

Verbal Ability Cheat Sheet

Master Reading Comprehension, Grammar, and Vocabulary

Reading Comprehension (RC)

Core Strategies:

- **Skim for Structure:** Read the first and last paragraph closely. Identify the author's primary purpose.
- **Scan for Specifics:** For fact-based questions, locate the exact keywords in the text.
- **Inferential Questions:** Base your answers *only* on information explicitly stated or heavily implied. Avoid extreme options (always, never, must).

Common Passage Tones:

- *Didactic:* Educational, instructional.
- *Acerbic:* Harsh, bitter, or critical.
- *Laudatory:* Expressing praise.
- *Cynical:* Distrustful of human sincerity.

Para Jumbles (Sentence Rearrangement)

Look for Mandatory Pairs:

- **Pronoun-Antecedent:** A noun must be introduced before its pronoun (he, she, it) is used.
- **Chronology/Process:** Look for dates, times, or sequence markers (first, next, finally).
- **Transition Words:** *However, Therefore, Thus, Moreover* link contrasting or continuing ideas.
- **General to Specific:** Broad statements usually precede specific examples.

Grammar: The Golden Rules

1. Subject-Verb Agreement: Singular subjects take singular verbs. *Along with, as well as, besides* do not change the number of the subject.

Example: The captain, along with the team, **is** arriving.

2. Parallelism: Items in a list must be in the same grammatical form.

Incorrect: She likes running, to swim, and biking.

Correct: She likes running, swimming, and biking.

3. Dangling Modifiers: A modifier must logically attach to the noun immediately following it.

Incorrect: Walking down the street, the trees were beautiful.

Correct: Walking down the street, **I** saw beautiful trees.

Vocabulary: High-Frequency Roots

Learning roots multiplies your vocabulary exponentially.

- **Ben / Bene:** Good (Benefactor, Benign)
- **Mal:** Bad (Malevolent, Malign)
- **Chron:** Time (Chronological, Anachronism)
- **Luc / Lum:** Light (Elucidate, Luminous)
- **Loqu / Loc:** Speak (Loquacious, Eloquent)
- **Path:** Feeling (Empathy, Apathy)
- **Voc / Vok:** Call (Evoke, Vocation)
- **Ambi:** Both (Ambiguous, Ambivalent)

Critical Reasoning Concepts

Premise: The facts or evidence given.

Conclusion: The author's main claim.

Assumption: The unstated link between the premise and the conclusion. To test an assumption, negate it. If the conclusion falls apart, it's the correct assumption.

Question Types:

- *Strengthen:* Find new info that supports the assumption.
- *Weaken:* Find new info that attacks the assumption.
- *Inference:* Must be 100% true based **only** on the premises given.

Idioms and Phrasal Verbs

Common traps in error spotting:

- **Comprise of** is incorrect. (Use *consists of* or *comprises*).
- **Cope up with** is incorrect. (Use *cope with*).
- **Avail** is followed by a reflexive pronoun + *of*. (e.g., Avail oneself of).
- **Prevent from** doing something (not *to do*).