

# Writing Lists

So the new leader in my survey is “Writing Lists.” This is an advanced quizzing topic, and one that involves a decent level of complexity and experience. Let’s jump in!

## Constructing Lists

Lists are just lists of a certain question type, in a format that allows manipulation and analysis of the data.

You construct a list by writing questions of a certain type. I generally type them directly into Microsoft Excel. I keep the different pieces of data separate in different columns, which allows easy sorting.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Typ	Bo	Ch	V	Syl	Ques	Ans
2	MA	Heb	1	1	1.0	God spoke to our forefathers how?	through the prophets at many times and in various ways
3	MA	Heb	1	3	1.0	The Son is the what?	radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of h
4	MA	Heb	1	5	1.0	For to which of the angels did God every say what?	You are my Son, Today I have become your Father, or ag
5	MA	Heb	1	7	1.0	He makes what?	his angels winds, his servants flames of fire
6	MA	Heb	1	8	1.0	But about the Son he says what?	Your throne O God, will last for ever and ever, and rightec
7	MA	Heb	2	2	1.0	What received its just punishment?	every violation and disobedience
8	MA	Heb	2	4	1.0	God also testified to it by what?	signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Ho
9	MA	Heb	2	7	1.0	You crowned him with what?	glory and honor
10	MA	Heb	2	9	1.0	Now crowned with what?	glory and honor

Once in this format, it’s easy to sort by column F, and see all the MA’s that begin with “what” or “and” or “Jesus.”

This is especially helpful for rare questions, such as MA CVR’s and MA CR’s. Occasionally there will be only one such question within a given chapter. A quizzer that knows this will be able to safely jump faster than other quizzers.

## Writing Questions

So how do you write questions? Get together with someone who’s experienced at writing questions and just start writing questions together. Talk about what makes a question “good.” Quizmasters like their questions to sound nice when read (not awkward), have clear answers and not be overly long.

INT: “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets, at many times and what?” ---this is a very long question and it is unlikely that a quizmaster will ask it.

INT: “Who spoke to our forefathers through the prophets?” ---this is a succinct question, easy to read and clear to understand. Make sure you are locating these situations where the interrogative comes first. Questions where the interrogative leads are very important to include in a list.

INT: “Who has spoken to us by his Son?” Answer: he (God). Often times the answer to a question will be a pronoun (he, she, it, they) that requires “clarification.” These can often throw a quizzier off, so including them in a list will help make you aware of them.

CR: “Various what?” ---this is a great CR. You can identify CR’s by using the Reference Material (more to come on that later).

MA: “In the past, God spoke to our forefathers how?”---“God spoke to our forefathers how?” --- questions can often begin at different places, and still have the same answer. To construct a complete list, make sure you are capturing all possible ways a question can begin.

CVR, Heb 1:6 or 1:3 “God’s what?” when writing CVR’s, look for a phrase or word that appears more than once in a single chapter.

### **Utilizing the Reference Material**

The color-coded Reference Material is your best tool when writing questions and constructing lists. The Reference Material has color-coded words that identify words and phrases as global key words, chapter key words or 2-word key phrases. (It does not identify 3-word key phrases).

The color-coding helps you clearly identify the varying levels of “key-ness” so you know whether to classify a question as an Interrogative, a Chapter Only Reference or a Chapter and Verse Reference. There are very very very few cases where a question could fall in more than one of those three buckets (rare enough that you shouldn’t worry about it!).

Make sure you know the specific rules about each question type. Know what makes a question key. Understand context. Understand “why” the different question types exist—this knowledge helps you get inside the head of a quizmaster writing questions.

### **Conclusion**

Armed with these different pieces of knowledge you can begin writing your own questions and constructing lists. Writing questions is form of study in and of itself! As you gain experience you will become better and better at writing questions. You’ll find yourself rarely surprised when a particular question is asked. You’ll also be able to identify the question on reference questions more quickly and more accurately. Good luck everyone!