**Cracking the ACT**

**English Test**- 36 pts

45 min

5 passages

75 Questions (40 Usage/mechanics) (35 Rhetorical skills)

\*More than ½ of the punctuation questions on the ACT involve the proper use of the comma.

**Reading Test**- 36 pts

35 min

4 passages

40 questions (10 per passage)

\*When NO CHANGE is an option- it is usually NOT the answer (80% of the time).

\* When OMIT is an option- it usually is the answer (90 % of the time).

**Reading Test Strategies-**

* 1. Attack the passages in the order that best suits you.
  2. See through the camouflage that hides correct answer choices.
  3. Identify incorrect answer choices and eliminate them quickly.
  4. Answer questions without really reading the passage.
  5. Put all of these techniques together in order to approach every passage and question with a step-by-step strategy that leads systematically to the correct answers.

**Reading test distracters-**

1. Fly trap- steal words and create statements that do not reflect meaning.

*“Tom loves going to the movies with Mary.”(Quote from ACT passage)*

*\*Tom and Mary love movies.( Sample incorrect answer choice)*

*\*Tom and Mary fell in love at the movies.( Sample incorrect answer choice)*

1. Switches- takes the truth and switches it.

*Dr. Thorne generally explains a technological discovery first in terms of its history and then in terms of the science on which it was founded. (Quote from ACT passage)*

*\*Dr. Thorne generally explains a technological discovery first in terms of the science on which it was founded, and then in terms of its history. (Sample incorrect answer choice)*

1. Extremes- uses words like always, invariably so, or never. They are usually debatable.

*Patients who are chronically depressed never enjoy their lives.*

1. Choices that sound too nice- sound good but have little to do with the passage.

*Ultimately, the voting public knows its own best interest.*

***Borrowed from: Martz, Geoff, Kim Magloire, and Theodore Silver. Cracking the ACT.***

***New York: Random House, 2005. Print.***