



## IMPROVE YOUR TEST TAKING STRATEGY

### Reading Errors

The only time you should miss a nursing exam or NCLEX question is when you don't know the content the question is based on.

In your nursing classes, this is important because you need to meet an exam passing average for each course. One missed question can be the difference between passing or failing a course.

When you take NCLEX, you won't get every question correct. Because of the way the NCLEX Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) is set up, you will see passing level questions and when you are answering those correctly, you will then see questions that are above passing level. Passing NCLEX hinges on correctly answering passing level questions.

You need to address test taking strategy errors in order to be successful.

The three most common test taking strategy errors are

1. Reading errors
2. Analysis errors
3. Focus errors

### Reading Errors

If you are still in nursing school, now is the time to address this test taking strategy error. It is **imperative** that you eliminate reading errors when you take NCLEX. Reading errors may cause you to miss a passing level question, dropping you below the passing level. You then have questions to work your way back up, instead of staying at or above passing level throughout your exam.

## Use this Strategy for EACH test question.

### Step 1

Read the question. Read every word carefully and make sure you are not overlooking keywords.

Don't look at the answers!

### Step 2

Identify the keywords.

Don't look at the answers!

### Step 3

Restate what the question is asking to be certain you are crystal clear what you are looking for in the answer responses.

Don't look at the answers!

### Step 4

Read EACH answer response one at a time. If this is not your habit, when you first practice this, you may need to cover up your test paper, or your computer screen to teach yourself not to read answers until step 4, and to look at each answer one at a time.

### Step 5

Choose your answer and **move on.**

It is essential to follow these steps in all of your practice testing. Then this will become your consistent strategy. If you do get mild jitters on your exam day you will keep to this strategy because it is your habit.

## Assess and Address your Test Taking Strategy

I have coached clients who have adopted this strategy for reading exam and NCLEX questions and that alone moved them to passing.

If you are struggling to decipher what your test taking strategy errors are, or need help fixing them, consider [scheduling a coaching session](#) to get you on the right track for success.

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