

4-STEP READING METHOD

Step 1: Read the Blurb

- Frame your mind
- Adjust your mind-set to the current passage from the last passage.
- Anticipate how the passage will read.
- Will passage be touchy-feely and filled with emotional situations or fact-based with straight, “black and white” info?

Step 2: Attack the Questions

- Read the questions but ignore the answer choices
- The passage questions will give you an idea/direction of the story
- ID the later (L) questions of the passage
- Leave a trail in the margins for early (E) line/paragraph reference questions
- Underline key words within question
- Step 2 should take no more than 60 seconds (for both ACT & SAT)

Step 3: Skim and Take Quick Notes

- You should be able to read 10 lines in 10-20 seconds
- Use 2-3 key words to Quick Note the main idea of paragraph within margin
- Break up a long paragraph into smaller parts, if necessary

Step 4: Attack the Answers

- When you run into early (E) questions, completely skim paragraph, then attack answers from the bottom up
- Cross out answers that are definitely wrong
- If stuck between two answers, go back to passage and shake out the best answer but don't blow your pace
- “Guess and Go” when necessary

For Reading Passage Drills Homework

- re-read and get very familiar with the 4-step method outlined above
- time yourself 8.5mins (ACT timing) then pause
- write down the number of questions you have left (to track your pacing)
- time yourself with an additional 2.5mins (or 4.5mins for SAT timing)
- when finished, circle the questions that gave you the most trouble.
- check your answers by using solutions to understand and improve 4-step method
- your goal is to finish each passage in 8.5mins for ACT or 13mins for SAT
- take a break then do another passage, if you can

Estimated time for completion: 10-15mins per passage including review