

ACT English Test Tips

What will the ACT English Test look like?

5 passages with grammatical and stylistic errors. 15 questions for each passage (75 questions total). 45 minutes for the English test.

Assesses understanding of basic grammar, as well as your grasp of the tools and strategies a writer can use to put sentences together to form paragraphs and arguments. The ACT calls grammar "Usage/Mechanics" and essay writing skills "Rhetorical Skills".

PACING

You only have **9 minutes** for each of the 5 sections.

Don't read the instructions!
Read instructions **BEFORE** test day! (see back side)

Scores & types of questions:



English test scale score: 1 - 36

| Content | Subscore | % | # of ?s |
|------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------|
| Usage/Mechanics | 1 - 18 | 53% | 40 |
| Punctuation | | 13% | 10 |
| Grammar & Usage | | 16% | 12 |
| Sentence Structure | | 24% | 18 |

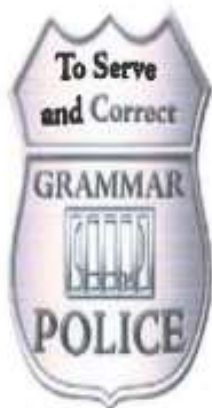
| Content | Subscore | % | # of ?s |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------|
| Rhetorical Skills | 1 - 18 | 47% | 35 |
| Strategy | | 16% | 12 |
| Organization | | 15% | 11 |
| Style | | 16% | 12 |

Composite score: 1 - 36 (average of all 4 test scale scores)

Explanation of terms above: <http://www.actstudent.org/testprep/descriptions/engcontent.html>

TEST STRATEGY

- Skim passage & then answer ?s
- Answer ?s in order as appear
- Guess and move on vs. marking and coming back later
- Eliminate answer choices
- Do not overlook "NO CHANGE" as a choice
- If the phrase doesn't fit, you must "OMIT".



Composite FYI

- * 18 composite: answer 40-41 ?s correctly.
- * 26 composite: answer 60-61 ?s correctly.
- * 30+ answer 67-75 ?s correctly.
- * The above are all approximates.
- * Difficult ?s worth same as easy ones. Answer easy ones for more points – GUESS on tough ones. No penalty for wrong answers!

Instructions for the English Test

Don't waste a single minute reading instructions during the test. Learning them the before the day of the test saves valuable time and effort! The English instructions are particularly long, so get to reading!

DIRECTIONS: In the passage that follows, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose "NO CHANGE." In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read the passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

ACT College & Career Readiness Standards

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/college-and-career-readiness/standards.html>

Test Prep

- ACT online prep: <https://academy.act.org/>
- ACT sample test: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/english-practice-test-questions.html?page=0&chapter=0>
- ACT Student app in iTunes & Play Store
- Preparing for the ACT booklet:
 - <http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ACT-StudentInfoBooklet.pdf>
- *The Real ACT Prep Guide* book (from the makers of the ACT): find in bookstores
- *Cracking the ACT* by The Princeton Review: find in bookstores
- March 2 Success: <https://www.march2success.com/main/learnmore/satact>