

Standard Grade English

Revision: Advice and Terminology

The following are terms you should be familiar with and should be prepared to use in the Reading Test:

Figures of speech

These will include:

- Metaphor** - where something is said to be something else
e.g. the boy was a time bomb waiting to explode.
- Simile** - where something is said to be like something else
e.g. the surface of the lake was **like a mirror**.
- Alliteration** - where a sound is repeated
e.g. the boy **bumped and banged** his way along the corridor.
- Onomatopoeia** - where a word is used which makes the sound it describes
e.g. the man's feet **crunched** on the gravel path.
- Parenthesis** - usually shown by brackets or dashes parenthesis is additional information inserted into the middle of a sentence
e.g. the boy went to the local school – they had only just moved there – which was just along the road.
- Dash** - a dash will break up a sentence and often explain what has just been written
e.g. the town buzzed with activity and noise – it was market day.

Types of questions:

- Word choice** - will ask you to quote words from the part of the passage to which you are directed and comment on them.
- Link** - Link questions will expect you to identify what has gone before, what comes after and how the two are linked. Usually the word **but** or **however** or expressions like **on the other hand** will link ideas.
- Explanation** - such questions require what they ask – explanation. Where you see the expression explain clearly you should make sure that you explain at some length giving as much detail as you can.
- In your own words** You **must** answer without using the words in the passage.

Identify the words to avoid and think out a way around them.
Sentence Structure - Such questions are asking how the sentence is built up: is it long or short, is it a list, does it have a verb, does it contain repetition? Often you will have to comment on the effect of this – e.g. does it slow down the passage or speed it up?

Comparison - such questions will ask you to compare two ideas in the text – make sure you refer to both.

Punctuation

Commas can	-	indicate a list; break up a sentence; indicate parenthesis.
Semi colons can	-	indicate a list of ideas rather than words; break up two connected statements.
Colons can	-	introduce a quotation; introduce a list; explain a previous statement.

The final question will usually ask for a personal response backed up with evidence from the passage: make sure you give both.

e.g. I think that.....
In my opinion.....

The writer suggests this by.....
The evidence to show this is....

Please try to avoid beginning answers with *because*. There are no marks deducted for poor spelling or expression but a good concise sentence will provide a safe answer.