



SuperStar Study Skills Classes



Taking True/False Tests

True/False Tests

True/false tests contain a series of carefully worded sentences or statements. Students typically respond with a "T" for true if the statement is correct and an "F" for false if the statement is incorrect. True/false test items can be more difficult than they appear to be. The way the statement is worded can change the entire meaning of the item .

Here are some helpful guidelines when taking True/false tests.

1. Choose "true" as the answer only when you are certain that the entire statement is true. This is especially important when the item contains more than one fact or contains a series of items within the statement. *If any part of the statement is not true, then the answer is "false".*
 - a. Example item: *Dogs, squirrels, and cats are all mammals.*
 - i. The correct answer is *true* because all three of these animals can be defined as being a warm-blooded and gives its young milk.
 - b. Example item: *Dogs, turtles, and cats are all mammals.*
 - i. The correct answer is *false* because turtles are cold-blooded reptiles that do not give its young milk.
2. When an item statement contains two negative words or prefixes, cross out both. Two negatives typically make the statement a positive one.
 - a. Example: *Eating a nutritious breakfast before going to school is not unhealthy.* This statement is true but can be very confusing and at first glance, it may look false.

- i. Cross out the negatives in the item: *Eating a healthy breakfast before going to school is ~~not~~ unhealthy*. The statement now reads, *Eating a healthy breakfast before going to school is healthy*. This is much easier to identify as a true statement.
3. Look at the item closely to determine if it is an absolute statement or a qualified statement.
 - a. An absolute statement containing words such as "all", "none", "always", "never", and "every" is usually false.
 - i. Example: All dogs have fur.

This statement is false because of the absolute word "all". There are some breeds of cats and dogs who do not have fur such as the American Hairless Terrier and Hairless Khala.
 - b. A qualified statement is usually true. A qualified statement contains words such as "some", "many", "usually", "most", "sometimes", "may", and "often". These words allow for exceptions.
 - i. Example: Most dogs have fur.

This statement is true because of the qualified word "most".
4. If you are uncertain whether a statement is true or false, take your best guess unless there is a penalty for wrong answers. Research has shown that true/false tests are more likely to contain true statements than false ones so you may want to choose true if you don't know the answer.
5. Make your answers legible and neat. Be sure your "T" doesn't look like an "F" or the item may be scored incorrectly.