



## ACT Reading Section Tips

### 1. Correct answers are *camouflaged*.

- Look for answer choices that *paraphrase* what the author wrote—say the exact same thing with different words.

### 2. Incorrect answers are *distracters*.

- Distortions: take words directly from the passage, but make a statement that does not reflect the content of the passage.
- The switch: takes a true statement and flips it around.
- Extremes: make an overly strong statement (using words like “completely,” “always,” etc.) that is not always true.
- “Nice” choices: make a statement that is easy to agree with, but doesn’t reflect the content of the passage.

### 3. There are four steps to answering the questions for an ACT reading passage.

1. Find the critical words and phrases.
2. Scan the passage for critical words, and underline them
3. Either skim and scribble (faster), or read the passage, paying more attention to the parts where you underlined the critical words (slower).
4. Answer each question by referring to the parts of the passage where you underlined the critical words for that question.
  - i. Spend no more than 30 seconds on each question.
  - ii. Remember to eliminate distracters.
  - iii. For questions that don’t point to a specific part of the passage, figure out where to look in the passage by reading the answer choices.