

College and Career Readiness Standards for ACT Explore

ACT Explore English Test College and Career Readiness Standards by Strand and Score Range

The statements below describe what students who score in the specified score ranges are *likely* to know and to be able to do.

	Topic Development In Terms of Purpose and Focus	Organization, Unity, and Coherence	Word Choice In Terms of Style, Tone, Clarity, and Economy	Sentence Structure and Formation	Conventions of Usage	Conventions of Punctuation
Score Range 13–15		Use conjunctive adverbs or phrases to show time relationships in simple narrative essays (e.g., <i>then, this time</i>)	Revise sentences to correct awkward and confusing arrangements of sentence elements Revise vague nouns and pronouns that create obvious logic problems	Use conjunctions or punctuation to join simple clauses Revise shifts in verb tense between simple clauses in a sentence or between simple adjoining sentences	Solve such basic grammatical problems as how to form the past and past participle of irregular but commonly used verbs and how to form comparative and superlative adjectives	Delete commas that create basic sense problems (e.g., between verb and direct object)
Score Range 16–19	Identify the basic purpose or role of a specified phrase or sentence Delete a clause or sentence because it is obviously irrelevant to the essay	Select the most logical place to add a sentence in a paragraph	Delete obviously synonymous and wordy material in a sentence Revise expressions that deviate from the style of an essay	Determine the need for punctuation and conjunctions to avoid awkward-sounding sentence fragments and fused sentences Decide the appropriate verb tense and voice by considering the meaning of the entire sentence	Solve such grammatical problems as whether to use an adverb or adjective form, how to ensure straightforward subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement, and which preposition to use in simple contexts Recognize and use the appropriate word in frequently confused pairs such as <i>there</i> and <i>their</i> , <i>past</i> and <i>passed</i> , and <i>led</i> and <i>lead</i>	Provide appropriate punctuation in straightforward situations (e.g., items in a series) Delete commas that disturb the sentence flow (e.g., between modifier and modified element)
Score Range 20–23	Identify the central idea or main topic of a straightforward piece of writing Determine relevancy when presented with a variety of sentence-level details	Use conjunctive adverbs or phrases to express straightforward logical relationships (e.g., <i>first, afterward, in response</i>) Decide the most logical place to add a sentence in an essay Add a sentence that introduces a simple paragraph	Delete redundant material when information is repeated in different parts of speech (e.g., “alarmpingly started”) Use the word or phrase most consistent with the style and tone of a fairly straightforward essay Determine the clearest and most logical conjunction to link clauses	Recognize and correct marked disturbances of sentence flow and structure (e.g., participial phrase fragments, missing or incorrect relative pronouns, dangling or misplaced modifiers)	Use idiomatically appropriate prepositions, especially in combination with verbs (e.g., <i>long for, appeal to</i>) Ensure that a verb agrees with its subject when there is some text between the two	Use commas to set off simple parenthetical phrases Delete unnecessary commas when an incorrect reading of the sentence suggests a pause that should be punctuated (e.g., between verb and direct object clause)
Score Range 24–25	Identify the focus of a simple essay, applying that knowledge to add a sentence that sharpens that focus or to determine if an essay has met a specified goal Delete material primarily because it disturbs the flow and development of the paragraph Add a sentence to accomplish a fairly straightforward purpose such as illustrating a given statement	Determine the need for conjunctive adverbs or phrases to create subtle logical connections between sentences (e.g., <i>therefore, however, in addition</i>) Rearrange the sentences in a fairly uncomplicated paragraph for the sake of logic Add a sentence to introduce or conclude the essay or to provide a transition between paragraphs when the essay is fairly straightforward	Revise a phrase that is redundant in terms of the meaning and logic of the entire sentence Identify and correct ambiguous pronoun references Use the word or phrase most appropriate in terms of the content of the sentence and tone of the essay	Revise to avoid faulty placement of phrases and faulty coordination and subordination of clauses in sentences with subtle structural problems Maintain consistent verb tense and pronoun person on the basis of the preceding clause or sentence	Ensure that a pronoun agrees with its antecedent when the two occur in separate clauses or sentences Identify the correct past and past participle forms of irregular and infrequently used verbs and form present-perfect verbs by using <i>have</i> rather than <i>of</i>	Use punctuation to set off complex parenthetical phrases Recognize and delete unnecessary commas based on a careful reading of a complicated sentence (e.g., between the elements of a compound subject or compound verb joined by <i>and</i>) Use apostrophes to indicate simple possessive nouns Recognize inappropriate uses of colons and semicolons

ACT Explore Mathematics Test College and Career Readiness Standards by Strand and Score Range

The statements below describe what students who score in the specified score ranges are *likely* to know and to be able to do.

Score Range	Basic Operations & Applications	Probability, Statistics, & Data Analysis	Numbers: Concepts & Properties	Expressions, Equations, & Inequalities	Graphical Representations	Properties of Plane Figures	Measurement
Score Range 13–15	<p>Perform one-operation computation with whole numbers and decimals</p> <p>Solve problems in one or two steps using whole numbers</p> <p>Perform common conversions (e.g., inches to feet or hours to minutes)</p>	<p>Calculate the average of a list of positive whole numbers</p> <p>Perform a single computation using information from a table or chart</p>	<p>Recognize equivalent fractions and fractions in lowest terms</p>	<p>Exhibit knowledge of basic expressions (e.g., identify an expression for a total as $b + g$)</p> <p>Solve equations in the form $x + a = b$, where a and b are whole numbers or decimals</p>	<p>Identify the location of a point with a positive coordinate on the number line</p>		<p>Estimate or calculate the length of a line segment based on other lengths given on a geometric figure</p>
Score Range 16–19	<p>Solve routine one-step arithmetic problems (using whole numbers, fractions, and decimals) such as single-step percent</p> <p>Solve some routine two-step arithmetic problems</p>	<p>Calculate the average of a list of numbers</p> <p>Calculate the average, given the number of data values and the sum of the data values</p> <p>Read tables and graphs</p> <p>Perform computations on data from tables and graphs</p> <p>Use the relationship between the probability of an event and the probability of its complement</p>	<p>Recognize one-digit factors of a number</p> <p>Identify a digit's place value</p>	<p>Substitute whole numbers for unknown quantities to evaluate expressions</p> <p>Solve one-step equations having integer or decimal answers</p> <p>Combine like terms (e.g., $2x + 5x$)</p>	<p>Locate points on the number line and in the first quadrant</p>	<p>Exhibit some knowledge of the angles associated with parallel lines</p>	<p>Compute the perimeter of polygons when all side lengths are given</p> <p>Compute the area of rectangles when whole number dimensions are given</p>
Score Range 20–23	<p>Solve routine two-step or three-step arithmetic problems involving concepts such as rate and proportion, tax added, percentage off, and computing with a given average</p>	<p>Calculate the missing data value, given the average and all data values but one</p> <p>Translate from one representation of data to another (e.g., a bar graph to a circle graph)</p> <p>Determine the probability of a simple event</p>	<p>Exhibit knowledge of elementary number concepts including rounding, the ordering of decimals, pattern identification, absolute value, primes, and greatest common factor</p>	<p>Evaluate algebraic expressions by substituting integers for unknown quantities</p> <p>Add and subtract simple algebraic expressions</p> <p>Solve routine first-degree equations</p> <p>Perform straight-forward word-to-symbol translations</p>	<p>Locate points in the coordinate plane</p>	<p>Find the measure of an angle using properties of parallel lines</p> <p>Exhibit knowledge of basic angle properties and special sums of angle measures (e.g., 90°, 180°, and 360°)</p>	<p>Compute the area and perimeter of triangles and rectangles in simple problems</p> <p>Use geometric formulas when all necessary information is given</p>
Score Range 24–25	<p>Solve multistep arithmetic problems that involve planning or converting units of measure (e.g., feet per second to miles per hour)</p>	<p>Calculate the average, given the frequency counts of all the data values</p> <p>Manipulate data from tables and graphs</p> <p>Compute straight-forward probabilities for common situations</p>	<p>Find and use the least common multiple</p> <p>Order fractions</p> <p>Work with numerical factors</p> <p>Work with scientific notation</p> <p>Work with squares and square roots of numbers</p>	<p>Solve real-world problems using first-degree equations</p> <p>Write expressions, equations, or inequalities with a single variable for common pre-algebra settings (e.g., rate and distance problems and problems that can be solved by using proportions)</p> <p>Identify solutions to simple quadratic equations</p>		<p>Use several angle properties to find an unknown angle measure</p>	<p>Compute the area of triangles and rectangles when one or more additional simple steps are required</p> <p>Compute the area and circumference of circles after identifying necessary information</p>

ACT Explore Reading Test College and Career Readiness Standards by Strand and Score Range

The statements below describe what students who score in the specified score ranges are *likely* to know and to be able to do.

	Main Ideas and Author's Approach	Supporting Details	Sequential, Comparative, and Cause-Effect Relationships	Meanings of Words	Generalizations and Conclusions
Score Range 13–15	Recognize a clear intent of an author or narrator in uncomplicated literary narratives	Locate basic facts (e.g., names, dates, events) clearly stated in a passage	Determine when (e.g., first, last, before, after) or if an event occurred in uncomplicated passages Recognize clear cause-effect relationships described within a single sentence in a passage	Understand the implication of a familiar word or phrase and of simple descriptive language	Draw simple generalizations and conclusions about the main characters in uncomplicated literary narratives
Score Range 16–19		Locate simple details at the sentence and paragraph level in uncomplicated passages Recognize a clear function of a part of an uncomplicated passage	Identify relationships between main characters in uncomplicated literary narratives Recognize clear cause-effect relationships within a single paragraph in uncomplicated literary narratives	Use context to understand basic figurative language	Draw simple generalizations and conclusions about people, ideas, and so on in uncomplicated passages
Score Range 20–23	Infer the main idea or purpose of straightforward paragraphs in uncomplicated literary narratives Understand the overall approach taken by an author or narrator (e.g., point of view, kinds of evidence used) in uncomplicated passages	Locate important details in uncomplicated passages Make simple inferences about how details are used in passages	Order simple sequences of events in uncomplicated literary narratives Identify clear relationships between people, ideas, and so on in uncomplicated passages Identify clear cause-effect relationships in uncomplicated passages	Use context to determine the appropriate meaning of some figurative and nonfigurative words, phrases, and statements in uncomplicated passages	Draw generalizations and conclusions about people, ideas, and so on in uncomplicated passages Draw simple generalizations and conclusions using details that support the main points of more challenging passages
Score Range 24–25	Identify a clear main idea or purpose of any paragraph or paragraphs in uncomplicated passages Infer the main idea or purpose of straightforward paragraphs in more challenging passages Summarize basic events and ideas in more challenging passages Understand the overall approach taken by an author or narrator (e.g., point of view, kinds of evidence used) in more challenging passages	Locate important details in more challenging passages Locate and interpret minor or subtly stated details in uncomplicated passages Discern which details, though they may appear in different sections throughout a passage, support important points in more challenging passages	Order sequences of events in uncomplicated passages Understand relationships between people, ideas, and so on in uncomplicated passages Identify clear relationships between characters, ideas, and so on in more challenging literary narratives Understand implied or subtly stated cause-effect relationships in uncomplicated passages Identify clear cause-effect relationships in more challenging passages	Use context to determine the appropriate meaning of virtually any word, phrase, or statement in uncomplicated passages Use context to determine the appropriate meaning of some figurative and nonfigurative words, phrases, and statements in more challenging passages	Draw subtle generalizations and conclusions about characters, ideas, and so on in uncomplicated literary narratives Draw generalizations and conclusions about people, ideas, and so on in more challenging passages

Descriptions of the ACT Explore Reading Passages

Uncomplicated Literary Narratives refers to excerpts from essays, short stories, and novels that tend to use simple language and structure, have a clear purpose and a familiar style, present straightforward interactions between characters, and employ only a limited number of literary devices such as metaphor, simile, or hyperbole.

More Challenging Literary Narratives refers to excerpts from essays, short stories, and novels that tend to make moderate use of figurative language, have a more intricate structure and messages conveyed with some subtlety, and may feature somewhat complex interactions between characters.

Uncomplicated Informational Passages refers to materials that tend to contain a limited amount of data, address basic concepts using familiar language and conventional organizational patterns, have a clear purpose, and are written to be accessible.

More Challenging Informational Passages refers to materials that tend to present concepts that are not always stated explicitly and that are accompanied or illustrated by more—and more detailed—supporting data, include some difficult context-dependent words, and are written in a somewhat more demanding and less accessible style.

ACT Explore Science Test College and Career Readiness Standards by Strand and Score Range

The statements below describe what students who score in the specified score ranges are *likely* to know and to be able to do.

	Interpretation of Data	Scientific Investigation	Evaluation of Models, Inferences, and Experimental Results
Score Range 13–15	<p>Select a single piece of data (numerical or nonnumerical) from a simple data presentation (e.g., a table or graph with two or three variables; a food web diagram)</p> <p>Identify basic features of a table, graph, or diagram (e.g., headings, units of measurement, axis labels)</p>		
Score Range 16–19	<p>Select two or more pieces of data from a simple data presentation</p> <p>Understand basic scientific terminology</p> <p>Find basic information in a brief body of text</p> <p>Determine how the value of one variable changes as the value of another variable changes in a simple data presentation</p>	<p>Understand the methods and tools used in a simple experiment</p>	
Score Range 20–23	<p>Select data from a complex data presentation (e.g., a table or graph with more than three variables; a phase diagram)</p> <p>Compare or combine data from a simple data presentation (e.g., order or sum data from a table)</p> <p>Translate information into a table, graph, or diagram</p>	<p>Understand the methods and tools used in a moderately complex experiment</p> <p>Understand a simple experimental design</p> <p>Identify a control in an experiment</p> <p>Identify similarities and differences between experiments</p>	<p>Select a simple hypothesis, prediction, or conclusion that is supported by a data presentation or a model</p> <p>Identify key issues or assumptions in a model</p>
Score Range 24–25	<p>Compare or combine data from two or more simple data presentations (e.g., categorize data from a table using a scale from another table)</p> <p>Compare or combine data from a complex data presentation</p> <p>Interpolate between data points in a table or graph</p> <p>Determine how the value of one variable changes as the value of another variable changes in a complex data presentation</p> <p>Identify and/or use a simple (e.g., linear) mathematical relationship between data</p> <p>Analyze given information when presented with new, simple information</p>	<p>Understand the methods and tools used in a complex experiment</p> <p>Understand a complex experimental design</p> <p>Predict the results of an additional trial or measurement in an experiment</p> <p>Determine the experimental conditions that would produce specified results</p>	<p>Select a simple hypothesis, prediction, or conclusion that is supported by two or more data presentations or models</p> <p>Determine whether given information supports or contradicts a simple hypothesis or conclusion, and why</p> <p>Identify strengths and weaknesses in one or more models</p> <p>Identify similarities and differences between models</p> <p>Determine which model(s) is(are) supported or weakened by new information</p> <p>Select a data presentation or a model that supports or contradicts a hypothesis, prediction, or conclusion</p>

Science College Readiness Standards are measured in the context of science topics students encounter in science courses. These topics may include:

Life Science/Biology	Physical Science/Chemistry, Physics	Earth and Space Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal behavior • Animal development and growth • Body systems • Cell structure and processes • Ecology • Evolution • Genetics • Homeostasis • Life cycles • Molecular basis of heredity • Origin of life • Photosynthesis • Plant development, growth, structure • Populations • Taxonomy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atomic structure • Chemical bonding, equations, nomenclature, reactions • Electrical circuits • Elements, compounds, mixtures • Force and motion • Gravitation • Heat and work • Kinetic and potential energy • Magnetism • Momentum • The Periodic Table • Properties of solutions • Sound and light • States, classes, and properties of matter • Waves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthquakes and volcanoes • Earth's atmosphere • Earth's resources • Fossils and geologic time • Geochemical cycles • Groundwater • Lakes, rivers, oceans • Mass movements • Plate tectonics • Rocks, minerals • Solar system • Stars, galaxies, and the universe • Water cycle • Weather and climate • Weathering and erosion