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ACT Reading Guidelines for Session Homework

During Reading:

1. *Spend the most time on the first paragraph* (leads passage for correct navigation).
2. Sideline each paragraph (quickly write the “what does what”) by grocery-listing to get a sum. Sideline summaries should be only nouns and symbols with 2-3 nouns max. or a summary less than 5 words.
3. Project the subject of the next paragraph (“follow” the summary noun) and bring down that noun as the first word/subject for your subsequent sideline.
4. For long sentences, chunk/slash your parts of the sentence and add them up. Also, you may have to stop halfway through a tough paragraph (more than 3-4 sentences) to grocery-list to get the “1-2-3 Combine” summary. Then, continue to obtain the sum of the entire paragraph.
5. While reading, **look up all unknown words, immediately place them on your RTS Success® vocabulary sheet and learn them.** All known words are vivid and could be simply explained to a 5-year-old. Do not rely on context for vocabulary.

While Answering Questions:

1. Read the question (do not forget to parse) and restate the question in your own words.
2. **Without looking at the answer choices**, answer the question and write your answer down next to the question. If the question is vague, think, “The only thing that I know is...” Then answer the question.
3. Match your own answer to the most similar answer choice (match your pictures). Do not deviate and change your answer, regardless of how simple the answer may appear.
4. When answering a question and you are *unsure* (or if asked to refer to a line number), look at that line only, but focus at sidelines for answers.
5. **Vocabulary Rule:** Watch *specific vocabulary*— if asked to define, *always* refer to the sideline and line number for context. Do not rely solely on your own vocabulary knowledge.
6. **Ambiguity Rule:** If one of the answer choices does not make sense, DO NOT choose it.
7. **100% Rule:** Do not choose an answer that contains added words that do not reflect 100% of the picture/answer.
8. **One Answer Rule:** There is not a “best” answer; there is only “one” answer.
9. **Bad Word Rule:** If your answer’s picture matches two different answer choices, one of those choices has a *bad/incorrect* word that does not reflect the picture. Find that bad word. Then, choose the other answer.
10. Only refer to sidelines. Do not go back to find words for the answer.
11. DO NOT ELIMINATE ANSWERS—unless there is a “NOT” question (i.e.: Which of the following is not...). For NOT questions, go through the answer choices which “ARE TRUE” and eliminate/cross out those choices until you get to your false answer.
12. **No Prior Knowledge Rule:** Testing is based on assessing students’ learning of new information. However, application skills may require prior knowledge based on the *Lemonade Theory*. Since the ACT test is unbiased (students from different socio-economic levels are taking the test), there is no need to have prior knowledge for the reading portion.



The ACT questions *are not* tricky—Do not read into it. The answers are simple!

ACT only tests on conceptual knowledge, not finding specific words.

Since the reader *adds* information for the summary, the details will be known.

ACT focuses on testing the ability to *read and understand new information*.

