MAGOOSH STUDY SCHEDULE

The Enhanced ACT "Streaks" One-Month Study Schedule

Updated for the Enhanced ACT



Magoosh

act.magoosh.com

Prep for the Enhanced ACT in about 20 minutes a day!

Introduction

Congratulations on choosing a study schedule designed to give you the biggest bang for your buck in about 20 minutes a day, five days a week. Three weekends this month, you'll also set aside a longer block for a practice test. Don't skip those! They show you where *your* points are hiding, so your 20-minute days go to the right places.

A "streak" is a habit you commit to without skipping a beat. Aiming for a streak is a fun, effective way to reach a goal, so that's what we're doing here.

Want to study more than 20 minutes on a given day? Every day below has a "Have extra time?" line for exactly that.

What's on the Enhanced ACT

Section	Questions	Time	Counts toward your Composite score?
English	50	35 min	Yes
Math	45	50 min	Yes
Reading	36	40 min	Yes
Science	40	40 min	No (optional)
Writing (essay)	1 essay	40 min	No (optional)

Your Composite score is the average of English, Math, and Reading, so this schedule focuses on those three. Taking Science or Writing too? See "Taking Science or Writing Too?" at the end.

How This Schedule Works

Find your weak spots. You'll start with a practice test. When you look over your results, you'll get a feel for your strengths and weaknesses. ("Commas are fine, but I keep missing writer's goal questions." "Algebra is solid, but geometry isn't.") Use those weak spots to make choices all month.

Spend time where points come fastest. Based on our analysis of official ACT tests, the lessons in this schedule cover the topics that show up most often *and* can be learned in one short sitting.

Quiz first. Most Magoosh study modules have a short quiz (5 questions, about 5 minutes). If you think a day's topic is already a strength, take the quiz *first*. Got every question right? Skip the lessons, go to your section's dashboard, and pick another module from the "Most common" or "Common" lists below. Missed a few? Watch the lessons.

"Your Pick" days. One day a week is yours, for whatever your practice tests say you need most. If you're not sure what to choose, each "Your Pick" day comes with a suggestion.

Where to Spend Your Time

Here's how often each topic shows up on the Enhanced ACT. Spend most of your time on the "Most common" and "Common" topics. Don't worry about "Less common" topics unless you've already covered the rest or you're aiming for a top score.

English

- **Most common:** writer's goal and adding/deleting sentences · transitions and sentence order · run-ons and sentence structure · word choice and tone
- **Common:** commas · dashes, colons, and semicolons · choosing the most specific detail ("best illustration") · wordiness and redundancy
- **Less common:** subject–verb agreement · pronouns · verb tense · idioms

More than half of ACT English is about *writing choices*: goals, order, transitions, and word choice. Grammar rules are still some of the quickest points to pick up, so you'll study both.

Math

- **Most common:** word problems · lines, slope, and the coordinate plane · percents, ratios, and proportions · quadratics and factoring
- **Common:** area and volume · probability · reading graphs and tables · function notation · mean and median · right triangles and SOHCAHTOA
- **Less common:** matrices · logarithms · the unit circle · sequences · complex numbers

Reading

- **Most common:** detail questions ("According to the passage...")
- **Common:** author's purpose · inference · main idea · meaning of words in context · comparison passages (every Reading section has one pair of passages, and several of its questions ask you to compare them)
- **Less common:** author's voice · graphs and charts with a passage

What You'll Need

- (required) Your Magoosh ACT Premium account. Everything in this schedule, including the practice tests, is inside your course.
- (helpful) A notebook or notes app for jotting down your weak spots.

Online or on paper? Find out how you'll take the ACT. If you're testing online, you'll have a built-in Desmos graphing calculator, and this schedule includes a Desmos session for you. If you're testing on paper, bring your own approved calculator and skip the Desmos items.

THE SCHEDULE

Your 20-Minutes-a-Day Plan

KICKOFF WEEKEND Get Your Starting Data

- **(2 hr 5 min) Take ACT Test 1.** Go to Practice Tests and take English, Math, and Reading. Short on time? Use the buttons at the top to take one section at a time, e.g., English and Reading on Saturday, Math on Sunday. Science is optional.
- Don't review yet. That's what Day 1 is for.

> **Week 1** — Commit to completing a 5-day streak this week!

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started." – Mark Twain

DAY 1 Find Your Weak Spots

- (5 min) Click through your ACT Test 1 results. What kinds of questions did you miss most? Jot down 2–3 weak spots and 1–2 strengths. Not sure what kind of question you missed? See "What Kind of Question Was That?" at the end.
- (15 min) Read the explanations for the questions you missed in your weakest section. If a question has a **Related Lessons** link under its explanation, that's a great place to go next.
- Have extra time? Keep reading explanations for your other misses.

DAY 2 English – Writer's Goal

This is the most common topic on the English test.

- (8 min) Watch Writer's/Essay Goal.
- (9 min) Watch Adding or Deleting Sentences.
- (5 min) Take the Rhetorical Strategy Quiz and read the explanations.
- Have extra time? Do the Rhetorical Strategy Practice set.

DAY 3 Math – Percents and Ratios

- (6 min) Watch Intro to Percents.
- (4 min) Watch Working with Percents.
- (5 min) Take the Percents Quiz and read the explanations.

- (6 min) Watch Ratios and Rates.
- Short on time? Speed the videos up to 1.25x or 1.5x.
- Have extra time? Take the Ratios Quiz, or watch Percent Increases and Percent Decreases.

DAY 4 Reading – Detail Questions

Detail questions are the most common Reading question. The secret is going back to the passage instead of answering from memory.

- (5 min) Watch Detail Questions Intro.
- (7 min) Watch Using Key Words.
- (5 min) Take the Detail Questions Quiz and read the explanations.
- Have extra time? Watch Basic Strategies.

DAY 5 English – Run-ons and Fragments

- (10 min) Watch Run-on Sentences and Comma Splices.
- (10 min) Do the Sentence Structure Practice set and read the explanations.
- Have extra time? Watch Dependent and Independent Clauses and Sentence Fragments.

WEEKEND (optional, about 20–30 min)

- **Testing online?** The built-in graphing calculator can turn a tough algebra question into a quick graph. Watch Getting Started with Desmos, Desmos: Systems of Equations and Inequalities, and Desmos: Quadratics and Parabolas. Then take the Desmos Quiz.
- **Everyone:** Go back to ACT Test 1 and read a few more explanations in your weakest section.

> **Week 2** — Commit to completing a 5-day streak this week!

"Doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment." – Oprah Winfrey

DAY 1 English – Commas

- (10 min) Watch Commas I.
- (7 min) Watch Commas II.
- (5 min) Take the Punctuation Quiz and read the explanations.
- Have extra time? Watch Apostrophes.

DAY 2 Math – Word Problems

Word problems are the most common type of Math question.

- (6 min) Watch Assigning Variables.
- (5 min) Take the Word Problems Quiz and read the explanations.
- (8 min) Watch Writing Equations.
- Have extra time? Take the second Word Problems Quiz, or watch Math Strategy: Backsolving. Plugging in the answer choices is a lifesaver on word problems.

DAY 3 Reading – Line References and Trap Answers

- (10 min) Watch Trap Answer Choices.
- (8 min) Watch Line Reference Questions.
- Have extra time? Take the Line Reference Quiz.

DAY 4 Math – Lines and Slope

- (10 min) Watch Writing Equations of Lines.
- (5 min) Take the Coordinate Geometry Quiz and read the explanations.
- (5 min) Go back to ACT Test 1 and read the explanations for any lines or slope questions you missed.
- Have extra time? Watch Slope-Intercept Form or Slope.

DAY 5 Your Pick

- (10 min) Go back to ACT Test 1. In your weakest section, read the explanations for 3–4 questions you haven't reviewed yet. Click a **Related Lessons** link if you see one.
- (10 min) Watch a lesson or take a quiz on that weak spot.
- **Not sure what to pick?** Try English punctuation: watch Dashes, Semicolons, and Colons. Then take the Punctuation Quiz.

WEEKEND Practice Test #1

- **(2 hr 15 min) Take ACT Test 2.** Do English, Math, and Reading in one sitting this time, with the short break after Math, just like test day.
- **(30–60 min) Review.** Click through your results and update your weak spots. Then read as many explanations as you can, starting with your weakest section.

Find a quiet place where you won't be interrupted, and turn off your phone. This is a dress rehearsal for test day.

> **Week 3** — Commit to completing a 5-day streak this week!

"When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life or in the life of another." – Helen Keller

DAY 1 English – Transitions and Organization

- (8 min) Watch Transitions.
- (8 min) Watch Ordering Sentences and Paragraphs.
- (5 min) Take the Organization Quiz and read the explanations.
- Have extra time? Watch Introducing and Concluding Paragraphs.

DAY 2 Math – Mean and Median

- (10 min) Watch Mean, Median, Mode.
- (5 min) Watch More on Mean and Median.
- (5 min) Take the Statistics Quiz and read the explanations.
- Have extra time? Watch Types of Graphics and Tables of Values. Both are short.

DAY 3 Reading – Comparison Passages

Every Reading section has one pair of passages, and several of its questions ask you to compare them.

- (8 min) Watch Comparison Passages.
- (5 min) Take the first Comparison Passages Quiz and read the explanations.
- (5 min) Take the second Comparison Passages Quiz.

DAY 4 English – Word Choice and Best Illustration

- (6 min) Watch Best Illustration Questions.
- (10 min) Watch Word Choice.
- (5 min) Take the Rhetorical Strategy Quiz and read the explanations.
- Have extra time? Watch Tone and take the Tone Quiz.

DAY 5 Your Pick

- (10 min) Go back to ACT Test 2. In your weakest section, read the explanations for 3–4 questions you haven't reviewed yet. Click a **Related Lessons** link if you see one.
- (10 min) Watch a lesson or take a quiz on that weak spot.
- **Not sure what to pick?** Try probability: watch Intro to Probability and Complementary Events and Simple Rules. Then take the Probability Quiz.

WEEKEND Practice Test #2

- **(2 hr 15 min) Take ACT Test 11.** English, Math, and Reading in one sitting.
- **(30–60 min) Review.** How does this score compare with Practice Test #1? Which weak spots improved, and which ones are still there? Read explanations, starting with the weak spots you still have. Those are your targets for the final week.

> **Week 4** — Commit to completing a 5-day streak this week!

"I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have." – Thomas Jefferson

DAY 1 English – Wordiness and Redundancy

This is a quick win: when in doubt, the shortest choice that keeps the meaning is often right.

- (5 min) Watch Redundant Meanings.
- (4 min) Watch Concision and Wordiness.
- (5 min) Watch Clarity in Phrasing.
- (5 min) Take the Style Quiz and read the explanations.

DAY 2 Math – Right Triangles

- (12 min) Watch Right Triangles.
- (5 min) Take the Triangles Quiz and read the explanations.
- Have extra time? Watch Intro to SOHCAHTOA and take the Trigonometry Quiz.

DAY 3 Reading – Author's Purpose

- (10 min) Watch Author's Method (Purpose).
- (5 min) Take the Author's Purpose Quiz and read the explanations.
- Have extra time? Watch Meaning of Words and take the Meaning of Words Quiz.

DAY 4 Your Pick

- (10 min) Go back to ACT Test 11. Read the explanations for misses in the weak spot that's given you the most trouble this month.
- (10 min) Re-take the quiz for that weak spot. Can you get 5 out of 5 now?
- **Not sure what to pick?** Try inference: watch Inference and take the Inference Quiz.

DAY 5 Light Review

- (10 min) Look back over your weak-spot notes. Write down the three rules or tips you most want to remember on test day.
- Have extra time? Relax. No cramming! Do something you enjoy and go to bed early.

Test Day

- It's test day, which means no last-minute prep! Do some light exercise, eat a full breakfast, and give yourself plenty of time to get to the test center. Don't forget your admission ticket, photo ID, an approved calculator (if you're testing on paper), a drink, and a snack.
- You can walk into the test confident that you've put in a month of steady work and are ready to show it!

If Your Test Is More Than a Month Away

Great, you have room to grow! After Week 3, keep going with the same weekly pattern: English, Math, Reading, another English or Math day, and a "Your Pick" day. Take another practice test every two weeks, and choose new modules from the "Most common" and "Common" lists on your dashboards.

Taking Science or Writing Too?

These sections don't count toward your Composite score, but if you're taking them, use the same approach: take the section on your practice test, look over your weak spots, and work through the lessons below on your "Your Pick" days or extra-time days. Quiz first if you think a topic is already a strength.

Science. Most Science questions ask you to read data from tables and graphs. The next most common topics are experiments and comparing scientists' viewpoints. Start here:

1. Understanding Tables, Graphs, and Figures, then the Interpretation of Data Quiz
2. Finding Trends and Patterns and Linking Tables and Graphs, then the Interpretation of Data Quiz
3. The Scientific Method, then the Scientific Method Quiz

4. The Conflicting Viewpoints Passage, then the Science Passages Quiz

More Science lessons are on your Science dashboard.

Writing (essay). Start here:

1. Introduction to the Essay
2. Planning the Essay and Time Management
3. Structuring the Essay
4. On a weekend, write Practice Essay #1 (40 min).

What Kind of Question Was That?

Not sure how to name a question you missed? Use these clues.

English

If the question...	It's testing...	Lessons to try
asks whether to **add or delete** a sentence, or whether the passage **meets a goal**	Writer's Goal	Week 1, Day 2
asks for the most **specific, vivid, or relevant** detail	Best Illustration	Week 3, Day 4
offers **transition words** (*However, Therefore*) or asks where a sentence **belongs**	Organization	Week 3, Day 1
has choices that are **different words with similar meanings**	Word Choice / Tone	Week 3, Day 4
has choices that differ in **periods, commas, and semicolons that join or split sentences**	Run-ons / Fragments	Week 1, Day 5
has choices that differ only in **commas**	Commas	Week 2, Day 1
has choices that differ in **dashes, colons, or semicolons**	Other Punctuation	Week 2, Day 5 suggestion
has one choice that's much **shorter**, or choices that **repeat** an idea	Wordiness	Week 4, Day 1
has choices that differ in **verb form** (*is/are*) or **pronouns** (*it/they*)	Grammar & Usage	Your English dashboard

Reading

If the question says...	It's testing...	Lessons to try
"According to the passage..." or points to specific lines	Detail	Week 1, Day 4 and Week 2, Day 3
"Passage A" and "Passage B"	Comparison Passages	Week 3, Day 3
"The main purpose of the paragraph..." or "The author includes ... in order to..."	Author's Purpose	Week 4, Day 3
"It can reasonably be inferred..."	Inference	Week 4, Day 4 suggestion
"As it is used in line X, the word ... most nearly means"	Meaning of Words	Week 4, Day 3 extra
"main idea," "primarily about"	Main Idea	Your Reading dashboard

Math

Math questions are usually easy to name ("percents," "slope," "probability"). In Custom Practice, you can choose questions by math topic, and your Math dashboard lists a module for every topic.