



Xander's AWESOME ACT Success Secrets

English 75 questions, 45 minutes

36 seconds/question

Strategy: Read the passage focusing on underlined segments related to questions. Don't waste too much time on paragraphs without questions. Carefully read the question and really find what the question is asking, be careful with NOT and EXCEPT.

Eliminate answers that are obviously incorrect. Make sure to read the sentence to yourself while inserting the proposed revision and for each option mark whether it sounds good or bad.

Need to know:

Commas,,,,,,,,,

Connect dependent clauses/incomplete sentences to independent clauses/complete sentences.

[READ THIS ARTICLE TO UNDERSTAND COMMAS FOREVER!](#)

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/comma/>

Semicolons;;;;;;;;;;)

Connect two independent clauses. Two complete sentences.

[READ THIS ARTICLE TO UNDERSTAND SEMICOLONS!](#)

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/semicolon/>

*When faced with a question of choosing between a comma and a semicolon look to see if the two parts being connected are independent clauses or dependent clauses. If they are both independent clauses then use a semicolon, if one is a dependent clause then use a comma.

Colons:.....

On the ACT usually just for lists, but be careful they may be one item lists in which case the colon serves to emphasize the information presented. The second paragraph in this link explains it well.

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/colon-2/>

It's and Its

Really simple, "it's" is always "it is". "Its" is the possessive form. So any time you see it's you should be able to say "it is"

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/its-vs-its/>

Who and Whom

The difference has to do with whether it is the subject or the object of the verb but all you need to know is this:

who=he/she whom=him/her

If you can rewrite the sentence and replace who/whom with he or she then use who. If you can rewrite the sentence and replace who/whom with him or her then use whom.

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/who-vs-whom-its-not-as-complicated-as-you-might-think/>

Who's and Whose

Who's is "who is". Whose is possessive. Similar to it's and its.

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/whos-whose/>

MATH 60 minutes 60 questions

1 minute/question (but you could figure that out yourself)

Strategy: Do each question quickly and efficiently.

Sometimes the smartest way to do the question is to plug in the answers.

Look at the answers to determine what form of answer to look for.

Need to know: www.khanacademy.org

It's really hard to write out everything you need to know for the math section. If you were paying attention in math throughout Elementary, Middle and High School then you should be okay. But to find out what you've forgotten you should take a few practice tests and then review the concepts which consistently cause you to miss problems and then review those concepts so well that you'll never miss another problem of that type again!

Triangles

The three interior angles will always add to 180

soh-cah-toa

$\sin = \text{opposite/hypotenuse}$

$\cos = \text{adjacent/hypotenuse}$

$\text{tangent} = \text{opposite/adjacent}$

This is only for right triangles. These are ratios.

<http://mathworld.wolfram.com/SOHCAHTOA.html>

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/algebra/sohcahtoa.html>

Law of sines

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/algebra/trig-sine-law.html>

Reading 40 questions 35 minutes

52.5 seconds/question

Strategy:

1. Read the questions and find those which refer to a specific line or lines then read the lines and answer the question.
2. Then read all the other questions and keep the main ideas of each in the back of your mind.
3. Then read the whole passage.
4. Read each question very carefully. Make sure you know exactly what it is asking.
5. Work carefully to eliminate incorrect answers and find the best response.

Important Skills:

- Reading quickly
- Remembering details
- Understanding themes and opinions in passages
- Understanding point of view

This link is pretty good, it's a really long article.

<https://blog.prepscholar.com/how-to-get-36-on-act-reading-11-strategies-from-a-perfect-scorer>

Science 40 questions 35 minutes

52.5 seconds/question

Strategy: Read the short introduction and then start on the questions referring to the specific table or figure.

You shouldn't need to read the whole thing. Make sure you go to the right table or figure or graph and the right section if specified in the question.

During the whole science section be looking for independent and dependent variables, or in other words, what is being changed and what is being measured. This will help you understand the setup of each experiment and there are many questions which refer to the relationships between these variables or even to the setup of the experiment. So if you have already been looking for it these will be much easier to answer.

Read the graphs and tables carefully. Values may not necessarily be written from least to greatest or greatest to least so if a question asks what happens as the value of some variable increases you may need to mentally reorder the lines.

Use common sense.

**YOU'VE GOT THIS! RELAX AND DO YOUR
BEST. GOOD LUCK!**