

ACT Conventions of Standard English Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

SAMPLE

Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

SAMPLE

1. Choose the sentence that uses 'absolve' correctly.
 - A. The priest absolved him from his sins.
 - B. The priest absolved him of his sins.
 - C. The priest absolved from his sins.
 - D. The priest absolved to his sins.

2. Identify the corrected version of the run-on sentence.
 - A. Janet is an actress she often appears in major television network shows.
 - B. Janet is an actress, who often appears in major television network shows.
 - C. Janet is an actress who often appears in major television network shows.
 - D. Janet is an actress; she often appears in major television network shows.

3. The student felt ____ when asked to explain the answer.
 - A. familiar with
 - B. puzzled/confused/perplexed by
 - C. in contrast to
 - D. compensate for

4. What are the present, past, and past participle forms of 'shrink'?
 - A. Shrink, Shrunk, Shrunk
 - B. Shrink, Shrank, Shrunk
 - C. Shrinks, Shrunk, Shrunk
 - D. Shrink, Shrank, Shrunk

5. Which sentence uses their as a possessive pronoun correctly?
 - A. They forgot their jackets at camp.
 - B. They forgot there jackets at camp.
 - C. They forgot they're jackets at camp.
 - D. They forgot their jacket at camp.

- 6. Which option correctly demonstrates a sentence that uses a FANBOYS conjunction with proper punctuation to join two independent clauses?**
- A. I wanted to go hiking, but it started raining.**
 - B. I wanted to go hiking and it started raining.**
 - C. I wanted to go hiking; it started raining.**
 - D. I wanted to go hiking, or it started raining.**
- 7. Which word is an objective pronoun?**
- A. I**
 - B. We**
 - C. Me**
 - D. They**
- 8. She is ___ the new software; she has used it many times.**
- A. in awe of**
 - B. familiar with**
 - C. have confidence in**
 - D. adept in/at**
- 9. What is the past participle of the verb 'lie' (down)?**
- A. Lay**
 - B. Laid**
 - C. Lain**
 - D. Laying**
- 10. The manager expressed ___ the team's ability to deliver on time.**
- A. have confidence in**
 - B. capable of**
 - C. in contrast to**
 - D. sympathize with**

Answers

SAMPLE

1. A
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. A
6. A
7. C
8. B
9. C
10. C

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Choose the sentence that uses 'absolve' correctly.

A. The priest absolved him from his sins.

B. The priest absolved him of his sins.

C. The priest absolved from his sins.

D. The priest absolved to his sins.

Absolve means to free someone from guilt, blame, or a burden, and it is used with the person as the object and a prepositional phrase indicating what they are freed from. In this context, the priest is performing the action on him, freeing him from his sins, which fits the common, natural phrasing: absolve someone from something. Using a preposition other than from changes the sense or sounds off. Absolving someone of his sins is less idiomatic here, and leaving out a preposition or using to would misrepresent the idea of being freed from sins. Thus, the construction with from his sins is the clearest and most natural.

2. Identify the corrected version of the run-on sentence.

A. Janet is an actress she often appears in major television network shows.

B. Janet is an actress, who often appears in major television network shows.

C. Janet is an actress who often appears in major television network shows.

D. Janet is an actress; she often appears in major television network shows.

The main idea being tested is how to fix a run-on by linking related ideas with appropriate punctuation and structure, so the sentence remains a single, smooth thought. Using a restrictive relative clause right after the noun keeps the description tightly connected to Janet and clarifies which actress is being talked about. The corrected sentence uses who to introduce essential information about Janet, and it flows as one complete statement: Janet is an actress who often appears in major television network shows. This version avoids a run-on by not letting two independent clauses stand apart without a connector. It also keeps the meaning precise: Janet is an actress who often appears in such shows, without implying there are many actresses of the same name or introducing extra, nonessential details. Other forms would either create a run-on (no punctuation between the two parts), or add a comma to set off a nonessential clause that changes the meaning by implying Janet is just one example among actresses. A semicolon would fix the run-on as well but splits the sentence into two independent thoughts rather than tying the description directly to Janet.

3. The student felt ____ when asked to explain the answer.
- A. familiar with
 - B. puzzled/confused/perplexed by**
 - C. in contrast to
 - D. compensate for

This tests your ability to choose an adjective that describes an emotional reaction and to connect that reaction to the cause of it. After felt, a word that names the student's emotional state is needed, and it should pair naturally with the idea of someone being asked to explain something. The best fit is a word meaning puzzled, confused, or perplexed, with the idea that this feeling arises from the act of being asked to explain the answer. The other options don't describe an emotion or don't fit the sentence's meaning: familiar with describes knowledge or familiarity, not how someone feels; in contrast to is a comparison phrase; compensate for is a verb phrase meaning to make up for something. So the sentence reads most naturally as the student feeling puzzled (or confused or perplexed) when asked to explain the answer.

4. What are the present, past, and past participle forms of 'shrink'?
- A. Shrink, Shrunk, Shrunk
 - B. Shrink, Shrank, Shrunk**
 - C. Shrinks, Shrunk, Shrunk
 - D. Shrink, Shrank, Shrunked

Irregular verb forms change in the past rather than just adding -ed, which is what this item tests. For shrink, the base present form is shrink (you shrink, we shrink, they shrink; for he/she/it you'd say shrinks). The simple past tense is shrank. The past participle, used with have/has/had or as an adjective, is shrunk. So the correct sequence for present, past, and past participle is shrink, shrank, shrunk. The other options mix up those forms or use a nonstandard form (shranked), or use a present tense form (shrinks) that doesn't fit the requested sequence.

5. Which sentence uses their as a possessive pronoun correctly?
- A. They forgot their jackets at camp.**
 - B. They forgot there jackets at camp.
 - C. They forgot they're jackets at camp.
 - D. They forgot their jacket at camp.

The main idea is choosing the word that shows possession correctly before a noun and matches number with the subject. Their is a possessive determiner used to show ownership of plural items when the subject is plural. Here, they forgot their jackets at camp, which clearly means multiple jackets belonging to them. Using jackets keeps the noun plural to reflect the plural possession. The other forms aren't about possession in this context: there is a location word, not a possessive; they're is a contraction for they are, not showing ownership; and their jacket is a possessive with a singular noun, which doesn't align with the plural subject and the idea of multiple jackets in this scenario.

6. Which option correctly demonstrates a sentence that uses a FANBOYS conjunction with proper punctuation to join two independent clauses?

- A. I wanted to go hiking, but it started raining.
- B. I wanted to go hiking and it started raining.
- C. I wanted to go hiking; it started raining.
- D. I wanted to go hiking, or it started raining.

When you join two independent clauses with a FANBOYS coordinating conjunction, you usually put a comma before the conjunction. That pattern is shown in the sentence with **but**, where two complete thoughts are connected by a comma and the coordinating word. Two independent clauses are "I wanted to go hiking" and "it started raining." The comma before **but** correctly signals the pause and the contrast between the ideas, which makes the sentence flow cleanly and clearly. The version without a comma before **and** creates a run-on, because two independent clauses are glued together without the needed pause. The version that uses a semicolon, while it correctly joins two independent clauses, does not demonstrate the use of a FANBOYS conjunction with comma punctuation. The version with **or** also uses a FANBOYS word, but its meaning is awkward or less natural in this context, so it doesn't illustrate the clearest, most natural use of the pattern. So the best example shows two independent clauses connected by a FANBOYS conjunction with the comma before it, yielding a natural, properly punctuated sentence.

7. Which word is an objective pronoun?

- A. I
- B. We
- C. Me
- D. They

The main idea tested is pronoun case: objective pronouns are used when a pronoun functions as the object of a verb or a preposition. Objective pronouns include **me, you, him, her, it, us, and them**. Among the options, the one in objective form is **me**. The others are subjective forms used when the pronoun is the subject of a sentence or clause: **I, we, they**. For example, in "The coach praised **me**," **me** is the object of the verb **praised**. After a preposition, we also use the objective form, as in "Between **you and me**." Using the subject form in these positions—"I" or "we" or "they"—would be incorrect. So the word that is an objective pronoun is **me**.

8. She is ___ the new software; she has used it many times.

- A. in awe of
- B. familiar with**
- C. have confidence in
- D. adept in/at

The main idea tested is choosing the natural complement after a form of “to be” that describes a person’s relation to something. When someone has used a tool regularly, the idiomatic way to describe that state is “familiar with” the thing. The sentence pairs that with evidence in the second clause—“she has used it many times”—so saying she is familiar with the new software fits smoothly and clearly. The other phrases don’t fit as well here. “In awe of” expresses admiration, which doesn’t match the practical experience implied by repeated use. “Have confidence in” would not align with the be-construction in this sentence. And while “adept at” could work in some contexts, “familiar with” is the most natural and direct choice for describing someone who knows the software well because she’s used it often.

9. What is the past participle of the verb 'lie' (down)?

- A. Lay
- B. Laid
- C. Lain**
- D. Laying

Lie (to recline) has its own set of forms: lie, lay, lain, lying. The past tense is lay, but the past participle used with has/have/had is lain. That’s why the correct form here is lain. The other options come from the verb lay (to put down): lay is the past tense of lie, laid is the past participle of lay, and laying is the present participle of lay. So the past participle of lie (down) is lain, which fits the sentence when forming perfect tenses like has lain or had lain.

10. The manager expressed ___ the team's ability to deliver on time.

- A. have confidence in
- B. capable of
- C. in contrast to**
- D. sympathize with

The idea being tested is how to pair the verb express with the right noun phrase. After express, we usually name what’s being expressed with a noun and link it to the object with a preposition. Here, the natural fit is confidence in something: the manager expressed confidence in the team’s ability to deliver on time. That forms a clean, idiomatic phrase: confidence in. Why not the others? Adjectival phrases like capable of don’t work here because they can’t directly follow express without a restructuring (you’d need something like express that the team is capable of delivering). A phrase like in contrast to is used for comparisons and doesn’t complete the sentence meaningfully. Sympathize with requires a person or situation as the object, not an ability.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://actconventionsofstandardeng.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

SAMPLE