

ITEM WRITING

ITEM TYPE

The following are **NOT** acceptable item types:

- K-type
- True/False
- Fill in the blank



WHAT?

“Which of the following” means there might be other options ... in the world

“What ...” means there is no other possible answer ... in the world



NEGATIVE STEMS

Avoid negative stems that use NOT and EXCEPT as much as possible.



MULTI-SELECT

Refer to the number of correct options in your stem TWICE:

e.g. Which two of the following ...? (select two)



ITEM WRITING TOOLS

Helpful hints for creating EXCELLENT items



EDITING

Check for spelling AND grammar for each item.



IMAGES

Refer to your image in the stem. Attach a clean copy and an annotated copy when applicable



REFERENCE

Every item **MUST** have a complete reference.



CONTENT

Use your content specifications for every item and link it to the applicable content code.



- ☐ Have you included a complete reference?
- ☐ Have you used “what” OR “which of the following” in your stem (as applicable)?
- ☐ Is the content code accurate?
- ☐ Have you indicated the number of options TWICE for a multi-select item?
- ☐ Are all options plausible?
- ☐ Did you refer to your image in the stem?
 - ☐ Did you send two copies of your image (clean and annotated)?
 - ☐ Is all personally identifying information (PII) removed from your image?
- ☐ Is there clueing in the options?
- ☐ Does your multiple-choice item have 4 options? Three options would be acceptable only in situations like this where there are ONLY three options:
 - increase OR • axial
 - decrease • coronal
 - remain the same • sagittal
- ☐ Is the key clearly correct?
- ☐ Are the options parallel in structure and form?
- ☐ Do the options start with a lowercase letter?
- ☐ Did you spellcheck?

- ☐ Item Writer User Manual—PDF in the Item Writing Software
- ☐ Item Writer Manual—Hardcopy or available at ARRT.org
- ☐ Exam Development Coordinator