

Analogy

An analogy is a comparison between objects or concepts to show a similar relationship. Analogies can be written in many different formats. Following are some analogy formats commonly found on tests.

For example: finger is to hand as toe is to foot.
This can also be written as finger:hand::toe:foot.

It may be helpful to discuss the concept of analogies with the student. Help him or her develop unique analogies that relate to a common subject.

An example of an analogy is, "Sock is to foot as glove is to hand."
In this analogy, a sock covers a foot like a glove covers a hand.
This same analogy can also be written as, SOCK:FOOT::glove:hand.

There are several common types of analogies.
Synonyms and antonyms are usually the easiest because there is an obvious similarity or contrast.
For example, HOT:COLD::wet:dry

An object and what it is used for is another common type of analogy.
For example, RAKE:LEAVES::shovel:dirt

In a cause and effect analogy, one thing causes another to happen.
For example, RAIN:FLOOD::snow:avalanche

In a part and whole analogy, one thing is a part of another.
For example, MINUTE:hour::inch:foot

Some analogies show relative degrees of the same thing. They tend to be more difficult because they are less obvious than other types, such as antonyms and synonyms.
For example, BRIGHT:LUMINOUS::shine:sparkle