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Customer Reviews

I am a professional tutor with 25 years of experience teaching math, science, ACT and SAT. Usually the Princeton Review is top on my list for recommended books, but this one has so many errors and
omissions, it is disgraceful. I might be able to be more sympathetic if this was the first edition, but it's the 4th! I contacted the publisher about the errors. I was told they had identified a few and was given a list. None of their discovered errors were in the math section, which is where I have discovered 13, so far. There are missing pages, explanations that don't match problems, and problems that include impossible scenarios, such as "AB is parallel to AB". Very, very disappointed with this book. "Cracking the ACT" and "5 Real ACTs" are far superior. Don't waste your money on this book.

My son who is about to go into his junior year has been studying and preparing though various ACT books considers this one of the best. Each time he practices, he improves his score. There are wonderful explanations with the answer key as to why the wrong answers are the wrong choices. I would advise any parent who wants a high ACT and hopeful scholarship to have this as one of the books used to prepare. Practice the right way does make closer to perfect---at least higher scores.

Good purchase for students who need skill practice with certain types of questions. These are NOT actual questions from past ACT tests, and they tend to be a little harder than the actual questions. But since there are only 5 actual tests on the market, students often need more prep material.

It's a really great book for anyone who needs to prepare for his or her ACT. I would have rated this book 5 stars if it had not been for the typos in the book. One of the questions asks for one thing (i.e. measure of angle ABC, but instead in the answer key, it shows the measure of angle ACB). You get what I'm saying? Nonetheless, this book is a great one, and I would say it's a must have for anyone who's trying to score in the 30's.

This was a fantastic book for English and Reading but not so much as far as science goes and even less for math. The science section just didn't meet the level of difficulty and the math covered wasn't everything covered in the ACT test I took in June 2016. I feel like it isn't fully revised to meet the new standards of the 2016 ACT's Science and Math section as they have changed it from the 2015 ACT. This would have been a perfect book for the older ACT's however the new ACT's have new content. You will need a more updated book if you are looking to score in the 28+ range like I am.

I've been a professional ACT tutor for fifteen years, and I've used this book and its earlier incarnations with hundreds of students over that time. First, the negatives. This is a good book, but
it used to be better. Even though the 4th edition was just released, all the writing (essay) sections in this book reflect the format of the OLD writing section for the ACT, which was last given in June of 2015. There have been an entire school year’s worth of ACTs given which feature the new writing section format (with three perspectives for students to consider in their responses), but the publishers of this book still have not updated it to include examples of the new writing format. Additionally, many of the errors (which are basically typos) that were present in the 3rd edition seem to be included in the 4th edition. It’s as if the publisher updated the cover art and changed the subtitle from "3rd edition" to "4th edition" without making an substantive changes inside the manual.

Now for the positives. There are a variety of questions types in this manual, particularly in science and math, that are representative of the diversity of passage and questions types that might appear on the ACT. I saw that some other reviewers commented that the questions in this manual seemed harder than those on the real test, while others commented that the questions in this manual were easier than those on the real test. I think this reflects a small sample size on the part of many reviewers. No two ACTs are the same, nor are any two precisely equally difficult. The trick to improving your ACT score, in part, is taking enough practice and real tests to be as prepared as possible for what you eventually see on the real test, so you aren’t fazed by something you haven’t practiced. While some reviewers noted that there are some obscure science passage types and random math questions in this manual, in my opinion, that is a strength of this manual, at least from the standpoint of anyone who is trying to be as prepared as possible for the ACT. Those random passage types and questions are often shown only once or twice in this manual, reflecting that they are not very common on the real ACT. Nonetheless, they are known to appear occasionally on the ACT. Anyone trying to earn a truly stellar score on the ACT should take as many practice tests as possible, and equivalent of six full practice tests in this book (minus writing sections, which are outdated, as discussed earlier in this review) with (mostly accurate) full answers and explanations are an asset to any students trying to take the aforementioned comprehensive approach to ACT prep.

First the cons: We’ve worked with several review products and are disappointed with the number of errors in the drill section. We’re not looking forward to checking the answers on ALL the questions, but feel we must to avoid confusing our son in his preparations. The publishers definitely should have done a better job of assuring accuracy!
The pros: The topics are appropriate for prepping for the test. Perhaps finding the errors is a good way to review?
Materials are very different from what's on the real tests! I thought the English & Reading sections were similar, but math & science sections have some exotic questions and passages..

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