



## The 7 Prime ACT Test Tips

- **Don't rush.** Do not miss easy points because of misreading the question, failing to complete the math equation, or misbubbling. Students typically rush in the beginning of the test and lose precious easy points on the first pages, especially in English and Math. Remember, all points are good points, so rack them up methodically in the easy questions first and don't leave any behind!
- **Move on past mistakes.** Think of an Olympic figure skater: You know how, if the skater falls down early in the routine, she is more likely to fall again later, as her focus and confidence has been broken? You don't have to let that happen to you! If you mess up on timing or are unsure in any section, just move on; don't let it throw you for the rest of the test. You'll practice this in timed practice tests and gain the skills to let go and move forward with renewed concentration.
- **Don't squander time on hard stuff.** Time is better spent on material that is easier since you are more likely to get the questions correct and since all questions – whether super-easy or rock-hard – are worth the same. Think of an Easter egg hunt: All eggs are just as good as any other, so finding one out on the grass is better than digging in the bushes to unearth one. Collect all the easy Easter eggs first!
- **Pace yourself.** You must train to do this well. Time yourself on all your practice tests and timed drills with a watch, not your cellphone. [Testingtimers.com](http://Testingtimers.com) watch is terrific for the ACT (get 15% discount with promo code: ISHII). The Science section, in particular, and the Reading section, to a lesser degree, will demand serious time management. When it's time to move on from a passage, you have to bubble in whatever remains and move on in order to have time to effectively tackle easier questions in the next passage.
- **Take full practice tests.** Train for the real test by taking full timed practice tests in test-like conditions at home, school or a test prep center. If you take the test with a test prep company or at your school, confirm beforehand whether you will get a copy of the test booklet and your detailed results afterwards, and if so, WHEN. Don't bother with them if they won't answer or say it will take more than a week. Go over your practice test results as soon as possible after taking the test so you remember what you were thinking as you answered tougher questions. Rethink those you got wrong and try them again before checking the correct answer.
- **Be well-rested for your exam.** Be sure to get a good night's sleep every night in the few days before your exam. On test day, eat breakfast, pack an energizing snack, dress in layers. Your physical state is the single most important performance factor on test day.
- **Take the real test multiple times.** Don't expect to get your best score by taking the ACT once. Take it preferably twice in 11th grade – April and June – and once more in the fall of senior year. In April and June, order TIR (Test Information Release Service) from ACT.org to get a copy of the test booklet and your annotated test results to study your mistakes for next time.