

**Most of the SC notes that I have compiled
are from different forums, books and
sources.**

**Many of the notes are written in short
hand. But in general I believe these notes
will help the community in large.**

**Best luck with the use of these notes and
nail the SC section, ☺**

**Best regards,
Indian Tiger in Germany!**

Grammar:

Clause: Sentence containing subject, verb and object – can be dependant or independent

Phrase: Sentence without subject or verb or both

Gerund: Verb ending in “ing” form and acting as a noun

Gerunds are used when the action performed is real

Participle: Verb end in “ing” or “ed” and acting as an adjective

Infinitive: to + verb and acts as a noun, adjective or adverb

Infinitives are used when the action is fictional or will occur in future.

Transitive verb: Requires an object to complete its meaning. Eg John kicked the ball

Intransitive verb: Doesn't require an object to complete its meaning. Eg. John talked

Appositive: Noun used to modify a noun

Possesives: 's (singular) and s' (plural)

Everyday Vs Every day:

Everyday – Adjective, synonym: Ordinary or common place

Every day – Adverbial phrase; implies something happens everyday

Prepositions Vs Conjunctions:

How to know if its preposition or conjunction –

Split sentences and check both sentences

If dependant then preposition

If independent then conjunction

Sentences can end with prepositions!

Farther Vs Further

Farther – Distance ; Further – Degree that cant be quantified

Rather Than Vs Instead of

Rather than – preference ; Instead of – replace one with another, noun follows immediately

Advice (Noun) Vs Advise (Verb)

Agree with Vs Agree to

Agree with “noun” and Agree to “do something”

Shall - is used only for Subject “I”

How to use as such : Clause 1 and as such Clause 2

Skill is a countable and uncountable noun

Reduction IN (result of reduction) Vs Reduction OF (decrease in %)

May (specific) Vs Might (intangible, past tense)

Crises is plural of Crisis

“That which” means That that

Idiom:

“Dated at” NOT “Dated to be”

Apprenticeship AS

Credit for (in return of cash) Vs Credit with (give ownership) Vs Credit X to Y (give money to)

Concerned for (someone) Vs Concerned with (in relation to)

Persuaded X to do Y

Aggravate (worsen) Vs aggravating (irritating)

Known as (named) Vs known to be (acknowledged as)

Loss of (no longer in possession of) Vs Loss in (decline in value)

Mandate (Command) Vs have a mandate (have authority from voters)

Native of (person from) Vs Native to (species that originated in)

Range of (variety of) Vs ranging (varying)

Rate of (Speed or frequency of) Vs rates for (prices for)

Rise (general increase) Vs Raise (salary increase)

Try to do (seek to accomplish) Vs try doing (experiment with)

In addition to X, Y or In addition to X, I like Y - both forms valid

Descendant of is correct

How to eliminate close options:

Change of location of words

Check redundancy

When we use a conditional like "if", we should just use the regular present tense

A preposition is always followed by a "noun". It is never followed by a verb.

Present Participle: A technique alleviating pain is growing popular

Infinitive: A technique to alleviate pain is growing popular

The 2nd sentence means that you or someone can alleviate pain by means of this technique. In other words, technique is not meant to be the subject of the action alleviate.

Major difference that I can posit between "can" and "has/have the ability..." is that the latter is generally used only for humans or other living animals, while "can" can be used either for humans/animals or for inanimate objects.

To check role of AS for comparison: AS can appear with "SO", "JUST" and "SO TOO"

Check if we have the word order of subject before verb

Check concision (last resort)

Use TIMES and ASAS... together to indicate multiplication of quantities

Double Vs Twice:

Double acts as verb

Twice X is wrong (X being noun) ; Twice the number of X is correct

Double as much or Double as many is wrong

here's the basic idea:

if you say "twice as many", then this construction should be paired with a countable noun.

e.g., twice as many dogs --> "dogs" is a countable noun

if you said "twice as much", then this construction should be paired with an uncountable noun.

e.g., twice as much water --> "water" is an uncountable noun

if the noun in question is already an explicitly numerical quantity, then you should use neither "much" nor "many". instead, you should just use "twice" or "double" by itself.

e.g., twice the increase --> "increase" is an explicitly numerical quantity

these rules are followed pretty closely.

so, for instance:

twice as much water --> correct, since "water" is an uncountable noun (but is not an explicitly numerical quantity)

twice the water... --> incorrect, since water is not a numerical quantity

twice as much as the increase... --> incorrect; redundant

twice the increase... --> correct.

"twice of" is always wrong

"Noun, twice as many as" is correct usage. Otherwise it's wrong

As + Adjective + As + Noun or Phrase or clause

"greater than" is preferred when we talk about numbers alone.

"More than" is preferred when we compare things or describe number of objects.

Less is used to describe uncountable nouns, sums of money, periods of time and distance, and citations of numerical/statistical data.

"to do it" or "to do that" is almost always incorrect..the correct diction is "to do so"

Check fragment – Either subject or verb is missing

Which is used before a noun after a comma. If not then it can start a clause and needs to have a verb.

“So as to” is incorrect. So **adjective** as to **verb** is correct.

Try to find the subject – eliminate all prepositional phrases, eliminate subordinate clauses, eliminate modifiers

Check tense – active or passive. Is it who does what (active) or Is what was done by whom (passive)

Being < Since < Because

Semi Colon (;) connects two independent clauses

The number – singular

A number – Plural

We can use conjunctive adverb or other transition expression, such as HOWEVER, THEREFORE or IN ADDITION

“because of” should be followed by a noun or clause beginning with noun.

Usage of being:

If it expresses characteristic or identity of subject then kill it

Check whether the sentence works without “being” – litmus test

If being used as gerund then consider it. Eg. Being genetically engineered does not make a plant die.

“X” does not make - remember this flow.

Sentence starting with hopefully is mostly wrong

Use ‘should’ to denote suggestion or recommendation. Never use ‘should’ along with verbs such as ‘recommend’, ‘suggest’, etc.

If we use the pronoun “Not one” then its always singular verb

Whom is better after preposition then Who

THAT always refer to a subject

NOUN + be verb + Noun

Never mix “you” and “one” in the same sentence

Double negative is not an option

To compare something to itself, use "it" or "they".

To compare one thing to another, use "that" or "those".

Subject Phrases and Clauses are always singular:

There – refers to a place

“There were” or “There were” – used only to point out something about a particular location (There were two cars in the street) or postulating something (There are two solutions)

A sequence of verbs with same subject doesn’t require past perfect

Clauses linked by BUT & AND don’t need past perfect as a general rule

If since is used then check for present perfect tense

If When is used meaning “after” in the sentence then present perfect tense can be used

Always precede the “to + verb” with “in order” to check the sense of the sentence

Which only refers to the preceding noun and not the clause! **But check format: X of Y, which**

Avoid Gerunds if possible

Use which with commas if the modifier is non essential

Use that without commas if the modifier is essential

GMAT Trap: Use AND after comma between two dependant sentences and not main clauses

Greater and Less is used to signal comparison ; not decrease and increase

Watch out for More and Less positions in the sentences! More/Less + Adjective + Noun

– This results in ambiguity

With verb modifiers, always watch out for the subject

Verb modifiers should modify the verb without any ambiguity

Always check the meaning of sentence when deciding verb tense

Non-essential appositives must be set off from the core of the sentence by punctuation marks; essential appositives are not set off from the rest of the sentence by punctuation marks.

Concision: Last resort

Remember that action adjectives and nouns are most times followed by TO

Eliminate “BE” statements

V-A-N approach

Verb > Adjective (or Adverb) > Noun

Active verb is more better than an adjective or action noun

Remember that action adjectives and nouns are most times followed by TO

1) Prefer Verb > Action Noun

Wordy: Jack’s revolution was against the king

Concise: Jack revolted against the king

2) Prefer That clause (with verbs) to a Series of Phrases (with nouns)

Wordy: The hypothesis about the composition of the universe as largely dark energy seems strange

Concise: The hypothesis THAT the universe IS largely COMPOSED of dark energy seems strange

3) Prefer a Verb to an adjective

Wordy: This rash is aggravating the pain

Concise: The rash aggravates the pain

The verb makes a more direct commitment to what happened

4) Prefer an adjective to a Noun

Wordy: He is in isolation

Concise: He is isolated

5) Prefer an Adverb to a prepositional phrase

Wordy: To a considerable extent

Concise: Considerably

6) Prefer Adjective to an Adjective clause
Wordy: Jack is a cricketer who is admirable
Concise: Jack is an admirable cricketer

7) Remove IT IS ... THAT
It is without fear that children should play
Children should play without fear

TOO SHORT PATTERN tricks:

8) Keep the prepositional phrase if you need to
Too short: I talked to the Boston Soldier
Correct: I talked to the soldier from Boston

9) Keep THAT OF or THOSE OF if you need to
Too Short: The face I see everyday is a famous actor
Better: The face I see in ads everyday is THAT OF a famous actor

10) Keep THAT after a reporting verb
Main subject + Reporting verb + THAT + (a thought expressed in its own sentence)
Reporting verbs tested on GMAT – Agree, Claim, Contend, Declare, Find, Indicate, Reveal, Rule, Show

11) No THAT after “say” verb

Subject Verb agreement:

If we use “and” then two singular subjects now agree to a plural verb

If we use additive phrases (not using and) then it doesn’t change the number of the subject

Either or neither (with or/nor) then the verb follows the closest subject

Additive phrases: ATEAI

Along with

As well as

Together with

Every

Including

One of the “noun” (always plural) + that/who + plural verb

One of the “noun” (always plural) + singular verb

The number – singular

A number – Plural

Treat quantity phrases – Majority, Minority and Plurality – Majority of XX is plural; A Majority is the final way to count decision making.

Subject Phrases and Clauses are always singular:

Having good friends is a wonderful feeling

Whatever they want to do is good for me

Parallelism:

- Parallel markers: And, but and Or. These are the common ones across sentences
- Parallelism applies to – Adverbs, adjectives, verbs, nouns, subordinate clauses, prepositional phrases, infinitives and participles
- If you join two clauses with “and”, you can put an optional comma before the “and”. Doing so is especially recommended when the clauses are long, independent, or both

Excellent example on Parallelism:

She argues **THAT** the agency acts **WITH** reckless abandon AND **WITH** disregard for human life AND property, AND **THAT** it should therefore be shut down

Watch out for linking verbs – they express what state the subject is in or what the subject is. Typical linking verbs are:

Is, was, am, being, are, were, been and be

Treat linking verbs as parallel markers. The subject and Object need to be parallel

The bouquet of flowers was a gift of love.

Parallelism: Concrete Nouns not comparable to Actions Nouns

Concrete: Things, people, Places, time periods, Certain events

Action: Formed from verbs

Parallelism: Complex Gerund Phrases not comparable to Simple Gerund Phrases

Simple : Tracking satellites accurately is important for the space agency

Noun on the outside, but Verb on the inside

Complex: The accurate tracking of satellites is important for the space agency

Noun through and through

Comparison example:

Wrong: I enjoyed drinking the water AND wine tasting

Parallelism: Action Nouns can be compared to Complex gerund phrases

When in doubt in a sentence where you notice many action nouns are in a parallel then choose the complex gerund phrase (often with article and the word OF)

Eg. The rebels demanded the withdrawal of the govt forces, significant reductions in troops, The raising of the rebel flag, AND a general pardon

Parallelism rules:

Compare only:

Working Verbs

Infinitives

Adjectives, Present Participles and Past Participles

Eg. Only a few feet wide BUT spanning the continent, the railroad changed history.

Both wide and spanning are adjectives to describe the railroad

Pronouns:

Rules:

Must refer to a subject without any ambiguity (ambiguity check is last resort)

Must agree with subject in number

Must agree with subject in meaning of sentence (replace subject with pronoun and check meaning)

Don't use This or These to replace nouns

Every it and its must refer to the same singular antecedent

Every They, them and their must refer to the same plural antecedent

Possessive nuances – in time pressure just don't guess this option!

if the referent is a 'normal' (non-possessive) noun, then the pronoun can be in any case.

if the referent is in the possessive case, then the pronoun can only be possessive.

possessive pronouns can refer to possessive nouns. so her can refer to Leakey's work

Possessive Pronouns	Singular	Plural
These are used to show ownership.		
Used Before Nouns These actually function as adjectives. Crazy!	my your his, her, its	our your their
Used Alone	mine yours his, hers	ours yours theirs

Check antecedent: Third Person Personal Pronouns: It, Its, They, Them and Their

Demonstrative Pronouns: This, That, These and Those – as adjectives in front of nouns
Eg.

The money spent by her parents is less than **THAT** spent by her children

In contrast,

The money spent by her parents is more than **IT** was expected to be

Indefinite pronouns usually have singular verb–

1) SANEWEE – have usually singular verb

S – Someone, Somebody, Something

A- Anyone, Anybody, Anything

N- No one, Nobody, Nothing

E – Everyone, Everybody, Everything

W – Whoever, Whatever

E – Either or Neither (without or/nor)

E - Each, Every

Eg.

Each of these shirts is green

Please note that if each following a subject has no bearing on the verb!

Eg. They each are great tennis players.

2) SANAM Pronouns – can have either plural or singular verb

S – Some

A – Any

N – None

A – All

M- More / Most

Eg.

Some of the money was stolen ; Some of the documents were stolen

Any of these women IS a suitable candidate for marriage

If we use the pronoun “Not one” then its always singular verb

Whom is better after preposition than Who

Do it (it is ambiguous) Vs Do so (when we have to choose between two options then go for DO SO

Do IT – IT must refer to a actual noun antecedent

Do SO – refers to an entire action, including a verb, its objects, and its modifiers

THAT always refer to a subject

Never mix “you” and “one” in the same sentence

Relative pronouns:

Where modifies place ; cant modify a condition, situation, case, circumstances

Who and Whom modifies person

Which modifies things

When modifies time

That cant modify people

Whose can modify people or things

Other Pronouns:

There – refers to a place. Eg. At current prices, oil in Antarctica (not Antarctica oil) may be worth drilling for, if well can be dug THERE.

Reflexive Pronouns:

Itself and Themselves – used to refer directly back to the subject ; intensify a noun

Eg. The panda groomed itself

Reciprocal Pronouns:

One another and Each another – used to indicate interactions between parties.

One another - refers to two + things

Each other – refers to two things

Such and Other/Another:

Such - Has to refer the antecedent exactly alike

Eg. After the land agreement surfaced, the commission decided to subject any SUCH contracts to debate in the future

Other and Another mean “additional of the same type” though not necessarily “exactly alike”

Eg. After the land agreement surfaced, the commission decided to subject any other contracts to debate in the future.

One: Indicates an indefinite copy or single, indefinite part of a collection

Eg. After walking by the chocolates so many times, he finally decided to eat one

IT doesn't necessarily need to have an antecedent in the three cases below:

- 1) Postpone That Clause: It gave us encouragement that we scored at all
- 2) Postpone Infinitive Subjects : It is futile to resist temptation
- 3) Postpone infinitive or that clause Objects: She made it possible for us to attend the movie

Modifiers:

Three types – Adverbs, Adjectives or Adjectival phrase/noun modifier

Adverbs can modify – verbs, adjectives, adverbs, clauses, sentences

Adjectives modify – nouns

We will talk in specific detail of Verb modifiers and noun modifiers later

Rule:

Place the modifier as close as possible to what it modifies

Whenever a sentence starts with ing word then the noun performing the action will come right after the comma

Watch out for “ly” ending words as they can alter the meaning of what it modifies

How does GMAT test:

Misplaced modifiers:

Modifiers in the middle or in the end

Common types:

- 1) Participial Phrase: A phrase that starts with a present or a past participle (may or may not be preceded by a preposition). Whenever a sentence starts with a participial phrase there will almost always be a misplaced modifier lurking around the corner.
- 2) Use of Adjective or Adjectival phrase

Dangling Modifiers & Introducing new words:

Usually it is suggested that you do not add additional words to the original sentence but sometimes you will have to add in new words to make the meaning clear, especially on Modification questions.

Possesives (‘s or s’) alter the noun that is being modified

Adjectival Phrases or Noun modifier:

Phrases or clauses that modify nouns.

Adjective – the lazy cat took a nap

Preposition – the cat on the couch took a nap

Present participle without commas – The tired cat took a nap

Relative pronoun – The cat that lives next door is noisy

Another noun – The cat, a tabby raised on a farm, took a nap

Keep them close together – modifier and modified noun

Resigned to bad news, the workers went on a strike

Essential and non essential modifiers:

Essential modifiers are critical in identifying the noun. Without them the noun and meaning of the sentence is incomplete

Rule:

Use which with commas if the modifier is non essential

Use that without commas if the modifier is essential

What to remember for appositives:

1. The definition: An appositive is a modifier; it is placed next to some other word or phrase, and it is a synonym of or possible replacement for that other word or phrase.
2. Most of the time, appositives are used as noun modifiers and contain nouns themselves, but they can also be adverbial modifiers.
3. Non-essential appositives must be set off from the core of the sentence by punctuation marks; essential appositives are not set off from the rest of the sentence by punctuation marks.
4. Appositives can be placed before or after the word or phrase they modify, and they can modify an entire phrase rather than just a single word.

COMMA + ABSTRACT NOUN is allowed to stand for the ENTIRE IDEA OF THE PRECEDING CLAUSE.

examples:

*the coach tried to put 5 receivers on the line, **a strategy** that failed.*

--> here, "a strategy" (an ABSTRACT noun) stands for the WHOLE IDEA of putting 5 receivers on the line.

*X observed large concentrations of metals in the sediments, **findings** consistent with...*

in this case, "findings" (an abstract noun) stands for the WHOLE IDEA of observing large concentrations of blah blah blah.

etc.

Verb modifiers:

Adverb – Frequently, I walk alone

Preposition – On Mondays, I walk alone

Subordinator – When my car is broken, I walk alone

Present participle without commas – Whistling “beat it”, I lifted the weight

Preposition + simple Gerund – By concentrating, I lifted the weight

Infinitive of purpose – To free my leg, I lifted the weight

Rule:

With verb modifiers, always watch out for the subject

Verb modifiers should modify the verb without any ambiguity

Which only refers to the preceding noun and not the clause!

Crime has recently decreased in our neighbourhood, leading to a raise in property values
This use of the ing form works best when you want to express the result of the main clause

Verb Tense, mood and voice:

Tense – indicates when the action of the verb takes place

Mood –

Indicative : describe knowledge or beliefs

Subjunctive : express suggestions, desires or hypothetical events

Voice – Who or what is doing the action

Passive: An action is performed on the subject by some1 or something

Active: Subject performs action

Progressive tenses:

Present Progressive – Sandy is playing soccer

Past Progressive – Sandy was playing soccer yesterday

Future Progressive – Sandy will be playing soccer tomorrow

Don't use present progressive tense to indicate future actions

Wrong: King is meeting jack for lunch tomorrow

Right: King will meet jack for lunch tomorrow

Always check the meaning of sentence when deciding verb tense

Perfect tenses:

Present perfect: Have / Has + past participle

The present perfect tense has one foot in the past and one foot in the present

Present perfect either indicates continued action or continued effect of a completed action upto the present

We lived in a hut for 3 days: This means they lived in hut for 3 days and are no longer living in the hut

We have lived in a hut for 3 days: This means they we moved into the hut three days ago and still live in this hut

If since is used then check for present perfect tense

If When is used meaning “after” in the sentence then present perfect tense can be used

Eg. She will pay you when you have taken out the garbage

Past Perfect: Had + Past participle

Two actions – one earlier (past perfect) than the other (simple past). Ideally it helps if the earlier action has some effect on the following action

A sequence of verbs with same subject doesn't require past perfect
Clauses linked by BUT & AND don't need past perfect as a general rule

Conditional tense:

Would + base verb

Helps explain the future from a past point's of view

Present + **Future** : Jack believes that the machine **will be** powerful

or Past + **conditional** : Jack believed that the machine **would be** powerful

Use of HAD HAD and HAS HAD:

HAD HAD – past perfect of “to have”

Has/Have HAD – present perfect of “to have”

Moods -

Subjunctive mood:

Situation 1: To indicate a hypothetical situation, wish or a circumstance contrary to fact

Use were or would in such situations

Trigger words – If, as if or as though

Eg If I **were** playing then I **would** win ; If petrol **were** cheaper then I **would** be happy

If...then construction types in GMAT:

If Present, then Present: If Sophie eats pizza,, then she becomes ill

If Present, then Can or May: If Sophie eats pizza, then she can become ill

If Present, then future: If Sophie eats pizza tomorrow, then she will become ill

If Hypothetical subjunctive, then Conditional: If Sophie ate pizza tomorrow, then she would become ill

If Past Perfect, then Conditional perfect: If Sophie had eaten pizza yesterday, then she would have become ill

Situation 2:

To make a suggestion, demand, desire, order, request or a proposal

Verbs like order, demand, suggest must follow by “that” and then the infinitive form of the verb being ordered, demanded, suggested without the “to”

1. The teacher **recommended** that Jerry **be expelled** from the class.

2. The manager **demand**ed that John **show up** for work on time.

Another possibility is – when the sentence is in It is X where X is adjective indicating urgency

Eg. It is essential that Garry **BE** ready for the meeting.

Trigger words – advisable, urgent, vital, preferable, crucial, desirable, fitting, imperative, important and necessary. Here the verb being acted upon can be in the infinitive form with to.

Eg. It is essential for Garry **to be** ready for the meeting

Always watch out for meaning of the command verbs – For eg. Her presence suggests that she is happy

Verb Voice:

Active – Who does what to whom

Passive: subject has an action performed on it by object

Passive tense always has transitive verbs

Helping Verbs:

Be, Do and Have

Do – Emphasizes verbs

Be – Progressive tenses and passive voice

Modal Helping Verbs:

Can, May, must, will, shall, could, might, would, should

Verbals overview:

Infinitives, Gerunds and Participles

Infinitives:

Always precede the “to + verb” with “in order” to check the sense of the sentence

Gerunds:

A noun preceding the gerund must be in possessive if the noun is the doer of the action described by the gerund

Eg Mike’s swimming led to a gold medal for the team

Prefer avoiding gerunds

Subtle differences in using Participle and infinitive to modify noun:

Present Participle: A technique alleviating pain is growing popular

Infinitive: A technique to alleviate pain is growing popular

The 2nd sentence means that you or someone can alleviate pain by means of this technique. In other words, technique is not meant to be the subject of the action alleviate.

Will Vs Would Vs Should

Should – Never use should with verbs recommend and suggest ; otherwise its used only when we suggesting or recommending.

Will – Predict future wrt to the present

Would – Predict future when in the past

COMPARISONS:

Trigger words:

Like, Unlike, More than, Less Than, faster than, different from, in contrast to/with, as, as
, Whereas, ADJECTIVE as as much as, as little as, as fast as, the same as

Like Vs As:

Like used to compare nouns, pronouns and noun phrases

Like means “similar to”

Like can't replace Such As – “For example”

Clauses are not used for comparison in “like”

As is used to compare actions and clauses (everything but nouns)

Whereas:

Two contrasting situations

Whereas “in X”, in Y or Whereas X, Y (similar clause structure and comparison)

Usage of As:

Conjunction –

Duration As: As I strolled to the store, I smelled the air (=while)

Causation As: I will not tell you, As you already know (=since)

Comparison: You should walk As she wants you to (=in the same way)

In Comparison, AS can appear with “SO”, “JUST” and “SO TOO”

Preposition –

Function As: As your leader, I am in charge (=in the role of)

Equation As: I think of you as my friend

Stage As: As a child, I thought I could fly (=when)

Stress Comparison by As using a clause:

Eg

I will jump as a clown (= in a clown suit)

I will jump as a clown does (comparison)

As + Adjective + As + Noun or Phrase or clause

Eg They are as hungry as us ; They are as hungry as they were last night

Keep comparisons parallel:

Eg\

Wrong: Frank's build. Like his brother, is big

Right: Frank's build, like his brother's, is big

,

Keep comparison's structurally parallel:

Eg.

Wrong: I like to run through forests more than I enjoy walking through crowds

Right: I like running through forests more than walking through the crowds

Omitting words in comparison:

I like Cheese more than Jack (ambiguous)

I like cheese more than Jack does

I like cheese more than I do Jack

Helping verbs are critical in the second half of the above sentences!

Between Vs Among:

Between is used for two options

Among is used for more than two options

Never use OR in the usage of between or among

Comparative and Superlative:

Er, est,

Good better best

Like Vs such as:

Like implies "similar to"

Such as implies for example

Compare with Vs Compare to:

Compare with - similar objects to show difference or similarity

Compare to – different objects (moon and face) to stress similarity

Greater and Less is used to signal comparison ; not decrease and increase

Decrease and increase are used to indicate change over time.

Use TIMES and ASAS... together to indicate multiplication of quantities

Eg. The man is five times as old as his grandson

Incorrect: The man is five times older than his grandson

Watch out for More and Less positions in the sentences!

More/Less + Adjective + Noun – This results in ambiguity

Gmat Correct usage in comparison:

As is the case / as was the case / as has been the case/ as would be the case

TIP:

To compare something to itself, use "it" or "they".

Ex. The legs of chair A are more wobbly than they were yesterday.

To compare one thing to another, use "that" or "those".
Ex. The legs of chair A are more wobbly than those of chair B.

ODDS and ENDS:

Connecting words

Cordinating conjunctions – and, but, or, for, nor, yet and so

Whenever AND is used after comma then watch out for:

1) List

2) Two main clauses (Eg. I like apples, AND I like grapes)

GMAT Trap: Use AND after comma between two dependant sentences and not main clauses

Subordinators- connects a dependant clause to an independent clause

Words – Although, Because, Before, After, Since, When, If, Unless, That, Though, While

Connecting Punctuation

(,) (;) (:) (-)

Comma (,) is used for non essential modifiers

Do not use comma before AND to separate two verbs using the same subject

Semi Colon (;) connects two independent clauses

We can use conjunctive adverb or other transition expression, such as HOWEVER, THEREFORE or IN ADDITION.

Eg. Andrew and Lisa are inseparable; Therefore, we never see them apart

Colon (:)

Provides further explanation for what comes before it or provides a list.

Difference between Colon and semi Colon – Semi colon connects two related independent clauses, but the colon doesn't necessarily explain the first. In contrast, the colon always connects a sentence with a further explanation.

Dash (-)

Easy and cant go wrong on this one

Quantity:

Countable nouns: Many, few, numerous, number

Uncountable nouns: Much, less, little, amount, great

More, Most, Enough and ALL are used for both – countable and non countable

The number / a Number of XX – singular
A number / The numbers of XX – plural

Higher complexity- rely on this tactic if only last resort:

How to apply concision:

Eliminate “BE” statements

V-A-N approach

Verb > Adjective (or Adverb) > Noun

Active verb is more better than an adjective or action noun

Remember that action adjectives and nouns are most times followed by TO

1) Prefer Verb > Action Noun

Wordy: Jack’s revolution was against the king

Concise: Jack revolted against the king

2) Prefer That clause (with verbs) to a Series of Phrases (with nouns)

Wordy: The hypothesis about the composition of the universe as largely dark energy seems strange

Concise: The hypothesis THAT the universe IS largely COMPOSED of dark energy seems strange

3) Prefer a Verb to an adjective

Wordy: This rash is aggravating the pain

Concise: The rash aggravates the pain

The verb makes a more direct commitment to what happened

4) Prefer an adjective to a Noun

Wordy: He is in isolation

Concise: He is isolated

5) Prefer an Adverb to a prepositional phrase

Wordy: To a considerable extent

Concise: Considerably

6) Prefer Adjective to an Adjective clause

Wordy: Jack is a cricketer who is admirable

Concise: Jack is an admirable cricketer

7) Remove IT IS ... THAT

It is without fear that children should play

Children should play without fear

TOO SHORT PATTERN tricks:

8) Keep the prepositional phrase if you need to

Too short: I talked to the Boston Soldier

Correct: I talked to the soldier from Boston

9) Keep THAT OF or THOSE OF if you need to

Too Short: The face I see everyday is a famous actor

Better: The face I see in ads everyday is THAT OF a famous actor

10) Keep THAT after a reporting verb

Main subject + Reporting verb + THAT + (a thought expressed in its own sentence)

Reporting verbs tested on GMAT – Agree, Claim, Contend, Declare, Find, Indicate, Reveal, Rule, Show

11) No THAT after “say” verb