

# GMAT SC Trivia

## Bad Constructions

\* because of + NOUN + VERBing

\* <http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post21555.html#p21555>

\* PREP + NOUN + VERBING is **only** wrong when the object of the preposition should be the VERBING

\* Reference= <http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post28613.html#p28613>

\* Ex (of correct usage): The trains failed to run **because of the endangered deer blocking the tracks.**

\* preposition + NOUN + Participial Phrase (fix by replacing the preposition with a subordinate conjunction)

\* Ex: Far **from the sun keeping Earth warm**, there exists a larger star.

PREP + VING (is presumably correct)

\* <http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-lawyer-for-the-defense-charged-that-she-suspected-the-110665.html>

\* "Each of them" begins an independent clause

\* <http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post8967.html#p8967>

\* "Each of which" begins a subordinate clause

\* It functions as "which" and the verb after it **must** be singular.

\* <http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/taste-buds-are-onion-shaped-structures-t2595.html>

\* Stacked prepositional phrases are generally wrong.

\* [http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post18263.html?](http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post18263.html?sid=07409520a33e509762001e054e2c637d#p18263)

[sid=07409520a33e509762001e054e2c637d#p18263](http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post18263.html?sid=07409520a33e509762001e054e2c637d#p18263)

"Just like" is always wrong

\* [http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post36050.html?](http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post36050.html?sid=af1129572fb29a5e80b9c2e290bab722#p36050)

[sid=af1129572fb29a5e80b9c2e290bab722#p36050](http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post36050.html?sid=af1129572fb29a5e80b9c2e290bab722#p36050)

"Resulting from" after a comma is wrong

\* <http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post10569.html#p10569>

\* Example: XYZ + , ABC ... "resulting from"

"That included" can't be used after a comma

\* <http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/bluegrass-musician-bill-monroe-whose-repertoire-t11118.html>

"That" **can** come after a comma

Ex: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/a-new-hair-growth-drug-is-being-sold-for-three-times-the-110636.html>

## Idioms

\* likely to do

\* "likely" + infinitive

\* <http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post20915.html#p20915>

\* likely used as a probability

\* does not need infinitive

\* <http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post18303.html#p18303>

\* prohibit

\* **can't** go with an infinitive

## **Like versus As**

Comparisons

Like + Noun/Noun Phrase

Examples:

If used properly, rephrasing the sentence should place both nouns and noun phrases after one another.

No matter how it is written, "like" should have a noun or noun phrase after it and between the comma or semicolon.

1) I am an introvert like my mother.

1 Rephrased) Like **my mother**, I am an introvert.

2) That man is inherently evil like every other human on Earth.

2 Rephrased) Like **every other human on Earth**, **that man** is inherently evil.

As + Adj + Clause

Example:

I **cook** as **well** as my mother **does**.

The adjective is not part of the parallel construction.

X as Adj as Y

Ex: I am as **tall** as **my mother**.

as Adj X as Y

Ex: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/patience-lovell-wright-whose-traveling-waxworks-exhibit-63994.html>

Function

As + Noun

Example: John has obtained a job as a **horse trainer**.

## **Comparisons**

### **Overview**

Comparisons questions typically test one or more of the following:

1) Parallelism

A) The second part of the comparison marker is an example of an open parallel marker similar to "and", "or", and "but". This means that it is more difficult to find the beginning of the first part of the parallel structure than it would be if it were a closed parallel marker such as "and" in "both/and".

2) Ellipsis

A) Ellipsis works only after the second part of the comparison marker.

Ex: In <http://gmatclub.com/forum/according-to-public-health-officials-in-1998-massachusetts-59886.html>, BE are wrong, because they say that babies were born under 30 years old

### 3) Ambiguity

A) To figure out whether ambiguity is present look for whether different answer choices are missing words after the second part of the comparison marker.

Ex: B/D versus C in <http://gmatclub.com/forum/officials-at-the-united-states-mint-believe-that-the-44391.html>

Review <http://www.beatthegmat.com/comparisons-involving-ellipsis-t66230.html> and <https://vimeo.com/16178195>

### Similar To versus Like

**Similar To** is an adjective and must modify a noun (X similar to Y; both X and Y must be comparable nouns or noun phrases)

It states that X and Y resemble each other, but does not say that they share the same action.

Ex: Augustus, similar to Goliath, lived for 69 years.

**Like** shows that both share the same action although they might be different in other ways.

Ex: Like my father, I tend to come to work on time.

Reference:

<http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post108798.html#p108798>

**Like** should be placed close to the two nouns that are compared.

Reference:

<https://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/og-review-10th-sc-73-t1595.html>

The grammar is wrong even if the second part of the like comparison is in inverted structure.

Reference:

<https://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/unlike-many-united-states-cities-where-a-river-is-no-longer-t2350.html#p7873>

### **Must** be as parallel as possible

To see this, make sure that the left side contains what the right side contains with the exception of ellipsis.

Reference: <http://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/post115721.html#p115721>

### **Replacements with Helping Verb**

Helping verb tense must match tense of complete verb **and** must make sense with complete verb

Incorrect: In theory, a hospital **is designed** as per disease pathways but in reality only some hospitals such as Arvind Eye Hospital **did**.

Wrong, because "did designed" doesn't make sense

Correct: In theory, a hospital **is designed** as per disease pathways but in reality only some hospitals such as Arvind Eye Hospital **are**.

### **Comparisons with "while"**

<http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post69452.html#p69452>

**While** + Clause + "," + Clause doesn't attach to any noun or element in the clause, so we can use it to compare two clauses as long as it makes sense

### **Comparisons with "Whereas"**

"Whereas" must compare clauses.

### **The and "such as"**

"**the**" is incompatible with "**such as**"

Reference: <https://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/the-success-of-the-program-to-eradicate-smallpox-t1161.html#p3892>

### **Pronouns**

More often than not, the antecedent of a pronoun will **not** be the object of the preposition.

Antecedents should be able to replace Pronouns while still preserving Meaning.

The only pronoun that doesn't need a noun antecedent is "it":

<http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post49622.html#p49622>

Ambiguity

\* using the same pronoun to refer to different nouns causes ambiguity, and is wrong.

If the antecedent of a pronoun **and** all the Antecedent's essential Modifiers can't logically replace the pronoun, then the pronoun is wrong.

<http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post43835.html?sid=8f932c0a0d2308d3179e3e83445c4c21#p43835>

### **Reflexive Pronoun**

When an entity takes an action on itself, the sentence needs to use the reflexive pronoun as the object.

Possessive Pronouns **Can** Refer to Possessive Nouns

\* "Their" referring to "athletes":

<http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post90347.html#p90347>

**Be careful** when applying this rule.

### **Countable versus Uncountables**

### Less versus Fewer

"Less" goes with Percents

### Less versus Lower

"Less" can be an adjective or adverb

"Lower" is always an adjective

Reference: <http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post17157.html#p17157>

### More versus Greater

More: Used when either a countable or an uncountable increases.

Ex: There are **more tulips** in Kurdistan than in Uruguay.

Greater: Used when a number (percent, population, cost, distance, number) increases.

Ex: The **distance** between India and China is **greater** than the distance between Brooklyn and Queens.

Ex: The **population** in Nigeria is **greater** than that of Zambia.

Update:

<http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post17372.html#p17372>

<http://www.beatthegmat.com/post296861.html#296861>

Try placing "more"/"greater" before the adjective and see whether the new construction makes sense.

Example:

the gyrfalcon has **greater** numbers --> this is ok

the gyrfalcon has **more** numbers --> this doesn't make sense

### More Than

If there is a noun followed by **modifier(s)** in the second half of the parallel structure, then one **must** place the helping verb **before** the noun.

Wrong Ex: I know more about Shakespeare than my brother, who has never studied literature, does.

Correct Ex: I know more about Shakespeare than **does** my brother, **who has never studied literature**.

Generally, in COMMA + less/more than construction, less/more than will refer to the noun immediately before it.

Reference: <http://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/post49279.html#p49279>

Reference: <http://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/post98925.html#p98925>

**Amount** is for uncountable

<http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post36951.html?sid=d8725433632d11774b6f105d2d2e429d#p36951>

Uncountable quantity words such as "much" and "little" are **always singular**

Reference: <https://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/sc-a-report-by-the-american-academy-for-the-advancement-t7508.html>

### **Parallelism**

Elements that **should** be parallel should exhibit parallel structure.

Example: Giuseppe question

### **Non-essential Modifiers don't interfere with Parallelism**

<http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post7174.html?sid=5771fcba8257a30511275e78896c1243#p7174>

Prepositional phrases with different "head" prepositions can be parallel.

Ex: I like to dance **at weddings** rather than **in my house**.

Example: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/in-metalwork-one-advantage-of-adhesive-bonding-over-110824.html>

Tenses of verbs does not affect parallelism.

Reference: <https://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/granitic-soil-t31897.html#p113953>

### **COMMA + Conjunctions**

Means that the clauses are in parallel, and that they are not related.

Reference: <https://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/normative-model-of-strategic-decision-making-t16239-30.html#p110052>

### **Not Only/But Also**

Each element in this structure must reinforce whatever it is being discussed. If not, it is the **wrong** meaning.

Example: To lose weight, you should not only exercise but also eat fewer calories than you output.

### **Modifiers**

Unless specified, in "noun + comma + each", "each" refers to the noun.

\* Naked mole rat question.

"Whose" refers to the noun right before it.

<http://gmatclub.com/forum/many-daring-vacationers-who-participate-in-guided-boat-tours-90630.html#p690880>

### **Appositives**

Follows the same rule that "comma + which" follows in that the appositive **must** touch what it renames.

### **COMMA + With**

Can modify preceding noun **or** clause

<http://www.beatthegmat.com/post376889.html#376889>

### **with**

Because it is a preposition, it can only be followed by nouns and noun phrases and **not** by clauses

### **PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE + COMMA**

Modifies the clause **not** just the noun that it touches.

Reference: <https://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/in-1988-the-council-on-economic-priorities-began-publishing-t5735.html#p63115>

### **COMMA + which**

Always modifies the previous non-human noun **no matter what except** when that noun is ineligible.

Ex: The **box** of nails, which **sits** on the shelf, belongs to my business partner ("which" points to "box" since the verb is singular)

Reference: <https://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/post31162.html#p31162>

### **that**

Must use common sense to figure out what this modifies, but it will not usually modify a noun that is too far.

Reference: <https://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/that-modifier-versus-which-t16425.html>

Reference: <https://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/that-vs-which-t5730.html#p21405>

### **Idiom**

"Of" means possession

Ex: The rate **of** birds eaten by lions has recently fallen.

The above is wrong, because it says that birds have a rate.

Correct: The rate **at which** birds are eaten by lions has recently fallen.

GMAT Example:

<http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post21502.html#p21502>

So + Adj + as to + predicate has same Meaning as so + adj+ that+ Clause

Reference: <http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/often-major-economic-shifts-are-so-gradual-as-to-be-t5505.html>

as Adj as to X is **not** valid

Reference: <https://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/granitic-soil-t31897.html#p113954>

### As well as

Cannot take a bare verb form

It is a Modifier and not a parallel construction

Example: <http://www.manhattanmat.com/forums/post18305.html?sid=73b92330a0135580cd8b9e39008a9f29#p18305>

### Rather than versus Instead of

**Instead of** is for nouns

**Rather than** can be used for any part of speech

### Use of "Each"

"Each" **can't** have a relative pronoun follow it

<http://www.manhattanmat.com/forums/post7480.html?sid=dfca43f9d0ea5319630844723c696041#p7480>

### Subject + Verb + "by VERBing"

Subject + Clause + "by VERBing" => VERBing explains how the clause occurs

Ex: I lived for Christ by sharing the gospel and pursuing a blameless life.

Reference: <https://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/the-organic-food-industry-t6929.html#p37241>

### Subject + Verb + "in VERBing"

Subject + Clause + "in VERBing" => Subject + Clause is a part of VERBing

Ex: I ran over the raccoon in speeding on the highway.

Reference: <https://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/the-organic-food-industry-t6929.html#p37241>

### SVA

Takeaway:

<http://www.manhattanmat.com/forums/post33335.html#p33335>

If anything before the verb can be the subject, that thing will be the subject.

Example:

Eating dogs causes bad breath, heart disease, and a stiff arm.

Backward Constructions only exist when nothing is eligible to be the subject BEFORE the verb.

### Em Dash

Em dash introduces a modifier, and acts like a comma; you **can** have independent clauses within it (OG 2016 #118)

<http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post7612.html#p7612>

### Rate

"Rate at which" is the correct construction.

### Including

"Including" represents a non-exhaustive list.

### Prepositional Phrase

Subject can't be in prepositional phrases.

Prepositional phrases can't serve as subjects of sentences.

<https://www.manhattanprep.com/gmat/forums/among-the-emotions-on-display-in-the-negotiating-room-were-t8263.html#p33433>

## **VTVF**

### Subjunctive Mood

Can't use "prohibit" with subjunctive form (ex: command verb + that + bare verb form) (need to use "prohibit" X from Y to have the same meaning).

<http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post52749.html?sid=770ddbb571aeadd67da7f9c8f1c43bac#p52749>

### Tenses

Simple Past:

Trigger words: In \$YEAR, last year

Ex: In 2013, I ran 30 miles on the treadmill.

Present Perfect:

Trigger word: "since"

Ex: Since 2010, I have taken the subway each day to work.

Past Perfect:

Trigger word: "By \$TIME PERIOD"

Ex: By 2150, I had died.

Reference:

<http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post18258.html#p18258>

### Use of Being

Not preferable to start a modifier with "being".

Ex: <http://www.manhattangmat.com/forums/post67403.html#p67403>

## **Miscellaneous**

Although X, Y is meant to portray contrast.

This construction conveys the meaning that X is true.

Ex: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/under-high-pressure-and-intense-heat-graphite-the-most-59736.html>

References: <http://www.beatthegmat.com/post209976.html#209976>

<http://www.manhattanmat.com/forums/post91421.html?sid=d1a2f137a2d29ed1d420d5c75e3e800b#p91421>

### **Splitting Strategy**

<http://www.manhattanmat.com/forums/post61311.html?sid=090c980cc3949c16b35a43d8d8403d09#p61311>