

## Test-Taking Strategy

# PROCESS OF ELIMINATION

When you take a test, you may know right away that an answer choice is wrong. You should eliminate, or not use, an answer that you know is wrong. This makes it easier to find the correct answer because you have fewer answers to choose from.

### Read the paragraph below.

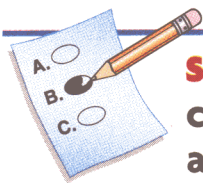
*Have you ever been playing outside and noticed that colors seem to fade as the sun goes down? This is due to the cells in your eyes. Your eyes have two kinds of cells that can sense light—rods and cones. Rod cells detect shades of gray and let you see even when it's almost dark. Cone cells allow you to see colors and details. But cone cells don't work well in low light. That's why it's hard to see colors as the sun goes down at night!*

### Answer the question.

1. Which of these statements is true?
  - A. Rod cells allow you to see colors.
  - B. Cone cells detect shades of gray.
  - C. Your eye has 100 rod and cone cells.
  - D. Rod and cone cells can sense light.

## How to find the answer:

- You can quickly eliminate answer **A**. The paragraph says that cone cells allow you to see colors.
- You can also eliminate answer **B**. The paragraph tells that rod cells detect shades of gray.
- You can't eliminate answer **C** because the paragraph doesn't say how many rod and cone cells are in your eye.
- You can't eliminate answer **D** because the paragraph states that rod and cone cells sense light.
- Because you could eliminate answers **A** and **B**, you have to decide between answer choices **C** and **D**. Because answer **D** is stated in the paragraph, you know that it must be correct. Each of your eyes really has about 120 million rod cells and six to seven million cone cells. So, answer **C** is not true. Answer **D** is a good choice because you know it is correct from the paragraph.



**STRATEGY TIP** After you eliminate some answer choices, you may be left with two or more answer choices that **might** be correct. If one of the answer choices is stated in the paragraph, always choose that one. An answer choice that you know is true is better than one that may or may not be true.