



# Spring ACT Workshop

## English/Reading

Jane Ross  
= TUTORING =

# ENGLISH

## Today's Agenda:

English: 12:00 to 1:10

Break: 1:10-1:20

Reading: 1:20-2:30

### General Information before we Begin:

- My name is Ms. Young- I have taught ACT prep for 8 years
- I LOVE teaching & I LOVE engagement. Please participate!
- It's ok if you make mistakes & get things incorrect! That's how you learn what you don't know & improve.
- It is a good idea to have some paper/pens for notes.

# ENGLISH

## Overview & Format

### The English test...

- is divided into 5 passages with 15 questions each.
- has a time limit of 45 minutes.

If you divide your time equally among the passages, you will spend **9 minutes** per passage.



# ACT ENGLISH "BAG OF TRICKS"





# ACT ENGLISH “BAG OF TRICKS”

A brown, textured suitcase with a central label. The label is a white hexagon with a glowing orange border. The text on the label is centered and reads: "Pay attention to sentence structure".

Pay attention to  
**sentence structure**

*No run-ons;  
no fragments*

**“IC”= independent clause  
(which is really nothing more  
than a simple sentence)**

---

**Three things to make an IC:**

1. Subject
2. Verb
3. A complete thought



# Compound sentences

IC, + conj IC

IC; IC

IC. IC

**FANBOYS**

for, and,  
nor, but,  
or, yet, so

# Compound sentences

IC, + conj IC

IC; IC

IC. IC

# Complex sentences

DC, IC

---

Compound: I take the ACT March 2nd; I am going to improve my score.

Complex: When I take the ACT next time, I am going to improve my score.



# Compound sentences

IC, + conj IC

IC; IC

IC. IC



# Complex sentences

DC, IC



---

ACT likes to use:

IC, IC

IC conj IC

IC IC

DC IC

DC



# Compound sentences

IC, + conj IC

IC; IC

IC. IC

# Complex sentences

DC, IC

---

## Compound subjects and compound predicates

No commas!



S and S V

S V and V



# Compound subjects and compound predicates

---

S       V       V

The baby ate and slept.

# **Compound subjects and compound predicates**

---

**The baby I was taking care of  
my first night as a babysitter  
ate his rice cereal happily and  
then slept peacefully the  
remainder of the night.**



# Compound subjects and compound predicates

---

The baby I was taking care of  
my first night as a babysitter  
ate his rice cereal happily and  
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remainder of the night.

# Compound subjects and compound predicates

---

**The baby** I was taking care of  
my first night as a babysitter  
**ate** his rice cereal happily **and**  
then **slept** peacefully the  
remainder of the night.



# Compound subjects and compound predicates

---

**The baby** I was taking care of  
my first night as a babysitter  
**ate** his rice cereal happily **and**  
then **slept** peacefully the  
re<sup>he</sup>nder of the night.

# Compound sentences

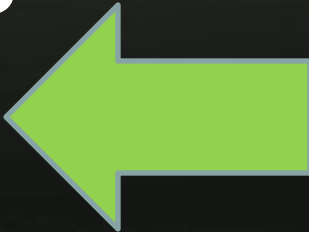
IC, + conj IC

IC; IC

IC. IC

# Complex sentences

DC, IC



---

## Compound subjects and compound predicates

S and S V

S conj V



# **Compound sentences**

IC, + conj IC

IC; IC

IC. IC

---

# **Compound subjects and compound predicates**

S and S V

S V and V

# **Complex sentences**

DC, IC

# **Colon**

IC: DC

IC: IC

Not DC: IC



On the ACT, the colon  
translates to:

*“now let me explain”*

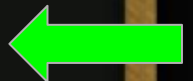
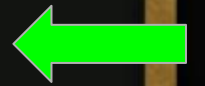
Babysitting can be a great  
job: You can make some  
easy money with a  
sleeping baby.

**Colon**

IC: DC

IC: IC

Not DC: IC



1 // In the 1920s Pedro Flores introduced the yo-yo in the United States and soon started a yo-yo manufacturing company in California.

Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. States. Flores
- B. States, and he
- C. States; he
- D. States he

2 // Flores sold his yo-yo company in 1932, after deciding that he was more interested in teaching people how to handle yo-yos than he was in manufacturing them.

Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. 1932, after his decision
- B. 1932. He had decided
- C. 1932, upon deciding
- D. 1932. Deciding



3 // Snowflakes begin to form when water in the atmosphere freezes it causes the water molecules to bond into a hexagonal shape.

A. NO CHANGE

B. freezes, causing

C. freezes, it causes

D. freezes, this causes



4 // Although these snowflakes appear to have a triangular shape—they actually have a hexagonal pattern.

A. NO CHANGE

B. shape,

C. shape;

D. shape:

5 // The triangular shape is an illusion resulting from one significant addition to the process dust.

A. NO CHANGE

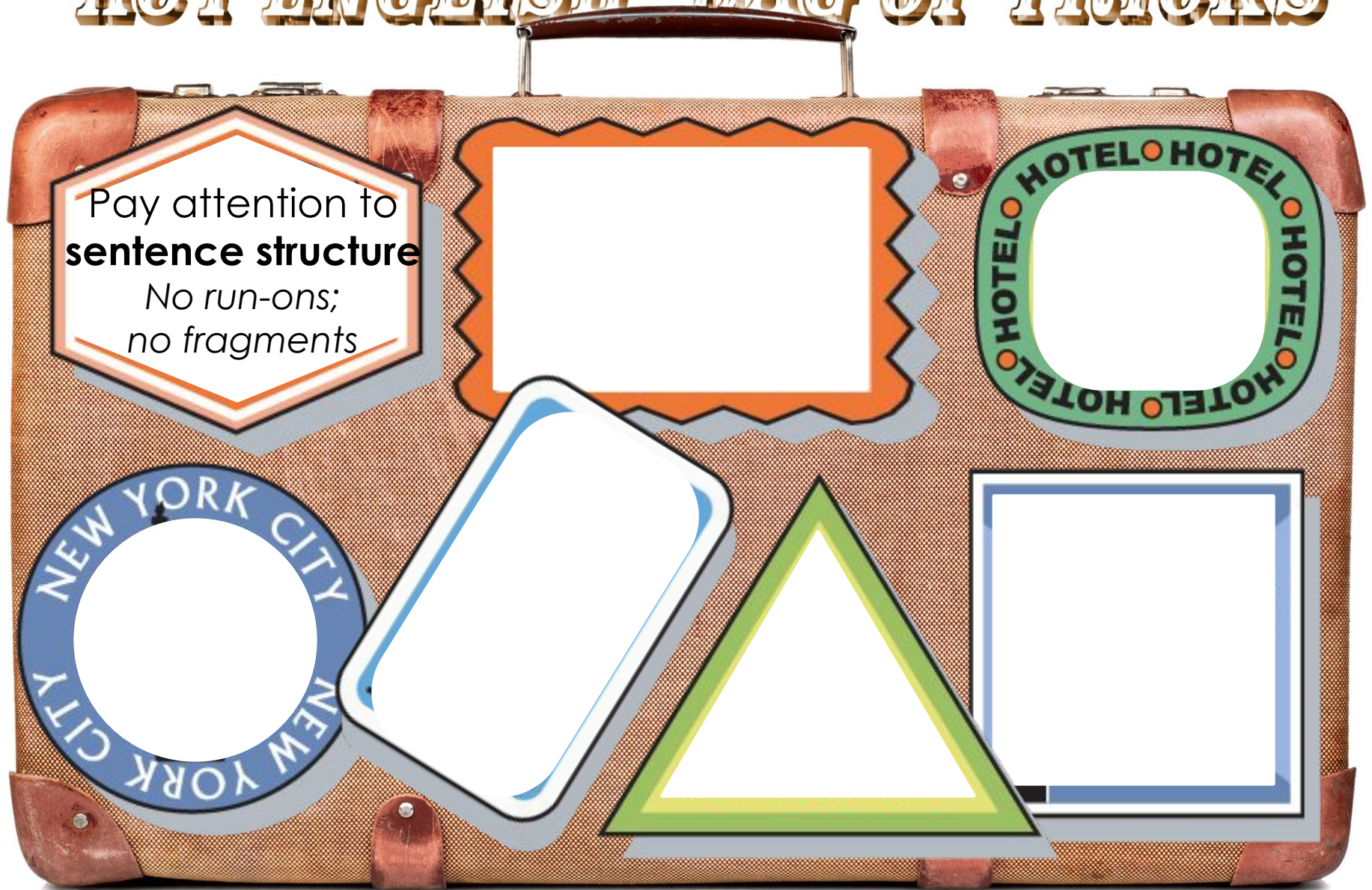
B. process is

C. process:

D. process;

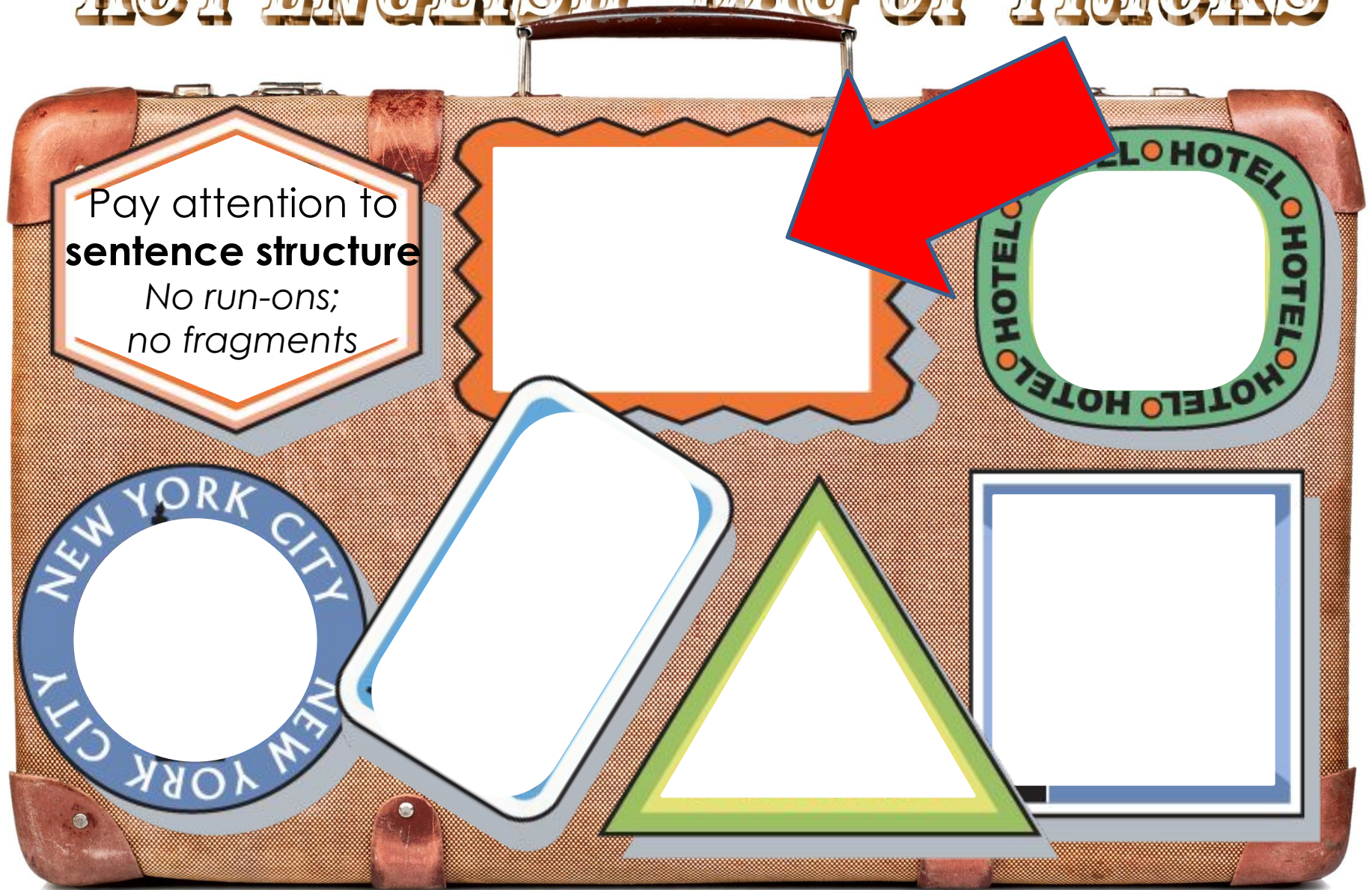


# ACT ENGLISH "BAG OF TRICKS"



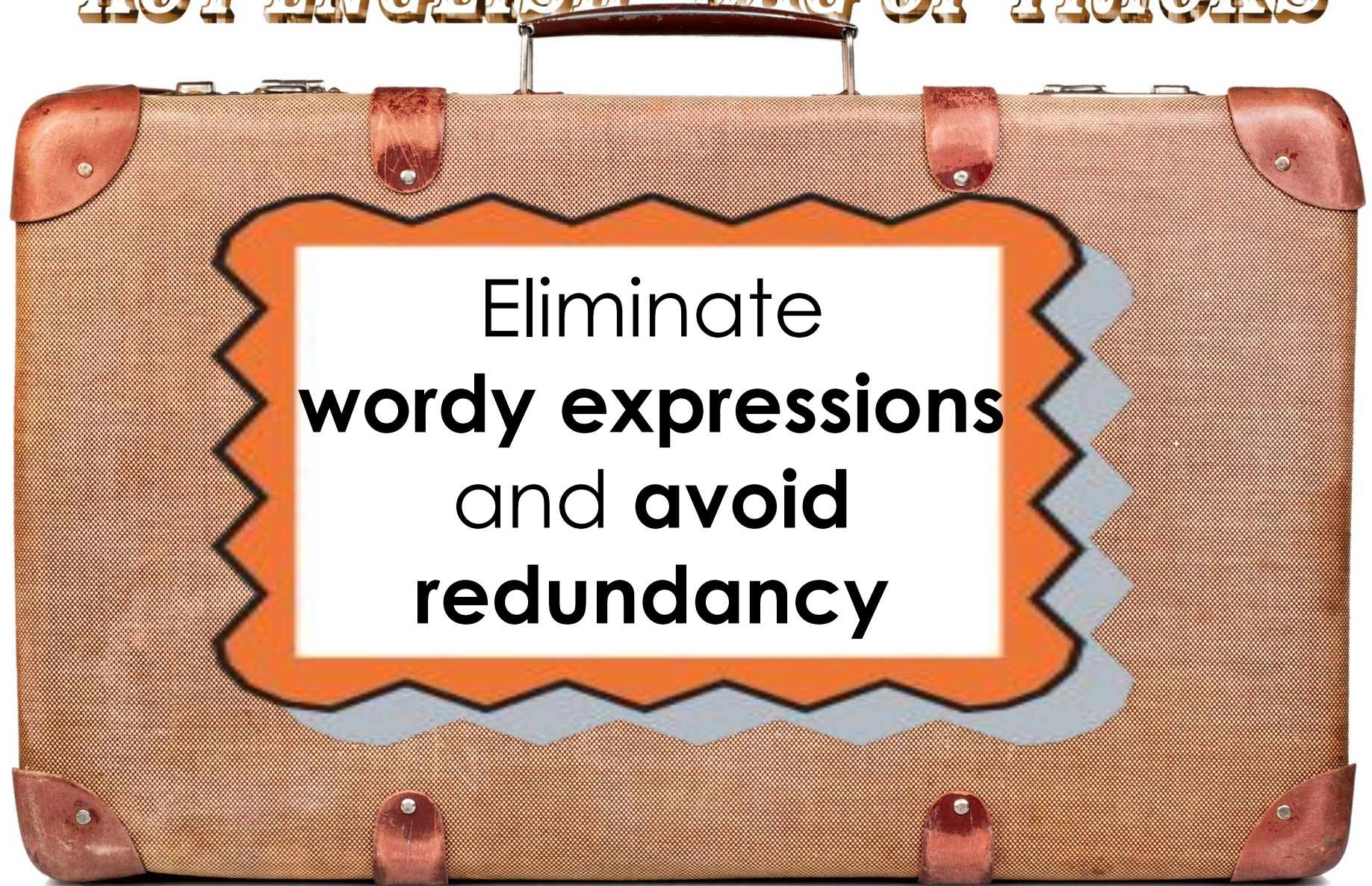


# ACT ENGLISH "BAG OF TRICKS"





# ACT ENGLISH “BAG OF TRICKS”





6 // In the 1920s the YMCA sponsored a program in order to promote more enlightened public opinion on racial matters.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. upon promoting
- C. on promoting
- D. to promote

7 // It's usually hard to determine who first uttered out loud a given word and almost as hard to know who first wrote it down.

A. NO CHANGE

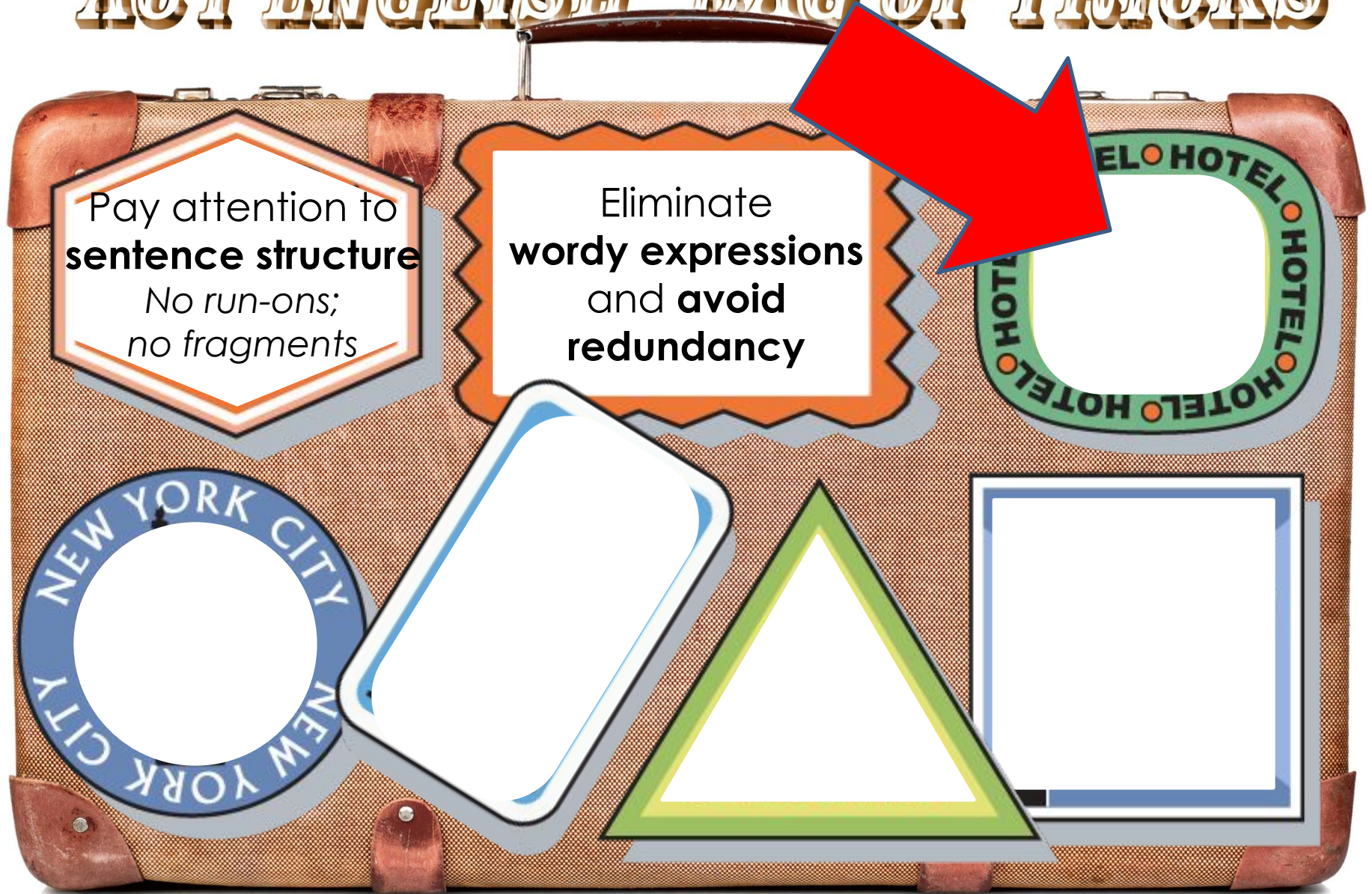
B. spoke

C. said verbally

D. gave vocalization to



# ACT ENGLISH "BAG OF TRICKS"



Pay attention to  
**sentence structure**  
*No run-ons;  
no fragments*

Eliminate  
**wordy expressions**  
and **avoid**  
**redundancy**

NEW YORK CITY  
NEW YORK CITY

HOTEL HOTEL HOTEL  
HOTEL HOTEL HOTEL



# ACT ENGLISH “BAG OF TRICKS”





8 // We also find illusions of Shakespeare's words in film.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. illusions to
- C. allusions of
- D. allusions to

**She has been all week.**

**AND**

**She is very sick.**

**so**

**She will not be at the  
game tonight.**

**BUT**

**She was at school today.**

The background of the slide features a stack of spiral-bound notebooks. On the left, a blue notebook is visible. Behind it, a yellow notebook is open, and a silver pen with a blue cap lies on its pages. The overall aesthetic is that of a study or classroom environment.

# Transitional sample question here....

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. However, **BUT**
- C. Furthermore, **AND**
- D. Therefore, **SO**

**Tip!**  
**“Translate”**  
**fancy**  
**transition**  
**words into**  
**more**  
**common**  
**ones**



9 // A morel mushroom blends perfectly into its natural surroundings. However, you can look right at one and not see it.

A. NO CHANGE

B. You

C. On the other hand, you

D. Back and forth, you

**BE CAREFUL!**  
Sometimes the best answer is no transition word if the transitions given don't match the relationship of the sentences

# ACT ENGLISH "BAG OF TRICKS"

Pay attention to  
**sentence structure**

*No run-ons;  
no fragments*

Eliminate  
**wordy expressions**  
and **avoid**  
**redundancy**

Pick the  
**exact right**  
**word**

*Especially transitional  
words and phrases*





# ACT ENGLISH “BAG OF TRICKS”





10 // Given that all of them are true, which choice supports the paragraph by giving the most specific details?

**THIS IS NOT A GRAMMAR QUESTION. JUST FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS.**

1. Cross out the phrase “given that all the choices are true.” It is not helpful.
2. Reread the question to yourself
3. Circle the 3-5 keywords that tell you what the question is looking for

**TIP: ask yourself “what does my correct answer have to be about?”**



10 // Given that all of them are true, which choice supports the paragraph by giving the most specific details?

- A. a lot of important details about their life—
- B. not only business transactions, but fables, myths, poetry, proverbs—
- C. in cuneiform a great many specific details about their lives—
- D. many details about their business and culture—

11 // Which of the following sentences, if inserted here, would best illustrate the accomplishments of the Sumerians?

- A. Early tribes often settled in fertile plains near rivers so they would have water for crops.
- B. The Sumerians were a very accomplished group.
- C. There, they devised an irrigation network, metal tools, and the wheel.
- D. During their time, the Sumerians accomplished many very important things.



# ACT ENGLISH "BAG OF TRICKS"

Pay attention to  
**sentence structure**

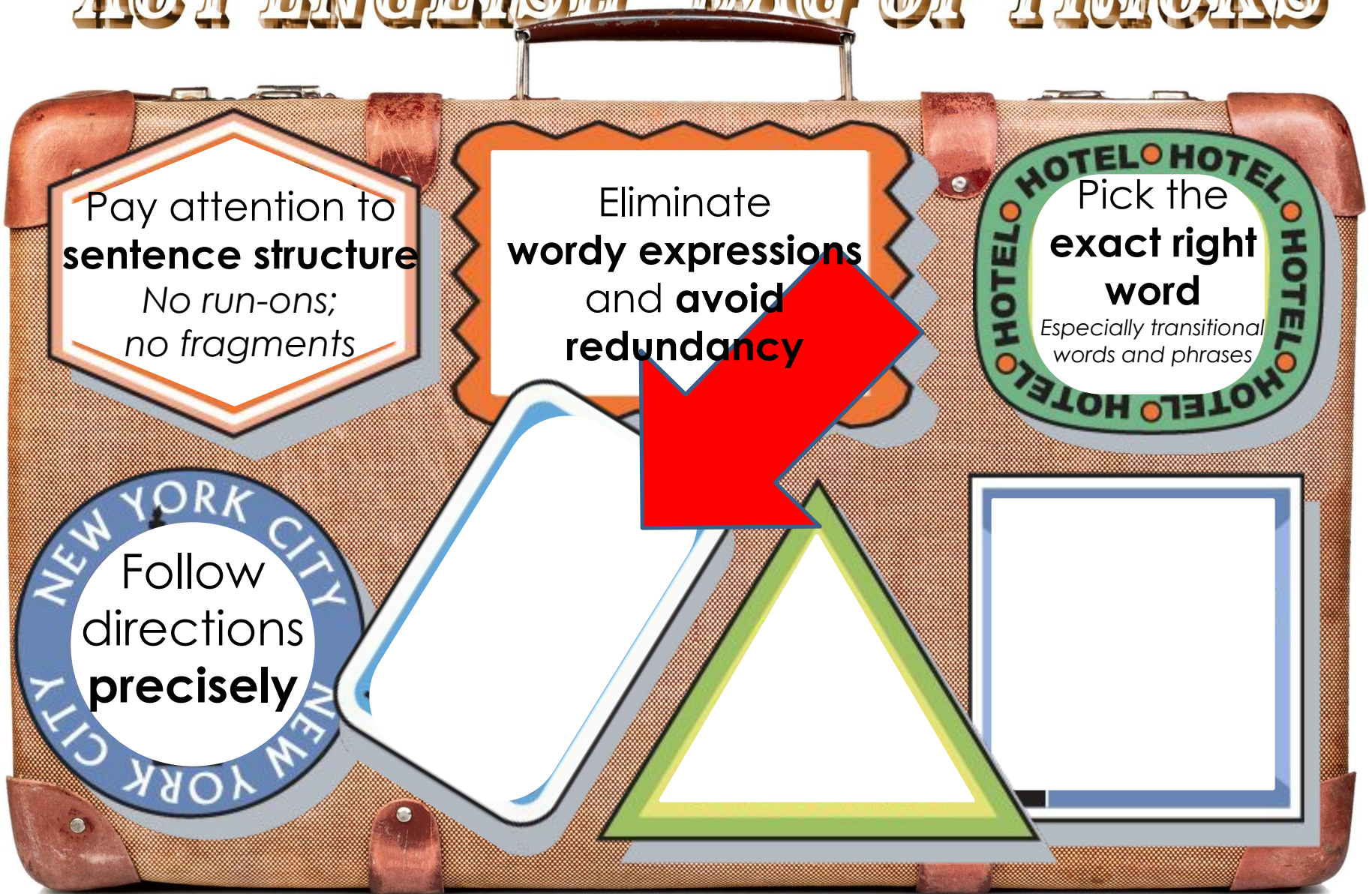
*No run-ons;  
no fragments*

Eliminate  
**wordy expressions**  
and **avoid**  
**redundancy**

Pick the  
**exact right**  
**word**


*Especially transitional  
words and phrases*

Follow  
directions  
**precisely**





# ACT ENGLISH “BAG OF TRICKS”



Make **subjects**  
**and verbs agree**  
*Pronouns and  
antecedents, too*



12 // Rice seedlings, started in small hand-watered paddies soon after the wheat harvest, is planted in the now flooded fields.

A. NO CHANGE

B. harvest is

C. harvest, are

D. harvest are

13 // Literary critics are often less interested in any particular book than one is in placing groups of books into categories.

A. NO CHANGE

B. they are

C. he is

D. he or she is



# ACT ENGLISH "BAG OF TRICKS"

Pay attention to  
**sentence structure**

*No run-ons;  
no fragments*

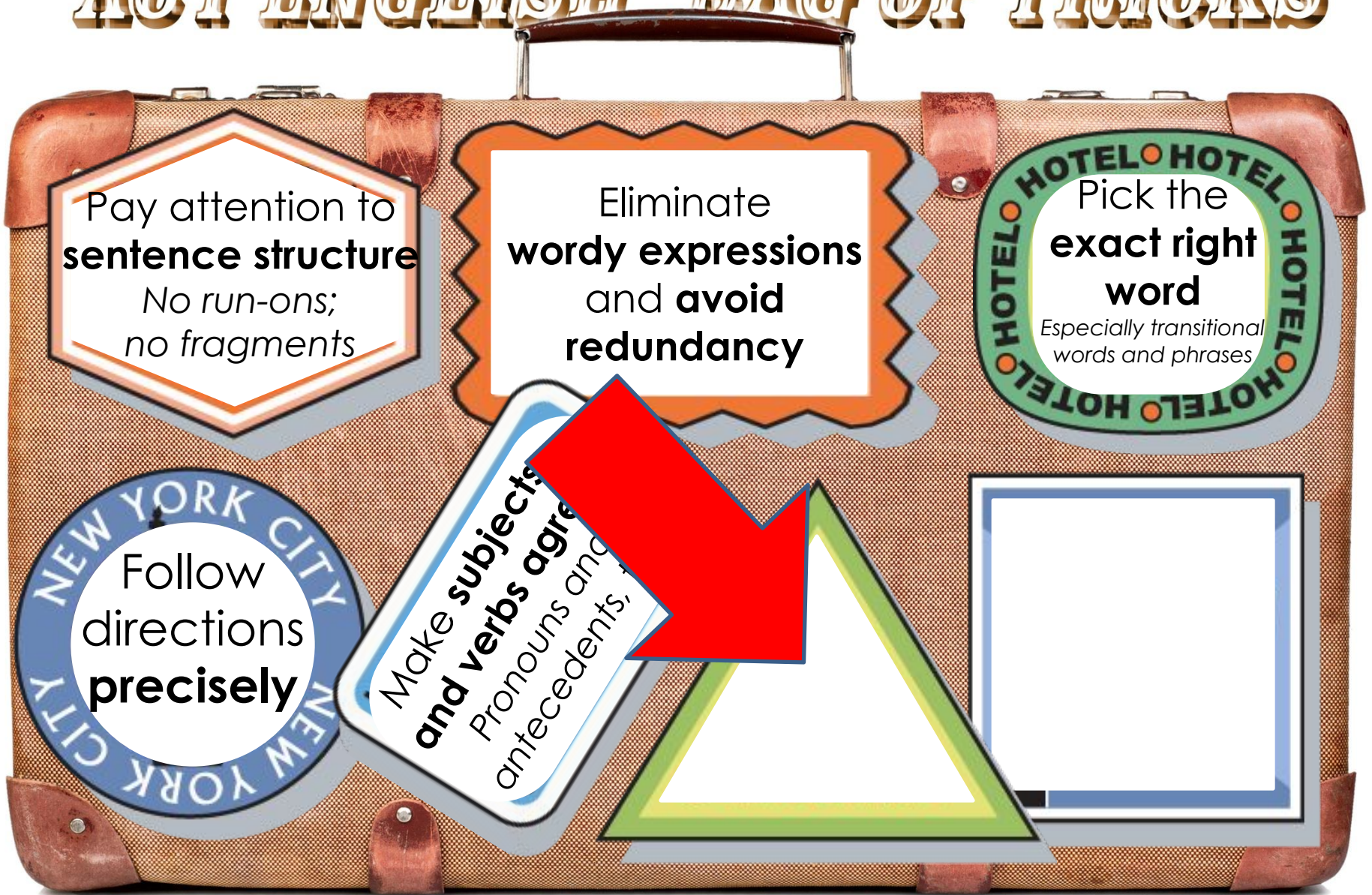
Eliminate  
**wordy expressions**  
and **avoid**  
**redundancy**

Pick the  
**exact right**  
**word**

*Especially transitional  
words and phrases*

Follow  
directions  
**precisely**

Make **subjects**  
and **verbs agree**  
*Pronouns and  
antecedents,*





# ACT ENGLISH "BAG OF TRICKS"



Sound  
out

**contractions**

*it's, who's, they're, you're*



14 // Today, the theater acknowledges its bartering tradition by collecting nonperishable food items in exchange for tickets.

A. NO CHANGE

B. its's

C. it's

D. its'



# ACT ENGLISH "BAG OF TRICKS"

Pay attention to  
**sentence structure**

*No run-ons;  
no fragments*

Eliminate  
**wordy expressions**  
and **avoid**  
**redundancy**

Pick the  
**exact right**  
**word**

*Especially transitional  
words and phrases*

Follow  
directions  
**precisely**

Make **subjects**  
and **verbs agree**  
*Pronouns and  
antecedents, too*

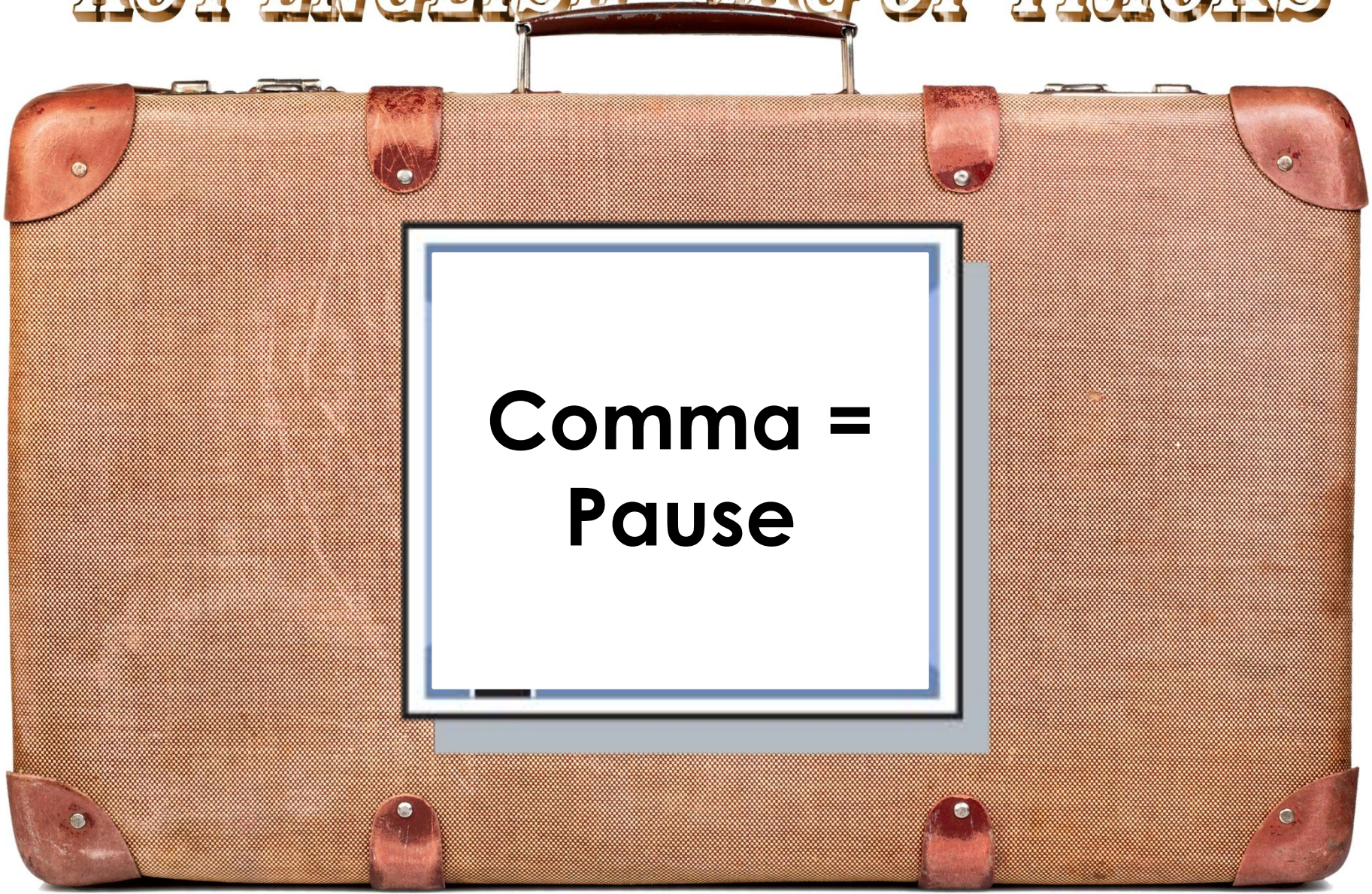
Sound  
out  
**contractions**

*it's, who's, they're, you're*





# ACT ENGLISH “BAG OF TRICKS”



**Comma =  
Pause**



15 // Hikers, typically, find, that  
the climb takes at least three hours.

A. NO CHANGE

B. Hikers typically find

C. Hikers typically, find

D. Hikers, typically find

# ACT ENGLISH "BAG OF TRICKS"

Pay attention to  
**sentence structure**

*No run-ons;  
no fragments*

Eliminate  
**wordy expressions**  
and **avoid**  
**redundancy**

Pick the  
**exact right**  
**word**

*Especially transitional  
words and phrases*

Follow  
directions  
**precisely**

Make **subjects**  
and **verbs agree**  
*Pronouns and  
antecedents, too*

Sound  
out  
**contractions**

*it's, who's, they're, you're*

**Comma =  
Pause**



ENGLISH

# English Practice, Passage 1, Questions 1-15 Pages 12-14 of the PDF



**ENGLISH**

**BREAK: We will begin with  
Reading at 1:20**

# English Practice,

## Answer Key:

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



# READING

**BREAK: We will begin with  
Reading at 1:20**



**Reading  
Section**

# READING

## Overview & Format

- 4 passages of 10 questions each
- 40 items
- 35 minutes

How should I pace  
myself?



# READING

## Timing & Scoring

- 8 ½ mins:  
finish all 4 passages
- 10 ½ mins:  
finish 3 passages and guess on 1 psg

Scale Score	Raw Scores				Scale Score
	Test 1 English	Test 2 Mathematics	Test 3 Reading	Test 4 Science	
36	75	60	40	40	36
35	72-74	58-59	39	39	35
34	71	57	38	38	34
33	70	55-56	37	37	33
32	68-69	54	35-36	—	32
31	67	52-53	34	36	31
30	66	50-51	33	35	30
29	65	48-49	32	34	29
28	63-64	45-47	31	33	28
27	62	43-44	30	32	27
26	60-61	40-42	29	30-31	26
25	58-59	38-39	28	28-29	25
24	56-57	36-37	27	26-27	24
23	53-55	34-35	25-26	24-25	23
22	51-52	32-33	24	22-23	22
21	48-50	30-31	22-23	21	21
20	45-47	29	21	19-20	20
19	43-44	27-28	19-20	17-18	19
18	41-42	24-26	18	16	18
17	39-40	21-23	17	14-15	17
16	36-38	17-20	15-16	13	16
15	32-35	13-16	14	12	15
14	29-31	11-12	12-13	11	14
13	27-28	8-10	11	10	13

# READING

## Types of Passages

### Literary Narrative *reads like a story*

- Characters
- Storyline
- Dialogue
- Setting

#### Passage I

**PROSE FICTION:** This passage is adapted from the short story "The Threshold" by Cristina Peri Rossi (original Spanish version ©1986 by Cristina Peri Rossi; translation ©1993 by Mary Jane Treacy).

The woman never dreams and this makes her intensely miserable. She thinks that by not dreaming she is unaware of things about herself that dreams would surely give her. She doesn't have the door of  
5 dreams that opens every night to question the certainties of the day. She stays at the threshold, and the door is always closed, refusing her entrance. I tell her *that* in itself is a dream, a nightmare: to be in front of a door which will not open no matter how much we push at the  
10 latch or pound the knocker. But in truth, the door to that nightmare doesn't have a latch or a knocker; it is total surface, brown, high and smooth as a wall. Our blows strike a body without an echo.

"There's no such thing as a door without a key,"  
15 she tells me, with the stubborn resistance of one who does not dream.



# READING

## Types of Passages

Social **STUDIES**

*reads like a  
textbook*

- Factual
- Dense
- Often very dry

### Passage II

**SOCIAL SCIENCE:** This passage is adapted from *The Little Ice Age: How Climate Made History, 1300–1850* by Brian Fagan (©2000 by Brian Fagan).

Speak the words “ice age,” and the mind turns to Cro-Magnon mammoth hunters on windswept European plains devoid of trees. But the Little Ice Age (approximately A.D. 1300–1850) was far from a deep freeze. 5 Think instead of an irregular seesaw of rapid climatic shifts, driven by complex and still little understood interactions between the atmosphere and the ocean. The seesaw brought cycles of intensely cold winters and easterly winds, then switched abruptly to years of 10 heavy spring and early summer rains, mild winters, and frequent Atlantic storms, or to periods of droughts, light northeasterly winds, and summer heat waves that baked growing corn fields under a shimmering haze. The Little Ice Age was an endless zigzag of climatic 15 shifts, few lasting more than a quarter century. Today’s prolonged warming is an anomaly.

# READING

## Types of Passages

### Humanities *something from the arts*

- Factual
- Dense
- Wide ranging

#### Passage III

**HUMANITIES:** This passage is adapted from the article "Wherever He Went, Joy Was Sure to Follow" by Stanley Crouch (©2000 by The New York Times Company). *Tin Pan Alley* is a district famous for its composers and publishers of popular music.

As a jazz trumpeter and a singer, Louis Armstrong asserted a level of individuality in musical interpretation, recomposition and embellishment far more radical than any that had preceded it in Western music. When  
5 faced with a musical theme, Armstrong improvised an arrangement that boldly rephrased it, dropping notes he didn't want to play and adding others. His featured improvisations brought the role of the jazz soloist to the fore. The immaculate logic of his improvised melodies,  
10 full of rhythmic surprises and virtuosic turns, influenced show-tune writers, jazz composers, big band arrangers and tap dancers. His harmonic innovations, as fellow trumpeter Wynton Marsalis has noted, were the most brilliant in the history of jazz: Armstrong figured  
15 out how to articulate the sound of the blues through Tin Pan Alley popular-music tunes without abandoning their harmonic underpinnings. "Louis Armstrong took two different musics and fused them so that they sounded perfectly compatible," Mr. Marsalis says.



# READING

## Types of Passages

### Natural Science *reads like a textbook*

- Factual
- Dense
- Often very dry

#### Passage IV

**NATURAL SCIENCE:** This passage is adapted from the article "Needles & Nerves" by Catherine Dold (©1999 by The Walt Disney Company).

Acupuncture and other forms of traditional Chinese medicine have been around for more than 4,000 years. Yet the explanation for how acupuncture—and Chinese medicine as a whole—works has long been  
5 a mystery for most Western doctors. The basic theory is outlined in a text from 200 B.C. It recognizes in people and in nature a vital energy or life force known as qi. Qi is the source of movements ranging from voluntary muscle action to blood flow; it protects the body from  
10 external influences, and it generates warmth. Qi flows through the body and to the organs by way of an extensive system of channels known as meridians. If the flow of the force is disturbed, the theory goes, the resulting deficiency, excess, or stagnation of qi causes bodily  
15 malfunction and thus illness.

**READING**

**Beware the Distractor!**



# READING

## Beware the Distractor!

- Wrong answers that use EXACT WORDING from the passage

# READING

## Beware the Distractor!

- Wrong answers that use EXACT WORDING from the passage
- Wrong answers that refer to a concept or idea elsewhere in the passage



# READING

## Beware the Distractor!

- Wrong answers that use EXACT WORDING from the passage
- Wrong answers that refer to a concept or idea elsewhere in the passage
- Wrong answers that are the EXACT OPPOSITE of the right answer

# READING

## Beware the Distractor!

- Wrong answers that use EXACT WORDING from the passage
- Wrong answers that refer to a concept or idea elsewhere in the passage
- Wrong answers that are the EXACT OPPOSITE of the right answer
- Wrong answers that contain some element of truth



# READING

## Beware the Distractor!

- Wrong answers that use EXACT WORDING from the passage
- Wrong answers that refer to a concept or idea elsewhere in the passage
- Wrong answers that are the EXACT OPPOSITE of the right answer
- Wrong answers that contain some element of truth
- Wrong answers from out in left field

READING

# Reading Practice, Passage II, Questions 11-20 Pgs. 34-35 of the PDF





# READING

## ANSWER KEY Passage II

11. A

12. J

13. C

14. J

15. B

16. H

17. B

18. F

19. D

20. F

# READING

## Paired Passage

- Paired passage- two, shorted passages about a related topic.
- Read Passage A, answer questions associated with Passage A.
- Read the other passage & answer remaining questions.

### Passage III

**HUMANITIES:** Passage A is adapted from the essay "Just This Side of Byzantium" by Ray Bradbury (©1975 by Ray Bradbury), which is the introduction to a later edition of Bradbury's 1957 novel *Dandelion Wine*. Passage B is adapted from *Dandelion Wine* (©1957 by Ray Bradbury).

#### Passage A by Ray Bradbury

I began to learn the nature of surprises, thankfully, when I was fairly young as a writer. Before that, like every beginner, I thought you could beat, pummel, and thrash an idea into existence. Under such treatment, of course, any decent idea folds up its paws, turns on its back, fixes its eyes on eternity, and dies.

was startled when truths leaped out of bushes like quail before gunshot. I blundered into creativity as any child learning to walk and see. I learned to let my senses and my Past tell me all that was somehow true.

#### Passage B by Ray Bradbury

The facts about John Huff, aged twelve, are simple and soon stated. He could pathfind more trails than anyone since time began, could leap from the sky like a chimpanzee from a vine, could live underwater two minutes and slide fifty yards downstream from where you last saw him. The baseballs you pitched him he hit in the apple trees, knocking down harvests. He ran laughing. He sat easy. He was not a bully. He was kind. He knew the names of all the wild flowers and when



READING

# Reading Practice, Passage III, Questions 21-30 Pgs. 36-37 of the PDF



**10:00**

# READING

## ANSWER KEY Passage III

21. A

22. G

23. D

24. J

25. C

26. G

27. C

28. J

29. C

30. G



# THANK YOU!

Students,

Please complete a brief survey. You can open your smartphone's camera and point it at this QR code to access the survey:



Please see the Math/Science flyer for tomorrow's session!

Raffle winners will receive their gift cards on Tuesday!