

6 Skills You Need to Master for the ACT

The ACT tests your English, Math, Reading, and Science skills—and preparing for what’s on the test is important if you want to perform your best. Here are 6 skills you should master as you get ready for the ACT.

English

- **Connecting clauses:** Make sure you know the rules for using periods, semicolons, colons, commas, and dashes between independent and dependent clauses.
- **Transitioning between ideas:** Ask yourself how the two ideas relate, and pick the most succinct answer choice that connects the ideas accordingly.

Math

- **Solving systems of equations:** Know how to use the substitution technique or the elimination method to find the solution to a system of linear equations.
- **Calculating percentages:** Carefully translate the question prompt before setting up an equation and solving for a percentage.

Reading

- **Identifying the author’s purpose:** When you’re asked about the purpose of a specific line or paragraph, consider the tone and theme of the passage as a whole. Ask yourself what the line or paragraph contributes to the passage and why the author included it.

Science

- **Making sense of conflicting viewpoints:** This is the only part of the ACT Science section where it’s necessary to read the whole passage. Don’t skip the introduction, and make sure to underline key information as you read each hypothesis.

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