Stepladder POWERFUL ANSWER

POWERFUL ⟷ PROVABLE

WHAT'S A STEPLADDER?

REAL LSAT EXAMPLE: *June 2007.2.19*

STEPLADDER ANSWER

A Stepladder outlines a directly proportional relationship between two things.

REAL LSAT QUESTION REDACTED

REAL LSAT QUESTION REDACTED

Stepladders are crazy powerful; directly proportional relationships are rad. Check out a couple examples:

Stepladders

> **The more** work experience she gains, **the more** disillusioned she becomes.
>
> **The less** we invest in infrastructure, **the smaller** the chance of a renaissance.

Stepladders are powerful.

Stepladders super connect two things. They're the perfect response to a dangling variable. If you're trying to fix an argument, Stepladders are powerful allies. They create the ultimate link between two things.

Stepladders are not provable.

Stepladders are a bad call on Provable Questions. **Their provability is intrinsically flawed**: They always collapse at their endpoints. Stepladders imply that even the smallest increase/decrease in the first object will yield a corresponding increase/decrease in the second object. This is essentially impossible to prove.

✳ Stepladders are especially desirable in Strengthen and SA questions. They're the ultimate dangling variable solve.

Let's explore how a Stepladder's provability is at odds with common sense:

> *The more caffeine one ingests, the more alert one is.*

At first glance, this sounds pretty provable, right? Caffeine does tend to make one more alert. However, "tend to" is much more provable than a true Stepladder. Let's look at the extremes: Is someone who's had 500 cups of coffee going to be more alert than someone who's had 499 cups? Is someone who's had 0.01 grams of coffee more alert than someone who's had none? Probably not. The Stepladder claims there's *always* a difference no matter where you are on the ladder. This is why Stepladders are almost impossible to prove.

✳ Both the 500 and the 499 coffee people are probably dead, so clearly there's some point of diminishing returns.
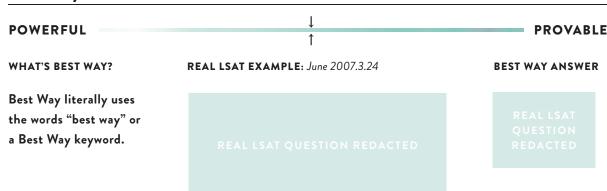
Best Way   RED FLAG

POWERFUL ————————————————————↓———————————————————— PROVABLE
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WHAT'S BEST WAY?

Best Way literally uses the words "best way" or a Best Way keyword.

REAL LSAT EXAMPLE: *June 2007.3.24*

REAL LSAT QUESTION REDACTED

BEST WAY ANSWER

REAL LSAT QUESTION REDACTED

Best Way is the best precisely because it is so the worst. It's a prevalent incorrect answer, falling into the mediocre middle of our Powerful-Provable Spectrum. Why is it so bad? Best Way has two things that are dangerous on their own but deadly when combined: superlatives and value judgments. This combination is what renders Best Way neither powerful nor provable.

Here are a few examples of how Best Way and its keywords look:

Best Way

The **best way** to milk a cow is to shout at it.

The **least harmful** method for digging a ditch is harmonizing with your friends.

The **most efficient way** to remedy the budget deficit is to increase spending.

Best Way is not powerful.

Deeming something "the best" isn't powerful when we don't know why it's the best. The reason it's the best is what would make the answer powerful. Powerful Answers are specific, concrete, and applicable to the stimulus. Best Way is none of those things.

Best Way is not provable.

Best Way claims something is superior to literally every other option; a claim that extreme has a ton of potential Loopholes to account for. It's *really* hard to prove.

Best Way has a few friends to be cautious about as well: the Best Way keywords. They're all constructed like this: **[superlative] + [value judgment]**. Keep in mind, this list of keywords is not exhaustive. The **[superlative] + [value judgment]** combinations are virtually endless.

A FEW BEST WAY KEYWORDS

most effective   *most efficient*   *least harmful*   *least damaging*

IS THERE ANY TIME WHEN BEST WAY COULD BE OK?

When the stimulus is literally about the best way to do something, you're safe to choose Best Way.

The following answer choices reside near the middle of The Complete Powerful-Provable Spectrum. They are suspect on all the question types.

Answer choice types are mostly consistent regardless of the question type (meaning a Best Way is always a Best Way regardless of what question it's attached to). I won't list the question type of the answer choice type examples, unless the question type matters for the classification.

Seriously, there is a Parallel Reasoning question in PrepTest 58 that has "The best way…" in every single answer choice. I feel so trolled.