



ACT ENGLISH RULES

VERBS (G.U.M. pg. 317)

1. Match Verb w/ subject
2. Match Verb Tense w/ the paragraph/passage

COMMAS (G.U.M. pg. 308)

1. Dependent Clause , Independent Clause
Ex. *If I study for the ACT, I can raise my score.*
(DEP) (IND S+V)
2. Appositive phrase or non-restrictive phrase
EXTRA info in sentence (comma/s to separate)
3. Use Comma before “and” or “but” to join two IND clauses (compound sentence)
Ex. *The ACT is difficult, but it is predictable.*
(IND S+V) (IND S+V)
4. Comma can replace the word “and”
Ex. *Dr. Carlin is a boring, talkative instructor*
5. NO COMMAS (most common answer)

PRONOUNS (G.U.M. pg. 313-14)

1. Find the noun the pronoun is replacing.
2. Is the noun (antecedent) singular or plural?
3. Should it be possessive? (show ownership?)

REDUNDANCY

1. Avoid words that *repeat* the same meaning.
2. Avoid definitions of a word after it's used.
Ex. *Each year, we annually attend the event.*

CONCISE

1. Look for the shortest way to say something
2. If two phrases mean the same thing, briefer is better, typically.

APOSTROPHE (') (G.U.M. pg. 307)

1. Write the noun you need first (with no apos.)
2. If the word ends in “s”, then add just ‘ (’)
3. If word does NOT end in “s”, add ‘ + s (’s)

SEMI-COLON (;) & COLON (:) (G.U.M. pg. 308)

1. Semi-Colon (;) Joins two INDEP. clauses
2. Semi-Colon (;) need full sentence on each side
3. Colon before a LIST or one word/phrase at end.

ADJECTIVE / ADVERB (G.U.M. pg. 313, 318)

1. Adjectives describe nouns
2. Adverbs modify verbs
3. *good* = adjective *well* = adverb

INDEP/DEP CLAUSES (G.U.M. pg. 311)

1. IND = Sentence / DEP = NOT a Sentence
2. Join two INDs—use a (.) (;) or “, conj”
(use a period, semi-colon or comma/conj.)

ACTIVE vs. PASSIVE (G.U.M. pg. 308)

1. Always choose ACTIVE voice (most direct)
ACTIVE: *The class studied the ACT rules.*
PASSIVE: *The ACT rules were studied by the class.*

ADD or DELETE a SENTENCE

1. Focus on keywords in sentence
2. Don't be distracted by irrelevant choices

TRANSITIONS

1. Should *introduce* sentence or paragraph
2. Should *connect* from previous sent/parag.

MEANING

1. Focus on *keywords* in the question
2. Answer it first, then match up closest choice
3. Choose the most SPECIFIC one

WORD CHOICE

1. Usually, one choice is different than others
2. Choose one with most specific meaning
3. Try the word in _____ and compare to others.

RELEVANCE

1. OMIT is always an option if phrase is unnecessary
2. Focus on what is specific to the context of paragraph.
3. What is important to the point or meaning ?

PARALLELISM

1. Keep things consistent! (same tense) esp. in a LIST
Ex. *Studying ACT, practicing often, & acing the test.*