

Lesson #21

Strategies for Multiple Choice Tests

When you are taking a multiple choice test, you may be able to improve your test score by following these suggestions:

- Read the directions very carefully. Do they tell you to circle, fill in the circle, or underline? How many answers are allowed? Do the directions tell you to choose one answer or select all that apply?
- Circle or underline important words in the question.
- Be sure to read all answer choices. The answer may be "all of the above."
- Put an *X* next to answers that are definitely wrong (if permitted).
- Watch for words like *always*, *all*, or *never*. These words are often found in the wrong answers.
- Answers that do not make sense are usually wrong.
- When two choices are opposites, one is usually the right answer.
- If two answers seem right, choose the best answer.
- Answer every question even if you have to guess.

Look at this sample test question.

Circle the letter that **best** answers the question.

According to dentists, what is the best time to brush your teeth?

- A) every time you finish eating anything
- B) twice a day: in the morning and before going to bed
- x C) as soon as you get back to class
- x D) Dentists do not recommend brushing your teeth.

- Answer choice **A** probably isn't the best answer because it is not possible to brush every time you finish eating.
 - Choice **C** is probably wrong because you can't brush your teeth in your classroom.
 - Choice **D** definitely doesn't make sense.
 - Choice **B** makes the most sense, and it is the best answer.
1. What should you do before choosing your answer?
 - A) Read the directions carefully.
 - B) Read each answer choice.
 - C) Cross out the wrong answers.
 - D) all of these

2. You should select *all of the above* only when _____.
- A) you don't know what else to do
 - B) two answers are definitely wrong
 - C) all the answer choices seem correct
 - D) the item is a multiple choice item
3. If two answer choices are opposites, one of them is usually _____.
correct a key word a verb longer
4. How many **unanswered** questions should you leave on a test?
less than two zero four no more than seven
5. What is a *strategy*?
a type of test a plan something to write with
6. Which of these is like an outline of what you will find in a textbook?
index glossary table of contents cover
7. Number these words in alphabetical order.
- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------|
| ___ alligator | ___ action | ___ across |
| ___ address | ___ alphabet | ___ adding |

Another Test-Taking Strategy

Changing your answers on a test is not always a good idea. Only change an answer if you are absolutely sure a different answer is better. Your first guess is often right.



8. You should check your work and change your answer only if you are certain another answer is _____.
- wrong longer better silly