# Verbal Reasoning
## General Tips and Methods

## Synonyms and Antonyms

Watch out for word types: a noun cannot be a synonym/antonym for a verb.

Watch out for tense: a future tense word cannot be a synonym/antonym for a present tense word. Questions sometimes mix them to catch you out.

Watch out for associated words: just because two words often go together, does not mean that they have the same meaning. E.g 'sleep' is not a synonym of 'dream' or 'bed'.

Prefixes such as 'un' and 'dis' usually mean that the word is the opposite in meaning to the equivalent word without that prefix. This can help when finding antonyms.

When practicing, keep a log of any new words that you see and learn them.

## Compound Words

Go through each possible combination in order, using process of elimination.

Imagine how each option sound aloud, rather than just reading through them by sight. Sometimes the sounds can be different before and after merging e.g. 'now' and 'here' have different sounds to 'nowhere' and so it's tricky to see them as working together.

## Scrambled Sentences

Watch out for duplicates. If you are asked to find the unnecessary word, it can sometimes be a word that does fit into the sentence once, but it appears twice.

Use your knowledge of typical sentence structures to get you started. Try a noun that could be the subject of a basic sentence. Or maybe a verb that ends in 'ing'.

## Word Pairs

To find a pattern that connects two words, label each letter with a number. Then you can apply that number pattern to the word you are trying to find. E.g. 'glue/gel' is using 1,4,2. So, using the same numbers, 'take' would become 'tea'.

## Missing Letter

To find which letter goes in a gap within an unknown word, use your knowlwedge of how English words work to make reasonable judgements. E.g. a word that begins with 'th' or 'st' is not going to have a consonant as its third letter.

## Closest Meaning

Watch out for homonyms. Two words that are spelt the same can be pronounced differently to give very different meanings. Try pronouncing the words differently if stuck e.g. refuse: re-fuse is a verb meaning to reject but ref-yuse is a noun meaning rubbish/garbage.

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