ACT study plan and mistake log

An adaptable eight-week plan with a worked mistake-log example, weekly planner, practice-test record and printable review sheets.

SHARP

An eight-week starting plan

Start with a test result, turn the errors into assignments and leave room to review what you practice. Move a checkpoint when you need more time to finish the follow-up.

Week	Focus	Work	Before moving on
1	Establish a baseline	Confirm your sections and testing conditions. Take and review an unused official practice test.	A saved result and specific follow-up assignments.
2	Work on one recurring issue	Learn the method, practice it and explain a new answer with the solution closed.	An explanation you can give without copying.
3	Add timed practice	Continue skill work; check how your errors change when time is limited.	Notes separating content gaps from pacing problems.
4	Check progress	Try another unused official test if the previous follow-up is finished. Review it separately.	A comparison of conditions, results and recurring errors.
5	Revise the assignments	Use that comparison to choose the next skills and questions.	A short list of unresolved skills.
6	Rehearse pacing	Practice those skills and decide what to do when a question stalls your progress.	A pacing decision you have tried in practice.
7	Rehearse the test	Schedule a full rehearsal with enough time afterward to review and act on it.	A final-review list and outstanding logistics.
8	Finish the review	Revisit the list, confirm test-day instructions and reduce work near test day.	Materials ready and no unfinished test review.

This is Sharp's suggested schedule, not an ACT-prescribed timetable or a prediction of score growth. Full tests and their reviews need separate calendar blocks beyond the ordinary practice week.

Before you begin

Confirm your date, paper or online format, required sections, approved accommodations and timing. Include Science or Writing when they are part of your test. For school-day testing, confirm the configuration with your school.

Turn a result into an assignment

A sample ordinary practice week

Session	Minutes	Assignment
Tuesday	30	Find the subject in agreement questions; explain three answers.
Thursday	30	Try new agreement questions, then review errors and guesses.
Saturday	60	Timed passage or section work plus review; schedule unfinished review separately.

The total is 120 minutes. This is an example to adapt to your availability. Add separate blocks for full tests and their reviews, and for Science or Writing work if needed.

A worked mistake-log entry

Field	Example
Question	Original Sharp drill: The list of donated books are on the desk.
My reasoning	I chose are because books is plural.
What went wrong	I matched the verb to the nearest noun instead of the subject.
Correct method	Set aside of donated books. The subject is list, so list is.
Next assignment	Find the subject and verb in three new sentences. Explain the choice.
Follow-up	Thursday: answer with the solution closed; record whether the same error returns.

When the calendar changes

One month: keep a baseline and its review, select fewer priorities and leave time to act on a later rehearsal. **One week:** use a recent result if available, review recurring errors and settle logistics. **A missed week:** carry forward the most useful assignment rather than automatically doubling the workload.

If you understand an explanation but cannot solve a new question, return to the method. If untimed work is accurate but timed work is not, examine pacing and decisions under time pressure.

Your weekly calendar and test record

Week beginning: _____ Test date: _____

This week's priority and why:

Day	Time / minutes	Assignment and review
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		

Practice-test record

Record the exact form, conditions and section scores. Use that form's own scoring directions; do not compare raw totals from different forms as if their scales were identical.

Date / form	Format, timing, sections	Section scores / reported Composite	Review date / next assignment
1			
2			
3			

Separate full-test and review blocks reserved for:

Your mistake log

Include wrong answers and uncertain correct answers. Describe the decision that caused the error. Use the last column to test whether your next assignment helped.

Question / source / date	My reasoning and the error	Correct method in my words	Next assignment / follow-up result
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Resources for your plan

- ACT: free official practice materials
- ACT: test overview
- ACT: school-day test configuration

Sources checked November 5, 2026. The schedule, example and worksheets are original Sharp planning aids. This is an independent Sharp resource, not an ACT publication.