

# Testing 1...2...3...

By Ked Kantz

**The SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) and the ACT** (American College Test) can be quite a hurdle to overcome in your college search process. However, there are some tips for taking these tests that can help you improve your scores. Familiarity is key when taking these tests: The better you know the ins and outs of the SAT and the ACT the less anxiety you will feel when taking the test – and that’s sure to pump up your score!

## General Tips

- Take both the SAT and the ACT: Some students do better on one rather than the other. The SAT and the ACT are set up differently and assess different skills. Many times it is to the student’s benefit to take both assessment tests.
- Take them more than once: Scores on these assessment tests generally go up the more you take them, so it is to your benefit to retake the test if you’re wanting to improve your score.
- Pacing is critical: Map out each section of the test. You should know how long you have to answer each question. Answer the easy questions first, skip the ones you have difficulty with, mark them, and come back to them.

## SAT Tips

- Understand the scoring: You get a point for a right answer. You lose a fractional point for a wrong answer. There is no deduction for omitted answers, or for wrong answers in the math section’s student-produced response questions.
- Skip any question if you haven’t the faintest idea about the answer. You don’t lose points.
- Refresh your math skills and increase your vocabulary: 50% of the SAT is verbal and 50% is math. It pays to familiarize yourself with practical math and verbal skills.

## ACT Tips

- Use logic to answer difficult questions: When you return to the more difficult questions, use logic to eliminate incorrect answers.
- Always guess on unanswered questions. The ACT has no penalty for guessing.
- Review the content areas: mathematics, English, science reasoning, and reading!

Perhaps the best tip for taking these assessment tests is to simply exercise common sense. On the day before your test, go to bed early, then eat a good breakfast the next morning and be early to your testing site. Relax, decrease anxiety and succeed. These tests play an important role in the college admissions process and should be taken seriously. With preparation and dedication, the SAT and ACT can be just another hurdle that you leave behind on your road to making the perfect college selection! 📖



## Test Dates

### ACT

Test Date	Regular Registration	Late Registration
February 8, 2003	January 3, 2003	January 17, 2003
April 12, 2003	March 7, 2003	March 21, 2003
June 14, 2003	May 9, 2003	May 23, 2003

### SAT

Test Date	Regular Registration	Late Registration
January 25, 2003	Dec. 23, 2002	Jan. 2, 2003
April 5, 2003	Feb. 28, 2003	Mar. 12, 2003
May 3, 2003	Mar. 28, 2003	Apr. 9, 2003
June 7, 2003	May 2, 2003	May 14, 2003