

1. Acts was not considered a novel but rather a work of history because the ancient novels were normally romances and featured this notoriously lacking of the book of Acts. There are too many external correspondences with what we know from ancient history, this is what fits a work of history not a novel.
2. Felix was the Roman Governor at just the right time that you would expect from the book of Acts and although Felix was married to three different princesses at different times, the princesses to whom he was married Drusilla was the princess to whom he was actually married at the time that the book of Acts was written.
Festus and King Agrippa I both acted in the character with what we know of them. Agrippa II who is mentioned in Acts 25 & 26 was there with his sister Bernice, she only stayed with Agrippa during certain periods of times and the period of time that Acts gets is exactly the right period, this is not the type of thing a novelist would bother to research from what we know of ancient novelist.
3. Paul's letters are a major source of external corroboration for the book of Acts. You know you have some differences because Luke is not Paul, but you have so many correspondences for example, the names in Paul's circle, not only major characters like Peter and others but also a wide range of minor characters, like the role of Barnabas, Silas and Timothy. Paul being let down from a wall in a basket at Damascus is attested both in Acts and in Paul's own writing. You have a fairly exact itinerary where they both mentioned the same points, quite a large number of points. Paul's conversion near Damascus and then the rest of his life in Jerusalem, Syria, Cilicia and the different cities that he visited one after the other, even Paul's travel plans that he mentioned in Acts 19 where he planned to go to Macedonia, Greece, Jerusalem and Rome are also mentioned as travel plans in his letters.
4. Interpretive history is the way in which the historians and other writers gathered their information and related it to the audience. They mainly dealt with factual information and at the same time they presented things differently from the way we do today. They were more interested in moral, political or even theological lessons; they saw this as part of their responsibility to guide the reader to interpret things or events in the right way.
5. The final quarter the book of Acts, deals with Paul in Roman custody and Luke was apparently with him during that time, it was a period of at least two years so it gave Luke a considerable amount of time to interview eyewitnesses as he mentioned in Luke chapter one and also to talk to Paul

and learn about events and experiences that actually preceded even during the time that Luke was with him.

6. When you take the speech of Acts 20 which is in the “we” material and its Paul’s one speech to believers which fits what we have in Paul’s letters, there we find considerable correspondences.