

The D.A.B. Method for Breaking Down Multiple Choice Questions

GRADE

9 - 12

DISCIPLINE

Reading

COURSE

Any

TIME

🕒 15min

READING STRATEGY FOR MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS ON AN ASSESSMENT OR TEST.: 15-Minute introduction and practice. Continual strategy use is encouraged whenever multiple choice questions are presented.

THE D.A.B. METHOD FOR BREAKING DOWN MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

STUDENTS WILL:

Students will utilize this reading strategy to determine what's really being asked in a multiple choice question, to eliminate answers and to choose the best answer choice.

FACILITATION STEPS:

Introduce the D.A.B. acronym as a powerful and easy-to-use strategy for multiple choice exam questions.

- **Determine + Define:** Determine what they are really asking. Define any terms.
- **Ask:** Ask which answers can be eliminated. Which answers are not 100% true?
- **Best Answer:** Which is the best answer? Why?

Model the practice using the natural barrier question example below. The teacher should model the example together with students.

- **Which feature is considered a natural barrier?**

- (A) Great Rift Valley
- (B) Aswan Dam
- (C) Panama Canal
- (D) Great Wall of China

- **DETERMINE:** They're asking which of these choices is a *natural* barrier — made from nature. So, which of these options is something NOT man-made?

- **DEFINE:** A barrier or blockade that's from nature. Not man-made.

- **ASK:** A *dam* is built by humans. A *wall* is built by humans. A *canal* is built by humans.

- **BEST ANSWER:** A. Great Rift *Valley!* That is made by nature!






Independent Practice 1: Students should next independently practice the method using the practice sheet: Natural Barriers (attached).

Assess: How did the students do on the practice questions? Were they able to successfully use the D.A.B. method to talk through the question and make sense of the answers? What further instruction or practice do they need?

Independent Practice 2: Students should next independently practice the method using the second practice sheet. This can be done the same day or the next day to reinforce the method.

Assess: How did the students do on the practice questions? Were they able to successfully use the D.A.B. method to talk through the question and make sense of the answers? What further instruction or practice do they need?

Ongoing: Post a graphic of the D.A.B. method in the classroom, so that students can refer to it until its usage becomes familiar. Every time students receive multiple choice questions, remind them to use the D.A.B. method.

<p>CONTEXT/IMPLEMENTATION NOTES:</p>	<p>This acronym and method is a simple device to help students systematically break down a question. Many students get flustered by multiple choice questions, and don't fully talk through the question and answers — often choosing something they've heard of instead of making sense of the options.</p> <p>The DAB is a recognizable dance move, which makes the method memorable for students.</p> <p>Repeated use will help students see the logic behind breaking down questions, thus developing multiple choice question literacy.</p>
<p>ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS:</p>	<p>Student Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  DAB Method Visual Intro.png  DAB Practice 1 Natural Barriers.pdf  DAB Practice 2.pdf <p>Teacher Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  DAB Method Visual Intro.png  DAB Visual Example.png

by Jennifer Gunn

Adapted from ["The D.A.B. Method for Breaking Down Multiple Choice Questions"](#) by Jennifer Gunn