



# ATI TEAS Study Guide



## READING

A PDF Guide to the ATI TEAS Reading Test

*This guide features information on the topics within the ATI TEAS Reading Test.*

August 2017

# PREPARING FOR THE TEAS READING TEST

## How do I Prepare for the TEAS Reading Test?

Properly preparing for the TEAS Reading test means pinpointing the details involved on the exam. The TEAS Reading test requires you to identify key ideas and details, identify craft and structure, identify the author's main motive, and integrate key knowledge and ideas. Below, you will find tips and techniques to help you succeed in acquiring all of the above skills.

## TEAS Reading Test Structure and Timing

You will have 64 minutes to answer the 53 questions on the Reading section. There are three topics covered on the ATI TEAS Reading section:

- *Key Ideas & Details: 22 questions altogether worth 47% of the Reading section.*
- *Craft & Structure: 14 questions altogether worth 30% of the Reading section*
- *Integration of Knowledge & Ideas: 11 questions altogether worth 23% of the Reading section.*
- *An additional six pretest items included in this section do not count towards your TEAS score.*

# HOW TO PREPARE FOR:

## Identifying Key Ideas and Details

- You must identify ideas that are explicitly stated in the text and ideas that might be inferred from your understanding of the text. These ideas are laid out as facts, with additional information giving greater detail. Your goal is to read, understand, and make reasonable conclusions from the passage.
- When making reasonable conclusions, you must either base them on explicitly stated fact, or take statements and treat them as premises to your inferred conclusion.
- This skill of analyzing passages can be extended to include analysis of graphs and charts, memos and letters, posters and advertisements, and any other type of written information.
- You need to be able to read the words within their context, and thus you must be careful not to focus on details that may appear important without considering all the information made available to you.
- Look out for indicators within a piece of text, such as the use of bold font or italics. These changes to text appearance may be trying to lead you to a conclusion or lead you away from other important pieces of information. The author uses such devices, along with Headings (such as “Identifying Key Ideas and Details on the TEAS Reading Test” above), to guide you through the text as they would like you to read it.

- Authors may also insert graphics and tables to present information in a clearer manner. Be sure to check for keys and legends on any form of chart and to read table headings carefully. Graphics may also help authors to persuade readers to understand the text in a different way, depending on how the information is presented.

- Authors may also include directions in their passages, which may be a step-by-step process. Other directions may be written in a mixed-up order, which means you must read and look out for prepositions. Use prepositions such as “before” or “after” to help you understand the order of events.

- Information overload is common with such passages. Often, questions may focus on one of the four paragraphs within the passage. The remaining information can either build toward your answer or add extra confusion to the questions you are being asked. Here, the trick is to read the passage with an open mind, allowing your own perceptions and knowledge of the subject not to interfere with the information being presented to you. If you get stuck on a question where the answer is a phrase with almost identical terminology, you must work out if the meaning of the answer option matches the detail in the passage.

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# HOW TO PREPARE FOR:

## Identifying Craft and Structure

- Craft and structure concern presentation by the author of the information he or she wishes to relay. Specifically, the use of certain structures presents the information differently and affects the way the reader reads and analyzes the text.

- All passages have structure, and on the TEAS Reading section, there are certain common structures that are more likely to appear. These are:

- sequence
- problem/solution
- compare/contrast
- description
- cause/effect

- Authors that write "in sequence" are essentially keeping an order to their text that helps convey and build the idea they wish the reader to understand.

- Authors that write with problem solution templates most likely present the problem very early in the passage and then proceed to outline one or more of the solutions as the passage develops.

- Authors can compare and contrast ideas, usually focusing on either dissimilarities or similarities between two ideas or subjects.

- Authors can use descriptive structures to flesh out ideas and develop finer details of the underlying argument within the text.

- Authors that write with a cause and effect template outline the cause in the earlier stages of their text and then describe effects, linking them back to the earlier described cause.

# HOW TO PREPARE FOR:

## Identifying the Author's Motive

- Every piece of writing has some motive or purpose that is being presented to the reader by the author via the text. Once you have identified the main ideas and the structure being used by the author, it is important that you ask yourself, "What is the author trying to achieve?"
- Authors may be writing to persuade, explore, narrate, or express. The writing may also be of a technical and neutral nature. These types of writing styles can be identified generally as argumentative, informative, and entertaining. You will see as you read through different passages that a passage naturally falls into one of the three categories and sometimes into even more than one. It is important to identify the author's main purpose. The text may be entertaining and informative, but the purpose of the author may be to persuade the reader to agree with a certain perspective.
- Be sure to watch out for facts and opinions laid down by the author. Often you will encounter a topic you are expected to know very little about. You are still expected to know the difference between fact ("the cake is round") and opinion ("the cake tastes good").
- Be cautious of stereotypes and biased views from the author. All authors are affected by bias and stereotypes, which can lead them to make broad assumptions, lay down opinion as fact, and prefer one version of something over another.
- Be conscious of the period that the text was written in. Most texts will give away clues through certain words and word orders, or via the topic and the tense in which the topic is being spoken about. Authors are always influenced by the time of their writing, and identifying when the piece was written will help you build a clearer understanding of the author's interests and the purpose behind the piece.

# HOW TO PREPARE FOR:

## Integrating Knowledge and Ideas

What makes a text authoritative? How do you know that the author is a certified expert? Is information on the internet more reliable than that found in books? How do you measure credibility? These are all questions that you must ask when reading a piece of text. Teaching yourself to read critically is a skill that will pass beyond the ATI TEAS exam and will help you in nursing school and throughout your career.

- Begin by evaluating the author's argument and position. Aside from how persuasive he or she is, what evidence is the author relying on or asking you to rely on to believe his or her argument?
- Once you have established the quality of the evidence, you can then analyze the quality of the author's reasoning. The tone may be forceful and the argument may appear strong, but does the author's argument follow a logical sequence?
- On occasion, the author may not directly state his or her view point. If this is the case, you may need to make an inference as to what the author is trying to communicate to the reader. Equally, you may be required to read into the text to reach a conclusion about a topic, a character, or an event.

# A FINAL WORD

**Our newly updated ATI TEAS practice tests have been launched!**

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<https://www.testprep-online.com/teas-practice-tests>

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- 2 additional ATI TEAS Science exercises (32 questions)
- 6 additional ATI TEAS English & Language Usage exercises (120 questions)
- Answers with detailed explanations
- Personalized score reports
- Secured payment & immediate online access

**To get started go straight to the ATI TEAS Premium Pack on our website:**

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