

ACT English Cheat Sheet: Important Skills

Source: Meltzer, Erica. *The Complete Guide to ACT English, Third Edition*. The Critical Reader, 2017.

Bell Work: Please do ALL of the following:

1. Collect a handout and read over it;
2. Collect your laptop (new desk number) and log in;
3. Open this presentation on your laptop from my website.

Grammar 1:
Period=
Semicolon=
Comma+ and/but

1

Important to Remember: The same grammar error can be fixed with any of these three strategies.

Error: Jazz fans and scholars now unanimously consider him one of the greatest jazz musicians of the twentieth century, many consider him to be among the greatest jazz musicians of all time.

Grammar 1:

Period=

Semicolon=

Comma+ and/but

1

Important to Remember: The same grammar error can be fixed with any of these three strategies.

Fix it: Jazz fans and scholars now unanimously consider him one of the greatest jazz musicians of the twentieth century. **M**any consider him to be among the greatest jazz musicians of all time.

Grammar 1:

Period=

Semicolon=

Comma+ and/but

1

Important to Remember: The same grammar error can be fixed with any of these three strategies.

Fix it #1: Jazz fans and scholars now unanimously consider him one of the greatest jazz musicians of the twentieth century; many consider him to be among the greatest jazz musicians of all time.

Grammar 1:
Period=
Semicolon=
Comma+ and/but

1

Important to Remember: The same grammar error can be fixed with any of these three strategies.

Fix it #2: Jazz fans and scholars now unanimously consider him one of the greatest jazz musicians of the twentieth century; many consider him to be among the greatest jazz musicians of all time.

Grammar 1:
Period=
Semicolon=
Comma+ and/but

1

Important to Remember: The same grammar error can be fixed with any of these three strategies.

Fix it #3: Jazz fans and scholars now unanimously consider him one of the greatest jazz musicians of the twentieth century, **and many** consider him to be among the greatest jazz musicians of all time.

Grammar 2:

2 Commas=

2 Dashes=

2 Parentheses=
non-essential
clause

Important to Remember: *You can't mix and match punctuation for these—they have to match.*

Error: Bee larvae that eat royal jelly a substance secreted by the glands of nurse bees develop into queens, while those that feed on a combination of pollen and honey called bee bread become workers.

Does this sentence have a part that can be crossed out?

Important to Remember: *You can't mix and match punctuation for these—they have to match.*

Error: Bee larvae that eat royal jelly a substance secreted by the glands of nurse bees develop into queens, while those that feed on a combination of pollen and honey called bee bread become workers.

Gra

Does this sentence have a part that can be crossed out?

clau

Important to Remember: *You can't mix and match punctuation for these—they have to match.*

Error: Bee larvae that eat royal jelly a ~~substance secreted by the glands of nurse bees~~ develop into queens, while those that feed on a combination of pollen and honey called bee bread become workers.

2

Grammar 2:

2 Commas=

2 Dashes=

2 Parentheses=
non-essential
clause

2

Important to Remember: *You can't mix and match punctuation for these—they have to match.*

Fix: Bee larvae that eat royal jelly, a substance secreted by the glands of nurse bees, develop into queens, while those that feed on a combination of pollen and honey called bee bread become workers.

Grammar 2:

2 Commas=

2 Dashes=

2 Parentheses=
non-essential
clause

2

Important to Remember: *You can't mix and match punctuation for these—they have to match.*

Fix 2: Bee larvae that eat royal jelly- a substance secreted by the glands of nurse bees- develop into queens, while those that feed on a combination of pollen and honey called bee bread become workers.

Grammar 3:

2 Commas=

2 Dashes=

2 Parentheses=
non-essential
clause

Important to Remember: *You can't mix and match punctuation for these—they have to match.*

Error: Bee larvae that eat royal jelly a substance secreted by the glands of nurse bees develop into queens, while those that feed on a combination of pollen and honey called bee bread become workers.

2

Grammar 2:

2 Commas=

2 Dashes=

2 Parentheses=
non-essential
clause

2

Important to Remember: *You can't mix and match punctuation for these—they have to match.*

Fix 3: Bee larvae that eat royal jelly (a substance secreted by the glands of nurse bees) develop into queens, while those that feed on a combination of pollen and honey called bee bread become workers.

Grammar 3:

It's=It is

Its=possessive

They're=they are

Their=possessive

Important to Remember: *Statistically on the ACT, the possessive form is usually right.*

Error: The dog eats it's food from a bowl on the ground; the cats eat they're food from the raised cabinet.

Grammar 3:

It's=It is

Its=possessive

They're=they are

Their=possessive

3

Important to Remember: *Statistically on the ACT, the possessive form is usually right.*

Error: The dog eats **its** food from a bowl on the ground; the cats eat **their** food from the raised cabinet.

Grammar 4: Colon=list or explanation

Important to Remember: *You need a complete sentence before the colon.*

Error: The Great Bear Rainforest contains:
Western Red Cedar, Sitka Spruce, and
Douglas Fir Trees.

List

4

Grammar 4: Colon=list or explanation

4

List

Important to Remember: *You need a complete sentence before the colon.*

Fix: The Great Bear Rainforest contains
Western Red Cedar, Sitka Spruce, and
Douglas Fir Trees.

Grammar 4:
Colon=list or
explanation

Important to Remember: *You need a complete sentence before the colon.*

Error: The Amazon parrot does not make an ideal pet for most people because: it requires much more attention and entertainment than many other animals do.

4

Explanation

Grammar 4: Colon=list or explanation

Important to Remember: *You need a complete sentence before the colon.*

Fix 1: The Amazon parrot does not make an ideal pet for most people: it requires much more attention and entertainment than many other animals do.

4

Explanation

Grammar 4: Colon=list or explanation

Important to Remember: *You need a complete sentence before the colon.*

Fix 2: The Amazon parrot does not make an ideal pet for most people; it requires much more attention and entertainment than many other animals do.

4

Explanation