

GMAT Idiom List

a debate over	fascinated by
a lot	forbid X to do Y
a responsibility to	identical with
a result of	in contrast to
a sequence of	independent from
agree with	indifferent towards
as an instance of	modeled after
as good as/or better than	(no) more...than/(no) less...than
as great as	more than ever
as good as...or better than	neither...nor
as much as	not only...but also
attend to (someone)	not so much...as
attribute X to Y/X is attributed to Y	prohibits X from doing Y
based on	potential to
believe X to be Y	range from X to Y
both X and Y	regard as
centers on	regardless
concerned with	responsible for
conform to	resulting in
created with	retroactive to
defined as	so X as to be Y
depends on whether	so (adjective) that
depicted as	subscribe to
different from/differ from	such...as
distinguishes between X and Y	the same to X as to Y
distinguish from	to contrast X with Y
doubt that	to mistake X for Y
either...or	to result in
enable to	to sacrifice X for Y

A	
able + infinitive	Tom is able to play the guitar with his toes.
access to	Steve never has access to his dad's bank account .

as	Tom acts as a scout for GQ here in South America.
agree on + noun	We agreed on the plan.
agree on + gerund	We agreed on going to town.
agree to	We agreed to go away.
aid + person/thing	The magnifying glass aided his search.
allows for	Your schedule does not allow for much time.
appeal to	He wants to appeal to my good sense.
*as....as	She is as tired as I am.
ask + infinitive	He asked to go home.
ask + person + infinitive	He asked me to go home.
*associate with	We never associate with Steve – he is far too tacky!
*attribute to	His tackiness can be attributed to too many comic books as a child.
B	
*base on	I think that the movie Star Wars is based on a true story.
begin + infinitive	It soon began to rain.
boom in	There was a boom in the sale of yellow polka-dot bikinis as soon as Natalia Paris tried one on.
built by	The Avro Arrow was built by proud Canadians.
C	
care about	Who cares about that?
care for	I don't care for your tone.
centers on + person/thing	The story centers on the struggle for meaning in a chaotic universe.
choose + infinitive	I do it because I choose to do it.
to be + composed of + thing	The atom is composed of various parts.
consistent with	Your story is not consistent with Joel's story.
contend that	Joel contends that you are lying.
*consider + person/thing	I consider you a friend.
continue + infinitive	If you continue to do that we will not be friends.
contrast A with B	If you contrast Bill with you Bob, you find....
convert to	The new device will convert matter to energy.
*compare A to B	Caliban is compared to a beast in Shakespeare's The Tempest. (compare to stresses similarities).
*compare A with B	Compared with you, I cannot sing well at all. (compare with stresses differences).
*count on + person/thing	I count on you for the correct answers.
to credit with	Columbus is credited with discovering the Americas.

give credit for	I have to give you credit for working so hard.
D	
are in danger of + gerund	The robber was in danger of being captured.
decide + infinitive	We decided to leave the party early.
decide on + thing/person	We decided on the all-meat pizza.
delighted by	Steve was delighted by the new findings.
depend on	Steve depends on Joel for financial support.
*different from	Canadians are very different from Americans.
difficult + infinitive	Steve finds it difficult to dance to Latin music.
disclose to + person/organization	Joel decided to disclose to the world the truth about Steve's crazy ideas.
*distinguish between X and Y	I want to distinguish between London and Paris.
*distinguish X from Y	If you distinguish London from Paris....
draw on (take out)	Unlike Felix, Steve can draw on funds from Joel's bank account.
draw + thing	The tattoo artist drew a lovely flower on Joel's left bicep.
to be drawn to + thing/person	Women are drawn to Steve's bulging muscles.
*dream of/about	Natalia Paris often dreams about Steve.
dwindle from	Mr. Bolton's bank account dwindled from one thousand dollars to less than half that in less than a week.
E	
easy to	It's easy to see why Mark is so popular.
elect to	Mark will be elected to the Congress in 2016.
elect + person	We elected Steve as our office "gopher".
emerges from	The snail emerges from its shell.
*enable + person + infinitive	My job enables me to travel.
*encourage + person + infinitive	We encouraged him to paint.
escape from	Steve wishes to escape from grinding poverty.
to be + essential to + person/thing	Coffee is essential to me, especially in the morning.
except for + person/thing	Everyone is here except for the teacher.
except for + gerund	Except for being handsome, he wasn't very special.
explain to	Juan explained to Steve the difference between salsa and merengue.
expose to	Steve is exposed to intense ridicule every day of his life.
F	
fail to	We fail to see the humor in these sentences.
flee from	Steve fled from their sharp criticisms.
*forbid to	We forbid you to go.
force + thing/person + infinitive	This mishap forces me to plan ahead.

focus on + thing/person	I want to focus on our mutual problem.
G	
get credit for/give credit for	I have to give you credit for your good work.
grow from	Joel predicts that Test Tutor will grow from a small company to a major multinational within five years.
grow out of	Steve grew out of his overalls just last year.
H	
help + thing/person + infinitive	Music helps me to think.
I	
indicate that	Studies indicate that people with gray hair are smarter than the majority.
indicate to + person	Steve's constant worrying over his gray hair indicates to me a serious self-esteem problem.
inherit from	Steve inherits his gray hair from his mother's family.
invest in	Steve should invest in hair dye.
L	
leads to	Lack of exercise leads to obesity.
localized in	The pain is localized in my left foot.
M	
Manage to	You've managed to screw this up again, Steve.
*make + thing/person + verb (simple form)	Chocolate makes me think of Switzerland.
*mistake + thing/person + for	I'm sorry. I mistook you for someone else.
N	
*native to	Penguins are native to the Antarctic.
*a native of	Steve is a native of Canada.
need to	Steve needs to think of some better sentences.
to be + necessary + infinitive	It is necessary to be creative.
O	
Originate in	Liberalism, as we know it, originated in 17th century England.
P	
*permit + thing/person + infinitive	Money permits us to live a comfortable life.
prized as	Stephen is prized as a teacher in Bogota.
prized for	Stephen is prized for his ability to dance the salsa.
*prohibit from + gerund	In school, we were prohibited from fighting.
promise of + thing	The promise of success drove us to the mountain's peak.
promise to	I promise to tell the truth more often – I swear.

published by	Joel's first novel Love and the GMAT is published by ETS.
published in	Steve's first novel will be published in March.
R	
*range from X to Y	His clients range from multinationals to the smallest businesses.
refer to	I wish to refer to the latest work by Foucault....
*regard as	She is regarded as an expert.
require + thing/person + infinitive	My work requires me to travel.
resemble + thing/person	Steve resembles a young Charles Atlas.
results in	Rough play often results in injuries.
results from	Injuries often result from rough play.
rivalry between X and Y	The rivalry between Joel and Enrique Iglesias is legendary.
*the rivals X and Y	The rivals Enrique and Joel quarreled often.
S	
Save for	Save for that inconvenience, the trip was a success.
save from	They saved me from another boring party.
seek + infinitive	He seeks to save your soul.
seek + thing/person	I seek the truth.
seem + infinitive	You seem to be sleepy today.
sleep with	I can sleep with whoever I want!
speak to + person	I spoke to my secretary about the report I wanted.
speak with + person	I spoke with my colleague about the upcoming report.
T	
Take advantage of	Steve loves to take advantage of those around him.
teach + person + infinitive	She taught Jim to dance.
teach + person + thing	She taught Jim the lambada.
tell + person	She told him that he was a terrible dancer.
tie to	The rope is tied to the chair.
transmit to	We transmitted the e-mail to him.
U	
Use + person/thing + infinitive	I use a light to read.
used + infinitive	Years ago, he used to walk every day to work.
to be + used to + gerund	He is used to walking to work.
<u>W</u>	
to be + willing + infinitive	Fortunately, he was willing to help us.

The bare minimum that you should do is make sure that you are familiar with all those marked with *. This page would certainly be worth printing out to have to hand when you are practising GMAT questions. Remember to add

any other idiomatic expressions.

IIa GMAT idioms

Differ from	X is related to Y(not X is in realtion to Y)
Regard as(to be regarded as)	Discourage from
“Consider” never takes “to be” on the GMAT?	Like to be at?
dispute whether(not”if”)	Respond to
They do not know X or Y(not “nor”)	Be encouraged by
Do something at the urging of somebody	Require that something be (not “are/is”)
To be under pressure to	Request that
Just as,,,,,so	The body did as he was told(not”like”)
Forbid to : prohibit from	As far/long as
So,,,,,as to –so large as to equal	For millenium(not “during” millenium)
To have potential to	As much with X as with Y
So as not to be hindered by	Enough that
Insist that	Need for
Capable of	Which compiled with standards

PR Idioms

Not so much ,, as	A debate over	As good as, or better than
Defined as	A responsibility to	Attribute to
Regard as	Responsible for	Credited with
Modeled after	A consequence of	Different from
Based on	So ,,, as to be	Depicted as
A result of	So (adjective)that	To result in