

# ACT English Tips- Video Course

There are 5 passages, each with 15 questions

(75 total questions.)

You have 45 minutes which is plenty of time for most students.

The questions are not arranged in order of difficulty.

Imagine you're an editor correcting mistakes. Read the entire passage since there are often comprehension questions at the end.

## K.I.S.S.

Keep It Short and Simple.

Less is best.

When deciding on an answer, usually the one with the least amount of wording is correct.

Stay on topic and never get too wordy or repetitive.

K.I.S.S. = shortest answer  
(least letters or words)

K.I.S.S. = simplest answer

(simplest punctuation and words)

K.I.S.S. = DELETE - if asked to add information it is most likely NO

For example:

A. Quite regularly common

B. Many times, common

C. Frequently common

**D. Common**

There are many questions involving commas.

When in doubt – leave it out.

More often than not the answer will not need a comma.

If you see 3 answer choices with commas and 1 without a comma, it's usually the one without the comma.

Verbs in a sentence or paragraph must all be the same tense:

past, present or future.

Maintain consistency throughout sentences and paragraphs.

If you see hike and bike nearby, choose swim.

If you see hiking and biking nearby, choose swimming.

If you see hiked and biked nearby, choose swam.

In the answer choices if you see a noun next to a noun, the first noun must have an apostrophe to show ownership:

One boy owns a toy-  
boy's toy

Many boys own many toys-  
boys' toys

A semicolon functions just like a period.

It has a complete sentence before it and after it.

**Semicolon ;**

She likes to sing; she is very good.

**Period .**

She likes to sing. She is very good.

**Be specific and descriptive.**

For example:

- A. something
- B. someone else
- C. a wolf**
- D. a large animal

The answer is C.  
Wolf is the most **specific** answer choice.

If the answer choices contain sentences, choose one with a **subject/verb opening**.

Don't begin sentences with an "ing" word.

For example:

- A. Imagining all these...
- B. It being that I imagine...
- C. I imagine that all...**
- D. Imagined by people...

The correct answer is C.  
**I imagine that all...**

## Signal Words

### Similar

therefore

thus

for example

### Contrast

however

yet

although

If you see these types of words, read before and after the signal word to see if the ideas are similar or contrasting.

He enjoyed the concert, **however**, the music was far too loud.

He enjoyed the concert, **therefore**, he attended it again the following night.

Use 2 dashes together OR  
2 commas together.

Bill Williams - owner and founder - is...

Bill Williams, owner and founder, is...

Never use  
"would of" or "could of."  
Use would've or could've for would have and could have.

If you're asked to mentally move a sentence to new locations, draw a box around it for clarity.