a *no* will be the correct answer.
23. Be aware of the **three types of questions** you will have to answer:
“Right there questions” where the answer can be found right there on the page.
“Think and search questions” where you must **look in two or more places** for the answer and then make an intelligent guess.
“On your own questions” where you must combine your own background knowledge with the information given in the reading passage.

REMEMBER TO USE YOUR BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE. TRY TO CONNECT WHAT YOU ARE READING TO WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW. READ AND THINK.

(Created by Jill Leone)

