



ACT Reading Test

Strategies for Success

Strategies

- Use the time allotted
- Pace yourself
- **Read each question carefully (slow down for that)**
- Look for the best answer
- Take notes as you go along



Strategies

- Do not pre-read questions
- Beware that passages may be dense
- Answer easier questions first, then go back to answer the more difficult ones (i.e., “line references”)



Strategies

- Ask yourself whether you can justify your choice as the best answer
- Eliminate choices you're certain are incorrect –cross them out
- READ, READ, READ as often as possible to **increase your stamina** and prevent exhaustion



Strategies

- All questions can be answered based only on the material in the passage, so don't rely too much on your background knowledge
- Focus on “big ideas”



Strategies

- Short paragraphs in a larger passage normally include headings before each passage. Read these! They tell you the subject matter, where the passage is from, who wrote it, and some additional information about the passage



Strategies

- Answer all questions before moving to a new passage. You will not be penalized for guessing, but you will be penalized for leaving questions blank.
- You can **NOT** fill in blanks after the text is done. They check to see if you have any blank at the end of each test.



Strategies

- Always check back if you're unsure. Wrong answers are designed to trip you up by mentioning something from the passage that sounds familiar



Strategies

- Always, always, always guess!
- Go with your first instinct...in fact, just go!
- You can always retake the ACT to improve your score
- You CAN write in the test booklet





Fun Video on Speed Reading!

[Johnny Carson vs. 13 year old girl speed reading challenge](#)

Try These Tips to READ FASTER

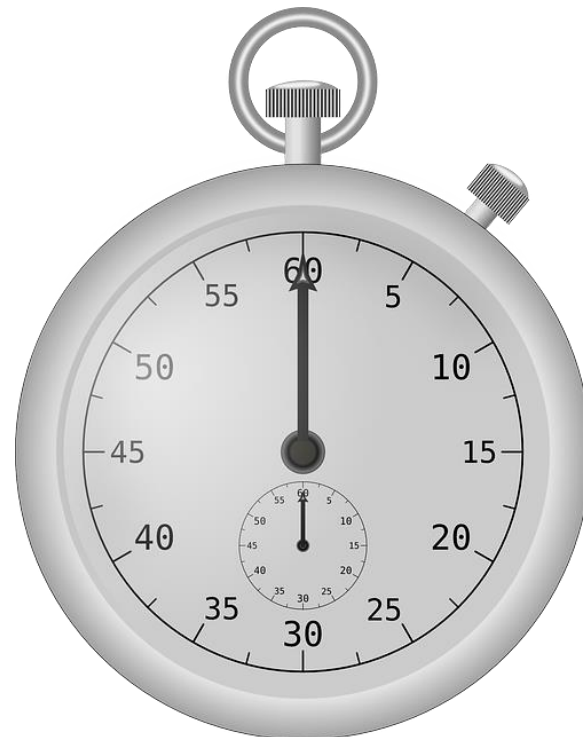
First read for one minute on your own as a control



Now Try HOLDING the Text UP off the table at an Angle

Now we will have you read again for **one minute**

Most people can read faster
when the test is NOT lying
flat on the table.



To Prevent Your Eyes from Darting backwards Use a Pencil to Track the text

Most people read faster when they track the text with a pencil.

We'll see how you do when you read for ONE minute using the pencil to track the text.



Let's see if you do better on the science or prose passage

You have about 8 minutes and 15 seconds on EACH of the four sub tests

We are going to have you take 8 minutes and 15 seconds for the first test which is prose

Then we will give you the same amount of time for the fourth test which is science and score them

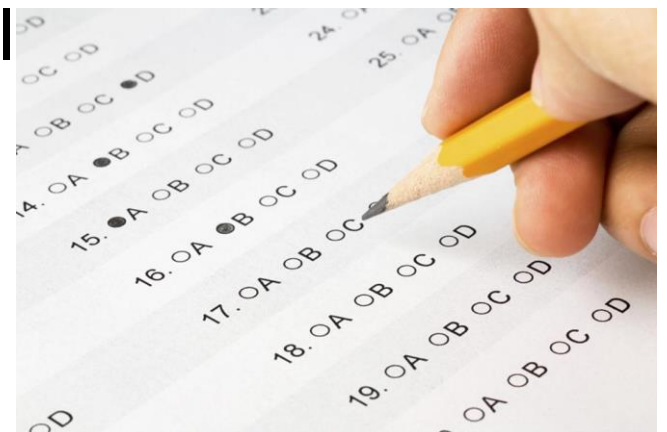
Although the first text is less dense, the questions are less concrete and require more inferences. Most people find the first set of ?'s the hardest but that may not be true for you.

Why does it matter which test is easier for you? THIS SLIDE IS KEY!

Most people can NOT read ALL four test and ALL 40 ?'s in the allotted time so if you end up guessing, you want to do that on the test that would be the most difficult.

Getting 30/40 which is the equivalent of getting all the questions right on three tests, would earn you a 26 on the reading test!

Therefore, slowing down and doing well on 3 tests instead of rushing through 4 is a strategy to consider.



KEY STRATEGY CONTINUED:

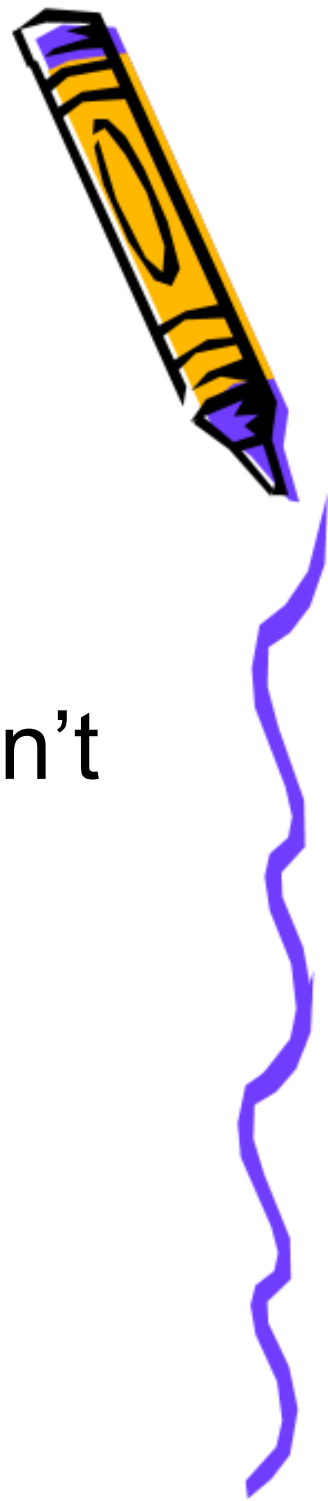
- At first glance the first reading passage SEEMS the easiest since it is prose. HOWEVER, it requires inferences and analysis so it is often the hardest for MOST people.
- Meanwhile the last passage is always factual and most people find it dull. However, the ?'s tend to be basic comprehension ?'s. Therefore, for most people it is the EASIEST but most people don't get to it or are rushed and exhausted by the time they do get to it.
- Therefore, it MAY benefit you to start w/ the 2nd passage, go to the 3rd, and then 4th passage and IF you have time, go to the 1st passage. Just DON'T leave any blank or transpose your answers in the booklet.

See Ms. Kaminski's Site
for Online Speed Reading
Activities



Strategies

- Bring a **SNACK** for break time
- (drum roll please)
- Leave your phone **AT** home! You can't even use it during break.
- The most important strategy of all...



Stay calm!

