Reading comprehension: independent option tests and sentence selection

Original classroom teaching; not an official form or score predictor

Reading Comprehension: Testing Each Option and Selecting Sentences

- Test each answer option against the passage on its own.
- Keep the **scope** 范围 of the passage's claims.
- Recognise a **concession** 让步 and a stated limitation.
- Select the one sentence in a passage that does a stated job.

Three kinds of option

- Supported: the passage states it or it follows directly. Select it.
- Unsupported: the passage gives no evidence either way. Reject it.
- Contradicted: the passage says otherwise. Reject it.

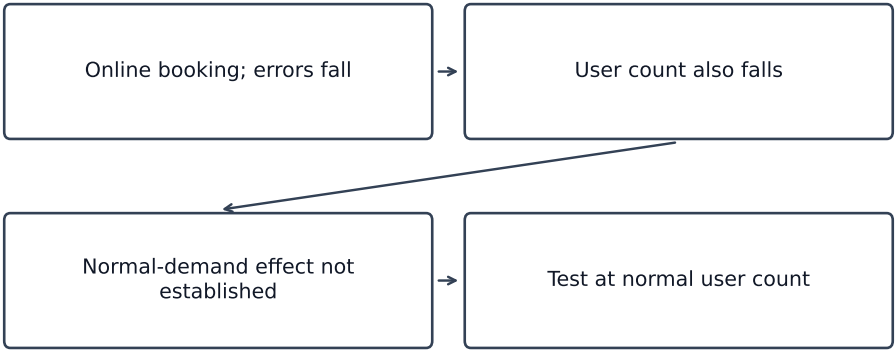
Select one or more

- Treat each option as a true-or-false question about the passage.
- Any number of options may be correct; there is no partial credit.
- Do not choose an option because it sounds reasonable in real life.

Selecting a sentence

- Read the question's description carefully: "proposes a test", "limits the conclusion", "reports a rival explanation".
- Choose the whole sentence that does exactly that job, not a sentence near it.
- Concessions ("Although the new system may have helped…") often limit a claim.

Figure: Selecting a sentence



- Errors fell while the user count also fell, so test at normal demand

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Worked example: testing options one by one

- "Volunteers at one site found the app saved time." Supported.
- "The app saves time at every site." Unsupported: only one site was studied.
- "The app was tested at several sites." Contradicted.

Worked example: an original application

- Original passage: [1] A laboratory replaced handwritten booking with an online system. [2] Booking errors fell during a two-month trial. [3] The laboratory also reduced the number of users during that period. [4] Although the new system may have helped, the trial cannot establish its effect under normal demand. [5] Testing it with the usual number of users would address this limitation.
- Select every supported statement: A.
- Errors fell during the trial.
- B.

Independent transfer

- For that passage, identify the role of sentence 5 and explain whether a successful normal-demand trial would prove that every laboratory should adopt the system.
- Name one additional fact needed for that wider recommendation.
- Sentence 5 proposes a test addressing the specified limitation.
- A successful trial could support an effect in this laboratory under usual demand, but it would not establish a universal policy.

Common errors

- Choosing an option that is true in life but not supported by the passage.
- Widening the **scope**: one site becomes every site.
- Treating "not established" as "shown false".

Common errors (2)

- Choosing the sentence next to the right one.
- Stopping after the first correct option.

Key terms

- **scope**: How far a claim reaches: which group, place and time, and how strongly.
- **concession**: Admitting a point before limiting or answering it.

Check yourself

- A passage says a drug "may reduce symptoms in some adults". Is "The drug cures adults" supported?
- In a select-one-or-more question, can all the options be correct?
- What does the sentence "Although the method is faster, it is less accurate" do?