

Distractors

The Fake ID (deceptive answers or details)

1. The answer uses the author's words, but distorts their meaning.
2. Verbs are used as nouns, nouns are used as verbs.
3. Part of the answer is correct but not all of it.

⇒ **If most of the answer is correct, and a small part of the answer is incorrect, the whole answer is incorrect.**

The Switch

1. The answer uses the exact words from the text, but attributes them to a different character.
2. The answer uses the exact words from the text, but not in the right order.
3. The answer changes cause and effect.
4. The answer mentions two people performing an action, while only one did it.

⇒ **If the answer choices happen to feature two opposite statements, one of them is correct.**

The Extreme

1. If the answer includes extreme words like “always”, “never”, “nobody” they can be debatable. Unless the text backs this up as evidence, you should be able to find ONE exception to this rule, therefore rendering the answer invalid.
2. When the text talks about one incident (this diet is not working”) the incorrect answer often has a similar noun in plural (“This article is about diets”).

Safe:

Might	Could
May	Can
Some	Possible
Usually	Sometimes
At least once	Frequently

Extreme:

Always	Never	At no time
Must	Will	Positively
All	Not	Absolutely
Every	Most	
Plural use vs. singular use!		

⇒ **Find one exception to the statement.**

The General

1. “Sensible” answers that seem practically beyond challenge. (“Plato was nice and intelligent”). However, the answer is not based on the text. (Did it say he was nice?)
2. Feel good, general answer, without direct evidence in the text. “Mothers love their babies”.
3. Assumptions. “She was doing her homework” in the text, is not the same as “she finished her homework” in the answer.” A lady with a stroller” is not the same as “a mother”.
4. The answer is straight from the text. It is a correct statement, but it does not answer the question!

⇒ **Stay true to only the information in the text and the question.**