

# Your Guide to Self Prep: ACT Reading



# ACT Reading Section Overview



## Format/Timing:

- 40 questions (4 long passages)
- Time: 35 minutes long

## Content:

- 4 passage types: Prose Fiction, Social Sciences, Humanities, and Natural Sciences.
- Tests speed and instant recall of facts from the passages.

## STEP ONE

Familiarize yourself with the content and timing of the section.

Take a timed practice test or practice section. You can take a proctored ACT with ArborBridge or purchase a book of practice tests directly from the ACT or another test prep company.

Request a practice test here: <https://www.arborbridge.com/contact/>

## STEP TWO

# Grade your exam and identify your weaknesses.

---

*Carefully consider the types of questions you got wrong. On the Reading section, categorize your mistakes into these four categories:*

### 1. Confusion about the passage

Did you get the question wrong because the meaning of the passage was unclear? Was the language of the passage difficult to understand?

### 2. Memorization of passage

Did you think you remembered something from the passage but ended up recalling it incorrectly?

### 3. Finding evidence

Did you try to find evidence for the answer in the passage but were unable to?

### 4. Vocabulary

Did you miss questions because there were words you did not recognize?

## STEP THREE

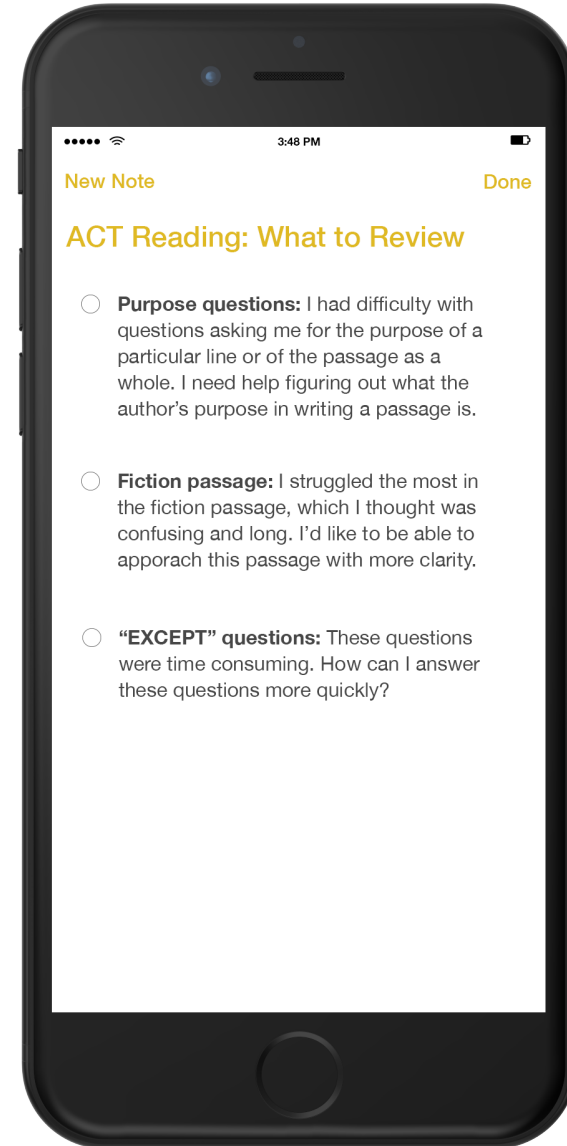
# Establish a plan for preparation.

---

*If you took a practice test with ArborBridge, we will provide you with a detailed score report that includes a prioritized list of topics that you need work on.*

*If you used The Official ACT Prep Guide, there are detailed explanations for each question. Read all the explanations for your incorrect answers and look for patterns.*

Then, develop a list of topics that you want to review. For example, your list might look like this:



## STEP FOUR

# Identify resources and practice!

---

*Ask your friends and teachers  
or go online and find  
whatever resources you think  
are relevant and helpful.*

### Our recommendations for resources:

1. Use amazon.com's "Look Inside" feature to preview a few commercially-available test prep books from major tutoring companies. Choose the one that you think best addresses the plan you created in Step 3.
2. Use available practice tests, either from the book you selected in Step 1 or from *The Official ACT Prep Guide*. We suggest you go slowly first. Take as much time as you need, and identify as least one reason for eliminating every answer choice that you do not select. Find explicit evidence from the passage to justify all of the answer choices you *do* select. Speed will come later.
3. Read articles in well-selected magazines. ACT passages are mostly taken from newspapers and magazines. To increase comprehension, read these full-length articles and ask yourself the same types of questions as the ACT would. Examples: *Time*, *National Geographic*, and *The Economist*.

## STEP FIVE

# Track your progress.

When you feel ready, take another timed practice test or practice section. Grade your exam, see where you've improved, and repeat Steps 2–5 as necessary.

PLUS...

# More tips from our test prep experts

**Avoid answer choices with overly negative tones.**

With rare exceptions, the ACT likes to keep the correct answers fairly positive.

**Your learning environment matters!**

When studying for the Reading section, be sure to find a place with no auditory or visual distractions. 20 minutes of focused practice is better than an hour of distracted practice.

Take a free practice ACT with ArborBridge!

Students who take practice tests with ArborBridge receive a complimentary score report, fully customized for each individual student. We break down each of your answers to every question on the test and pinpoint your main weaknesses, which ultimately leads to more efficient test prep.

Request your free practice ACT here: <https://www.arborbridge.com/contact/>





[www.arborbridge.com](http://www.arborbridge.com)

[info@arborbridge.com](mailto:info@arborbridge.com)

(+1) 917-525-2548