

- ◆ When you don't know the right answer, start by crossing off those you know are wrong.
- ◆ Read the question with each choice. It must make sense together; if not, don't choose it.

For example: *The child*

a) *were lost* b) *was alone but unhappy.*

Which one is it? How do you know?

- ◆ Treat each choice like a true/false item and remember: items with words like, *always, none, never, all, and every* are often false or incorrect.
- ◆ In math tests, try some estimating:

For example:  $253 \times 312 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$  (a) 63,836  
 (b) 23,636  
 (c) 78,936  
 (d) 76,468

Cross off (a) and (b) because you know by estimation that  $250 \times 300 = 75,000$ .

You can cross off (d) because the last digit in the product should be six.

That means the answer has to be (c) 78,936.

### MATCHING TESTS

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1.  $15 - 8$  (a) 6
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2.  $9 + 7$  (b) 8
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3.  $13 - 7$  (c) 16
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4.  $2 + 6$  (d) 7

[Answers: 1. d, 2. c, 3. a, 4. b]

- ◆ Read both lists carefully and completely, doing the ones you're sure of first.
- ◆ Cross out each answer as you do use it, unless told that answers can be used more than once.

### TRUE/FALSE TESTS

T / F All squares are rectangles.

T / F Sometimes rectangles are squares.

- ◆ True / false questions with specific determiners — such words as *always, never, all, none, and every* — are USUALLY false.
- ◆ If even one case for a situation is not true, the statement is false.
- ◆ An answer is likely to be true if it contains such words as *sometimes, usually, probably, and some*.

### AFTER A TEST, THINK TO YOURSELF:

- 1) I did well / okay / poorly because...
- 2) I was well-prepared / not well-prepared because...
- 3) The easiest thing about this test was...
- 4) The hardest thing about this test was...
- 5) The next time I study for a test I will...
- 6) The next time I take a test I will...

# Preparing for Tests



**Doing well on a test is a combination of knowing how to take a test and knowing the stuff that goes into the answers.**

— Ron Fry, author of *Ace Any Test*

**Success is doing your best; nothing else is quite as important.**

— Carol Josel

Dear Student,

From now on, you'll be taking more and more tests, so this is the perfect time to begin learning good test-taking skills and habits. First, though, always keep in mind how important it is to believe in yourself. Self-confidence is the secret ingredient, and it comes from knowing that you are doing your best. Do that and you'll know true success!

To begin, try this activity:

1. Without using a ruler, draw a line that is  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches long on scrap paper.
2. Now draw another line that is  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches long. Once again, do not use a ruler!

You want to reach for a ruler, don't you?!! How else can you find out if your lines are  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches and, if not, fix them? That's the whole point. You see, tests are just like rulers, except one measures length and the other measures what we know and what we haven't learned quite yet. Never forget that.

### TESTWISENESS TIPS

(Getting Ready for the Test)

- ◆ Ask your teacher when you can expect a test, so you'll have time to prepare.
- ◆ Find out the type of test you'll be taking: multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and so on.
- ◆ Try to review at least three times a week.
- ◆ Make up test questions to answer. Maybe mom or dad will test you, too.
- ◆ Study out loud. That's right. Teach the information to your dog, your pillow, or just the air. You'll remember it that way!

- ◆ While studying, close your eyes occasionally and make a picture in your mind of what you're studying. For example, "see" the dangerous trip made by the covered wagons—and you'll never forget it.
- ◆ Draw a picture or cartoon of the topic.
- ◆ Try singing or clapping the information to a beat. Music is a powerful memory tool.
- ◆ Put vocabulary/new content terms on 3 inch by 5 inch index cards, with the word on one side and the definition, part of speech, and a sentence on the other side.
- ◆ Get a good night's sleep. If you're well-rested, you'll be sharper.

**"I think I can; I think I can,"**

– said the Little Engine That Could.  
And he did!

**"Think; think; think."**

### TESTWISENESS TIPS

(Taking the Test)

- ◆ Don't talk about possible test questions with friends before the test. They may give you wrong information.
- ◆ Sit right down at your desk and relax. It's okay to be a *little* nervous. That will keep you on your toes.
- ◆ Listen to and read *all* the directions before you begin, and make sure that you understand them. If not, ask your teacher.
- ◆ Look over the whole test before beginning, so you can plan your time.

- ◆ Answer the easiest questions first, but be sure to read them all. This way you might find an answer to one you're unsure about. Also, you'll have answered all the items you know before the time runs out.
- ◆ Make a mark next to skipped items, so you won't forget to go back and try them.
- ◆ Don't change an answer unless you're really positive that it's wrong.
- ◆ Don't leave any blanks. Instead, eliminate answers that you know are wrong and make a good guess.
- ◆ Star all your guesses. When you get the test back, check how many you got right.
- ◆ Study and correct all returned tests.

### MULTIPLE CHOICE TESTS

Valentine's Day is

- (a) a red heart day
- (b) on February 14th
- (c) for giving chocolates & flowers
- (d) All of the above.

- ◆ If "All of the above" is one of the choices, there's a good chance it might be the right answer. In the above case, (d) is the correct answer.
- ◆ If two choices are very similar, most likely they're both wrong.
- ◆ If two choices are complete opposites, one of them is probably correct.

