



LEARNING EXPRESS®

# ACT

## Word Games

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

- **crossword puzzles**
- **anagram magic squares**
- **acrostics**
- **cryptograms**
- **word scrambles**
- **brainteasers**
- **matching-column exercises**
- **and more!**

# ACT WORD GAMES



Michele R. Wells



NEW YORK

# About the Author



**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**

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

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

<b>Chapter 4</b>	Crossword Puzzles.....	27
<b>Chapter 5</b>	Anagrams.....	45
<b>Chapter 6</b>	Acrostics .....	57
<b>Chapter 7</b>	Jumbles.....	65
<b>Chapter 8</b>	Word Searches.....	75
<b>Chapter 9</b>	Matching Column Games .....	87
<b>Chapter 10</b>	Double-Word Puzzles .....	99
<b>Chapter 11</b>	Cryptograms .....	115

**PART III: Set a Foolproof Strategy**

**Chapter 12** Planning and Preparing..... 123  
**Chapter 13** Anxiety-Busting Exercises..... 131  
**Chapter 14** Test-Day Checklist..... 135

**Glossary** ..... 137

# Introduction



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.

## 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!

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 on-line 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](http://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](http://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.

P A R T

# 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)

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

### WORD DETECTIVE

Knowing these prefixes and suffixes can help you deduce the meaning of many vocabulary words instantly, so familiarize yourself with the ones you don't already know for an instant vocab power-up!

### **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:

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

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





## Learn Root Words

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**

<i>acro</i> (top, height, tip)	<i>ceive, cept</i> (take)
<i>aer, aero</i> (air)	<i>celer</i> (fast)
<i>aesth, esth</i> (beauty)	<i>cent, centi</i> (hundred)
<i>agr, agri, agro</i> (farm)	<i>centr, centro</i> (center)
<i>alg, algo</i> (pain)	<i>cephal, cephalo</i> (head)
<i>ambi, amphi</i> (both)	<i>chrom, chromo, chromat,</i>
<i>ambul</i> (move)	<i>chromato</i> (color)
<i>ami, amo</i> (love)	<i>cide, cise</i> (cut)
<i>andr, andro</i> (male)	<i>circle, circum</i> (around)
<i>anim</i> (spirit, life)	<i>claim, clam</i> (speak)
<i>ann, enn</i> (year)	<i>cline</i> (lean)
<i>anth, antho</i> (flower)	<i>cogn, cogni</i> (learn)
<i>anthrop, anthropo</i> (human)	<i>cred</i> (believe)
<i>apo, apho</i> (away, separate)	<i>crypto</i> (hidden)
<i>aqu, aqua</i> (water)	<i>cycl</i> (circle)
<i>arbor</i> (tree)	<i>dem, demo</i> (people)
<i>arch</i> (most important)	<i>dendr, dendri, dendro</i> (tree)
<i>archa, archae, archi</i> (ancient)	<i>dent, dont</i> (tooth)
<i>art</i> (skill)	<i>derm, derma</i> (skin)
<i>arthr, arthro</i> (joint)	<i>dic, dict</i> (speak)
<i>aster, astr</i> (star)	<i>domin</i> (master)
<i>act</i> (to do)	<i>don, donat</i> (give)
<i>audi</i> (to hear)	<i>duc, duct</i> (lead)
<i>avi</i> (bird)	<i>dyn, dyna, dynam</i> (power)
<i>bar, baro</i> (pressure)	<i>ego</i> (self)
<i>bell, belli</i> (war)	<i>endo</i> (inside)
<i>bene</i> (good)	<i>equ, equi</i> (equal)
<i>bibli</i> (book)	<i>fer</i> (carry)
<i>bio</i> (life)	<i>flect</i> (bend)
<i>blast</i> (cell)	<i>flor, flora, fleur</i> (flower)
<i>capt, cept</i> (capture, hold)	<i>fract, frag</i> (break)
<i>cardi, cardio</i> (heart)	<i>fug</i> (escape)
<i>carn, carni</i> (flesh)	<i>gastr, gastro</i> (stomach)
<i>caust, caut</i> (burn)	<i>gen, gene, geno</i> (birth)
<i>cede, ceed</i> (yield)	<i>geo</i> (earth)

**List of Common Root Words (continued)**

<i>ger</i> (old age)	<i>mort</i> (death)
<i>gram</i> (written)	<i>narr</i> (tell)
<i>gyn</i> (female)	<i>nat</i> (born)
<i>helic, helico</i> (spiral)	<i>necr, necro</i> (dead)
<i>heli, helio</i> (sun)	<i>neg</i> (no)
<i>hem, hema, hemo</i> (blood)	<i>nom, nomin</i> (name)
<i>herbi</i> (plant)	<i>noun, nunc</i> (declare)
<i>hetero</i> (other)	<i>numer</i> (number)
<i>homeo, homo</i> (same)	<i>ocu, op, opt</i> (eye)
<i>hydr, hydro</i> (water)	<i>op, oper</i> (work)
<i>imag</i> (likeness)	<i>ortho</i> (straight)
<i>iso</i> (equal)	<i>pale, paleo</i> (ancient)
<i>ject</i> (throw)	<i>pater, patr, patri</i> (father)
<i>jud, jur, just</i> (law)	<i>path</i> (feeling)
<i>junct</i> (join)	<i>ped, pede, pedi, pod</i> (foot, child)
<i>juven</i> (young)	<i>phag, phage</i> (eat)
<i>kine, kinet</i> (motion)	<i>phil</i> (friend, love)
<i>lab</i> (work)	<i>phon, phono</i> (sound)
<i>later</i> (side)	<i>phot, photo</i> (light)
<i>liber</i> (free)	<i>phys</i> (body, nature)
<i>lingu</i> (language)	<i>pop</i> (people)
<i>loc</i> (place)	<i>pseud, pseudo</i> (false)
<i>locu, loqu</i> (speak)	<i>psych, psycho</i> (mind)
<i>log, logo</i> (word)	<i>pugn, pugna</i> (fight)
<i>luc, lumin</i> (light)	<i>purg</i> (clean)
<i>lun, luna, lumi</i> (moon)	<i>pyr, pyro</i> (fire)
<i>mal, male</i> (bad)	<i>rid</i> (laugh)
<i>mand</i> (order)	<i>rupt</i> (burst)
<i>mania</i> (madness)	<i>scend</i> (climb)
<i>manu</i> (hand)	<i>sci</i> (know)
<i>mar, mari</i> (sea)	<i>scrib, script</i> (write)
<i>mater, matr, matri</i> (mother)	<i>sect</i> (cut)
<i>meter</i> (measure)	<i>serv</i> (keep)
<i>migr</i> (move)	<i>sol</i> (alone, sun)
<i>morph</i> (form)	<i>spec, spect, spic</i> (see)

*sphere* (ball)

*spir* (breathe)

*stell* (star)

*techno* (skill)

*tel, tele, telo* (far)

*tele* (far away)

*temp, tempo* (time)

*term, termin* (end)

*ter, terr, terra* (earth)

*the, theo* (god)

*therm, thermo* (heat)

*urb* (city)

*vac* (empty)

*verb* (word)

*vid, vis* (to see)

### 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: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ition
  
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





## Deconstruct and Rebuild

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.

Column A	Column B
anti	act
con	cede
de	ceed
ex	ceive
in	cept
mis	dict
non	flect
pre	mand
re	serve
un	spect

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).

Column A	Column B
auto	ance
bio	ary
cardio	ate
jur	ation
kinet	ic
lumin	graph
migr	logy
narr	ous
opt	or
phon	y

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. \_\_\_\_\_

- \*10. The written story of someone's life. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. The study of the heart. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. A body of people who are called on to give a verdict in a dispute.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Of or related to motion. \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. The state or quality of emitting or reflecting light.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \*15. One who tells a story in detail. \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. A person of prominence or brilliance. \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. Not genuine; false. \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. A signature. \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. The act of telling or recounting a story in detail. \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. To move from one country or region to another.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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



P A R T

# II

Build an Awesome  
Vocabulary . . .  
with Games



## 4



# Crossword Puzzles

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.

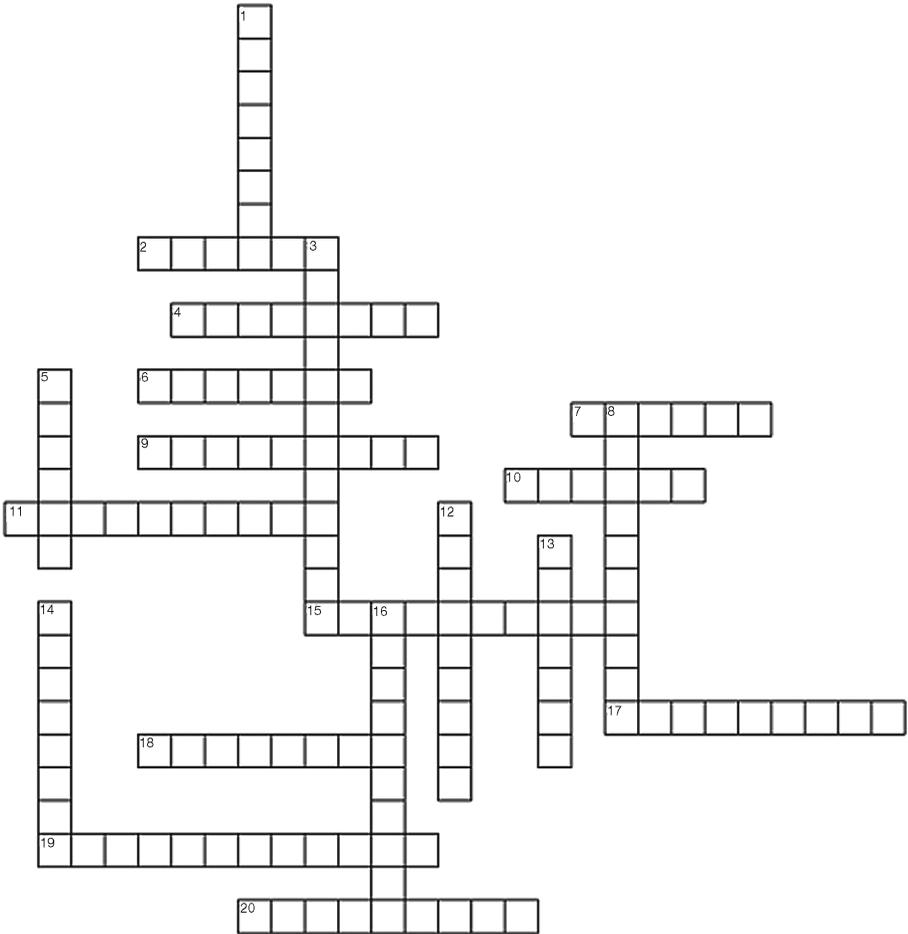
If you need help, a list containing all the words used in this chapter can be found on page 38. Scan the list to see if you can identify the word you're looking for.

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

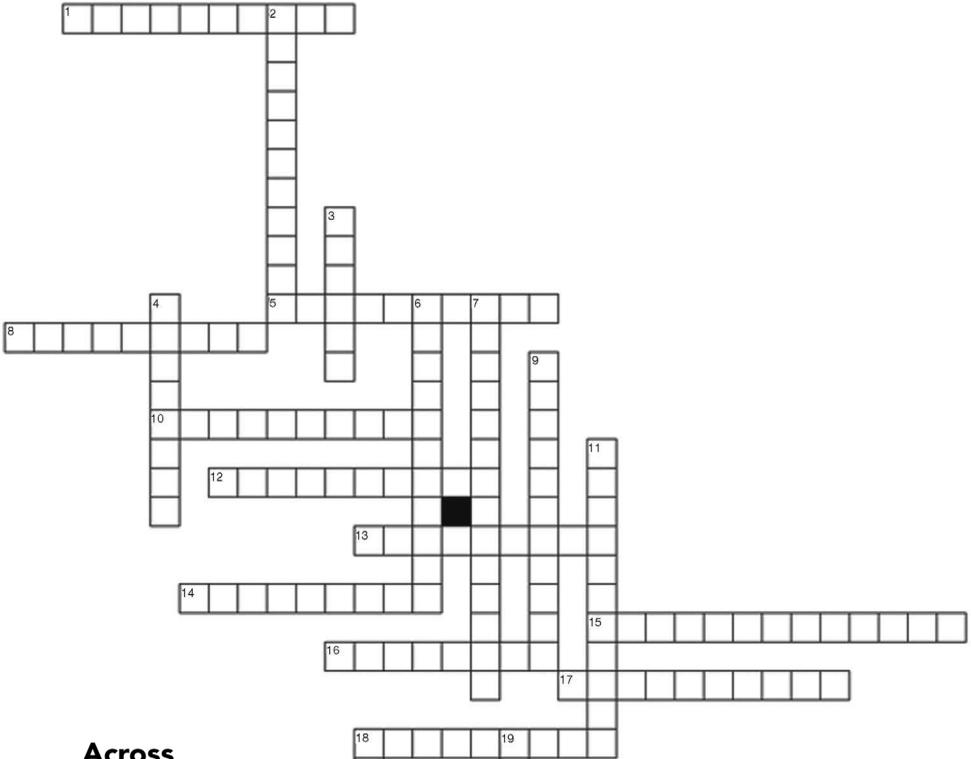
2. joyous
4. merry
6. warm and friendly
7. jolly; full of good humor
9. extremely happy; euphoric
10. thrilled; overjoyed
11. carefree; sociable
15. sociable
17. friendly
18. confident; optimistic
19. lively; bubbly
20. compatible

## 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

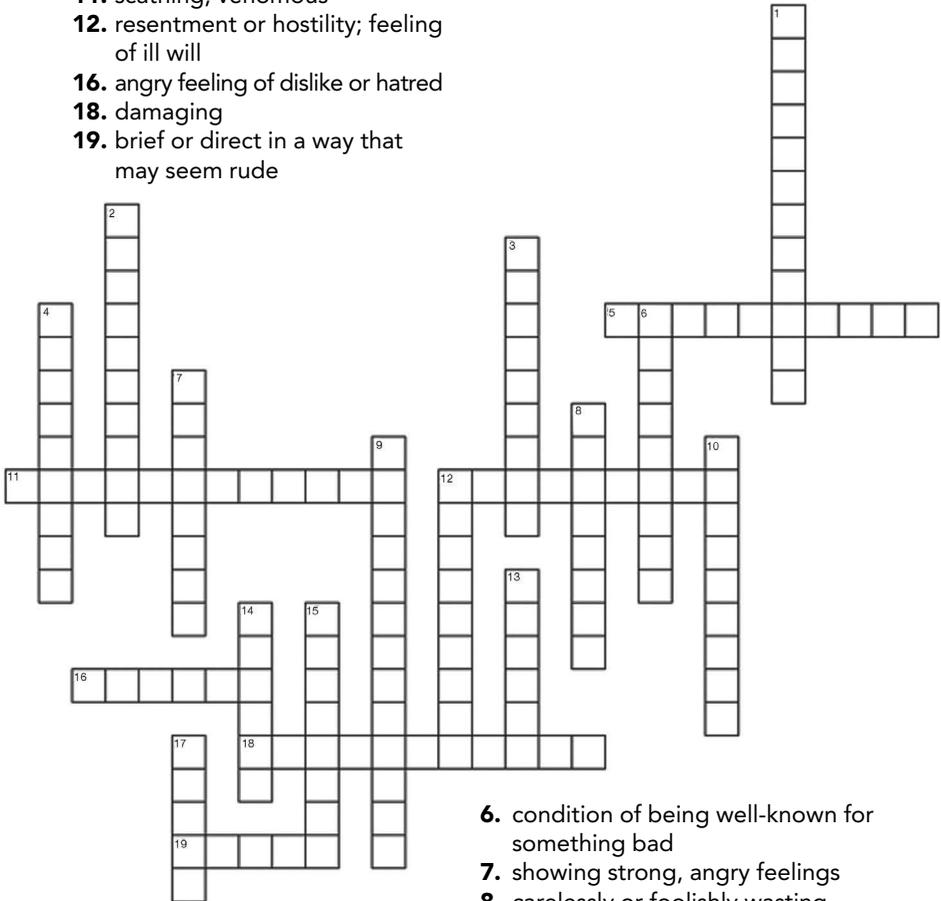
2. hard-working; diligent
3. workable; able to grow
4. relating to an office or position; one who holds such a position
6. circulate; cause to become widely known
7. time spent as a beginner, learning a trade or career from an expert
9. in a position of less power or authority; less important
11. obstruction 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

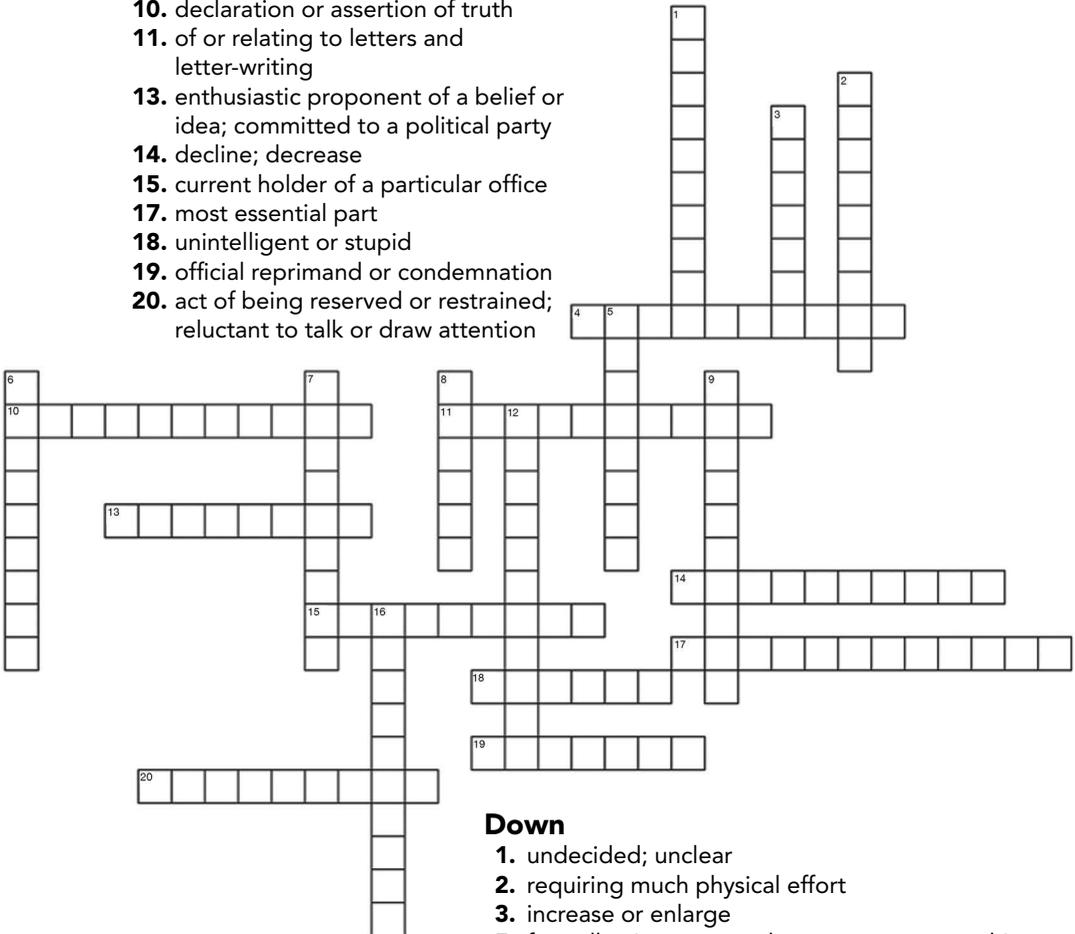
- 1. ill-tempered; cranky
- 2. blatant; conspicuous and offensive outcry
- 3. characterized by harsh or angry words
- 4. aggressively conceited and presumptuous
- 6. condition of being well-known for something bad
- 7. showing strong, angry feelings
- 8. carelessly or foolishly wasting money or time
- 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

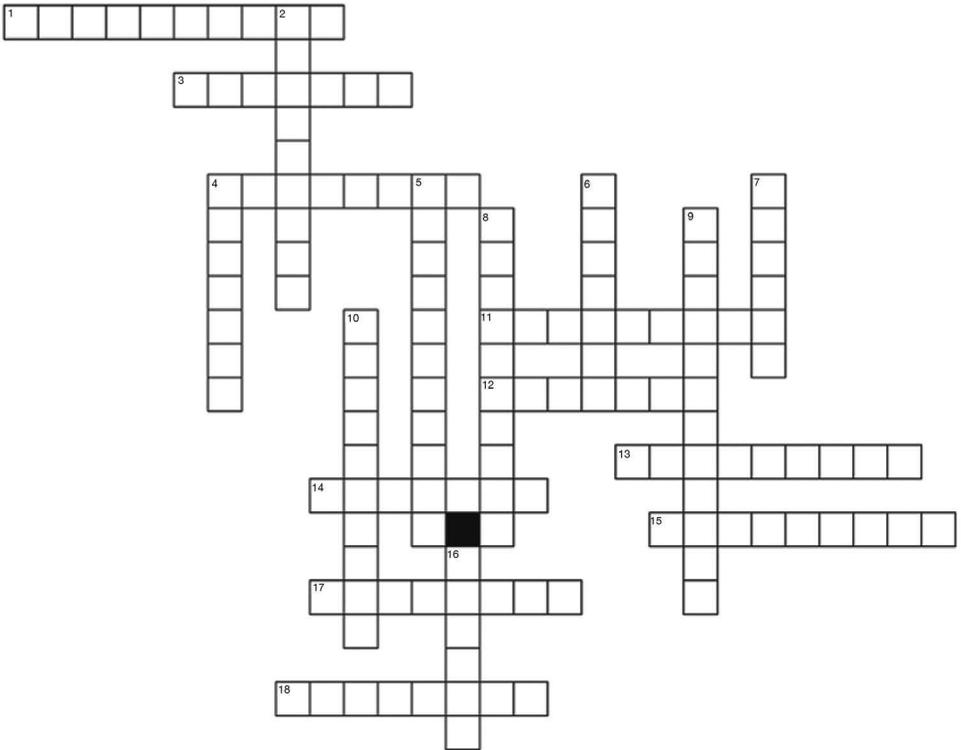


### Down

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

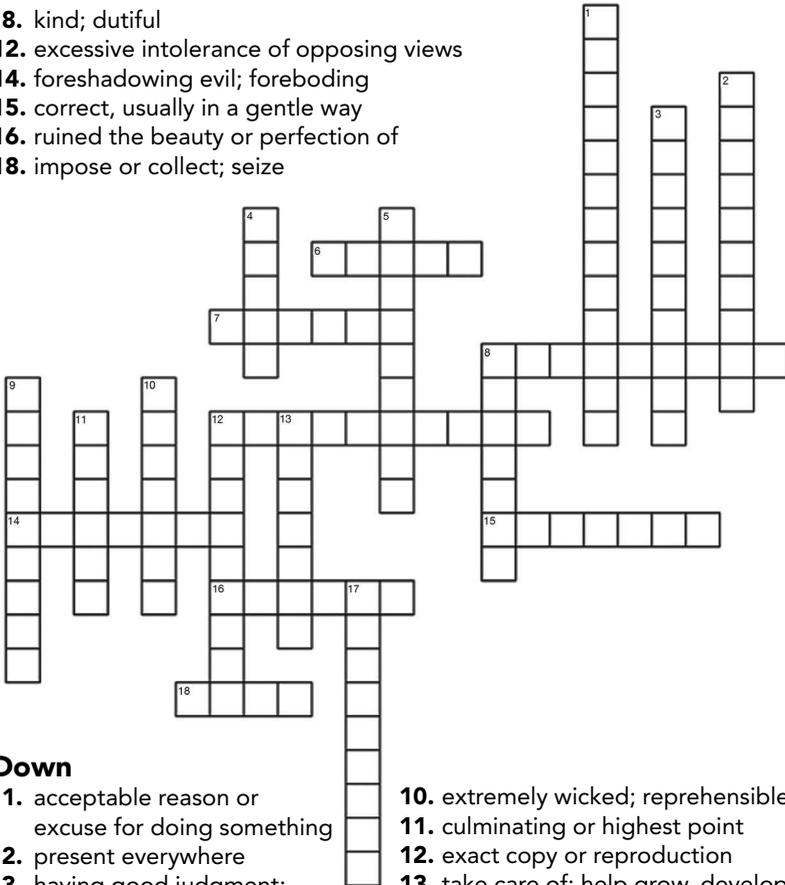
2. harsh; aggressively ferocious
4. fix or correct
5. based on theory or hypothesis rather than practical knowledge
6. not straightforward; dishonest or sneaky
7. opinions that are controversial or unorthodox
8. faultless; perfect
9. quirk or unique trait
10. all alike or similar
16. excessively elaborate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

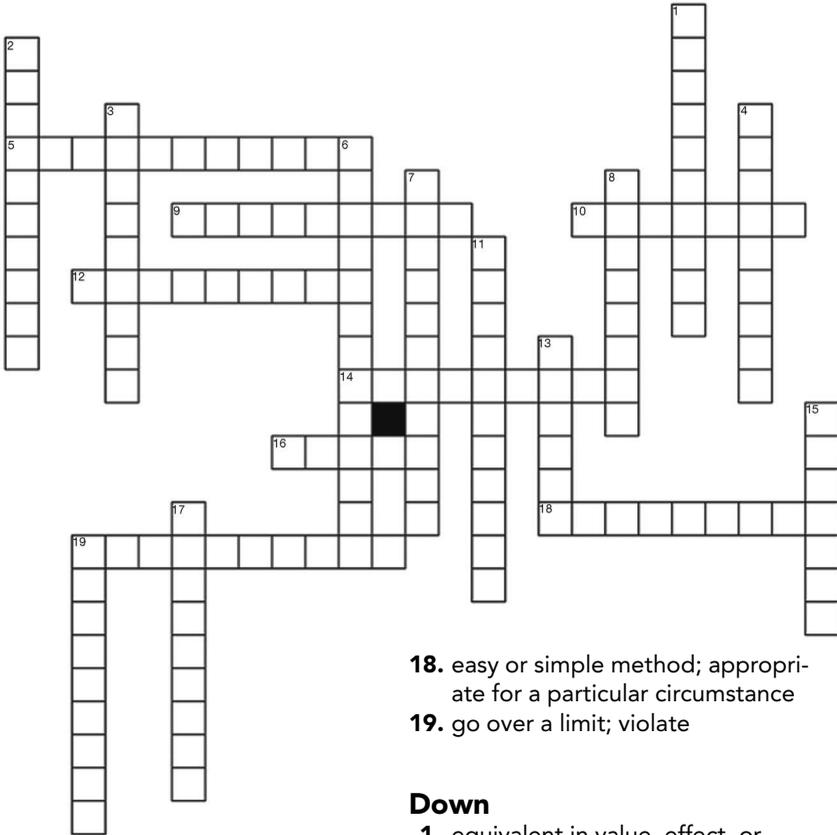


### Down

- 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

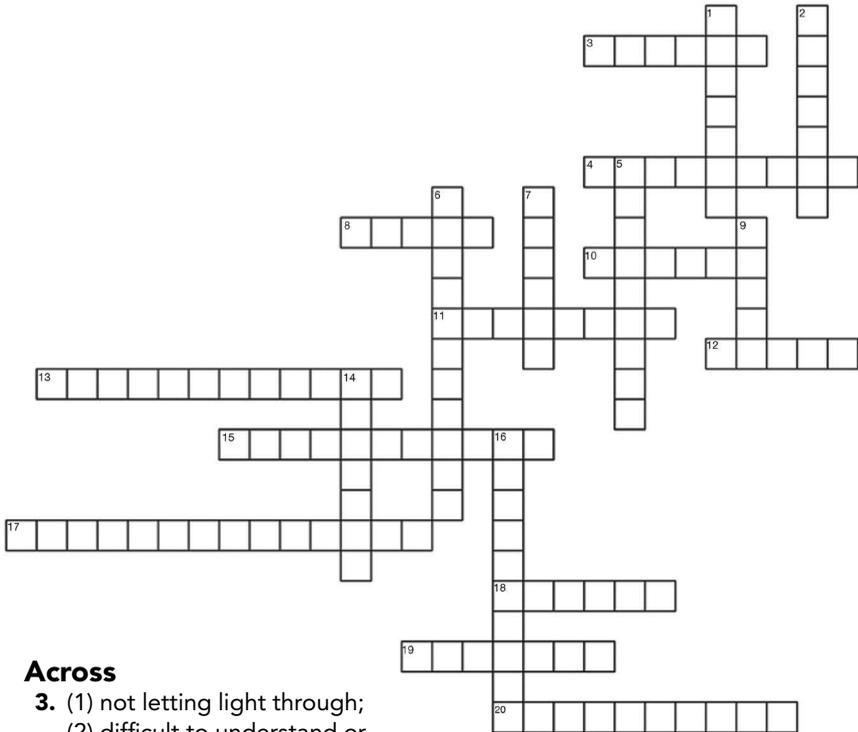
- 18. easy or simple method; appropriate for a particular circumstance
- 19. go over a limit; violate

## Down

- 1. equivalent in value, effect, or significance
- 2. multicolored
- 3. future generations; descendants
- 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

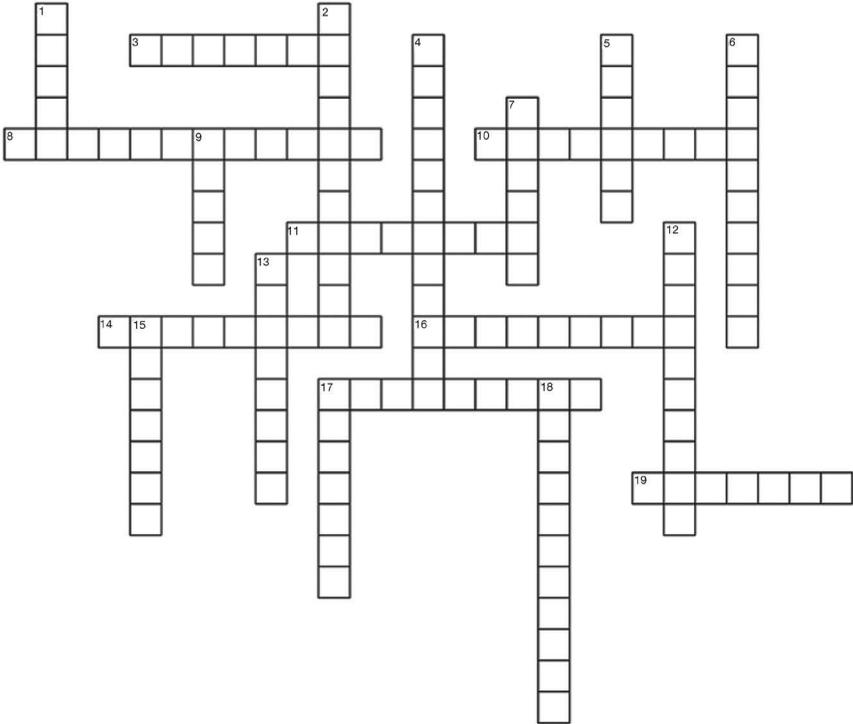
18. very small in size or amount
19. dull; boring
20. including every possible element; comprehensive; complete

### 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

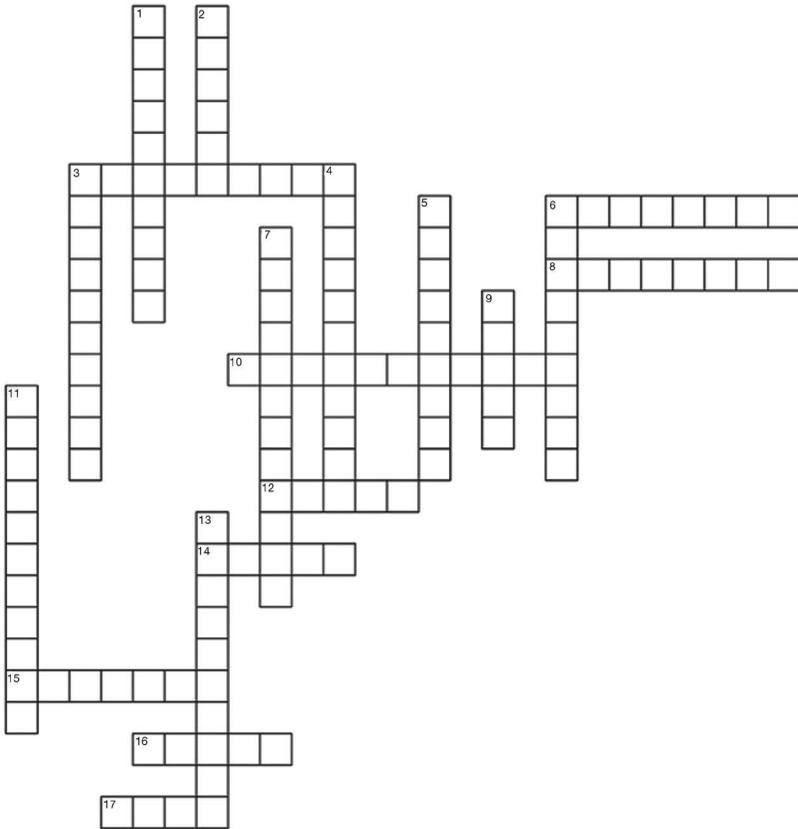
- increase or heighten
- deceptive; pretending to be good or virtuous
- looking for or expecting bad things to happen
- inactive; not changing or progressing
- accepted, done, or happening over a large area
- similar or equivalent; showing likeness
- unfavorable or oppositional conditions or events
- doubtful

### Down

- rising to a great height
- act of reducing or breaking down
- prove the truth of something
- motivate; provoke or stir up
- detestable
- humor
- unable to move
- harshly critical
- state of being unconscious, unaware, or forgotten
- take or bring back
- give notice; tell
- 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 inexperienced
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

## Word List for Chapter 4

abominable	censure	effervescent	guile
adversity	circumspect	elated	heinous
affable	complacency	embellish	heresy
affirmation	compliance	emulate	homogeneous
aloof	comprehensive	enhance	honorarium
ambivalent	congenial	enterprising	hypocritical
amicable	constituency	epistolary	idiosyncrasy
analogous	constraint	erroneous	impeccable
animosity	convivial	euphemism	impermeable
antagonism	cursory	exacerbate	inane
apprenticeship	curtail	exemplary	incite
apprise	debacle	exhaustive	incongruous
arrogance	degradation	exhilarating	incorrigible
augment	deride	expedient	incumbent
belie	despondent	expedite	induce
blithe	detrimental	exuberance	industrious
bombastic	devious	facilitate	inept
bucolic	diligence	facsimile	inert
bumptious	diminution	fanaticism	ingenious
buoyant	discerning	florid	insouciant
bureaucracy	discrepancy	flout	insurgent
cajole	discriminating	franchise	integrity
cantankerous	disprove	gamut	jocund
capricious	disseminate	gratuitous	jovial
ensorious	dubious	gregarious	jubilant

CROSSWORD PUZZLES

justification	opportunist	reprehensible	terrestrial
laborious	optimistic	reprove	terse
lament	oscillate	reticence	theoretical
lethargic	osculate	retract	tirade
levity	partisan	rife	transgress
levy	patronize	rigor	tremulous
loath	pessimism	ruminare	truculent
lofty	ponderous	sanction	turmoil
lucrative	posterity	sanguine	ubiquitous
luminary	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	
ominous	relegate	tedious	
opaque	renounce	tenet	

## Answers

### ***Crossword Puzzle #1***

#### **Across**

2. blithe
4. mirthful
6. affable
7. jovial
9. rapturous
10. elated
11. insouciant
15. gregarious
17. convivial
18. sanguine
19. effervescent
20. congenial

#### **Down**

1. jubilant
3. exhilarating
5. jocund
8. optimistic
12. vivacious
13. buoyant
14. amicable
16. exuberance

### ***Crossword Puzzle #2***

#### **Across**

1. honorarium
5. subsidiary
8. qualified
10. compliance
12. constraint
13. franchise
14. diligence
15. comprehensive
16. expedite
17. facilitate
18. exemplary

#### **Down**

2. industrious
3. viable
4. official
6. disseminate
7. apprenticeship
9. subordinate
11. bureaucracy
18. enterprising
19. lucrative

**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 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

## 5



# Anagrams

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.)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## 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.)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## Anagram Puzzle #4

**callous**

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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## 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.)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## 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.)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## 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**

clap	curs	pul	sop
claps	culp	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	
curls	pros	solus	

**Anagram Puzzle #2**

ail	lain	liven	veil
ain	lane	nail	vein
ale	lav	naive	veinal
alevin	lave	nave	vela
alien	lea	navel	vena
alive	lean	nevi	venal
ane	lei	nil	venial
ani	lev	vail	via
anile	levin	vain	vial
anvil	liane	vale	vie
ave	lie	valine	vile
élan	lien	van	vina
evil	line	vane	vinal
ilea	live	veal	vine

**Anagram Puzzle #3**

age	eng	gent	tae
agene	eta	get	tag
agent	gan	geta	tan
ane	gat	gnat	tang
ant	gate	nag	tea
ante	gee	neat	tee
ate	gen	nee	teen
eat	gene	neg	ten
eaten	genet	net	tenge

**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	
douse	odes	video	
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

**Anagram Puzzle #7**

bee	ever	rob	sever
beer	eves	robe	sob
beers	obese	robes	sober
bees	obverse	robs	soever
bore	orb	roe	sorb
bores	orbs	roes	sore
breve	ore	rose	vee
breves	ores	rove	veer
bro	ors	roves	veers
bros	over	see	vees
brose	reb	seer	verb
ere	rebs	ser	verbs
eros	res	sere	verse
erose	rev	serve	verso
eve	revs	servo	

**Anagram Puzzle #8**

ahi	hails	sal	via
ahis	has	shiv	vial
ahs	his	silva	vials
ail	lash	vail	vis
ails	lav	vails	visa
ash	lavs	vas	
hail	sail		

**Anagram Puzzle #9**

enroot	ono	tier	tot
entity	onto	tin	tote
entry	ore	tine	toter
eon	orient	tint	toy
inert	ort	tinter	toyer
intro	otter	tiny	toyon
inter	otto	tire	trey
into	rein	tiro	trine
intro	rent	tit	trio
ion	ret	titer	trite
ire	retint	titre	triton
iron	riot	toe	tritone
irony	rite	ton	trot
net	roe	tone	troy
nit	root	toner	try
nite	rooty	tonier	tyer
niter	rot	tony	tyin
nitery	rote	too	tyre
nitre	roti	toon	tyro
nitro	roto	toot	yen
nitty	rotten	tooter	yet
noir	rye	tor	yeti
nor	ten	tore	yin
nori	tenor	tori	yon
not	tent	torn	yoni
note	tern	tort	yore
noter	tetri	torte	
one	tie	tortoni	

**Anagram Puzzle #10**

ail	clonic	conical	loan
ain	coal	icon	loci
alnico	coca	ion	loin
aloin	coil	lac	nail
ani	coin	laic	nil
calico	col	lain	noil
calo	cola	lin	oca
can	colic	linac	oil
ciao	con	lino	oilcan
clan	conic	lion	

## 6



# Acrostics

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** \_\_\_\_\_  
**T** \_\_\_\_\_  
**H** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Y** \_\_\_\_\_

## Acrostic #6: DEVISE

To **devise** is to invent or create something.

(Example: He's hard to deceive, so we'll have to *devise* a plan to get him to the surprise party.)

**D** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E** \_\_\_\_\_  
**V** \_\_\_\_\_  
**I** \_\_\_\_\_  
**S** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E** \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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



## 7



# Jumbles

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









TRESYPPRIO











QANUREDS









CUSPEIOUNIM













## 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 night-time hours.

ARCTLEGIH

ULAOCTNNR

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
TRESYPPRIO	PROSPERITY
QANUREDS	SQUANDER
CUSPEIOUNIM	IMPECUNIOUS

### ***Jumble #2: Can't We All Just Get Along?***

COYCILANITRO	CONCILIATORY
PEAPEAS	APPEASE
FEERENCED	DEFERENCE
RATIOELAME	AMELIORATE
ENSONSUSC	CONSENSUS
LEORECINC	RECONCILE

### ***Jumble #3: Nighty-Night***

ARCTLEGIH	LETHARGIC
ULAOCTNNR	NOCTURNAL
ACOLHYN	HALCYON
EOSPER	REPOSE
ALQRIUTN	TRANQUIL
ENWA	WANE

### ***Jumble #4: Past Tense***

CACHIRA	ARCHAIC
OETSOELB	OBSOLETE
ONSCMNARHAI	ANACHRONISM
EIVRMALP	PRIMEVAL
IGSEETV	VESTIGE
TRAFICTA	ARTIFACT

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

AOGCUSSAI	SAGACIOUS
MNENTEI	EMINENT
AYRMINUL	LUMINARY
ASENTPI	SAPIENT
PPSRIOSCUCIAE	PERSPICACIOUS
BERELAVNE	VENERABLE

***Jumble #6: Mangia!***

MIEIBB	IMBIBE
SLUTOGUONT	GLUTTONOUS
IULOBUBS	BIBULOUS
AMFISH	FAMISH
AGONFRIG	FORAGING
TESOABUSMI	ABSTEMIOUS

***Jumble #7: Enough Already!***

SOBABITCM	BOMBASTIC
IEFFVUES	EFFUSIVE
NOEASIDRG	GRANDIOSE
NOTUTTIESASO	OSTENTATIOUS
LIDROF	FLORID
SESRULUOFPU	SUPERFLUOUS

***Jumble #8: Too Cool for School***

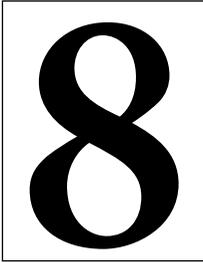
DICTIACD	DIDACTIC
DIEMRELA	REMEDIAL
RUDEITE	ERUDITE
METO	TOME
BIRDAGE	ABRIDGE
REELCARB	CEREBRAL

***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
RETES	TERSE
RUNCUTLET	TRUCULENT
MENUTIPD	IMPUDENT



# Word Searches

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 Search Game #1

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

CHICANERY  
 TRACTABLE  
 GARRULOUS  
 ABDICATE  
 WINSOME  
 MUNDANE  
 PERFIDY  
 HERMETIC  
 ANOMALOUS  
 CRITERION

## Word Search Game #2

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

DENOUNCE  
 ALLEVIATE  
 BRUSQUE  
 SATURATE  
 VESTIGE  
 INTREPID  
 FAMISH  
 HEDONIST  
 COHESIVE  
 DOGMATIC

### 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

SCHISM  
 TENACITY  
 VAPID  
 POTENTATE  
 JOVIAL  
 ABTRUSE  
 INCISIVE  
 BENIGN  
 LANGUID  
 DUPLICITY

### 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

KNAVERY  
 PROLIFIC  
 OSSIFIED  
 SAGACIOUS  
 NASCENT  
 QUIXOTIC  
 PANACEA  
 DECORUM  
 MALICIOUS  
 EPITOME

## Word Search Game #5

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

EGRESS  
 DEPRAVITY  
 PARSIMONY  
 RECLUSE  
 ACERBIC  
 ENMITY  
 INSIPID  
 CHURLISH  
 LEXICON  
 WANTON

## Word Search Game #6

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

VOCIFEROUS  
 OPULENCE  
 SALIENT  
 ADVERSARY  
 WIZENED  
 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 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  
 DICHOTOMY  
 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

ODIIOUS  
 LITHE  
 INUNDATE  
 FURTIVE  
 EXPLICIT  
 MISERLY  
 INTRICATE  
 DISPARITY  
 ARCHAIC  
 COERCION

## 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

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

CHICANERY  
 TRACTABLE  
 GARRULOUS  
 ABDICATE  
 WINSOME  
 MUNDANE  
 PERFIDY  
 HERMETIC  
 ANOMALOUS  
 CRITERION

### Word Search Game #2

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

DENOUNCE  
 ALLEVIATE  
 BRUSQUE  
 SATURATE  
 VESTIGE  
 INTREPID  
 FAMISH  
 HEDONIST  
 COHESIVE  
 DOGMATIC

**Word Search Game #3**

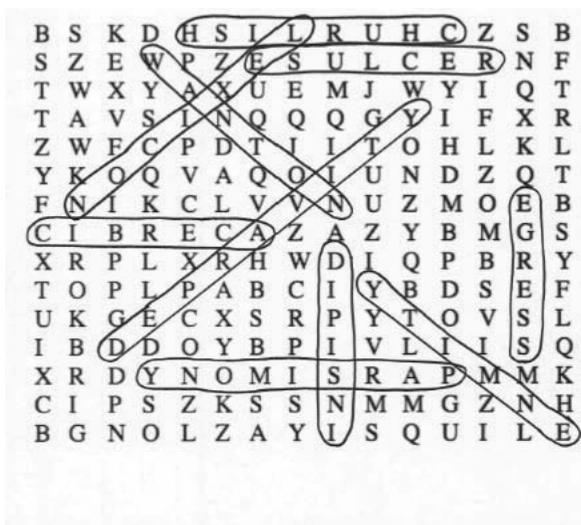
N N I J L Z Q A H G C S D F C  
 K S P N B X Z N O Q W C Z A E  
 V N Y T I C I L P U D H K N S  
 E R O B T J Y Y V A P I D G S  
 P B K F Q T H E I U K S Z I X  
 U S D I B H M S M U V M C N X  
 Z T N L N D R U T C A D D E C  
 W L E Z Z C E R C J B Z T B S  
 P Q A N V I I T A J J A L D X  
 M X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

SCHISM  
 TENACITY  
 VAPID  
 POTENTATE  
 JOVIAL  
 ABSTRUSE  
 INCISIVE  
 BENIGN  
 LANGUID  
 DUPLICITY

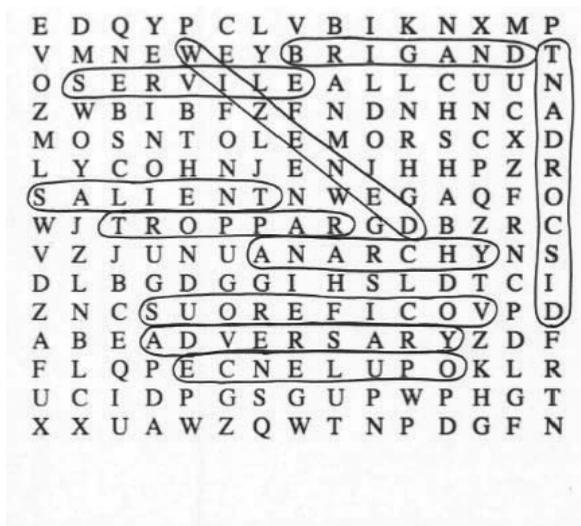
**Word Search Game #4**

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

KNAVERY  
 PROLIFIC  
 OSSIFIED  
 SAGACIOUS  
 NASCENT  
 QUIXOTIC  
 PANACEA  
 DECORUM  
 MALICIOUS  
 EPITOME

**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

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 Q 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 L 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 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  
 DICHOTOMY  
 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 O 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 B 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 L 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

ODIIOUS  
 LITHE  
 INUNDATE  
 FURTIVE  
 EXPLICIT  
 MISERLY  
 INTRICATE  
 DISPARITY  
 ARCHAIC  
 COERCION

## 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



## 9



# Matching Column Games

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

**A**

**allusion**

**illusion**

**aesthetic**

**ascetic**

**cite**

**site**

**compliment**

**complement**

**concurrent**

**consecutive**

**B**

practicing extreme self-denial; austerity

location, scene, or point of occurrence

expression of respect or affection; good wishes

something that is misleading or deceptive

occurring at the same time; running parallel

appreciation of beauty or art

indirect reference

refer to or quote authoritatively; call upon officially

following one after the other in order

make something complete

## Matching Column Game #2

**A**

**connote**

**denote**

**discrete**

**discreet**

**disinterested**

**uninterested**

**emigrant**

**immigrant**

**glutinous**

**gluttonous**

**B**

modest; having good moral judgment

indifferent; not interested

someone who settles in a new country

associate; express indirectly or imply

glue-like; gummy

indicate; make known

having an enormous appetite

separate; individually distinct

one who departs a country to settle elsewhere

impartial; unbiased

## Matching Column Game #3

**A**

**figuratively**

**literally**

**foreword**

**forward**

**stationary**

**stationery**

**comprise**

**compose**

**elicit**

**illicit**

**B**

symbolically; metaphorically

(1) toward the front; (2) send on or pass along

writing materials; notepaper

form; produce; create

unlawful

actually; word-for-word

to draw out (especially emotion or information)

made up of; included within a particular scope

introductory note or preface

fixed; unmoving

## Matching Column Game #4

**A**

**inflammable**

**nonflammable**

**founder**

**flounder**

**penultimate**

**ultimate**

**venial**

**venal**

**adverse**

**averse**

**B**

capable of being bought; corrupt through bribery

(1) one who founds or establishes; (2) give way; sink

next-to-last

most remote; last; best or most extreme

contrary or opposed; unfavorable

having a feeling of intense dislike or repulsion

unable to be set on fire

minor; pardonable

able to be set on fire

(1) a marine fish; (2) struggle or thrash about

## Matching Column Game #5

**A**

empathy  
sympathy

appraise  
apprise

augur

auger

censure

ensor

compare

contrast

**B**

give notice; tell  
tool used for making holes or removing  
loose material

feeling of loyalty or support for another  
one who supervises conduct or morals;  
to suppress

set a value or estimate the cost of  
something

official reprimand or condemnation

find similarities or resemblances

find a degree of difference

sharing another's emotions or feelings

a person who foretells events or sees  
the future

## Matching Column Game #6

**A**

council  
counsel  
continuous

continual

decent  
descent  
defuse  
diffuse

incidence

incidents

**B**

nonstop; continuing uninterrupted  
an advisory or legislative body or group  
recurring in rapid succession; occurring  
regularly

(1) downward inclination; (2) deriving  
from ancestors

advice, policy, or plan of action

make less harmful or tense

frequency of occurrence

happenings; events that lead to grave  
consequences

appropriate; free from immodesty or  
obscenity

not concentrated; spread out

## Matching Column Game #7

**A**

**insight**

**incite**

**ensure**

**insure**

**marital**

**martial**

**official**

**official**

**perspicuous**

**perspicacious**

**B**

provide or obtain insurance; take precaution

relating to an office or position

move to action; stir up

suited for war; related to military life

to make certain

transparent; clear and precise

of or relating to marriage

penetration; seeing the inner nature of something

kind; dutiful

acutely insightful and wise

## Matching Column Game #8

**A**

**proscribe**

**prescribe**

**precede**

**proceed**

**stature**

**statute**

**tortuous**

**torturous**

**vociferous**

**voracious**

**B**

continue; follow a certain course

height; quality or status gained by development

recommend; specify with authority

twisting and turning; devious or indirect tactics

excessively greedy or eager; having a large appetite

unpleasant or painful

condemn or forbid as harmful

law or legislative act

be, go, or come ahead or in front of; surpass

blatant; conspicuous and offensive outcry

## Matching Column Game #9

**A**

conscience

conscious

eminent

imminent

imply

infer

notable

noticeable

irreverent

irrelevant

**B**

suggest; express or state indirectly

guess; deduce

awake; aware

able to be perceived or detected

standing out or above in quality or position

worthy of notice

at hand; about to occur

having no connection with an issue; unrelated

moral sense of right and wrong

showing disrespect

## Matching Column Game #10

**A**

convince

persuade

flaunt

flout

principal

principle

amoral

immoral

gibe

jibe

**B**

show off shamelessly

encourage; talk someone into something

an educator in a position of high authority

basic truth or belief; rule of personal conduct

plead with; urge

neither moral nor immoral

tease; taunt

to agree or be in accord

disregard; show scorn or contempt

unethical; morally objectionable

## Answers

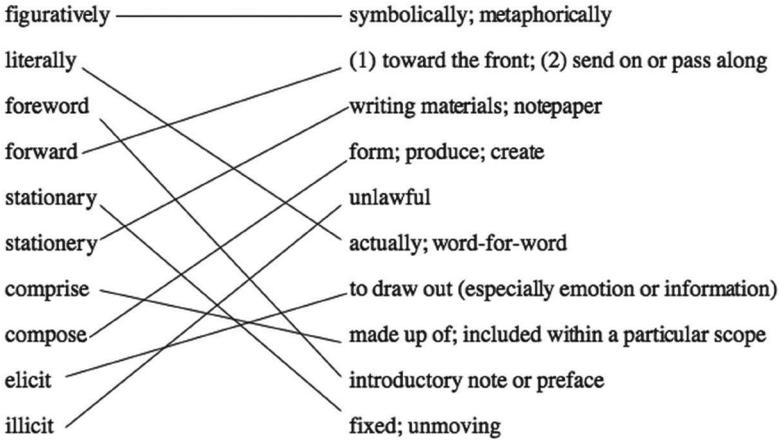
### Matching Column Game #1

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 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                                 |

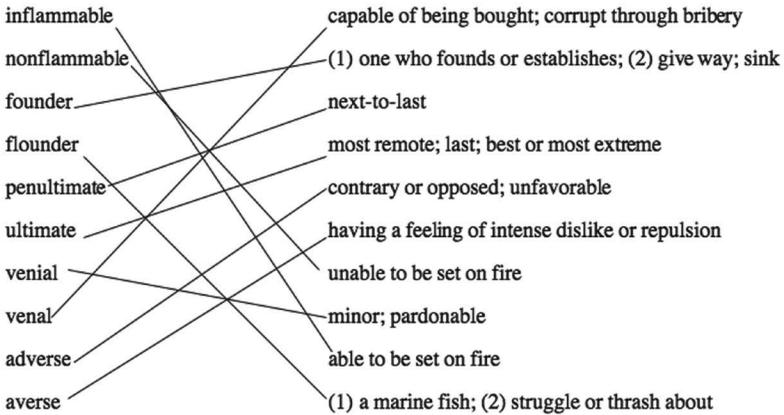
### Matching Column Game #2

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 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                           |

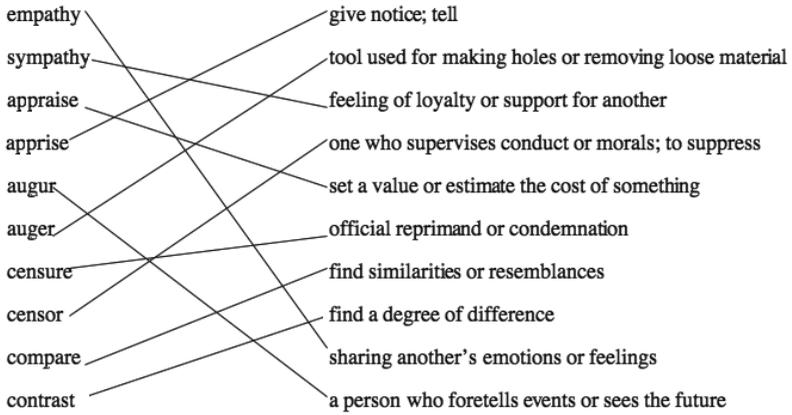
### Matching Column Game #3



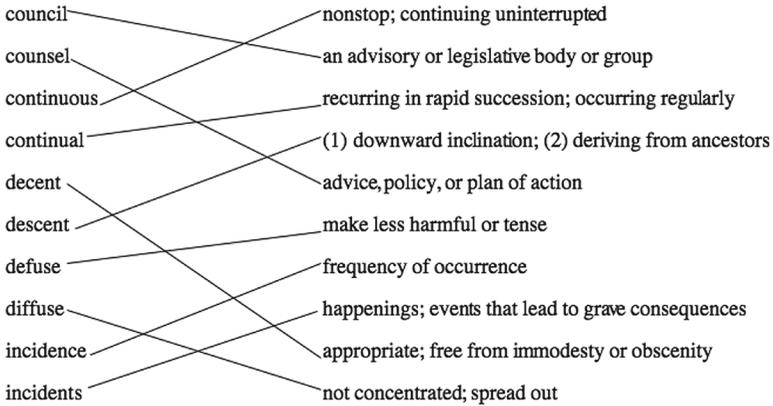
### Matching Column Game #4



**Matching Column Game #5**



**Matching Column Game #6**



**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**

proscribe	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





# Double- Word Puzzles

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.

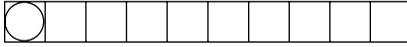
## Instructions

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!

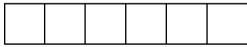
## Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #1



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)



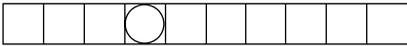
5. sincerity and openness  
(6 letters)



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



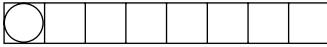
1. goad or provoke  
(9 letters)



2. exercising discretion  
and sound judgment  
(7 letters)



3. sly or crafty (4 letters)



4. remedy; something  
that counteracts  
(8 letters)



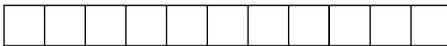
5. complicated (9 letters)



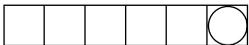
6. get or gather together  
(7 letters)



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



8. make movements or  
gestures while speak-  
ing (11 letters)



9. make official (6 letters)



10. using few words; brief  
(8 letters)

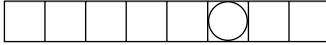


**Bonus:** careful; watchful

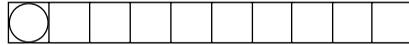
## Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #3



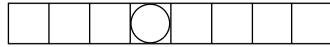
1. never giving up  
(11 letters)



2. feel or show deep respect (8 letters)



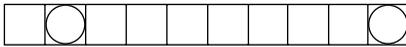
3. complicated; long-winded (10 letters)



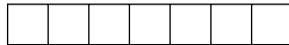
4. quiet; not inclined to speak (8 letters)



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)

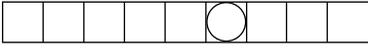


10. maintain or assert (7 letters)



**Bonus:** changing repeatedly

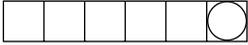
## Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #4



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)



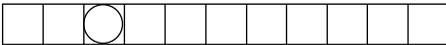
5. calmness in mind or bearing (9 letters)



6. outside edge of an area  
(9 letters)



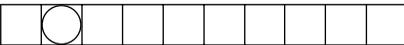
7. reverse in position or order (6 letters)



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 under-  
standable (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:** craftsman

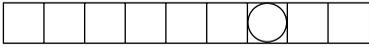
## Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #6



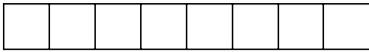
1. relationship or affinity  
between people (7 letters)



2. closeness (9 letters)



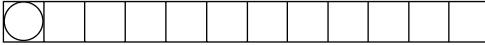
3. uncertain; capable of  
different meanings  
(9 letters)



4. possible; doable (8 letters)



5. burden or responsibility  
(4 letters)



6. assuming too much  
(12 letters)



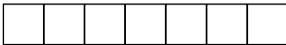
7. quality or state of being  
new (7 letters)



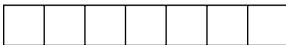
8. refuse to accept (9 letters)



9. manipulate; use to one's  
own advantage (7 letters)

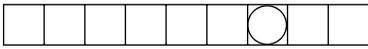


10. disdainful; stuck up  
(7 letters)



**Bonus:** someone who ques-  
tions 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)



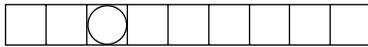
4. act of not caring; being indifferent (11 letters)



5. rudeness (9 letters)



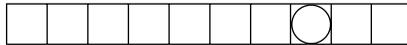
6. not essential (10 letters)



7. hindrance (9 letters)



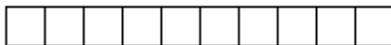
8. state of dishonor or shame (11 letters)



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)

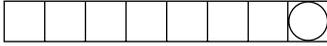
□ □ ○ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

10. cause to calm (7 letters)

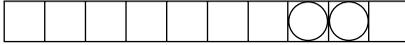
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

**Bonus:** using few words in writing or speech

## Hidden-Meaning Puzzle #10



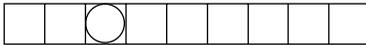
1. showing much respect  
(8 letters)



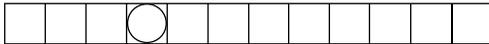
2. put in danger; threaten  
(10 letters)



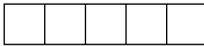
3. feeling or showing  
acceptance of some-  
thing unpleasant  
(8 letters)



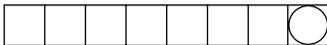
4. strict (9 letters)



5. arrogant or haughty  
(12 letters)



6. strength or determina-  
tion (5 letters)



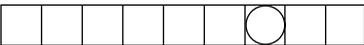
7. often but not readily or  
steadily (8 letters)



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**

adulation	contend	equivocal	haughty
antidote	convoluted	exalt	hierarchy
appraise	corrosion	exemplify	iconoclast
apprehension	credulity	exploit	ignominious
artisan	delineate	extol	impel
benevolent	deprecate	extraneous	impudence
brevity	deterrent	fallacious	inadvertent
calculated	digression	feasible	innocuous
candor	dismiss	flagrant	instigate
circumlocution	disparage	foreboding	insularity
compile	dispersion	gesticulate	intervene
composure	divergent	gratify	intricate
condone	egotism	gullible	invert

DOUBLE-WORD PUZZLES

ironic	onus	queue	succumb
jeopardize	orator	ratify	supercilious
judicious	ostentatious	redundant	taciturn
junction	periphery	repudiate	transient
kimono	permutation	resigned	unrelenting
kinship	perpetuate	resplendent	vacillate
knead	pervasive	reverent	venerate
laconic	phenomenon	satirical	veracity
laud	placate	scintilla	vigor
luminous	pragmatic	scrutinize	wary
methodical	presumptuous	skeptic	wily
meticulous	provincial	sparse	zeitgeist
nefarious	proximity	sporadic	
nonchalance	prudent	stringent	
novelty	purvey	succinct	

## 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. succint

**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 #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 #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 #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



# Cryptograms

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!

### 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

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

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

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

22 7 26 12 7 8 12
2 17 7

7 20 20 7 22 12 22
2 16 9

Unscramble: F I S T I P A C

### Cryptogram #5

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

17 8 10 4 5 16
19 5 13

20 25 19 14 8 20 24

Unscramble: T R O U B S

### Cryptogram #6

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

3 4 18 3 13 9 23 9
3 26

3 15 23 8 22 23 9 8

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

### 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	

22 23 9 13 18 1 14      18 1      6 14 8

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	

8 15 23 23 4 11      18 19

6 18 24 23 20 12 11

Unscramble: C O U F N D O N

## Cryptogram #9

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

$\overline{23} \quad \overline{5} \quad \overline{23} \quad \overline{2} \quad \overline{7} \quad \overline{12} \quad \overline{14} \quad \overline{26}$

$\overline{8} \quad \overline{7} \quad \overline{22} \quad \overline{24} \quad \overline{7} \quad \overline{26} \quad \overline{23}$

Unscramble: CRITENDO

## Cryptogram #10

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

$\overline{20} \quad \overline{15} \quad \overline{17} \quad \overline{4} \quad \overline{6} \quad \overline{24} \quad \overline{19} \quad \overline{15} \quad \overline{1} \quad \overline{4} \quad :$

$\overline{4} \quad \overline{19} \quad \overline{26} \quad \overline{26} \quad \overline{21}$

Unscramble: OFUSLOVRI

## 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

P A R T

# III

SET A  
FOOLPROOF  
STRATEGY





# Planning and Preparing

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.

#### **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!

### **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!





## Anxiety- Busting Exercises

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.

## 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

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.





# 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

- books
- camera or photographic equipment

## 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

**anachronism** something that belongs to another time

**analogous** similar or equivalent; showing likeness

**anarchy** state of lawlessness and disorder in the absence of a government

**anecdote** short story or account of something interesting

**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

**belie** 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

**ensorious** harshly critical

- 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

**eloquence** correct and proper inflection and intonation in speech

**eloquence** characterized by powerful and effective speech

**elusive** skillful 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
- impudence** 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 inexperienced
- 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

## J

- 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

## L

**laborious** requiring much physical effort

**laconic** using few words in writing or speech

**lament** express regret

**languid** lacking in liveliness or spirit; dreamy

**laud** praise, glorify, or honor

**lavish** giving or using a large amount of something

**lethargic** fatigue; feeling abnormal drowsiness or weariness

**levity** humor

**levy** impose or collect; seize

**lexicon** vocabulary

**lithe** moving or bending with ease

**litigious** eager or prone to engaging in lawsuits

**loath** unwilling; reluctant

**loathe** great dislike or disgust

**lofty** rising to a great height

**loquacious** talkative

**lucrative** profitable

**luminary** (1) prominent or brilliant person (2) body that gives light

**luminous** glowing brightly; radiant

## M

**magnanimous** noble; generous in spirit

**malicious** having or showing a desire to do harm

**malleable** easily influenced; changeable

**marred** ruined the beauty or perfection of

**materialism** concerned with giving importance to possessions

**methodical** careful and organized

**meticulous** accurate; exact

**mirthful** merry

**miserly** (1) hesitating to spend money; (2) small amount

**mitigate** make less severe

**morose** unhappy

**mundane** dull and ordinary

## N

**nascent** just begun; in early stages of development

**nefarious** extremely wicked

**negate** to cause to be ineffective

**neophyte** beginner

**nocturnal** belonging to or active during the night

**nonchalance** act of not caring; being indifferent

**notoriety** condition of being well-known for something bad

**novelty** quality or state of being new

**nurture** take care of; help grow, develop, or succeed

## O

**obliterate** wipe out

**oblivion** state of being unconscious, unaware, or forgotten

**obscure** not well-known

**obsolete** no longer in use

**obstinate** stubborn

**obtuse** unintelligent or stupid

**ocular** of or related to the eye

**odious** hateful

**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; descendants

**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  
**rapport** 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  
**ruminate** 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

**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