

Tips for the ACT Multiple-choice Tests

English

- Do not read the passage first. Read from the beginning until you get to an underlined section, work that question, and then resume reading until the next underlined portion and question.
- Use process of elimination.
- Trust your ear. If it sounds wrong, it probably is.
- Don't fix what isn't broken. NO CHANGE is a legitimate answer choice.
- Read and consider all of the answer choices before you choose the one that best responds to the question.
- Reread the sentence, using your selected answer.

Mathematics

- Read each question carefully to make sure you understand the type of answer required.
- Do the problems you're sure you know how to do first.
- Do the problems you think you know how to do second.
- For impossible questions, choose the letter of the day and move on.
- Use process of elimination; make sure your answer is reasonable.
- If you are working backward by substituting answers into the problem, always start in the middle then work your way up or down.

Reading

- Attack the passages in the order that best suits you. The passages are always in this order: prose fiction, social science, humanities, and natural science.
- Spend the first minute of the test determining which passage will be hardest for you—leave it for last.
- Look at the questions first (not answer choices) for “key” words. Then scan the passage for those words.
- Skim the passage fast, giving special attention to the first 2-3 sentences of the paragraph.
- Use process of elimination and the letter of the day.

Science

- Scan the passages and save the most difficult passages for last.
- Do the easiest questions first and leave the difficult questions for last. When you've finished all questions on one passage, go on to another passage.
- Don't read the introductions except for the one Fighting Scientist passage.
- Use process of elimination and guesstimation to eliminate incorrect answers.
- Guess your letter of the day on those questions you don't know how to do.