

5 Must-Know ACT Science Tips

ACT Science Tip #1: Follow the recommended ACT science method

1. Read the passage, identifying and marking the **purpose** of the experiment, the **method** used, and the **results**.
2. Scan figures, identifying variables and patterns.
3. Find support for the answer in the passage.

ACT Science Tip #2: Know the ACT science passage types

- **Data Representation** (3 of this type): presents information about a topic
- **Research Summary** (3 of this type): presents a series of experiments
- **Conflicting Viewpoints** (1 of this type): discusses different theories about a single topic

ACT Science Tip #3: Know the ACT science question types

1. **Figure Interpretation** – examine tables & graphs
2. **Patterns** – describe the relationship between the variables, plot data from the table, or describe the shape of a curve
3. **Scientific Reasoning** – understand the reasons behind an experimental setup

ACT Science Tip #4: Know the commonly used terms

- **Independent variable**: the variable that scientists intentionally change
- **Dependent variable**: the variable that the scientists are measuring
- **Constants**: parts of the experiment that the scientists keep the same
- **Direct relationship**: As the independent variable increases or decreases, the dependent variable does the same
- **Indirect relationship**: As the independent variable increases or decreases, the dependent variable does the opposite

ACT Science Tip #5: Know your overall ACT science strategy

1. When tackling the ACT science section, ask yourself:
 - What did the scientists study?
 - How did they study it?
 - What did they find?
 - Why is the experiment set up this way?
 - What is measured? What is controlled by the scientists?
 - Is there a pattern?
 - What are the similarities? What are the differences?
2. Know that the halfway mark is at about 17 minutes – you should be done with 20 questions at that point
3. Circle detail words in the question stem like “NOT” “Experiment 1” “Table 1”