

The Best ACT Prep Course Ever

Study & Pacing Guide: 1-month Plan (4-5 weeks)

If you're looking to get the most out of our course, this is a guide to help you do that! You're welcome to figure out your own study path, but if you'd like some guidance, or a template you can tailor to your own needs, here it is.

We've designed a few different study plans depending on how much time you have. This study guide is for those who have around 1 month to prep.

For a month of prep time, all you need is this course and the book we ship you, as well as some downloadable free or included content.

Another tool you'll likely find handy is our **spreadsheet list of videos** here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tdQJbvvgmNTE3rbmipIqVII0kaVrYPqMi3JKFdvLGqM>

Each week is budgeted at 4-12 hours of work. If you'd like, you can split up some of these lessons and extend this to a longer plan. You can also skip elements that don't address what you need to work on the most. For example, if you have a 34 on Reading but a 30 overall, don't load up on Reading exercises or videos. Use our [video reference spreadsheet](#) and do whatever addresses your weaknesses best.

Week 1:

Watch Intro video:How to use this course (17 min)

Watch Youtube Videos(~20 min)

#1 Secret Tip series (Watch before you take your first test!!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9G0DsYkJjRQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCe1p9vdnE4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfYNngl8B50>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9G0DsYkJjRQ&t=7s>

Optional: You can also watch this to get a feel for good principles in ACT self-study:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tDJ5DV8lQw>

Take a diagnostic exam from Preparing for the ACT 2017-2018 (~3.5-4 hours)

Free test from ACT.org, 72CPRE, available here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OzZLtKpb_pBLu3hoZDE6bOwTN3Qvx80C/view

- Time yourself and use the bubble sheet provided at the end of the document.
- Star anything you're not 100% sure about and are guessing on. You should still put an answer, though; bubble everything since there is no score penalty for guessing!
- Score your test.
- If you're taking the essay, [practice taking the essay](#), too.
- If possible, do the entire test in one sitting.

Review(2-6 hours)

Go over all the questions you missed in the practice test (marked as "Preparing for the ACT" on our video course), as well as any questions you've starred.

- Go through each video explanation using our course.
- For English and Math, make a list for each section of the areas you need to review in terms of content. You can use this spreadsheet to help you track your subjects (you'll need to make a copy or download it): [video reference spreadsheet](#). I will usually indicate the problem "type" as I explain the answer. Make a list or use our spreadsheet to mark what you need to work on. This is your study list for next week and beyond.

Reading and science: try to figure out why you didn't perform as well as you could.

- Was it timing?
- Was it strategy?

Essay: review [ACT's sample essays here](#). Compare your essay to these.

- What are you missing?
- What do you need to work on?

Watch our video on the Essay (if applicable).

Review Tip Videos (~1-2 hours) that apply to you.

We've made suggestions below, but we advise you to only watch the strategies and tips you need help with. Skip around in the videos if necessary.

English Tip Videos: General Strategies (30 min)

Math Tip Videos: Intro/General Tips, Backsolving, and Making up Numbers

Science Tip Videos: General Tips 1-10

Reading Tip Videos: How to Approach the Questions and How to Narrow Your Choices (both videos)(1-1.5 hours)

Content Work: Math & English(Videos & Practice Exercises)(1.5+ hours)

Review content videos related to your study list you made for each subject.

- If you understand something, don't waste time on it; do only the math questions that challenge you or are rusty on.
- Anything you missed, you should review the video for and then complete the worksheet/drill. Then review the answers you missed using the explanatory answers.
- If anything is confusing, or an explanation seems off, you can always reach out to us at info@supertutortv.com.
- Please also note we have a list of math errata you can access online here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QdsrUqktF20QZpAi9c4UkbbQXaEvyZ9h7hKvzojtqBY/edit?usp=sharing>
- Do the drills associated with these content videos, grade, and review them. (See [video reference spreadsheet](#) if you're not sure if a worksheet has a video or a video has a worksheet).

Week 2:

Math Tip Videos:(1 hour)

If you have a TI-83 or 84, watch:"**How To Program the TI 84 Calculator**" (YouTube), **SupertutorTV Calculator Programs, and ACT Calculator Hacks.**

Program your calculator this week with a few ACT-friendly programs.

Link here to our favorites:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12j-RWP2sGles9iKUvpcNpwZ5xu1yWGsr/view?usp=sharing>

English Tip Videos:**10 Ways to Raise the Bar (Optional: Careless Error Traps and Pacing Strategies)** (20 min- 1 hour)

Practice Test:**Practice Test #1 in the Official ACT Prep Guide** (3.5 hours)

- Time the English section, but do the Science and Reading sections with extra time. Keep track of how long the Science and Reading sections take you.
- For the Math section, time yourself but complete the exam even if you don't finish after time is up. Any questions you know are taking you too long to complete on the math should be starred and gone over when you review.
- Calculate two scores for the math (timed vs. untimed).
- Be aware of your pace so you can start to speed up after this week.
- Grade the exam.

Review

Watch video explanations for **Practice Test #1 in the Official ACT Prep Guide**

- Update your list of areas to work on in English and Math(content) after taking the test, analyzing what you missed.

Week 3: It's Drill Week!

Content Work: English(1-4 hours)

If you have a lot of English areas to improve on, consider working through more English content videos and/or associated worksheets.

Content Work: Math Drills(1-4 hours)

Continue to work through your study list and complete at least 2 strategy videos and/or related packets.

- If you're confident in a particular area, skip the math video and head straight to the drill. Feel free to skip over problems or portions of the videos/packets you understand to focus on what you need.
- Go over all your answers using printed explanations.

Reading Tip Videos (optional, if you need more reading help):How to Read the Passage, How to Speed Read, Timing Tips (all) (~1+ hours)

Science Tip Video (optional, if you struggle with time): Timing Tips (20 min)

Practice Test Sections:Speed Drills, Science & Reading (1-2 hours)

Take 2-3 sections/passages for each of these subjects timed (using timing tips from the videos in Reading and Science Skills), using Online Bonus Questions that came with your book (online video explanations are available for these questions) or the practice tests at the end of this document for your drills (we don't have online video explanations for these tests, so you will have to figure out why you missed questions on your own. Still, you can't print the bonus questions if you have the 2019 guide, and that isn't good for speed drills).

Your goal this week is to work on improving your pacing:

- Try doing sections progressively faster.
- Try skimming.
- Work on your passage reading and mapping skills.
- Fight for the answer.
- Look back for answers and focus on finding the evidence.
- Learn how the test works and get to the "aha" moment.

Go over any questions you missed using the video explanations in our course, if available (i.e., for bonus questions).

Science Content Videos (optional, if you struggle in science)(~40 min)

Standard Chart Reading

In Depth Chart Reading

Outside Information

Super Detailed Questions

Experiment Setup Logic Questions

Extrapolation Questions

Etc.

Week 4:

Get a Watch

If you don't have a watch yet, now is the time to get one. It MUST be a wrist watch and CANNOT be a smart watch (Apple watch, Fitbit, etc.) From here on out, take all your practice exams with a watch, not your phone.

- We recommend a cheap analog watch with arms that has clear minute marks and a second hand (I will reset a watch like this to an even time, such as 8am, at the start of each test section) OR a digital watch that has beeps and lights that can be **turned off** and a silent stopwatch function.

Practice Test: Practice Test #2 in the Official ACT Prep Guide (4 hours)

- Use your watch. Time the English section, but do the Science and Reading with some extra time if pacing is still an issue; try to push yourself to work faster than previously, especially if you've worked untimed. If timing is a real issue, consider breaking these into segments and running timing drills as per our timing tip videos. For the Math section, time yourself and push your speed on early questions. Watch our video on **Timing Tips** for the Math before you take this test if you know you struggle with time on that section.
- Do the essay if you've signed up for it as part of the test.
- Star everything you're unsure about, even if you get it right.
- Grade it.

Review(1-4 hours)

Watch video explanations for **Practice Test #2 in the Official ACT Prep Guide**.

- Review all questions you missed or starred.

Update your personal study list, using our spreadsheet if you need it: [video reference spreadsheet](#)

Optional: If you missed any strategy, content, or tip videos over the course of your prep that you think apply to you, and those issues are surfacing now, make up that work this week.

Content Work: Math & English(1-4 hours)

Review content videos related to your study list you updated and do corresponding drills.

- Go over your wrong answers.
- Learn from your mistakes.

If you have time, continue working on **Science and Reading** content drills (see last week's assignments for ideas how).

Week 5:

Review the essay you wrote last week. (30 min)

- Try to revise it [based on the examples available online at ACT.org](#).
- Watch another video on the essay here: <https://supertutortv.com/act/act-essay-dos-and-donts>

Practice Test: Practice Test #3 in the Official ACT Prep Guide+ Essay (if applicable) (~4 hours)

- Try to do the whole test in one sitting, mimicking real testing conditions as closely as possible.
- Print or tear out the bubble sheet and take test #1 in your new book.
- Time yourself. Use your watch.
- Do the essay if you've signed up for it as part of the test.
- Star everything you're unsure about, even if you get it right.

Review(1-3 hours)

- Watch video explanations for Practice Test #3; review videos for questions you've missed or starred and for target areas you're still missing.
- Do worksheets that deal with these areas if you haven't already (English/Math). Finish next week if necessary.

Content Work: Math & English(0-2 hours)

- Review content videos related to your study list you updated and do corresponding drills.
- Go over your wrong answers.
- Learn from your mistakes.

ü If you've worked through all your problem areas, choose chapters that you know you are rusty on or that you find the most challenging.

Content Work: Science & Reading(0-2 hours)

If you're still struggling in these sections, particularly with pacing, try to do more timed drills.

- You can use the bonus questions OR use the practice tests at the end of this document for your drills (we don't have video explanations for the bonus questions, so you will need to review on your own and figure out why you missed questions on your own for these drills).

Pack and prepare for the test day:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXXkIA_aqVE

ü Get everything you need ready to go so you're not scrambling for calculator batteries or pencils the day before!

Optional Extra Work for the Last Week:

Big Review

Take this week to review ALL the practice tests you've done. Look for patterns and remind yourself of how to correct the errors you've made. Take notes and make your own "cheat sheet" of what to remember on test day. Remember why your answers for Reading and Science questions were right or wrong. Remember where you should have looked. Review any ideas you still need to brush up on. Review or complete any additional weak points in English/Math content.

Practice Test: Practice Test #4 in the Official ACT Prep Guide with Essay (if applicable) (4 hours)

Review(1-4 hours)

- Video explanations for Practice Test #4
- For any last-minute areas you need to review, check out content or strategy videos where appropriate.

Essay: Go over your essay(s) from past weeks; review our blogs on the essay:

<https://supertutortv.com/act/act-essay-dos-and-donts>

<https://supertutortv.com/act/how-to-write-the-new-act-essay>

Review my **ACT Cheat Sheet**(in Downloads of Practice Tests) to remember tricks and strategies.

GOOD LUCK!

How to get more practice tests:

If you've got an older brother or sister who ordered their test booklet, and it's sitting around the house somewhere, use that. It's probably recent, and recent tests are best. You might also find a friend with an old one. These older tests can sometimes be found online, but we can't vouch for the legality of such tests being posted (on Reddit, etc.)

and we don't advocate piracy. If you don't have access to any other tests (newer tests are ideal), take one of the tests below. Do note, the science sections are 7 passages not 6, and the reading does not have a paired passage. Also, the math has slightly different balance (fewer arrangements and statistics-oriented problems). You can also get access to the [ACT Online Official Prep](#) system, which includes 2 official (albeit online-only) tests for around \$40.

Official ACT 2018-2019 (We plan to do explanations for this by fall 2018, release TBD)
<https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Preparing-for-the-ACT.pdf>

Official ACT 2014-2015
http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hub/360031/file-2226679255-pdf/Documents/ACT_Test_2014-15.pdf?t=1441120972903

Official ACT 2011-2012
http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hub/360031/file-2227156987-pdf/Documents/ACT_Test_2011-12.pdf?t=1441120972903

Official ACT 2008-2009
http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hub/360031/file-2227156982-pdf/Documents/ACT_Test_2008-09.pdf?t=1441120972903

Official ACT 2005-2006
http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hub/360031/file-2227156992-pdf/Documents/ACT_Test_2005-06.pdf?t=1529339009506

You can also get a full test worth of questions online for free at ACT.org here:
<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/reading-practice-test-questions.html?page=0&chapter=0>

ACT Online Computer System Practice Test (For international test takers or those out of paper exams) Form 71C
<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/act-international-programs.html>

*****Note to those with 2018-2019 version of ACT Official Guide:**the numbering for the new online system is embedded in a code that looks something like this: “**math.actreview.0026_1802**”. The question number that corresponds with the video explanation on our course is typically the number after “actreview.” Questions above #85, however, vary somewhat to our numbering. This document will help you convert

the numbers if you're looking for explanations for questions 86+ and have the 2018-2019 version of the online question bank:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15lVG559ppSL_0nbuzoF7DJO3156dR30J2C7LNvFcInc/edit?usp=sharing

If you have the 2017-2018 version or earlier, the numbering should correspond with your PDF packet.

SupertutorTV Video list

Another tool you'll likely find handy is our spreadsheet list of videos here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tdQJbvqqmNTE3rbmipIqVII0kaVrYPqMi3JKFdvLGqM>