BOOST YOUR TEST SCORE

ACT® English Practice Test 2

English Test · 35 Minutes — 50 Questions

Answer Sheet

1	A	B	C	D
2	F	G	H	J
3	A	B	C	D
4	F	G	H	J
5	A	B	C	D
6	F	G	H	J
7	A	B	C	D
8	F	G	H	J
9	A	B	C	D
10	F	G	H	J
11	A	B	C	D
12	F	G	H	J
13	A	B	C	D
14	F	G	H	J
15	A	B	C	D
16	F	G	H	J
17	A	B	C	D
18	F	G	H	J
19	A	B	C	D
20	F	G	H	J
21	A	B	C	D
22	F	G	H	J
23	A	B	C	D
24	F	G	H	J
25	A	B	C	D
26	F	G	H	J
27	A	B	C	D
28	F	G	H	J
29	A	B	C	D
30	F	G	H	J
31	A	B	C	D
32	F	G	H	J
33	A	B	C	D
34	F	G	H	J
35	A	B	C	D
36	F	G	H	J
37	A	B	C	D
38	F	G	H	J
39	A	B	C	D
40	F	G	H	J
41	A	B	C	D
42	F	G	H	J
43	A	B	C	D
44	F	G	H	J
45	A	B	C	D
46	F	G	H	J
47	A	B	C	D
48	F	G	H	J
49	A	B	C	D
50	F	G	H	J

All passages and questions are original practice material written for Boost Your Test Score. They are modeled on the format of the current ACT English test and on question types from released ACT English tests. ACT® is a registered trademark of ACT Education Corp., which is not affiliated with and does not endorse this material.

ENGLISH TEST

35 Minutes—50 Questions

DIRECTIONS: In the passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. Choose the best answer to each question. If you think the original version is best, choose "**No Change**."

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage; instead, they are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer sheet. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

PASSAGE I

The Actress Who Invented Frequency Hopping

[1]

In the 1940s, Hedy Lamarr was one of Hollywood's most famous stars, yet[1] few of her fans knew that she spent her evenings tinkering[2] with inventions. Lamarr, who had no formal training in engineering, kept a drafting table in her home and sketching[3] ideas ranging from an improved traffic signal to a tablet that dissolved in water to make a soft drink.

[2]

Her most important idea grew out of World War II.[4]

1. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

A. No Change
B. stars yet,
C. stars; yet,
D. stars. Yet,

2. Which choice is clearest and most precise in context?

F. No Change
G. meddling
H. intruding
J. toying around

3. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

A. No Change
B. sketched
C. to sketch
D. having sketched

4. Which choice provides the most effective transition from the preceding paragraph to this one?

F. No Change
G. Lamarr was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1914.
H. Many inventors prefer to work alone.
J. Torpedoes were first used in the 1800s.

Radio-controlled torpedoes, Lamarr learned, could easily be thrown off course if an enemy jammed the single frequency used to guide them. Working with the composer George Antheil, the solution she devised was[5] to have the transmitter and the torpedo switch frequencies rapidly and in the same sequence, so that an enemy listening on any one frequency would hear only a bunch of random junk[6].

5. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

A. No Change
B. Working with the composer George Antheil, a plan was devised
C. Working with the composer George Antheil, her solution was
D. Working with the composer George Antheil, she devised a plan, which was

6. Which choice most effectively maintains the essay's tone?

F. No Change
G. meaningless fragments of signal
H. stuff that made no sense, basically
J. an unintelligible succession of auditory signals

[3]

Antheil, who had once synchronized sixteen player pianos for a concert piece[7], suggested using perforated paper

7. Given that all the choices are true, which one best explains why Antheil was well suited to help solve the problem of keeping two devices in step?

A. No Change
B. who was born in New Jersey
C. who also wrote music for films
D. who later wrote a newspaper advice column

rolls, like those in a player piano, to keep the two devices in step. [8] The pair's design hopped among 88 frequencies, the same number as the keys on a piano. They received a patent in 1942.

8. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true sentence:

Player pianos were especially popular in American homes in the 1920s.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- **F.** Yes, because it explains how Antheil learned to compose music.
- **G.** Yes, because it shows that the invention was based on familiar technology.
- **H.** No, because it distracts from the paragraph's explanation of how the frequency-hopping design worked.
- **J.** No, because it contradicts the claim that the pair received a patent.

[4]

The U.S. Navy, however declined[9] to adopt the system, and Lamarr's role was largely forgotten for decades. Today, versions of frequency hopping help keep Bluetooth and other wireless technologies reliable, and in 2014 Lamarr was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

9. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- **A. No Change**
- **B.** however declined,
- **C.** however: declined
- **D.** however, declined

Question 10 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

10. Suppose the writer's primary purpose had been to describe how a person's work outside her main career had a lasting impact. Would this essay accomplish that purpose?

- **F.** Yes, because it describes several of the films that made Lamarr famous.
- **G.** Yes, because it explains how Lamarr's invention, developed outside her acting career, influences wireless technology used today.
- **H.** No, because it focuses mainly on the history of torpedoes.
- **J.** No, because it explains that the Navy never used Lamarr's invention.

PASSAGE II

On the Air

[1]

Every weekday at 7:15 a.m., before the first bell, my voice crackles through the speakers in every classroom at Jefferson High. I am the morning host of WJHS, our school's radio station, which broadcast[11] live to the entire school from a small room on the first floor[12].

11. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

A. No Change
B. have broadcast
C. broadcasts
D. are broadcasting

12. Given that all the choices are true, which one most effectively emphasizes how humble the station's studio is?

F. No Change
G. from a room with a microphone and a soundboard
H. every morning during the school year
J. from a converted supply closet next to the band room

[2]

I did not plan to be on the radio. As a freshman, I joined the station's crew because I wanted to work behind the scenes, adjusting[13] sound levels and cueing up music. Then, one morning in October, the scheduled host called in sick, and the station's adviser, Mr. Takahashi, handed me the microphone "just[14] read the announcements," he said. "You'll

13. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

A. No Change
B. behind the scenes adjusting,
C. behind, the scenes adjusting
D. behind the scenes; adjusting

14. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

F. No Change
G. microphone. "Just
H. microphone, "just,
J. microphone; just

be fine."

[3]

I was not fine. My hands shook so badly that the paper rattled, and I misconstrued (15) the principal's name. [16]

15. Which choice is clearest and most precise in context?

- **A. No Change**
- **B.** misinformed
- **C.** mispronounced
- **D.** misrepresented

16. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true sentence:

The school's speakers had been replaced the previous summer.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- **F.** Yes, because it explains why the narrator's voice crackled.
- **G.** Yes, because it adds a detail that makes the scene more vivid.
- **H.** No, because it contradicts the essay's opening description of the speakers.
- **J.** No, because it interrupts the paragraph's focus on the narrator's nervous first broadcast and what came after it.

Afterward, Mr. Takahashi didn't mention my mistakes. Instead, he played back the recording and asked me what part did I like best? (17) To my surprise, I had an answer: the moment

17. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- **A. No Change**
- **B.** what part I liked best.
- **C.** what part, I liked best.
- **D.** what part did I like best.

near the end when I finished the last announcement (18).

18. Which choice most effectively sets up the change in the narrator's approach described in the next paragraph?

- **F. No Change**
- **G.** read the lunch menu
- **H.** stopped reading word for word and started talking like myself
- **J.** said goodbye to the listeners

[4]

That realization changed how I approach every broadcast. I still jot down and write[19] notes, but I no longer write a script. Instead, I talk to the school the way I would talk to a friend, and somewhere along the way, the shaking stopped.

19. Which choice is least redundant in context?

- **A. No Change**
- **B.** write down and record
- **C.** write
- **D.** jot and note down

Question 20 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

20. Suppose the writer's primary purpose had been to describe how a single experience helped someone discover a more confident way of doing something. Would this essay accomplish that purpose?

- **F.** Yes, because it describes the station's studio and the morning announcements in detail.
- **G.** Yes, because it shows how the narrator's nervous first broadcast and Mr. Takahashi's response led the narrator to stop using a script and speak naturally on the air.
- **H.** No, because it focuses mainly on how a school radio station is run.
- **J.** No, because the narrator remains nervous on the air at the end of the essay.

PASSAGE III

The Sailing Stones of Death Valley

[1]

In a remote corner of Death Valley National Park lies Racetrack Playa, a dry lake bed nearly three miles long and almost perfectly flat. Scattered across its cracked surface lies[21]

21. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- **A. No Change**
- **B.** lie
- **C.** has lain
- **D.** is lying

hundreds of rocks, some weighing hundreds of pounds. Behind each rock stretches a long, shallow track, evidence, that (22) the rock has moved. Visitors must drive a rough dirt road to reach the playa. (23)

22. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

F. No Change
G. evidence: that
H. evidence that
J. evidence; that

23. Which choice most effectively sets up the mystery explored in the rest of the essay?

A. No Change
B. Some of the tracks are several hundred feet long.
C. Death Valley is one of the hottest places on Earth.
D. Yet for decades, no one had ever seen one move.

[2]

Over the years, researchers proposed and suggested (24) many explanations: hurricane-force winds, slick algae, and even magnetic fields. None of these theories could be confirmed, partly because the rocks seemed to move only rarely and partly because the park forbids visitors to disturb it. (25)

24. Which choice is least redundant in context?

F. No Change
G. put forward and proposed
H. suggested and offered up
J. proposed

25. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

A. No Change
B. them
C. this
D. that

[3]

Similarly, (26) in 2011, a team of scientists led by

26. Which transition word or phrase is most logical in context?

F. No Change
G. Nevertheless,
H. Finally,
J. For instance,

paleobiologist Richard Norris and his cousin, engineer James Norris, placed GPS trackers in fifteen rocks and set up a weather station and time-lapse cameras. [27] For more than two years, they waited. In December 2013, they finally got lucky. A shallow pond had formed on the playa after a storm, and overnight its surface froze into a thin sheet of ice. As the morning sun warmed the ice, it broke into large, windowpane-like panels. Light breezes then tickled[28] the panels, which shoved the rocks across the slick mud at a speed slower than[29] most people walk. After decades of

27. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true sentence:

Similar rock tracks have been found on a few other dry lake beds in California and Nevada.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- **A.** Yes, because it shows that the phenomenon the scientists studied is not unique to Racetrack Playa.
- **B.** Yes, because it explains why the scientists chose Racetrack Playa for their experiment.
- **C.** No, because it interrupts the step-by-step account of how the team set up its experiment and waited for results.
- **D.** No, because it contradicts the claim that Racetrack Playa is in a remote corner of Death Valley.

28. Which choice is clearest and most precise in context?

- **F. No Change**
- **G.** pushed
- **H.** massaged
- **J.** escorted

29. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- **A. No Change**
- **B.** slower then
- **C.** more slow then
- **D.** slowest than

speculation, the answer had been hiding in plain sight.

Question 30 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

30. Suppose the writer's primary purpose had been to describe how a scientific question was answered through careful observation. Would this essay accomplish that purpose?

- **F.** Yes, because it lists several theories that scientists proposed over the years.
- **G.** Yes, because it explains how researchers used GPS trackers, cameras, and a weather station to finally observe the rocks moving and determine what moved them.
- **H.** No, because it focuses mainly on the geography of Death Valley.
- **J.** No, because it suggests that the mystery of the rocks remains unsolved.

PASSAGE IV

The Mural on Fifth Street

[1]

For as long as I could remember, the side of the laundromat on Fifth Street had been a <u>blank, peeling, wall</u>[31].

31. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- **A. No Change**
- **B.** blank peeling, wall
- **C.** blank, peeling wall
- **D.** blank, and, peeling wall

Then, last summer, a local artist named Teresa Lin <u>denounced</u>[32]

32. Which choice is clearest and most precise in context?

- **F. No Change**
- **G.** announced
- **H.** renounced
- **J.** pronounced

that she would paint a mural there, and she invited anyone in the neighborhood to help.

[2]

I signed up on the first day, mostly because my best friend dared me to. I had never painted anything larger than a birthday card.[33] On the first morning, Ms. Lin—who had painted more than a dozen murals around the city,[34] divided the

33. The writer is considering deleting the underlined sentence. Should the sentence be kept or deleted?

- **A.** Kept, because it explains why the narrator's friend dared the narrator to sign up.
- **B.** Kept, because it shows the narrator's inexperience, which makes the narrator's later sense of accomplishment more meaningful.
- **C.** Deleted, because it repeats information stated earlier in the paragraph.
- **D.** Deleted, because it shifts the focus from the mural to the narrator's other artwork.

34. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- **F. No Change**
- **G.** Lin, who had painted more than a dozen murals around the city,
- **H.** Lin who had painted more than a dozen murals around the city,
- **J.** Lin, who had painted more than a dozen murals around the city

wall into a grid of numbered squares and gave each volunteer a small sketch to copy. Mine showed part of a bicycle wheel and a woman's hand in a striped sleeve.

[3]

For weeks, I had no idea what the finished picture would look like.[35] Each of us were[36] working on a fragment, and up close, the shapes made little sense. The colors seemed to appear[37] random: a streak of orange here, a patch of sky blue there. Then, on the last day, Ms. Lin had us step back across the street. [38] The fragments joined into a single scene: a

35. Which choice most effectively introduces the paragraph?

- **A. No Change**
- **B.** Ms. Lin had studied art in Chicago.
- **C.** The laundromat stayed open while we painted.
- **D.** Some volunteers brought their own brushes.

36. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- **F. No Change**
- **G.** are
- **H.** have been
- **J.** was

37. Which choice is least redundant in context?

- **A. No Change**
- **B.** appeared to seem
- **C.** seemed
- **D.** looked as if they seemed

38. At this point, the writer wants to add a sentence that conveys the narrator's reaction to seeing the whole mural for the first time. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- **F.** I was relieved that the long hours of painting were finally over.
- **G.** I still wasn't sure that my own square had turned out right.
- **H.** Several people walking along Fifth Street stopped to take pictures.
- **J.** From the far curb, I finally saw what all of our fragments had become, and for a moment I couldn't say a word.

woman riding a bicycle past the laundromat itself, her striped sleeve fluttering, paper flowers spilling from her basket.

[4]

Now, whenever I walk past the wall, I look for my square. It is easy to miss, it's[39] just one piece of a much larger picture. That, I think, is exactly the point.[40]

39. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- **A. No Change**
- **B.** It is easy to miss; it's
- **C.** It is easy to miss, it is
- **D.** Being easy to miss, it's

40. Which choice most effectively concludes the essay by connecting the narrator's square to the mural as a whole?

- **F. No Change**
- **G.** The laundromat has since been repainted on the inside.
- **H.** Ms. Lin is already planning another mural for next summer.
- **J.** People have been painting murals for thousands of years.

PASSAGE V

The Ice King

[1]

Today, ice is so easy to come across[41] that it is hard to imagine it was once a luxury. In the early 1800s, a Boston businessman named Frederic Tudor had an idea that most people considered unusual[42]: he would cut ice from New

41. Which choice is clearest and most precise in context?

- **A. No Change**
- **B.** run into
- **C.** obtain
- **D.** stumble upon

42. Given that all the choices are true, which one most effectively emphasizes how unlikely Tudor's plan seemed to others?

- **F. No Change**
- **G.** worth considering
- **H.** new
- **J.** so absurd that a Boston newspaper joked about it in print

England ponds in winter and ship it to the Caribbean, where water never froze. [A]

[2]

Tudor's first shipment, sent to the island of Martinique in 1806, <u>were</u> (43) a financial disaster. Much of the ice melted before it could be sold, and the islanders, who had never used ice, <u>were totally clueless about it</u> (44). Over the next several years, Tudor fell so deeply into debt that he was jailed more than once. [B]

[3]

Tudor, however, refused to quit. <u>Experimenting with insulation, sawdust turned out to be the answer</u> (45): packed around the ice, this <u>cheap</u> (46) waste product of lumber mills kept

43. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- **A. No Change**
- **B.** was
- **C.** are
- **D.** have been

44. Which choice most effectively maintains the essay's tone?

- **F. No Change**
- **G.** were, like, confused by the whole thing
- **H.** did not know what to do with it
- **J.** manifested a profound uncertainty regarding its utility

45. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- **A. No Change**
- **B.** Experimenting with insulation, the answer turned out to be sawdust
- **C.** Sawdust, experimenting with insulation, turned out to be the answer
- **D.** Experimenting with insulation, Tudor discovered the answer in sawdust

46. If the writer were to delete the underlined word, the sentence would primarily lose:

- **F.** an indication of why sawdust was a practical choice for Tudor's business.
- **G.** a description of how sawdust is made.
- **H.** an explanation of how ice melts.
- **J.** a detail about where the lumber mills were located.

it frozen for months. He also built insulated icehouses in the ports he served, and he persuades[47] bartenders to offer drinks chilled with ice, sometimes giving the ice away until customers acquired a taste for cold beverages. [C] [48]

47. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

A. No Change
B. persuaded
C. will persuade
D. is persuading

48. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true sentence:

Sawdust is also used today as bedding for horses and other animals.

Should the writer make this addition here?

F. Yes, because it explains why sawdust was easy for Tudor to find.
G. Yes, because it shows how useful sawdust is.
H. No, because it distracts from the paragraph's focus on the methods Tudor used to make his business succeed.
J. No, because it contradicts the claim that sawdust was a waste product.

[4]

In 1833, a ship carrying about 180 tons of New England ice set sail for Calcutta, India, a voyage of about four months,[49] more than half of the ice arrived still frozen. Tudor, who became known as the "Ice King," died a wealthy man in 1864. [D]

49. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

A. No Change
B. months more
C. months, of which more
D. months; more

Question 50 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

50. Upon reviewing the essay and finding that some information has been left out, the writer composes the following sentence:

Customers who had once found ice strange soon came to expect it in every glass.

This sentence would most logically be placed at:

F. Point A in Paragraph 1.
G. Point B in Paragraph 2.
H. Point C in Paragraph 3.
J. Point D in Paragraph 4.

END OF TEST

STOP! Check your work on this test only.