

List of Common Idiomatic Expressions

The following chart presents common idioms that can appear on the GMAT. Most of the Xs and Ys represent nouns, pronouns, or noun phrases. To create an idiomatic expression, substitute words or phrases for the X and Y as in the following example:

consult with X *about* Y

consult with my doctor *about* treatment [Correct]

Any other prepositions used with *consult* in this format are unidiomatic.

consult my doctor *for* treatment [Incorrect]

consult on my doctor *about* treatment [Incorrect]

consult with my doctor *for* treatment [Incorrect]

consult in my doctor *about* treatment [Incorrect]

The following list of idioms is not inclusive, and the most common idiom errors are discussed in Chapter Eight. However, this list is an excellent supplement for possible errors on the GMAT

Common Idiomatic Expressions

a lot of X	appropriate to X
account to X for Y	approve of X
accuse X of Y	argue about X
acquaintance with X	argue with X for Y
adapt to X	ashamed of X
affection for X	ask X for Y
afraid of X	ask X of Y
agree to X	assure X of Y
agree with X about Y	at the top of X
alarmed at X	attraction to X
a lot of X	aware of X
amazed at X	bargain with X for Y
amused at X	because of X
amused by X	believe in X
angry at X	blame X for Y
angry with X	blind to X
apologize to X for Y	by means of X
apparent to X	call to X from Y
appeal to X	capable of X
apply to X for Y	certain of X

Common Idiomatic Expressions

challenge X to Y	dedicate X to Y
characteristic of X	defend X against Y
cheat X of Y	defend X from Y
close to X	delight in X
comment on X	delighted with X
communicate with X	demand X of Y
communicate X to Y	depend on X for Y
comparable to X	deprive X of Y
compare to X	designed for X
compare with X	desire for X
competition with X for Y	different from X
complain to X about Y	disagree with X about Y
composed of X	disappointed in X
concerned about X	disappointed with X
concerned with X	disgusted with X
confess to X	displeased with X
confidence in X	distrust of X
confident of X	do X about Y
congratulate X on Y	doubt about X
conscious of X	dream about X
consideration for X	dream of X
consult with X about Y	due to X
consult with X on Y	duty to X
contempt for X	engaged to X
contented with X	escape from X
contrast with X	excel in X
contribute to X	exception to X
control over X	excuse for X
converse with X about Y	excuse X from Y
convict X of Y	explain X to Y
convince X of Y	failure of X in Y
copy from X	faithful to X
correspond with X	fascinated with X
count on X for Y	fearful of X
cure for X	for the sake of X
deal with X	full of X
decide on X	grateful to X for Y

Common Idiomatic Expressions

guard against X	pity for X
guess at X	point at X
hear about X	prefer X to Y
hear of X	prejudice against X
hint at X	protect X from Y
horrified at X	provide X for Y
in case of X	punish X for Y
in common with X	qualified to do X
in favor of X	quarrel with X over Y
in place of X	quote X from Y
in search of X	reason for X
independent of X	reason with X about Y
influence over X	recover from X
inform X of Y	related to X
inquire into X	rely on X
insist on X	remind X of Y
intent on X	reply to X about Y
interested in X	require X of Y
interfere with X	research in X
introduce X to Y	responsible to X
invite X to Y	result from X
irrelevant to X	result in X
laugh at X	result of X
lecture on X	rob X of Y
listen to X	satisfactory to X
look at X	search for X
look for X	send for X
made of X	shocked at X
make X for Y	shocking to X
mistaken for X	similar to X
need for X	smile at X
obligation to X	stare at X
on account of X	start with X
opportunity for X	supply X with Y
opposition to X	sure of X
pay X for Y	take advantage of X
pay X to Y	take care of X

Common Idiomatic Expression

talk over X with Y

talk to X about Y

tell X about Y

thankful for X

think about X

think of X

think over X

threaten X with Y

tired of X

trust in X

trust X with Y

wait for X

weary of X

List of Wordy Expressions

The following list reveals possible GMAT errors and their concise corrections. You should watch for wordiness errors in Sentence Correction questions, as well as avoid using wordy expressions in your writing samples.

Wordy Expression

adequate number of

adjacent to

afford an opportunity

after the conclusion of

ahead of schedule

a large proportion of

almost all

along the lines of

already exist

an estimated

are in possession of

arrange to return

as a result of

as long as

as of now; as of [date]

assuming that

as to

as well as

at all times

at an early date

at the end of

at the present time

at this point in time

at this time

at the time

bring to a conclusion

by means of

Concise Correction

enough

next to, near, by, beside, close to

allow, let, give

after

early

many, most, much (or be specific)

most

like, similar, similar to

exist

about, nearly, almost, more than

have, has, owns

return

because, because of, since

if, since

about; on, from

if

about, on, to, of (or leave out)

and, also

always (or leave out)

soon

after

now

now

now

when, then

conclude or end, finish

by, with

Wordy Expression

come to the realization
come to an agreement
concerning the matter of
conduct experiments
consensus of opinion
course of
despite the fact that
draw your attention
due to the fact that
during such time, during the time
effect many changes
except when
excessive number of
extend an invitation
for the purpose of
for the reason that
for the sum of
give an indication of
give consideration to
has been proved to be
has the capability
have an effect on
hold a conference, hold a meeting
in addition
in addition to
in a timely manner
in an effort to
in close proximity to
in conjunction with
in connection with
in most cases, in most instances
in order to
in place of
in possession of
in reference to
in regard to; in relation to
in respect of
in spite of (the fact that)
in terms of
in the amount of
in the context of
in the course of
in the event that
in the neighborhood of
in the very near future
in the vicinity of

Concise Correction

realize
agree
about
experiment
consensus
during, while, in, at
although, even though, despite
show, point out, show you, remind you
because, because of, since, for, as
during, while, when
change
unless
too many
invite
for, to, of
because, since, for
for
show, signal, hint, suggest
consider
is
can
affect
confer, meet
also
besides, beyond, and, as well as, also
on time, at once, quickly, promptly
to
near
with, and
about, of, in, on, over, with
often, mostly, usually
to
for
has, have
about, on, for
about, for, on; about, in, with, toward, to,
for, about, of
despite, although
in, with, for, at, by, about
for, of, the
in, about, for
during, while, in, at
if
near, about, nearly
soon
in, near, close to, about, around, round

Wordy Expression

in view of the fact that
in this day and age
in view of the fact
is found to be
is in a position to
is of the opinion
it would appear that
it is probable that
limited number
located in, located on
made a statement
make a decision
make an application
make reference to
none at all
not in a position to
notwithstanding the fact that
of major importance
on a daily basis, on a regular basis
on behalf of
one of the
on most occasions
on the part of
over the duration of
realize a savings of
refer to as
regardless of the fact that
regards to, with regard to
relating to
serves the function of being
some of the
subsequent, subsequent to
sufficient number of
take action
take exception to
take into consideration
to a certain degree
to a large degree
to whatever extent
under the provisions of
until such time
was of the opinion that
with a view to
with reference to
with regard to

Concise Correction

because, since
today, nowadays
because, since
is
can
thinks
apparently
probably
few
in, on, found
said
decide, determine
apply
refer to
none
unable to, cannot
although, even if, however, despite
is important
daily, regularly
for
a, an, one
usually
by, among, for, of
during
save
call, name
although, despite
about, as for, for, in, of, on
about, on
is
some
after, later, next, then, following
enough, plenty
act
challenge, disagree (with), object
consider
in part, less often, less so, partially, some
largely
however
under, by
until, when
believed, thought, said, think
to
about
about, for, on

Unidiomatic Expression:	Correction:	Correct Idiom Form:
The problem developed <i>after when</i> the meeting was over.	The problem developed <i>after</i> the meeting was over.	verb + <i>after</i>
The teachers want a discipline plan <i>as strong or stronger than</i> the present policy.	The teachers want a discipline plan <i>as strong as</i> the present policy.	<i>X as strong as Y</i>
The students are <i>better served by</i> discipline <i>instead of by</i> leniency.	The students are <i>better served by</i> discipline <i>than by</i> leniency.	<i>better served by X than by Y</i>
There is an argument <i>between</i> those who want red <i>with</i> those who want blue.	There is an argument <i>between</i> those who want red <i>and</i> those who want blue.	<i>between X and Y</i>
It is best to train a dog <i>by</i> reward, <i>but not</i> punishment.	It is best to train a dog <i>by</i> reward, <i>rather than</i> punishment.	<i>by X rather than Y</i>
The <i>connection of</i> height <i>and</i> weight influences weight loss.	The <i>connection between</i> height <i>and</i> weight influences weight loss.	<i>connection between X and Y</i>
Adam <i>considers</i> education <i>to be</i> a part of the problem.	Adam <i>considers</i> education a part of the problem.	<i>considers X Y</i> (when <i>considers</i> means "regard as")
The doctor is <i>credited as</i> having cured polio.	The doctor is <i>credited with</i> having cured polio.	<i>credited with</i>
The newly-hatched butterfly's survival <i>depends on if</i> it can dry its wings by nightfall.	The newly-hatched butterfly's survival <i>depends on whether</i> it can dry its wings by nightfall.	<i>depends on whether</i>
The teams were <i>determined from</i> a random drawing.	The teams were <i>determined by</i> a random drawing.	<i>determined by</i> (when expressing cause)
Brett has <i>double as many</i> candy bars as Rob.	Brett has <i>twice as many</i> candy bars as Rob.	<i>twice as many</i>
I fell asleep <i>due to the fact that</i> I was tired.	I fell asleep <i>because</i> I was tired.	<i>because</i> (due to means attributable to)
Internal Affairs was created <i>for monitoring</i> conduct.	Internal Affairs was created <i>to monitor</i> conduct.	<i>to monitor</i> + noun
The number of volunteers <i>increased by more than twice</i> .	The number of volunteers <i>more than doubled</i> .	<i>more than doubled</i>
Heidi decided to eat <i>instead of</i> starving.	Heidi decided to eat <i>rather than</i> starve.	<i>rather than</i> (more formal)
The fight was caused by the <i>interaction where</i> two personalities collide.	The fight was caused by the <i>interaction of</i> two colliding personalities.	<i>interaction of</i>
The flower will continue <i>its growth into</i> the coming months.	The flower will continue <i>to grow in</i> the coming months.	<i>in the coming</i> + noun.
The final decision <i>is if</i> Jud deserves a raise.	The final decision <i>is whether</i> Jud deserves a raise.	<i>is whether</i>
School supplies, <i>like</i> paper and pencils, are provided.	School supplies, <i>such as</i> paper and pencils, are provided.	<i>such as</i> (to list examples)
Tasha is <i>maybe</i> the tallest person in our office.	Tasha is <i>probably</i> the tallest person in our office.	verb + <i>probably</i>
He <i>mistook</i> the Honda <i>as a</i> Toyota.	He <i>mistook</i> the Honda <i>for a</i> Toyota.	<i>mistook X for Y</i>
Hip problems are much <i>more common among</i> large dogs <i>than</i> smaller breeds.	Hip problems are <i>much more common among</i> large dogs <i>than among</i> smaller breeds.	<i>more common among X than among Y</i>
Miranda spoke <i>more openly than never before</i> .	Miranda spoke <i>more openly than ever before</i> .	<i>more X than ever before</i>
The sweater is <i>not</i> made of wool; <i>rather</i> cotton.	The sweater is made <i>not of</i> wool, <i>but rather</i> of cotton.	<i>not X but rather Y</i>
Her guess <i>of there being</i> 112 marbles in the jar was wrong.	Her guess <i>that</i> 112 marbles were in the jar was wrong.	<i>that</i> (to begin relative clause)
Jupiter cannot be explored by man <i>on account of</i> it being made of gas.	Jupiter cannot be explored by man <i>because</i> it is made of gas.	<i>because X is Y</i>
Jupiter cannot be explored by man <i>because of</i> it being made of gas.	Jupiter cannot be explored by man <i>because</i> it is made of gas.	<i>because X is Y</i>
I <i>question if</i> Chris is telling the truth.	I <i>question whether</i> Chris is telling the truth.	<i>question whether</i>
The <i>raising of</i> costs of automobile ownership has convinced me to continue riding my bike.	The <i>rising cost</i> of automobile ownership has convinced me to continue riding my bike.	<i>rising cost</i>
Dave's music ranges from classical sounds that belong to another era <i>and</i> modern beats heard in nightclubs.	Dave's music ranges from classical sounds that belong to another era <i>to</i> modern beats heard in nightclubs.	<i>ranges from X to Y</i>

Unidiomatic Expression:	Correction:	Correct Idiom Form:
The camp has passed a rule <i>requiring</i> the uncertified counselors <i>should</i> complete CPR training.	The camp has passed a rule <i>requiring</i> the uncertified counselors <i>to</i> complete CPR training.	<i>requiring X to Y</i> OR <i>requiring that X Y</i>
The <i>rivalry between</i> the Boston Red Sox <i>with</i> the New York Yankees is most prominent in October.	The <i>rivalry between</i> the Boston Red Sox <i>and</i> the New York Yankees is most prominent in October.	<i>rivalry between X and Y</i>
The power is <i>shifting from</i> the employer <i>with</i> the employee.	The power is <i>shifting from</i> the employer <i>to</i> the employee.	<i>shifting from X to Y</i>
<i>The more</i> you practice typing, your skill becomes <i>greater</i> .	<i>The more</i> you practice typing, <i>the greater</i> your skill becomes.	<i>the more X, the greater Y</i>
I do not <i>think of</i> the tomato <i>to be</i> a fruit.	I do not <i>think of</i> the tomato <i>as</i> a fruit.	<i>think of X as Y</i>
The teacher was <i>influential on</i> James.	The teacher was <i>an influence on</i> James.	<i>was an influence on</i>
While being a medical student, she performed her first surgery.	As a medical student, she performed her first surgery.	<i>as</i> (to introduce a phrase)
The bar <i>requires that</i> patrons <i>are</i> over eighteen years of age.	The bar <i>requires that</i> patrons <i>be</i> over eighteen years of age.	<i>requires that X be Y</i>
Dr. Watts is <i>worried over</i> the cat's recovery.	Dr. Watts is <i>worried about</i> the cat's recovery.	<i>worried about</i>
The object floated when we <i>expected for</i> it <i>to</i> sink.	The object floated when we <i>expected</i> it <i>to</i> sink.	<i>X is expected to Y</i>
The company <i>prohibits</i> sales representatives <i>to make</i> unsolicited calls.	The company <i>prohibits</i> sales representatives <i>from making</i> unsolicited calls.	<i>X prohibits Y from doing Z</i>

This chart represents the idiom errors that occur most frequently in *The Official Guide to GMAT Review*. Please see the appendix for an additional list of other idiomatic expressions.

Remember, idiom errors are in a quarter of the questions from the book. It is imperative to memorize the correct idiom formats from the previous chart, as well as look for additional idiom error in each question on the GMAT.