

Further Problems

There are various other problems that can come up in a Comprehension, here are some of them:

a) Red Herring

The Red Herring is a distraction, originally used to put fox hunting hounds off the scent, and now to put anyone off!

This is why really understanding a Passage is very important; if you understand it properly, you will not be put off by these annoying Red Herrings...

A Red Herring can take the following form:

The inclusion in the Passage of material or subject matter, intended to distract, and to put the reader off the scent. This will be either nothing to do with the Main Topic, or nothing to do with the Question.

The problem is that usually the Red Herring looks part of the Passage or the Question, so you have to read the Passage quite carefully to see the catch!

b) Misleading Questions

This is the type of question that looks as if it has an obvious answer (i.e. one contained in the Passage) but in fact there is some discrepancy; if you simply copy from the text, you will not be quite correct in your answer.

How to deal with this problem is quite simple:

- a) Look carefully at the question, until you understand completely what it is asking.
- b) When answering the question, do not look at the text of the Passage, but simply rely on your notes. If you still cannot answer the question, it means you do not know the answer, in which case you have to go back to the text (and the question) and reconsider both until you are certain you know exactly what is wanted... (No copying from the Passage, though, that is fatal!)



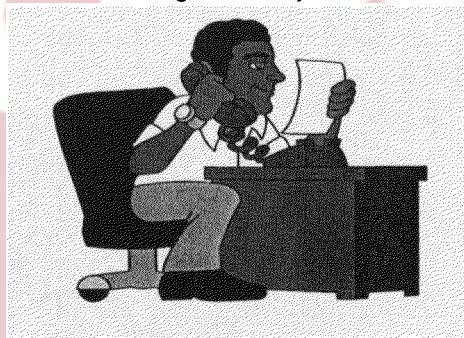
Activity 1

Read through the following paragraphs and answer the questions:

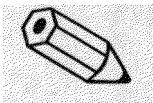
George Seymour was effectively a glorified entrepreneur. He was a specialist in nothing, and began twenty five years ago as an apprentice school leaver with basic qualifications. But although he started at the bottom rung of the ladder at Passworth Electrical Engineering Works, very soon his ruthless determination pushed him rapidly upwards; by the age of forty some five years ago he was indisputably the boss.

His great skills lay in manipulating others and using their talents. He was also aware that the secret of success in the ruthless world of business and manufacturing was adaptability and foresight. These skills he had in plenty, and in addition he was a good mixer, able to make people feel that in any deal he was concerned with, they would reap the benefits. Sometimes this actually occurred for George knew the importance of having support from people he could trust - and who trusted him.

But his true triumph was with the arrival of electronics and the microchip - about which he knew virtually nothing. Even so he sensed at once they would be essential elements in the future, and if he wanted to survive and prosper, he had to be in on the act. He made it an immediate priority to consult experts in those fields and give them jobs.



This Passage is fairly straightforward meant to test your understanding of a Passage, and your ability to describe it in your own words.

	<p>) In your own words, describe how <i>George Seymour</i> made a success of his position at Passworth Electrical Engineering Works</p> <p>) How did he compensate for the fact he knew nothing about electronics or the microchip?</p> <p>c) Give the meanings of the following words:</p> <p>i) entrepreneur: ii) basic iii) ruthless iv) adaptability v) foresight vi)virtually vii) essential viii) elements ix) priority x) fields</p> <p>d) What are the meanings of the following expressions:</p> <p>i) bottom rung of the ladder ii) reap the benefits</p>
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