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*Where excellence in education and character is the expectation.*

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to ACT English! I'm excited about the opportunity to get to know you, and I'm looking forward to a happy and productive school year.

My name is Abby Stotz. This is my third year teaching at Bradford Academy I love reading and writing and am very excited about ACT English. In my spare time, I enjoy cooking, reading and going to the movies.

Curriculum areas we will focus on this year will be writing and grammar. Students will frequently have grammar homework and will have a large number of writing projects. We will also hone our test taking skills. Along the way, we will also read a few novels to practice literary analysis skills that come into play during the ACT Reading test.

If you have any questions or concerns or if you would like to visit our classroom, schedule a conference, or volunteer to help out, you can contact me via e-mail at [abigailstotz@choiceschools.com](mailto:abigailstotz@choiceschools.com). I can also be reached at 248.351.0000 ext. 13208. The website for all of my classes is <http://www.stotz.weebly.com>. The best times to reach me are before school, after school, or during my prep hour.

Once again, welcome to ACT English. Let's work together to make this the best year ever!

Sincerely,  
Abby Stotz

## ACT English Summer Packet

- 1) Test-taking tips
- 2) Test-taking tips comprehension questions
- 3) ACT Reading passage and questions
- 4) ACT English passage and questions

### TEST-TAKING TIPS (Taken from ACT website)

- Carefully read the instructions on the cover of the test booklet.
- Read the directions for each test carefully.
- Read each question carefully.
- Pace yourself—don't spend too much time on a single passage or question.
- Pay attention to the announcement of five minutes remaining on each test.
- Use a soft lead No. 2 pencil with a good eraser. Do not use a mechanical pencil or ink pen; if you do, your answer document cannot be scored accurately.
- Answer the easy questions first, then go back and answer the more difficult ones if you have time remaining on that test.
- On difficult questions, eliminate as many incorrect answers as you can, then make an educated guess among those remaining.
- **Answer every question.** Your scores on the multiple-choice tests are based on the number of questions you answer correctly. **There is no penalty for guessing.**
- If you complete a test before time is called, recheck your work on that test.
- Mark your answers properly. Erase any mark completely and cleanly without smudging.
- Do not mark or alter any ovals on a test or continue writing the essay after time has been called. If you do, you will be dismissed and your answer document will **not** be scored.

### Tips Questions

1. What type of writing utensil should you use?  
a. Any pencil    b. marker    c. pen    d. no. 2 pencil
2. What are the first three things you should do (after reading the instructions on the test booklet)? Please write your answer in a complete sentence.
3. Is it important to keep track of time? What happens if you keep answering questions after time is called?  
a. No, the test is untimed, people can leave whenever they're done.  
b. Sort of, but if you keep answering you'll get yelled at.  
c. Definitely, if you keep writing after time is called your answer document will not be scored.
4. What should you do if you finish early?  
a. Text your friends    b. Recheck your work    c. Raise your hand.

## READING TEST

35 Minutes—40 Questions

**DIRECTIONS:** There are four passages in this test. Each passage is followed by several questions. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to each question and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. You may refer to the passages as often as necessary.

## Passage I

**PROSE FICTION:** This passage is adapted from the short story "Eiba" by Marly Swick (©1991 by the University of Iowa). Fran is the narrator of the story.

Mother, who wanted to keep her, always thought of her as some wild little bird, but I knew she was a homing pigeon. I knew that at some point in her flight path, sooner or later, she would make a U-turn. A sort of human boomerang. So even though I had long since stopped expecting it, I was not surprised when I walked down the gravel drive to the mailbox, which I'd painted papaya yellow to attract good news, and found the flimsy envelope with the Dallas postmark. I didn't know a soul in Dallas, or Texas for that matter, but the handwriting reminded me of someone's. My own.

I walked back inside the house.

"Still raining?" Mother asked. She was sitting in her new electric wheelchair in front of the TV, painting her fingernails a neon violet.

"Just let up," I said. "Sun's poking through. You know anyone in Dallas, Mother?"

"Not so as I recall." She dabbed at her pinky with a cottonball. Mother was vain about her hands. I was used to how she looked now, but I noticed people staring in the doctor's waiting room. She had lost some weight and most of her hair to chemotherapy, and I guess people were startled to see these dragon-lady nails on a woman who looked as if she should be lying in satin with some flowers on her chest.

"Why do you ask?" she said.

I opened the envelope and a picture fluttered into my lap. It was a Polaroid of a sweet-faced blond holding a newborn baby in a blue blanket. Before I even read the letter I knew. I knew how those Nazis feel when suddenly, after twenty or thirty uneventful years, they are arrested walking down some sunny street in Buenos Aires. It's the shock of being found after waiting so long.

"What's that?" Mother said.

I wheeled her around to face me and handed her the Polaroid. She studied it for a minute and then

looked up, speechless for once, waiting for me to set the tone.

"That's her," I said. "Her name's Linda Rose Caswell."

We looked at the picture again. The blond woman was seated on a flowered couch, her wavy hair just grazing the edge of a dime-a-dozen seascape in a cheap gilt frame.

Mother pointed to the envelope. "What's she say?"

I unfolded the letter, a single page neatly written.

"She says she's had my name and address for some time but wanted to wait to contact me until after the birth. The baby's name is Blake and he weighs eight pounds, eight ounces, and was born by cesarean. She says they are waiting and hoping to hear back from me soon."

"That's it?"

I nodded and handed her the letter. It was short and businesslike, but I could see the ghosts of all the long letters she must have written and crumpled into the wastebasket.

"I guess that makes you a great-grandmother," I said.

"What about you?" she snorted, pointing a Jungle Orchid fingernail at me. "You're a grandmother."

We shook our heads in disbelief. I sat silently, listening to my brain catch up with my history. Forty years old and I felt as if I had just shaken hands with Death. I suppose it's difficult for any woman to accept that she's a grandmother, but in the normal order of things, you have ample time to adjust to the idea. You don't get a snapshot in the mail one day from a baby girl you gave up twenty-four years ago saying, "Congratulations, you're a grandma!"

"It's not fair," I said. "I don't even feel like a mother."

"Well, here's the living proof." Mother tapped her nail against the glossy picture. "She looks just like you. Only her nose is more aristocratic."

**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

"I'm going to work." My knees cracked when I stood up. "You be all right here?"

Mother nodded, scrutinizing the picture in her lap.  
80 "You going to write to her?"

"Of course I am," I bristled. "I may be some things, but I am not rude."

"You going to invite them here? Her and the baby?" She swiveled her eyes sideways at me.

85 "I haven't thought that far," I said.

"Well, don't put it off." She slid her eyes back to the television. "She's been waiting twenty-five years. You worried she's going to be trouble or ask for money? For all we know, she's married to a brain surgeon with his and her Cadillacs."  
90

"She didn't mention any husband at all," I said, getting drawn into it despite myself.

"Maybe you're worried she'll be disappointed in you," she said. "You know, that she's had this big fantasy for all these years that maybe you were Grace Kelly or Margaret Mead and who could live up to that? No one. But you don't have to, Fran, that's the thing. You're her flesh-and-blood mother and that's enough. That's all it'll take."  
95

1. Fran would most likely agree with which of the following statements about her relationship with Linda Rose?

- A. Their lives are still connected despite long separations of time and distance.
- B. They have built up too much resentment toward each other to have a good relationship now.
- C. Fran's dreams of a perfect daughter will interfere with any real relationship she might have with Linda Rose.
- D. The two of them have enough in common that it won't be difficult for them to get close.

2. Fran's mother can most accurately be characterized as:

- F. arrogant and cruel.
- G. strong-willed and caring.
- H. friendly but withdrawn.
- J. loving but embittered.

3. Which of the following statements does NOT describe one of Fran's reactions to the news that she is a grandmother?

- A. She wishes she had had time to prepare for the news.
- B. She looks forward to inviting Linda Rose and her son, Blake, over for a visit.
- C. She feels suddenly older now that the label of grandmother applies to her.
- D. She protests that this change in her life is unfair.

4. The main point of the first paragraph is that:

- F. Fran believed Linda Rose would someday try to contact her.
- G. Linda Rose acted like a wild bird when she was young.
- H. Fran finds the arrival of a letter from Linda Rose surprising.
- J. Linda Rose's handwriting reminds Fran of her own handwriting.

5. The main point of the last paragraph is that Fran's mother believes:

- A. Linda Rose has few illusions about Fran.
- B. Linda Rose might cause trouble or ask for money.
- C. Fran shouldn't worry about disappointing Linda Rose.
- D. Fran shouldn't write to Linda Rose until Fran is emotionally prepared.

6. According to the passage, when Fran looks at her mother, Fran feels:

- F. surprised by how weak and old her mother looks.
- G. embarrassed by the gaudy colors of nail polish her mother uses.
- H. pity that so many people stare at her mother in public.
- J. accustomed to her mother's frailness and unusual fingernails.

7. Which of the following statements most accurately expresses Fran's feelings when she hands her mother the letter from Linda Rose?

- A. Fran is disappointed about getting such a short letter after so many years of no news from Linda Rose.
- B. Fran welcomes the good news about the birth of her grandson, Blake.
- C. Fran is offended by the letter's cold, businesslike tone.
- D. Fran knows how hard it must have been for Linda Rose to write the letter.

8. It can logically be inferred from the passage that the reason it has been a long time since Fran and Linda Rose have seen each other is because:

- F. Linda Rose left home to get married.
- G. arguments between Fran and Linda Rose drove Linda Rose away.
- H. Linda Rose chose to live with her father.
- J. as a child Linda Rose was adopted by another family.

9. A reasonable conclusion Fran and her mother draw about Linda Rose from her letter and picture is that Linda Rose:

- A. lives near the coast of Texas with her husband.
- B. enjoys and collects fine paintings.
- C. bears a strong resemblance to Fran.
- D. cares little about how she or her house looks.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

ENGLISH TEST

45 Minutes—75 Questions

DIRECTIONS: In the five passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose "NO CHANGE." In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

PASSAGE I

My "Sister" Ligia

Every year my high school hosts international exchange students, those teenagers join our senior class.

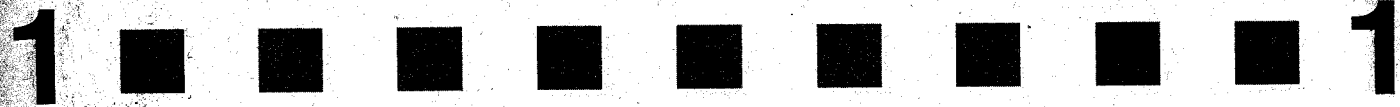
Each student usually lives with the family of one of <sup>1</sup> the seniors. I can recall students from Costa Rica, Italy, Norway, and Nigeria. Last year, one of our school's exchange students being Ligia Antolinez,

who came from Bucaramanga, Colombia. I was a

junior then. I wasn't in any of Ligia's classes and didn't

know her, but I saw her at school events, which are sometimes supported financially <sup>5</sup> by local businesses.

- 1. A. NO CHANGE  
B. students, he or she is invited to  
C. students who  
D. students they
- 2. F. NO CHANGE  
G. students was  
H. students, named  
J. students,
- 3. A. NO CHANGE  
B. whom  
C. which  
D. she who
- 4. F. NO CHANGE  
G. junior, therefore, so  
H. junior because  
J. junior, since
- 5. Given that all of the choices are true, which one provides the most relevant information with regard to the narrator's familiarity with Ligia?  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. had read a story about her in our school paper, which is written by students interested in journalism.  
C. saw her at school events and had read a story about her in our school paper.  
D. had read a story about her when I was checking our school paper for local movie listings.



About halfway through the school year, I learned that the exchange program was looking for a new home for Ligia. After a severe storm, the basement of her hosts house had flooded, leaving two bedrooms unusable. The two "little brothers" of Ligia's host family, who had volunteered to move, to those bedrooms for a year, had to be moved upstairs to the room Ligia was using.

I told my parents about Ligia's problem, which needed to be solved.

We agreed that it would be fun to host a student from another country. My older sister had gotten married the summer before, so not only did we have a room for Ligia, and we all admitted that the house had seemed too quiet lately.

The second half of my junior year was anything but quiet. Introduced by me to my favorite music, at top volume, I started being taught by Ligia the most popular Colombian dance steps. My father spoke fondly of the

days before two teenagers taken over the phone, the stereo, the kitchen—well, most of the house, really. My mother helped Ligia with her math homework, and Ligia taught Mom beginning Spanish. Both Ligia and I were studying French that year, and we practiced it at home. When we

- 6. F. NO CHANGE  
G. her hosts'  
H. Ligia's hosts  
J. Ligias hosts'
- 7. A. NO CHANGE  
B. volunteered to move to those bedrooms for a year  
C. volunteered to move to those bedrooms for a year,  
D. volunteered, to move to those bedrooms for a year,
- 8. F. NO CHANGE  
G. upstairs to the room Ligia was using, which had been freshly painted just that year.  
H. upstairs (it was a two-story house) to Ligia's room.  
J. OMIT the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.
- 9. A. NO CHANGE  
B. problem, which was a dilemma.  
C. problem that needed a solution.  
D. problem.
- 10. Three of these choices indicate that the family felt confident about inviting Ligia to live in their home. Which choice does NOT do so?  
F. NO CHANGE  
G. decided  
H. knew  
J. supposed
- 11. A. NO CHANGE  
B. but  
C. while  
D. yet
- 12. F. NO CHANGE  
G. Introducing Ligia to my favorite music, at top volume, she started teaching me the most popular Colombian dance steps.  
H. Teaching me the most popular Colombian dance steps, Ligia was introduced by me to my favorite music, at top volume.  
J. I introduced Ligia to my favorite music, at top volume, and she started teaching me the most popular Colombian dance steps.
- 13. A. NO CHANGE  
B. took  
C. had took  
D. begun to take

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Practice ACT Tests

1 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 1

planned a surprise anniversary party for my mom and dad,  
we did it all right under their noses, in French.

At the end of the year, Ligia had gone home to  
<sup>14</sup>  
Colombia. This year I'm busy with senior activities and  
with a part-time job. I'm trying to save enough to go see  
my new sister next year. [15]

14. F. NO CHANGE  
G. will have gone  
H. went  
J. goes

15. Which of the following true sentences, if inserted here,  
would best conclude the essay as well as maintain the  
positive tone established earlier in the essay?
- A. I'm afraid of flying, but I think I'll be OK.  
B. I'm eager to eventually join the workforce full-  
time.  
C. I've been practicing my Spanish—and my dance  
steps.  
D. Senior activities are a lot of fun.

PASSAGE II

Down at the Laundromat

[1] Down the street from the college, I attend, the  
<sup>16</sup>  
Save-U Laundromat is always open, and someone is  
always there. [2] It was on a corner, across the  
<sup>17</sup>  
street; from a drugstore on one side and a big park on the  
<sup>18</sup>  
other. [3] The park isn't really a park at all but part of the  
grounds of a private boarding school. [4] But no one is  
ever around to enforce the threats, and in the summer  
everyone enjoys the benches, the grass, and the  
coolly magnificence of the shade trees. [5] Signs are  
<sup>19</sup>  
posted all over the lawn threatening every sort of drastic  
action against trespassers who wrongfully enter the  
<sup>20</sup>  
property. [21]

16. F. NO CHANGE  
G. college, I attend  
H. college I attend,  
J. college I attend

17. A. NO CHANGE  
B. is  
C. had been  
D. was located

18. F. NO CHANGE  
G. street from,  
H. street, from  
J. street from

19. A. NO CHANGE  
B. cool magnificence  
C. magnificently cool  
D. cool magnificent

20. F. NO CHANGE  
G. those who trespass by walking on private property.  
H. trespassers who ignore the signs and walk on the  
grass.  
J. trespassers.

21. For the sake of logic and coherence, Sentence 5 should  
be placed:
- A. where it is now.  
B. before Sentence 1.  
C. after Sentence 1.  
D. after Sentence 3.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Answer key:

Tips Questions

1. D
2. Read the directions for the test carefully, and then read questions carefully. After that, you should start by answering the easy questions first.
3. C
4. B

Reading Practice Test

1. A
2. G
3. B
4. F
5. C
6. J
7. D
8. J
9. C

English Practice Test (Passage 1 only)

1. C
2. G
3. A
4. F
5. C
6. G
7. C
8. F
9. D
10. J
11. B
12. J
13. B
14. H
15. C