

Read the Directions! Exercise

Note to Teachers

Students taking tests regularly skip over directions only to find they have misunderstood what they were being asked to do, and hence, performed poorly on the test. This exercise is designed to give them practice in reading test directions and locating key words. It contains a variety of question types for different subjects. Regardless of the subject you teach, this exercise should prove useful for improving test-taking skills.

Note: In question #4, the directions tell students to raise their head and make eye contact with you to receive extra-credit for the class period. Be certain to watch for your students and be prepared to mark their names with extra-credit. It is often surprising how many students fail to do this!

Purpose

- To develop test direction reading skills
- To provide an experience reading directions and circling key words
- To develop test-taking skills

Teacher Instructions

1. Introduce the topic of reading directions on tests and the importance that it has for students as test-takers. This exercise is an excellent activity to introduce as a larger effort in test-taking strategies.
2. Hand out the exercise and ask all students to read the initial directions for the exercise aloud. Be sure to go over key words used in tests in your subject area.
3. Explain what each key word means, if it is not clearly evident to students.
4. Give students at least 10 minutes to complete the exercise.

Answer Guide

1. Circle *chronological* and *last to first*
2. Circle *stated*
3. Circle *weak*
4. Circle *similar*
5. Circle *never*
6. Circle *least* and *true*
7. Circle *immediate cause*
8. Circle *except*
9. Circle *not true*
10. Circle *how many* and *lost* in the question stem
11. Circle *between*

Read the Directions!

Directions: Did you know that reading the directions is an extremely important strategy for acing that next test? Read the directions on this sheet carefully. Circle the words that indicate what you are being asked to do, such as compare, contrast, antonym, synonym, solve, same and opposite. There may be more than one word to circle for each set of directions.

1. Place the following events in chronological order from last to first.
2. The passage below is followed by questions based on its content. Answer the questions on the basis of what is stated in the passage.
3. According to the author, *The Matrix* is a weak film because
4. Each question below consists of a related pair of words or phrases, followed by five pairs of words or phrases labeled A through E. Now, raise your head and eyes from these directions and make eye contact with your teacher for extra-credit. Then, select the pair that best expresses a relationship similar to that expressed in the original pair.
5. Over which of the following countries has this flag never flown?
6. Of all the following statements, which would a historian least be able to establish as true?
7. Which of the following was an immediate cause for the fall of the Roman Empire?
8. The fraction $\frac{30}{48}$ equals all of the following except
9. Below you will read a series of statements about photosynthesis. Which of the following statements are not true?
10. If the truck that was carrying a shipment of 10,000 apples got into an accident and 25% of the shipment was lost, then how many of the apples were lost in the accident?
11. The square root of 48 is between which of the following