



GMAT & GRE READING COMPREHENSION

Words Commonly Seen in RC Answer Options

The verbs, nouns and adjectives that keep turning up in Primary Purpose options, grouped by what they say about the author.

How to use this list

1. **Read the verb first.** A Primary Purpose option is usually a verb followed by an object: *challenge a widely held view of X*. If the verb misrepresents what the author does, the option is wrong, however accurately it names the topic.
2. **Think in families.** The words below are grouped by the author's stance, from neutral (describe, explain) to committed (argue, challenge). Words in the same family are often interchangeable in an option. Words from different families rarely are.
3. **Check the strength.** "Question" says the author raised doubts. "Refute" says she proved the claim wrong. An option that overstates or understates the author's commitment can be eliminated.
4. **Mind the adjectives.** A single word such as *unwarranted* or *compelling* adds a judgment the passage must support.

QUICK EXAMPLE

A passage presents two theories about why a lake dried up and ends by saying neither fully fits the evidence. *Refute both theories* is too strong, and *defend one theory* picks a side the author never takes. *Evaluate two explanations and find each incomplete* matches the verb and the strength.

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01 Describe and Report

The author lays out information without passing judgment. These verbs fit passages that are mainly informative, and they are often the right call when you cannot find any opinion in the passage.

Describe

Gives an account of what something is, how it looks, or how it works, without evaluating it.

IN AN OPTION **describe** *the process by which certain deep-sea fish produce their own light*

Present

Puts forward information, a view, or a theory for the reader to consider. Presenting a view is no evidence that the author agrees with it.

IN AN OPTION **present** *a new explanation for the extinction of the woolly mammoth*

Watch out: “Present and defend” or “present and evaluate” claims more than “present” alone. Check that the second verb actually happens in the passage.

Report

States findings or events as they were observed or recorded, usually someone else's.

IN AN OPTION **report** *the results of a study on how honeybees navigate in low light*

Document

Records something carefully, with evidence, so that it is on record.

IN AN OPTION **document** *the decline of handloom weaving in nineteenth-century Bengal*

Chronicle

Records events in the order in which they happened, in a factual and detailed way.

IN AN OPTION **chronicle** *the events that led to the founding of the world's first stock exchange*

Recount

Narrates a sequence of events, usually a single episode or story.

IN AN OPTION **recount** *how a misidentified fossil led paleontologists astray for decades*

Trace

Follows the development of something over time, from its origin to a later stage.

IN AN OPTION **trace** *the evolution of the modern novel from the eighteenth-century letter*

Detail

Provides specific, often intricate, information about a topic.

IN AN OPTION **detail** *the steps by which a protein folds into its final shape*

Outline	Gives a structured overview of the main points without going into depth. IN AN OPTION outline <i>the major stages in the formation of a coral atoll</i>
Summarize	Restates the main points of something briefly, usually someone else's research or argument. IN AN OPTION summarize <i>recent research on the sleep patterns of migratory birds</i>
Survey	Gives a broad overview of a field, or of several views on a question. IN AN OPTION survey <i>competing explanations for the origin of the Moon</i>
Review	Goes over existing work or evidence, sometimes with a light assessment. IN AN OPTION review <i>the evidence for early human settlement in the Americas</i>
Inform	Gives the reader factual information. Rare as a verb in options, though "informative" is a common way to describe a passage. IN AN OPTION inform <i>the reader of recent advances in the dating of ancient pottery</i>
Introduce	Brings a new idea, method, or concept to the reader's attention. IN AN OPTION introduce <i>a technique for dating rock art that leaves the pigment undamaged</i>
Characterize	Describes the essential nature or features of something, often in a particular light. IN AN OPTION characterize <i>the working conditions in early American textile mills</i> Watch out: In a question stem ("the author characterizes X as..."), this word often hides a judgment. Look for the author's adjectives.
Identify	Picks out and names something, such as a cause, a problem, or a factor. IN AN OPTION identify <i>the factors that allowed small firms to compete with much larger rivals</i>
Point out / Note	Draws attention to a fact, usually in passing. IN AN OPTION point out <i>a limitation of an earlier study of glacier movement</i> Watch out: These verbs usually describe the purpose of a single detail. They are often too narrow for a Primary Purpose question.

Discuss	Talks about a topic, often from more than one angle. A broad verb that rarely overstates. IN AN OPTION <i>discuss the implications of a recent finding about the age of the universe</i>
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02 Explain and Clarify

The author helps the reader understand how or why something happens. These verbs are still largely neutral: explaining a phenomenon is different from defending a position.

Explain	Makes clear how or why something happens. IN AN OPTION <i>explain why some desert plants open their pores only at night</i>
Account for	Gives the reason or cause for something, usually something puzzling. IN AN OPTION <i>account for the decline of a bird species despite an abundant food supply</i>
Attribute	Identifies a particular cause or source for something. IN AN OPTION <i>attribute a rise in childhood obesity to changes in dietary habits</i>
Clarify	Makes a point, term, or position clearer, often to remove a confusion. IN AN OPTION <i>clarify a distinction between two meanings of "efficiency" in economics</i>
Elucidate	Makes a complex idea clear, usually by explaining it in some detail. IN AN OPTION <i>elucidate the theory of relativity using everyday examples</i>
Illustrate	Makes a point clearer by using an example, a case, or an image. IN AN OPTION <i>illustrate a general principle of animal behavior with a single case</i> Watch out: Also one of the most common answers to "the author mentions X in order to..." questions.
Define	States the precise meaning of a term. IN AN OPTION <i>define a term that scholars have used inconsistently</i>
Elaborate / Expand on	Adds detail to a point already made. IN AN OPTION <i>elaborate on a distinction introduced in the first paragraph</i>

Interpret	Explains the meaning or significance of something, such as data, a text, or an event. IN AN OPTION <i>interpret the findings of an excavation in light of new dating evidence</i>
Classify	Groups things into categories based on shared features. IN AN OPTION <i>classify volcanic eruptions according to how explosive they are</i>
Delineate	Describes or marks out something precisely, especially its boundaries or stages. IN AN OPTION <i>delineate the stages through which infants acquire language</i>

03 Examine and Evaluate

The author looks closely at a subject. Analysis can stay neutral. Evaluation always involves a judgment, so check that the passage actually makes one.

Analyze	Examines a subject in detail, usually by breaking it into parts. IN AN OPTION <i>analyze the factors that contributed to the collapse of a once-dominant retail chain</i>
Examine	Looks at something carefully in order to understand it. IN AN OPTION <i>examine the role of trade routes in spreading farming techniques</i>
Investigate	Inquires systematically into something in order to discover facts. IN AN OPTION <i>investigate why certain metals lose all electrical resistance at low temperatures</i>
Explore	Considers a range of possibilities or perspectives, without necessarily settling on one. IN AN OPTION <i>explore several possible explanations for the sudden disappearance of a Bronze Age culture</i>
Consider	Thinks carefully about something, often about whether it is true or useful. IN AN OPTION <i>consider whether a widely used test actually measures what it claims to measure</i>
Weigh	Compares the evidence, or the advantages and disadvantages, on each side. IN AN OPTION <i>weigh the costs and benefits of a proposed method for storing solar energy</i>

Scrutinize	Examines very closely, usually looking for weaknesses. IN AN OPTION <i>scrutinize the evidence offered for an early date of a cave painting</i>
Evaluate / Assess / Appraise	Judges the value, quality, or validity of something after examining it. IN AN OPTION <i>evaluate the effectiveness of a new approach to teaching children to read</i> Watch out: If the passage only describes, “evaluate” is too strong. You must be able to point to the author’s verdict.
Critique	Gives a detailed assessment of something, covering its strengths as well as its weaknesses. A critique need not be negative. IN AN OPTION <i>critique a methodology used in studies of animal intelligence</i>
Test	Checks whether a claim or hypothesis holds up against evidence. IN AN OPTION <i>test a long-standing hypothesis about why zebras have stripes</i>
Seek	Attempts to find, achieve, or understand something. Usually followed by another verb. IN AN OPTION <i>seek to identify the root causes of a decline in honeybee populations</i>

04 Compare, Contrast and Reconcile

The author sets two or more things beside each other. Ask whether the passage stresses likeness, difference, or a way to make them fit together.

Compare	Looks at two or more things to show how they are alike, and often how they differ. IN AN OPTION <i>compare two theories of how the Himalayas were formed</i>
Contrast	Emphasizes the differences between two or more things. IN AN OPTION <i>contrast the hunting strategies of solitary and social predators</i>
Juxtapose	Places two ideas or facts side by side so that the reader notices the comparison or contrast. IN AN OPTION <i>juxtapose the reception of a painter’s work during her lifetime with its reception today</i>
Distinguish / Differentiate	Shows how two things that seem alike are in fact different. IN AN OPTION <i>distinguish between two kinds of memory that are often confused</i>

Draw an analogy	Points out a similarity between two different things, usually to explain one through the other. IN AN OPTION <i>draw an analogy</i> between the spread of a rumor and the spread of an infection
Relate / Link	Shows a connection between two things. IN AN OPTION <i>relate</i> changes in ocean temperature to shifts in the migration of fish
Reconcile	Shows that ideas or findings that seem to conflict can be made consistent. IN AN OPTION <i>reconcile</i> two competing theories of consumer behavior by proposing a hybrid model
Resolve	Settles a conflict, puzzle, or apparent contradiction. IN AN OPTION <i>resolve</i> an apparent paradox in the fossil record Watch out: “Resolve” says the puzzle is settled. If the author’s answer is tentative, “address” or “propose a resolution” fits better.
Synthesize / Integrate	Combines ideas from different sources into a single, coherent view. IN AN OPTION <i>synthesize</i> findings from genetics and archaeology to explain early human migration

05 Argue and Support

The author takes a position and stands behind it. Within this family, check how strong the verb is. “Suggest” and “prove” sit at opposite ends.

Argue	Puts forward a position and gives reasons for it. IN AN OPTION <i>argue</i> that a widely used measure of corporate performance is misleading
Assert	States something firmly and confidently. The word itself says nothing about whether evidence is given. IN AN OPTION <i>assert</i> that the earliest known writing system arose for keeping accounts
Claim / Contend / Maintain	States that something is true, usually something that others might dispute. IN AN OPTION <i>contend</i> that a medieval city declined because of shifting trade routes
Advocate	Supports or recommends a particular course of action, method, or idea. IN AN OPTION <i>advocate</i> a greater role for field observation in the study of animal behavior

Endorse / Champion / Espouse	Gives approval or support to an idea or a person. "Champion" is the most forceful of the three. IN AN OPTION endorse <i>a recently proposed explanation for the dimming of a distant star</i>
Defend	Supports a position against criticism or attack. IN AN OPTION defend <i>a controversial dating method against recent criticism</i>
Justify	Shows that a decision, action, or claim is reasonable. IN AN OPTION justify <i>the use of a small sample in a long-term study of wolves</i>
Support	Provides evidence or arguments in favor of a claim. IN AN OPTION support <i>the theory that sleep plays a crucial role in consolidating memory</i>
Substantiate / Corroborate	Provides evidence that backs up a claim. "Corroborate" usually means confirming with independent evidence. IN AN OPTION corroborate <i>an earlier account with newly discovered shipping records</i>
Confirm	Shows that something believed or suspected is true. IN AN OPTION confirm <i>a prediction about the behavior of light near massive objects</i>
Reaffirm	States again that something previously believed still holds, often in light of new evidence. IN AN OPTION reaffirm <i>a theory's validity by presenting new experimental results consistent with the original findings</i>
Demonstrate / Establish / Prove	Shows conclusively that something is true. These are strong verbs. IN AN OPTION demonstrate <i>that a supposedly extinct species survived into the twentieth century</i> Watch out: These need strong evidence in the passage. If the author only offers support, "prove" overreaches.
Vindicate	Shows that a person or idea that was doubted or criticized was right after all. IN AN OPTION vindicate <i>a naturalist whose theory was dismissed for a century</i>
Emphasize / Stress / Underscore	Gives special importance to a point. IN AN OPTION emphasize <i>the importance of soil microbes to crop yields</i>

Highlight	Draws attention to a particular point or aspect. IN AN OPTION <i>highlight the overlooked contributions of women astronomers at the Harvard Observatory</i>
Appreciate	Either recognizes and understands the full complexity of something, or recognizes and values its good qualities. IN AN OPTION <i>appreciate the complexity of a legal system that must balance speed against fairness (understanding); appreciate a novel's intricate character development (recognition)</i>
Praise / Commend / Celebrate	Expresses approval or admiration. IN AN OPTION <i>commend a historian's careful use of archival sources</i> Watch out: Rare as a primary purpose. Passages that read as pure praise are uncommon on the test.
Recommend / Urge	Suggests a course of action as advisable. "Urge" is more forceful. IN AN OPTION <i>recommend that museums reconsider how they display fragile textiles</i>

06 Challenge and Oppose

The author pushes back against a claim, a theory, or a widely held view. This family has the widest range of strength, from raising a doubt to proving a claim false.

Challenge	Calls into question a claim, theory, or assumption, usually one that is widely held. The author need not show that the claim is false. IN AN OPTION <i>challenge a long-held assumption about why the Maya abandoned their cities</i>
Question / Call into question / Cast doubt on	Raises doubts about whether something is true, reliable, or valid. Milder than refute. IN AN OPTION <i>question the reliability of a method widely used to estimate the age of trees</i>
Dispute / Contest	Argues that a claim is wrong. IN AN OPTION <i>dispute the claim that early farmers were healthier than hunter-gatherers</i>
Counter / Rebut	Responds to an argument with an opposing argument or evidence. IN AN OPTION <i>counter the objection that a study's sample was too small to be meaningful</i>

Refute	Proves that a claim or argument is wrong. A refutation succeeds. IN AN OPTION <i>refute</i> the notion that economic growth always leads to improved living standards Watch out: If the author only raises doubts, choose “challenge” or “question.” “Refute” is right only when the passage settles the matter.
Disprove	Shows that a claim is false. IN AN OPTION <i>disprove</i> the long-held belief that the Great Wall of China is visible from the Moon
Debunk	Exposes a popular belief as false or exaggerated. IN AN OPTION <i>debunk</i> the popular belief that people use only ten percent of their brains
Discredit	Damages the credibility of a claim, a source, or a person. IN AN OPTION <i>discredit</i> a source on which earlier historians relied heavily
Undermine	Weakens a claim or argument, often indirectly. IN AN OPTION <i>undermine</i> the assumption on which a popular theory of language rests
Contradict	States or shows the opposite of a claim. IN AN OPTION <i>contradict</i> the claim that organic farming is less productive than conventional farming
Reject / Dismiss	Refuses to accept an idea. “Dismiss” suggests the idea does not deserve serious attention. IN AN OPTION <i>reject</i> the view that a single event caused the decline of the dinosaurs
Criticize	Expresses disapproval of something or points out its faults. IN AN OPTION <i>criticize</i> earlier researchers for relying on a narrow range of species Watch out: Different from critique. To criticize is to find fault; a critique weighs strengths and weaknesses.
Correct	Points out an error or misconception and puts it right. IN AN OPTION <i>correct</i> a widespread misconception about how glaciers move
Caution against / Warn	Advises the reader to be careful about something. IN AN OPTION <i>caution against</i> drawing broad conclusions from a single excavation site

Lament / Deplore / Decry

Expresses regret (lament) or strong disapproval (deplore, decry).

IN AN OPTION ***lament** the loss of traditional craft knowledge in rural communities*

Watch out: Usually too emotional for a GMAT or GRE author. These are more often wrong options than right ones.

07 Concede, Qualify and Revise

The author softens, limits, or updates a position, whether her own or someone else's. These verbs are common in passages that end with "this view needs refining."

Acknowledge

Recognizes a fact or point, often one that does not fit the author's own position.

IN AN OPTION ***acknowledge** that several approaches to reducing urban traffic have merit*

Concede

Admits that a point made by the other side has some validity.

IN AN OPTION ***concede** that the new evidence complicates an earlier interpretation*

Qualify

Limits or modifies a statement so that it is less sweeping.

IN AN OPTION ***qualify** an argument by noting that the findings are preliminary*

Watch out: Qualifying a claim keeps it alive in a narrower form. Contradicting it means saying the opposite.

Modify / Refine

Changes a theory or claim slightly to make it more accurate.

IN AN OPTION ***refine** an existing model of how birds navigate using Earth's magnetic field*

Amend

Changes or adds to a document, theory, or proposal, usually in response to new information.

IN AN OPTION ***amend** a widely cited classification of fungi to reflect recent genetic evidence*

Revise

Changes a view or an account after reconsidering it.

IN AN OPTION ***revise** the accepted date for the earliest domestication of the horse*

Reassess / Reevaluate / Reconsider

Looks again at something already judged and judges it anew.

IN AN OPTION ***reassess** the contribution of a long-neglected composer*

Reinterpret	Gives a new meaning or explanation to something already known. IN AN OPTION <i>reinterpret</i> cave markings that were previously thought to be decorative
Extend / Apply	Takes an existing idea into a new area. IN AN OPTION <i>extend</i> a theory developed for ant colonies to the study of traffic flow
Temper	Moderates or softens a claim or a reaction. IN AN OPTION <i>temper</i> the enthusiasm surrounding a new drug by noting its side effects

08 Propose, Predict and Solve

The author looks forward: offering an idea, a likely outcome, or a fix for a problem. Match the confidence of the verb to the confidence of the author.

Propose	Puts forward an idea or a plan for consideration. IN AN OPTION <i>propose</i> a new framework for assessing environmental impact
Put forward / Advance / Offer	Presents an idea, explanation, or theory for others to consider. IN AN OPTION <i>advance</i> an alternative explanation for the rings around Saturn
Suggest	Proposes an idea tentatively, or implies it without stating it outright. IN AN OPTION <i>suggest</i> that current laws are inadequate to protect endangered species Watch out: A soft verb. It is often right when the author hedges with “may,” “might,” or “perhaps.”
Hypothesize	Proposes an explanation that still needs to be tested. IN AN OPTION <i>hypothesize</i> that childhood experiences play a significant role in adult behavior
Speculate	Forms a theory without firm evidence. More tentative than hypothesize. IN AN OPTION <i>speculate</i> about the purpose of a stone structure whose builders left no written records
Predict / Anticipate	States what will, or is likely to, happen. IN AN OPTION <i>predict</i> how increasing ocean acidity will affect shell-forming organisms

Address	Deals with a problem, a question, or an objection. IN AN OPTION address a common objection to the use of computer models in ecology
Alleviate	Reduces the severity of a problem. IN AN OPTION outline a strategy to alleviate water shortages in arid farming regions
Mitigate	Lessens the intensity or the impact of something harmful. IN AN OPTION propose measures that could mitigate the effects of rising sea levels on coastal towns
Remedy / Solve	Removes a problem or puts it right. IN AN OPTION propose a way to remedy a flaw in the standard method of measuring productivity

09 Assumptions, Implications and Gaps

Words that describe what an argument takes for granted, leaves unsaid, or leaves out. Expect them in options about the author's reasoning or about a view the author criticizes.

Assume	Takes something for granted without stating or proving it. IN AN OPTION assume that readers are familiar with basic economic principles
Presuppose	Requires something to be true for an argument to work. IN AN OPTION point out that the theory presupposes a stable climate over thousands of years
Imply	Hints at something without stating it outright. IN AN OPTION imply a link between childhood nutrition and later academic performance Watch out: The author implies; the reader infers. An option about what the author "infers" is usually describing a conclusion the author draws from evidence.
Indicate	Points to a fact or trend, usually on the basis of evidence. IN AN OPTION indicate that the population had begun to decline well before the drought
Neglect / Overlook / Ignore	Fails to consider something relevant. IN AN OPTION argue that earlier studies neglected the influence of local climate on tool design

Overstate / Exaggerate	Presents something as larger or more important than it is. IN AN OPTION <i>suggest that earlier accounts overstated the role of a single inventor</i>
Underestimate / Downplay	Presents something as smaller or less important than it is. IN AN OPTION <i>argue that historians have underestimated the role of rivers in early trade</i>
Conflate	Treats two distinct things as if they were the same. IN AN OPTION <i>point out that critics conflate correlation with causation</i>

10 Nouns That Name the Subject

These words name what the author is working on. Primary Purpose options often pair a verb from the lists above with one of these, as in “challenge a prevailing view” or “account for an anomaly.”

Phenomenon	An observable fact or event, often one that needs explaining. IN AN OPTION <i>explain a puzzling phenomenon observed in certain migratory birds</i>
Hypothesis	A proposed explanation that has not yet been confirmed. IN AN OPTION <i>evaluate a hypothesis about the origin of the Moon</i>
Theory / Model / Framework	A structured explanation of how something works. A model usually simplifies; a framework is a way of organizing thinking about a subject. IN AN OPTION <i>propose a framework for comparing the stability of different ecosystems</i>
Assumption / Premise	Something accepted as true and used as the basis for an argument. IN AN OPTION <i>question an assumption underlying most studies of consumer choice</i>
Conventional wisdom / Prevailing view / Traditional view	What most people, or most experts, currently believe. IN AN OPTION <i>challenge the prevailing view of how the first cities were organized</i> Watch out: One of the most common pairings in Primary Purpose options. Check whether the author actually opposes the view or merely describes it.
Consensus	General agreement among experts. IN AN OPTION <i>describe how a scientific consensus emerged about the cause of stomach ulcers</i>

Misconception	A mistaken belief, often a widely held one. IN AN OPTION <i>correct a common misconception about how bats find their way in the dark</i>
Controversy / Debate	A disagreement, usually among experts. IN AN OPTION <i>summarize a debate about the authorship of a medieval manuscript</i>
Discrepancy	A difference between two things that should match. IN AN OPTION <i>account for a discrepancy between predicted and observed rates of erosion</i>
Paradox	Something that appears contradictory but may nonetheless be true. IN AN OPTION <i>resolve an apparent paradox in the behavior of social insects</i>
Anomaly	Something that departs from what is normal or expected. IN AN OPTION <i>explain an anomaly in the orbit of a distant planet</i>
Implication	A consequence or conclusion that follows from something. IN AN OPTION <i>discuss the implications of a new finding for theories of human evolution</i>
Methodology / Approach	The method or way of working used to study something. IN AN OPTION <i>criticize the methodology of a widely cited study of animal cognition</i>
Finding	A conclusion reached as a result of research. IN AN OPTION <i>report a finding that contradicts earlier assumptions about bird intelligence</i>
Development / Trend	A change, or the general direction in which something is changing. IN AN OPTION <i>trace a trend in the architecture of nineteenth-century railway stations</i>

11 Adjectives That Carry a Judgment

A single adjective can tilt an option toward approval or disapproval. When an option includes one of these, ask whether the passage supports that exact degree of judgment.

Unwarranted / Unfounded	Not justified by sufficient evidence or reason. IN AN OPTION <i>argue that a conclusion drawn from limited data is unwarranted</i>
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Premature	Made too early, before there is enough evidence. IN AN OPTION <i>suggest that celebrating the new treatment is premature</i>
Inconclusive	Not leading to a firm conclusion. IN AN OPTION <i>point out that the evidence for the theory remains inconclusive</i>
Tentative / Provisional	Not yet final; open to change. IN AN OPTION <i>offer a tentative explanation for the decline of an island's bird population</i>
Speculative	Based on guesswork more than on firm evidence. IN AN OPTION <i>dismiss a speculative account of the origins of music</i>
Plausible	Seems reasonable or likely, though it is not proven. IN AN OPTION <i>present a plausible alternative to the standard explanation</i>
Compelling	Convincing; difficult to argue against. IN AN OPTION <i>argue that the evidence for early agriculture in the region is compelling</i>
Flawed / Inadequate	Containing an error or weakness; not good enough for the purpose. IN AN OPTION <i>show that a widely used model of population growth is flawed</i>
Oversimplified / Simplistic	Treats a complex matter as simpler than it is. IN AN OPTION <i>criticize an oversimplified account of why empires collapse</i>
Widely held / Long-standing	Accepted by many people, or for a long time. IN AN OPTION <i>challenge a widely held belief about the diet of early humans</i> Watch out: These adjectives usually signal the view that the author is about to challenge.
Novel / Unconventional	New, or different from what is usual. IN AN OPTION <i>describe a novel method for detecting planets outside the solar system</i>
Controversial	Causing disagreement or debate. IN AN OPTION <i>defend a controversial interpretation of a Renaissance painting</i>

Qualified	Given with reservations. "Qualified support" is support with conditions attached. <i>IN AN OPTION offer qualified support for a new theory of language acquisition</i>
Measured / Balanced	Restrained and careful; giving fair weight to more than one side. <i>IN AN OPTION provide a balanced assessment of a disputed archaeological claim</i>

12 Easily Confused Pairs

These pairs account for a large share of wrong answers in Primary Purpose questions. Each pair looks close and means something quite different.

Critique vs. Criticize	A critique weighs strengths and weaknesses. To criticize is to find fault.
Challenge / Question vs. Refute / Disprove	The first pair raises doubts. The second pair proves a claim wrong. The passage decides which strength is justified.
Describe vs. Evaluate	Describing reports what something is. Evaluating passes a verdict on it.
Explain vs. Argue	Explaining tells you why something happens. Arguing tries to convince you that something is true.
Assert vs. Prove	Asserting is stating firmly. Proving is showing conclusively, with evidence.
Suggest vs. Argue	Suggesting is tentative. Arguing commits to a position and backs it up.
Acknowledge vs. Advocate	Acknowledging recognizes a point, often an opposing one. Advocating actively recommends it.
Qualify vs. Contradict	Qualifying narrows a claim and keeps it. Contradicting replaces it with its opposite.
Resolve vs. Address	Resolving settles a problem. Addressing only deals with it.
Imply vs. Infer	The author implies something. The reader infers it.

13 Alphabetical Index

Every word in this guide, with the number of the section where you will find it.

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Lament	06	Prevailing view	10	Speculate	08
Link	04	Propose	08	Speculative	11
Long-standing	11	Prove	05	Stress	05
M		Provisional	11	Substantiate	05
Maintain	05	Put forward	08	Suggest	08
Measured	11	Q		Summarize	01
Methodology	10	Qualified	11	Support	05
Misconception	10	Qualify	07	Survey	01
Mitigate	08	Question	06	Synthesize	04
Model	10	R		T	
Modify	07	Reaffirm	05	Temper	07
N		Reassess	07	Tentative	11
Neglect	09	Rebut	06	Test	03
Note	01	Recommend	05	Theory	10
Novel	11	Reconcile	04	Trace	01
O		Reconsider	07	Traditional view	10
Offer	08	Recount	01	Trend	10
Outline	01	Reevaluate	07	U	
Overlook	09	Refine	07	Unconventional	11
Oversimplified	11	Refute	06	Underestimate	09
Overstate	09	Reinterpret	07	Undermine	06
P		Reject	06	Underscore	05
Paradox	10	Relate	04	Unfounded	11
Phenomenon	10	Remedy	08	Unwarranted	11
Plausible	11	Report	01	Urge	05
Point out	01	Resolve	04	V	
Praise	05	Review	01	Vindicate	05
Predict	08	Revise	07	W	
Premature	11	S		Warn	06
Premise	10	Scrutinize	03	Weigh	03
		Seek	03	Widely held	11