

PAPGUST'S GMAT FLASH CARDS

SENTENCE CORRECTION

Source: BEAT THE GMAT (link: <http://j.mp/nyf8X8>)

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- "**Gotten**" is often used as the past participle of "get" instead of "got" in American English. "Gotten" is used to express a status/possession.

Examples:

*I haven't yet **gotten** myself an iPod*

*Have you **gotten** your homepage updated?*

- "**Collective Nouns**" such as a group (of things), a crowd (of people), a herd (of cattle), a flock (of sheep), a regiment (of soldiers) etc. are usually SINGULAR and they take a SINGULAR VERB.

Examples:

*A crowd of people **has** gathered.*

*A flock of sheep **was** grazing.*

EXCEPTIONS:

If the members of the group are taken individually, then a PLURAL VERB may be used.

Example:

*The audience **are** requested to leave by the nearest exit --* Groups of people take the nearest exit. They are not considered as a single group. So, we use a plural verb.

- "**Class Nouns**" such as Clothing, Food, Furniture, Apparel, Hardware, Equipment, Software etc. are always SINGULAR and must therefore take a SINGULAR verb.
- "**A pair of**" when applied to things where two components are always thought of together (such as Scissors, Shoes, Gloves etc.) is SINGULAR.

Examples:

*That pair of scissors **belongs** to me.
Not a single pair of socks **was** clean.*

If you **omit** "pair of" and merely use the plural word, then it must take a PLURAL verb.

Examples:

*Those scissors **belong** to me.
His trousers **were** well-tailored.*

- "**Much**" in the beginning of the sentence implies SINGULARITY. Because Much is an expression of **quantity**. Much is used with uncountable nouns.

Example:

*Much of the news published today **is** exaggerated.*

- Following pronouns always implies SINGULARITY,
 1. Each
 2. Everybody
 3. Everyone
 4. Nobody
 5. Someone
 6. Somebody

- The phrases "*together with*", "*Along with*", "*As well as*" have a similar meaning to the conjunction "**AND**", but they do not work the same as "**AND**".

Examples:

John, along with Lina, was walking.

The teacher, along with the students, was having a meal.

- Quantity words - Singular OR Plural?

1. For pronouns such as "All", "Some", "Any", "Most", "None" (SANAM), determine whether the pronoun referring to something is COUNTABLE or not. If it is COUNTABLE, the sentence takes PLURAL verb. If it is NOT COUNTABLE, the sentence takes SINGULAR verb.

Examples:

*Some of the **students** in the class **have** taken exam.* -- Students are COUNTABLE.

Hence, it takes plural verb "have"

*Some of the **grain** was ruined in floods.* -- Grain is NOT COUNTABLE. Hence, it takes singular verb "was".

2. With fractional expressions, determine verb by what is being measured: COUNTABLE or NOT.

Examples:

*Three-fifths of the **students** in the class **have** taken their exams.* -- Students are COUNTABLE. Hence, it takes plural verb "have"

*Half of the **grain** was lost* -- Grain is NOT COUNTABLE. Hence, it takes singular verb "was".

- **Either-Or and Neither-Nor:**

The subject that is closer to the verb determines the number (singular or plural form) of the verb.

Examples:

*Neither the **President** nor his **ministers** were in favor of the war.* -- verb is closer to the subject "ministers" (plural). Hence, verb is also PLURAL.

*Neither the **ministers** nor the **President** was in favor of the war.* -- verb is closer to the subject "President" (singular). Hence, verb is also SINGULAR.

Either and Neither: (Without Or and Nor)

ALWAYS SINGULAR.

- **Quantity Words:**

Two Items More than two items

Between Among

More Most

Better Best

Less Least

Used with Used with

Countable Items Uncountable items

Fewer Less

Number Amount, Quantity

Many Much

- **Relative Pronouns:**

Such pronouns refer to something already mentioned in the sentence.

"Who", "Whom" --> People

"Which" --> Things

"That" --> People/Things

"Whose" --> Who or What something belongs to

- Reciprocal Pronouns:

"Each other" --> Indicates 2 members of a group.

"One another" --> Indicates more than 2 members of a group.

- When the subject is "THERE":

The verb agrees with the 'real' subject that follows it.

Examples:

There is no reason to doubt his sincerity -- The verb "is" refers to "reason"

There are thirty pupils in our class -- The verb "are" refers to "pupils"

- **Two or more Nouns:**

When a subject consists of two or more nouns, it is treated the same as a PLURAL NOUN and takes a PLURAL VERB.

Example:

*John and Mary **have** gone for a holiday.*

EXCEPTIONS:

To name a few,

"Bread and Butter" --> SINGULAR

"Eggs and Bacon" --> SINGULAR

- Following ADJECTIVES are seldom or never placed after the noun,

Afraid

Alight

Alone

Asleep

Awake

Aware

- Following ADJECTIVES are never placed immediately after the verb,

Nuclear

Atomic

Cubic

Digital

Medical

Phonetic

Chief

Entire

Initial

Main

Whole

Eventual

Occasional

Maximum

Minimum

Underlying

- "Fairly" Vs "Rather":

Fairly:

- Used only before positive-tone adverbs and adjectives. Denote something that is considered desirable or is viewed with approval

Examples:

*The lecture was **fairly** interesting and was **fairly** attended. -- RIGHT!*

*The lecture was **fairly** boring and was **fairly** badly attended. -- WRONG! Never use 'fairly' in a negative sense.*

Rather:

- Used for things either desirable or undesirable.

Example:

*The lecture was **rather** boring and was **rather** badly attended. -- RIGHT!*

Differences:

- 'Rather' can be used before comparatives whereas 'fairly' cannot be used.

*I'm feeling **rather better** today*

- 'Rather' is used as an adverb of degree before verbs that express a feeling or an attitude of mind, whereas 'fairly' cannot be used in such a way.

*I **rather** wish I had taken your advice.*

- Possessive cases (- 's) is used only with the names of living things.

Examples:

The president's bodyguard -- RIGHT!

The table's leg -- WRONG! Rather it should be "The leg of the table"

- **Comparative Adjectives** such as "Inferior", "Superior", "Prior", "Anterior", "Posterior", "Senior", "Junior" - are followed by the preposition "to" and NOT "than".

- When "**Each**" and "**Every**" follows a subject, it has no bearing on the verb form.

Example:

*They **each** are great tennis players* -- "Each" follows "They" (Subject). But "Each" does not play the role of determining the verb "are". Only the subject has the role to determine.

- "**The number of**" --> Takes a SINGULAR verb
- "**A number of**" --> Takes a PLURAL verb
- "**The numbers of**" --> NEITHER singular NOR plural. It is WRONG.

- **Phrase/Clause as SUBJECT:**

The subject of a sentence is sometimes an entire phrase/clause. However, they are ALWAYS SINGULAR and require only SINGULAR VERBS.

Examples:

Having good experience in a field does bring in great opportunities.

Whatever they want to do is fine with me.

- **Split Infinitive Error:**

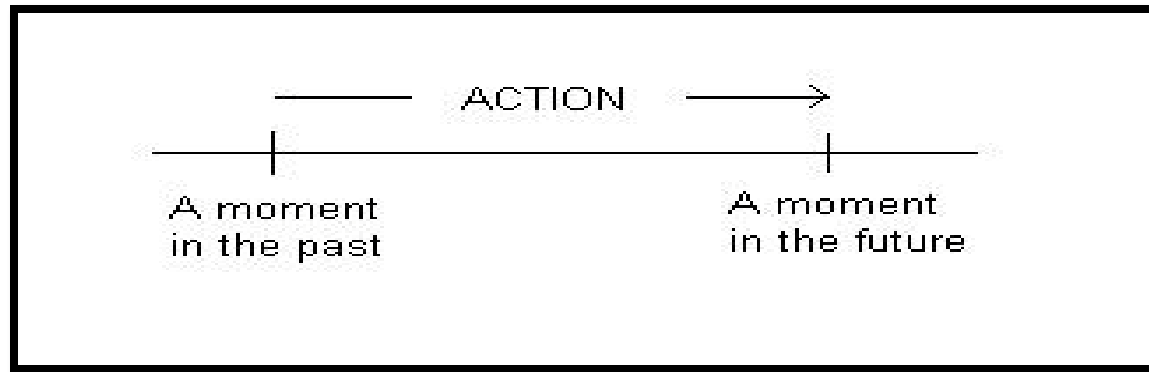
Avoid sentences that insert word(s) between "to" and the verb.

Examples:

I need you to quickly run out of the house. -- WRONG!

I need you to run quickly out of the house. -- RIGHT!

- **Present Perfect**: ("Action still going...")



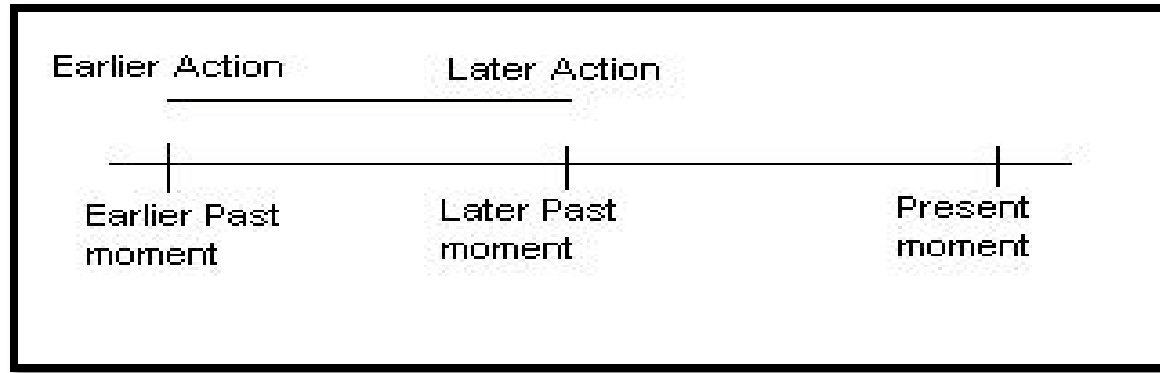
Present Perfect = HAVE/HAS + Past Participle

Examples:

*We **have lived** in a little hut for three days.*

*Our country **has enforced** strict laws for thirty years.*

- **Past Perfect:** ("Earlier Action...")



- If, Earlier Action ==> Then, use PAST PERFECT
If, Later Action ==> Then, use SIMPLE PAST

Past Perfect = HAD + Past Participle

Examples:

She only understood the movie because she had read the book. -- Earlier and Later Actions

You had studied English before you moved to New York. -- Earlier and Later Actions

- **If-Then Clause Rules:**

IF CLAUSE	THEN CLAUSE
PRESENT	WILL + BASE Verb
PAST	WOULD/COULD + BASE Verb
PAST PERFECT	WOULD/COULD + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

- **Examples:**

*If John **arrives**, we **will** start* -- Present (If Clause). WILL + Base Verb (Then Clause).

*If John **arrived**, we **would** start* -- Past (If Clause). Would + Base Verb (Then Clause).

*If John **had arrived**, we **would have** started* -- Past Perfect (If Clause). Would + HAVE + Past Participle (Then Clause).

Key Points to Remember:

1. "Would" and "Could NEVER appear in the IF Clause.
2. The verb "was" NEVER appears in the IF Clause because of subjunctive mood.

- **Possessive Pronouns:**

Possessive Pronouns can refer back to ONLY Possessive nouns.

Subject and Object Pronouns can refer back to ONLY Subject and Objects nouns respectively. (NOT Possessive Nouns)

Example:

*Jose's room is so messy that **his** mother calls **him** a pig -- WRONG! "Him" (Object Pronoun) refers to Jose's (Possessive Noun).*

*Jose's room is so messy that **his** mother calls **Jose** a pig -- RIGHT!*

- The pronoun governing a **gerund** should be put in the possessive case.

Examples:

*Please excuse **my** being late. -- It must be the possessive case "my" and NOT "me".*

*It is of no use **your** saying so. -- "your" and NOT "you".*

- **Relative Pronouns:**

Modifying phrases are often introduced by relative pronouns such as "which", "that", "where", "who", "whom", "whose".

"Which"

1. Introduce NON-ESSENTIAL modifiers.
2. Introduce phrases that modify things.

"That"

1. Introduce ESSENTIAL modifiers.
2. Modify either people OR things.

"Who"

1. Introduce either ESSENTIAL or NON-ESSENTIAL modifiers.
2. Modify a person or a group of people.

- **Pronoun WHICH:**

"**Which**" is used as a relative pronoun **ONLY** to refer to the **NOUN** immediately preceding it.

In other words, "**Which**", by default, refers to the noun that is closest to the left of the comma.

WHAT TO DO if "**Which**" seems to refer to the action of the preceding clause??

Do one of the following,

- (i) Link "which" properly to an antecedent **NOUN**.
- (ii) Rework the sentence to avoid its use entirely.

- "**Majority**" should be used ONLY with COUNTABLE nouns.

Examples:

*The **majority** of the **students** have bunked today's class.* -- CORRECT! Students is a countable noun.

*The **majority** of the **world** is covered with water.* -- WRONG! world is an uncountable noun.

- **"Compare to" Vs "Compare with":**

"**Compare to**" is to suggest resemblances between things that have essentially DIFFERENT natures.

"**Compare with**" is to suggest resemblances between things that have essentially SIMILAR natures.

Examples:

*In appearance, ripples in ocean water can be **compared to** frosting spread on a cake.* -- Both sides of the comparison are totally different.

*Despite their different capacities, RAM can be **compared with** ROM in that both involve memory storage.* -- Both sides of the comparison belong to a similar category

- "Due to":

"Due to" means "caused by".

"Due to" does not mean the same thing as "because of". "Due to" should only be used if it can be substituted by "caused by".

- "Agree with" Vs "Agree to":

The difference is very simple.

"Agree with" -- *A person*

"Agree to" -- *An inanimate thing*

- "During" + Time Period is WRONG in construction.

Examples:

During two hours, I felt sleepy -- WRONG!

During the last two hours, I felt sleepy -- CORRECT!

- -- IMPORTANT --

Myth of "One of.."

1. One of the X's that/who <plural>
2. One of the X's <singular>
3. Only one of the X's <singular>
4. Only one of the X's that/who <plural>
5. The only one of the X's that/who <singular>

- Double Object ERROR:

"... *the ball, which I am hoping to hit*" -- CORRECT!

"... *the ball, which I am hoping to hit it*" -- WRONG! You cannot have a double object - 'ball' and 'it'.

- "Degree to which"
"Extent of"

are IDIOMATIC.

- -- **MOST IMPORTANT** --

Before starting modifiers, just a short note of what are concrete nouns and abstract nouns (For folks who are not aware).

Concrete Nouns are something physical. They can be touched, felt, smelt, taste, or be heard.

Abstract Nouns are anything that one cannot see, hear, touch, smell, or taste.

- "Misty" Modifiers:

1. **Modifier (COMMA + ABSTRACT NOUN)** can be used to refer back to the **whole idea** of the preceding clause.

E.g.: "*Recent studies have shown that X is 60 percent of Y, a **finding** that shocked many.*" -- "Finding" is an ABSTRACT noun that refers back to the idea of the preceding clause. "Which" is INAPPROPRIATE here because it will directly modify only Y.

- 2. **Modifier (COMMA + -ING)** is an adverbial modifier that modifies the **entire clause** to which it's attached and is attributed to the **subject** of that clause.

In other words, if the modifier answers the question "**How?**" about a verb, then it is an adverbial modifier.

Adverbial Modifiers need not touch the word being modified.

E.g.: *"The British policymakers raised interest rates, making it more expensive for businesses and consumers to borrow"*

- 3. **Modifier (COMMA + CONCRETE NOUN)** is normally used to refer to the preceding noun (Very similar to "which").

E.g.: *"James went for dinner with Mr. Easton, a consultant from the west end"* -- "consultant" is a concrete noun referring "Mr. Easton".

- You CANNOT use "When" unless you are literally talking about the timeframe in which an event takes place.
- **"Tell X and Y apart"** is basically the same as **"Distinguish X from Y"**.
- "Seven-day Minimum" is awkward by GMAT Standards. Also, "two-year low level" is awkward.
"Minimum of seven days" is a better construction.
- **"X because of Y"** means that action Y was the cause of action X.
Action Y is NOT the same as Action X.

- "Even as":

"Even as" is a transition used to imply simultaneity and is usually used with parallel tenses (i.e. same tense in both parts of the parallel structure).

Example:

*Even as his income **has increased**, Joe **has continued** to feel less satisfied.* --
Maintains same tenses on both sides.

- "Namely":

"Namely" must be used either before a **noun** or before a **noun phrase/clause**.

You **CANNOT** use it directly before an independent clause such as "... *namely they vary considerably...*" -- which is absolutely **WRONG!**

However, "... *namely **that** they vary considerably ..*" and "*namely considerable variation*" are both fine.

- "That X does Y" is a noun clause and can function as a noun.

Indeed, it is the SUBJECT of the sentence.

- "Twice as many as":

"..., twice as many as ..." is an APPOSITIVE modifier. Appositives must modify some noun that comes **immediately** before the comma.

NOTE:

If you have an appositive modifier as an ABSTRACT NOUN - such as "strategy", "figure", "statistic", "findings", "situation", "change", "difference" etc. - then such an appositive may be **allowed** to describe the entire situation described in the preceding clause.

Examples:

"... rose sharply in 1990, **twice as many as** ..." -- WRONG!!

"... rose sharply in 1990, **doubling** the increase of the previous year." -- RIGHT!!

- "However", "Therefore", "Furthermore", "Nevertheless" etc. CANNOT be used as conjunctions in American English.

Examples:

X is Y, however A is B -- WRONG! It's a run-on sentence.

X is Y; However, A is B -- RIGHT!

- "The reason for X is that .. "
"The way to X is to VERB .. "
"The problem is that .. "
"Conceive of X as Y ... "

are ALL **IDIOMATIC**.

- "The new law makes it a crime to <do>".
"The new law makes it a crime for <someone> to <do something>".
"The new law makes <something> a crime".

are ALL **CORRECT**.

- We can say "*a projected decline of..*".
Also, "*.. is projected to decline by ..*".

But NOT, "*a projected decline at ...*".

- "**Making do without**" is correct English. One would use the phrase when speaking in the past continuous.

Example:

"*We were **making do without** power during the blackout*".

It's a bit more common to use "**made do without**".

Example:

"*My family was quite poor, so we **made do without** luxuries*".

- **LIKE / AS RULE:**

You make comparisons with **LIKE** when you compare nouns, or noun phrases (i.e., anything that doesn't have a VERB).

EXCEPTION:

Prepositional phrases take "As".

Note that there may be modifiers attached to these nouns. If there are, don't care. Modifiers are disposable.

You make comparisons with **AS** when you compare clauses (things that have real VERBS), or prepositional phrases.

NOTE: When you're deciding whether something is a clause or just a noun phrase, remember that **-ING FORMS DO NOT COUNT AS VERBS** (unless there's a helping verb attached to them).

- LIKE / AS RULE – EXAMPLES:

*"Those babies are cute, **like** little pandas sliding down rainbows"* -- CORRECT!

Note that:

- * "sliding" is NOT a verb.

- * "sliding down rainbows" is a modifier, and thus doesn't have to be considered in the grammar of the sentence.

*"Those babies are cute, **as** are little pandas that slide down rainbows"* -- CORRECT!

- * "are" is a verb, so this is a clause.

- * "that slide..." DOES NOT count, since it's part of a modifier.

*"Those babies are cute, **like** little pandas that slide down rainbows"* -- CORRECT!

- * "little pandas" is a noun.

- * "that slide..." DOES NOT count, since it's part of a modifier.

*"Our family lives on a farm now, **as** in the 19th century."* -- CORRECT!

Prepositional phrases take "as"

- Compared to/with for STATISTICS:

If you say "**compared with/to**" for statistics, you should cite **BOTH** statistics in the comparison.

The expression "compared to/with" does NOT imply any sort of direction to the comparison; i.e., it gives no hint as to greater/less/like/unlike. Therefore, you need to give both of the relevant statistics, or else the statement won't make any sense.

Examples:

*"The unemployment rate in Estonia last month was 5.3%, **compared to** the rate in Kurdistan."* -- INCORRECT! This makes no sense. We have absolutely no idea what is going on with the rate in Kurdistan.

*"The unemployment rate in Estonia last month was 5.3%, **compared to** a rate of 7% in Kurdistan."* -- CORRECT!

Both statistics are cited.

- "In contrast to":

If you say "**in contrast to**", then you **don't HAVE** to mention both statistics... Although you still can mention.

Examples:

"In contrast to the corresponding rate in Estonia, the unemployment rate in Kurdistan fell last month." -- CORRECT! In this case, the "in contrast to" construction implies that the Estonian rate went up. We don't actually have to say this explicitly.

But, if you want, you can mention both statistics:

"In contrast to the corresponding rate in Estonia, which rose by 0.5%, the unemployment rate in Kurdistan fell by 0.3% last month." -- ALSO CORRECT!

- "By Time":

In clauses modified with "by TIME", you should use:

i. **Past Perfect** (had VERBed) if the time marker is in the past.

ii. **Present Perfect** (has/have VERBed) if the time marker is "by now" / current.

iii. **Future Perfect** (will have VERBed) if the time marker is in the future.

- Usage of "COULD":

"Could" is a modal expressing past (potential) ability.

If something is **assumed** in the PAST, then the usage of "Could" is **appropriate**. In other words, it is used to refer to the "Future in the PAST".

If it is "**ongoing**", then "Could" **CANNOT** be used.

- When you have "**NUMBER + UNIT of MEASURE**", you should use the terms that are normally reserved for uncountable.

Examples:

"I am less than 6 feet tall".

"Some of the books cost as little as \$2".

- You DON'T say "dated to be..."

You ONLY say "**dated at**"

- **PLACEMENT OF HELPING VERBS:**

If you have a parallel structure, then

* If you have an **UNMODIFIED second noun**, then the helping verb can go BEFORE OR AFTER that noun.

E.g.:

*"My roommate likes to drink vodka, as my best friend **does**."*

*"My roommate likes to drink vodka, as **does** my best friend."*

-- Both are correct (because "best friend" is unmodified). In these cases, you'll normally place the helping verb after the noun (see #85 in OG11 / #89 in OG12), but it's also ok before the noun.

* If you have a **MODIFIED second noun**, then the helping verb **MUST GO BEFORE** that noun.

E.g.:

*"My roommate likes to drink vodka, as **does** my best friend, who was born and raised in Finland."* --> Correct

*"My roommate likes to drink vodka, as my best friend, who was born and raised in Finland, **does**."* --> Incorrect (you can't use a long modifier to separate the noun from the verb)

- You **CANNOT** end a modifier with a preposition.

Examples:

"dioxins that north Americans are exposed to" -- INCORRECT.

"dioxins to which north Americans are exposed" -- CORRECT.

- "**X's rate of Y**" is better than "the rate of X's Y".

Example:

"Salesman X's rate of success" is BETTER than *"the rate of Salesman X's success"*.

- "Mideast immigrants" is WRONG.

"Immigrants from the Mideast" is BETTER. "Mideast" CANNOT be used as an adjective of nationality. For the same reason, you CANNOT say "Asia People" in place of "People from Asia".

- "Greater than" Vs "More than":

"Greater than" --> When describing numbers alone

"More than" --> When describing the numbers of objects OR
When making comparisons.

- **--[IMPORTANT]--**

"Would" Vs "Will":

"Would" is the past tense of "Will".

(i) If you are talking about predicting or expecting an event that still lies in the **future**, then you use "**WILL**".

(ii) If you are talking about a **PAST PREDICTION** or expectation of an event whose timeframe has **ALREADY PASSED**, then you use "**WOULD**".

- "*A substance to promote*" is UNIDIOMATIC.

Substance --> Concrete Noun

Promote --> Verb

"**A NOUN TO VERB**" is CORRECT ONLY when Noun is **ABSTRACT**.

Examples:

"*A way to produce goods*"

"*A reason to try harder*"

"*A substance to promote X*" --> WRONG! "Substance" is a concrete noun.

"*A substance that promotes X*" --> CORRECT!

"*A tool to install the shelves*" --> WRONG! "Tool" is a concrete noun.

"*A tool with which to install the shelves*" --> CORRECT!

- "**Awareness of**" is the CORRECT idiom.
"Awareness about" is WRONG.

"**Correlates with**" is RIGHT.
"Correlates to" is WRONG.

"**Decided that**" is RIGHT.
"Decided on" is WRONG.

"**Made possible by**" is RIGHT.
"Made possible because of" is WRONG.

- "**Inevitable**":

"*It was inevitable that I would miss my bus*" -- RIGHT!

"*It was inevitable of me to miss my bus*" -- WRONG!

- "Twice":

"Twice" CANNOT function as an object of the preposition such as "by".

"Twice" is an adverb.

Example:

"... increased *by* more than *twice* .." -- WRONG!

- On a similar note, "**DOUBLE**" is an adjective and cannot modify verb, but since "**Twice**" is an adverb it can modify Verb.

Example:-

The same amount of acreage produces double the apple.... -- WRONG

The same amount of acreage produces twice as many apples..... --

CORRECT

- "Estimate .. ":

"Estimate NJ deer population to have grown" is UNIDIOMATIC.

In general,

"Estimate X to have VERB'ed" is WRONG.

"Estimate that X has VERB'ed" is RIGHT.

- "Rather than" Vs "Instead of":

"Rather than" is preferable to use for VERBS.

"Instead of" is preferable to use for NOUNS.

- In general, "FISH" is PLURAL.

If "Fish" is attached with articles such as "a" or "the", then it is SINGULAR.

- "X **was** *more concentrated than* Y"

When Y uses a past tense, "was" (a past tense) must be used by X.
MAINTAIN PARALLELISM b/w X and Y including TENSES.

- "**Maybe**" and "**Perhaps**" are INTERCHANGEABLE.

"Perhaps" is slightly more formal.

- "double **what it was** in 1977".

"what it was" is awkward, wordy and unclear according to GMAT standards.

- **AVOID DUPLICATION:**

"... *in the past* would have conceded *previously* to rivals".

"Previously" repeats the idea of "in the past". WRONG!!

- "**Although**" typically introduce a subordinate clause that has a SUBJECT and a VERB.

- "**In Japan, unlike the United States ...** "

"**In Japan**" MUST be balanced by "**in** the United States" to maintain parallelism.

BUT, the preposition "in" CANNOT follow the preposition "Unlike".
Therefore, this construction is ALSO awkward and imprecise.

- **"Contrast":**

Correct idioms for contrasts:

- * In contrast to X, Y
- * In contrast with X, Y
- * Unlike X, Y

-- X and Y must be **grammatically** and **logically parallel**.

Incorrect Idiom:

- * As contrasted with X, Y

- **"are in danger"** is ALWAYS followed by "of".

Incorrect Idioms:

- * "are in danger to"
- * "have a danger"

- "*seem to indicate that ..*" is a PROPER idiom.
"*seem as if ...*" is correct in SOME contexts.
"*X as much as Y*" is a PROPER idiom.
- "*Not so much as*" is another PROPER idiom used ONLY in the **negative contexts**.

E.g.:

"Not so much as a whisper was heard from the crowd"

Incorrect Idioms:

- * "So much/many as"
- * "As much/many that"
- * "So much/many that"

- "So X that Y ... "

-- Y is a sub-ordinate clause that **explains/describes** X.

- "*X happened so that Y could happen*"

"So" introduces a clause of **purpose/result**, explaining the reason for the action in the main clause.

Other alternatives of construction:

* "X .. in order to Y"

* "X.. in order that Y *may/might* ... " -- "Would" CANNOT come in place of "may/might".

- "In that":

"In that" is a conjunction that means "inasmuch as". "In that" has largely gone out of use. It is considered stilted and overly formal.

Avoid such usage when a better word is available.

- "Restrictions **on**"
and NOT "Restrictions for"

- Aggravate Vs Aggravating:

Aggravate --> to make worse

Aggravating --> widely interpreted to mean "annoying". Use it based on the context of the sentence.

- "Act like" Vs "Act as":

Act is followed by "like" to mean -- "to behave or comport oneself" and describes the **action of a person**.

"Act as" describes the **function of a thing**.

- When "**doubt**" is used in a NEGATIVE CONTEXT such as "there is NO doubt" OR "he does NOT doubt", it should be followed by "that".

In other contexts, "whether"/"If" should be used to introduce a clause following "doubt".

E.g.: *I doubt whether he will come.*

- "As a means to" is the CORRECT idiom.

Incorrect Idioms:

- * "As a means of"
- * "As a means for"

- Both forms are correct -

"attributes X (an effect) to Y (a cause)" -- [Active Voice]

"X (an effect) is attributed by Y (a cause)" -- [Passive Voice]

Incorrect form:

*"X is attributed **as** the cause of Y"*

- **Subjunctive mood** is required when a subordinate clause beginning with "that" follows a verb such as request, require, ask, or mandate.
- Two clauses connected by a sub-ordinate conjunction such as "Although" - must be parallel **including tenses**.
- "**Limitations**" is a countable quantity. So it must be modified by "**FEWER**" and NOT by "less".

- "*Just as X, so Y*" is the CORRECT construction where X and Y must be grammatically PARALLEL elements.
- **How to transform a participle to a NOUN form:**

A participle such as "Splitting" could be transformed into a gerund (or Noun form) by adding an article such as "the" to precede the word "splitting". So, "The Splitting" now act as a noun rather than as a participle.

- **Predictions:**

Predictions are made using the constructions,

- i. "*Y will happen if X happens first*".
- ii. "*If X happens, Y will happen*".

Main clause **MUST** use the future tense (Y will happen) and **NOT** the conditional (Y would happen).

- "*Can potentially*" is redundant.

- **"Think of X as Y"** is the CORRECT idiom.

Incorrect Idioms:

1. "Think of X to be Y"
2. "Think of X being Y"

- **"Manage"** --> Intended meaning is "Manage an outcome".

Examples:

"Manage excellent scores" --> CORRECT.

"Manage to get excellent scores" --> WRONG.

- **"Walk through"** (a narrow lane/path)

"Walk into" (a small/confined space/room)

- For **Hypothetical words** (such as "Hope" etc.), words like "would"/"could" should follow them [These words imply < 100%].

Words (such as "will" or "should") should NEVER follow them.

- **"Thought that"** --> Signals probability. So, the verb that follows should be **"would"**.

Probability --> "would"

Possibility --> "Could"

- **"In the middle of"** [Place/Time]

"In the midst of" [Sequence/Peripherals]

"Amidst the" [Circumstances/Environs]

- **"Concerned with"** --> related to <something>

"Concerned about" --> caring for / worried about

- For measurements (such as amount, quantity), use "**twice**" or **similar** kind of words for comparison. DO NOT use "double" or similar kind of words.
- "Prohibiting X from doing Y" is the CORRECT idiom or "Forbids X to do Y" is the CORRECT idiom.

Incorrect Idioms:

- 1. "Prohibiting X to accept Y"
- 2. "Prohibiting that X accept Y"
- 3. "Bans that X cannot be accepted"
- 4. "Bans that X cannot accept"