



## READING TEST STRATEGIES

Step 1. Take an ACT/SAT Reading Pre-test

Use a 60-minute timer.

If time runs out, keep working, but note [\*] every new answer and every answer that you change.

Grade your test and record scores for both the actual score and additional time score.

ACTUAL RAW SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ ADDITIONAL TIME SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

Find your score using the Bridging the Gap below.

### BRIDGING THE GAP: ACT READING

#### **READING 1-15: Work toward developing skills**

- Draw simple conclusions about the main points and characters in an uncomplicated literary narrative [characters—who, plot—what happened, why—conclusion]
- Identify details that are important to a story [setting—where and when]
- Locate simple details at the sentence and paragraph level in uncomplicated informational passages
- Identify relationships between principal characters in uncomplicated literary narratives
- Make simple generalizations about the main points and characters in uncomplicated literary narratives

#### **READING 16-19: Work toward proficiency**

- Use details to support the main idea of more challenging passages
- Order simple sequence of events
- Identify comparative relationships between ideas in uncomplicated texts
- Identify clearly stated cause-effect relationships
- Begin using context clues to define words
- Determine the author's tone in uncomplicated passages



**READING 20-23: Work toward consistency**

- Practice making logical inferences
- Practice interpreting ideas that are paraphrased or subtly stated
- Practice synthesizing information from different parts of a passage

**READING 24-27: Work toward mastery**

- Read more challenging literary and informational passages
- Infer main idea
- Summarize events
- Order sequences
- Understand dynamics of characters' relationships
- Make generalizations about characters and situations
- Identify implied cause-effect relationships
- Determine tone

**READING 28-32 work toward flexibility**

- Read a variety of complex material
- Synthesize material from different parts of a passage

Identify main ideas in paragraphs/passages

Locate supportive details and facts

Make comparisons, conclusions and generalizations  
that reveal a feeling for the subtleties in  
relationships between characters and ideas

Generalize author's point of view

If you score 32 or higher and are aiming for a perfect 36, you may want to read "How to Get 36 on ACT Reading: 11 Strategies from a Perfect Scorer" at <https://blog.prepscholar.com/how-to-get-36-on-act-reading-11-strategies-from-a-perfect-scorer>

**READING 33-36: Work toward adaptability**

- Continue reading a variety of complex material
- Analyze rhetorical devices
- Synthesize relationship between content and form
- Evaluate material [for audience, achieving purpose, effectiveness]



**Remember: There is only one correct response, and it must be absolutely 100% right. The passage must support your answer choice.**

Notice: Similar answer choices are frequently placed close together.

Beware: A single word can make an answer choice incorrect.

Strategy: Find a reason to eliminate an answer choice.

- too specific
- too broad
- reversed relationship
- unrelated relationship

**Which is best for you: Read the passage first / Read the questions first**

The answer depends on your strengths and weaknesses. Here are three methods to try on two practice test samples:

- Read passage in detail line by line
  - Note main point of each paragraph
  - Answer questions
- OR
- [3 minutes maximum] skim the passage to get a general understanding
  - [30 seconds maximum] Go to questions and look for line number (s)
  - Return to line, understand context, answer question/skip

OR

- Read each question first to get a sense of it [gist]
- Note line numbers referenced in questions and mark in passage
- Skim passage and slow down for marked lines
- Answer questions

Whichever method you use, **UNDERSTANDING WHY YOU MADE EVERY SINGLE MISTAKE IS YOUR KEY TO SUCCESS.**