ACT starter kit

Plan your first week of ACT prep with a diagnostic review, a printable schedule and links to free section practice.

SHARP

Start with a practice test

Take a practice test, review the questions you missed, then choose the work for your next session. This kit gives you a place to record those decisions and a guide to Sharp's free worksheets and practice packs.

Before you start

Record your test date and whether you will test on paper or online. Check your registration or school instructions for Science, Writing and any approved accommodations. Use those details when choosing your practice format.

Test date and format:

Sections / approved timing / instructions to check:

Choose your baseline test

ACT's free official practice materials include online sections, paper booklets and scoring keys. Follow the directions for the form you choose, including timing and breaks. Use its own scoring key; a different test's conversion table can give a different result.

Set aside a separate review session. Keep the questions and your work so you can identify the step that went wrong, including answers you guessed correctly.

Before the test	After the test
Reserve a time and prepare your permitted calculator.	Record the form, date and section results.
Use the format and timing you are preparing for.	Choose one recurring skill error and one process change to work on.

For a longer explanation, read how to study for the ACT. Use the next page to turn your results into a first week of work.

Turn the review into your first week

A section score tells you where to look. Your work tells you what to practice. For each missed or uncertain answer, name the skill and the step you need to change.

Example: make the next task specific

What happened	What to do next
Math: entered -3^2 when the input was -3, then got a negative square.	Substitute negative inputs in parentheses. Try five function-evaluation problems and check each setup before calculating.
Reading: chose an answer that fit the topic but was not supported by the passage.	Underline the passage evidence for each answer in a short practice set. Explain why the other choices do not follow from it.

Your first-week schedule

Assign dates that fit your week. The order below is a suggested starting sequence; add sessions for the sections and skills your review identifies.

Session	Task	Date / time
Baseline	Take your chosen practice test.	
Review	Score it and choose a skill to work on.	
Focused practice	Read the matching lesson, then attempt new questions.	
Check the learning	Redo missed questions without the explanation. Try a new question using the same skill.	

My first skill to practice:

The step I will change and how I will check it:

Use the eight-week study plan and mistake log when you are ready to plan beyond this week. It includes a weekly calendar and more room to track mistakes.

Choose a resource for the work you need

Start with the row that matches an error from your practice test. Read its worked example, attempt the questions, then use the explanations to review. These are short teaching resources, not full-length tests.

Your next task	Free Sharp resource
Review sentence structure, punctuation and agreement	ACT grammar workbook: eight lessons and 16 original questions, with every choice explained.
Practice a formula and its conditions	ACT Math formulas and practice: worked examples and eight problems.
Use the calculator for online Math	ACT Desmos quickstart: setup, worked examples and eight practice tasks. Paper testers should practice with their permitted handheld calculator.
Support a Reading answer with passage evidence	ACT Reading practice pack: literary and paired opinion passages, 12 questions and explanations.
Read a graph or compare experiments and explanations	ACT Science practice pack: 12 questions and a review worksheet. Include Science prep when you will take that section.

Keep a record you can use

Resource and questions attempted:

An error I can now explain:

What I still need to work on:

Set a target and plan the next check

Give your target score a reason. Check the current admissions and scholarship policies for the colleges or programs you are considering. Record the policy, application year and deadline before deciding what result you need.

The score-goal and retake worksheet has space for those records. The ACT score calculator explains Composite and superscore arithmetic using section scores.

Decision	Your record
Target score and the policy or goal behind it	
Next practice test / form / date	
Skill or pacing change to check on that test	
Person to ask about any unresolved test arrangements	

Before test day, use the ACT test-day checklist to check your admission details, calculator and packing list against your administration's instructions.

Continue with Sharp

These printables are free. You can also start Sharp free with one full-length ACT practice test. Choose ACT during setup. Sharp Pro adds a full personalized study plan, targeted skill practice and three full-length ACT practice tests in total. Compare the ACT plans when you want a plan in the app or support from a tutor.

Prepared November 5, 2026. Official references: ACT practice tests and scoring keys, ACT test-day instructions and calculator policy. Follow your own administration's instructions for approved arrangements.