

## Approach to Multiple Choice Questions

1. Read **the last sentence** (the question stem) **FIRST** and if needed, read the next to last sentence.
2. Read the rest of the question.
3. Pay attention to words that would change the meaning if they were left out, such as: gain/loss, early/late, ab-/ad-, etc.
4. **Predict** your answer without looking at the answer choices. Brainstorm what you know, what it makes you think about, what is related, etc. This will help you focus on the big picture.
5. Look at the answer choices and **eliminate** any that you know are incorrect.
6. If you narrow it down to two, think about how the options are **different**. Is one **MORE** correct because of the words you identified in Step 3?
7. Select the **BEST** answer. The best answer matches the evidence/data provided in the question.

When you...	Try...
<p>Narrow it down to two answers and aren't sure what the best option is</p>	<p><b>Step 1:</b>                      Remind yourself: 'I know this!' and 'This is not a trick question!'</p> <p><b>Step 2:</b>                      Re-read the question. What are the 3 or 4 <u>most important</u> (and relevant) <u>details</u> about the case/patient? Jot them down if helps you focus on those key pieces of information.</p> <p><b>Step 3:</b>                      Look at your first option. Ask yourself: 'What do I need to know for sure (100%) to say this is the best answer?' If a piece is missing (for example, a lab result to diagnosis that disease), then it isn't the best option.</p> <p>Look at your second option. Ask yourself again: 'What do I need to know for sure (100%) to say this is the best answer?' If all the evidence is presented in the data (question stem provides), then that is your best choice.</p> <p><b>Step 4:</b>  <i>Move on!</i> Don't second guess your answer or dwell on your choice. Remember – <b>you know this!</b></p>