

Reading Comprehension Masterclass Cheat Sheet

Advanced Strategies, Question Typologies, and Analytical Frameworks

1. Core Philosophy

Reading Comprehension (RC) is not a test of memory; it is a test of **structural analysis** and **inferential logic**. Your goal is to map the author's argument, tone, and intent rather than memorize minutiae.

- **Active Reading:** Ask yourself *Why* the author included each paragraph.
- **Map the Passage:** Jot down 3-word summaries for each paragraph.
- **Author's Voice:** Distinguish between the author's opinion and the views they are reporting.

2. Question Typologies

A. Global / Main Idea

Identifies the primary purpose or central thesis.

- **Keywords:** Primarily concerned with, main idea, best title, author's primary purpose.
- **Trap:** Too narrow (focuses on one paragraph) or too broad (brings in outside info).

B. Detail / Specific Fact

Locates explicit information stated in the text.

- **Keywords:** According to the passage, the author mentions, which of the following is true.
- **Strategy:** Locate the exact line-reference; correct answers are almost always valid paraphrases.

C. Inference / Implication

Requires logical extension of the text's premises.

- **Keywords:** Implies, suggests, most likely to agree, infer.
- **Rule:** Must be 100% supported by the text without making unwarranted leaps.

D. Tone Attitude

Evaluates the emotional or intellectual stance of the author.

- **Common Tones:** Objective, critical, ambivalent, enthusiastic, skeptical, detached.
- **Trap:** Extreme emotions (e.g., vitriolic, ecstatic) unless explicitly backed.

3. Passage Structures

- **The Thesis-Evidence Model:** Main claim followed by supporting data.
- **The Counter-Premise Model:** Traditional view → Critique → New Paradigm (The author almost always agrees with the New Paradigm).
- **Phenomenon-Explanation:** Describes an anomaly and explores causal mechanisms.

4. Common Trap Answers

1. **Extreme Language:** Words like *always, never, all, none* are usually incorrect.
2. **Out of Scope:** Introduces plausible outside knowledge not supported by the passage.
3. **Half-Right/Half-Wrong:** Starts correct but ends with a false claim.
4. **Distortion:** Reverses cause and effect or misrepresents the author's stance.

5. Golden Rules for Options

"If you have to make three or four logical jumps to make an answer choice work, it is wrong. The correct answer requires at most one direct, obvious inference." —

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