True / False Questions: Watch for Qualifiers

True/False questions sometimes contain hints that can help in making decisions. One example is the use of qualifiers.

- The presence of **absolute qualifiers** (such as always or never) often lead to “False” responses because they set particularly stringent standards on the “True” response option. For example, if ‘always’ is used, your task is to find only one exception where the situation doesn’t apply – if you do, then the answer has to be ‘False;’ similarly, if ‘never’ is used, you only need to find one exception where the situation would be true to get a ‘False’ response.

- The presence of soft qualifiers (such as sometimes and often) set ‘loose’ standards to qualify for a 'True' response – so if you can find adequate support for the situation addressed in the question, then the answer is more likely to be ‘True.’

- **Note:** it is important to keep in mind that these are only guidelines and that final exam answers are still at the discretion of each respective professor. That said, if you see qualifiers used in questions, see if they can help you work through questions a little more easily.

Qualifiers to Watch for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For ‘False’ responses:</th>
<th>For ‘True’ responses:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>Often</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>Generally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>Usually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must</td>
<td>Seldom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impossible</td>
<td>Perhaps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Try some of the following samples:

July is always a summer month.  
True  False

The pay of a skilled worker often exceeds that of a laborer.  True  False

Insurance sometimes helps to prevent an interruption in income.  True  False

**Qualifiers can also be used to eliminate options in multiple choice questions as well. See how they can help with the following example:**

To be a wise consumer of advertisements, one should:

1. Never believe anything you hear.
2. Assume advertisers are sneaky and only care about your money.
3. Ask questions and form opinions based upon the information gathered.
4. Recognize that they don’t allow advertisers to print material that isn’t true.
5. None of the Above
The 3 basic stages of memory are:

1. summarize, organize, associate
2. recite, rehearse, write
3. stop, drop, roll
4. store, assign, send
5. encode, store, retrieve

Which of the following fruits is a great source of Vitamin A:

1. oranges
2. bananas
3. avocados
4. apples
5. All of the above; they are all great sources of Vitamin A

It has been said that St. Paul is a much better city to live in than Minneapolis. Do you agree or disagree? Support your answer.

Compare and contrast the quality of food at McDonald’s and Burger King.