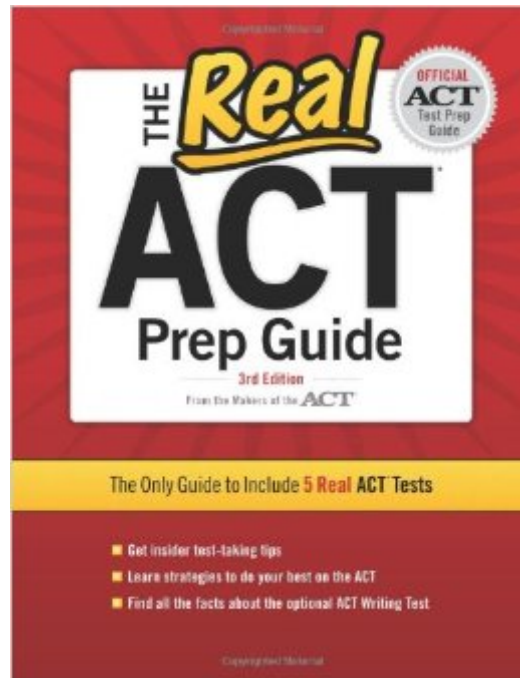


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# The Real ACT, 3rd Edition (Real ACT Prep Guide)



## Synopsis

The Real ACT is the only book with insider test-taking tips and strategy, practice tests, and insight from the makers of the ACT. This comprehensive guide has everything one needs to know about the ACT-test content, structure, and format info! The only guide that includes 5 previously administered, full-length ACT tests written by the actual test maker (including 2 NEW practice tests) ACT content and procedures you'll follow when actually taking the test Valuable information about tuition payment plans All the question types you can expect to find on the ACT Suggestions on how you might approach the questions and Peterson's tried-and-true test-taking strategies and tips

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (216 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,033 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation > ACT](#) #43 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Study Aids](#) #89 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Test Preparation > College & High School](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book is now PAINFULLY out of date. The reading and science sections have changed significantly in the past two years. The ACT needs to step up their game and release up to date materials. Look for books that have a reading section with a paired passage, and science sections with significantly more conflicting viewpoint passages (and six total passages rather than 7). Anything with a release date before 2015 is probably out of date for the current tests.

As one other reviewer wrote, look under "format" and get the book without the CD. I'm surprised at for putting this version so far down the list that it's difficult to find. The CD is pretty useless. The only reason to buy this book is for the 5 ACT practice tests. The introductory material is not helpful. I

tutor both SAT and ACT. I consider the College Board's SAT book extremely useful, not only for the 10 practice tests, but also for the introductory material. When tutoring for ACT, I always use another prep book with this ACT book, because the prep/study information in the Real ACT book is negligible.

The ACT Math and Science sections have gotten substantially harder to finish in time since June 2011, and this book is the ACT's tacit admission that they are indeed making those two sections more difficult to finish from a timing standpoint. Ask anyone who took the Dec. 2012 ACT how Science worked out for them, and whether it felt like tests #1-3 in the Red Book. Tests #1-3 in this book are the same as the old version, but tests #4 and #5 -- the new ones -- try to approximate what the real ACT is now going to feel like. Tests #4 and #5, plus the real ACT packet available for free at your school (also at [...]) are the best indicators of the real thing. Just subtract a point or two from math and science on those two to approximate the "new" math and science feel.

I spent a lot of time researching ACT Prep books for my youngest daughter, and found that - while there are considerable offerings on the market - this consistently got the best reviews. So I went to my local brick-and-mortar bookstore (B&N) and looked at their copy, and decided this would easily be worth the \$17 or so I paid for it, and I'm glad I did. This is well-organized; contains five (5) full-length practice tests; test-taking tips and strategies; etc., and the fact that it's published by the ACT organization - the same organization that produces the test - ensures you get sound advice/tips aligned to the test. My daughter has taken the test twice: once with minimal prep (just to get a feel for the lay of the land), and once after having some group tutoring sessions. The difference: she scored one point higher (going from a 29 to a 30) after several group tutoring sessions, but feels she could do even better - especially with some emphasis on the science and reading sections. So far she believes this is helping her. She's taken several timed practice tests and has done well. She's scheduled for the real thing in about two more weeks, so we'll see how that goes. I'll post an update if this proves to be beneficial for her. In the meantime, if you have a son or daughter that's soon to take the ACT and of the type that learn well from written study guides, I believe you'll find this a worthwhile investment of your money.

Personally, I find this book to be a lot more useful than Barron's ACT 36, 2nd Edition: Aiming for the Perfect Score. However, Barron's is better in certain aspects. For example, The Real ACT Prep Book does not offer course material per say, but instead offers 5 practice tests with a conversion

chart to show you what your ACT score would be. However, Barron's first pages are like a course that teach you how to take the test, read the questions, and do the necessary math. The books work perfectly together, but if you were only going to buy one practice book I would fully recommend The Real ACT Prep Book. After each test there is an explanation of the answers and it is exceptionally use. The best advice I can offer for the ACT is to practice and practice some more. Initially I got a 24 on my ACT with my highest scoring being a 30 in reading; however, before my next test I took 5 practice math tests, 1 reading test, 2 English tests, and 3 science tests. I raised my overall score to a 30 and my highest score was a 34 in reading. My math score raised from a 22 to a 28 simply by learning what the test was looking for.

Badly outdated at this point. No double reading passages, old 7 passage science sections, none of the new math content. Some of the reading passages are more than 10 years old. It really doesn't reflect well on the ACT that they have not updated this, yet are still selling it at full price.

This guide improved my son's score from 22 to 26. It has practice tests and tips to help your student get a better score on their ACT. I recommend it.

Every time my son does the practice test, he scores higher on the next practice test. I am so delighted with the book, and I enjoyed reviewing some concepts myself. This is a fantastic aid for those preparing for the ACT or end-of-course tests as well.

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