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Ultimate Verbal Ability Cheat Sheet

1. Critical Reasoning

reasoning tests your ability to analyze, evaluate, and reformulate arguments. **Core Components:**

- **Premise:** Evidence or reasons provided to support a conclusion.
- **Conclusion:** The main point the author is trying to prove.
- **Assumption:** Unstated premises required for the conclusion to hold.

Common Question Types:

- **Strengthen/Weaken:** Find new evidence that makes the conclusion more or less probable.
- **Flaw:** Identify the logical fallacy in the argument.
- **Inference:** What *must* be true based *only* on the given text.

2. Reading Comprehension

Strategies for Success:

- **Active Reading:** Map the passage structure (e.g., Introduction → Counter-argument → Synthesis).
- **Tone & Attitude:** Identify if the author is objective, critical, enthusiastic, or skeptical.
- **Elimination:** Look for extreme words (always, never, all) which are usually incorrect in options.

3. Sentence Correction

on grammar, syntax, and effective expression. **Key Rules:**

- **Subject-Verb Agreement:** The verb must agree with its true subject, ignoring interrupting phrases.
- **Modifier Placement:** Modifiers must be placed as close as possible to the words they modify to avoid dangling modifiers.
- **Parallelism:** Items in a list or comparison must share the same grammatical form (e.g., nouns with nouns, gerunds with gerunds).

4. Vocabulary & Context

High-Yield Roots & Prefixes:

- **Bene-** (Good/Well): Benevolent, Benefactor
- **Mal-** (Bad/Evil): Malicious, Malevolent
- **Chron-** (Time): Chronological, Synchronize
- **Loc/Loqu-** (Speak): Loquacious, Eloquent

5. Para Jumbles & Summary

Techniques:

- **Opening Sentences:** Look for independent statements, definitions, or broad introductions. Avoid pronouns (he, it, they) in opening lines.
- **Linkages:** Track transition words (however, furthermore, consequently) and chronological markers.

- **Mandatory Pairs:** Identify items that must go together (e.g., an acronym introduced before its abbreviation).