

1. LIKE VS AS

Both 'like' and 'as' are used for stating a **COMPARISON**.

LIKE SHOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A NOUN .

FOR STATING FUNCTIONS ONLY "AS" can be used. In this case "AS + NOUN" is the correct form only for function. Otherwise **AS+CLAUSE**

[Further reading: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/as-vs-like-correct-and-incorrect-usages-133950.html>]

ACT LIKE can only be used for an **ANIMATE OBJECT** and means to imitate it. **ACT AS** is used to **DESCRIBE FUNCTION** as something..ACT AS A KING etc

Mike McGarry : In English, the idiom "to act like" means to behavior or comport one's self in imitation of something else. If I "act like a king", that implies that I am not a king, but something about my behavior (presumably, my entitlement and presumption) resembles that of a king. A person is capable of intending to imitate something, so a person can "act like" something. Conceivably, an intelligent animal (one of the higher primates, for example) could be induced to imitate something, in which case we could say: the chimpanzee "acts like" such-and-such. Any inanimate object is utterly devoid of intentionality, so we cannot in any way attribute imitative behavior to it: therefore, we can never use the idiom "act like" with an inanimate object. With an object, we always have to use "act as."

2. LIKE VS INCLUDING

LIKE is used to denote **SIMILARITY**. **INCLUDING** is used to give **EXAMPLES**.

3. LIKE VS SUCH AS

SUCH AS is used to **INTRODUCE EXAMPLES**, while "**LIKE**" indicates **ONLY SIMILARITY** and cannot be used for examples at all.

3. THAT VS WHICH

THAT is used for **RESTRICTIVE CLAUSES** and is **never preceded by a COMMA**. (unless the comma belongs to another modifier)

WHICH is used for **NON RESTRICTIVE CLAUSES** and is **always preceded by a COMMA**

4. THAT VS THOSE

THAT can replace a **SINGULAR NOUN**

THOSE can replace a **PLURAL NOUN**.

5.WHO VS WHOM

WHO is used when referring to the **SUBJECT** of the verb while **WHOM** is used to refer to the **OBJECT** of the verb.

6. DIFFERENT FROM VS. DIFFERENT THAN

“**Different than**” implies a **quantitative comparison: MORE X, LESS Y**. Therefore, on the GMAT, “different than” is always wrong when comparing two nouns. The only proper use of “different than” on the GMAT is when the sentence **COMPARES A NOUN AND A CLAUSE**. For example, “The Manhattan skyline is different than it was twenty years ago.”

Sometimes all we are doing is **making a distinction**: not more or less, just something else. The phrase “**different from**” signifies this distinction.

“Red is different from blue.”

If the **COMPARISON IS BETWEEN TWO NOUNS**, then you better look for an answer choice **WITHOUT THE PHRASE “DIFFERENT THAN.”**

7. RATHER THAN VS INSTEAD OF

The GMAT focuses on rather than vs. **INSTEAD OF**. The latter is a compound preposition, and as such, could **ONLY TAKE A NOUN AS ITS OBJECT**. By contrast, **RATHER THAN** can act as either **A PREPOSITION (taking a noun)** OR **A SUBORDINATE CONJUNCTION (FOLLOWED BY A FULL CLAUSE)**. Instead of could only put nouns in parallel, but rather than can put nouns or verbs or entire actions in parallel. In general, the GMAT seems to avoid the situations in which a correct use of “instead of” would be allowed, and **SEEMS TO USE “INSTEAD OF” ONLY AS AN INCORRECT CHOICE FOR “RATHER THAN.”**

Rather than indicates preference. **Instead** indicates replacement.

8. IF VS WHETHER

IF is only used for **CONDITIONAL CLAUSES**. IF....Then statements are the most common example of its correct usage.

WHETHER is used to indicate **ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES** or to **INDICATE UNCERTAINTY**.

To check whether the usage of If is proper flip the sentence. **IF IT MAKES SENSE THEN USAGE IS CORRECT.**

Also if clause follows certain rules regarding tenses.

Eg:

This decade has seen no end to the controversy over if state-run day care centers are a necessary response to changes in employment patterns

Flipped version:

if state-run day care centers are a necessary response to changes in employment patterns [then] this decade has seen no end to the controversy over..

Does not make sense ... use whether.

9. TO VS. FOR

REPLACE "to+ verb"/ "for+ verb-ing" **BY** "**IN ORDER TO+ VERB**". If it still **MAKES SENSE USE INFINITIVE** otherwise use for.

'To' demonstrates purpose whereas for cannot be used to show purpose.

10. FARTHER VS FURTHER

FARTHER is used to signify **DISTANCE/TANGIBLE** whereas **FURTHER/INTANGIBLE** is used to signify **DEGREE**

11.AMONG VS BETWEEN

Among: Used when more than two items are in question.

- Example: He was the best among three candidates.

Between: Used when two items are in question

- Example: He was the best between the two of them

12. BOTH VS. EACH

Both: Used to point out similarities.

- Example: Both of them were good at swimming.

Each: Used to point out differences/dissimilarities. (Always singular)

- Example: Each girl had her own niche.

13. EACH OTHER VS. ONE ANOTHER

Each Other: Used to compare two things.

- Example: They loved each other dearly.

One another: Used to compare more than two things.

- Example: The three brothers loved one another dearly

14. TWICE VS. DOUBLE

Twice: Twice/Thrice etc. are used for comparison

- Example: The Toyota was twice as fast as the Honda.

Double: Used as a verb only.

- Example: He more than doubled his wealth by investing in stocks.

15. MEANS TO VS MEANS OF

Means to : Method for / route towards

Money is a means to an end.

Means of : Example of

Running is a means of exercising.

16. EVIDENCE OF VS EVIDENCE THAT

Evidence of : Should be followed by a noun, and this noun should be the entity whose existence has been proved by the evidence.

Astronomers have discovered evidence of life on Mars : CORRECT

Scientists have discovered evidence of the dinosaurs being herbivores :INCORRECT

Evidence that: It is followed by a clause.

Scientists have discovered evidence that the dinosaurs were herbivores: CORRECT

Astronomers have uncovered evidence that a star as bright as the full moon exploded into view 340,000 years ago, emitting_dazzling radiation that could have disrupted Earth's protective ozone layer and sunburned our Stone Age ancestors.

If we mean that we have found evidence of a noun, we use 'evidence of'. If we mean that we have found evidence of a particular action, we use 'evidence that' followed by a clause.

17. MUST VS SHOULD

MUST: LEGAL OBLIGATION

SHOULD: MORAL OBLIGATION

18. THEY VS THOSE

THEY: Refers to the (noun+ condition) described in the earlier part of the sentence

THOSE : Used to create a distinction aka a new copy

sprinters in texas can run faster than they can in north dakota.

--> illogical; in this sentence, "they" would be taken to mean "sprinters in texas" (i.e., not just *sprinters*).

sprinters in texas can run faster than those in north dakota.

--> makes sense; "those" = sprinters, in this case.

Correct usage of "they":

taxpayers who make more than twice as much income as they did last year are subject to special scrutiny from the IRS.

19. DUE TO VS BECAUSE OF

There is a Simple test to check which fits into the sentence. Replace 'due to' with 'caused by'. If the sentence still makes sense use DUE TO. Otherwise go for because of.

Moreover 'Due to' is always used after a form of the verb 'to be' whereas because of is never used after a form of the verb 'to be'