

ACT Reading Tips

Foundation

- Practice reading college-level nonfiction articles and books **a lot**.
 - This will build up your reading speed and comprehension, which is more important than anything else.
 - Try to read an hour or more a day, if you can. Make it a priority to **make time** to read. This will not just help you for the ACT, for but your whole life.

Reading

- Read the passage in 3:30 or less (less is better, but don't sacrifice about 70% comprehension)
- Aim for about 70% comprehension the first time through
 - What is/are the main point(s) being made?
 - What are the major sections?

Questions

- Skip questions that will take longer to do
 - For example, if you do not remember where to look in the passage
 - For example, "EXCEPT" and "NOT" questions
 - Don't worry—while you answer the other questions, you may find the answers to the questions you skipped, or find out where to look.
- Eliminate choices and actually **cross them out** (this will help you visually and if you skip it/come back to it)
 - Find out which choices are obviously wrong and which choices are possible
 - Then choose the *best* choice out of the possible ones
 - The *best* choice will be clearly shown from the passage. Look for **key words**.
 - *Do not assume* anything!
- If two or more choices are basically saying the same thing, they will not be the correct answer.
- If two choices are saying opposite things, there is a very good chance that one of them is correct.

Bubbling/Timing

- Do the passages in this order: 2, 3, 4, 1. Make sure to bubble in the correct numbers.
- Spend at most 8:15-8:30 circling answers in the test booklet
- Spend 15-30 seconds bubbling in your answers for each passage all at once
- If you are get to 8:15 and are not yet finished, **take your best guess/choose answers that you haven't crossed out and move on**.
 - You do not want to sacrifice too much time on one passage!
- Try to spend less time on one or two passages if you can, to give yourself more time for more difficult passages