

11 Plus Verbal Reasoning

Verbal reasoning is almost universally used as one of the test papers in the 11 Plus. It is believed to be an effective way of testing a child's potential, not just learned ability.

Of course, learned ability does enter into the equation. While some of the question types simply test a child's logical deduction skills or their ability to decipher codes, much of an 11 Plus verbal reasoning paper will require a good vocabulary and also strong **basic** maths skills.

Some children simply have "the knack" when it comes to verbal reasoning, even if they have never encountered it before. These children also tend to be keen on puzzles of all types – crosswords, word searches, word games, jigsaws, Sudoku, etc. If you can encourage your child to enjoy these activities, they make for good informal preparation for verbal reasoning tests.

If your child is not one of the lucky few, it is still possible to become very adept at verbal reasoning simply by learning the techniques required to solve the problems. Preparation will not enable a child who is not innately intelligent to qualify in the 11 Plus, but it will assist children who find verbal reasoning more difficult than curriculum-based learning. An analogy sometimes used is that of doing the Times Crossword: If you do the crossword every day, you become familiar with how the compilers think and you can see the solutions more quickly. However, if you do not possess a good vocabulary in the first instance, you will not know the answers to the clues.

There is a very wide range of verbal reasoning question types. **blt** familiarises its tutees with exactly which question types feature in the papers in their area or for their chosen senior school. These then form the basis for **blt's** bespoke 11 Plus verbal reasoning tutorials.