Strategy #4 Test-taking Strategies – Grammar Tests-Following Directions

 No matter the subject, following directions is one of the most important ways to increase your chances of success on a test. Conversely. and perhaps even more importantly, **not** following directions can keep you from succeeding, which can be very frustrating when you really think you know the information on the test!

Reasons Following Directions on Grammar Tests Can Be Particularly Challenging:

* Directions have more than one step, and/or different types of steps
* There can be more than one answer to many questions
* Answers may need to be copied, transferred, written directly on or above a sentence or into a diagram

How to Make Following the Directions Easier

* Highlight, label, and/or number the different steps
* **Example:** Circle the concrete nouns. Underline the abstract nouns.

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1. Circle the concrete nouns. 2. Label the abstract nouns.
* When there can be more than one answer, reread the sentence to make sure you found all the answers. In other words, if you are looking for nouns, make sure the rest of the words in the sentence are **not** nouns!
* When answers need to be copied or transferred, reread both the original sentence and the copied answer to make sure you didn’t miss anything! This includes not only the words, but also all capitalization and punctuation!
* When writing answers directly on or above a sentence, neatness counts! If you can’t read your answer, your teacher probably won’t be able to read it, either! If you need more space to make sure your answer is legible, ask your teacher if you may write answers on the side or back of the page or on a separate sheet of paper. If you do this, though, make sure you follow all the directions, and use the strategies I’ve already mentioned to make sure you do!
* When writing answers into a diagram, the most important thing to remember is to reread the sentence to make sure you have used every word in the sentence in your diagram! Giving yourself enough space for the diagram and using a ruler to draw the lines will also help you keep it neat!