

Exercise 4.1

Designing Selected-Response Assessment Items

The following content from various subject areas is presented along with a specific type of assessment item. Your task is to design the specified type of item for the content identified and then compare your answers with those provided on the corresponding answer sheet. To illustrate, assume you were given the following language arts content for the multiple-choice item type:

Language arts content: A student should use one of the following strategies when trying to figure out the meaning of a word encountered while reading a text:

1. Look at the beginning letters and the ending letters of the word and ask yourself what word that begins and ends the same way would make sense.
2. Think of a word that would make sense in the sentence even if you know it is not the word you are trying to figure out.
3. Look up the unknown word in a dictionary.

You would then write a multiple-choice item that might look like the following:

When you come to a word you don't know when reading a text, which of the following is not a good thing to do?

- A. Do not read on any further until you figure out the word.
 - B. Look up the word in a dictionary.
 - C. Try to think of any word that would make sense in the sentence in which the unknown word appears.
 - D. Look at the first and last letters of the word and try to think of a familiar word that has those same beginning and ending letters.
1. **Multiple choice:** You are teaching a science unit on the animal kingdom, and you need to write a multiple-choice item for an upcoming assessment that addresses the following information:

There are five kingdoms: Animalia, Plantae, Protista, Fungi, and Monera. Humans are in Animalia.

2. **Matching:** You are teaching a social studies unit on World War II, and you need to write a matching item for an upcoming assessment that addresses the following information:

D day was on June 6, 1944; Truman took the office of the presidency on April 12, 1945; Hitler committed suicide on April 30, 1945; Hiroshima was bombed on August 6, 1945; and Nagasaki was bombed on August 9, 1945.

3. **Alternative choice:** You are teaching a mathematics unit on quadratic equations, and you need to write an alternative-choice item for an upcoming assessment that addresses the following information:

The formula for a quadratic equation is $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$.

4. **True/false:** You are teaching an art unit focusing on the performing arts, and you need to write a true/false item for an upcoming assessment that addresses the following information:

Improvisation is among the most effective techniques for improving stage presence.

5. **Multiple response:** You are teaching a physical education unit on basketball, and you need to write a multiple-response item for an upcoming assessment that addresses the following information:

The major fouls in basketball include personal fouls, charging, blocking, flagrant fouls, intentional fouls, and technical fouls.

6. **Fill in the blank:** You are teaching a health unit on nutrition, and you need to write a fill-in-the-blank item for an upcoming assessment that addresses the following information:

The human body uses ATP for sudden, powerful movements that require a few seconds of intense power, and the body uses three main sources for replenishing ATP once it has been expended: fat, carbohydrate, and protein.