Improve Your Vocabulary and Score Higher on the ACT!

Need a break from practice tests and flashcards? ACT Word Games is a fun way to brush up on standardized test vocabulary. By completing a series of challenging games, students learn new words and review old ones, to prepare for the writing and reading sections of the ACT.

ACT Word Games includes more than 500 key test words and a variety of fun vocabulary-building activities:

- Anagram magic squares
- Acrostics
- Crossword puzzles
- Cryptograms
- Word scrambles
- Brainteasers
- Matching-column exercises
- And more!

Master more than 500 key ACT words with a variety of games including:
ACT
WORD GAMES

Michele R. Wells

The content in this book has been reviewed and updated by the LearningExpress Team in 2018.
Michele R. Wells has been a writer and editor of test prep materials for companies such as The Princeton Review and LearningExpress, LLC, since 2001, and volunteers regularly with the Everybody WINS Power Lunch program, a NYC-based literacy program for kids. A senior editor at one of the world’s largest publishing companies, she has more than a decade of experience in nonfiction book and multimedia publishing. Michele holds a bachelor’s degree in dramatic writing and art history, and is pursuing a master’s in film, both from New York University.
Acknowledgments

Jennifer Pollock, editor extraordinaire, conceptualized the idea for this book and deserves a big thank you. Thanks also to Sheryl Posnick, who not only edited but dealt with various obstacles to make sure that this book came together as it should. Additional thanks to Eric Titner, production editor at LearningExpress, who worked to make this book the best it could be.

Andrea Laurencell is in the trenches, teaching vocabulary and test preparation to students every day. Merci to you for reviewing the manuscript, and for your feedback and advice.

And finally, writing two books in six months is difficult. Thanks to my family (Rita Sr., Rita Jr., Cheryl, John, Nathan, Colby, and Blake) for understanding where my priorities had to be this year.
Table of Contents

Introduction........................................................................................................................................ vii

PART I: Understand Basic Vocabulary Secrets

Chapter 1 Know Your Common Prefixes and Suffixes ....... 3
Chapter 2 Learn Root Words ................................................ 11
Chapter 3 Deconstruct and Rebuild................................. 19

PART II: Build an Awesome Vocabulary . . . with Games

Chapter 4 Crossword Puzzles.............................................. 27
Chapter 5 Anagrams.......................................................... 45
Chapter 6 Acrostics .......................................................... 57
Chapter 7 Jumbles............................................................ 65
Chapter 8 Word Searches................................................. 75
Chapter 9 Matching Column Games ................................. 87
Chapter 10 Double-Word Puzzles .................................... 99
Chapter 11 Cryptograms ................................................ 115
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PART III: Set a Foolproof Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 12 Planning and Preparing .............................................. 123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 13 Anxiety-Busting Exercises ............................................ 131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 14 Test-Day Checklist ....................................................... 135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Glossary ........................................................................................................... 137
If you’ve picked up this book, you’re interested in increasing your ACT score. That means you’re already aware of the effect this exam can have on your future, and that’s great. But you’ve also got homework to do, football games to attend, musical instruments and Spanish verbs to practice, chores to do, maybe an after-school job and other responsibilities, and—oh yeah—a social life to maintain. You don’t have time to spend on more stuff related to school, much less exams that are probably months away at this point, right?

But think about it like this: You probably play games of some kind or another, either on your mobile phone, computer, or a game console, several times a week—maybe even every day. Playing those games can increase your online ranking, and maybe even make your friends jealous when you beat their high scores, but playing the games in this book can have a positive effect on your future. They can help you build a killer vocabulary and put yourself on stronger ground for gaining admission to the college of your choice.

Before we get to just how these games can help increase your ACT scores, let’s run through a bit about the test itself, so you’ll know exactly what to expect on test day.
INTRODUCTION

What Is the ACT Exam?

The American College Testing (ACT) assessment is one of two main standardized tests used by admissions teams to evaluate your potential fit as a student at their college or university. The ACT measures what you’ve learned in various academic subjects—see “What Skills Are Tested on the ACT?” for more information. (The other main standardized test is the SAT, which is an aptitude exam designed to measure the verbal and mathematical skills you will need as you progress through your academic career.)

What Is the ACT Used For?

Your high school may use your ACT score to evaluate the way your teachers are performing. They use these scores to decide which areas need improvement within the school as a whole, and which students need additional assistance in specific subject areas.

College admissions teams use your ACT score as part of their evaluation process, to decide if you will be a good addition to the diverse group of students at that school. But that’s not the only thing they look at.

Admissions teams look at individuals, not just at scores and grades. They want well-rounded students, not just those who can churn out perfect tests or straight As. Are you an athlete? Maybe you’re an actor or dancer? How about an artist? Do you do volunteer work, speak another language, or organize events for your school? Make sure you mention all these things on your application, because admissions teams are looking for students who can contribute to the diversity of campus life.

Don’t worry if your GPA isn’t perfect—just be sure to highlight the great work you do in other areas of your life. And with the help of this book, your English, reading, and writing ACT scores are sure to be included in the “things you do well” section!
INTRODUCTION

What Skills Are Tested on the ACT?

The ACT is a national achievement and placement exam that tests your knowledge of key subject areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The optional ACT Plus Writing assessment also includes a 30-minute essay test that evaluates your writing skills.

The English section is made up of 75 multiple-choice questions. The mathematics section comprises 60 questions. The reading and science sections are made up of 40 questions each. The optional writing section consists of a short essay on a particular theme. Overall, the exam takes a little over four hours to complete (with an additional half-hour if you choose to take the ACT Plus Writing assessment).

Who Takes the ACT?

According to the American College Testing Program, Inc., the organization that administers the ACT, approximately 1.6 million students take the ACT every year. But here's a little secret—not all of them prepare for the exam in advance. By using this book, you're giving yourself an edge over the competition!

Where Do I Sign Up for the ACT?

Registration forms and information for the ACT exam can be found online at www.actstudent.org. You can sign up for the ACT online with a credit card or request a paper application, which you can complete and mail in with a check or money order.

When Do I Take the ACT?

The ACT exam is administered six times a year, on Saturday mornings. You can find a current schedule online at www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html. You may take the ACT up to twelve times—but only once
per national test date. Most students take the test twice: once as a high school junior, and once as a senior. According to the American College Testing Program, Inc., among the students who took the ACT more than once, 55 percent increased their composite score on the retest.

Where Do I Take the ACT?

You can take the ACT in one of many national and international testing centers. When you register by mail or at www.actstudent.org, you’ll be given a list of testing locations in the area of your choosing; just pick the one that is most comfortable and convenient for you. It’s also a good idea to do a dry run before the actual test date—figure out how you’ll get to the test site around the same time of day as your test so you aren’t surprised by road closures, construction, train or bus delays, bad online directions, or other things that can make you late (and stress you out) the day of the test.

If there is no ACT exam center within 50 miles of your home, if your religious beliefs prohibit you from taking tests on a Saturday, or if you are homebound or confined, you may request arranged testing. Information on these arrangements can be found at www.actstudent.org regist under “Request arranged testing.”

How Is the ACT Scored?

The first thing that happens after you take the ACT is that your multiple-choice answers are calculated into a score by computer. Points are awarded as follows: For the English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning sections, one point is added for each correct answer (nothing is subtracted for incorrect answers), for a score between 1 and 36. The English, mathematics, and reading tests will also include subscores ranging from 1 to 18. These scores are averaged for a composite score.

If you choose to take the optional writing test, that section will be scored manually by two trained readers. You’ll receive a writing score that falls between 2 and 12 (or 0 if your essay is blank, illegible,
off-topic, not written with a No. 2 pencil, or written in a language other than English), for a combined English and writing score of between 1 and 36, and comments from the essay scorers. Your writing score will have no effect on your composite score.

**How Is My Score Reported?**

You can view your scores online at www.actstudent.org if you have a student account and tested through National or International Testing (see the ACT website for more information). Scores are available online approximately two and a half weeks after you complete the test. If you chose to take the ACT Plus Writing assessment, your writing scores will be posted online approximately two weeks after your multiple-choice scores appear. Score reports are also mailed to your home address three to eight weeks after you complete the test (or after your writing scores have been calculated if you took the ACT Plus Writing assessment).

Your ACT scores will be sent to the colleges or universities you authorize for score reports. You can also opt to have your scores sent to your high school by checking “yes” in the registration section.

**How Does My Score Rate?**

In 2010, the national average ACT composite score was 21. This average score is acceptable for many colleges and universities. Some schools, such as Ivy League universities, typically require a score of at least 29.

The highest possible score on the ACT is 36. Typically, less than one-tenth of one percent of all students who take the ACT receive a score of 36. Keep in mind that your score is just one of the tools used by admissions officers to rate your potential fit for that school.

**What Are the Subscores?**

Subscores on the ACT are broken down into the following categories: usage/mechanics and rhetorical skills for English; pre-algebra/elementary algebra, algebra/geometry, and plane geometry/trigonometry for mathematics; and social studies/sciences and arts/literature for reading. These subscores provide you with greater detail on your performance,
to show you the areas in which you need to improve; however, they are not used for college admissions purposes.

**What’s the Deal with National Rankings?**
Your score report will also include national rankings. These show the percentage of recent high school graduates who took the ACT and scored at or below each of your scores. These rankings are included to give you a sense of your strengths and weaknesses in each of the four general subject areas tested on the ACT, and in each of the seven sub-score sections.

**What If I Didn’t Get the Score I Wanted?**
You can always retest if you don’t do as well as you’d have liked on the ACT—in fact, you can take the exam up to twelve times. But unlike the SAT, which allows you to hide your lowest scores, all your official ACT test scores will appear on the score reports that are sent out to approved colleges and universities.

Now that you know what the exam is, how it is used, and what to expect on test day, let’s get down to what you really want to know—how to use this book to get great results on the ACT.
PART I
UNDERSTAND BASIC VOCABULARY SECRETS
Know Your Common Prefixes and Suffixes

Knowing the meaning of common prefixes and suffixes will help you figure out the definition of many familiar and unfamiliar words on the ACT exam.

What Exactly Are Prefixes and Suffixes?

Prefixes and suffixes are attached to base words to add information and meaning. A prefix is an attachment that comes before a base word or stem. A suffix is an attachment that comes after the existing base word or stem. A stem is the main part of a word—the part that prefixes or suffixes are attached to—but might not actually be a full word by itself.

The word repayment, for example, is made up of the prefix re- (which means again), the stem pay, and the suffix -ment (which means action or process). So with an understanding of suffix, prefix, and stems, you could figure out that the meaning of repayment is the process of paying money back.
**Common Prefixes**
The following are some examples of prefixes you might encounter when studying ACT vocabulary words, along with their meanings.

- *a-, ab-, an-* (apart or without)
- *ad-* (toward or near)
- *ante-* (before)
- *anti-* (against)
- *auto-* (self)
- *bi-* (two)
- *bio-* (life)
- *circum-* (around)
- *co-, com-, con-* (with or together)
- *de-* (away or off)
- *di-, dis-* (not or apart)
- *dys-* (bad or problematic)
- *em-, en-* (restrict or cause)
- *equi-* (equal)
- *ex-* (former)
- *extra-, exo-* (outside of)
- *fore-* (in front of or before)
- *hyper-* (over)
- *hypo-* (under)
- *geo-* (earth)
- *im-, in-* (not)
- *inter-* (between)
- *micro-* (tiny)
- *mis-* (wrong)
- *mono-* (one)
- *multi-* (many)
- *neo-* (new)
- *non-* (not)
- *ob-, oc-, of-, op-* (against, on, over, or toward)
- *omni-* (all)
- *pan-* (all)
- *para-* (beyond)
- *peri-* (around or about)
- *poly-* (many)
- *post-* (after)
- *pre-* (before)
- *pro-* (favoring or for)
- *re-* (again)
- *retro-* (backward)
- *semi-* (half)
- *sub-* (under or below)
- *super-* (exceeding or above)
- *therm-, thermo-* (heat)
- *trans-* (across)
- *tri-* (three)
- *un-* (not)

**Common Suffixes**

- *-able, -ible* (capable or worthy of)
- *-acy* (state or quality)
- *-age* (condition)
- *-al* (act or process of, or pertaining to)
- *-ance, -ence* (state or quality)
- *-ary* (related to)
- *-ate* (become)
- *-dom* (place or state of being)
- *-en* (make or become)
- *-er, -or* (one who)
- *-esque* (like or reminiscent of)
- *-gram, -graph* (written or drawn)
- *-hood* (class)
KNOW YOUR COMMON PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

-ic, -ical (pertaining to)  -oid (resembles)
-iou, -ous (characterized by)  -ory, -tory (relating to)
-ish (having the quality of)  -ous (possessing)
-ive (having the nature of)  -phile (strong love for)
-less (without)  -phobe, -phobia (fear of)
-log, -logue (speech)  -ship (position held)
-logy (the study of)  -y (characterized by)

Derivational Suffixes

There are suffixes that change the meaning of the base word or stem. These are called derivational suffixes (don't worry, you don't need to remember that), and some common examples are:

-able, -ible (capable of being)  -ise, -ize (become)
-ation, -sion, -tion (state of being)  -ism (belief or doctrine)
-ful (notable for)  -ity, -ty (having the quality of)
-fy (make or become)  -ment (condition or result of)
-ify (make or become)  -ness (state of being)
-ily

Derivational suffixes can combine with each other, too, but the spelling may change (as in predictability, which is predict combined with -able and -ity).

Okay, now that you've reviewed some prefixes and suffixes and how they work, let's put that knowledge into action!
Exercise 1

Each word below contains a prefix. Using what you learned, choose the best available definition.

1. microcosm
   a. to make something larger
   b. a sign of fear
   c. a smaller system which is representative of a larger one
   d. a vast expanse of land

2. foreshadow
   a. to darken
   b. to suggest something in advance
   c. to follow
   d. to retaliate

3. engender
   a. to bring into existence; to cause
   b. knowledge
   c. to promise to marry
   d. to grow

4. commingle
   a. to bring forward
   b. to mix or blend
   c. a quick movement
   d. to soften

5. extraordinary
   a. from the past
   b. exceptional or unusual
   c. from above
   d. large
Exercise 2

Each word below contains a suffix. Using what you learned, choose the best available definition.

1. historical
   a. dry
   b. extremely funny
   c. something that belongs to a man
   d. relating to what happened in the past

2. provenance
   a. place or source of origin
   b. a gift
   c. the act of being proper or correct
   d. happiness

3. fiefdom
   a. a type of instrument
   b. unhappiness
   c. a domain controlled by a dominant person or lord
   d. a small area

4. travelogue
   a. a vacation
   b. a language
   c. confrontation
   d. the journal or documentation of a trip

5. humanoid
   a. resembling or having the characteristics of a human
   b. false or fake
   c. a very young person
   d. an alien
Exercise 3

Each word below contains a prefix and a suffix or derivational suffix. Using what you learned, choose the best available definition.

1. decentralize
   a. to cause to be more populated
   b. in the very middle of an area
   c. to move downward
   d. to move away from an established main point

2. monograph
   a. a work of writing on a single subject
   b. a diverse group
   c. a drawing made with many colors
   d. a signature

3. apprehension
   a. to climb
   b. fearful expectation
   c. a course that comes before a meal
   d. the state of being angry

4. nullify
   a. to take apart
   b. to make invalid
   c. to bring together
   d. to make liquid

5. approbation
   a. a decision
   b. restriction
   c. concern
   d. official approval
Answers

Exercise 1
1. c. a smaller system which is representative of a larger one
2. b. to suggest something in advance
3. a. to bring into existence; to cause
4. b. to mix or blend
5. b. exceptional or unusual

Exercise 2
1. d. relating to what happened in the past
2. a. place or source of origin
3. c. domain controlled by a dominant person or lord
4. d. the journal or documentation of a trip
5. a. resembling or having the characteristics of a human

Exercise 3
1. d. move away from an established main point
2. a. work of writing on a single subject
3. b. fearful expectation
4. b. make invalid
5. d. official approval
Now that you know the meanings that prefixes and suffixes bring to vocabulary words, you’re ready to review the most common roots—the base of the words to which prefixes and suffixes are attached. Once you know these, you can guess the meaning of almost any unfamiliar word on the ACT exam.

Root Words

English is made up of words derived from Latin and Greek roots, as well as words from German, French, and other languages. Any familiarity you have with other languages can be an advantage when trying to guess the meaning of a word, because if you can recognize even a small part of it, you’ve improved your chances of figuring out the definition.
### List of Common Root Words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Root Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tr>
<td>acro</td>
<td>top, height, tip</td>
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<td>aer, aero</td>
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**List of Common Root Words (continued)**

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<td>mand</td>
<td>(order)</td>
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<td>(feeling)</td>
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<td>phil</td>
<td>(friend, love)</td>
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<td>pugn, pugna</td>
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<td>(clean)</td>
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<tr>
<td>pyr, pyro</td>
<td>(fire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rid</td>
<td>(laugh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rupt</td>
<td>(burst)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scend</td>
<td>(climb)</td>
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<tr>
<td>sci</td>
<td>(know)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scrib, script</td>
<td>(write)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sect</td>
<td>(cut)</td>
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<tr>
<td>serv</td>
<td>(keep)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sol</td>
<td>(alone, sun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spec, spect, spic</td>
<td>(see)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LEARN ROOT WORDS

sphere (ball)  ter, terr, terra (earth)
spir (breathe)  the, theo (god)
stell (star)  therm, thermo (heat)
techno (skill)  urb (city)
tel, tele, telo (far)  vac (empty)
tele (far away)  verb (word)
temp, tempo (time)  vid, vis (to see)
term, termin (end)

WATCHING FOR WORDS

There’s no way to provide a complete list of all root words that occur in the English language, but the list provided is a great start to figuring out many ACT vocabulary word meanings. As you go through your daily life, keep an eye out for more word roots, and watch for them to reappear in other words. The more you know, the more you can figure out—and the better your vocabulary will be!

Now, let’s try some exercises to put your knowledge of root word meanings to work.

Exercise 1

Using what you learned, choose the best available definition for each word.

1. genuflect
   a. to run
   b. to bend at the knee
   c. to jump
   d. to solve
2. intercept
   a. to make known
   b. to come together
   c. to seize or hold before arrival
   d. to come between

3. concede
   a. to hinder
   b. to return
   c. to display arrogance
   d. to yield or accept as true

4. carnivorous
   a. looking for danger
   b. feeding on animal flesh
   c. seeking out parties or events
   d. excitable

5. inscription
   a. enrollment
   b. the beginning
   c. the writing or dedication on something
   d. a disaster

**Exercise 2**

Using what you learned, fill in the correct letters to complete the word base.

1. An instrument used to measure the pressure of the atmosphere: ___ ___ ___ ___ meter

2. Marine animals that move by expelling water from a tube under the head: ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ pod
3. Moving in a direction away from a center or axis:
   __ __ __ __ ifugal

4. The study of the operation of aircrafts: __ __ __ __ nautics

5. The act of speaking words that are to be written or transcribed:
   __ __ __ __ ation

6. To make something move in a way that resembles lifelike action:
   __ __ __ __ ate

7. Something done out of love for or goodwill toward others:
   __ __ __ __ anthropy

8. To cut into: in __ __ __ __

9. The process of learning: __ __ __ __ tion

10. A particular concept or understanding of beauty:
    __ __ __ __ __ etics
Answers

Exercise 1
1. b. to bend at the knee
2. c. to seize or hold before arrival
3. d. to yield or accept as true
4. b. feeding on animal flesh
5. c. the writing or dedication on something

Exercise 2

1. b a r o meter
2. c e p h a l o pod
3. c e n t r ifugal
4. a e r o nautics
5. d i c t ation
6. a n i m ate
7. p h i l anthropy
8. in c i s e
9. c o g n ition
10. a e s t h etics
In Chapter 1, you learned the meanings of common prefixes and suffixes. In Chapter 2, you learned the meanings of common base words. Now, it’s time to put this knowledge to use.

Let’s practice before moving on to the more complex vocabulary needed to play the games in the next section of the book, and on the ACT exam. In the following exercises, put it all together by combining base words with prefixes and suffixes to create new words.
**Exercise 1**

Match the word parts from column A to the word parts in column B to create words that match the definitions that follow. Some words will be used more than once.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>anti</td>
<td>act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>con</td>
<td>cede</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de</td>
<td>ceed</td>
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<tr>
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<td>ceive</td>
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<td>cept</td>
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<td>mis</td>
<td>dict</td>
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<td>non</td>
<td>flect</td>
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<td>pre</td>
<td>mand</td>
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<tr>
<td>re</td>
<td>serve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>un</td>
<td>spect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. To keep or store; protect. _____________
2. To respond or change due to a stimulus. _____________
3. To go over and above. _____________
4. To charge with an offense. _____________
5. To keep safe; to avoid wasteful use of. _____________
6. To trick; to be false. _____________
7. To order or send back; to return to custody. _____________
8. An idea. _____________
9. Special regard or esteem. _____________
10. To foretell or declare in advance. _____________
11. To cause to begin; to form. _____________
12. A command or principle intended as a general course of action. _____________
13. To be worthy of something. _____________
14. To turn aside. _____________
15. To acquire or come into possession. _____________
16. To ask with authority. _____________
17. With the exclusion of. ______________
18. To view critically or closely. ______________
19. To keep back or hold. ______________
20. To surpass; to go ahead or in front of. ______________

**Exercise 2**

Match the word parts from column A to the word parts in column B to create words that match the definitions that follow. Some words will be used more than once. An asterisk (*) denotes that two entries from column B are used (don’t forget to drop the silent e if necessary).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>auto</td>
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<tr>
<td>bio</td>
<td>ary</td>
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<td>ic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lumin</td>
<td>graph</td>
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<tr>
<td>migr</td>
<td>logy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>narr</td>
<td>ous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opt</td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phon</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. An instrument that measures the movement of the heart. ______________
2. Emitting or reflecting light. ______________
3. The act of moving from one country or region to another. ______________

*4. Of or relating to a signature. ______________
5. One who is sworn to give a verdict in a dispute. ______________
6. The study of living organisms. ______________
7. To tell a story in detail. ______________
8. Of or relating to the eye. ______________
9. Of or relating to sound. ______________
Exercise 3
Insert definitions for the following words based on your knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and base word meanings.

1. bibliomania: ________________________________
2. enumerate: ________________________________
3. vacuous: _________________________________
4. temporal: _________________________________
5. autobiographic: __________________________
6. paternally: ______________________________
7. chromatograph: __________________________
8. bioavailability: __________________________
9. amphibious: ______________________________
10. anthropologic: ____________________________
Answers

Exercise 1
1. preserve
2. react
3. exceed
4. indict
5. conserve
6. deceive
7. remand
8. concept
9. respect
10. predict
11. conceive
12. precept
13. deserve
14. deflect
15. receive
16. demand
17. except
18. inspect
19. reserve
20. precede

Exercise 2
1. cardiograph
2. luminous
3. migration
4. autographic
5. juror
6. biology
7. narrate
8. optic
9. phonic
10. biography
11. cardiology
12. jury
13. kinetic
14. luminance
15. narrator
16. luminary
17. phony
18. autograph
19. narration
20. migrate

Exercise 3
Answers will vary; possible answers are provided.
1. bibliomania: extreme love or passion for books
2. enumerate: to determine the number of
3. vacuous: emptied; lacking content
4. temporal: relating to time
5. autobiographic: about one’s self
6. paternally: relating to a father
7. chromatograph: an instrument for analyzing color
8. bioavailability: the rate at which a substance is absorbed into an organism
9. amphibious: able to exist on land and in water
10. anthropologic: relating to study of humans
PART II

Build an Awesome Vocabulary . . . with Games
In this chapter, you’ll put what you’ve learned in Part I to use with these fun vocabulary building crossword puzzles.

Instructions

Read the clues below, then solve for each by filling in the squares with letters to form ACT vocabulary words. The answers will read from left to right, or from top to bottom.

If you need help, a list containing all the words used in this chapter can be found on page 38. Scan the list to see if you can identify the word you’re looking for.

If you’re completely stumped, give yourself a break by turning to another game or doing something else for a while. You can always come back and finish another time.

Answers to all of the puzzles can be found at the end of the chapter, but don’t peek until you’ve given each game your very best shot!
Crossword Puzzle #1
If you get stuck, take a look at the word list at the end of the chapter to see if you can find the word to match the definition in the clue.

Across
2. joyous
4. merry
6. warm and friendly
7. jolly; full of good humor
9. extremely happy; euphoric
10. thrilled; overjoyed
11. carefree; sociable
15. sociable
17. friendly
18. confident; optimistic
19. lively; bubbly
20. compatible

Down
1. extremely joyful
3. thrilling
5. cheerful
8. looking for or expecting good things to happen
12. lively
13. lighthearted; high-spirited
14. agreeable
16. joyful enthusiasm
Crossword Puzzle #2

If you get stuck, take a look at the word list at the end of the chapter to see if you can find the word to match the definition in the clue.

Across
1. compensation for a professional service
5. something that is subordinate or supplemental
8. having necessary skills, experience, or knowledge
10. conformity
12. limit or restriction
13. authorization to sell a particular product or service
14. conscientiousness; perseverance
15. all-inclusive
16. speed up a process
17. make easier; help
18. worthy of imitation

Down
2. hard-working; diligent
3. workable; able to grow
4. relating to an office or position; one who holds such a position
6. circulate; cause to become widely known
7. time spent as a beginner, learning a trade or career from an expert
9. in a position of less power or authority; less important
11. obstruction by insistence on unnecessary procedures or regulations
18. displaying initiative, daring, and readiness to take on new projects
19. profitable
Crossword Puzzle #3

If you get stuck, take a look at the word list at the end of the chapter to see if you can find the word to match the definition in the clue.

Across
5. active opposition or dislike
11. scathing; venomous
12. resentment or hostility; feeling of ill will
16. angry feeling of dislike or hatred
18. damaging
19. brief or direct in a way that may seem rude

Down
1. ill-tempered; cranky
2. blatant; conspicuous and offensive outcry
3. characterized by harsh or angry words
4. aggressively conceited and presumptuous
6. condition of being well-known for something bad
7. showing strong, angry feelings
8. carelessly or foolishly wasting money or time
9. deserving of strong criticism
10. someone who praises powerful people to get approval
12. unwarranted pride; superiority
13. express regret
14. long, angry speech
15. explosive
17. vengeful anger
Crossword Puzzle #4

If you get stuck, take a look at the word list at the end of the chapter to see if you can find the word to match the definition in the clue.

Across
4. unnecessary or unwarranted
10. declaration or assertion of truth
11. of or relating to letters and letter-writing
13. enthusiastic proponent of a belief or idea; committed to a political party
14. decline; decrease
15. current holder of a particular office
17. most essential part
18. unintelligent or stupid
19. official reprimand or condemnation
20. act of being reserved or restrained; reluctant to talk or draw attention

Down
1. undecided; unclear
2. requiring much physical effort
3. increase or enlarge
5. formally give up or no longer accept something
6. easily influenced; changeable
7. too elaborate; exaggerated
8. opinions that are controversial or unorthodox
9. having or showing qualities of an adult at a young age
12. not easily penetrated; not permitting passage (especially of a liquid)
16. fickle; changing on a whim
Crossword Puzzle #5

If you get stuck, take a look at the word list at the end of the chapter to see if you can find the word to match the definition in the clue.

Across
1. make worse  
3. lacking serious thought or intelligence  
4. make lower or less important  
11. wrong  
12. without attention for detail; not thorough  
13. placing or keeping away from people  
14. sudden, disastrous collapse or downfall  
15. exact copy or reproduction  
17. take the place of; serve as a substitute for  
18. official permission or approval

Down
2. harsh; aggressively ferocious  
4. fix or correct  
5. based on theory or hypothesis rather than practical knowledge  
6. not straightforward; dishonest or sneaky  
7. opinions that are controversial or unorthodox  
8. faultless; perfect  
9. quirk or unique trait  
10. all alike or similar  
16. excessively elaborate or showy; flowery
Crossword Puzzle #6

If you get stuck, take a look at the word list at the end of the chapter to see if you can find the word to match the definition in the clue.

Across
6. entire series or range
7. cause to do or act
8. kind; dutiful
12. excessive intolerance of opposing views
14. foreshadowing evil; foreboding
15. correct, usually in a gentle way
16. ruined the beauty or perfection of
18. impose or collect; seize

Down
1. acceptable reason or excuse for doing something
2. present everywhere
3. having good judgment; showing insight and understanding
4. pointless; silly
5. make beautiful or elegant with ornamentation
8. not well-known
9. act superior toward
10. extremely wicked; reprehensible
11. culminating or highest point
12. exact copy or reproduction
13. take care of; help grow, develop, or succeed
17. substitution of an inoffensive term to replace a harsher or more distasteful one
Crossword Puzzle #7

If you get stuck, take a look at the word list at the end of the chapter to see if you can find the word to match the definition in the clue.

Across
5. lacking in harmony or compatibility
9. fatigue; feeling abnormal drowsiness or weariness
10. of or related to the countryside and farming
12. original work or standard used as an example for others
14. rebellious
16. shrewdness; craftiness

18. easy or simple method; appropriate for a particular circumstance
19. go over a limit; violate

Down
1. equivalent in value, effect, or significance
2. multicolored
3. future generations; descendents
4. swing or move back and forth
6. stealthy or secret
7. careful to consider all feelings and consequences; prudent
8. contemplate; reflect on or remember something
11. inconsistency; conflicting facts or claims
13. disprove
15. restrict; cut short
17. resourceful, clever
19. fearful
Crossword Puzzle #8

If you get stuck, take a look at the word list at the end of the chapter to see if you can find the word to match the definition in the clue.

Across
3. (1) not letting light through; (2) difficult to understand or explain
4. (1) prove that someone is not guilty; (2) show that something is true
8. difficult or unpleasant circumstances; being careful, strict, or exact
10. ridicule; show contempt for
11. (1) prominent or brilliant person; (2) body that gives light
12. disregard; show scorn or contempt
13. body of voters with shared interests, identity, or goals
15. someone who tries to gain advantage through a situation
17. able to perceive small differences in similar things
18. very small in size or amount
19. dull; boring
20. including every possible element; comprehensive; complete

Down
1. confusion or disorder
2. imitate or copy
5. moral soundness
6. self-satisfaction; contentment
7. unchanging; stationary
9. capable of being bought; corrupt through bribery
14. restrict; cut short
16. willing to obey someone else
Crossword Puzzle #9

If you get stuck, take a look at the word list at the end of the chapter to see if you can find the word to match the definition in the clue.

Across
3. increase or heighten
8. deceptive; pretending to be good or virtuous
10. looking for or expecting bad things to happen
11. inactive; not changing or progressing
14. accepted, done, or happening over a large area
16. similar or equivalent; showing likeness
17. unfavorable or oppositional conditions or events
19. doubtful

Down
1. rising to a great height
2. act of reducing or breaking down
4. prove the truth of something
5. motivate; provoke or stir up
6. detestable
7. humor
9. unable to move
12. harshly critical
13. state of being unconscious, unaware, or forgotten
15. take or bring back
17. give notice; tell
18. of or relating to earth or land
Crossword Puzzle #10

If you get stuck, take a look at the word list at the end of the chapter to see if you can find the word to match the definition in the clue.

Across
3. boring or dull; slow or awkward because of weight or size
6. prevent something from happening
8. kiss
10. wanting to appear more successful or important than one really is
12. clumsy or inexpert
14. misrepresent or give a false impression
15. become less strong or intense
16. unwilling; reluctant
17. abundant

Down
1. without hope
2. wheedle; coax; persuade
3. ancestor
4. easily affected or influenced
5. of or related to the sense of smell
6. large amount
7. unable to be corrected through punishment
9. remote or removed; standoffish
11. concerned with giving importance to possessions
13. wipe out
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CROSSWORD PUZZLES

justification  opportunistic  reprehensible  terrestrial
laborious  optimistic  reprove  terse
lament  oscillate  reticence  theoretical
lethargic  osculate  retract  tirade
levity  partisan  rife  transgress
levy  patronize  rigor  tremulous
loath  pessimism  ruminate  truculent
lofty  ponderous  sanction  turmoil
lucrative  posterity  sanguine  ubiquitous
luminous  preclude  scanty  vacuous
malleable  precocious  seclusion  variegated
marred  pretentious  stagnant  vehement
materialism  prevalent  static  venal
mirthful  prodigal  submissive  viable
notoriety  profusion  subordinate  vindicate
nurture  progenitor  subside  vitriolic
obliterate  prototype  subsidiary  vituperative
oblivion  qualified  substantiate  vivacious
obscure  quintessence  supplant  vociferous
obtuse  rancor  surreptitious  volatile
official  rapturous  susceptible  wrath
officious  rectify  sycophant  zenith
olfactory  refute  tantamount 
### Answers

#### Crossword Puzzle #1

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#### Crossword Puzzle #2

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<td>19.</td>
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**Crossword Puzzle #3**

**Across**
- 5. antagonism
- 11. vituperative
- 12. animosity
- 16. rancor
- 18. detrimental
- 19. terse

**Down**
- 1. cantankerous
- 2. vociferous
- 3. vitriolic
- 4. bumptious
- 6. notoriety
- 7. vehement
- 8. prodigal
- 9. reprehensible
- 10. sycophant
- 12. arrogance
- 13. lament
- 14. tirade
- 15. volatile
- 17. wrath

**Crossword Puzzle #4**

**Across**
- 4. gratuitous
- 10. affirmation
- 11. epistolary
- 13. partisan
- 14. diminution
- 15. incumbent
- 17. quintessence
- 18. obtuse
- 19. censure
- 20. reticence

**Down**
- 1. ambivalent
- 2. laborious
- 3. augment
- 5. renounce
- 6. malleable
- 7. bombastic
- 8. tenets
- 9. precocious
- 12. impermeable
- 16. capricious
CROSSWORD PUZZLES

Crossword Puzzle #5

Across
1. exacerbate
3. vacuous
4. relegate
11. erroneous
12. cursory
13. seclusion
14. debacle
15. facsimile
17. supplant
18. sanction

Down
2. truculent
4. rectify
5. theoretical
6. devious
7. heresy
8. impeccable
9. idiosyncrasy
10. homogeneous
16. florid

Crossword Puzzle #6

Across
6. gamut
7. induce
8. officious
12. fanaticism
14. ominous
15. reprove
16. marred
18. levy

Down
1. justification
2. ubiquitous
3. discerning
4. inane
5. embellish
8. obscure
9. patronize
10. heinous
11. zenith
12. facsimile
13. nurture
17. euphemism
Crossword Puzzle #7

Across
5. incongruous
9. lethargic
10. bucolic
12. prototype
14. insurgent
16. guile
18. expedient
19. transgress

Down
1. tantamount
2. variegated
3. posterity
4. oscillate
6. surreptitious
7. circumspect
8. ruminate
11. discrepancy
13. refute
15. curtail
17. ingenious
19. tremulous

Crossword Puzzle #8

Across
3. opaque
4. vindicate
8. rigor
10. deride
11. luminary
12. flout
13. constituency
15. opportunist
17. discriminating
18. scanty
19. tedious
20. exhaustive

Down
1. turmoil
2. emulate
5. integrity
6. complacency
7. static
9. venal
14. curtail
16. submissive
Crossword Puzzle #9

Across
3. enhance
8. hypocritical
10. pessimism
11. stagnant
14. prevalent
16. analogous
17. adversity
19. dubious

Down
1. lofty
2. degradation
4. substantiate
5. incite
6. abominable
7. levity
9. inert
12. censorious
13. oblivion
15. retract
17. apprise
18. terrestrial

Crossword Puzzle #10

Across
3. ponderous
6. preclude
8. osculate
10. pretentious
12. inept
14. belie
15. subside
16. loath
17. rife

Down
1. despondent
2. cajole
3. progenitor
4. susceptible
5. olfactory
6. profusion
7. incorrigible
9. aloof
11. materialism
13. obliterate
In this chapter, you will deconstruct ACT vocabulary words to find at least 10 new words hidden inside of each. If any of these vocabulary words are unfamiliar, be sure to look them up in the glossary at the back of the book.

Instructions

Rearrange the letters in each word below to spell as many new words as you can. Each word must be made up of a minimum of three letters—one- and two-letter words do not count. Try to find at least 10 words for each ACT vocabulary word before moving on to the next one. For an additional challenge, set a timer or stopwatch for 10 minutes. See how many words you can find before time is up!

Sample words can be found at the end of the chapter. If you’re not familiar with some of the words you find in the answer key, look them up to supercharge your word power!
Anagram Puzzle #1

**scrupulous**
(Hint: there are at least 90 words to be made from scrupulous.)

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_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________

Anagram Puzzle #2

**venial**
(Hint: there are at least 50 words to be made from venial.)

_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
Anagram Puzzle #3

**negate**
(Hint: there are at least 30 words to be made from negate.)

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_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
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_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________

Anagram Puzzle #4

**callous**
(Hint: there are at least 30 words to be made from callous.)

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_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
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_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
Anagram Puzzle #5

devious
(Hint: there are at least 40 words to be made from devious.)

_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________

Anagram Puzzle #6

marred
(Hint: there are at least 30 words to be made from marred.)

_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
ANAGRAMS

Anagram Puzzle #7

verbose
(Hint: there are at least 40 words to be made from verbose.)

_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________

Anagram Puzzle #8

lavish
(Hint: there are at least 25 words to be made from lavish.)

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_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
Anagram Puzzle #9

notoriety
(Hint: there are at least 100 words to be made from notoriety.)

_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________

Anagram Puzzle #10

laconic
(Hint: there are at least 40 words to be made from laconic.)

_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
_________________________ ___________________________
**Answers**

**Anagram Puzzle #1**

clop  curs  pul  sop

clops  cusp  puls  sops

col  cusps  purl  sorus

cols  cuss  purls  sou

cop  locus  pus  soul

cops  lop  puss  souls

cor  lops  roc  soup

corps  loss  rocs  soups

corpus  loup  roup  sour

cors  loups  roups  sours

coup  lour  scop  sous

coups  lupus  scops  spur

crop  oculus  scour  spurs

crops  ops  scours  sulcus

cross  opus  scup  sup

croup  ors  scups  sups

croups  our  slop  surplus

cru  ours  slops  upcurl

crus  plus  slur  upcurls

cup  pol  slurp  ups

cuprous  pols  slurps  urus

cups  pour  slurs  usurp

cur  pours  sol  usurps

curl  pro  sols  solus

curls  pros  solus
**Anagram Puzzle #2**

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Anagram Puzzle #4

all   cauls   culls   sac
alls  coal    lac    sal
also  coals   local  salol
call  col     locals scull
calls cola    locus  sol
callus colas  oca    sou
calo  cols    olla   soul
caul  cull    ollas

Anagram Puzzle #5

dev   doves   ouds   vids
die   due    side   vie
dies dues    sod   vied
dis   dui    sou    vies
dive  duo    sue    vis
dives duos   sued  vise
doe   eds    use   vised
does  ides   used  void
dos   ids    vid   voids
dose  ode    vide  voids
douse  odes  video  voids
dove  oud    videos

Anagram Puzzle #6

are    derm   mad    ram
arm    derma  made   rare
armed  dram   mae    read
dam    dream  mar    ream
dame   drear  mare   rear
dare   ear    mead   rearm
darer  era    med    red
dear   err    rad    rem
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Anagram Puzzle #10

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<td>lain</td>
<td>noil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>calo</td>
<td>cola</td>
<td>lin</td>
<td>oca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>can</td>
<td>colic</td>
<td>linac</td>
<td>oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ciao</td>
<td>con</td>
<td>lino</td>
<td>oilcan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clan</td>
<td>conic</td>
<td>lion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In this chapter, you will use your knowledge of an ACT vocabulary word’s meaning to create a fun acrostic poem. This activity will also help you remember the spelling of each vocabulary word by breaking it down to create a poem.

**Instructions**

An acrostic poem begins with a word as its subject. The word is written vertically from top to bottom, and each line of the poem begins with a different letter from the subject word. Although you can make this poem rhyme if you like, rhyming is not necessary in an acrostic. In fact, lines could be made up of just one word.

The following is an example of an acrostic using the word *school*:

- **S** tudying hard in each of our subjects
- **C** lasses can be easy or hard, fun, or tedious
- **H** ow will we get all this homework done?
- **O** ur teachers guide us through lectures and assignments
- **O** ften we wait until the last minute to cram
- **L** earning what we need to know for the future
Notice that each line in the acrostic has something to do with the subject word, school. When completing the following acrostics, make sure that each line refers back to the subject word. This will help you to remember its meaning when you’re taking the ACT exam.

There are no right or wrong answers for this game, so be as clever, creative, or outlandish as you like. Write whatever helps you remember the definition the best—and have fun!

**Acrostic #1: SINUOUS**

Something that is sinuous curves in and out and winds or bends. (Example: The stream took a sinuous path through the woods.)

S ____________________________________________
I ____________________________________________
N ____________________________________________
U ____________________________________________
O ____________________________________________
U ____________________________________________
S ____________________________________________

**Acrostic #2: VILIFY**

To vilify is to say or write harsh, critical things about someone. (Example: The opposition did not just disagree with the politician; they tried to vilify him in the media.)

V ____________________________________________
I ____________________________________________
L ____________________________________________
I ____________________________________________
F ____________________________________________
Y ____________________________________________
Acrostic #3: LOATHE

To loathe is to show great dislike or disgust.
(Example: He could tell from the look on my face when he served it that I loathe broccoli.)

L ____________________________
O ____________________________
A ____________________________
T ____________________________
H ____________________________
E ____________________________

Acrostic #4: BLATANT

Something that is blatant is obvious.
(Example: I didn’t mind that she was late; what bothered me was that her excuse was a blatant lie.)

B ____________________________
L ____________________________
A ____________________________
T ____________________________
A ____________________________
N ____________________________
T ____________________________
Acrostic #5: APATHY

Apathy is a lack of energy or interest.
(Example: Her apathy toward sports is a direct result of having to sit through endless football games when she was younger.)

A ___________________________ P ___________________________
A ___________________________ A ___________________________
T ___________________________ H ___________________________
Y ___________________________
Acrostic #7: EXALT

To exalt is to glorify or praise someone or something.
(Example: She always goes out of her way to exalt the flavor of a home-made meal.)

E __________________________________________________
X __________________________________________________
A __________________________________________________
L __________________________________________________
T __________________________________________________

Acrostic #8: PALPABLE

Something that is palpable can be easily perceived or felt.
(Example: When her rival walked into the room, the tension was palpable.)

P __________________________________________________
A __________________________________________________
L __________________________________________________
P __________________________________________________
A __________________________________________________
B __________________________________________________
L __________________________________________________
E __________________________________________________
Acrostic #9: IMPEDE

To impede is to hinder or get in the way.
(Example: Lack of strong leadership will really impede our progress with this project.)

I ____________________________
M ____________________________
P ____________________________
E ____________________________
D ____________________________
E ____________________________

Acrostic #10: FERVOR

Fervor refers to extreme ardor or excitement.
(Example: The crowd clapped politely for the opening act, but worked themselves up to a fervor when the star stepped out on stage.)

F ____________________________
E ____________________________
R ____________________________
V ____________________________
O ____________________________
R ____________________________
Acrostics

Answers

Answers in this chapter will vary; a sample answer is below.

**Acrostic #1:**

- S  snakelike and winding
- I  indirect and meandering
- N  naturally curving
- U  undulating
- O  openly circuitous
- U  upwardly winding
- S  slowly spiraling
In this chapter, you will learn to spell ACT words by rearranging the letters to discover vocabulary words. You should find it easier to remember the definitions of these words because they are linked by common subjects.

Instructions

Unscramble the words in each jumble by placing one letter in each box to spell ACT vocabulary words.

If you need help, a list containing all the ACT words used in this book can be found on page 137. Scan the list to see if you can identify the word(s) you’re looking for. If you’re completely stumped, give yourself a break by turning to another game or doing something else for a while. You can always come back and finish at another time.

Answers to all of the puzzles can be found at the end of the chapter, but don’t peek until you’ve given each game your very best shot!
Jumble #1: Cold, Hard Cash

This jumble is made up of words that are used when talking about money—saving, spending, or even wasting.

FLAGTYIRU
SERMILY
CETIPANT
TRESYPPIRO
QANUREDS
CUSPEIOOUNIM

Jumble #2: Let’s Get Along

This jumble is made up of words that can be used when trying to make the best of a situation.

COYCILANITRO
PEAPEAS
FEERENCED
RATIOELAME
ENSONSUSC
LEORECINC
Jumble #3: Nighty-Night

The words in this game are ones you’d hear in the evening or nighttime hours.

**ARCTLEGHIH**

**ULAOCCTNNR**

**ACOLHYN**

**EOSPER**

**ALQRIUTN**

**ENWA**

Jumble #4: Past Tense

These words describe things that are going . . . going . . . gone.

**CACHIRA**

**OETSOELB**

**ONSCMNARHAI**

**EIVRMALP**

**IGSEETV**

**TRAFICTA**
Jumble #5: Know-It-All

These words describe those who are recognized for being wise.

AOGCUSSAI
MNENTEI
AYRMINUL
ASENTPI
PPSRIOSCUCIAE
BERELAVNE

Jumble #6: Mangia!

This game comprises words that you might hear when talking about eating and drinking.

MIEIBB
SLUTOGUONT
IULOBUBS
AMFISH
AGONFRIG
TESOABUSMI
Jumble #7: Enough Already!

You might use these words to describe something that’s over the top.

SOBABITCM
IEFFVUES
NOEASIDRG
NOTUTTIESASO
LIDROF
SESRULUOFPU

Jumble #8: Too Cool for School

The answers below are words you might hear while you’re in the classroom.

DICTIACD
DIEMRELA
RUDEITE
METO
BIRDAGE
REELCARB
Jumble #9: Puttin’ on the Ritz

When you’re showing how sophisticated you are, you might use these words.

OLOOTMAPNICS

EELIT

ETELNEG

SLABE

COURDEM

SPURETENTIO
Jumble #10: Don’t Be That Person

You wouldn’t want the words in this jumble used to describe you!

BGTRAGAR

QUBURES

RUSHLICH

RETES

RUNCUTLET

MENUTIPD
Answers

**Jumble #1: Cold, Hard Cash**
- FLAGTYIRU  
  - FRUGALITY
- SERMILY  
  - MISERLY
- CETIPANT  
  - PITTANCE
- TRESYPPIRO  
  - PROSPERITY
- QANUREDS  
  - SQUANDER
- CUSPEIOUNIM  
  - IMPECUIOUS

**Jumble #2: Can’t We All Just Get Along?**
- COYCILANITRO  
  - CONCILIATORY
- PEAPEAS  
  - APPEASE
- FEERENCED  
  - DEFFERENCE
- RATIOELAME  
  - AMELIORATE
- ENSONSUSC  
  - CONSENTUS
- LEORECINC  
  - RECONCILE

**Jumble #3: Nighty-Night**
- ARCTLEGIH  
  - LETHARGIC
- ULAOCTNNR  
  - NOCTURNAL
- ACOLHYN  
  - HALCYON
- EOSPER  
  - REPOSE
- ALQRIUTN  
  - TRANQUIL
- ENWA  
  - WANE

**Jumble #4: Past Tense**
- CACHIRA  
  - ARCHIAIC
- OETSOELB  
  - OBSOLETE
- ONSCMNARHAI  
  - ANACHRONISM
- EIVRMALP  
  - PRIMEVAL
- IGSEETV  
  - VESTIGE
- TRAFICTA  
  - ARTIFACT
Jumble #5: Know-It-All

AOGCUSSAI  SAGACIOUS
MONENTEI  EMINENT
AYRMINUL  LUMINARY
ASENTPJ  SAPIENT
PPSRIOSCUJIE  PERSPICACIOUS
BERELAVNE  VENERABLE

Jumble #6: Mangia!

MIEIBB  IMBIBE
SLUTOGUONT  GLUTTONOUS
IUOBUBS  BIBULOUS
AMFISH  FAMISH
AGONFRIG  FORAGING
Tesoabusmi  ABSTEMIOUS

Jumble #7: Enough Already!

SOBABITCM  BOMBASTIC
IEFVUES  EFFUSIVE
NOEASIDRG  GRANDIOSE
NOTTIESASO  OSTENTATIOUS
LIDROF  FLORID
SESRULUOFPU  SUPERFLUOUS

Jumble #8: Too Cool for School

DICTIACD  DIDACTIC
DIEMRELA  REMEDIAL
RUDEITE  ERUDITE
METO  TOME
BIRDAGE  ABRIDGE
REELCARB  CEREBRAL
Jumbles

Jumble #9: Puttin’ on the Ritz

OLOOTMAPNICS  COSMOPOLITAN
EELIT  ELITE
ETELNEG  GENTEEL
SLABE  BLASE
COURDEM  DECORUM
SPURETENTIO  PRETENTIOUS

Jumble #10: Don’t Be That Guy

BGTRAGAR  BRAGGART
QUBURES  BRUSQUE
RUSHLICH  CHURLISH
ETERS  TERSE
RUNCUTLET  TRUCULENT
MENUTIPD  IMPUDENT
In this chapter, you will reinforce your ability to recognize ACT vocabulary words by finding them in the following word search puzzles.

Instructions

Each word on the right side of the game is hidden somewhere within the letters on the left side. Words will be found exactly as they are spelled, but may be written left to right, right to left, up and down, or diagonally.

Answers are found at the end of the chapter. Be sure to look up any unfamiliar words in the glossary at the back of the book, because it’s not enough to know how the words are spelled—you will need to know their meanings, as well, when you take the ACT exam!
WORD SEARCHES

Word Search Game #1

SAIELBACTCARTNCY
DLFEMOSNIWLCARD
UJRQHZPKCTTI
GYKMUKHCWXTF
WAOTMZKBCGE
WKDRUXJBPNPAARE
BCEELKUDSXNGIP
GPLYWJMXFECOU
LRTILULAIRUND
TANOMALOUSCYIUW
IBRFPMUJUCHNTO
WIRNBCYTVSVSBLZ
QMDCNIGHCTEMREH
DLOMUNDANEXRWMR
YDPABDICATEKKWC

CHICANERY
TRACTABLE
GARRULOUS
ABDICATE
WINSOME
MUNDANE
PERFIDY
HERMETIC
ANOMALOUS
CRITERION

Word Search Game #2

AXABFFDFYVDEQWS
STGTVCZEGIJJMTO
CAPWNGZMAGPVASS
VLHTESTIAGESWCI
LLKEEGERKXHN
DENOUNCETSTQRO
MVDHQHCTKUNQHMD
SIZFSVOASQIKSSE
AAJNUDHRHSIMAFH
DTTFRLIJTXTAGLB
SEVBKSTUQJFYI
EICYNIAVSVSJOC
LGITYVSYKGRJS
JRNVUETFVLWEU
NSMPELOGMATICBI

DENOUNCE
ALLEVIATE
BRUSQUE
SATURATE
VESTIGE
INTREPID
FAMISH
HEDONIST
COHESIVE
DOGOMATIC
Word Search Game #3

N N I J L Z Q A H G C S D F C
K S P N B X Z N O Q W C Z A E
V N Y T I C I L P U D H K N S
E R O B T J Y Y V A P I D G S
P B K F Q T H E I U K S Z I X
U S D I B H M S M U V M C N X
Z T N L N D R U T C A D D E C
W L E Z Z C E R C J B Z T B S
P Q A N V I I T A J J A L D X
M X U N A M I S X X T U A I N
W F D P G C O B I N M C I Q G
E L V B B U I A E V P M V F Z
M H H P F Z I T X A E X O Z F
P Y K E P A O D Y Y Q Q J X N
E A O O N P E S T N V Y N N Y

Word Search Game #4

J B Z D F A J L E Y W F X T G
R L Z O E N R R O B J T D J E
D S M E S I E C U P C J E J O
X X A N M Y F G N I R P C B H
G Q L G W O X I T T P P O B D
B N I J A F T O S P O L R M X
Y W C M D C X I U S I L U P Y
F K I B M I I F P H O P M A D
I N O Y U L R O T E B V P N L
W A U Q U E H H U X O S W A U
W V S J B E V K Q S Q S Z C R
V E O Z T N T N E C S A N E V
C R H P U H X H S F V V B A G
B Y A V X O Q S R Z I Q M C I
C I F I L O R P S W K U F U R

SCHISM
TENACITY
VAPID
POTENTATE
JOVIAL
ABSTRUSE
INCISIVE
BENIGN
Languid
Duplicity
KNAVERY
PROLIFIC
SOsIFIED
SAGACIOUS
NASCENT
QUIXOTIC
PANACEA
DECORUM
MALICIOUS
EPITOME
Word Search Game #5

BSKDHSLRUHCZSB
SZEWPSZESULCERNF
TWXYAXUEMJWYIQT
TAVISINQQQGYIFXR
ZWFCPDTJJTOHKLL
YKQVAQOINUZDQT
FNICKCLVNVUZMOEB
CIBRECAAZYBMSG
XRPRLXRHDIIQPBRY
TOPLPABCYYBDSF
UKGECXSRPYTQSL
IBDDOYBPIVLISQ
XRDNOMISRAPPMMK
CIPSZKSSNMMGZNH
BGNOLZAYISQILE

EGRESS
DEPRAVITY
PARSIMONY
RECLUSE
ACERBIC
ENMITY
INSPIR
CHURLISH
LEXICON
WANTON

Word Search Game #6

EDQYPCLVBIAKNXMP
VMNEWEYBRIGANDT
OSERVILEALLCUUN
ZWBIBFZFNDNHNCB
MOSINTERMORESCXD
LYCOHNJENJHHPZR
SALIENTNWEGAQFO
WJTROPPARGBDBZRC
VZJUNUANCHYNS
DLBGDHHISLDTCI
ZNCUSOREFICOVPD
ABEADVERSARYZDF
FLQPECNELUPOKLR
UCIDPGSGUPWPHGT
XXUAWZQWTPDNDFN

VOCIFEROUS
OPULENCE
SALIENT
ADVERSARY
WIZEN
BRIGAND
RAPPORT
ANARCHY
DISCORDANT
SERVILE
Word Search Game #7

O L E S O T E R I C I Q V L G
G O M C O Y E D U T I P R U T
R C L M N T N E V L O S Y O Q
Y Z Z S Y G N T N I B R I C T
K B V V J C U S A E A L A X L
R T V Y O H I L N D G O U A T
R P V K T X T R N O M Y R Z E
L X Z V O R L A R N L E W R H
T S T H U P U B C A M I E T Z
U S N I S Q M A Y E C T A T H
A G S G Z I P X H B S J L J G
F M Y I N F W P X U U B O I H
R U Z S W E E H A M F I T H X
S E D S U O I D I T S A F I Q
S R L X X P A Q E S O R O M I

ESOTERIC
IMBROGLIO
QUANDARY
MOROSE
FASTIDIOUS
TURPITUDE
AUSTERE
SOLVENT
ALTRUISM
EPHEMERAL

Word Search Game #8

H Q P O G A F Q C T M S J I F
M K C S H G B V H Q G X R M T
Z H U Y X I E T Y H P O E N Y
F G X N Z M N B X I V N Z H R
B H C D S U J O E T I D U R E
C F W I L O Z C S X E N B B
E O U C A E P U W U K T U X F
T X X H T T T L H I L S J R G
A U A O Y D C A J R K A X K S
G A F T T M O R N G G C T U U
I U Z O W F R O N I F T V E Z
T T W M W E D U H J T G V E Y
I V O Y I A I T X W W S G O C
M E R U J B A V U K C P B L B
N R V L Z O L Y A N G Z E O J

INOCULATE
MITIGATE
OCULAR
NEOPHYTE
ERUDITE
CORDIAL
ABJURE
CASTE
DICHTOMY
OBSTINATE
Word Search Game #9

Y J C L S C O T A Z B V G U H
N J D Y T I R A P S I D L G O
A B G C W G Z Y C G S I I D R
L U X U Y U Q Q P O D R Z E G
Y M Y J J O B G S Q E M A O Z
S G E Z D Y F L X T Y K X Q T
D I P I X P Z G A W X B F I A
M N O C O E R C I O N U C L R
W U W E H U I G R P R I Q H C
S N W U R R C S V T L B V T H
D D H U T K Y A I P C H H L A
P A B N F G D V X J P X G M I
P T I G S B E E H T I L O V C
Y E K K D N E J W M O H J Y D
G C D L M I S E R L Y J L D B

Word Search Game #10

B D Q B T C X Z M M S T O H Z
E T N B W Z P V C H R O F E V
D W T I H C D F N A V H P I B
L C T C A Z X W V E U H J Q Q
A L P R F D O E U G Y K O V O
M L C F A F S B R R K B U W Q
X P G Q H T R I Q E J G G G M
C D S T Y A C A D I U M T M O
M E Q K G R F A M G I N E N M
Q L L G Y K G A F T O S I X X
E Y A P D N M R T G I I X I O
S R T B J H I N D R A N C E T
T I X C U A J C L J L P U D V
C B H Q C I L O I R T I V C P
O J N F V I W A N E C D O T E

VITRIOLIC
HINDRANCE
DISDAIN
BEDLAM
ZEPHYR
TRAVESTY
CRYPTIC
ANECDOTE
ENIGMA
BRAGGART
Answers

Word Search Game #1

Word Search Game #2

DENOUNCE
ALLEVIATE
BRUSQUE
SATURATE
VESTIGE
INTREPID
FAMISH
HEDONIST
COHESIVE
DOGMATIC
Word Search Game #3

Word Search Game #4
Word Search Game #5

Egress  Depravity  Parsimony  Recluse  Acerbic  Enmity  Insipid  Churlish  Lexicon  Wanton

Word Search Game #6

Vociferous  Opulence  Salient  Adversary  Wizened  Brigand  Rapport  Anarchy  Discordant  Servile
Word Search Game #7

Word Search Game #8
Word Search Game #9

Word Search Game #10
In this chapter, you’ll learn to look carefully at similar-sounding (or similarly spelled) pairs of words to find the correct meaning for each.

Instructions

Draw a line to match the word in Column A with the definition in Column B. Be careful—these lists are made up of pairs of commonly confused words, and the games will be a little tricky.

Answers can be found at the end of the chapter.
### Matching Column Game #1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>allusion</td>
<td>practicing extreme self-denial; austerity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>illusion</td>
<td>location, scene, or point of occurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aesthetic</td>
<td>expression of respect or affection; good wishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ascetic</td>
<td>something that is misleading or deceptive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cite</td>
<td>occurring at the same time; running parallel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>appreciation of beauty or art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compliment</td>
<td>indirect reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>complement</td>
<td>refer to or quote authoritatively; call upon officially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>concurrent</td>
<td>following one after the other in order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consecutive</td>
<td>make something complete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Matching Column Game #2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>connote</td>
<td>modest; having good moral judgment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>denote</td>
<td>indifferent; not interested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discrete</td>
<td>someone who settles in a new country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discreet</td>
<td>associate; express indirectly or imply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disinterested</td>
<td>glue-like; gummy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uninterested</td>
<td>indicate; make known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emigrant</td>
<td>having an enormous appetite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>immigrant</td>
<td>separate; individually distinct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glutinous</td>
<td>one who departs a country to settle elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gluttonous</td>
<td>impartial; unbiased</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Matching Column Game #3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>figuratively</td>
<td>symbolically; metaphorically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>literally</td>
<td>(1) toward the front; (2) send on or pass along</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foreword</td>
<td>writing materials; notepaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forward</td>
<td>form; produce; create</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stationary</td>
<td>unlawful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stationery</td>
<td>actually; word-for-word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comprise</td>
<td>to draw out (especially emotion or information)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compose</td>
<td>made up of; included within a particular scope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elicit</td>
<td>introductory note or preface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>illicit</td>
<td>fixed; unmoving</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Matching Column Game #4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>inflammable</td>
<td>capable of being bought; corrupt through bribery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nonflammable</td>
<td>(1) one who founds or establishes; (2) give way; sink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>founder</td>
<td>next-to-last</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flounder</td>
<td>most remote; last; best or most extreme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>penultimate</td>
<td>contrary or opposed; unfavorable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ultimate</td>
<td>having a feeling of intense dislike or repulsion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>venial</td>
<td>unable to be set on fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>venal</td>
<td>minor; pardonable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adverse</td>
<td>able to be set on fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>averse</td>
<td>(1) a marine fish; (2) struggle or thrash about</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Matching Column Game #5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>empathy</td>
<td>give notice; tell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sympathy</td>
<td>tool used for making holes or removing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>loose material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appraise</td>
<td>feeling of loyalty or support for another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apprise</td>
<td>one who supervises conduct or morals;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to suppress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>augur</td>
<td>set a value or estimate the cost of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auger</td>
<td>official reprimand or condemnation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>censure</td>
<td>find similarities or resemblances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>censor</td>
<td>find a degree of difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compare</td>
<td>sharing another’s emotions or feelings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contrast</td>
<td>a person who foretells events or sees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the future</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Matching Column Game #6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>council</td>
<td>nonstop; continuing uninterrupted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>counsel</td>
<td>an advisory or legislative body or group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>continuous</td>
<td>recurring in rapid succession; occurring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>regularly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>continual</td>
<td>(1) downward inclination; (2) deriving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>from ancestors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>decent</td>
<td>advice, policy, or plan of action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>descent</td>
<td>make less harmful or tense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>defuse</td>
<td>frequency of occurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diffuse</td>
<td>happenings; events that lead to grave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>consequences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>incidence</td>
<td>appropriate; free from immodesty or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>obscenity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>incidents</td>
<td>not concentrated; spread out</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Matching Column Game #7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>insight</td>
<td>provide or obtain insurance; take precaution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>incite</td>
<td>relating to an office or position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ensure</td>
<td>move to action; stir up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insure</td>
<td>suited for war; related to military life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marital</td>
<td>to make certain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>martial</td>
<td>transparent; clear and precise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>officious</td>
<td>of or relating to marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>official</td>
<td>penetration; seeing the inner nature of something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perspicuous</td>
<td>kind; dutiful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perspicacious</td>
<td>acutely insightful and wise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Matching Column Game #8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>proscribe</td>
<td>continue; follow a certain course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prescribe</td>
<td>height; quality or status gained by development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>precede</td>
<td>recommend; specify with authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>proceed</td>
<td>twisting and turning; devious or indirect tactics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stature</td>
<td>excessively greedy or eager; having a large appetite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>statute</td>
<td>unpleasant or painful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tortuous</td>
<td>condemn or forbid as harmful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>torturous</td>
<td>law or legislative act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vociferous</td>
<td>be, go, or come ahead or in front of; surpass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voracious</td>
<td>blatant; conspicuous and offensive outcry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Matching Column Game #9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>conscience</td>
<td>suggest; express or state indirectly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conscious</td>
<td>guess; deduce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eminent</td>
<td>awake; aware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imminent</td>
<td>able to be perceived or detected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imply</td>
<td>standing out or above in quality or position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infer</td>
<td>worthy of notice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>notable</td>
<td>at hand; about to occur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noticeable</td>
<td>having no connection with an issue; unrelated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>irreverent</td>
<td>moral sense of right and wrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>irrelevant</td>
<td>showing disrespect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Matching Column Game #10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>convince</td>
<td>show off shamelessly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>persuade</td>
<td>encourage; talk someone into something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flaunt</td>
<td>an educator in a position of high authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flout</td>
<td>basic truth or belief; rule of personal conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>principal</td>
<td>plead with; urge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>principle</td>
<td>neither moral nor immoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amoral</td>
<td>tease; taunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>immoral</td>
<td>to agree or be in accord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gibe</td>
<td>disregard; show scorn or contempt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jibe</td>
<td>unethical; morally objectionable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Answers**

**Matching Column Game #1**

- allusion: practicing extreme self-denial
- illusion: location, scene, or point of occurrence
- aesthetic: expression of respect or affection; good wishes
- ascetic: something that is misleading or deceptive
- cite: occurring at the same time; running parallel
- site: appreciation of beauty or art
- compliment: indirect reference
- complement: refer to or quote authoritatively; call upon officially
- concurrent: following one after the other in order
- consecutive: make something complete

**Matching Column Game #2**

- connote: modest; having good moral judgment
- denote: indifferent; not interested
- discrete: someone who settles in a new country
- discreet: associate; express indirectly or imply
- disinterested: glue-like; gummy
- uninterested: indicate; make known
- emigrant: having an enormous appetite
- immigrant: separate; individually distinct
- glutinous: one who departs a country to settle elsewhere
- gluttonous: impartial; unbiased
Matching Column Game #3

- figuratively — symbolically; metaphorically
- literally — (1) toward the front; (2) send on or pass along
- foreword — writing materials; notepaper
- forward — form; produce; create
- stationary — unlawful
- stationery — actually; word-for-word
- comprise — to draw out (especially emotion or information)
- compose — made up of; included within a particular scope
- elicit — introductory note or preface
- illicit — fixed; unmoving

Matching Column Game #4

- inflammable — capable of being bought; corrupt through bribery
- nonflammable — (1) one who founds or establishes; (2) give way; sink
- founder — next-to-last
- flounder — most remote; last; best or most extreme
- penultimate — contrary or opposed; unfavorable
- ultimate — having a feeling of intense dislike or repulsion
- venial — unable to be set on fire
- venal — minor; pardonable
- adverse — able to be set on fire
- averse — (1) a marine fish; (2) struggle or thrash about
**Matching Column Game #5**

- empathy: give notice; tell
- sympathy: tool used for making holes or removing loose material
- appraise: feeling of loyalty or support for another
- apprise: one who supervises conduct or morals; to suppress
- augur: set a value or estimate the cost of something
- auger: official reprimand or condemnation
- censure: find similarities or resemblances
- censor: find a degree of difference
- compare: sharing another’s emotions or feelings
- contrast: a person who foretells events or sees the future

**Matching Column Game #6**

- council: nonstop; continuing uninterrupted
- counsel: an advisory or legislative body or group
- continuous: recurring in rapid succession; occurring regularly
- continual: (1) downward inclination; (2) deriving from ancestors
- decent: advice, policy, or plan of action
- descent: make less harmful or tense
- defuse: frequency of occurrence
- diffuse: happenings; events that lead to grave consequences
- incidence: appropriate; free from immodesty or obscenity
- incidents: not concentrated; spread out
**Matching Column Game #7**

- insight: provide or obtain insurance; take precaution
- incite: relating to an office or position
- ensure: move to action; stir up
- insure: suited for war; related to military life
- marital: to make certain
- martial: transparent; clear and precise
- officious: of or relating to marriage
- official: penetration; seeing the inner nature of something
- perspicuous: kind; dutiful
- perspicacious: acutely insightful and wise

**Matching Column Game #8**

- proscrible: continue; follow a certain course
- prescribe: height; quality or status gained by development
- precede: recommend; specify with authority
- proceed: twisting and turning; devious or indirect tactics
- stature: excessively greedy or eager; having a large appetite
- statute: unpleasant or painful
- tortuous: condemn or forbid as harmful
- torturous: law or legislative act
- vociferous: be, go, or come ahead or in front of; surpass
- voracious: blatant; conspicuous and offensive outcry
Matching Column Game #9

- conscience: suggest; express or state indirectly
- conscious: guess; deduce
- eminent: awake; aware
- imminent: able to be perceived or detected
- imply: standing out or above in quality or position
- infer: worthy of notice
- notable: at hand; about to occur
- noticeable: having no connection with an issue; unrelated
- irreverent: moral sense of right and wrong
- irrelevant: showing disrespect

Matching Column Game #10

- convince: show off shamelessly
- persuade: encourage; talk someone into something
- flaunt: an educator in a position of high authority
- flout: basic truth or belief; rule of personal conduct
- principal: plead with; urge
- principle: neither moral nor immoral
- amoral: tease; taunt
- immoral: to agree or be in accord
- gibe: disregard; show scorn or contempt
- jibe: unethical; morally objectionable
In this chapter, you will learn to remember definitions and spellings of ACT words. You’ll identify a word by its meaning, and then spell it out without assistance.

**Instructions**

Use the definition provided to find each clue word. Write the word in the boxes next to each definition. Next, unscramble the letters in the circled boxes within the clue words to find a bonus vocabulary word.

If you get stuck, scan the word list on page 110 to see if you can figure out the word to match the definition. Be careful—some words in this chapter have similar definitions or spellings, and others have been used more than once.

Answers are found at the end of the chapter. Don’t peek!
Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #1

1. deliberate; carefully thought out (10 letters)

2. sly or crafty (4 letters)

3. thin; not thick (6 letters)

4. exaggerated praise or flattery (9 letters)

5. sincerity and openness (6 letters)

6. loose robe (6 letters)

7. show or illustrate by example (9 letters)

8. act of going off-subject; turning attention away (10 letters)

9. conspicuously bad; scandalous (8 letters)

10. come between or step in (9 letters)

Bonus: words that mean the opposite of what one thinks or assumes
Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #2

1. goad or provoke (9 letters)

2. exercising discretion and sound judgment (7 letters)

3. sly or crafty (4 letters)

4. remedy; something that counteracts (8 letters)

5. complicated (9 letters)

6. get or gather together (7 letters)

7. someone who excels at making speeches (6 letters)

8. make movements or gestures while speaking (11 letters)

9. make official (6 letters)

10. using few words; brief (8 letters)

Bonus: careful; watchful
Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #3

1. never giving up
   (11 letters)

2. feel or show deep respect
   (8 letters)

3. complicated; long-winded
   (10 letters)

4. quiet; not inclined to speak
   (8 letters)

5. to give in to or fall under the influence of something
   (7 letters)

6. careful and organized
   (10 letters)

7. satisfy; please
   (7 letters)

8. express a negative opinion
   (9 letters)

9. kind
   (10 letters)

10. maintain or assert
    (7 letters)

Bonus: changing repeatedly
Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #4

1. belittle; disparage (9 letters)

2. praise; commend (5 letters)

3. supply or sell (6 letters)

4. moving apart in different directions; deviating (9 letters)

5. calmness in mind or bearing (9 letters)

6. outside edge of an area (9 letters)

7. reverse in position or order (6 letters)

8. transformation (11 letters)

9. easily tricked or deceived (8 letters)

10. deceitful; based on false or misleading information (10 letters)

Bonus: truth or accuracy
Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #5

1. breaking up or scattering; spreading widely (10 letters)

2. cease to consider (7 letters)

3. act of being or feeling suspicious or fearful (12 letters)

4. prediction, omen, or sense of doom (10 letters)

5. treat something as acceptable or understandable (7 letters)

6. reasonable and logical (9 letters)

7. extremely wicked (9 letters)

8. briefly passing through (9 letters)

9. shortness; conciseness (7 letters)

10. glowing (11 letters)

Bonus: craftsperson
Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #6

1. relationship or affinity between people (7 letters)
2. closeness (9 letters)
3. uncertain; capable of different meanings (9 letters)
4. possible; doable (8 letters)
5. burden or responsibility (4 letters)
6. assuming too much (12 letters)
7. quality or state of being new (7 letters)
8. refuse to accept (9 letters)
9. manipulate; use to one’s own advantage (7 letters)
10. disdainful; stuck up (7 letters)

Bonus: someone who questions or doubts
Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #7

1. arrangement by rank or position (9 letters)

2. not hurtful; harmless (9 letters)

3. laud; praise; glorify (5 letters)

4. act of not caring; being indifferent (11 letters)

5. rudeness (9 letters)

6. not essential (10 letters)

7. hindrance (9 letters)

8. state of dishonor or shame (11 letters)

9. cause to continue (10 letters)

10. fair and equal; having good judgment or common sense (9 letters)

Bonus: someone who goes against accepted authority
Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #8

1. remarkable development or event (10 letters)
2. faint trace or spark (9 letters)
3. glowing brightly; radiant (8 letters)
4. urge or force to action (5 letters)
5. event that occurs at a critical time (8 letters)
6. exaggerated opinion of one’s own importance (7 letters)
7. willingness or readiness to believe (9 letters)
8. accurate; exact (10 letters)
9. state of being isolated or detached (10 letters)
10. praise, glorify, or honor (4 letters)

Bonus: using humor to show political or societal faults
Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #9

1. ambiguous, indirect, and wordy language (14 letters)

2. set a value or estimate the cost of something (8 letters)

3. specify; define (9 letters)

4. cultural, intellectual or moral tendencies of an era (9 letters)

5. showy; conspicuous (12 letters)

6. accidental; unintentional (11 letters)

7. disintegration or destruction caused by chemical action (9 letters)

8. limited; unsophisticated (10 letters)

9. press or squeeze thoroughly (5 letters)

10. cause to calm (7 letters)

Bonus: using few words in writing or speech
Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #10

1. showing much respect (8 letters)

2. put in danger; threaten (10 letters)

3. feeling or showing acceptance of something unpleasant (8 letters)

4. strict (9 letters)

5. arrogant or haughty (12 letters)

6. strength or determination (5 letters)

7. often but not readily or steadily (8 letters)

8. line of people waiting in order of arrival (5 letters)

9. unnecessary (9 letters)

10. existing in every part of something (9 letters)

**Bonus:** examine closely
### Word List for Chapter 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adulation</td>
<td>contend</td>
<td>equivocal</td>
<td>haughty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>antidote</td>
<td>convoluted</td>
<td>exalt</td>
<td>hierarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appraise</td>
<td>corrosion</td>
<td>exemplify</td>
<td>iconoclast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apprehension</td>
<td>credulity</td>
<td>exploit</td>
<td>ignominious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>artisan</td>
<td>delineate</td>
<td>extol</td>
<td>impel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>benevolent</td>
<td>deprecate</td>
<td>extraneous</td>
<td>impudence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brevity</td>
<td>deterrent</td>
<td>fallacious</td>
<td>inadvertent</td>
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<td>calculated</td>
<td>digression</td>
<td>feasible</td>
<td>innocuous</td>
</tr>
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<td>candor</td>
<td>dismiss</td>
<td>flagrant</td>
<td>instigate</td>
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<tr>
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<td>disparage</td>
<td>foreboding</td>
<td>insularity</td>
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<td>compile</td>
<td>dispersion</td>
<td>gesticulate</td>
<td>intervene</td>
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<td>divergent</td>
<td>gratify</td>
<td>intricate</td>
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<td>egotism</td>
<td>gullible</td>
<td>invert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ironic</td>
<td>onus</td>
<td>queue</td>
<td>succumb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jeopardy</td>
<td>orator</td>
<td>ratify</td>
<td>supercilious</td>
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<tr>
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<td>ostentatious</td>
<td>redundant</td>
<td>taciturn</td>
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<td>juncture</td>
<td>periphery</td>
<td>repudiate</td>
<td>transient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kimono</td>
<td>permutation</td>
<td>resigned</td>
<td>unrelenting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kinship</td>
<td>perpetuate</td>
<td>resplendent</td>
<td>vacillate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>knead</td>
<td>pervasive</td>
<td>reverent</td>
<td>venerate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laconic</td>
<td>phenomenon</td>
<td>satirical</td>
<td>veracity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laud</td>
<td>placate</td>
<td>scintilla</td>
<td>vigor</td>
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<tr>
<td>luminous</td>
<td>pragmatic</td>
<td>scrutinize</td>
<td>wary</td>
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<td>presumptuous</td>
<td>skeptic</td>
<td>wily</td>
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<tr>
<td>meticulous</td>
<td>provincial</td>
<td>sparse</td>
<td>zeitgeist</td>
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<tr>
<td>nefarious</td>
<td>proximity</td>
<td>sporadic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nonchalance</td>
<td>prudent</td>
<td>stringent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>novelty</td>
<td>purvey</td>
<td>succinct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Answers

#### Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #1
1. calculated
2. wily
3. sparse
4. adulation
5. candor
6. kimono
7. exemplify
8. digression
9. flagrant
10. intervene
**Bonus:** ironic

#### Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #2
1. instigate
2. prudent
3. wily
4. antidote
5. intricate
6. compile
7. orator
8. gesticulate
9. ratify
10. succinct
**Bonus:** wary

#### Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #3
1. unrelenting
2. venerate
3. convoluted
4. taciturn
5. succumb
6. methodical
7. gratify
8. disparage
9. benevolent
10. contend
**Bonus:** vacillate

#### Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #4
1. deprecate
2. extol
3. purvey
4. divergent
5. composure
6. periphery
7. invert
8. permutation
9. gullible
10. fallacious
**Bonus:** veracity
**Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #5**
1. dispersion
2. dismiss
3. apprehension
4. foreboding
5. condone
6. pragmatic
7. nefarious
8. transient
9. brevity
10. resplendent
**Bonus:** artisan

**Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #7**
1. hierarchy
2. innocuous
3. exalt
4. nonchalance
5. impudence
6. extraneous
7. deterrent
8. ignominious
9. perpetuate
10. judicious
**Bonus:** iconoclast

**Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #6**
1. kinship
2. proximity
3. equivocal
4. feasible
5. onus
6. presumptuous
7. novelty
8. repudiate
9. exploit
10. haughty
**Bonus:** skeptic

**Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #8**
1. phenomenon
2. scintilla
3. luminous
4. impel
5. juncture
6. egotism
7. credulity
8. meticulous
9. insularity
10. laud
**Bonus:** satirical
**Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #9**

1. circumlocution
2. appraise
3. delineate
4. zeitgeist
5. ostentatious
6. inadvertent
7. corrosion
8. provincial
9. knead
10. placate

**Bonus:** laconic

**Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #10**

1. reverent
2. jeopardize
3. resigned
4. stringent
5. supercilious
6. vigor
7. sporadic
8. queue
9. redundant
10. pervasive

**Bonus:** scrutinize
In this chapter, you will learn the spellings and definitions of common ACT vocabulary words.

Instructions

Fill in numbers 1 through 26, in order, in the hint box for each game. You will then have a number corresponding to each letter for the entire alphabet.

Then, use these letter-number pairs to solve each definition. Once you’ve figured out the definition, unscramble each word.

Answers are found at the back of the chapter. Don’t peek!
## Cryptograms

### Cryptogram #1

| R | J | B | N | E | P | Z | U | Q | F | C | Y | L | H | O | X | S | D | W | I | K | M | G | A | T | V |

13 24 1 23 5 10 20 1 5

Unscramble: **FORCTIONLAGAN**

### Cryptogram #2


8 5 10 5 18 17 14 5 25 4 7 24 15 23 10

Unscramble: **TOLAZE**

### Cryptogram #3

| Y | C | I | Z | A | E | V | R | D | O | K | F | X | U | H | W | M | P | T | G | Q | B | S | J | N | L |

23 6 3 4 6 22 1 12 10 8 2 6

Unscramble: **PURSU**
Cryptogram #4

Unscramble: F I S T I P A C

Cryptogram #5

Unscramble: T R O U B S

Cryptogram #6

Unscramble: Q U A D T I E N T A
CRYPTOGRAMS

Cryptogram #7

R A C F D B H G P Z Q N L E J Y S O X T W I M V U K

Unscramble: C H E E S E B

Cryptogram #8

D G I L H C K B J M E S P Q A Z X O R U Y W F N T V

Unscramble: C O U F N D O N
Cryptogram #9

ATCDYHEBGJNKMOKZXUVPWRLSFIQ

Unscramble: CRITENDO

Cryptogram #10

UZVSXEWQAHBKCDOTGINYJMRPL

Unscramble: OFUSLORI
Answers

**Cryptogram #1**
large fire
CONFLAGRATION

**Cryptogram #2**
fanatical person
ZEALOT

**Cryptogram #3**
seize by force
USURP

**Cryptogram #4**
someone who opposes war
PACIFIST

**Cryptogram #5**
strong and healthy
ROBUST

**Cryptogram #6**
obsolete or outdated
ANTIQUATED

**Cryptogram #7**
implore or beg
BESEECH

**Cryptogram #8**
baffle or confuse
CONFOUND

**Cryptogram #9**
system of beliefs
DOCTRINE

**Cryptogram #10**
not serious: silly
FRIVOLOUS
PART III

SET A FOOLPROOF STRATEGY
Congratulations! You’ve finished the games in this book—which means you’ve taken a big step in improving your vocabulary skills. However, you may still have some time before the big day, right? Let’s look at some more preparation you can do, to make sure your score is the absolute best it can be.

Six Months Before Test Day

So, you’ve got some time before the ACT exam. That’s great! Read on for some additional things you can do to prepare yourself for the big day—from supersizing your vocabulary to learning the ins and outs of the exam and making sure you’re in good shape—both physically and mentally—on the day of the test.

Keep Up the Vocab Workout

By now you’re aware that a good working vocabulary is an important asset on the English sections of the ACT. But did you know that the best way to learn vocabulary is also the easiest? Simply keep an eye out for
unfamiliar words, add them to a running list, and then set aside a few minutes each day to learn some of the words on that list.

**DECONSTRUCT, DECONSTRUCT, DECONSTRUCT**

When learning new words, remember to break them down into roots, prefixes, and suffixes (as you learned in Chapters 1 through 3). You’ll be surprised to see how quickly knowing these will help you figure out definitions—and increase your vocabulary!

Let’s figure it out. How much time do you have until you take the exam? Is it a month, three months, a year? Whatever the length of time, you still have a chance to substantially improve your vocabulary before sitting down with that test booklet.

So here’s what you do. Count out the number of days before test day. (Don’t count the night before—you’ll be busy resting and rewarding yourself that night. See “The Night Before Test Day” in this chapter for more details.) Then, multiply the number of days by five. The result is the number of new vocabulary words you’ll know before the exam—by learning just five words a day. You can handle that, right? Of course you can!

**VOCAB IN A FLASH**

One easy way to learn your five new words per day is to use flashcards. Write a word on one side and the definition on the other, and keep the cards with you to practice whenever you have spare time. You can use them to study alone, or quiz a friend—then have that friend quiz you. Flashcards are a great way to get in some study time anywhere. (If you’re a techie or the kind of person who carries a mobile device at all times, check out some of the free flashcard apps available.)

Remember to be on the lookout for new words everywhere. Jot down unfamiliar words you see on signs, hear in conversations, or come
across while reading your favorite magazines. Make sure your new words list is always with you, so you can keep track of the ones you’ve learned and the ones you have on deck for the next time you have some time to kill!

**Familiarize Yourself with the Exam**

One big advantage you can give yourself on the day of the test is to know exactly what to expect, from how the exam is structured to approximately how long it will take you to complete each section, when to spend time figuring out an answer, and when to just make an educated guess. Fortunately, there are lots of practice tools out there that can help you do just that.

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**TALK IT OUT**

When you learn a new word, try to use it as soon as you can. Practical knowledge—using something you’ve learned in the real world—is often the best way to really integrate something into your mind. So talk to your friends, your family, and your teachers using ACT words—to help you remember those words when it counts. Work these words into e-mails and essays. See how many people can keep up with your vocab skills!

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**Books**

You can find the most up-to-date practice books in your local library or in most bookstores. If you decide to use books to take practice exams, it’s especially important to make sure that you’re giving yourself the same amount of time to complete each section as you’ll get on the day of the test. You can find some suggestions for good books in the Resources section on page 149.

**Online**

Another great way to practice for the ACT exam is to take an actual practice exam online. These exams often consist of actual questions used on past exams. There are lots of practice tests available on the
Internet—some are free, and others can be accessed for a fee. Some other suggestions for good practice sites are located in the Resources section on page 149.

**Time Management**
While you’re taking practice tests, be sure to keep an eye on the time. The basic rule of ACT test taking is to allow yourself one minute per question; however, depending on your strengths, some questions will take you less time, and others will take more. Don’t consider the “one-minute rule” to be hard and fast, but do be aware of the amount of time you’re taking—and don’t spend too much time on any one question.

When working on a question you’re not sure of, be sure to eliminate wrong answer choices wherever you can. Cross out the ones you know are wrong on the test sheet so you can concentrate on the remaining possibilities, giving yourself a better chance at finding the right answer.

And don’t forget that you can always go back and revisit questions if you come to the end of a section before time is up. Just circle the number of the question so you can find it easily if you have extra time at the end to go back to it.

**Play to Your Strengths**
You know better than anyone else what comes easily for you, and what you have to work hard on. So, if one type of question in a particular section is easier for you than another, skip right to it and answer those questions first. Answer the easy questions first and save the ones you find harder for last!

**A Few Weeks Before Test Day**
As test day looms closer, you may start to feel a bit of panic set in. Don’t worry, that’s normal. Besides, you have nothing to worry about because you’ve been preparing all along. So take a deep breath and relax!
**Schedule Study Time**
One way to really set your mind at ease is to put together a study schedule for the next few weeks leading up to the exam. Try to map out a half hour to an hour a day, and decide what you’ll be working on in advance. Then, when you’ve completed your study session, stop! Studying regularly in small intervals is often more effective than trying to cram too much information into long, sleepless nights. When your allotted study time is up, close your book, turn off the computer, and go do something fun.

**Step Away from the Chips!**
You’ve probably heard that the best way to prepare yourself for anything stressful is to be sure that you’re in good health. Lots of us tend to reach for the snacks while studying—and even more so when feeling stressed out over a big exam—but it goes without saying that healthy foods are best for keeping your mind and body in tip-top shape.

And speaking of shape, you know what else is a great stress-buster? Exercise. See Chapter 13 for more details, but the fact is that regular exercise helps keep the mind alert, reduces fatigue, and results in a better night’s sleep.

**A Few Days Before Test Day**
A few days before the exam is the best time for some last-minute brush-ups. Grab your book or log on to your computer and take a practice exam one final time. Focus on your problem areas, and give yourself a little extra study time in those areas. Review everything you know about the ACT exam to make sure that there will be absolutely no surprises on test day.

**Do a Dry Run**
It’s not only a good idea to be as familiar as you can be with the test itself, but it’s also smart to know exactly where you’ll be going—and how you’ll be getting there—on the day of the test, so you don’t wake up in a panic about it. Find out where your test center is located, and go
there at the same time and day of the week as your exam is scheduled. Take the same mode of transportation you will be using on exam day, so you can get a good sense ahead of time, learn about unexplained glitches in Google Maps, notice any construction that may force you to take a detour, or discover unforeseen public transportation issues.

**Review Test-Taking Policies**
There are very specific guidelines that determine what you can and can’t bring into the test center, as well as security and fairness regulations in place at the test centers. Familiarize yourself with them, so you know what you can expect when you arrive.

**Get Organized**
Gather together everything you will need the day of the test and put it in a safe place (see Chapter 14 for a checklist of essential items). That way, you won’t have to worry about rushing around before you leave in the morning, looking for your admission ticket or a calculator.

**The Day Before Test Day**
You’ve worked hard, and your efforts are about to pay off. But it’s the day before the exam, and you’re going to work really hard tomorrow to do the best you can on the ACT. You’re as ready as you’ll ever be, so take this opportunity to give yourself a well-deserved break.

Tonight, your assignment is to watch a good movie, spend some time with your friends, play a video game or board game with family members, or do another fun and relaxing activity. Be sure to get to bed early enough to guarantee a full night’s rest. The only thing you should not do is think about the ACT exam.

**On the Big Day**
It’s finally here! The day you’ve been preparing for all these weeks and months has arrived, but don’t worry. You’ve studied, you’ve learned how
the test is administered and what to look for, and you know exactly how long it’s going to take to get to the test center. So you have nothing at all to worry about. Just concentrate on doing your best on the exam.

**Prepare with Protein**
You’ve got a long day ahead of you, so be sure to start the morning right. Eat a good breakfast, which ideally should be rich in protein. (It’s widely believed that protein helps increase alertness and response time.) Some good choices are eggs, grains, nuts, or dairy products such as yogurt or cottage cheese. Whatever you choose, make sure to eat enough. You don’t want everyone to hear your stomach growling half an hour into the exam.

**Load Up on Layers**
You won’t have any control over the temperature in the room in which you’ll be sitting for the next several hours, and the last thing you need is to be distracted by chattering teeth or sweat pooling across your forehead. Wear something comfortable, but be sure to include layers, so you’re guaranteed not to be too hot or too warm while you’re taking the test.

**Keep an Eye on the Clock**
Make sure that you give yourself plenty of time to get to the test center, even if major traffic or a natural disaster suddenly decides to get in your way. You don’t want to be rushing into the room at the last minute.

That’s it! You’re ready to go out there and get a great score on the ACT. Just one final thing—make sure you have a post-test celebration in mind, because you definitely deserve it.

Good luck!
Let’s face it. As well prepared as you are for your test, you might be feeling some stress and anxiety about it. This is normal—anxiety is a common response to difficult situations, and it happens to many people.

There are many things you can do to combat stress and anxiety, and ensure that you arrive at the test center relaxed and ready to take on the exam. The first thing to do is remind yourself that you’ve studied and practiced, so you’re undeniably ready for the challenge. Feel confident in the knowledge that, unlike many others, you’re walking into that exam room prepared for what lies ahead.

But sometimes knowing that you’re ready isn’t enough. In that case, there are some simple exercises you can do to keep yourself calm and collected. These exercises can help you deal with stress, and can be done anywhere, anytime. Whenever you feel yourself starting to panic about the upcoming exam, just take some time to do one of the following.
ANXIETY-BUSTING EXERCISES

Deep Breathing

Just breathe in and out? Really? Yes, it’s that simple. Take a few minutes to sit back, close your eyes, and concentrate on taking deep, regular breaths. This simple act will help slow your heart rate and make you feel calmer.

Muscle Relaxation

Sit in a chair or on the floor, or lie on your bed. Begin by tensing each of your muscles for a count of ten, then slowly relaxing them. Work from your toes up to your shoulders, and then back down again. You’ll feel more rested and relaxed in no time.

Visualization

It may sound silly, but many people believe that they do better in stressful situations and accomplish goals more easily if they’ve first pictured themselves succeeding. So, take a few minutes to sit back, relax, and imagine yourself walking into the test center. You’ve prepared, you’ve got all your materials with you, you’ve slept well and eaten a good breakfast, and you’re armed with the knowledge you need to ace the test. Now, picture yourself leaning over the test booklet, flipping confidently through it, knowing some answers right away, making educated guesses about others, and knowing that it’s okay to leave some blank if you really have no idea. Then picture yourself confidently closing the booklet, standing up, and heading out to celebrate when you’re done. It doesn’t seem so bad now, does it?

Meditation

The idea behind meditation is to relax your body while concentrating on one thing. Sit or lie in a comfortable position, close your eyes, and
ANXIETY-BUSTING EXERCISES

try thinking about a positive outcome on the exam. Breathe deeply in and out for ten minutes. You’ll find that you feel more relaxed and refreshed afterward.

If you’re familiar with the moves, yoga is also a great way to relax your body and prepare your mind to concentrate. But don’t strain your muscles doing anything you’re not used to—the point here is to relax, not to put undue stress on your body.

Exercise

Exercise is another great way to get rid of stress. But exercise doesn’t have to consist of lifting weights or running on the treadmill at the gym; it can be a game of touch football with your friends, playing with your dog in the park, or even some time spent dancing to your favorite songs in your room. Work up a sweat and put those anxious thoughts out of your mind. Your body—and your brain—will thank you for it!

Walk Away from Naysayers

Sometimes it helps to vent about a stressful situation to family or friends, but other times it can add to your anxiety. If someone you know is constantly complaining about how hard the ACT exam is, or how she knows she’s going to crash and burn, it’s okay to change the subject. Really. Just shrug and say that all you can do is prepare, and then go do exactly that.

Regardless of what method you choose, the important thing to remember is to not let anxiety put you on edge before the exam. Keep in mind that the hardest part of taking the ACT is often the time leading up to the exam itself. Just do the best you can, and don’t worry about anything else.
CHAPTER 14

Test-Day Checklist

What to Bring

☐ photo ID
☐ test center admission ticket
☐ sharpened Number 2 pencils
☐ eraser
☐ calculator (graphing, scientific, or four-function ONLY) with extra batteries
☐ watch (with no audio alerts)

What NOT to Bring

☐ tobacco in any form
☐ mobile phone
☐ iPod, MP3 player, or audio device
☐ iPad, netbook, or laptop computer
☐ BlackBerry, mobile organizer, or PDA
☐ highlighters, markers, pens, or colored pencils
☐ notes or other paper
What to Do

- eat a good breakfast
- dress in layers so you're comfortable in the exam room
- pack some water and a healthy snack for your break
- leave home early, so you are sure to arrive on time, even if there's traffic
Glossary

A
abjure  formally reject or renounce
abdicate  give up a position of leadership
abominable  detestable
abridge  shorten or edit down while keeping the essential elements
abstemious  voluntary restraint (especially from consuming food and drink)
abstruse  incomprehensible; difficult to penetrate
acerbic  sour or bitter
adulation  exaggerated praise or flattery
adversary  opponent
adversity  unfavorable or oppositional conditions or events
advocate  (1) argue in favor of something; (2) person who argues in favor of something
aesthetic  appreciation of beauty or art
affable  warm and friendly
affirmation  declaration or assertion of truth
alleviate  relieve; make less severe
allusion  indirect reference
aloof  remote or removed; standoffish
altruism  unselfish concern for others; self-sacrifice
amalgam  mixture of different elements
ambivalent  undecided; unclear
ameliorate  make better
amicable  agreeable; friendly
analogous  similar or equivalent; showing likeness
anachronism  something that belongs to another time
anarchical  state of lawlessness and disorder in the absence of a government
anecdote  short story or account of something interesting
GLOSSARY

animosity resentment or hostility; feeling of ill will
anomalous odd; not fitting a particular pattern
antagonism active opposition or dislike
antidote remedy; something that counteracts
antiquated obsolete or outdated
apathy lack of energy or interest
appease pacify; make quiet or calm
appraise set a value or estimate the cost of something
apprehension act of being or feeling suspicious or fearful
apprenticeship time spent as a beginner learning a trade or career from an expert
apprise give notice; tell
archaic old-fashioned; outdated
arrogance unwarranted pride; superiority
articulate express well in words
artifact something created by humans and remaining from a particular era
artisan craftsperson
augment increase or enlarge
augur person who foretells events or sees the future
B
bedlam madhouse; scene of uproar and confusion
believe misrepresent or give a false impression
beneficial helpful
benevolent kind
benign mild or gentle
beseech implore or beg
bibulous tendency to consume beverages in large quantities
blasé sophisticated; unconcerned with pleasure or excitement
blatant obvious
blithe joyous
bombastic too elaborate; exaggerated
braggart someone who boasts or brags
brevity shortness; conciseness
brigand someone who lives by plundering or theft
brusque blunt or rude in manner or speech
bucolic of or related to the countryside and farming
bumptious aggressively conceited and presumptuous
buoyant lighthearted; high-spirited
bureaucracy obstruction by insistence on unnecessary procedures or regulations
C
cajole wheedle; coax; persuade
calculated deliberate; carefully thought out
callous cruel; unfeeling
candor sincerity and openness
cantankerous ill-tempered; cranky
capricious fickle; changing on a whim
caste hereditary social class
censorious harshly critical
GLOSSARY

censure official reprimand or condemnation

cerebral involving intellect, rather than emotion

chicanery trickery

chide scold

churlish ill-mannered; rude

circumlocution ambiguous, indirect, and wordy language

circumspect careful to consider all feelings and consequences; prudent

cite refer to or quote authoritatively; call upon officially

coercion using force to cause something to occur; compelling through authority

cohesive forming a whole; sticking together

compile get or gather together

complacency self-satisfaction; contentment

complement make something complete

compliance conformity

compliment expression of respect or affection; good wishes

compose form; produce; create

composure calmness in mind or bearing

comprehensive all-inclusive

concede admit; surrender or relinquish

conciliatory compromising; appeasing

concise brief; to-the-point

concur act together; agree

condone treat something as acceptable or understandable

concurrent occurring at the same time; running parallel

condone treat something as acceptable or understandable

conflagration large fire

confound baffle or confuse

congenial compatible; friendly

consensus agreement among the members of a group

consolidation unification or combination into a whole

constituency body of voters with shared interests, identity, or goals

constraint limit or restriction

contend maintain or assert

contentious inclined to dispute or disagree

conviction (1) unshakeable belief (2) final judgment of guilty in a criminal case

convivial friendly; sociable

convoluted complicated; long-winded

cordial politely warm and friendly

corroborate confirm; validate

corrosion disintegration or destruction caused by chemical action

cosmopolitan sophisticated; worldly

credulity willingness or readiness to believe

criterion standard or basis for comparison

cryptic hidden; mysterious
| **cursory** | without attention for detail; not thorough |
| **curtail** | restrict; cut short |

**D**

| **debacle** | sudden, disastrous collapse or downfall |
| **decorum** | behavior that is proper or correct |
| **deference** | courteous respect or regard for the feelings of others |
| **degradation** | act of reducing or breaking down |
| **delineate** | specify; define |
| **denounce** | speak out against someone or something |
| **depravity** | moral corruption |
| **deprecate** | belittle; disparage |
| **deride** | ridicule; show contempt for |
| **despondent** | without hope |
| **deterrent** | hindrance |
| **detrimental** | damaging |
| **devious** | not straightforward; dishonest or sneaky |
| **devise** | invent; create |
| **dichotomy** | division into two contradictory groups |
| **didactic** | excessively instructional |
| **diffuse** | not concentrated; spread out |
| **digression** | act of going off-subject; turning attention away |
| **diligence** | conscientiousness; perseverance |
| **diminution** | decline; decrease |
| **discerning** | having good judgment; showing insight and understanding |
| **discordant** | quarrelsome; disagreeing |
| **discrepancy** | inconsistency; conflicting facts or claims |
| **discriminating** | able to perceive small differences in similar things |
| **disdain** | contempt |
| **dismiss** | cease to consider |
| **disparage** | express a negative opinion |
| **disparity** | inequality or difference |
| **dispersion** | breaking up or scattering; spreading widely |
| **disputatious** | showing an inclination to disagree |
| **disseminate** | circulate; cause to become widely known |
| **divergent** | moving apart in different directions; deviating |
| **doctrine** | system of beliefs |
| **dogmatic** | strongly expressing beliefs as if they were facts |
| **dubious** | doubtful |
| **duplicity** | deception |

**E**

| **eclectic** | mixed style; composed of elements drawn from different sources |
| **effervescent** | lively; bubbly |
| **effusive** | burbling; enthusiastic |
| **egotism** | exaggerated opinion of one's own importance |
| **egress** | place of exit |
| **elated** | thrilled; overjoyed |
| **elite** | privileged |
elocution  correct and proper inflection and intonation in speech
eloquence  characterized by powerful and effective speech
elusive  skilful at avoiding capture or comprehension
embellish  make beautiful or elegant with ornamentation
eminent  above others in quality or position
emulate  imitate or copy
endorse  (1) sign; (2) support
enhance  increase or heighten
enigma  puzzle; riddle
enmity  hostility
enterprising  displaying initiative, daring, and readiness to take on new projects
ephemeral  short-lived
epistolary  of or relating to letters and letter-writing
epitome  a typical example
equivocal  uncertain; capable of different meanings
erroneous  wrong
erudite  showing vast knowledge; learned
esoteric  limited to a small circle; requiring specialized information
euphemism  substitution of an inoffensive term to replace a harsher or more distasteful one
exacerbate  make worse
exalt  laud; praise; glorify
exemplary  worthy of imitation
exemplify  show or illustrate by example
exhaustive  including every possible element; comprehensive; complete
exhilarating  thrilling; lively or cheerful
exonerate  acquit; free from accusation or blame
expedient  easy or simple method; appropriate for a particular circumstance
expedite  speed up a process
explicit  very clear and direct
exploit  manipulate; use to one’s own advantage
extol  praise; commend
extraneous  not essential
extricate  release from entanglement or difficulty
exuberance  joyful enthusiasm
F
facilitate  make easier; help
facsimile  exact copy or reproduction
fallacious  deceitful; based on false or misleading information
famish  suffer from extreme hunger; starve
fanaticism  excessive intolerance of opposing views
fastidious  paying careful attention to detail
feasible  possible; doable
fervor  ardor; excitement
flagrant  conspicuously bad; scandalous
florid  excessively elaborate or showy; flowery
flout  disregard; show scorn or contempt
foraging  searching for provisions; collecting food
foreboding  prediction, omen, or sense of doom
forfeit  surrender; lose
franchise  authorization to sell a particular product or service
frivolous  not serious; silly
frugality  the act of being economical or thrifty
furtive  secret; quietly cautious
fusion  mixture; melding
G
gamut  entire series or range
garrulous  talkative
genteel  having an elegant or superior quality
germane  relevant and appropriate
gesticulate  make movements or gestures while speaking
 glutinous  glue-like; gummy
 gluttonous  having an enormous appetite
 grandiose  overly large and impressive
 gratify  satisfy; please
 gratuitous  unnecessary or unwarranted
 gregarious  sociable; friendly
 guile  shrewdness; craftiness
 gullible  easily tricked or deceived
H
halcyon  idyllically calm and peaceful
haughty  disdainful; stuck up
hedonist  concerned with or motivated by pleasure
heinous  extremely wicked; reprehensible
heresy  opinions that are controversial or unorthodox
hermetic  completely sealed; airtight
hierarchy  arrangement by rank or position
hindrance  something that interferes with or delays action or progress
homogenous  all alike or similar
honorarium  compensation for a professional service
hypocritical  deceptive; pretending to be good or virtuous
hypothetical  based on guesswork; not proven
I
iconoclast  someone who goes against accepted authority
idiosyncrasy  quirk or unique trait
ignominious  state of dishonor or shame
imbibe  absorb; drink
imbroglio  complicated situation; entanglement
immutable  unable to be changed or varied
impeccable  faultless; perfect
impecunious  habitually lacking money; poor
impede  get in the way; hinder
impel  urge or force to action
impermeable  not easily penetrated; not permitting passage (especially of a liquid)
implausible  unlikely; dubious
impedance  rudeness
inadvertent  accidental; unintentional
inane  pointless; silly
incisive  acute; keen
incite  motivate; provoke or stir up
incongruous  lacking in harmony or compatibility
incorrigible  unable to be corrected through punishment
incumbent  (1) current holder of a particular office; (2) necessary or moral obligation
indict  formally accuse of a crime
induce  cause to do or act
industrious  hard-working; diligent
inept  clumsy or inexpert
inert  unable to move
ingenious  resourceful, clever
innocuous  not hurtful; harmless
inoculate  introduce a microorganism in order to treat or prevent a disease; vaccinate
insipid  bland or flavorless; boring
insouciant  carefree; sociable
instigate  goad or provoke
insularity  state of being isolated or detached
insurgent  rebellious

integrity  moral soundness
intervene  come between or step in
intrepid  fearless
intricate  complicated
inundate  overwhelm
invert  reverse in position or order
ironic  words that mean the opposite of what one thinks or assumes
irrefutable  cannot be proved wrong

jeopardize  put into danger; threaten
jocund  cheerful
jovial  jolly; full of good humor
jubilant  extremely joyful
judicious  fair and equal; having good judgment or common sense
junction  place where two or more things come together; being joined
juncture  event that occurs at a critical time
jurisprudence  philosophy, science, and study of law
justification  acceptable reason or excuse for doing something

K
kimono  loose robe
kinship  relationship or affinity between people
knavery  being tricky or dishonest
knead  press or squeeze thoroughly
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L</th>
<th>laborious</th>
<th>requiring much physical effort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>laconic</td>
<td>using few words in writing or speech</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lament</td>
<td>express regret</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>languid</td>
<td>lacking in liveliness or spirit; dreamy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laud</td>
<td>praise, glorify, or honor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lavish</td>
<td>giving or using a large amount of something</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lethargic</td>
<td>fatigue; feeling abnormal drowsiness or weariness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>levity</td>
<td>humor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>levy</td>
<td>impose or collect; seize</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lexicon</td>
<td>vocabulary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lithe</td>
<td>moving or bending with ease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>litigious</td>
<td>eager or prone to engaging in lawsuits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loath</td>
<td>unwilling; reluctant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loathe</td>
<td>great dislike or disgust</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lofty</td>
<td>rising to a great height</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loquacious</td>
<td>talkative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lucrative</td>
<td>profitable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>luminary</td>
<td>(1) prominent or brilliant person (2) body that gives light</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>luminous</td>
<td>glowing brightly; radiant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>materialism</td>
<td>concerned with giving importance to possessions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>methodical</td>
<td>careful and organized</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meticulous</td>
<td>accurate; exact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mirthful</td>
<td>merry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>miserly</td>
<td>(1) hesitating to spend money; (2) small amount</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mitigate</td>
<td>make less severe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>morose</td>
<td>unhappy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mundane</td>
<td>dull and ordinary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>nascent</td>
<td>just begun; in early stages of development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nefarious</td>
<td>extremely wicked</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>negate</td>
<td>to cause to be ineffective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neophyte</td>
<td>beginner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nocturnal</td>
<td>belonging to or active during the night</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nonchalance</td>
<td>act of not caring; being indifferent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>notoriety</td>
<td>condition of being well-known for something bad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>novelty</td>
<td>quality or state of being new</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nurture</td>
<td>take care of; help grow, develop, or succeed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>obliterate</td>
<td>wipe out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oblivion</td>
<td>state of being unconscious, unaware, or forgotten</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>obscure</td>
<td>not well-known</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>obsolete</td>
<td>no longer in use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>obstinate</td>
<td>stubborn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>obtuse</td>
<td>unintelligent or stupid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ocular</td>
<td>of or related to the eye</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>odious</td>
<td>hateful</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
official  (1) v. relating to an office or position; (2) n. one who holds such a position
officious  kind; dutiful
olfactory  of or related to the sense of smell
ominous  foreshadowing evil; foreboding
onus  burden or responsibility
opaque  (1) not letting light through; (2) difficult to understand or explain
opportunist  someone who tries to gain advantage through a situation
optimistic  looking for or expecting good things to happen
opulence  being superior in quality; rich
orator  someone who excels at making speeches
oscillate  swing or move back and forth
osculate  kiss
ossified  become fixed or rigid
ostentatious  showy; conspicuous
P
pacifist  someone who opposes war
palpable  easily perceived or felt
panacea  remedy for all diseases and ills; a “cure-all”
parsimony  stinginess
partisan  enthusiastic proponent of a belief or idea; committed to a political party
perfidy  treachery; betrayal
periphery  outside edge of an area
permutation  transformation
perpetuate  cause to continue
perspicacious  having keen insight; perceptive
pervasive  existing in every part of something
pessimism  someone who looks for or expects bad things to happen
phenomenon  remarkable development or event
philanthropy  good deeds; efforts to increase the good of mankind
pittance  very small sum
placate  cause to calm
ponderous  boring or dull; slow or awkward because of weight or size
posterity  future generations; descendents
potentate  sovereign or monarch
pragmatic  reasonable and logical
preclude  prevent something from happening
precocious  having or showing qualities of an adult at a young age
presumptuous  assuming too much
pretentious  wanting to appear more successful or important than one really is
prevalent  accepted, done, or happening over a large area
primeval  original; having existed in the beginning
prodigal  carelessly or foolishly wasting money or time
profusion  large amount
progenitor  ancestor  
prolific  producing a large amount  
prosperity  good fortune; success  
prototype  original work or standard used as an example for others  
provincial  limited; unsophisticated  
proximity  closeness  
prudent  exercising discretion and sound judgment  
purvey  supply or sell  
Q  
qualified  having necessary skills, experience, or knowledge  
quandary  confusing predicament; perplexity  
queue  line of people waiting in order of arrival  
quintessence  most essential part  
quixotic  foolishly and impractically romantic  
R  
rancor  angry feeling of dislike or hatred  
rappor  harmony; mutual understanding  
rapturous  extremely happy; euphoric  
ratify  make official  
recluse  someone who lives alone and avoids others  
reconcile  come to terms; bring back together; make compatible  
rectify  fix or correct  
redundant  unnecessary  
refute  disprove  
relegate  make lower or less important  
remedial  intended to improve or correct  
renounce  formally give up or no longer accept something  
repose  peaceful and tranquil rest  
reprehensible  deserving of strong criticism  
reprove  correct, usually in a gentle way  
repudiate  refuse to accept  
resigned  feeling or showing acceptance of something unpleasant  
resplendent  glowing  
reticence  act of being reserved or restrained; reluctant to talk or draw attention  
retract  take or bring back  
reverent  showing much respect  
rife  abundant  
rigor  difficult or unpleasant circumstances; being careful, strict, or exact  
robust  strong and healthy  
ruminant  contemplate; reflect on or remember something  
S  
sagacious  wise; shrewd  
salient  prominent; standing or projecting outward  
sanction  official permission or approval  
sanguine  cheery  
sapient  acutely wise and insightful
GLOSSARY

**satirical** using humor to show political or societal faults

**saturate** (1) make very wet; (2) fill completely

**scanty** very small in size or amount

**schism** division

**scintilla** faint trace or spark

**scrupulous** doing only what is right or proper; having moral integrity

**scrutinize** examine closely

**seclusion** placing or keeping away from people

**servile** very obedient; trying hard to please

**sinuous** winding or bending; curving in and out

**skeptic** someone who questions or doubts

**solvent** capable of meeting financial obligations

**sparse** thin, not thick

**sporadic** often but not readily or steadily

**squander** waste

**stagnant** inactive; not changing or progressing

**static** unchanging; stationary

**stringent** strict

**submissive** willing to obey someone else

**subordinate** in a position of less power or authority; less important

**subside** become less strong or intense

**subsidiary** something that is subordinate or supplemental

**substantiate** prove the truth of something

**succinct** using few words; brief

**succumb** to give in to or fall under the influence of something

**supercilious** arrogant or haughty

**superfluous** more than what is necessary or sufficient

**supplant** take the place of; serve as a substitute for

**surpass** be better or greater than something

**surreptitious** stealthy or secret

**susceptible** easily affected or influenced

**sycophant** someone who praises powerful people to get approval

**synthesis** combination into a complex whole

**T**

**taciturn** quiet; not inclined to speak

**tantamount** equivalent in value, effect, or significance

**tedious** dull; boring

**tenacity** strength; firmness

**terrestrial** of or relating to earth or land

**terse** brief or direct in a way that may seem rude

**theoretical** based on theory or hypothesis rather than practical knowledge

**tirade** long, angry speech

**tome** large, usually scholarly, book

**tortuous** twisting and turning; devious or indirect tactics
torturous  unpleasant or painful
tractable  easily controlled
tranquil  peaceful or calm
transgress  go over a limit; violate
transient  briefly passing through
travesty  parody or poor imitation
tremulous  fearful
truculent  harsh; aggressively ferocious
turmoil  confusion or disorder
turpitude  depravity

U
ubiquitous  present everywhere
ultimate  most remote; last; best or most extreme
uninterested  indifferent; not interested
unrelenting  never giving up
usurp  seize by force

V
vacillate  changing repeatedly
vacuous  lacking serious thought or intelligence
vapid  dull or boring; uninteresting
variegated  multicolored
vehement  showing strong, angry feelings
venal  capable of being bought; corrupt through bribery
venerable  respected and revered; august
venerate  feel or show deep respect
venial  minor; pardonable

veracity  truth or accuracy
verbose  wordy
vestige  trace of something lost or gone
viable  workable; able to grow
vigor  strength or determination
vilify  say or write harsh or critical things
vindicate  (1) prove that someone is not guilty; (2) show that something is true
vitriolic  characterized by harsh or angry words
vituperative  scathing; venomous
vivacious  lively; spirited
vociferous  blatant; conspicuous and offensive outcry
volatile  explosive

W
wane  decrease in size; dwindle
wanton  lewd or lustful
wary  careful; watchful
wily  sly or crafty
winsome  charming
wizened  dry; shrunken; wrinkled
wrath  vengeful anger

Z
zealot  fanatical person
zeitgeist  cultural, intellectual or moral tendencies of an era
zenith  culminating or highest point
zephyr  soft, gentle wind