**ACT English: Style & Rhetoric**

1. **Adding, Revising, & Deleting Information**

* The adding, revising, or deleting information questions on the ACT English test are similar to decisions we make when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The ACT English test will give you the option of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ information to the existing passage.
* What these questions look like:
  + If the underlined statement were omitted, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + The writer is considering adding the following statement. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Should the writer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the underlined portion?
  + The writer is considering \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the underlined portion. Should this change be made?
  + Suppose the writer aimed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Does the underlined statement accomplish this purpose?
* Strategies to try:
  + Pinpoint the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the paragraph or passage; the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ should relate to or support the main idea.
  + When given the option to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, ask yourself if the passage still makes sense without the underlined portion.
  + Do not delete or omit the underlined portion contains \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or adds something relevant to passages.

1. **Organization**

* Sometimes, the ACT English test asks you to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in an entire passage. It’s like putting the pages of your yearbook in order.
* Think of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ within a paragraph like organizing your locker. You’re not adding anything or taking anything out, just rearranging what’s already there in a more logical way.
* What these questions look like:

Organizing sentences:

The most logical order for the sentences in Paragraph 3 is:

1. NO CHANGE
2. 1, 3, 4, 2
3. 2, 3, 1, 4
4. 2, 1, 3, 4

Organizing paragraphs:

Assuming the rest of the paragraphs in this passage are in the correct order, the best placement for paragraph 8 is:

1. After Paragraph 1
2. After Paragraph 3
3. After Paragraph 4
4. After Paragraph 5

* Strategies to try:
  + Start by focusing on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ listed in the possible answer choices. Avoid getting overwhelmed by the different combinations.
  + Decide which would be the best \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all answer choices that do not begin with the best topic sentence or introductory paragraph.
  + Look for a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (cause and effect, sequence, supporting details) to organize the remaining sentences or paragraphs.
  + If you have time, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the paragraph or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the passage in the order you chose to make sure it sounds logical and organized.
* Wordiness & Redundancy
  + Watch out for expressions that are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by that express the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Sometimes students think overly wordy answer choices are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_--they may sound complex and, therefore, seem more sophisticated.
  + On the ACT English test, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are preferred over wordy choices.
  + Example:
    - As a matter of fact, popular belief states that the ordinary citizen of society, on average, dreams 3-5 times per evening nightly.
      * The best way to state the idea expressed in the underlined statement is:
        + F. NO CHANGE
        + G. Popular belief dictates that the common, ordinary person dreams 3-5 times nightly each evening.
        + H. It is widely known that a regular average man or woman nightly expect to have 3-5 dreams.
        + J. The average person dreams 3-5 times per night.
  + Strategies to try:
    - When provided with an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer choices, it’s usually a safe bet to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Keep it short and sweet!
    - Watch out! Sometimes students get really excited about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tip above. But let’s use a bit of common sense here: Make sure that your shorter answer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, is grammatically correct, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. **Word Choice & Tone**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is another word for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* On the ACT English test, you’ll need to figure out \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ express a tone that is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Ricky Berens was (1) so cheap, he ordered off of the McDonald’s dollar menu
  + Which of the following word choices expresses the idea that Berens smartly managed his money?
    - A. NO CHANGE
    - B. so frugal
    - C. such a tightwad
    - D. such a “Mr. Moneybags”
    - Explanation:
* Big Tip: Avoid \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Expression like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are not favored by the ACT. Eliminate these types of answer choices.
* Sometimes you will see a question that asks you to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that best expresses a particular \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. None of the choice are technically wrong in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. There is where you will need to closely examine the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, of word choices.