

## BASICS:

60 Questions in 60 minutes  
Average time per question: 1 minute

Topic	Approx. # of Questions
Pre-Algebra	14
Elementary Algebra	10
Intermediate Algebra	9
Plane Geometry	14
Coordinate Geometry	9
Trigonometry	4

## KEY RESOURCES:

[ACT Math Curriculum](#)  
[ACT Math Formula Index](#)  
[ACT Math Formulas Quizlet](#)  
[ACT Math Quizzes](#)  
[ACT Math Calculator Tips](#)

## ACT Math Strategies to Use:

**Choose Own Values** – when there are variables in the question or the answer choices. Use small values!

**Plug In Answers (B/D Method)** – when you have to find the value of a variable.

**Estimating** – when you have a geometric figure, or when you have no other options!

## GENERAL STRATEGY:

1. Read the question carefully to determine for what it is asking you to find.
2. Write down any information you are given in the question and any formulas that may be helpful.
3. Take a peek at the answer choices for fractions, variables,  $\pi$  or radicals (e.g.  $\sqrt{2}$  or  $\sqrt{3}$ ).
4. If you know how to solve the question, solve it immediately!
5. If you don't know how to solve a question, try one of ESM's ACT Math Strategies.
6. If you can't use a strategy, circle the question in your booklet, eliminate any answer choices you can, and make your best guess.
7. Once you have gone through every question, go back to the circled questions if you have time.

## EXTRA TIPS:

1. Keep It Moving – Staring idly at a question is the biggest detriment to maximizing your score. If you don't know a question, circle it in your booklet and move on! There are easier points ahead.
2. Stay away of “Math Class Mode” – showing every step of a question in school is important to get an A on your math test. On the ACT, where efficiency is key, doing so can be a big inhibitor to your score!
3. Memorize your formulas – knowing all relevant math formulas saves time, turns random guesses into educated guesses, and changes geometry questions into simple algebra question. Spend time reviewing math formulas each week!
4. Be aware of your tendency to solve for  $x$  – the ACT has lots of questions that try to prey upon your natural tendencies by asking for a value other than the main variable (such as asking for  $2x$  instead of  $x$ ). The value of the variable itself will always be an answer choice, so be careful!
5. Use decimals – convert fractions and percentages into decimals to use in equations and on your calculator. Memorizing the easy conversions ( $1/2$ ,  $1/4$ ,  $1/5$ , etc.) can help you save time and minimize small mistakes.
6. Find the triangle – triangles are often the key to geometry questions that don't seem to test them. Drawing triangles in these figures can help you easily find angles and the lengths of lines or segments.
7. Learn to love word problems – they make up over 75% of the test, so your ability to work through them quickly and correctly is hugely important. Remember how certain key words translate into mathematical terms.
8. Be careful with your calculator – put all negative numbers in parentheses, and watch your order of operations. The ACT often creates their four incorrect answer choices by making a common arithmetic mistake, so it is hard to catch mistakes after the fact!