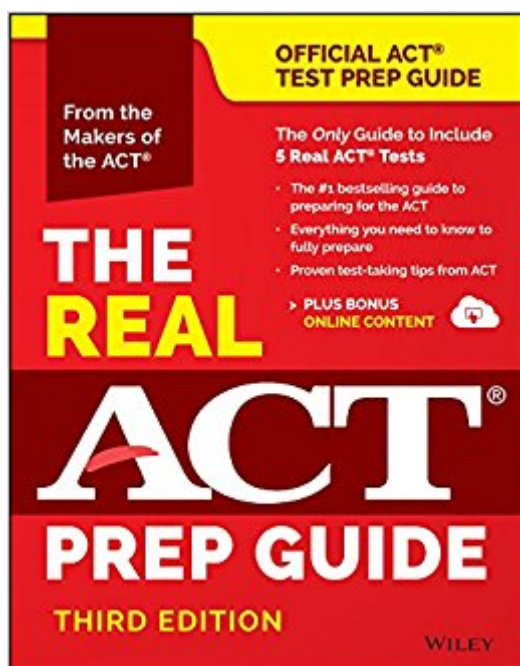


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# The Real ACT Prep Guide (Book + Bonus Online Content), (Reprint) (Official Act Prep Guide)



## Synopsis

This edition of The Real ACT Prep Guide was originally published by Peterson's as The Real ACT Prep Guide, 3rd Edition (9780768934403). This edition includes access to new online bonus content. The Only Guide to Include 5 Real ACT Tests The #1 bestselling guide to preparing for the ACT Everything you need to know to fully prepare Proven test-taking tips from ACT THE ONLY OFFICIAL GUIDE TO PREPARING FOR THE ACT! The Real ACT Prep Guide, 3rd Edition gives you the information, strategies, and practice you want in order to prepare for and do your best on the ACT exam. The book contains five actual ACT test forms—each including the optional writing test—giving you the opportunity to practice at your own pace. Filled with detailed explanations of the correct answers, this guide helps you better understand the type of questions you could face on test day. Written by the makers of the ACT, The Real ACT Prep Guide is designed to help you know what to expect when you take the exam. The better prepared you are, the better you'll perform on the exam—and the more likely the ACT will accurately reflect your knowledge and achievement in the areas tested. Comprehensive yet user-friendly, The Real ACT Prep Guide provides: Tips and advice from the makers of the test The types of questions to anticipate on the English, math, reading, and science tests Ideas for writing a successful essay Important procedures to follow before and during the test Useful information on how the ACT is scored Helpful tips for gearing up mentally and physically Strategies for test-taking In addition, the book includes free access to bonus online content that will help you prepare your college applications, choose the school that's best for you, get your college career off to a strong start, ensure you graduate in four years, and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Only Guide to Include 5 Real ACT Tests The #1 bestselling guide to preparing for the ACT Everything you need to know to fully prepare Proven test-taking tips from ACT THE ONLY OFFICIAL GUIDE TO PREPARING FOR THE ACT! Now in its third edition, The Real ACT Prep Guide gives you the information, strategies, and practice you want in order to prepare for and do your best on the ACT exam. The book contains five actual ACT test forms—each including the optional writing test—giving you the opportunity to practice at your own pace. Filled with detailed explanations of the correct answers, this guide helps you better understand the type of questions you could face on test day. Written by the makers of the ACT, The Real ACT Prep Guide is designed to help you know what to expect when you take the exam. The better prepared you are, the better you'll perform on the exam—and the more likely the ACT will accurately reflect your knowledge and achievement in the areas tested. Comprehensive yet user-friendly, The Real ACT Prep Guide provides:

- Tips and advice from the makers of the test
- The types of questions to anticipate on the English, math, reading, and science tests
- Ideas for writing a successful essay
- Important procedures to follow before and during the test
- Useful information on how the ACT is scored
- Helpful tips for gearing up mentally and physically
- Strategies for test-taking

In addition, the book includes free access to bonus online content that will help you prepare your college applications, choose the school that's best for you, get your college career off to a strong start, ensure you graduate in four years, and more.

ACT is a not-for-profit organization providing assessment, research, information, and program management services to support education and workforce development.

I'm a Harvard graduate, SAT perfect scorer and full-time tutor who has taught the ACT for nearly 20 years. This book continues to be the most essential preparation guide for the ACT, because it is the only source of official test questions—the practice ACTs in all other books are nothing more than subpar imitations of the real thing. However, given that that ACT has recently revised the Reading, Science, and Writing (Essay) sections of its exam, I had hoped that this new book would finally reflect those changes, and provide a new set of updated practice

ACTs. Unfortunately, as many other reviewers have already noted, it doesn't. In fact, it's the same text as the 3rd edition from 2011, only much thicker. Thick paper is usually a good thing, but for a book that runs 928 pages, the added thickness and weight only make it more burdensome to carry and transport. And the "bonus online content" (web address on the back cover) is college admissions related information, which, while somewhat helpful, is only tangentially related to the ACT exam, and in some cases is freely accessible through the ACT website (see the comments below for more information on this). The authors didn't even bother making a few superficial changes to the book (other than its cover) or including a single new practice test. Again, it's the same book as this one, page for page, aside from a few typos: The Real ACT (CD) 3rd Edition (Real Act Prep Guide) There is good news, however: the long-rumored 4th edition of the book is now available for pre-order on Amazon: The Official ACT Prep Guide, 2016 - 2017 So, given that the ACT didn't provide any useful information about the updated test in this most recent printing of its book, I will take it upon myself to do so here instead.

**CHANGES TO THE NEW ACT:**

English - exactly the same (45 minutes, 75 questions). Mostly grammar, paragraph structure and punctuation.

Math - exactly the same (60 minutes, 60 questions). A broad survey of high-school math, with questions ordered from easy to hard.

Reading - almost exactly the same (35 minutes, 40 questions), but the new ACT now includes Dual Passages (google "Preparing for the ACT Practice Booklet", open the PDF, and scroll to pages 36-38 for an example of what the dual passage looks like).

Science - almost exactly the same (35 minutes, 40 questions, mostly data interpretation and graphs/charts), but the exact order and types of questions/passages have been modified slightly.

Writing (Essay) section: much different! Instead of 30 minutes to write, you are now given 40 minutes, and instead of being given only a prompt and an assignment, you will now be provided with a prompt, an assignment, and three different perspectives on the essay. You are then asked to evaluate all three perspectives on the issue, to provide your own perspective, and to explain the relationship between your own opinion and the three opinions provided, using examples, analysis and logic. (In the words of the ACT, students are asked "to develop an argument that puts their own perspective in dialogue with others.") The new essay will be scored out of 36 points instead of 12. It will also be given a grade of 2-12 in the following areas: Ideas and Analysis, Development and Support, Organization, & Language Use and Conventions.

• These days, many students prefer the ACT to the SAT. Official SAT Study Guide (2016 Edition) (Official Study Guide for the New Sat). But the College Board has been fighting back by inflating SAT percentiles

and making other efforts to make the SAT more palatable for students. For example, one major reason to consider taking the New SAT instead of (or in addition to) the ACT is that the SAT allows you more time per question than does the ACT. Thus, if time management is a major issue, then the SAT might be a better test for you:

SAT Reading = 1.25 minutes per question (75 seconds)	ACT Reading = .875 minutes per question (52.5 seconds)
SAT Grammar (Writing and Language) = .8 minutes per question (48 seconds)	ACT Grammar (English) = .6 minutes per question (36 seconds)
SAT Math = 1.4 minutes per question (83 seconds)	ACT Math = 1 minute per question (60 seconds)

For more information about the changes to the ACT essay, I suggest that you do some research online, and/or google ["The New ACT Essay/Writing Test - McElroy Tutoring"](#) where I have modified the essays from this book to fit the current essay format, as well as the ACT's official page, ["Enhancements to the ACT Writing Test"](#). Lastly, make sure to google ["Enhanced Writing Test Sample Prompt - ACT"](#) to see an example of the new Essay format. You can also print another free practice test from the ACT website by googling ["Preparing for the ACT Practice Booklet"](#) (scroll to pages 54 and 55 to read a 2nd sample of the new essay, the only other example of the "enhanced" Writing test format that the ACT has provided thus far) and opening the PDF. In addition, you can google ["ACT Action Plan - McElroy Tutoring"](#) to read my personal and frequently updated recommendations for ACT prep. The bad news is that this book is a huge letdown in that it provides nothing in the way of new information or new ACT practice tests. The good news is that if you take advantage of the online and print resources available, then you should be fine. My final recommendation: buy this newer printing of the book. Yes, it is more cumbersome than the previous version, but it is also now significantly less expensive, easier to find and faster to ship than the 2011 version. Despite its flaws, you're still going to need this book, because it's the only place where you can buy 5 official ACT tests at retail. If you need more than 5 practice tests, or you need additional help with ACT strategy, then consider buying another book such as this one: [McGraw-Hill Education 10 ACT Practice Tests, 4th Edition](#) (Mcgraw-Hill's 10 Act Practice Tests) Or, if you need more help with ACT strategy, then try one of these books--[Barron's ACT, 2nd Edition](#) (Barron's Act (Book Only)) [Cracking the ACT with 6 Practice Tests, 2016 Edition](#) (College Test Preparation)--but try to stick to official ACTs whenever possible. Professional ACT tutors like me will often have a collection of additional real ACT exams at their disposal, compiled from past years' exams that were publicly released, but neither sold at retail nor available for download. Lastly: if anyone from the ACT is reading this, then please give us an updated book ASAP, with new

practice tests in the current format! Test companies should update their preparation guides first, and then start administering the new tests, not the other way around. Otherwise, unaware students will continue to be left in the dark, especially on the new Writing (Essay) section, which is now significantly different than the one described in this 2016 printing of "The Real ACT Prep Guide," which, as of right now, is not fully deserving of that name.

I have been tutoring for the ACT for 10 years. When this new edition of the ACT came out, I bought a copy because all of the parents were asking about it. It was a BIG DISAPPOINTMENT and a bit of a scam on the part of ACT. They made it seem like this was an updated version, but it contains the same exact 5 practice tests that were in the previous edition. The first three of those tests were in the original book. The current ACT test has some changes in the Science and MAJOR changes in the writing (the length of time and form of the prompt are totally different.) BUT this guide includes the old writing prompt style in all five tests and the old science in three of the tests. I do recommend this book for practicing with real tests, but do not use it to practice for the writing! And do the science tests from tests 4 and 5 first before using the first tests. Here is a link to the only truly current ACT test which has the changes to the science and writing on it (It is a free printable PDF!): [...]

Ok, this makes NO sense. As an educational consultant and someone concerned with our economy, I don't get it. There is a brand new ACT book coming out in March of 2016. What was the purpose of re-printing the original book with a new cover five months before the new text is released? And now I can't even find it online? should never have agreed to cover this text. Don't buy it. If you're taking the test in March or April, use the old text if you have it and look up the new essay prompt format online.

I did write to the ACT to find out if this was a new book with the new writing text. They informed me that it was the same book with the new publishers name. I still ordered the book because when my daughter took the text in 2014 this book help her score a 29 on the text. So I will let my son do the five texts in this book and order the new how to write a new killer act essay by Tom Clements. For those of you that are concerned the ACT did tell me that a new book would be out some time this year they just don't have a set date as of yet.

I would give this no stars if possible. I tutor students for the SAT and ACT and have long been awaiting an updated version of the ACT prep guide from the test makers. I was delighted to initially

purchase this book. But to my dismay, when it arrived, it was the same book as the 2009 edition. The ACT has been evolving since 2014 and this book reflects none of the changes. There are no paired passages to practice, which are now found on the the ACT test, the science format is not represented in the same way that the current ACT has evolved to, and more importantly, the new ACT Writing which appeared this fall, is not included in this book. How can you possible put out an update from the ACT test makers that doesn't represent the current test? This is appalling. To simply use thicker pages, but the exact same text that is in the previous edition, for a test that has had finite changes, is unacceptable. The best prep material I can currently find to use with my private clients is in the Barron's 6 ACT Practice Tests, January 2015 edition. Shame on the ACT for putting this second rate edition out. The other reviewers have called this spot on...not worth your purchase.

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