

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT: TEENS SHARE THEIR ACT/SAT EXPERIENCES

CC

I took the PSAT/NMSQT with a score in the 93rd percentile. Because I'm a sophomore and the PSAT is only for practice this year, I didn't prepare that much. I took a couple practice tests and I took a summer course that explains the differences between the SAT and ACT. I learned that the SAT is slower paced and more math-heavy, whereas the ACT has more reading and writing and is quicker paced. I used the practice questions on the college board website as well.

MARIE-THERESE

When it comes to studying for the ACT and SAT, I would definitely say to practice and prepare ahead of time. That way you can take the time to fully understand the material. One resource that I would definitely recommend that I didn't find out about until after I took my tests is Khan Academy. They have practice tests on their website that are honestly the closest thing to the actual ACT/SAT. I will always recommend and preach about going to Columbus Metropolitan Library's Homework Help Centers for the extra help, but during this time, I understand that might not be possible. But there are a ton of YouTube videos to look at that help with certain subjects and specific types of questions on the ACT. A more fun option might be TikTok, which has accounts all about working through common and difficult questions on the ACT/SAT. Studying for the ACT is more about familiarizing yourself with the question and how it is being asked than it is about what you have learned, so the more practice and time taken to familiarize yourself with the way the test is taken the better. The day before the test, take some time for yourself, and if you are feeling really anxious and feel you need to study more, you can, but for 30 to 45 minutes tops. Lastly, just relax. I know this can be annoying to hear when it feels like the score on this test is going to decide the fate of your college career, but it is not the only factor in a college's decision to accept a student. I hope this was helpful.

LESLIE

Hi, my name is Leslie and I took the ACT test twice. My very first time, I did a lot of studying and barely had enough sleep so I went to take my test feeling sleepy. The second time, I made sure to go to bed early the night before the test. On test day, I did no sort of studying at all so that I wouldn't be stressed if I got some questions wrong during my practice test. I woke up early enough so that I wouldn't be in a rush to the testing center. In terms of studying, I downloaded some ACT test prep apps such as Magoosh ACT on my phone and used them whenever I wasn't at home. During the times I was at home, I used websites such as uniontestprep.com to study. If you get a waiver or if you're willing to pay more, you can get an ACT test prep kit from act.org. One big thing was that I attended a free ACT crash course class at the Westerville Public Library to give me tips on how to be skillful on the exam and manage my time. On test day, just breathe, pray, believe in yourself and go pass that test!

LINDSAY

The night before each test, I made sure to pack my pencils, calculator and ID. I reviewed the layout of the tests and some topics that had me worried, like sequences, right before going inside. If I were to take either test again, I would take one more practice test a few days before the test, to figure out what things I need to review more and to remind myself of the layout. My favorite way to prepare for these tests was on my own with a test prep book, listening to music. I would do a section each weekend leading up to the test and answer a few questions from the chapter reviews, doing more problems for the topics I struggled with. On the day of the test, the best thing to remember is that you've done all you can to prepare and that you just need to keep moving.