### **Reading ACT Question Types**

### ***Type 1: Big Picture Questions***

[Big picture questions](https://blog.prepscholar.com/big-picture-questions-in-act-reading-main-point) deal with **the main subject of the passage or the narrator’s overall point of view.** These types of questions require you to look at the passage holistically rather than focusing on one specific section.

**Example of a big picture question:**

The main theme of this passage concerns the:

A. difficulty of first starting and then maintaining a friendship.  
B. process of making a new friend and how the friendship changes the narrator.  
C. problems the narrator has dealing with the loss of her former neighbors.  
D. differences in the lives led by two pairs of adults who at different times lived in the same house.

### ***Type 2: Little Picture/Detail Questions***

[Little picture/detail questions](https://blog.prepscholar.com/little-picture-questions-in-act-reading-find-the-detail) will ask about a **small piece of factual information in a passage.** These are the most straightforward questions because they are completely literal; it’s just a matter of finding the correct information.

**Example of a little picture/detail question:**

According to the passage, the research that led to the development of the small-comet theory began with a project originally intended to study:

A. the electrical activity accompanying sunspots.  
B. water entering Earth’s upper atmosphere.  
C. static in satellite transmissions.  
D. specks in satellite images.

### ***Type 3: Vocabulary in Context Questions***

[Vocabulary in context](https://blog.prepscholar.com/vocab-in-context-questions-and-strategies-for-act-reading) questions ask about **the meaning of a word in the context of the passage.** They might also give you something in the passage to reference and then **ask you to choose the vocabulary word that best describes it.** These questions provide a line number for the word they're referencing, so that makes them a bit less time-consuming.

**Example of a vocabulary in context question:**

As it is used in line 58, the word *humor* most nearly means:

A. personality.  
B. whim.  
C. mood.  
D. comedy.

### ***Type 4: Development and Function Questions***

Development and function questions ask **how a certain paragraph or phrase functions in the context of a passage, how the argument in the passage is developed, or how the author structures the passage.** These questions gauge your understanding of how thoughts should be organized in writing in general or why they might be arranged a certain way for a specific argument.

**Example of a development and function question:**

The main function of the second paragraph (lines 20-29) is to:

A. identify some of Armstrong’s mentors, such as King Oliver.  
B. list some of the early events in Armstrong’s developing career.  
C. contrast Armstrong’s opinions of King Oliver and Fletcher Henderson.  
D. describe the musical style Armstrong developed jointly with Fletcher Henderson.

### ***Type 5: Inference Questions***

Inference questions ask you to **make inferences based on a logical extension of information found in the passage.** These types of questions are often perceived as difficult and subjective, but they can always be solved by looking at information directly presented in the passage. They just require a couple more steps in your thought process.

**Example of an inference question:**

It can reasonably be inferred from the passage that the woman most strongly desires to attain which of the following qualities from dreaming?

A. Relaxation  
B. Self-awareness  
C. Entertainment  
D. Self-control

## **Distribution of Question Types**

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| **Question Type** | **Average Number of Questions** | **Percentage of Questions** |
| Big Picture | 4 | 10% |
| Little Detail | 18 | 45% |
| Vocabulary in Context | 3 | 8% |
| Development and Function | 9 | 22% |
| Inference | 6 | 15% |
| **All Questions** | **40** | **100%** |