

MTEL Preparation

Online Study, Practice and Skills Development Resources

for the

Communication and Literacy Skills Test:
Reading and Writing Portions

MTEL information and resources for Cambridge College students are online at:
http://www.cambridgecollege.edu/academics/ed_mtels.cfm

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Test Information, Strategies and Test Practice

General Test Information

1. The DOE's MTEL information page has links to Test Dates, Registration Information, Test Objectives and Test Information booklets. <http://www.mtel.nesinc.com/>
2. The Colleges of the Fenway maintain this excellent resource which gives a thorough overview and instructions on all aspects of the test, including sample tests with immediate online feedback on your responses :
http://www.wheelock.edu/MTELC/MTELC_main_1.htm

Test Taking and Study Strategies

1. This is a comprehensive, well organized site for learning, strategies, writing, test taking and research.
<http://www.studygs.net/>
2. This site from Virginia Polytechnic Institute has several interesting pages related to MTEL success. There are links on study skills, time management and reading strategies. Test takers will also find useful information in the link called Seven Strategies for Improving Test Performance.
<http://www.ucc.vt.edu/stdysk/stdyhlp.html>

Test Practice

1. The DOE has a web page with links to full-length practice tests for the Communication and Literacy Skills, Foundations of Reading, Early Childhood and Mathematics tests. Answers are explained according to test objectives.
http://www.mtel.nesinc.com/MA_PT_opener.asp
2. This site from the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) organization presents material that is similar to the MTEL Communication and Literacy Skills test. At the bottom of the page, the links to Reading and Writing will take you to questions that will give you an opportunity to practice. There is also a link at the bottom which will take you to an answer page.
<http://www.thea.nesinc.com/practice.htm>
3. Maricopa Community Colleges offers sample tests for reading and writing skills. On the right side of the page in the ASSET Sample Tests section, click on the links Reading Skills Test and Writing Skills Test to find the practice questions. The Answer Key to Sample Tests is at the bottom of the list.
http://www.maricopa.edu/studentaffairs/employee/asset_sample_tests.html
4. Colleges of the Fenway produces this site which offers information, interactive exercises and practice tests. Scroll down to the bottom half of the page for the table of contents.
http://www.wheelock.edu/MTELC/MTELC_main_1.htm

Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation

Spelling

1. Homonyms (homonym questions will be in the mechanics and grammar and usage sections of the test)
http://www.wheelock.edu/MTELC/MTELC_writing_hymonymtut.htm
http://www.cooper.com/alan/homonym_list.html
2. Spelling strategies and resources
http://www.wheelock.edu/MTELC/MTELC_writing_spell1.htm
<http://www.studygs.net/spelling.htm>
3. Spelling rules
<http://people.whitman.edu/~hashimiy/spelruls.htm>
http://www.mc3.edu/aa/lal/workshops/wksp_spelling/spellingrules.html

Grammar and Punctuation

1. For proofreading exercises with immediate feedback:
<http://abcheckers.com/proofHicks.html#Part1>
<http://abcheckers.com/proofMagpies.html#Part1>
2. For rules and practice with commas:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/g_comma.html
<http://www.stpt.usf.edu/pms/comma.html>
3. Hyphens (hyphen questions may appear in the mechanics and grammar and usage sections of the MTEL)
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/g_hyphen.html
<http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~brians/errors/hyphenation.html>

Vocabulary Resources

NOTE: A solid knowledge of vocabulary is important for success on the MTEL because college level language is present in all parts of the test: reading selections, vocabulary questions, summary text and grammar and usage texts. The stronger your vocabulary is, the higher your chances of passing the test.

WARNING: These lists can be overwhelming. Try to work with a few words each day.

STRATEGY: It is said that if you look at a word and its definition 10 times you'll know it, but if you use it three times, it's yours. Push yourself to be creative in your own language use and you'll improve your vocabulary.

1. This site has word lists for study for the SAT and GRE tests, which contain vocabulary similar to the MTEL tests. From the homepage, click on SAT and GRE. On each page, you can click on Printable to go to the full list with basic definitions, or you can click on FlashCard for the words to be presented individually, so you can test yourself. When you use FlashCard, you can click on a link for the definition in case you can't remember it.

<http://www.soundkeepers.com/SAT/>

2. This site is a quiz using the top 100 words from the SAT

<http://www.quia.com/mc/1527.html>

3. This site also offers standard vocabulary from the SAT test. In addition, it has a link to download the vocabulary words to your iPod in a .ZIP file!

<http://www.enotes.com/sat-prep/sat-vocabulary.html>

4. Vocabulary Vulcanizer's site has word definitions that help to clearly figure out the connections between the root word part and the word's meaning. This is an excellent resource for supporting your guesses when you see words you don't know. It has:

- Latin, Greek, French and more-- root word parts/definitions/examples
- Clear examples and word definitions in root/prefix/suffix categories.
- Vocab words in content areas- prefix/root/suffix analysis and definitions

<http://membersites.namezero.com/jaegerma.nycap.rr.com/>

Reading Practice and Text Analysis Strategies

1. This site is designed to prepare students for the reading portions of the SAT test, which has questions similar to those on the MTEL. More than just test practice, it has instruction on question types, sample passages and explanations to help test takers understand why answer choices are correct/incorrect.
http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep_one/passage_based/pracStart.html
2. This site is for the GRE test which has reading questions similar to the MTEL. It has excellent instructions followed by practice activities with analysis and explanation of the answers.
<http://www.800score.com/gre-guided2view1a.html>
3. This site is also a GRE preparation site. It has a solid explanation of the types of reading analysis questions you will find in the MTEL reading portion of the C&L test. There is a sample text and questions with an explanation for each type of question to help test takers figure out what the test creators are looking for as a correct response.
<http://novapress.net/gre/strategies.html>
4. This site from Virginia Polytechnic Institute has several interesting pages related to MTEL success. The link called Increasing Textbook Reading Comprehension by Using SQ3R is excellent. Additionally, the link How to Read Essays You Must Analyze is helpful for improving your reading. Test takers may also find useful information in the link called Seven Strategies for Improving Test Performance.
<http://www.ucc.vt.edu/stdysk/stdyhlp.html>
5. This is a link to a site for practice for the GRE tests. Under Self Assessment Modules, scroll about 2/3 of the way down the page. You will see:
 - Basic Reading Comprehension
 - Reading for the Main Idea
 - Advanced Reading Comprehension
 - Reading VocabularyEach of these pages gives you several sample reading passages with multiple choice answers. When you finish, you can click on the left hand link at the bottom of the page (the one with the magnifying glass icon on it) and you will go to a page with your score and the correct answers.
http://www.testprepreview.com/gre_practice.htm
6. This link takes you to a detailed explanation of the most common types of questions that you will find on the reading section of the Communication and Literacy Skills test. The site gives common examples of the questions, samples of how to locate the answers in the texts and strategies for how to answer them best. There are also two sample reading passages, their answers and detailed explanations of why those answers are best.
<http://www.ivyleagueadmission.com/grereadingcomp.doc>

Summary and Argumentative Essay Strategies

Summary

1. This site from St.Cloud State University describes a thorough process for writing an academic summary.
<http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/acadwrite/summary.html>
2. The Student Development Centre at the University of Western Ontario has written this document which describes a process for writing an academic summary.
<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/handouts/Summary%20Writing.pdf>
3. Here are some summary writing suggestions from Columbia University's Writing Center.
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ssw/write/handouts/summary.html>

Argumentative Essay

1. This site from Paradigm Online Writing Assistant has lots of valuable information about academic writing. Towards the bottom of the list, click on Writing Argumentative Essays. There you will find many helpful pages linked through the left hand sidebar giving detailed information and practice exercises.
<http://www.powa.org/>
2. This page from Dickson College gives a simple and clear overview of the parts and process of an essay.
<http://www.dicksonc.act.edu.au/Library/essay.html>
3. This site from Academic Writer has excellent information about writing an argumentative essay. It is especially strong in giving writers specific words and phrases to use when writing an argumentative essay. If you click on the left side links called the Argument Quizzes, # 1-4, you will see a link called advanced language which will take you to a section with specific language for various functions in academic writing.
<http://www.edict.com.hk/vlc/academicWriter/Frames/framesArgument.htm>