

ACT CONVENTIONS OF STANDARD ENGLISH PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://actconventionsofstandardeng.examzify.com>



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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

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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

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1. Which sentence uses accept/except correctly?

- A. She accepted the invitation.
- B. She excepted the invitation.
- C. She accepted the invitation, except it was late.
- D. She except the invitation.

2. Which word is an objective pronoun?

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

3. Which sentence uses who/whom correctly?

- A. Whom did you invite to the party?
- B. Who did you invite to the party?
- C. Whom did you invite to the party.
- D. Whom did you invited to the party?

4. Choose the sentence with correctly placed introductory participial phrase (another example).

- A. After finishing the project, the report was published.
- B. After finishing the project, she published the report.
- C. Finishing the project, the report was published.
- D. The report was published finishing the project.

5. Which sentence uses correct order of coordinate adjectives?

- A. A big red ball.
- B. A red big ball.
- C. A ball big red.
- D. A red ball big.

6. Which sentence shows the correct use of an objective pronoun as the object of a preposition?

- A. With I
- B. With me
- C. With he
- D. With they

7. Which sentence correctly uses a nonrestrictive phrase?

- A. The movie which we watched last night was long.
- B. The movie, which we watched last night was long.
- C. The movie which we watched last night, was long.
- D. The movie, which we watched last night, was long.

8. Choose the sentence that correctly uses a restrictive relative clause without commas.

- A. The books that are on the table are mine.
- B. The books on the table are mine.
- C. The books, that are on the table, are mine.
- D. The books that are on the table, are mine.

9. Which sentence demonstrates present perfect usage?

- A. I have lived in the city for 5 years.
- B. I Lived in the city for 5 years.
- C. I Am Living in the city for 5 years.
- D. I Will Live in the city for 5 years.

10. Which option correctly uses a colon to introduce a list? You will need three things, a map, a flashlight, and a compass.

- A. You will need three things; a map, a flashlight, and a compass.
- B. You will need three things - a map, a flashlight, and a compass.
- C. You will need three things: a map, a flashlight, and a compass.
- D. You will need three things, a map, a flashlight, and a compass.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which sentence uses accept/except correctly?

- A. She accepted the invitation.
- B. She excepted the invitation.
- C. She accepted the invitation, except it was late.
- D. She except the invitation.

Accept means to receive or agree to something, while except means excluding or leaving out. In a simple past statement about what she did with the invitation, the verb should be the past tense form of accept: accepted. So the sentence that uses accepted the invitation correctly conveys that she received or agreed to the invitation in the past. The other options misapply the word: excepted would change the meaning to exclude the invitation, which doesn't fit here; except as a word in that position isn't the correct verb form; and using except as a standalone verb isn't correct grammar.

2. 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.

3. Which sentence uses who/whom correctly?

- A. Whom did you invite to the party?
- B. Who did you invite to the party?
- C. Whom did you invite to the party.
- D. Whom did you invited to the party?

The key idea here is choosing the correct case for who/whom in a question that uses did-support, and keeping the verb in its base form after did. In the embedded clause, the pronoun is the object of the verb invite, so the proper object form is used: whom. The auxiliary did requires the main verb to be in base form, so invite, not invited, follows did. So the sentence Whom did you invite to the party? uses whom as the object of invite and keeps the verb in its base form after did, which is exactly what formal grammar calls for in questions. The other options run into two kinds of issues: using who instead of whom when the pronoun is the object, or using invited after did, or punctuation that makes the sentence read as a statement rather than a question.

4. Choose the sentence with correctly placed introductory participial phrase (another example).

- A. After finishing the project, the report was published.
- B. After finishing the project, she published the report.**
- C. Finishing the project, the report was published.
- D. The report was published finishing the project.

An introductory participial phrase should clearly attach to the same subject that performs the action in the main clause, and it's usually followed by a comma to separate the introductory element from the main statement. In the sentence that works, the introductory phrase After finishing the project clearly describes the subject who then does the next action. The subject right after the comma is she, who goes on to publish the report. This keeps the action of finishing the project tied to the same person who publishes, avoiding any confusion about who did what. The other options run into a classic problem: the introductory phrase ends up dangling or attaching to the wrong noun. In the first, After finishing the project, the report was published, the action of finishing the project isn't done by the report, so the modifier misleads you about who finished it. In the third, Finishing the project, the report was published, the phrase is attached to the report itself, which would imply the report finished the project—nonsensical. The last option, The report was published finishing the project, places the participial idea after the main clause and without a separating comma, making the sentence awkward and unclear about who performed the finishing action. Tip: when you start with an introductory participial phrase, choose a subject in the following main clause that can plausibly be the one doing the action in the phrase, and set it off with a comma.

5. Which sentence uses correct order of coordinate adjectives?

- A. A big red ball.**
- B. A red big ball.
- C. A ball big red.
- D. A red ball big.

When multiple adjectives describe the same noun, English follows a natural order, and size usually comes before color. Here, the ball is described first by its size (big) and then by its color (red), with the noun (ball) at the end. This arrangement—big red before the noun—reads smoothly and matches the common pattern for describing objects. Swapping the adjectives to red before big sounds off because it goes against that usual sequence. Placing an adjective after the noun isn't typical for a straightforward noun phrase, and moving both adjectives to after the noun doesn't fit standard grammar for describing the object. If you wanted to treat the adjectives as equally independent, you'd typically use a comma (A big, red ball), but the simplest, most natural order here is big red before ball.

6. Which sentence shows the correct use of an objective pronoun as the object of a preposition?

- A. With I
- B. With me**
- C. With he
- D. With they

When a pronoun comes after a preposition, use the object form. Pronouns have two forms: subject (I, he, they) for the subject of a verb, and object (me, him, them) after prepositions or as the object of a verb. The phrase after a preposition like with requires the object form, so the correct choice is me. For example, "She spoke with me." The other options use subject pronouns after a preposition, which isn't correct: I, he, and they are not the form that follows a preposition.

7. Which sentence correctly uses a nonrestrictive phrase?

- A. The movie which we watched last night was long.
- B. The movie, which we watched last night was long.
- C. The movie which we watched last night, was long.
- D. The movie, which we watched last night, was long.**

Nonrestrictive information adds extra detail about a noun and is set off by commas, because it can be removed without changing who or what is being talked about. Here, the phrase "which we watched last night" adds extra information about the movie but isn't needed to identify it. That's why it's correctly punctuated with a pair of commas: *The movie, which we watched last night, was long.* Removing the clause leaves a complete, sensible sentence: *The movie was long.* The other variants mix up this punctuation or use the phrase in a way that makes it seem essential. Without the second comma, or by treating the clause as restrictive, the sentence would imply you're specifying a particular movie among others, which isn't the intended nonessential detail.

8. Choose the sentence that correctly uses a restrictive relative clause without commas.

- A. The books that are on the table are mine.**
- B. The books on the table are mine.
- C. The books, that are on the table, are mine.
- D. The books that are on the table, are mine.

The key idea is that a restrictive relative clause specifies exactly which noun we're talking about and does not use commas. Here, "that are on the table" stops the reader from needing extra information to identify "the books," so it's essential information and stays directly attached to the noun. The sentence *The books that are on the table are mine* uses *that*-clauses to restrict which books are being referred to, with no commas. That makes it correct for a restrictive relative clause. The other forms introduce issues: leaving out the relative pronoun creates a reduced form that can be acceptable in natural speech, but it isn't the explicit restrictive relative clause the item is asking for. Using commas—*The books, that are on the table, are mine* or *The books that are on the table, are mine*—signals nonessential information, which changes the meaning and is not the restrictive construction.

9. Which sentence demonstrates present perfect usage?

- A. I have lived in the city for 5 years.**
- B. I Lived in the city for 5 years.
- C. I Am Living in the city for 5 years.
- D. I Will Live in the city for 5 years.

Present perfect usage connects a past action to the present, especially when you want to show duration up to now. With *for* or *since*, it marks how long something has been happening. Here, *have lived* uses *have* + the past participle and pairs with the time expression *for 5 years*, signaling that you began living in the city five years ago and still live there now. That ongoing link to the present is why this is the correct choice. The simple past (*lived*) places the action entirely in the past with no present connection. The present progressive (*am living*) describes something happening now; for a duration like *five years* you'd normally use the present perfect continuous (*have been living*) to emphasize ongoing action up to the present. The future (*will live*) looks ahead, not at the present timeframe.

10. Which option correctly uses a colon to introduce a list? You will need three things, a map, a flashlight, and a compass.

- A. You will need three things; a map, a flashlight, and a compass.
- B. You will need three things - a map, a flashlight, and a compass.
- C. You will need three things: a map, a flashlight, and a compass.**
- D. You will need three things, a map, a flashlight, and a compass.

Introducing a list after a complete statement uses a colon. Here, the sentence before the colon, "You will need three things," is a complete thought, so it properly signals that what follows is the list of those things. The items that come after a colon—"a map, a flashlight, and a compass"—are parallel noun phrases, separated by commas with "and" before the final item, which is the standard list format after a colon. Using a semicolon wouldn't fit because it links two independent thoughts, not introduce a list. A dash can sometimes be used to add emphasis, but it's not the formal, conventional way to herald a list. A comma wouldn't clearly mark the list and would feel like a weaker connection or a run-on. The colon provides the clear, formal cue that what follows will enumerate the needed items.

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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!

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