

Tips for Taking the ACT



- 1. Never leave a question blank**

There is no penalty for guessing on the ACT, so you should make sure that you fill in a bubble for every question. Make sure you save at least a minute at the end of a test section to fill in answers of questions you did not get to.
- 2. Reduce anxiety**

Plan to take the ACT early enough in your high school career so that you can take the test another time if you are not happy with your score. Also, set a realistic goal for yourself. For example, answering about 45 questions correctly on the math section produces a score of roughly 27. You don't need to answer every question correctly in order to get a good score.
- 3. Wear a big, ugly watch**

Don't spend too much time on one question. Although you may know this, it's easy to forget this important strategy when you're facing a complicated word problem or an intense science passage. Figure out some way to remind yourself that a good use of time is essential.
- 4. Do the easy questions first**

The best way to make sure you use your time wisely is to answer first all the questions that are easy for you. Hard questions are worth the same as the easy questions. Don't spend three minutes figuring out a hard question when you could have answered three easy questions. You can double back in the remaining time to tackle the more difficult questions.
- 5. Just answer the question**

Think creatively to find the solution in the least amount of time. When appropriate, plug in answer choices to find the correct answer. You can eliminate some choices; the probability that you guess the correct answer is higher.
- 6. Make a smart guess**

Knowing what an answer can't be make for smart guessing. If you can eliminate some choices, the probability that you guess the correct answer is higher.
- 7. Give the question what it's asking for**

The ACT test makers fill the answer choices with distracter, or answers that are likely errors. Take enough time to make sure that you know what a question is asking for.