

## ACCUPLACER TIPS

### Reading Comprehension:

- Ask yourself: "What is the topic/general idea of the selection?"
- Skimming (skim the passage for the general idea, stopping to read only the first sentence of each paragraph.
- Look for key words in the passage. Are some in quotation marks? Can you find numbers? Years?
- Read the answer choices
- What is the main topic of each paragraph? What is the general idea of the passage?
- Look for contextual clues (The part of a statement that surrounds a particular word or passage and determines its meaning)

### Sentence Skills:

- Read each sentence, inserting each answer as you go
- Is the answer in the same "tense?" (walking, walked)
- Watch out for "transitional words" (although, yet, however, but, so, because...)
- Look for similarities in answers (if three answers mean the same thing, go for the fourth answer)!
- Use your ear! If it doesn't sound right, it probably isn't.

### Math:

- All numbers are "real" numbers
- Jagged or straight lines can both be assumed to be straight
- Unless otherwise stated, all drawings and figures lie in a plane
- Variables are letters that represent an unknown number (x, y, a, b...)
- A negative number multiplied or divided by a negative number = a positive number
- A negative number subtracted from another number is the same as adding a positive number
- When exponents are multiplied together, the exponents are added to get the final result
- When exponents in parentheses have an exponent, the exponents are multiplied to get the final result
- A percent can be converted to a decimal simply by dividing it by 100
- The "probability" that something will happen, is the number of possible ways that something can happen divided by the total number of possible ways for all things that can happen
- Word problems describing shapes can best be solved if you draw the shape out
- Mixed numbers are whole numbers and fractions together, such as  $2\frac{1}{2}$
- To add or subtract fractions, the denominators must be the same
- To divide fractions, multiply the first fraction by the reciprocal of the second. Check to see if you can cancel as you multiply
- To multiply fractions together, simply multiply the numerators together and then the denominators together
- To simplify fractions (reduce them to lowest terms): divide both the numerator (top number) and the denominator (bottom number) by the same number, preferably the greatest common factor (GCF)
- To add or subtract decimals: vertically line up the decimals, add or subtract as you would whole numbers, bring down the decimal into the answer
- To multiply decimals: multiply as usual, count the number of decimal places in each number, count the same number of decimal places in your answer and place the decimal there
- To find the square root of a number: ask yourself, "What number times itself equals this number?"
- To multiply exponential expressions with the same base, add the exponents
- To divide exponential expressions with the same base, subtract the exponents