

Common “Wrong Answer Types” in Multiple Choice Questions

1.Mr. Overcomplication - This character always tries to make things more complicated than they need to be. This answer choice may be unnecessarily complex,, and students may be tricked into selecting it if they're overthinking the question or not confident in their knowledge of the topic. For example, an overcomplication answer for a question about a character's motivation might be a choice that includes irrelevant details about the character's childhood or personal life.

2.Generalization George - This character always makes broad statements that are true but not relevant to the question. This answer choice may make a broad statement that is true, but it's not directly related to the question or the passage. Students may be tempted to choose this answer because it sounds plausible, but it's not the best answer. For example, a generalization answer for a question about a specific event in a passage might be a choice that makes a broad statement about human behavior or society as a whole.

3.Captain Distraction - This character is a master at leading students away from the main point of the question by including irrelevant information. The answer choice provided by Captain Distraction may include a lot of extra details that sound convincing but are not necessary to answer the question. For example, a question that asks for the meaning of a specific word in a passage might have an answer choice that provides a lengthy definition of a similar-sounding word, leading the student to believe that it's the correct answer when it's actually not relevant.

4.Dr. Extreme - This character always takes things to the extreme, making answer choices that are too strong or too absolute. Dr. Extreme's answer choices may use absolute terms such as "always," "never," or "completely" to describe a situation, which may not be accurate or relevant to the question being asked. For example, an answer choice that says "the character always acted selfishly" might not be the correct answer because the character may have acted selflessly in certain situations.

5. Professor Confusion - This character confuses students by using similar-sounding words or phrases to trick them into choosing the wrong answer. Professor Confusion's answer choices may include words or phrases that sound similar to the correct answer but have different meanings or are not relevant to the question. For example, an answer choice that includes a word that is similar in meaning to the correct answer but not quite right might lead a student to select it instead of the correct answer.

6. Sergeant Half Right - This character provides answers that are partially correct, but not complete enough to be the best answer. His answer choice may contain some correct information, but it's not the best answer. Students may be tempted to choose this answer because it's partially correct, but they need to remember that they're looking for the best answer, not just a partially correct one. For example, a half-right answer for a question about the theme of a passage might be a choice that identifies one aspect of the theme but misses the main point.

7. Lieutenant Irrelevant Detail: This character provides an answer choice that includes a small detail that may be true, but it is not relevant to the question being asked. This can lead students to choose the wrong answer because they are distracted by the irrelevant detail instead of focusing on the main point of the question.

8. Private Opinion: This character includes answers that are based on the student's personal opinion or beliefs, rather than the information provided in the passage. This can lead students to choose the wrong answer because they are not focusing on the facts presented in the text.