Not To Use:

1) Being, to be (Both are considered to be passive)
2) Unnecessary 'ing' words should be removed, wherever possible.
3) Passive voice as far as possible

   e.g. His approach is different from the approach used by any other tenor is passive and hence incorrect on GMAT

   The correct sentence is

   His approach is different from the approach of any other tenor

4) Any Sentence construction with '**preposition + noun + participle**'
   e.g. With child-care facilities included (with – preposition, child-care – noun, included – participle)
   Infinitives like 'to include', 'to implement' etc. are wrong on GMAT. Instead use, 'implementing', 'including' (Which are known as Gerunds) etc.

   A Gerund is a noun formed from a verb i.e. **Overcoming** the GMAT is a great achievement. infinitives are usually formed to retain the integrity of the idiom which is used or to keep a sentence in parallel

5) Hopefully, is almost always wrong.
6)

Example of points (3) and (4)

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, a late nineteenth-century feminist, called for urban apartment houses <u>including child-care facilities and clustered suburban houses including communal eating and social facilities.</u>
A) including child-care facilities and clustered suburban houses including communal eating and social facilities
B) that included child-care facilities, and for clustered suburban houses to include communal eating and social facilities
C) with child-care facilities included and for clustered suburban houses to include communal eating and social facilities
D) that included child-care facilities and for clustered suburban houses with communal eating and social facilities
E) to include child-care facilities and for clustered suburban houses with communal eating and social facilities included

---

First, we can eliminate all the answer choices that use with communal eating and social facilities included or any other structure that follows this pattern:

preposition + noun + participle

This pattern is almost always wrong on the GMAT, and is certainly wrong in this question. This eliminates C) and E).

A) is ambiguous--is clustered suburban houses parallel with child-carfacilities or with urban apartment houses? We need to repeat for to be sure that clustered suburban houses is parallel with urban apartment houses.

Now we're left with B) and D).

Now, the only difference between B and D is the infinitive to include, which GMAT considers unidiomatic.

That leaves us with D).

7)

Idioms to Remember

1) To exchange X for Y (exchange X with Y or any other form is incorrect)
2) Different from one another (Different one from the other is wrong)
3) X is unknown, nor it is known – is a correct idiom (Neither is not required) It is not that nor would always be preceded by a neither
4) To ratify (At ratifying is incorrect) An attempt to ratify is the correct use
5) Allergy to (Allergy of, allergy for are incorrect)
6) To try to fix is the right idiom (to try and fix is incorrect)
7) Just as… So too
8) X is different from Y (different than Y is incorrect)
9) Same as X..as to Y
   e.g Gravity will apply the same to an airplane flying in air as to a ship floating on water.
10) From X to Y (Grow from 2 million to 3 billion) (From X up to Y is wrong)

Studies of the human "sleep-wake cycle" have practical relevance for matters ranging from duty assignments in nuclear submarines and air-traffic control towers to the staff of shifts in 24-hour factories.

(A) to the staff of
(B) to those who staff
(C) to the staffing of
(D) and staffing
(E) and the staff of

From X where X is a noun here.
So, Y should be a noun.

To those who staff in B is incorrect.
C has a noun and is correct.

Also, see examples in notepad (From also-ran to local hero – the athlete)

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11) Estimated to be (Estimated at is incorrect)
12) Believe X to be Y
13) Acclaimed as is the correct idiom (Acclaimed to be is wrong)
14) Distinguish between X and Y (Distinguish X from Y is incorrect)
15) In an attempt to (gain control)
16) Worried about (When talking about someone's condition)
17) Attempt to 'do something' (Attempt at doing is incorrect).
18) Both X and Y (Both X as well as Y is incorrect) Both at X and at Y is correct. Both on X or on Y is correct. Both should always have parallel forms associated to it. Similarly, 'Neither… nor' should have parallel forms associated to it.
19) Adverb twice cannot be an object of proposition 'by'. 'Increase by twice' is incorrect; 'doubled' is correct
20) So X as to be Y (So unreal as to be true)
21) As much as (Republicans are involved as much as Democrats).
22) X prohibits Y from
23) x forbids y to do z
   x prohibits y from doing z.

   The new contract <u>forbids a strike by the transportation union</u>

   A) **forbids a strike** by the transportation union
   B) forbids the transportation union from striking
   C) forbids that there be a strike by the transportation union
   D) will forbid the transportation union from striking
   E) will forbid that the transportation union strikes

   A is the correct answer

24) Credit X with discovering Y (Credit with doing something)
25) Credit X Rupees to Y's account (When money is involved)
26) Given credit for being ones…who
27) Believed to have
28) Regarded as having
29) Regarded as ones who have
30) Concerned for – worried; concerned with – related/affliated
31) No sooner…than
32) X expected to Y
33) Mistake X for Y
34) Not X; but rather Y
35) Persuaded X to do Y
36) So X that Y (So poor that they steal)
37) Require that X be Y (Not require that X is Y)
38) As a result of
39) At least as strong as…(At least as great as)
40) Modeled after
41) So X that Y (So illiterate are people that they cant even write)
42) Intent on
43) Native of (Native to is also used in some cases, as in the example given below)
44) Compensate for
45) Adapted for
46) Plead guilty for … failing
47) Descendent of (Descendent for is incorrect)
48) X is to… what…Y is to

49) Potential for causing

```
In large doses, analgesics that work in the brain as antagonists to
certain chemicals have caused psychological disturbances in
patients, which may limit their potential to relieve severe pain.
(A) which may limit their potential to relieve
(B) which may limit their potential for relieving
(C) which may limit such analgesics' potential to relieve
(D) an effect that may limit their potential to relieve
(E) an effect that may limit the potential of such analgesics for
    relieving
```

50) Aid in (Aid for is incorrect)
    People were asking Goddess Dia's **aid in healing ills** or thanking her for such help.
51) Consider X...to be Y (a little controversial)
52) Regard as is the correct idiom

Most nations regard their airspace <u>as extending upward</u> as high as an aircraft can fly; no specific altitude, however, has been officially recognized as a boundary.

(A) as extending

(B) as the extent

(C) to be an extent

(D) to be an extension

(E) to extend

A is correct, because it uses 'regard as'

53) When 'rates' means 'prices charged' it should be followed with 'for'
    Rates for liability insurance
54) Distinguish between X and Y (2 very different items, distinguished, say red and green colors)
    Some color blind people cannot distinguish between red and green
55) Distinguish X from Y (Two pretty similar items, say original paintings from fake ones)
56) Attribute X (An effect) to Y(A cause)
57) Not in a flash...but in a...
58) May be (This is a word) is idiomatic, maybe (This means perhaps) is not idiomatic
59) That X is called for is indicated **both *by Y*** and ***by Z***.
60) Not so much to X...as to Y
61) Associate X with Y
62) Business ethics – Is a singular word
63) To **worry about** someone's condition (To keep **worrying over** an action)
64) Combined X with Y **OR** Combined X and Y (Both are correct)
    e.g. Combined skill with determination
         Combined reactant X and reactant Y
65) way to provide (Way for providing is incorrect)
66) No less an authority than...
67) Acclaimed as … is the correct idiom…

An artistic presence of the first order, one frequently ranked with Picasso, Stravinsky, and James Joyce, <u>Martha Graham was acclaimed as</u> a great dancer long before her innovative masterworks made her the most honored of American choreographers.

(A) Martha Graham was acclaimed as
(B) Martha Graham was acclaimed to be
(C) Martha Graham's acclaim is as
(D) Martha Graham's acclaim to be
(E) Martha Graham's acclaim was in being

acclaimed as – choice A is correct in this case.

68) Allocated to is the correct idiom

E,g, The public library allocated revenues it recieved from the recently passed tax initiative <u>to the purchasing of more than 2000 books and 50 computers.</u>

A) to the purchasing of more than 2000 books and 50 computers.
B) in order to purchase more than 2000 books and 50 computers.
C) so as to purchase more than 2000 books and 50 computers.
D) so that more than 2000 books and 50 computers could be purchased
E) for the purchase of more than 2000 books and 50 computers.

Bufo marinus toads, fierce predators that will eat frogs, lizards, and even small birds, are native to South America but were introduced into Florida during the 1930's in an attempt to control pests in the state's vast sugarcane fields.
(A) are native to South America but were introduced into Florida during the 1930's in an attempt to control
(B) are native in South America but were introduced into Florida during the 1930's as attempts to control
(C) are natives of South America but were introduced into Florida during the 1930's in an attempt at controlling
(D) had been native to South America but were introduced to Florida during the 1930's as an attempt at controlling
(E) had been natives of South America but were introduced to Florida during the 1930's as attempts at controlling

Choice A is best. The phrasing are native to correctly suggests that the toad species is indigenous to, and still exists in, South America. In B, native in is unidiomatic; in C and E, natives of illogically suggests that each toad now in Florida hails from South America. In D and E, had been inaccurately implies that the toads are no longer native, or indigenous, to South America, and introduced to Florida is unidiomatic. Both as attempts in B and E and as an attempt in D are wrong because the attempt consists not of the toads themselves, but of their introduction into the environment. The correct phrase, in an attempt, should be completed by an infinitive (here, to control), as in A.

Most Important Points to remember:

1) <u>**Use of Consider**</u>: When 'consider' means 'regard as', 'as' should not be present with 'consider' in the sentence. Consider must directly be followed by the sentence without an infinitive like 'to be' etc.

   Example: Some students of literary criticism consider the theories of Blaine to be a huge advance in modern critical thinking and question the need to study the discounted theories of Rauthe and Wilson.

   to be a huge advance in modern critical thinking and question

   as a huge advance in modern critical thinking and question

   as being a huge advance in modern critical thinking and questioned

   a huge advance in critical thinking and question (When consider means regard as, no need of as)

   are a huge advance in modern critical thinking and questioned

   Example 2:
   Critics consider correction facilities **to be an integral part of** communal system. - Incorrect
   Critics consider correction facilities **an integral part** of communal system. – Correct

   Many scholars <u>regard the pre-Hispanic civilizations of Peru as</u> the most impressive in South America.
   (A) regard the pre-Hispanic civilizations of Peru as
   (B) regard the pre-Hispanic civilizations of Peru to be
   (C) regard the pre-Hispanic civilizations of Peru to have been
   (D) consider that the pre-Hispanic civilizations of Peru are
   (E) consider the pre-Hispanic civilizations of Peru as

   A is correct

2) **Semicolon:** Any sentence after a semicolon (;), should be an independent clause.

3) **Object v/s. Subject**: If a noun is the object of a verb, the verb should end with 'ed'. If a noun is the subject of a verb, the verb should end with 'ing'. (e.g. 'local times determined' when the noun is object of the verb 'determined') (e.g. determining the local times – where the noun local times is the subject of the verb determining). Somebody determined times – times is object of determined
Times differed – Times is the subject of differed

4) **One of the:** The pattern to remember is 'one of the NOUN (this noun will always be plural) + that/who + PLURAL VERB
Example : He is one of the **persons** who **make** money.
This is one of the **cars** that **run** on hydrogen.

A number of people **are** waiting for the bus.
The number of cars in the city **is** decreasing.
Any of the stockholders who disapprove – is the right use
Three cats, each eat
Three cats, each of which eats

A sentence like 'X is one of the Y that **are. Are** is the correct use. Such a sentence always should have a subject verb agreement with Y and not with X.

With its plan to develop seven and a half acres of shore land, Cleveland is but one of a large number of communities on the Great Lakes that is looking to its waterfront as a way to improve the quality of urban life and attract new businesses.

(A) is looking to its waterfront as a way to improve the quality of urban life and attract
(B) is looking at its waterfront to improve the quality of urban life and attract
(C) are looking to their waterfronts to improve the quality of urban life and attract
(D) are looking to its waterfront as a way of improving the quality of urban life and attracting
(E) are looking at their waterfronts as a way they can improve the quality of urban life and attract

C is correct.

5) **Tenses**: When the entire sentence is in the same tense, a simple present tense may be fine. However, if the sentence implies that an action occurred before another action, 'had' may need to be used apart from the simple present tense.

To be + Complement: Points to present tense (The depletion of ozone layer is believed to be the cause of all problems)
To have been: Points to past tense (The impact of meteorite is believed to have caused the extinction of dinosaurs)

If they would have found the receipt by April, they would have paid less tax.
If they had found the receipt by April, they would have paid less tax. - Correct

6) **Parallelism:** Its very important to maintain parallelism. E.g. I like to dance, to run and to watch TV. This is the correct sentence. However, a sentence like 'I like to dance, to run and watch TV' is wrong because it does not maintain parallelism.

- **Infinitive parallelism:** to salvage…to process
  Only way for farmers to salvage fruit is to process it
- **That parallelism:** Many agree that there is waste…and that government is rubbish

7) **Singular verb or plural:** When the subject is plural use a plural verb.
   e.g. In laws of motion, there is a condition and its converse regarding bodies at rest and bodies in motion. – This is incorrect.

   The correct sentence would be : In laws of motion, there are a condition and its converse regarding bodies at rest and bodies in motion.

8)

Countable nouns	Non Countable nouns
More (More than 200 million people in world earn less than 10 dollars a day)	Much There is too much traffic, because many people travel. Much is also used with nouns like 'Work' and 'Happiness'

Fewer (Could I have fewer soup, please? Is wrong, The correct sentence is 'Could I have less soup, please?)	Less (Also used for sums of money as in above sentence, periods of time and distance, or while citing numerical or statistical data)

Fewer (Could I have fewer soup, please? Is wrong,
The correct sentence is 'Could I have less soup, please?)

As a rule of thumb,

Use fewer to modify a plural noun.

Example: I have **fewer** papers to write than last year.

Use less to modify a singular noun.

Example: You'll need **less** paper if you type your report.

When drive-ins were at the height of their popularity in the late 50's , some 4000 existed in the United States, but today <u>there are less than one-quarter that many</u>

B. there are fewer than one quarter as many
c. there are fewer than one quarter of that amount
D.the number is less than one quarter of that amount
E. it is less than one quarter of that amount

Fewer is correct, as highways are countable (4000/4) = 1000. So, C is the answer.

Less (Also used for sums of money as in above sentence, periods of time and distance, or while citing numerical or statistical data)

- There is less traffic on the road, because fewer people drive these days.

- It's less than twenty miles to Dallas.
- He's less than six feet tall.
- Your essay should be a thousand words or less.
- We spent less than forty dollars on our trip.
- The town spent less than four percent of its budget on snow removal

With a total population <u>of less than two hundred and xfewer</u> breeding females than ever before, the American crocodile seemed a decade ago to be in danger of disappearing.

(A) of less than two hundred and fewer
(B) lower than two hundred and less
(C) lesser than two hundred and fewer
(D) fewer than two hundred and less
(E) of fewer than two hundred and of fewer

Majority	Quantity, amount, greater (Used to compare numbers)
Number, many When dealing with people, always use 'number' and not amount.	

Singular nouns	Plural nouns
Each, everyone	Half, all, most, 10%
Fractions With fractions, the verb agrees with preceding noun or clause e.g. 1) One third of the article is rubbish 2) All of the info is correct 3) Half of what he writes is rubbish About 50% of the job is routine.	Fractions
None, everyone	

- With collective nouns, use a singular/plural verb depending on whether you want to emphasize on a single group or its individual members.

  All of the class is/are here.
  Half of my family lives/live in Canada.

  Team is a collective noun and can be singular or plural depending upon the rest of the sentence following the noun.

  The **team** streamed into the locker room, donned **their** uniforms, <u>and, before commencing its first practice, they joined in a brief strategy session.</u>

  B) and its first practice was preeceded by a brief strategy session
  C) and a brief strategy session preeceded its first practice
  D) and, before commencing their first practice, they joined in a brief strategy session
  E) and, before commencing **their** first practice, joined in a brief strategy session

  E is correct

8) **Subject Verb Agreement (Refer to sorted for more info):** If the subject and verb are reversed, they should still agree with each other.

e.g. A group of lions is called pride 'or' A pride is a group of lions

Attached are copies of the contract 'or' Copies of the contract are attached.

One Important Example : **All the choices but D contain ambiguities.**

Among the various emotions on display **was anger**….
Among the various things found **were statues**….

9) In conditional sentences (X will occur if Y happens), verb of the main clause should be in future tense and verb of the if clause should be in present indicative (if Y happens)
e.g. We **will go** to the movie only if I **finish** my work.

10) **IT as a pronoun**: Whenever, 'it' is used in a sentence, it should always refer to a NOUN. If that noun is not present in the sentence, don't use 'it'. Also 'it' should unambiguously refer to a single noun in the sentence. If unsure, replace the 'it' in the sentence with the NOUN.
e.g. Under a provision of constitution that was never applied, congress has been required to call a convention for possible amendments to document when asked about it. (There is no noun, to which 'it' can refer to).

11) **USE of OR:** When there are 2 or more options separated by 'OR', both should equally apply to the following clause.

e.g. Slowing the growth or damaging forests (Both slowing the growth and damaging apply to forests. Now, consider the clause 'slowing the growth forests' and 'damaging forests'. The first one, does not seem fine. As, it should be 'slowing the growth of or damaging forests).

Damaging or slowing the growth of forests – Is the correct usage (Damaging forests or slowing the growth of forests).

12) I decided that **I would either take my daughter to the cinema or go by myself.**

I would either take my daughter to the cinema or go by myself.
I either would take my daughter to the cinema or go by myself.
I would either take my daughter to the cinema or else I would myself go.
either I would take my daughter to the cinema or go by myself.
either I would myself go to the cinema or take my daughter.

The construction either XXX or YYY is a common construction with parallelism errors. In this case, the XXX (after the word either) and the YYY (after the word or) should be in the same format. Let us consider what XXX and YYY are for each option:

Choice A:
XXX: take my daughter to the cinema
YYY: go by myself
(This is correct - they are both clauses starting with a verb. After all, A (the original text) is the correct answer.
Choice B:

XXX: would take my daughter to the cinema
YYY: go by myself
No - one clause starts with the auxiliary verb "would" and the other starts with the plain verb "go".
Choice C:
XXX: take my daughter to the cinema
YYY: else I would myself go
Yuk! That use of "else" is totally unnecessary! It certainly ruins the parallelism. Besides, the inclusion of "would" in one part but not the other is enough to spoil the parallel effect.
Choice D:
XXX: I would take my daughter to the cinema
YYY: go by myself
Ha! One part contains a subject and auxiliary verb ("I would") and the other doesn't! Need I say more?
Choice E:
XXX: I would myself go to the cinema
YYY: take my daughter

The swapping of the two parts is not in itself wrong, but the inclusion of "I would" in the first part and not in the second is the same error that was present in (D).

12) When **two adjectives** modify the same noun, both must have similar forms.
   e.g. The topology course was both rigorous and a challenge.

   This is wrong. Adjectives rigorous and challenge both modify course, so it should be rigorous and challenging.

Comparisons:

1) **Use of that and which:** Most often than not, in GMAT, which would be preceded by a comma in the sentence.
   e.g. Get me the book, which is mine. Which is used to qualify the book i.e. which is mine. There may be many books in the room, but I want my book.
   'Which' should always refer to a noun. E.g. Get me the book, which is mine. So, 'which' here refers to the noun 'book'.

   - Which should apply to things

   e.g. Sales of United States manufactured goods to non-industrialized countries rose to $167 billion in 1992, <u>which is 14 percent more than the previous year</u> and largely offsets weak demand from Europe and Japan.

      A) which is 14 percent more than the previous year
      B) which is 14 percent higher than it was the previous year
      C) 14 percent higher than the previous year's figure

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D) an amount that is 14 percent more than the previous year was
E) an amount that is 14 percent higher than the previous year's figure

B is incorrect, because which should refer to a specific noun in the preceding clause. That noun does not exist (Rise of sales). So, it is replaced by an amount that is 14 percent higher …

So, E is the correct answer (Similar to the UFO example in princeton)

That is a restrictive clause while which is a non restrictive clause.

2) **Like v/s. As:** Like is used to express similarity. It is normally used to show similarity between two nouns e.g. Lemons are like limes.
As on the other hand would normally compare two clauses and not two nouns. E.g. He looks as if he is drunk.
Such As: It is normally used to give examples. Compare the two sentences 'I want you to buy fruits like lemons and limes'. However, if you want lemons and limes, you would say that 'I want you to buy fruits such as lemons and limes'. The earlier sentence means you don't want lemons and limes, but fruits like those.

Example of 'Like v/s. As'

The ordinance is intended to force householders <u>to separate such hazardous waste like</u> pesticides, batteries, fertilizers, and oil-based paints from the general stream of household trash.

(A) to separate such hazardous waste like
(B) that they should separate such hazardous waste like
(C) separating such hazardous wastes as
(D) that they should separate such hazardous wastes as
(E) to separate such hazardous wastes as

E is the correct answer. Examples to be given, so 'as'.

For some reason the new consultant treats his clients <u>like idiots, talking to them like they</u> were mentally deficient and incapable of understanding more than the simplest ideas.

(A) like idiots, talking to them like they
(B) as if they were idiots, talking to them like they
(C) like idiots, talking to them as if they
(D) as idiots, talking to them like they
(E) like idiots who

C is correct.

Like the government that came before it, which set new records for growth, <u>laissez-faire capitalism is the cornerstone of the new government</u>.

(A) laissez-faire capitalism is the cornerstone of the new government

(B) the cornerstone of the new government is laissez-faire capitalism

(C) laissez-faire capitalism is the new government's cornerstone

(D) the new government has made laissez-faire capitalism its cornerstone

(E) the new government has a laissez-faire cornerstone of capitalism

D is correct

According to a recent poll of the entering class, joining a fraternity or sorority is still a priority of a majority of freshmen, <like that of earlier classes>.

A)   like that of earlier classes
B)   as that for earlier classes

C)   just as earlier classes did
D)   as have earlier classes
E)   as it was of earlier classes

(E) The intended comparison should be completed by a clause beginning with as and containing a subject and verb that correspond to the subject and verb of the main clause. In E, the best choice, it refers unambiguously to the phrasal subject joining. . . sorority, the verb was corresponds to is, and today's majority of freshman are appropriately compared to earlier classes. Choices A and B lack a verb corresponding to is and a clear referent for that. Choices C and D are confusing and illogical because their verbs, did and have, cannot substitute for is in the main clause.

Another example stressing the point, that like is used to compare nouns only, and as to compare actions.

```
During an ice age, the buildup of ice at the poles and the drop
in water levels near the equator speed up the Earth's rotation,
like a spinning figure skater whose speed increases when her arms
are drawn in.

  (A) like a spinning figure skater whose speed increases when her
      arms are drawn in
  (B) like the increased speed of a figure skater when her arms
are drawn in
  (C) like a figure skater who increases speed while spinning with
      her arms drawn in
  (D) just as a spinning figure skater who increases speed by
drawing in her arms(E)
  (E) just as a spinning figure skater increases speed by drawing
in her arms
```

rotation of the earth is compared to spinning of a figure skater (so E is the OA)
A is like B. like is a proposition linking 2 nouns and 2 clauses should not be linked with it.

More than thirty years ago Dr. Barbara Mc-Clintock, the Nobel Prize winner, reported that genes can "jump," as pearls moving mysteriously from one necklace to

<u>another</u>.

(A) as pearls moving mysteriously from one necklace to another
(B) like pearls moving mysteriously from one necklace to another
(C) as pearls do that move mysteriously from one necklace to others
(D) like pearls do that move mysteriously from one necklace to others
(E) as do pearls that move mysteriously from one necklace to some other one

B is right.

Example of Such as:

While the base salary for the top five officers of the company did not change from 1990 to 1991, <u>cuts were made nonsalary compensation, as in</u> allowances for overseas assignments and club memberships.
(A) cuts were made nonsalary compensation, as in
(B) cuts were made in such nonsalary compensation as
(C) cuts were made in such nonsalary compensation as those in
(D) cuts in nonsalary compensation were made in areas like
(E) there were cuts made in nonsalary compensation, in areas like

B is the correct answer. It uses 'such as' to furnish 2 examples.

3) <u>**Compared to v/s. Compared with:**</u> To show comparison between unlike things, 'compare to' is used. To show comparison between like things, 'compare with' is used.
e.g. He compared her to a summer day.
_____Scientists compare the human brain to a computer. (Unlike thing)

The police compared the forged signature with the original. (Like things)

4) <u>**Because v/s. In That:**</u> When ETS puts 'because' and 'in that' in a sentence, more often than not, 'in that' would be correct. 'In that qualifies' the previous sentence, while 'because' is just used to show a simple causal relationship.
Teratomas are unusual forms of cancer because they are composed of tissues such as tooth and bone not normally found in the organ in which the tumor appears.

A. because they are composed of tissues such as tooth and bone
B. because they are composed of tissues like tooth and bone that are
C. because they are composed of tissues, like tooth and bone, tissues
D. in that their composition , tissues such as tooth and bone, is
E. in that they are composed of tissues such as tooth and bone, tissues

E is the correct answer.

5) <u>**Less v/s. Fewer:**</u> Less means 'Not as much', Fewer means 'Not as many'
e.g. A shower takes less water than a bath, so take fewer baths and more showers.

![ScoreTop logo]

This is an excellent notes by **psahil** who scored 770!

6) **Agree to v/s. Agree with:** Agree with is used when a person is agreeing with another person. Agree to is used when a person is agreeing to something inanimate.
e.g. I agree to your proposal
I completely agree with you on this one.

7) **Usual v/s. Is Usual:** He is faster than is usual for any human being – Is correct.
He is faster than usual today – is correct

A Mercedes is more expensive than usual for a car – Incorrect
A Mercedes is more expensive than is usual for a car – Correct

When something is compared to a subgroup to which it belongs, is usual should be used. When something is compared to itself, usual is fine

e.g. He is nicer than usual.

8) **Between v/s. Among:** Between used for a comparison between two things only. Among is used for more than 2 things.

9) **If v/s. Whether:** If introduces a condition, whether produces a choice
Whether to go or not to go.
If I go, he will come.

10) **Who v/s. whom:** If answer is in 'HE', use 'WHO'. If answer is in 'HIM', use 'WHOM'.

e.g. Who broke the glass (HE did, so 'who')
By whom was the glass taken? (By 'HIM', so 'WHOM')

11) **Where v/s. When**: Where is used to point to a region/area/place
When is used to point to a time.

Each of the factory towns which has pollution as a severe problem…
Each of the factory towns where the pollution problem is severe – is correct

12) **Native of v/s. Native to:** Native of can be used when referring to human beings. Native to usage is otherwise correct.

13) **Can v/s. Could:** If you are just assuming something, 'could' should be used.

e.g. Artificial intelligence emerged during the late 1950's as an academic discipline based on the assumption that computers are able to be programmed to think <u>like people</u>.

(A) are able to be programmed to think like people
(B) were able to be programmed to think as people
(C) can be programmed to think as people can
(D) could be programmed to think like people
(E) are capable of being programmed to think like people do

Can is used for : General ability (I can speak English), opportunity (I can help her now), request (Can I have a glass of water?), possibility (Anyone can become rich and famous).

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Could is used for: possibility (John could be the one who stole the money), condition (If I had more time, I could travel around the world), suggestion (You could spend your vacation here), polite request (Could I have something to drink?)

Notice the usage of modals in the following sentences:

I pay my taxes.	General declaration of fact. Paying taxes is something I normally do.
I can pay my taxes.	Expresses ability. I have the means (funds) to pay.
I might pay my taxes.	Expresses possibility, but not certainty. Maybe I will pay; maybe I won't.
I will pay my taxes.	Expresses future intent. I resolve to do it at some later time.
I should pay my taxes.	Expresses mild obligation. It is required, and I expect to comply.
I could pay my taxes.	Expresses possibility. If I have nothing else to do with the money, I might pay taxes.
I would pay my taxes.	(In this case), expresses reservation. If I had the money (but I don't).…
I must pay my taxes.	Expresses strong obligation. I am required and have to comply.

- Would is often used to show a condition in the past. E.g. I would have done it, if I had money then. (A thing that was not done but could have been done if money was available) **OR**

    e.g.

    In the mid-1920's the Hawthorne Works of the Western Electric Company was the scene of an intensive series of experiments **investigating the effects that changes in working conditions would have on workers' performance (Changes in condition will have is wrong, it should be would have, as we are describing what the company had done and what they anticipated)**

14) **BECAUSE v/s. ON ACCOUNT OF:** On GMAT, 'Because' is preferred over 'on account of'. This is because 'because' can introduce an entire subordinate clause in the sentence (Golden crab is not fished, on account of living… - is not correct). Golden crab is not fished, because it lives… - is correct

15) **CHIEF of WHICH v/s.** CHIEF among which:

Jamieson's <mark>proposal was rejected</mark> for several reasons, <u>the chief among which was cost</u>.

    (A) the chief among which was cost
    (B) among which the chief was its cost
    © the main one was cost
    (D) the chief reason of which was its cost
    (E) the chief of which was cost

chief means *main* or *principal*, and all three words mean the top one. And when we refer to a member of a group, we use *of*. For example, if we want to name our best friend, we'd say *He is the best of my friends*, but not *He is the best among my friends*.

Now, run these through your head to see how they sound:

- The main reason of all the reasons.
- The main reason among all the reasons.

I think the first sounds better and is more precise.

16) PRACTICE v/s. PRACTISE: Practise is a verb and practice is a noun. I practise piano is correct. Also, I had my piano practice for the day is correct.
The doctor practised for 20 years; his brother a lawyer had a 2 year practice.

17) Resumptive modifiers

Since the 1930's aircraft manufacturers have tried to build airplanes with frictionless <u>wings, shaped so smoothly and perfectly</u> that the air passing over them would not become turbulent.
  (A) wings, shaped so smoothly and perfectly
  (B) wings, wings so smooth and so perfectly shaped
  (C) wings that are shaped so smooth and perfect
  (D) wings, shaped in such a smooth and perfect manner
  (E) wings, wings having been shaped smoothly and perfectly so
B is the correct answer.

Wings is required to unambiguously convey the meaning of the sentence.
A **resumptive modifier** picks up a word or phrase from a sentence that seems to be finished and then adds information and takes the reader into new territory of thought.

In a crowded, acquisitive world, the disapperance of lifestyles such as those once followed by southern Africa's Bushmen and Australia's aborigines, <u>requiring vast wild spaces and permitting little accumulation of goods, seem inevitably doomed.</u>
(B) requiring vast wild spaces and permitting little accumulation of goods, seems to be inevitably doomed

© which require vast wild spaces and permit little accumulation of goods, seems to be inevitably doomed

(D) life-styles that require vast wild spaces and permit little accumulation of goods, seem inevitable

(E) life-stlyes requiring vast wild spaces and permitting little accumulation of goods, seems inevitable

E is the correct answer.

- The Swiss watchmakers' failure to capitalize on the invention of the digital timepiece was both **astonishing** and **alarming** — **astonishing** in that the Swiss had, since the beginnings of the industrial revolution in Europe, been among the first to capitalize on technical innovations, **alarming** in that a tremendous industrial potential had been lost to their chief competitors, the watchmakers of Japan.

- The defensive coaches taught risk-taking, ball-hawking, and perpetual movement — **three strategies** that bewildered the opposition and resulted in many bad passes, steals, and easy fastbreak baskets.

Another example in the same league…

Proponents of artificial intelligence say they will be able to make computers that can understand English and other human languages, recognize objects, and reason <u>as an expert does—computers that will be used to diagnose equipment breakdowns, deciding whether to authorize a loan, or other purposes such as these</u>.

(A) as an expert does—computers that will be used to diagnose equipment breakdowns, deciding whether to authorize a loan, or other purposes such as these

(B) as an expert does, which may be used for purposes such as diagnosing equipment breakdowns or deciding whether to authorize a loan

(C) like an expert—computers that will be used for such purposes as diagnosing equipment breakdowns or deciding whether to authorize a loan

(D) like an expert, the use of which would be for purposes like the diagnosis of equipment breakdowns or the decision whether or not a loan should be authorized

(E) like an expert, to be used to diagnose equipment breakdowns, deciding whether to authorize a loan or not, or the like

C is the answer.

18) **EACH v/s. EVERY:** Each refers to '**2 times**', every refers to '**More than 2 times**'

The dog has bitten my younger son twice, and each time, he has had to be sent to his kennel.

each time, he has had to be sent to his

every time, it has had to be sent to his

each time, it has had to be sent to its

every time, it has had to be sent to its

each time, he has had to be sent to its

'Each time' because it has bitten only twice. The use of the pronoun "he" is unclear here - does it refer to the dog or to the son? In fact, tracing our way back along the sentence, we find that we come across the word "son" before we come across the word "dog", which rather implies that it is the son who owns, and is sent to, the kennel.

The way to get round this ambiguity is to use "it" followed by "its" (no apostrophe!). This limits the choices to (C) and (D). The only difference between these options is the fact that one uses the word "every" and the other uses the word "each". Since these refer to the two times that the dog bit the son, we shouldn't **use "every" (that refers to three or more times)**. The correct option is therefore (C).

17) **Economic v/s. Economical:**

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Economic means "having to do with the economy or the study of
economics."
Economical means "careful or prudent in managing finances, money-
saving."
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The supply of oil being finite has become an economical and political
consideration of the first magnitude for all modern industrial nations.
(A) The supply of oil being finite has become an economical
(B) The finite supply of oil has become an economical
(C) That the supply of oil is finite has become an economical
(D) The supply of oil being finite has become an economic
(E) That the supply of oil is finite has become an economic - OA
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Miscellaneous

1) Due to: If used correctly means 'Attributable to' and not 'because'
2) In 'Neither...nor' sentences, the verb has to agree with the subject following nor
   e.g. Neither the evidence nor the facts are correct
   Neither his mom nor his dad agrees with him.
3) **Avoiding redundant words**: free gift, surrounded on all sides, the same exact thing, try to attempt, whether or not, the reason why
4) **Use of subjunctive verb**: To express a demand or a request, THAT always comes after the verb, the second verb is always in simple present tense.

   Incorrect: **If I was you, I would run.**
   Correct: **If I were you, I would run.**
   (The verb follows if and expresses a non-factual condition.)
   Incorrect: **I wish he was able to type faster.**
   Correct: **I wish he were able to type faster.**
   (The second verb is in a clause following a verb expressing a wish. It also suggests a non-factual or doubtful condition.)
   Incorrect: **His requirement is that everyone is computer literate.**
   Correct: **His requirement is that everyone be computer literate.**
   (Subordinate clause follows main clause with a demand.)
   Incorrect: **He recommended that each driver reports his tips.**
   Correct: **He recommended that each driver report his tips.**

GMAT Sentence Correction
GMAT Critical Reasoning
GMAT Reading Comprehension

e.g. 1) His father demanded that he return home by 9 PM.
Return – Simple present tense

Demanded- precedes 'that' in the sentence.

   i.   The manager demanded that the staff stay late to finish the work.
   ii. Jack suggested that Sylvia **should** buy a new watch – Incorrect
        (Should must be removed)
        Jack suggested that Sylvia buy a new watch.

Use of subjunctive to express an idea that is contrary to fact or to speculate about a hypothetical situation

e.g. I **wouldn't** do it if I **were** you.
If air force **were** to crash with the president on board, the vice president **would** become the president.

If I were the president of America, I would relax.

5) If one pronoun is sufficient to introduce a modifier, another pronoun is not needed. E.g. Astronomers have discovered a supernova, one that they believe is of a type unknown. – Incorrect

Astronomers have discovered a supernova, one they believe to be of a type unknown. – correct

List of verbs normally followed by Infinitives

afford | agree | appear | arrange | ask | attempt | care | choose | claim | come | consent
dare | decide | demand | deserve | determine | elect | endeavour | expect | fail | get | guarentee
hate | help | hesitate | hope | hurry | incline | intend | learn | long | manage | mean | need
offer | plan | prepare | pretend | promise | refuse | resolve | say | seem | tend | threaten | want | wish

List of verbs that can only have gerunds after them

acknowledge | admit | adore | anticipate | appreciate | avoid | celebrate | confess | contemplate
delay | deny | describe | detest | discuss | dislike | dread | endure | enjoy
fancy | finish | imagine | involve | keep | justify | mention | mind | miss

| omit | postpone | practise
quit | recall | recommend | regret | report | resent | resume | risk |
suggest | tolerate | understand

e.g. anticipate implementing is correct (Anticipate to implement is wrong).

Even though she didn't anticipate <to implement it, the advertising manager agreed with the personal> manager's proposal to strengthen her department.

     A) to implement it, the advertising manager agreed with the personal

B) implementing it, the advertising manager agreed with the personal

C) implementing it, the advertising manager agreed with the personnel

D) to implement it, the advertising manager agreed with the personnel

E) implementing it, the advertising manager agreed to the personnel

(E) NOTE: all answer choices are indeed different here. 'Personal' deals with a person's own special things; 'Personnel' deals with a lot of people. Verbs like 'anticipate' must be followed by a gerund, the verb form in '-ing'. The correct idiom usage should read: a person 'agrees with' another person, not with an inanimate thing such as a proposal. Therefore, she agrees 'to the proposal.' (E) is correct.

a. **Simple Present tense:** To express an action that is repeated as usual. It can be a habit, a hobby, a daily/scheduled event etc.

    e.g. I play tennis
       I like to sing.
        She always forgets her purse
       Cats like milk.

b. **Simple past tense:** Used to denote an action that started and finished at a specific time in the past.

    e.g. I saw a movie yesterday
       She washed her car
       I didn't see a movie yesterday.
       I finished work, walked to the beach and found a place to swim.

Imp: When I paid her one-dollar, she answered my question.
       When clauses are very important, because they happen first when both clauses are in simple past tense.

This is an excellent notes by **psahil** who scored 770!

<u>When he had run for mayor of Cleveland in 1968,</u> Carl Stokes won the election, proving that an African American candidate can be elected in a city in which African Americans constitute a minority of the population.

(A) When he had run for mayor of Cleveland in 1968,
(B) He ran for mayor of Cleveland in 1968, and
(C) Running, in 1968, for mayor of Cleveland,
(D) When he ran for mayor of Cleveland in 1968,
(E) In 1968 he had run for mayor of Cleveland, and

Choice (D)
Step 1: Look at the verb tenses. Is "had run" correct? No; "ran" would be better. Therefore eliminate choices (A) and (E).
Step 2: Is "ran" better than "running"? Yes, so eliminate choice (C). Finally, choice (B) doesn't fit with the rest of the sentence.
Step 3: Choice (D) remains.
Step 4: When he ran for mayor of Cleveland in 1968, Carl Stokes won the election, proving that an African American candidate can be elected in a city in which African Americans constitute a minority of the population. Yes.

<u>HAVE BEEN:</u>

For some birds the sense of smell appears to play a role in navigation, since pigeons with surgically removed olfactory nerves <u>were found to have increased difficulties</u> in homing.

    (A) were found to have increased difficulties
    (B) have been found to have increased difficulty
    (C) were found to have increasing difficulty
    (D) had been found to have increased difficulties
    (E) have been found to have increasing difficulties

Have been is used to describe an action that started in the past, and still continues.

<u>HAD BEEN</u>

To show that a thing started in the past, and continued till some time in the past.

e.g. I **had been waiting** there for 5 hours before she finally arrived. (She finally arrived, which is in the past, and had been waiting started 5 hours before she arrived).

It can also be used to denote an action in past that occurred before some other action in past (Cause and effect)

e.g. Jason was tired because he had been jogging.

<u>THE EXPLETIVE 'IT' and 2 questions, testing the same fundamentals:</u>

This is an excellent notes by **psahil** who scored 770!

1) For many travelers, charter vacations often turn out to cost considerably more than <u>they originally seemed</u>.

a. they originally seemed
b. they originally seem to
c. they seemingly would cost originally
d. it seemed originally
e. **it originally seemed they would**.

2) Researchers are finding out that plastics are taking more time to deteriorate than they originally seemed.

A) They originally seemed.
B) they seemed originally
C) it seemed that they would originally
D) it originally seemed
E) it originally seemed they would

From Kaplan: The Kaplan thing says about this. (About plastics)

'The tricky part is to choose between it and they. 'They' would imply that the plastics themselves first seemed to do one thing and then ended up doing another. **The expletive 'it'**, the pronoun with no clear antedecent - makes more sense, it simply suggests that initial indications were misleading. Using 'it', it is necessary to include the phrase 'they would' to make it clear what seemed to be the case. So E is the best answer.

Erin says: (About charter vacations)

B would need to be in past tense, *seemed*. In fact, I often teach GMAT and TOEFL students that the words *original* (and its derivations) and *first* usually require past tense.

Furthermore, the "past future" of *would* in E is more precise than the simple past in A (or that B is lacking, in case you're going to ask if B would be correct if we changed *seem* to *seemed*). Since we're talking about something we'd learn after a certain point in the past, *would* is better.

For example:

- This Acura is a lot better than I thought it would be.

is better than

- This Acura is a lot better than I thought it was.

This is an excellent notes by **psahil** who scored 770!

In the first example, we are saying that something turned out to be true. In the second example, we are saying that we were not aware of a fact that was true at that time.

And in the charter vacations question, there is no fact that the travelers were unaware of when they purchased the charter vacation--after the original purchase of the charter vacation (and probably toward the end of the vacation), the charter vacation turned out to be more costly than they had at first believed it would be.

It is as difficult to prevent crimes against property as <u>those that are against a</u> person.

    (A) those that are against a

    (B) those against a

    (C) it is against a

    (D) preventing those against a

    (E) it is to prevent those against a

Answer is E, for the expletive it.

Salt deposits and moisture threaten to destroy the Mohenjo-Daro excavation in Pakistan, the site of an ancient civilization <u>that flourished at the same time as the civilizations</u> in the Nile delta and the river valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates.

    (A) that flourished at the same time as the civilizations

    (B) that had flourished at the same time as had the civilizations

    (C) that flourished at the same time those had

    (D) flourishing at the same time as those did

    (E) flourishing at the same time as those were

A is the answer

Propositions:

During the recession of 1973, home mortgage foreclosures resulted in tens of thousands of Americans being evicted from homes <u>that they can</u> no longer afford monthly payments.

    (A) that they can

    (B) that they could

    (C) on which they can

    (D) because they can

    (E) for which they could

E is correct. B would need a for at the end. 'that they could no longer afford monthly payments for'.

USE of BEING

Framed by traitorous colleagues, Alfred Dreyfus was imprisoned for twelve years before <u>there was exoneration and his freedom</u>.

    (A) there was exoneration and his freedom
    (B) he was to be exonerated with freedom
    (C) being exonerated and freed
    (D) exoneration and his freedom
    (E) being freed, having been exonerated

C is correct. The main thing here is that we do **not** have the best option available to us:

before he was exonerated and freed

The second best option would be:

before being exonerated and freed

WHO v/s. THAT v/s. WHICH

Who refers to people. *That* and *which* refer to groups or thing(team, army etc. are referred to by that or which).

  Examples *Glen is the one **who** rescued the bird.*

*Georgia is on the team **that** won first place.*
*She belongs to an organization **that** specializes in saving endangered species.*

As a result of medical advances, many people <u>that might at one time have died as children</u> of such infections as diphtheria, pneumonia, or rheumatic fever now live well into old age.

    (A) that might at one time have died as children
    (B) who might once have died in childhood
    (C) that as children might once have died
    (D) who in childhood might have at one time died
    (E) who, when they were children, might at one time have died

People, so who is required. Hence B is the answer.

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