

# STRATEGIC SOLVER

*Committed, Persistent, Strategic*

The substantial amount of time you can **commit** to ACT prep each week will give you a decided advantage in being well-prepared for your test day. Through **persistent** effort, you can reach far beyond your already strong foundational Math skills and grasp more advanced concepts. Your study plan will help you **strategically** target the most frequently tested English, Reading, and Science concepts to maximize your score potential.

**How to Use Your Study Plan:** Each week, the Recommended chapters cover the topics that are worth the most points on the ACT, so be sure to prioritize those items. To make your prep as efficient as possible, choose Optional items that best fit your study needs and schedule. If you fall behind or don't have 8 full weeks to study, be sure to prioritize the Recommended items. Happy prepping!



## WEEK 1

### Foundations of the ACT

Knowing what to expect on each section of the ACT will give you confidence on test day—you'll have no surprises about what types of questions you'll be asked.

During this week, you'll:

- Become comfortable with the structure of the ACT
- Learn the Kaplan Methods for each test section

#### Week 1

Overall Study	English and Reading	Math	Science
<u>Recommended:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 1:</b> Inside the ACT</li><li>❑ Explore the test maker's website and register for the ACT</li></ul>	<u>Recommended:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 2:</b> The Method for ACT English</li><li>❑ <b>Chapter 15:</b> The Method for ACT Reading</li></ul>	<u>Recommended:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 7:</b> The Method for ACT Math Questions</li></ul>	<u>Recommended:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 22:</b> The Method for ACT Science</li></ul>
<u>Optional:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Practice Test G</b> (online)</li><li>❑ Review <b>Practice Test G</b></li><li>❑ <b>Chapter 27:</b> The Method for the ACT Writing Test <i>(If you're unsure about whether to take the essay on test day, check out the section Should I Write the ACT Writing Test?)</i></li></ul>	<u>Optional:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Online Video:</b> The Method for ACT English</li><li>❑ <b>Online Video:</b> The Method for ACT Reading Questions</li></ul>	<u>Optional:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Online Video:</b> The Method for ACT Math</li></ul>	<u>Optional:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Online Video:</b> The Method for ACT Science</li></ul>



## WEEKS 2-3

### High-SmartPoints Topics

Let's cut right to the chase: some topics are tested on the ACT more heavily than others. Kaplan has assigned a SmartPoints number to each topic on the ACT—the higher the SmartPoints number, the more that topic is tested. That means that mastering those topics with the highest SmartPoints values has the potential to earn you a ton of points on test day.

During these weeks, you'll:

- Maximize your Math skills by mastering high-SmartPoints topics
- Lay the groundwork for success in English and Science by studying high-SmartPoints topics
- Master the foundations of strategic Reading

#### Week 2

English and Reading	Math	Science
<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 3:</b> Spotting and Fixing Errors<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ How Much Do You Know?</li></ul></li><li>Sentence Structure<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ The Basics</li><li>❑ Parenthetical Elements</li><li>❑ Commas, Dashes, and Colons</li></ul></li><li>❑ <b>Chapter 16:</b> ACT Reading Passage Strategies</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 8:</b> Number and Quantity</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 23:</b> Data<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ How Much Do You Know?</li><li>❑ Data Representation Passages</li><li>❑ Detail and Interpretation Questions</li></ul></li></ul>



### Week 3

English and Reading	Math	Science
<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 3:</b> Spotting and Fixing Errors Agreement<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Verbs</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Pronouns</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Modifiers</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Idioms</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> How Much Have You Learned?</li></ul></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 17:</b> ACT Reading Question Types</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 9:</b> Rates, Ratios, Proportions, and Percents</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 23:</b> Data<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Calculation and Inference Questions</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> How Much Have You Learned?</li></ul></li></ul>



## **WEEKS 4–6**

### **Areas of Opportunity and Practice Test**

Now it's time to dig into some challenging topics. You can do this! Your goal is not to learn everything about, say, geometry or punctuation, but rather to learn the most commonly-tested ACT concepts and to familiarize yourself with questions in that category.

It's also time for some authentic practice. Taking a practice test under real test-like conditions is the best way to solidify what you've learned and to practice test-taking strategies. Plus, your results will help you make a plan for your remaining weeks until test day.

#### **Tips for Taking Practice Tests:**

Make the practice test count! Time yourself, eliminate distractions, and use your test-taking strategies (see Chapter 1), just as you would for the real test. Practice using the Methods for each test section (English, Math, Reading, and Science) on every question—even if doing so takes more time now, practicing will improve your speed so the Methods are second nature on the real test day.

After finishing the practice test, it is vital that you *review your results*. Dig into each question—think not only about why you got a question correct or incorrect but also about whether you approached the question strategically. For each question, ask yourself: What can I learn about this type of question? After reviewing, use your test results to help you plan what to study until test day.

During these weeks, you'll:

- Take a practice test
- Review the practice test
- Improve your performance on your areas of opportunity on each section of the test



### Week 4

English and Reading	Math	Science
<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 4:</b> Spotting and Fixing Issues <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 18:</b> Answering ACT Reading Questions	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 10:</b> Algebra	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 24:</b> Experiments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> How Much Do You Know?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Research Summaries and Design Methodology Questions</li> </ul>

### Week 5

Overall Study	English and Reading	Math	Science
<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Practice Test</b> (in-book) with optional essay <input type="checkbox"/> Review <b>Practice Test</b>	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Review chapter(s) based on practice test results	<u>Optional:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 11:</b> Tables, Graphs, Statistics, and Probability	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 24:</b> Experiments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Synthesizing Data Questions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> How Much Have You Learned?</li> </ul>



## Week 6

English and Reading	Math	Science
<p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 19:</b> Paired Passages</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 20:</b> Literature Passages</li></ul>	<p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 13:</b> Geometry</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Review chapter(s) based on practice test results</li></ul>	<p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 25:</b> Thinking Like a Scientist<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> How Much Do You Know?</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Applying Core Knowledge Questions</li></ul></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Review chapter(s) based on practice test results</li></ul>



## WEEKS 7-8

### Strengths Focus

You've worked so hard! A few weeks left, but you are well-situated for success. Now things get kind of fun: take those topics you're awesome at, and get more awesome at them before test day! Celebrate your successes and take this opportunity to get even better. You'll also learn section management strategies for each section of the ACT and take one last practice test about a week before your test date. As usual, take the time to dig into your results. Finally, do some light practice leading up to the big day.

During these weeks, you'll:

- Focus on your strongest topics to build confidence for test day
- Learn section management strategies for each section of the ACT
- Take a practice test, about a week before your scheduled test day
- Do light practice until test day

### Week 7

Overall Study	English and Reading	Math	Science
<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 28:</b> Countdown to Test Day	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 5:</b> ACT English: Timing and Section Management Strategies <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 21:</b> ACT Reading: Timing and Section Management Strategies	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 14:</b> ACT Math: Timing and Section Management Strategies  <u>Optional:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 12:</b> Functions	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 25:</b> Thinking Like a Scientist <input type="checkbox"/> Conflicting viewpoints Passages and Evaluating Hypotheses Questions <input type="checkbox"/> How Much Have You Learned?





## Week 8

Overall Study	English and Reading	Math	Science
<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Practice Test E</b> (online) with optional essay</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Review <b>Practice Test E</b></li></ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Review strengths chapter(s) based on practice test results</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Review strengths chapter(s) based on practice test results</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 26:</b> ACT Science: Section Management, Timing, and Efficiency</li></ul> <p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Review strengths chapter(s) based on practice test results</li></ul>

Congratulations! You've put in the **committed, persistent** effort to complete your **strategic** review of the ACT, following the way of the **Strategic Solver**. Feel confident in your expert preparation!

