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GMAT 800

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SC - All rules for the GMAT – this is your homework – read the solutions to these one-liner questions before attempting the questions that follow these 50 questions

Indicate grammar errors, if any, in the following sentences:

1. Every day, the scent of apples and cinnamon sticks permeate throughout the cider mill, causing most visitors to purchase snacks while on the tour.
2. This is one of those (book / books) that (was / were) published last year.
3. Dhoni is one of those cricketers who (does / do) modeling assignments.
4. One of my (friend / friends) (is an IT professional / are IT professionals).
 - a. He is one of my friends who (is an IT professional / are IT professionals).
 - b. He is only one / just one / but one of my friends who (is an IT professional / are IT professionals).
 - c. He is the only one of my friends who (is an IT professional / are IT professionals).
 - d. The French (is / are) usually fashion-conscious people.
5. They each (is / are) applying for the same job.
6. What concern me (is the election result / are the election results).
7. Around the corner, there (is / are) a bakery and a supermarket.
8. A new generation of electronic products, gizmos, and gadgets, which happen to be as short-lived as one would expect, leading to utter chaos among the members of the common citizenry, (creep / creeps) up every year.
9. Each of the five boys (do / does) (his / their) homework in time.

Check the following (10-20) for parallel structure:

10. According to the teachings of the Buddhist and Hindu religions, attaining nirvana is to enter a state of supreme liberation.
11. He said that the college rusticated him and his future was bleak. / The scientist said that the research needed a new investment but he would not like federal intervention.
12. The rebels demanded the withdrawal of government forces from disputed regions, significant reductions in overall troop levels, (raising / the raising of) the rebel flag on holidays, AND a general pardon.
13. The rebels demanded the withdrawal of government forces from disputed regions AND (releasing / the releasing of / the release of) certain political prisoners.
14. The match was interesting but fixed. / The sizzler was spicy, appetizing, but a bit overcooked. / Because of strained budgets and fading public support, Indian Hockey is dying a slow death.
15. The man speaking at the event talked about the dangers of the war, cracked many jokes, and enthralled the audience by his witty one-liners.

16. The increased popularity and availability of televisions has led to the decline of regional dialects, language variations originating from diverse ethnic and cultural heritages and perpetuated by geographic isolation.
17. The growth of the railroads led to the abolition of local times, determined by when the sun reached the observer's meridian and differing from city to city, and to the establishment of regional times.
18. The stock market crashed, which caused a lot of people to lose money. OR The stock market crashed, and it caused a lot of people to lose money. OR The stock market crashed and caused a lot of people to lose money. OR The stock market crashed, causing a lot of people to lose money.
19. Mumbai houses 20 million people, the cultural capital of India, and has a lot of potential for a newcomer with dreams.
20. Since the teacher introduced the classroom reward system, students have begun paying closer attention, completing homework, following directions, and have stopped causing disruptions during lessons.
21. In 1975, Sippy produced a film that became the biggest blockbuster that Indian Cinema had ever seen.
22. The Supreme Court decreed that he should take charge of the situation. / I insist that she should be quiet.
23. India (has progressed / had progressed / progressed) progressed throughout the 20th century.
24. The patient (had died / died) before the doctor (reached / had reached).
25. By the age of 21, Akbar (ruled / had ruled) India for eight years. / By 1991, Jazz music (became / had become) very popular in India.
26. It is raining for 3 hours / it has rained for 3 hours / it has been raining for 3 hours.
27. Although it (stopped / has stopped) raining, I am still feeling cold.
28. The parents tried to explain the risks involved in hitch hiking, but it was useless.
29. Real Estate analysts have found that home prices have nearly doubled in the last ten years in the Southern California market, which is consistent with the increases in population and inflation there.
30. Jane's first novel was so well received that she thought of writing its sequel. / Jane's first novel was so well received that her bank balance soared.
31. While most Americans have heard of and used Microsoft products, few people know that its name is actually short for "microcomputer software."
32. While the company insists that its starting salary for a man working in the executive branch of the organization be the same as a woman in equal capacity, the watchdog group found a significant gender wage gap.
33. The sixth Harry Potter book, by British author J.K. Rowling, sold a record 8.9 million copies in the first 24 hours it was on sale—more than any author till date.
34. (As / Like) I mentioned earlier, the test date has been moved up.
35. (As / like) other children in her neighborhood who were home-schooled, Joan sometimes missed being in a classroom with her peers.
36. (As / like) a doctor, she earns a lot of respect. / The nurse performed the emergency surgery (as / like) a doctor.
37. This wall acts (as / like) a buffer. / My cooler cools (as / like) an air-conditioner. / This window creaks (as / like) a window. / He jumped (as / like) a clown.

38. Walking through the desolate lanes of the deserted city, (vandalism became apparent / it became apparent that the city had been vandalized).
39. Upon leaving the counter, the cashier handed the customer a receipt.
40. Unskilled in complex math, Bill's score on the entrance exam was poor.
41. Overjoyed by the quarterly results, a new bonus scheme was immediately announced by the manager.
42. Although the area had little traffic and pedestrians, the developers were convinced that the restaurant should be opened in the district; it was only a matter of time before urban sprawl would bring residents and visitors alike.
43. The Battle of Gettysburg, considered the turning point of the Civil War, saw one-third of its participants killed and injured.
44. Joan looked nervous, her fears creeping up on her.
45. The coach tried to put 5 receivers on the line, which ultimately failed.
46. In America, as in anywhere else in the world, we must find a focus in our lives at an early age, a focus that is beyond the mechanics of earning a living or coping with a household.
47. If I meet her, I will tell her a story.
48. If I met her, I would tell her a story. OR If I were to meet her, I would tell her a story. OR Were I to meet her, I would tell her a story.
49. If I had met her, I would have told her a story.
50. There are hopeful signs that we are shifting away from our heavy reliance on fossil fuels: more than ten times as much energy is (generated through wind power now as it was / generated through wind power now as was the case) in 1990.

SC – all rules in one page - solutions

Indicate grammar errors, if any, in the following sentences:

1. Every day, the scent of apples and cinnamon sticks permeate throughout the cider mill, causing most visitors to purchase snacks while on the tour.

CORRECTION:

Every day, the **scent** of apples and cinnamon sticks **permeates** throughout the cider mill, causing most visitors to purchase snacks while on the tour.

SCENT is singular... so the singular verb PERMEATES should be used... also, the meaning of the word 'permeate' is to 'spread throughout' the available space... so we don't need the word 'throughout'.

2. This is one of those (book / books) that (was / were) published last year.

CORRECTION: This is one of those **books** that **were** published last year.

This might sound awkward... normally we might want to associate ONE... WAS...

But here, THAT as a pronoun refers to BOOKS... hence we need WERE... also, WERE gives the logically correct meaning.

3. Dhoni is one of those cricketers who (does / do) modelling assignments.

CORRECTION: Dhoni is one of those cricketers who **DO** modelling assignments.

This might sound awkward... normally we might want to associate ONE... DOES...

But here, WHO as a pronoun refers to CRICKETERS... hence we need DO... also, DO gives the logically correct meaning.

4. One of my (friend / friends) (is an IT professional / are IT professionals).

Correction: One of my friends is an IT professional.

Here we are talking about one person only.

- a. He is one of my friends who (is an IT professional / are IT professionals).

CORRECTION: He is one of my friends who are IT professionals.

This might sound awkward... normally we might want to associate ONE... IS...

But here, WHO as a pronoun refers to FRIENDS... hence we need ARE... also, ARE gives the logically correct meaning.

- b. He is only one / just one / but one of my friends who (is an IT professional / are IT professionals).

CORRECTION: He is only one / just one / but one of my friends who are IT professionals.

This might sound awkward... normally we might want to associate ONE... IS...

But here, WHO as a pronoun refers to FRIENDS... hence we need ARE... also, ARE gives the logically correct meaning.

- c. He is the only one of my friends who (is an IT professional / are IT professionals).

CORRECTION: He is THE only one of my friends who IS an IT professional.

Watch out: Here THE ONLY ONE means there is only one person... so IS.

d. The French (is / are) usually fashion-conscious people.

CORRECTION: The French **ARE** usually fashion-conscious people.

The + Adjective... is usually considered plural for the entire group.

The poor, the needy, the underprivileged, the rich, the wounded, the brave etc. all are plural.

By the same logic, the GMAT considers all "the + tribe" constructions plural:

The ONEIDA, THE MOHAWK, THE TOLTEC, THE ANASAZI etc. are all considered plural.

5. They each (is / are) applying for the same job.

CORRECTION: They each **ARE** applying for the same job.

Here the subject is THEY... (EACH is only an intensifier... just a filler)...

They ~~each~~ **ARE** applying for the same job.

But if the sentence is "Each of them **IS** applying for the job."... Here 'IS' is correct because the subject is EACH.

"Each ~~of them~~ **IS** applying for the job."...

6. What concern me (is the election result / are the election results).

Here the verb is CONCERN (this does not end in 's', so this is a plural verb).

So the right answer will be:

CORRECTION: What concern me are the election results.

Had the sentence been "What concerns me ..." then the subject must be singular.

CORRECT: What concerns me is the election result.

7. Around the corner, there (is / are) a bakery and a supermarket.

If you flip this sentence, it will become: There **ARE** a bakery **AND** a supermarket around the corner.

On the GMAT, two subjects joined by AND are always considered PLURAL.

Correction: Around the corner, there **ARE** a bakery and a supermarket.

8. A new generation of electronic products, gizmos, and gadgets, which happen to be as short-lived as one would expect, leading to utter chaos among the members of the common citizenry, (creep / creeps) up every year.

Correction:

A new **GENERATION** of electronic products, gizmos, and gadgets, which happen to be as short-lived as one would expect, leading to utter chaos among the members of the common citizenry, **CREEPS** up every year.

It is important to remove the clutter between the subject and the verb.

9. Each of the five boys (do / does) (his / their) homework in time.

CORRECTION: **EACH** of the five boys **DOES HIS** homework in time.

The subject of the sentence is clearly EACH.

Check the following (10-20) for parallel structure:

10. According to the teachings of the Buddhist and Hindu religions, attaining nirvana is to enter a state of supreme liberation.

This question tests X is Y Parallelism.

In such constructions, X must be parallel to Y.

"attaining nirvana is to enter" is definitely not parallel.

This could be corrected in 2 ways:

TO ATTAIN ... is TO ENTER

OR

ATTAINING ... is ENTERING.

11. He said that the college rusticated him and his future was bleak.

This sentence tests THAT and THAT Parallelism.

For any **reporting verbs** such as say, find, report, prove etc., the following is a rule on the GMAT:

The reporting verb is followed by THAT...

So THAT can be called a clause INTRODUCER...

The word THAT is repeated with every CLAUSE (a part of a sentence that contains a VERB)

CORRECTION: He said **THAT (THAT is compulsory)** the college **HAD** rusticated him (CLAUSE) and **THAT** his future was bleak (CLAUSE).

"HAD rusticated" is compulsory here... "Rusticated" alone will not suffice.

Here is the reason:

Imagine the sentence:

The teacher came to know that John had cheated in the test.

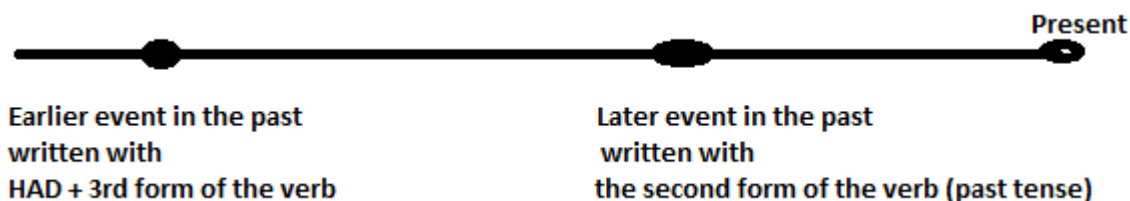
Here, there are 2 actions in the past...

John cheated (earlier) teacher came to know (later)

There is a clear time difference between the two events.

In this situation, the event happening earlier is written with HAD + 3rd form (past participle) of the Verb and the event happening later is written with the past tense (second form of the verb).

This conforms to the diagram below:



So in this sentence, there are 2 past actions: rustication (earlier) and He said (later):

CORRECTION: He said **THAT (THAT is compulsory)** the college **HAD** rusticated him (CLAUSE) and **THAT** his future was bleak (CLAUSE).

The words AND / OR / BUT maintain strict parallelism on either side.

Part 2 CORRECTION: The scientist proved **THAT** the research needed a new investment (**CLAUSE**) but **THAT** he would not like federal intervention (**CLAUSE**).

CAUTION: If the word THAT is used as a pronoun, THAT and THAT parallelism is not compulsory.

Imagine the sentence:

Countries that invest heavily in military and thus gain some kind of forced hegemony in world affairs don't get the respect that they would otherwise get.

Here **THAT** is a pronoun referring to **countries**. So here, after that word AND, the word THAT is not compulsorily repeated.

BEFORE READING THE SOLUTIONS TO Q. 12 and 13, read the following note.

A note about –ING forms

These forms confuse students as these can be used in many ways:

–ING forms used as VERBS: An –ING form alone cannot be a verb... To be part of a verb, it must be accompanied by some form of the verb "to be." So IS + ING, WAS + ING, AM + ING, ARE + ING, WERE + ING, HAS BEEN + ING, HAVE BEEN + ING, HAD BEEN + ING, WILL BE + ING etc... will be verbs.

He IS RUNNING (VERB)

Note: It doesn't mean that everything of the form IS + ING is always verb. Focus on sentences below:

Seeing is believing.

All he needs is training.

His main problem is drinking.

In the sentences above, "is believing", "is training", or "is drinking" are not verbs.

The words "believing", "training", and "drinking" are nouns (gerunds).

–ING forms used as NOUNS (GERUNDS): –ING form (as a gerund) is a standalone noun.

RUNNING (Noun – gerund) is a good exercise.

The remaking of (Noun – gerund) Capitalism is called for.

Being an American (Noun – gerund) was an advantage for him in the home country.

CAUTION: *Imagine the sentence:* Being an American, she enjoyed certain privileges in Canada.

In this sentence, "Being an American" is a modifier (acts as an **adjective**).

The best test to identify NOUNS is to ask a question with WHAT? If the answer is the –ING form, the given word is a noun (gerund).

In the first sentence, we can definitely ask WHAT was an advantage? ... The answer will be "being an American" ... so it is a noun. In the second sentence, such a question cannot be asked.

–ING Forms used as Adjectives (Present Participles) – referring to a single noun in the sentence:

*The **resulting** temperature was high.* (The word 'resulting' is an Adjective – present participle – used BEFORE the noun 'temperature').

The temperature **resulting** from the warming was high. (The word 'resulting' is an Adjective – present participle – used AFTER the noun 'temperature').

–ING Forms used as Adjectival Modifiers (Present Participles) – referring to a single noun:

Looking at the baby's picture, she said that she also wanted a baby. (The word 'looking' is an Adjective – this word modifies SHE – so we call it the adjectival modifier—used away from and BEFORE the noun).

The captain resented the cuts in endorsements, **fuming** at the very suggestion given by the chairman of the Board. (The word 'fuming' is an Adjective – this word modifies the captain – so we call it the adjectival modifier—used away from and AFTER the noun).

Remember: Adjectival modifiers used after the comma usually don't refer to the immediately preceding subject.

–ING Forms used as Adverbial Modifier – referring to a verb, action, or the entire preceding clause:

The firm's investors invested unwisely for three consecutive years, **leading** to the complete collapse of the bank. (Here the word 'leading' modifies the entire clause – so it is called the adverbial modifier).

Concrete nouns refer to things, people, places, and even time periods or certain events: rock, continent, electron, politician, region, holiday, week etc.

Action nouns refer to actions, as their name implies. They are often formed from verbs: Eruption, pollution, nomination, withdrawal, development, change, growth

–Ing forms of verbs can also be used as nouns to indicate actions. *-Ing* verb forms used as nouns are called Gerunds.

How to identify ING forms as nouns?

Ask "WHAT" ... if the answer is the ING form, then it is a noun (gerund).

Fishing is fun.

My favorite occupation is **reading**.

Pointless **questioning** makes me sick.

He is crazy about **singing**.

They are afraid of **swimming** in the sea.

Sam dreams of **being** a pop-star.

My uncle is afraid of **going by plane**.

Cooking is one of her hobbies.

Getting a good job is not easy.

Driving becomes more and more expensive.

Making fun of other people is not nice.

Smoking costs a lot of money.

I don't like **writing** letters.

I dislike his **coming** here uninvited.

I don't like **playing** cards.

You should give up **smoking**.

He is interested in **making friends**.

We insist on **cooking** the dinner ourselves.

Cycling is fun.

Finding a parking space is quite difficult in this area.

No **smoking** in this area.

Learning about other cultures makes people more tolerant.

I don't like **writing**.

She is good at **dancing**.

Focus on the sentence:

Tracking satellites accurately is important for the space agency.

The underlined phrase acts as a noun: Something is important for the space agency.

A settling of debts is called for.

The clearing of forests is a bad idea.

The making of *Titanic* was aired.

The accurate tracking of satellites is important for the space agency.

Wrong: The rebels demanded the **withdrawal** of government forces from disputed regions, significant **reductions** in overall troop levels, **raising** the rebel flag on holidays, AND a general **pardon**.

Right: The rebels demanded the **withdrawal** of government forces from disputed regions, significant **reductions** in overall troop levels, **THE raising OF** the rebel flag on holidays, AND a general **pardon**.

Wrong: The rebels demanded the **withdrawal** of government forces from disputed regions AND **releasing** certain political prisoners.

Wrong: The rebels demanded the **withdrawal** of government forces from disputed regions AND **THE releasing OF** certain political prisoners.

Right: The rebels demanded the **withdrawal** of government forces from disputed regions AND **THE RELEASE OF** certain political prisoners.

So, logically speaking:

N || N || ING of || ING N > ING of > ING

If the noun form is not available, we have to use the gerund form.

Focus on the sentence below:

Doctors generally agree that such factors as cigarette smoking, eating rich foods high in fats, and alcohol consumption not only do damage by themselves but also aggravate genetic predispositions toward certain diseases.

Here, the three factors are perfectly parallel: 1: cigarette smoking ... 2: eating rich foods ... 3: alcohol consumption

They're parallel because they're all nouns. As far as the choice between "consumption" and "consuming" goes:

if you are ever given a choice between a DEDICATED NOUN FORM of an action and the corresponding GERUND form of the action, you should always go for the dedicated noun form.

Notice that this doesn't mean that you should automatically reject all -ING forms of those actions, since some of them are not gerunds; some of them are modifiers, in which case you should absolutely use the -ING form.

*Every year, **the running** of the Boston Marathon attracts hundreds of thousands of spectators.*

--> this is correct, since there is no dedicated noun form (like "runnage").

*People **running** the Boston Marathon are generally in very good physical shape.*

--> also correct; this is an adjective.

***The performing** of certain dance moves requires years of practice.*

--> inferior, though not technically incorrect

***The performance** of certain dance moves requires years of practice.*

--> correct, and better than the previous version

*People **performing** dance moves extremely skillfully often appear to be exerting less effort than they really are.*

--> correct; this "performing" is an adjective.

In this problem, "consumption" is the only one of the three words that has a dedicated noun form. (There are no words such as "eatage", "smokation", etc.) ... so that's the best you're going to get.

- 12. The rebels demanded the withdrawal of government forces from disputed regions, significant reductions in overall troop levels, (raising / the raising of) the rebel flag on holidays, AND a general pardon.

The concept of GERUND:

Gerund is -ING form of the Verb used as a NOUN.

Imagine the sentences:

Reading this book took me 3 hours. ACCEPTABLE sentence!

The reading of this book took me 3 hours. ACCEPTABLE sentence!

The read (???) of this book took me 3 hours. **NOT correct...**

So sometimes we don't have a choice: we have to use the ING / ING OF forms as there is no noun such as READ.

Now imagine the sentences:

Studying this book took me 3 hours. ACCEPTABLE sentence!

The studying of this book took me 3 hours. ACCEPTABLE sentence!

The STUDY of this book took me 3 hours. **ACCEPTABLE sentence!**

In this sentence, there is a choice we can use both ING / ING OF and a Standard Noun.

Now ask a question:

WHAT took me 3 hours? – We can say Reading this book / the reading of this book / studying this book / the studying of this book / the study of this book... ALL THESE ARE NOUNS.

Rules on the GMAT:

- If there is a choice between a gerund (ING form noun – let's say 'studying' or 'the studying of') and a standard noun (study), we always prefer the standard noun.
- If there is a choice between an –ING and –ING OF noun, we prefer –ING OF.
- In terms of parallelism:
 - A standard noun can be parallel to another standard noun.
 - A standard noun can be parallel to an ING OF noun.
 - A standard noun CAN be parallel to an ING noun but is **not preferred**.
 - An ING OF noun CAN be parallel to an ING noun but is **not preferred**.

Now in the given sentence:

The rebels demanded the **withdrawal** of government forces from disputed regions, significant **reductions** in overall troop levels, (raising / **the raising of**) the rebel flag on holidays, AND a general **pardon**.

There are 3 standard nouns: withdrawal, reductions, and pardon.

As per the rule above, a standard noun can be parallel to ING OF but not parallel to ING, the correct answer will be THE RAISING OF.

13. The rebels demanded the **withdrawal** of government forces from disputed regions AND (releasing / the releasing of / **the release of**) certain political prisoners.

Here we have a choice: ING noun / ING OF noun / standard NOUN.

So as per rule 1, we will pick up the standard noun: THE RELEASE OF.

Here Standard noun **withdrawal** is parallel to another standard noun **release**.

More examples of Gerund (in each of the sentences below, the part in BOLD is the Gerund = Noun)

Fishing is fun.

My favorite occupation is **reading**.

Pointless **questioning** makes me sick.

He is crazy about **singing**.

They are afraid of **swimming** in the sea.

Sam dreams of **being** a pop-star.

My uncle is afraid of **going by plane**.

Cooking is one of her hobbies.

Getting a good job is not easy.

Smoking costs a lot of money.

I don't like **writing** letters.

I dislike his **coming** here uninvited.

I don't like **playing** cards.

You should give up **smoking**.

He is interested in **making friends**.

We insist on **cooking** the dinner ourselves.

Cycling is fun.

Finding a parking space is quite difficult in this area.

I don't like **writing**.

She is good at **dancing**.

Driving becomes more and more expensive.
Making fun of other people is not nice.

No **smoking** in this area.

Learning about other cultures makes people more tolerant.

Before reading the next four solutions, refer to the theory given below:

ING forms used as adjectives (Present Participles)

- The **barking** dog kept us awake at night. (**Adjective immediately before the noun**)
- The dog **barking** outside the gate kept us awake. (**Adjective immediately after the noun**)
- **Barking** and yelling, the dog chased him. (**Adjective modifier before the noun**)
- The dog chased the man ferociously, **barking** as loudly as it could. (**Adjective modifier after the noun**)

Present Participle Adjectives

1. The present participle describes the person or thing that causes the reaction. *A **frightening** movie*
2. The present participle describes the condition of it. The noun described has a more active role:
*The mugger made a **threatening** move towards me.*

Some more examples:

- She jealously watched her boyfriend **flirting** with another girl.
- The party was **boring**.
- The car race was **exciting**.
- Passengers **wanting** to go to Liverpool had to change in Manchester.
- Irish people **living** in Great Britain have the right to vote in British elections.
- The house **standing** at the end of the road will soon be sold.
- The boy **carrying** a blue parcel crossed the street.
- **Talking** to her friend, she forgot everything around her.
- **Being** vegetarians, they don't eat meat.
- **Wagging** its tail, the dog bit the postman.
- **Being** a good boy, he helped his mother in the kitchen.
- **Being** on holiday, she couldn't go to the party.
- **Being** very tall, he became a basketball player.
- The movie was *The Incredible **Shrinking Man***.
- Cowboy Bob put on his **riding** clothes when he went for a canter.
- The weather was **freezing** cold Saturday.
- The **sailing** ship ran aground in Newfoundland.
- Uncle Fester has a **snoring** parrot.
- The newest **broadcasting** station plays only rap music.
- XYZ's **holding** company went bankrupt last month.
- Grandmother lost her **reading** glasses again.
- The rustic cabin didn't even have **running** water!
- Her **clinging** gown made her look fat.
- The **burning** grass crept close to the house.
- The **crying** baby drew a long breath and sucked in a spider **crouching** in the corner of the crib.

3rd forms of the verbs used as adjectives (Past Participles): When you are describing a person's reaction or feeling, or a condition or an action, use the past participle form – the third form of the verb (**-ed, -en, -d, -t, -n, or irregular** ending) if the noun described has a **passive** relationship with something.

- Jennifer's **burned** hand hurt her very much.
- The **broken** chair was used for firewood.
- Her recipe called for 12 **beaten** eggs.
- Nancy found a **hidden** staircase behind the paneling in the old house.
- All the protesters had **shaved** heads.
- All the words on the test were **misspelled** by Algie.
- The book was **known** to all of us.
- Gertrude threw out the **spoiled** meat.
- Laura, **fascinated** by the movie star, wrote him a letter every day.

- **Correct:** The *barking* dogs annoyed the whole neighborhood.
- **Correct:** The dogs **that were barking** annoyed the whole neighborhood.
- **Incorrect:** The *barked* dogs annoyed the whole neighborhood.
- **Incorrect:** The dogs **that were barked** annoyed the whole neighborhood.

Barking works because present participles are similar to **active** verbs. The subject is doing the action. **Barked** doesn't work because most past participles are similar to **passive** verbs. The action is done to the subject by something or someone else. They receive the action. *A dog can be fed, but it can't be barked.* Some verbs can be used in both forms (depending upon the context and meaning): All of these examples are correct.

- The *breaking* dishes made a mess in the kitchen.
- The dishes **that were breaking** made a mess in the kitchen.
- The *broken* dishes made a mess in the kitchen.
- The dishes **that were broken** made a mess in the kitchen.

More examples of past participles:

- Each Saturday, we have a pizza **delivered** to our home.
- We had our last party **organized** by professionals.
- I have a cat **called** Tari.
- I am very **interested** in history.
- The cup **filled** with milk stood on the table.
- The battle **fought** at this place was very significant.
- The books **sent** to us are for my aunt.
- The picture **stolen** from a museum was offered on EBay.
- The song **sung** last night is still in my head.
- The documentation **telecast** last Tuesday was impressive.
- The conference **planned** by non-governmental organizations was about globalization.
- The problems **discussed** will be essential for your exam.
- Last month I read a book **written** by a Scottish author.
- I found the key hidden under the mat.
- **Accused** of murder, he was arrested.
- **Shocked** by the bad news, she burst into tears.
- **Excited** about their birthday party, the girls could not sleep.
- **Born** into a rich family, she got everything she wished for.
- **Built** in 1859, Big Ben is a national symbol
- The **stolen** baby was found by the police unharmed.
- Dean's **broken** arm was set in plaster by the doctor at the hospital.
- Please bring all of the **required** documents for your interview tomorrow.
- The **mangled** pair of sunglasses, **bruised** face, **broken** arm, and **bleeding** knees meant Genette had taken another spill on her mountain bike.

How to select the right adjective — Present Participle or Past Participle?

An easy test:

Try to add a "was" or a "were" temporarily in the part of the sentence ... if the sentence makes sense in the context of the sentence, the word without the "was / were" is the correct adjective.

The volcano erupting / erupted was a sight to watch.

Here ... "The volcano **was** erupting" makes sense and "The volcano **was** erupted" is nonsensical. So the right adjective is **erupting**.

The cell-phone designed / designing for the elderly had larger keys.

Here ... "The cell-phone **was** designed" makes sense and "The cell-phone **was** designing" is nonsensical. So the right adjective is **designed**.

(Differing / Differed) only by 2 minutes, the times in the 2 clocks created confusion in the minds of the football players. CORRECT: differing

(Determined / Determining) by a lot of effort, the times proved to be accurate. CORRECT: determined

NOTE: If you can't insert the words WAS / WERE, the word has to be a **SIMPLE PAST TENSE VERB** (in the second form). Also, if we can insert WAS / WERE, then "was / were + 3rd form of the verb (past participle)" is a **passive verb**.

He **stretched** the wire. (VERB)

The elastic **stretched** because of repeated usage became too loose to be used in the child's pants. (ADJECTIVE)

The deadline **was stretched** to meet the targets. (PASSIVE VERB)

The man **found** the coin. (VERB)

The coin **found** in the museum turned out to be of inferior quality. (ADJECTIVE)

The coin **was found** in the museum. (PASSIVE VERB)

The book **sold** 3 million copies. (VERB)

The book **sold** was of an inferior quality. (ADJECTIVE)

The book **was sold** at almost all the stores. (PASSIVE VERB)

The simple rule for parallelism is: Adjectives | | Present Participles | | Past Participles

A mastodon carcass, **thawed** only once AND still **fresh**, is on display.

The match was **interesting** but **fixed**.

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

The sizzler was **spicy** and **appetizing**, but a bit **overcooked**.

Because of **strained** budgets and **fading** public support, Indian Hockey is dying a slow death.

Bold, interesting, and liked by all the sections of the media, the movie went on to become the biggest blockbuster of the year.

The smoke **coming** out of the window and **frosted** by the fog was very thick.

*In the examples above, the words in **BOLD** are parallel to each other because they are adjectives.*

14. The match was interesting but fixed.

This question is a case of BLIND (of looks) parallelism v/s ACTUAL (of roles) parallelism.

We must not see that interest-ING and fix-ED don't look parallel.

We must look at the roles of each word:

The word INTERESTING is an ADJECTIVE (Present Participle)

The word FIXED is also an ADJECTIVE (PAST Participle).

As the role of each word is just the same (adjective), the sentence given above is CORRECT.

The sizzler was spicy, appetizing, but a bit overcooked.

SPICY is a STANDARD ADJECTIVE.

APPETIZING is an ADJECTIVE (PRESENT PARTICIPLE)

OVERCOOKED is an ADJECTIVE (PAST PARTICIPLE)

Again this sentence is CORRECT.

Because of strained budgets and fading public support, Indian Hockey is dying a slow death.

STRAINED is an ADJECTIVE (past participle)

Fading is an ADJECTIVE (present participle)

The sentence is CORRECT.

Adjectives, Past Participles, and Present Participles (used as adjectives)

Standard Adjective || Past Participle || Present Participle.

*In each of the sentence parts below, the word in **BOLD** is the adjective...*

an interesting book	a sleeping child	two playing dogs	the winning number
several travelling bags	the moving power	a touching moment	an exciting film
a working man	running water	the lost son	an interested audience
a broken leg	an emptied bottle	a closed door	a decorated room
two packed bags	the written letters	the sold car	the bought apples

*In each of the sentences below, the word(s) in **BOLD** is/are the adjective / adjective equivalent (modifier)*

- **Talking** to her friend she forgot everything around her.
- **Being** vegetarians they don't eat meat.
- **Wagging** its tail the dog bit the postman.
- **Being** a good boy he helped his mother in the kitchen.
- **Not having** enough money they spent their holidays at home last year.
- She jealously watched her boyfriend **flirting** with another girl.
- Each Saturday, we have a pizza **delivered** to our home.
- We had our last party **organized** by professionals.
- I have a cat **called** Tari.
- **Accused** of murder he was arrested.
- **Shocked** by the bad news she burst into tears.
- **Having drunk** too much he didn't drive home himself.
- **Not having slept** for two days she wasn't able to concentrate.
- **Having been typed** by the secretary, the letter was signed by the boss.
- I am very **interested** in history.
- The party was **boring**.
- The **barking** dog kept us awake at night.
- The car race was **exciting**.
- **Excited** about their birthday party, the girls could not sleep.
- The cup **filled** with milk stood on the table.
- **Born** into a rich family, she got everything she wished for.
- The boy **carrying** a blue parcel crossed the street.
- The battle **fought** at this place was very significant.
- The books **sent** to us are for my aunt.
- **Being** very tall, he became a basketball player.
- The picture **stolen** from a museum was offered on EBay.
- The song **sung** last night is still in my head.
- The documentation **telecast** last Tuesday was impressive.
- **Having** saved a little money, he travelled to Australia.
- **Not having a boyfriend**, she flirted with every guy she met.
- **Being** on holiday, she couldn't go to the party.
- Passengers **wanting** to go to Liverpool had to change in Manchester.
- The house **standing** at the end of the road will soon be sold.
- The conference **planned** by non-governmental organizations was about globalization.
- Irish people **living** in Great Britain have the right to vote in British elections.
- The problems **discussed** will be essential for your exam.
- Last month I read a book **written** by a Scottish author.

15. The man speaking at the event talked about the dangers of the war, cracked many jokes, and enthralled the audience by his witty one-liners.

This is **correct** as 'speaking' is the adjective... and the other three underlined parts are verbs in parallel form.

Don't apply blind parallelism and **misinterpret** that speaking / talked / cracked / enthralled are not all parallel. They are not supposed to be parallel.

16. The increased popularity and availability of televisions has led to the decline of regional dialects, language variations originating from diverse ethnic and cultural heritages and perpetuated by geographic isolation.

Imagine the sentence: He saw a man **injured** (somebody else was responsible) by a bullet and **limping** in pain.

Let's apply the simple WAS / WERE test: *The man **was** injured by the bullet* is correct ... *The man **was** injuring by the bullet* is nonsensical. So **injured** is the right adjective.

*The man **was** limping in pain* is correct ... *The man **was** limped in pain* is nonsensical. So **limping** is the correct adjective.

So **injured** (past participle, -ed adjective) is parallel to **limping** (present participle, ING adjective).

Consider the sentence: Because of **strained** budgets and **fading** public support, Indian Hockey is dying a slow death.

In this case, **strained** is the adjective (past participle – intended action) for the word **budgets**; **fading** is the adjective (present participle – unintended action) for the word **support**.

In the given question, we need to know 2 things:

Something **originates** on its own (unintended action). So the correct adjective is **originating**.

Perpetuate (make an unfounded belief continue indefinitely) is an intended action. So the correct adjective is **perpetuated**.

For example:

Originating in Europe and **perpetuated** by immigrant Europeans to spread their dominance, Spanish had become a major language in the Americas by 1900s.

Languages **originate** on their own (by the way people speak different dialects in various parts of the world). The origin of a language at a particular place is **not an intended activity**.

Perpetuation of the Spanish language was an intended activity by the Europeans. It could not have happened on its own.

If there is a confusion regarding which form to use (-ING or -ED), do the following test:

Use WAS / WERE along with the given verb.

Variations WERE **ORIGINATING**. – This is surely correct as "origination" is not intentional. "WERE ORIGINATING" definitely implies something unintentional.

Variations WERE **ORIGINATED**. This is definitely wrong as "origination" is not intentional. "WERE originated" definitely implies something INTENDED.

This will clearly depend on the meaning of the word "Originate." This word has a meaning that definitely signifies "NO SPECIFIC INTENTION" on part of any person. Something originates on its own, without an intended effort by an external agency.

Variations WERE **PERPETUATED**. This is surely CORRECT as "perpetuation" is intentional. "WERE PERPETUATED" definitely implies something intentional.

Variations WERE **PERPETUATING**. This is surely WRONG as "perpetuation" is intentional. "WERE PERPETUATING" definitely implies something unintentional.

This will clearly depend on the meaning of the word "Perpetuate." This word has a meaning that definitely signifies "SPECIFIC INTENTION" on part of any person. Something does not perpetuate on its own; an intended effort by an external agency is a MUST.

Imagine 2 more sentences:

Erupting at an absolutely wrong time, the volcano posed a major problem for the local residents.

Here, 'eruption' is unintentional – so we use Present Participle (Adjective) ERUPTING.

Designed to perfection, the new car was the cynosure of all eyes.

Here, 'design' is intentional – so we use Past Participle (Adjective) Designed.

17. The growth of the railroads led to the abolition of local times, determined by when the sun reached the observer's meridian and differing from city to city, and to the establishment of regional times.

Imagine 2 different cities where local times were determined in 1800s:

Determination is an intended activity, so the right adjective is '**determined**'.

The *difference* in the times in 2 cities is an unintended activity, so the right adjective is '**differing**'.

Also, if we use WAS / WERE ...

*The times **were** determining in the 2 cities.* Nonsensical!

*The times **were** determined in the 2 cities.* Correct ... so the right adjective is 'determined'.

*The times **were** differed in the two cities.* It will mean as if someone intentionally made the two times different. Nonsensical!

*The times **were** differing in the two cities.* Correct ... so the right adjective is 'differing'.

The sentence is correct as given. As discussed above:

...somebody **determined times**... INTENTIONAL so DETERMINED.

but

times differed... UNINTENTIONAL so DIFFERING

Extreme Caution: I know some of you have learned that we should only use the -ing form only for actions that are ongoing/in progress in the present, but that's simply not true. Participles have nothing to do with TENSES. We do occasionally use them correctly for past actions that were ongoing/in progress.

MUST READ:

Let's focus on two real GMAT sentences to understand this further:

1. Scientists have recently discovered what could be the largest and oldest living organism on Earth, a giant fungus that is an interwoven filigree of mushrooms and root-like tentacles spawned by a single fertilized spore some 10,000 years ago and extending for more than 30 acres in the soil of a Michigan forest.
A. extending B. extends C. extended D. it extended E. is extending

This type of question is one of the most common questions on the GMAT – read the solution to this question (below) at least 10 times.

Imagine the sentence:

The crumbled chair, **broken** and **ageing** with each passing day, was nearing the end of its life.

Broken (a Past Participle) and **ageing** (a Present Participle) are both modifying (describing) chair (which is a noun). Hence, **broken** and **ageing** are adjective forms (since adjectives describe nouns). In this sentence, it is clear that **broken** is Past participle, since the Past tense of **break** is **broke** while Past participle is **broken**. And since Past participles and present participle are considered parallel structures, this sentence is correct.

The most important clue in this sentence is AND ... the word AND mandates Right to Left strict parallelism. To the right of AND is "extending" ... to check parallelism, we have to understand the role of the word "extending". It is not a verb as -ING forms alone are never verbs. So it can be a noun or an adjective. In this sentence the word "extending" is describing something ... we need to know what it is describing.

If we read further ... "extending for more than 30 acres in the soil of a Michigan forest" can describe the largest organism (30 acres is really LARGE), which is the same as "giant (large) fungus" or "interwoven (interconnected, large) filigree". "Mushrooms and root-like tentacles" of a single plant can't extend for 30 acres ... their filigree (wire formed into delicate tracery such as *filigree foliage*) can. So the word "extending" surely describes "organism".

As the word "extending" describes something, it is an adjective. And the word "extending" is written after the word AND ... so we must find another adjective (that describes the organism) to the left of AND. We have the word "spawned" before AND. "Spawn" (meaning: produce or generate, especially in large numbers and undesirably) cannot describe tentacles, as tentacles of a plant cannot extend for 30 acres and can't get generated in large numbers. Also, the fact that "a single spore" was responsible for the whole 30-acre growth (happening for the last 10,000 years) makes sure that the word "spawned" describes the organism ...

So we have 2 adjectives: "spawned" and "extending", both describing the organism ... perfectly parallel ... option A must be correct.

Option B: "extends" is a verb ... but there is no verb parallel to "extends" before the word AND ... Incorrect.

Option C: "extended" is also an adjective. But this signifies intention whereas the given action of extending is completely unintended. So this is the wrong adjective.

Imagine the two sentences:

*The road **extended** from A to B was found to be skewed by the local authorities.* Here, the word "extended" means that somebody intentionally extended the road. Past participles show intention.

*The smoke **coming** out of the building corroborated the suspicion that the building had caught fire.* Here the word "coming" is unintended. Present participles show no intention.

There's really no point in deciding which of these roles "extended" is playing—the point is that both interpretations produce incorrect answers! In an appropriate context, "extended" could be either a past participle or a past-tense verb. Most importantly, if either of these interpretations works, then the sentence is correct.

Imagine the sentence:

The new state highway, built in 2007 and **extended** for an additional five miles in 2009, is now the busiest road in the area. --> here, "extended" is a past participle.

The state highway **extended** for fifty miles before it was razed in 1985. --> here, "extended" is a past-tense verb.

Option D: "it extended" is a verb ... but there is no verb parallel to "extended" before the word AND ... Incorrect.

Option E: "is extending" is a verb ... but there is no verb parallel to "is extending" before the word AND ... Incorrect.

Consider another sentence:

In the search for alien life, astronomers have recently begun studying a promising region, a solar system that is populated by a number of potentially life-friendly planets formed by fragments of an exploding star some 7 million years ago and features many of the geological and climatic prerequisites for the evolution of life.

- A. features B. featured C. had featured D. featuring E. feature

Here, the word **formed** is an adjective parallel to **featuring**. Ans. D (Use the same logic as given above).

2. First discovered more than 30 years ago, Lina's sunbird, a four-and-a-half-inch animal found in the Philippines and that resembles a hummingbird, has shimmering metallic colors on its head; a brilliant orange patch, bordered with red tufts, in the center of its breast; and a red eye.

- A. found in the Philippines and that resembles
B. found in the Philippines and that, resembling
C. found in the Philippines and resembling
D. that is found in the Philippines and it resembles
E. that is found in the Philippines, resembling

A. Here, the first underlined word is "found", which is an adjective for the word Lina's sunbird (animal) ... we also have the word AND ... the word after AND is "resembles" (verb). Not parallel.

B. Here, the first underlined word is "found", which is an adjective for the word Lina's sunbird (animal) ... we also have the word AND ... the word after AND is "that" ... if "that" is not there on the left side, it can't be on the right side (to maintain parallelism).

C. Here, the first underlined word is "found", which is an adjective for the word Lina's sunbird (animal) ... we also have the word AND ... the word after AND is "resembling", which is also an adjective for the sunbird (animal). The adjectives "found" and "resembling" are perfectly parallel.

Options D and E are not parallel! We are describing two characteristics of the bird, both of which should be parallel.

18. The stock market crashed, which caused a lot of people to lose money. OR The stock market crashed, and it caused a lot of people to lose money. OR The stock market crashed and caused a lot of people to lose money. OR The stock market crashed, causing a lot of people to lose money.

- The stock market crashed, which caused a lot of people to lose money. **Here the use of WHICH is clearly wrong.**

WHICH is a pronoun – by definition, pronouns can refer back only to nouns.

Here the word WHICH refers to 'crashed' – but 'crashed' is a verb. So the usage of WHICH is wrong.

- The stock market crashed, and it caused a lot of people to lose money.

Here the use of IT is clearly wrong.

IT is a pronoun – by definition, pronouns can refer back only to nouns.

Here the word IT refers to 'crashed' – but 'crashed' is a verb. So the usage of IT is wrong.

- The stock market crashed and caused a lot of people to lose money.

If we split this into two sentences, it becomes:

The stock market crashed

The stock market caused a lot of people to lose money.

This is clearly wrong meaning... the STOCKMARKET didn't cause people to lose money... the CRASH of the market did.

In these situations, we use –ING form of the verb to show the effect. So in any cause-effect relationship, we always use –ING form of the verb for the effect.

So the correct expression will be:

The stock market crashed, causing a lot of people to lose money.

19. Mumbai HOUSES 20 million people, the cultural capital of India, and has a lot of potential for a newcomer with dreams.

As this sentence is underlined in part, we can correct only the underlined part and will have to leave the non-underlined part INTACT.

If we split this into 3 sentences:

Mumbai HOUSES 20 million people. (Proper sentence... sentences have to contain a VERB... the verb here is HOUSES – such a part of a sentence is called a CLAUSE)

Mumbai the cultural capital of India. (NOT a Proper sentence... sentences have to contain a VERB. The verb 'IS' is missing here).

So it should have been: Mumbai IS the cultural capital of India.

Mumbai HAS a lot of potential for a newcomer with dreams. (Proper sentence... sentences have to contain a VERB... the verb here is HAS)

So the correction will be:

Mumbai HOUSES 20 million people, IS the cultural capital of India, and has a lot of potential for a newcomer with dreams.

In the sentence above, all three parts are clauses.

20. Since the teacher introduced the classroom reward system, students have begun paying closer attention, completing homework, following directions, and have stopped causing disruptions during lessons.

Here, there are 2 main actions:

Begun A, B, C, and stopped D.

The word AND is used to connect BEGUN and STOPPED.

But A, B, C is a list... whenever a list ends, there has to be AND before the last element...

So the correction will be:

Since the teacher introduced the classroom reward system, students have begun paying closer attention, completing homework, **AND** following directions, and have stopped causing disruptions during lessons.

21. In 1975, Sippy produced a film that became the biggest blockbuster that Indian Cinema had ever seen.

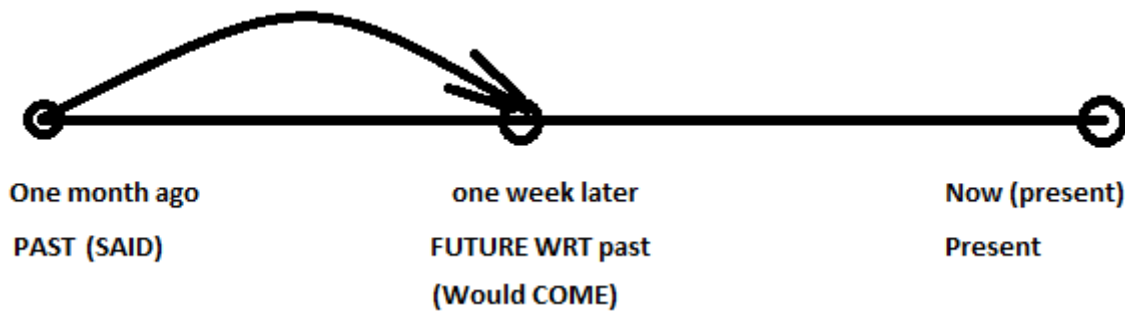
Consider the statement:

One month ago he said, "I will come next week." – This is called DIRECT SPEECH... the GMAT does not test you on direct speech at all.

In reported (indirect speech), the sentence will become:

One month ago he said that he would come the following week.

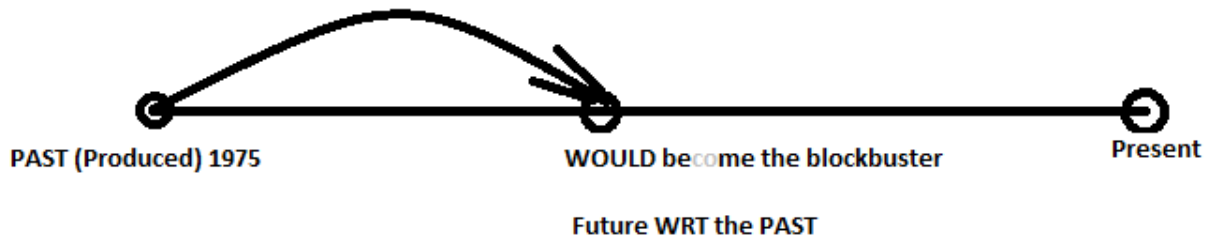
Now if we map this event on the timeline:



We can see that the point that is in the middle is FUTURE with respect to the past event...

The GMAT insists that any future with respect to the past be represented by the word WOULD.

CORRECTION: In 1975, Sippy produced a film that **WOULD** become the biggest blockbuster that Indian Cinema had ever seen.



22. The Supreme Court decreed that he should take charge of the situation. / I insist that she should be quiet.

This sentence needs a specialized construction called the SUBJUNCTIVE.

Here is the rule:

If in a sentence, there is a FUTURISTIC REPORTING VERB or a FUTURISTIC CONDITION followed by the word THAT, then the next verb in the sentence is expressed in its ROOT FORM or it should be the word BE.

The Supreme Court decreed (FUTURISTIC VERB) **that (followed by THAT)** he should take (this is the next verb – this should be in its ROOT form) charge of the situation.

So for the verb TAKE,

The root form is TAKE

All other forms took, taken, takes, taking, should take, will take, to take etc. are called the non-root forms.

Also, for all the verbs such as 'is, are, am, was, were, will, shall, will be, shall be, has, have, had, has been, have been, had been, etc.,' the root form is BE.

CORRECTION: The Supreme Court decreed that he **TAKE** charge of the situation.

CORRECTION: I insist that she **BE** quiet.

Some more examples:

All the following sentences are correct:

Ann suggested that he go to the Chinese restaurant.

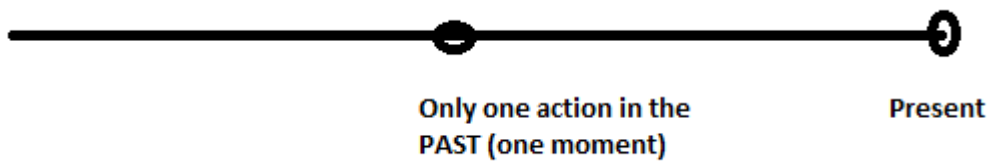
I suggest that he study.
 Is it essential that Tanya be there?
 Don recommended that John join the committee.
 He often asks that she bring a tape recorder to the interview sessions.
 I propose that Amy apologize to Mark, and we forget this ever happened.
 Alexandra never insists that Michael call her after a date, but he does anyway.
 The attorney proposed that the session be adjourned until the following day.
 I insist that the chairman resign!
 Their main demand was that the lawsuit be dropped.
 We insist that he do the job properly.
 The committee proposes that she be appointed treasurer immediately.
 It is essential that we be informed of your plans.
 It is crucial that he be there before Tom arrives.
 It is important that she attend the meeting.
 It is recommended that he take a gallon of water with him if he wants to hike to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

The few questions below involve TENSES

Imagine the sentence:

He came at 5 pm.

This is just one action in the past spanning one moment (it happened and was over) ... this conforms to the diagram below:

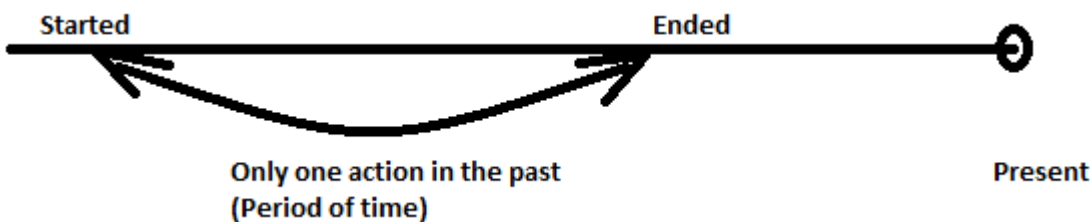


The above is called SIMPLE PAST or PAST INDEFINITE.

Imagine the sentence:

I lived in the US for 3 years.

This is just one action in the past spanning a period of time (it happened and was over) ... this conforms to the diagram below:

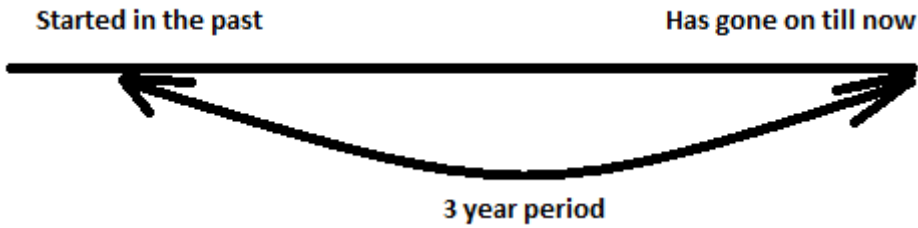


The above is called SIMPLE PAST or PAST INDEFINITE.

Imagine the sentence:

I have lived in the US for 3 years.

This is just one action that started in the past and has continued till this moment in the present. This conforms to the diagram below:



The above is called Present Perfect.

Imagine the sentence:

The teacher came to know that John had cheated in the test.

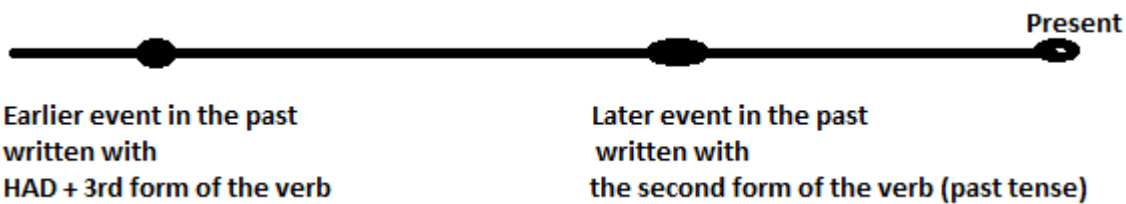
Here, there are 2 actions in the past...

John cheated (earlier) teacher came to know (later)

There is a clear time difference between the two events.

In this situation, the event happening earlier is written with HAD + 3rd form (past participle) of the Verb and the event happening later is written with the past tense (second form of the verb).

This conforms to the diagram below:



The above is called PAST Perfect.

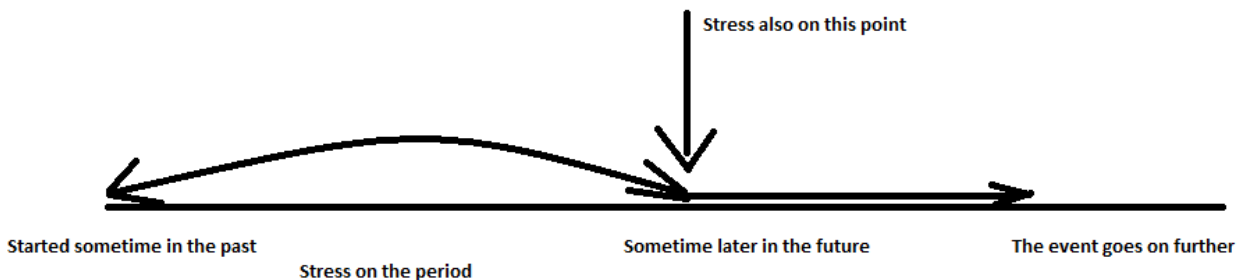
Imagine the sentence:

By the age of 25, he had won 10 Gold Medals.

Here, we want to stress the period (by the age of 25)... also, we want to stress the point (age of 25)... possibly the event goes on further (he may have won more medals after the age of 25)....

In this situation, we write HAD + 3rd Form of the verb on the POINT stressed in the past.

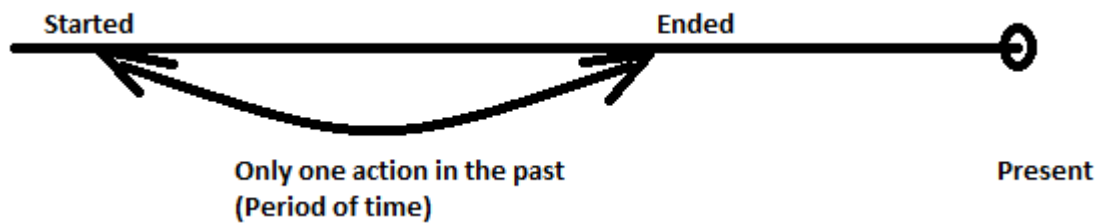
This conforms to the diagram below:



The above is called PAST PERFECT.

23. India (has progressed / had progressed / progressed) throughout the 20th century.

This is just one action in the past spanning a period of time (it happened throughout the 20th century and was over ... 20th century is OVER) ... this conforms to the diagram below:



So the answer will be:

India progressed throughout the 20th century.

The above is called SIMPLE PAST or PAST INDEFINITE.

24. The patient (had died / died) before the doctor (reached / had reached).

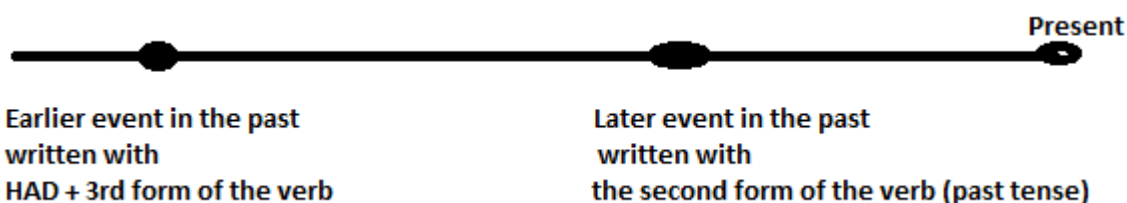
Here, there are 2 actions in the past...

The patient dies (earlier) the doctor reached (later)

There is a clear time difference between the two events.

In this situation, the event happening earlier is written with HAD + 3rd form (past participle) of the Verb and the event happening later is written with the past tense (second form of the verb).

This conforms to the diagram below:



So the correct answer will be:

The patient had died before the doctor reached.

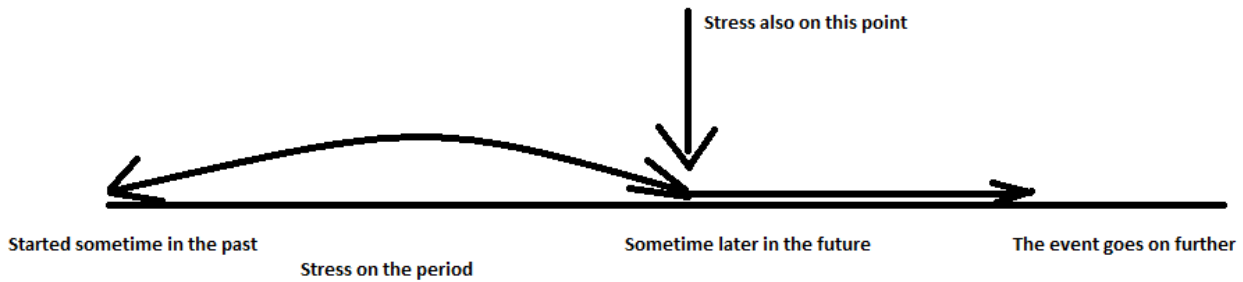
The above is called PAST PERFECT.

25. By the age of 21, Akbar (ruled / had ruled) India for eight years.

Here, we want to stress the period (by the age of 21)... also, we want to stress the point (age of 21)... possibly the event goes on further (he may have ruled after the age of 21)...

In this situation, we write HAD + 3rd Form of the verb on the POINT stressed in the past.

This conforms to the diagram below:



Hence the correct answer will be:

By the age of 21, Akbar had ruled India for eight years.

Similarly, for the sentence:

By 1991, Jazz music (became / had become) very popular in India.

The correct answer will be:

By 1991, Jazz music had become very popular in India.

The above is called PAST PERFECT.

A special note on the usage of HAD:

A lot of students think that HAD always denotes Past Perfect (2 events in the past with a time lag).

This is not true.

Imagine the sentence:

This morning I had \$10000 with me.

Here, HAD denotes SIMPLE PAST (one event in the past).

So, you must be cautious:

HAD alone is always Simple Past.

Had + 3rd form of any verb is Past Perfect.

The usage of HAD HAD:

He HAD HAD a great life before the calamity struck.

Here, the second HAD is correct... Imagine it as

He HAD ENJOYED a great life before the calamity struck.

So here the second HAD \equiv any other verb (enjoyed, for example).

Similarly, the sentence:

He has had a great life \equiv He has enjoyed a great life.

So here HAD \equiv any other verb (enjoyed, for example).

Similarly, the sentence:

I have had a great life ≡ I have enjoyed a great life.

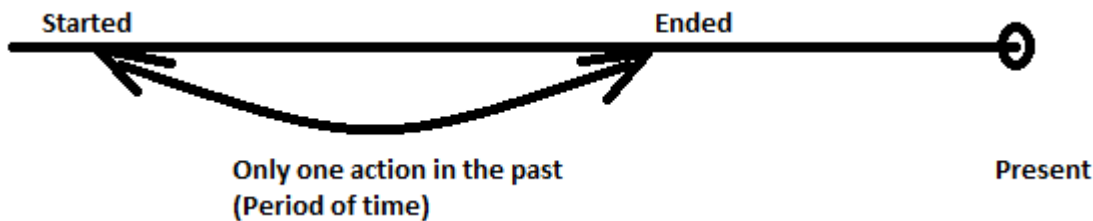
So here HAD ≡ any other verb (enjoyed, for example).

26. It is raining for 3 hours / it has rained for 3 hours / it has been raining for 3 hours.

If the sentence is:

It rained for 3 hours.

This is just one action in the past spanning a period of time (it rained for 3 hours and was over) ... this conforms to the diagram below:



The above is called SIMPLE PAST or PAST INDEFINITE.

If the sentence is:

It is raining for 3 hours.

THIS is clearly **WRONG**.

By definition, continuous tenses denote only a moment (never a PERIOD).

If we say, "it is raining"... this will mean only this moment... exactly NOW... we are not sure whether it was raining 5 minutes earlier or will be raining 5 minutes later.

The above is called Present Continuous / Present Progressive.

If we say, "When I peeped inside his room, he was sleeping"...

In this sentence, we are sure of only one moment... only at the moment when I peeped inside... we don't know whether he was sleeping one moment earlier or will be sleeping one moment later.

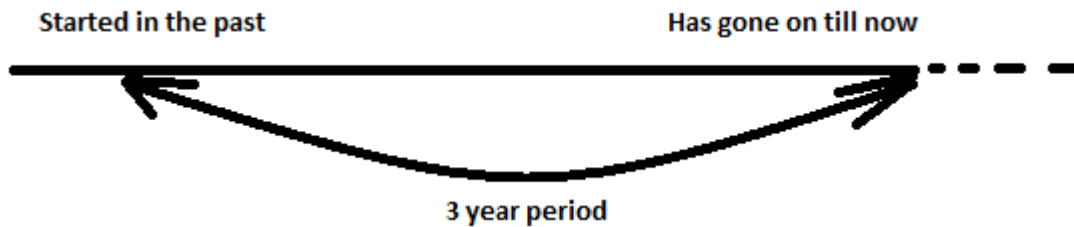
The above is called PAST Continuous / Present Progressive.

So, when we say, "it is raining for 3 hours"... this is clearly wrong as there is a time period involved (3 hours).

If the sentence is:

It has rained for 3 hours.

This is just one action that started in the past and has continued till this moment in the present. This conforms to the diagram below:



In the sentence above, we are NOT sure whether the action continues after the present... the dotted line represents uncertainty.

The above is called Present Perfect.

If the sentence is:

It has been raining for 3 hours.

This is just one action that started in the past and has continued till this moment in the present. This conforms to the diagram below:



In the sentence above, we are sure whether the action continues after the present ... the continuous line represents continuity into the future.

The above is called Present Perfect Continuous / Present Perfect Progressive.

27. Although it (stopped / has stopped) raining, I am still feeling cold.

In this case, the word STILL tells us that we need the PRESENT tense... we can use HAS STOPPED as the effect of the rain continues.

28. The parents tried to explain the risks involved in hitch hiking, but it was useless.

This is a problem of implied pronoun... here IT tries to refer to "explain" or "tried"... this is clearly **WRONG**... a pronoun tries to refer to a VERB... In such situations, the correct solution is:

The pronoun is removed and the implied NOUN is written.

The parents tried to explain the risks involved in hitch hiking, but the explanation was useless.

OR

The parents tried to explain the risks involved in hitch hiking, but the attempt was useless.

To understand the usage of 'which', look at the following sentence:

The High Court's **rulings** in the cases involving assisted suicides among college-going teens from single-parent families, **which** were overturned by the Supreme Court last month, have been re-instituted by a special interventionist order by the President.

Here WHICH clearly refers to the RULINGS as that is the only eligible noun for the VERB 'WERE overturned'.

All you have to be cautious about is that there is no VERB between WHICH and its ANTECEDENT ('rulings' in this case)...

rulings (n) in the cases (n) involving (adj) assisted (adj) suicides (n) among college-going (adj) teens (n) from single-parent (adj) families (n), **which**

So in this case, WHICH clearly refers to RULINGS.

Please don't think that 'which' can refer to only the nearest noun... this rule is not at all true as per GMAT...

29. Real Estate analysts have found that home prices have nearly doubled in the last ten years in the Southern California market, which is consistent with the increases in population and inflation there.

This is a problem of implied pronoun... here WHICH tries to refer to "DOUBLED"... this is clearly **WRONG**... a pronoun tries to refer to a VERB... In such situations, the correct solution is:

The pronoun is replaced by a new NOUN (abstract noun)...

For example:

Real Estate analysts have found that home prices have nearly doubled in the last ten years in the Southern California market, **research / a trend / an observation etc.** consistent with the increases in population and inflation there.

Abstract nouns modifying the entire clause (after a comma)

(If you have an appositive modifier that's 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 previous clause.)

1. I only have one onion, which will make it impossible to cook this dish. **WRONG**
 2. I only have one onion, and that will make it impossible to cook this dish. **WRONG**
 3. I only have one onion, **a deficiency** that will make it impossible to cook this dish. **RIGHT.**
 4. The scientists discovered whale-fish bones in the Arctic, **findings** that prove the existence of whale-fish.
 5. Scientists have found high levels of iridium in certain geographical formations around the world, **results** that suggest the cataclysmic impact of a meteor millions of year ago.
 6. An asteroid bigger than Mount Everest slammed into North America, Sixty-five million years ago, **an event** that caused the plant and animal extinctions that mark the end of the geologic era known as the Cretaceous Period.
 7. The coach tried to put 5 receivers on the line, **a strategy** that failed.
 8. X observed large concentrations of metals in the sediments, **findings** consistent with the history of deposits in the region.
 9. Recent studies have shown that X is 60 percent of Y, **a finding** that has shocked many in the scientific community. OR Recent studies have shown that X is 60 percent of Y, **a statistic** that has shocked many in the scientific community.
 10. Neanderthals had a vocal tract resembling an ape's and so were probably without language, **a shortcoming** that may explain why they were supplanted by our own species.
 11. Scientists have observed large concentrations of heavy—metal deposits in the upper twenty centimeters of sediments from the Baltic Sea, **findings** consistent with the growth of industrial activity in the area.
 12. I went to the bar with John Smith, an excursion that was much more fun than working all night.
 13. The general tried to get his troops to retreat before being surrounded, **a strategy** that ultimately failed.
30. Jane's first novel was so well received that she thought of writing its sequel. / Jane's first novel was so well received that her bank balance soared.

1. Jane's first novel was so well received that she thought of writing its sequel.

This sentence is **LOGICALLY WRONG.**

Jane's first novel ≡ novel NOT Jane!

So, logically speaking, there is no JANE in the given sentence. So the word SHE cannot be used.

The solution is: replace the word **she** by **Jane**.

Correct: Jane's first novel was so well received that JANE thought of writing its sequel.

2. Jane's first novel was so well received that her bank balance soared.

Here the word HER means JANE'S... the word JANE'S is already present in the sentence. So the given sentence is **CORRECT.**

Imagine 2 more sentences:

1. Jane's first novel was so well received that the publisher thought of giving **her** an additional royalty of 10%, lending credence to the fact that **her** subsequent writings could be even more passionate.

If we replace the first HER, it will become JANE... if we replace the second HER, it will become JANE'S...

So the CORRECT VERSION will be: Jane's first novel was so well received that the publisher thought of giving **JANE** an additional royalty of 10%, lending credence to the fact that **her** (already correct) subsequent writings could be even more passionate.

2. Jane's first novel was so well received that **her** skeptical husband also started appreciating **her** writing style.

If we replace the first HER, it will become JANE'S... if we replace the second HER, it will become JANE'S...

So the given sentence is CORRECT.

31. While most Americans have heard of and used Microsoft products, few people know that its name is actually short for "microcomputer software."

Here, the word ITS tries to refer back to **Microsoft**... but in this sentence, **Microsoft** is an adjective, not a noun. By definition, a pronoun can refer back only to a noun.

The solution in such cases is to replace the pronoun by the correct noun.

So the correct version will be: While most Americans have heard of and used Microsoft products, few people know that **the company's** name is actually short for "microcomputer software."

32. While the company insists that its starting salary for a man working in the executive branch of the organization be the same as a woman in equal capacity, the watchdog group found a significant gender wage gap.

This sentence focuses on Illogical Comparisons... on the GMAT, Apples can be compared to Apples and not to Oranges.

Here the salary for a man is compared with a woman... illogical.

So the correct solution will be:

Salary for a man || salary (that) for a woman

While the company insists that its starting salary for a man working in the executive branch of the organization be the same as **THAT FOR** a woman in equal capacity, the watchdog group found a significant gender wage gap.

33. The sixth Harry Potter book, by British author J.K. Rowling, sold a record 8.9 million copies in the first 24 hours it was on sale—more than any author till date.

This sentence focuses on Illogical Comparisons... on the GMAT, Apples can be compared to Apples and not to Oranges.

Here 'the number of copies sold' is compared with an author ... illogical.

So the correct solution will be:

The number of copies sold by J K Rowling || the number of copies (those) sold by any other author...

We must write ANY OTHER...

Jack is taller than any boy in his class is wrong... this will imply that Jack is also taller than himself.

So finally the correct version will be:

The sixth Harry Potter book, by British author J.K. Rowling, sold a record 8.9 million copies in the first 24 hours it was on sale—more than **THOSE BY ANY OTHER** author till date.

The sentences below involve the distinction between the usage of AS and LIKE.

RULES:

LIKE is used:

To compare 2 nouns

In Hypothetical situations

When there is no verb following LIKE. OR

"Like" followed by a VERB is always wrong...

So if we say, "Like I said..." this will be wrong usage as per the GMAT... 'said' is a verb... it cannot be followed by LIKE.

AS is used:

To compare actions / verbs / clauses / trends / prepositional phrases

To denote real situations

To denote designations / roles / functions / jobs / professions etc

34. (As / Like) I mentioned earlier, the test date has been moved up.

Here, "I mentioned" is a clause / an action involving a verb... so AS is correct... Also, LIKE cannot be followed by a VERB.

35. (As / like) other children in her neighbourhood who were home-schooled, Joan sometimes missed being in a classroom with her peers.

Here, the comparison is between Joan (noun) and other children (noun)... so LIKE is correct.

36. (As / like) a doctor, she earns a lot of respect.

Here, we are denoting PROFESSION / REAL (she is really a doctor) ... so AS is correct.

The nurse performed the emergency surgery (as / like) a doctor.

Here, we are denoting a hypothetical situation (the nurse is not a doctor in reality)... so LIKE is correct.

37. This wall acts (as / like) a buffer.

Here we are denoting the function of the wall... so AS is correct.

My cooler cools (as / like) an air-conditioner.

Here we are comparing a cooler and an AC (the cooler is not actually an AC, so the comparison is hypothetical)... so the word LIKE is correct here.

This window creaks (as / like) a window.

Here we are comparing a window and a door (the window is not actually a door, so the comparison is hypothetical)... so the word LIKE is correct here.

He jumped (as / like) a clown.

In this sentence, the situation is not clear... so contextually both can be right...

He jumped like a clown (means he is actually not a clown... he is just behaving like one ... HYPOTHETICAL)

He jumped as a clown (means he is actually a clown ... imagine someone wearing a clown suit in a circus... REAL situation)

The next few sentences focus on misplaced modifier:

Focus on the following sentences:

1. Using the latest technology, the mechanical problem was identified quickly.

2. Locked in a vault for 50 years (**what was locked? Answer: the coins... so COINS must come after the comma**), the owner of the coins decided to sell them.
3. Sailing up the river, the Statue of Liberty was seen.
4. Walking back from the village, my wallet was lost.
5. At the age of twenty (**who was twenty? Ans. I was... so "I" must come after the comma**), my father let me drive his car.
6. Beautiful and sensually dressed, the men noticed her immediately.

Correct versions:

1. Using the latest technology (**WHO was using? Ans. SOMEBODY... so SOMEBODY must come after the comma**), the engineer identified...
2. The owner of the coins, which were locked in a vault for 50 years, decided to sell them.
3. Sailing up the river (**who was sailing? Ans. SOMEBODY... so SOMEBODY must come after the comma**), we saw the Taj Mahal.
4. Walking back from the village (**who was walking? Ans. I was ... so "I" must come after the comma**), I lost my wallet.
5. My father let me drive his car when I was twenty.
6. Beautiful and sensually dressed (**who was sensually dressed? Ans. SHE ... so SHE must come after the comma**), she was immediately noticed by the men.

There is a common trouble with each of the sentences: The first part does not match in meaning with the subject immediately after the comma, leading to nonsensical meanings.

38. Walking through the desolate lanes of the deserted city, (vandalism became apparent / it became apparent that the city had been vandalized).

Walking through the desolate lanes of the deserted city (**WHO was walking? ANSWER: Somebody** must be walking. So, immediately after the comma, we must have **somebody**), (vandalism became apparent / it became apparent that the city had been vandalized).

Correct version:

Walking through the desolate lanes of the deserted city, I noticed vandalism all around.

39. Upon leaving the counter, the cashier handed the customer a receipt.

Upon leaving the counter (**who was leaving the counter? ANSWER: The customer**. So immediately after the comma, we must have **the customer**), the cashier handed the customer a receipt.

Correct version:

Upon leaving the counter, the customer got a receipt from the cashier.

40. Unskilled in complex math, Bill's score on the entrance exam was poor.

Unskilled in complex math (**Who was unskilled? ANSWER: BILL**. So, immediately after the comma, we must have **Bill**), Bill's score on the entrance exam was poor.

Correct version:

Unskilled in complex math, Bill scored poorly on the entrance exam.

41. Overjoyed by the quarterly results, a new bonus scheme was immediately announced by the manager.

Overjoyed by the quarterly results (**who was overjoyed? ANSWER: The manager**. So, immediately after the comma, we must have **the manager**), a new bonus scheme was immediately announced by the manager.

Correct version:

Overjoyed by the quarterly results, the manager immediately announced a new bonus scheme.

MORE ON MODIFIER

Modifier errors occur due to the faulty placing of words or phrases in a sentence.

There are no fixed rules to correct these. All we need to make sure is that the right (intended) meaning is conveyed using the least possible words. Your best friend in these situations will be your **common sense**, and of course, experience gained from plenty of practice.


Read the following sentences. While you enjoy yourself, make a mental note not make such mistakes.

1. **Wanted:** Man to take care of **cow that does not smoke or drink.**
2. If the baby does not thrive on fresh milk, it should be boiled. (*What is to be boiled – the baby or the milk?*)
3. At the age of twenty, my father let me drive his car. (**Who was 20, the father or the author?**)
4. Walking back from the village, my wallet was lost. (**Does your wallet walk?**)
5. The store sold inflatable children’s toys. (*The sentence reads as though the children are inflatable, instead of the toys.*)
6. We provide restrooms for ladies that are clean and comfortable. (**Paul Harvey said that about Wal-Mart restrooms. What about ladies who are not clean and comfortable?**)
7. Beautiful and sensually dressed, the men noticed her immediately. (**Why were the men so dressed?**)
8. Dressed in a silk nightgown, he thought his wife looked sexy. (**What was he doing in the nightgown?**)
9. I lost my hat running down the street. (**Was the hat running?**)
10. The other day, I shot an elephant in my pajamas. (**How did the elephant get inside my pajamas, I’ll never know.**)
11. She claimed yesterday she saw a UFO. (**Did she see the UFO yesterday? Or did she make the claim yesterday? To be clear, we must rewrite the sentence.**)
12. The assembly line workers were told they had been fired by the personnel director. (**Did the personnel director tell the workers they had been fired? Or was he the one who actually fired them and somebody else told them? It’s not at all clear.**)
13. If your dog hates the cat, throw it out. (**Throw out what – the dog or the cat?**)

We are sure you have got a first-hand feel of what modifier problems are. So, ready for some BATTING practice?

Incorrect	Correct
Smoking a big cigar, the baby was admired by its father.	Smoking a big cigar, the father admired his baby.
Romeo almost kissed Juliet as soon	Romeo kissed Juliet almost as soon as he

Incorrect	Correct
as he met her.	met her.
I have fallen in love with the beautiful woman's daughter.	I have fallen in love with the woman's beautiful daughter.
Following are some useful tips for protecting your person and property from the FBI.	Following are some useful tips from the FBI for protecting your person and property.
Manufactured in Italy, Abhishek was delighted with the fine quality of the leather shoes.	<p>Abhishek was delighted with the fine quality of the leather shoes manufactured in Italy.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Manufactured in Italy, the leather shoes delighted Abhishek.</p>
The patient was referred to a psychologist with several emotional problems.	The patient with several emotional problems was referred to a psychologist.
Two cars were reported stolen by the police yesterday.	Yesterday, the police reported that two cars were stolen.

Incorrect	Correct
The young girl was walking the dog in a short skirt. The dog was chasing the boy with the spiked collar.	The young girl in a short skirt was walking the dog. The dog with the spiked collar was chasing the boy.
In a red satin gown spangled with sequins, he was captivated by her beauty.	Catching sight of her in a red satin gown spangled with sequins, he was captivated by her beauty.
Mother gave the cake to the homeless man that she had baked and iced yesterday.	Mother gave the homeless man the cake that she had baked and iced yesterday.
I gave a book to my teacher that was old and tattered.	I gave my teacher a book that was old and tattered.
The mayor was described as a round, squat man with a droopy beard weighing 60kg.	The mayor was described as a round, squat man weighing 60kg with a droopy beard.
Hanging on the wall, she glanced in the mirror.	She glanced in the mirror hanging on the wall.
I bought a bus from an elderly man that was in good running condition.	I bought a bus that was in good running condition from an elderly man.
Having lost patience, the malfunctioning computer was replaced.	Having lost patience, the student replaced the malfunctioning computer.
Having leaped out of a second-storey window, her leg was broken by the fall.	Having leaped out of a second-storey window, the girl suffered a broken leg in the fall. OR When the girl leaped out of a second-storey window, she broke her leg in the fall.
While climbing the tree, the bottle dropped.	While Mr. Daroobaz was climbing the tree, the bottle dropped. OR While climbing the tree, Mr. Daroobaz dropped the bottle.
	
The teacher said on Thursday we'd have to work harder on our math exercises.	On Thursday, the teacher said we'd have to work harder on our math exercises.
Though only sixteen, UCLA accepted her application	Though she was only sixteen, UCLA accepted her application.
Defining your terms clearly strengthens your argument.	Defining your terms will clearly strengthen your argument. OR A clear definition of your terms strengthens your argument.
Naina said during the meeting Maina acted like a fool.	During the meeting, Naina said Maina acted like a fool. OR Naina said Maina acted like a fool during the meeting.
Do not sit in the chair without being fully assembled.	You should not sit in the chair unless it is fully assembled.
While eating dinner, a fly slipped into her soup.	While she was eating dinner, a fly slipped into her soup.
They bought a puppy for my sister they call Fido.	They bought a puppy they call Fido for my sister.
Nearly dead, the police finally found the victim.	The police finally found the victim, who was nearly dead.
Walking through the park, the grass tickled my feet.	Walking through the park, I found that the grass tickled my feet.
A fine athlete and student, the coach honoured the captain of the tennis team.	The coach honoured the captain of the tennis team, a fine athlete and student.
He said tonight he'd call me.	Tonight, he said he'd call me. OR He said he'd call me tonight. (<i>Slightly different meaning</i>)

42. Although the area had little traffic and pedestrians, the developers were convinced that the restaurant should be opened in the district; it was only a matter of time before urban sprawl would bring residents and visitors alike.

There is just one mistake in this sentence:

We may use the word **LITTLE** for traffic, but not for pedestrians... So we must have LITTLE traffic and FEW pedestrians.

Correct Version: Although the area had little traffic and FEW pedestrians, the developers were convinced that the restaurant should be opened in the district; it was only a matter of time before urban sprawl would bring residents and visitors alike.

Some more confusions reported by students on this question are:

1. USE of SEMICOLON:

On the GMAT, the Semi-colon is used in the following situations:

If a sentence has 2 independent clauses (2 balanced sentences) that are logically connected but independent in structure, then the semi-colon must be used to join them.

Imagine the sentence:

Jack and Joan are inseparable; they do everything together.

In this sentence, the 2 parts can be written as 2 independent sentences.

“Jack and Joan are inseparable.” IS A PROPER AND BALANCED SENTENCE.

“They do everything together.” IS A PROPER AND BALANCED SENTENCE AS WELL.

So, in this sentence, the use of the semi-colon is definitely justified.

The word THEY can surely be written in the second part... as the semicolon is about structural independence and not about meaning independence.

Now imagine the sentence:

Although he is poor, he is very honest.

In this, the first part “Although he is poor” is definitely not a full sentence... (this is called a dependent clause)

But the second part “He is very honest.” Is a proper and balanced sentence. (this is called an independent clause)

So in this case, the use of the semicolon is not justified... we have to use the comma only.

To summarize:

Independent clause + Independent clause – use the semicolon

Independent clause + Dependent clause – use the comma

Dependent clause + Independent clause – use the comma

Dependent clause + Dependent clause – **NOT a proper sentence.**

Now in the given sentence:

Although the area had little traffic and FEW pedestrians, the developers were convinced that the restaurant should be opened in the district; it was only a matter of time before urban sprawl would bring residents and visitors alike.

The left part is definitely balanced... and so is the right part. So the semicolon is justified.

2. **The use of WOULD:**

The use of WOULD is justified here as this is "FUTURE (URBAN SPRAWL) with respect to PAST (CONVINCED)".

3. Should the sentence be ... "convinced that the restaurant **should be** opened in the district" OR "convinced that the restaurant **be** opened in the district"

Please understand that this is not SUBJUNCTIVE as the VERB "CONVINCED" is not FUTURISTIC... so the rule

Futuristic Verb + THAT + ROOT Form or BE... does not apply here.

43. The Battle of Gettysburg, considered as the turning point of the Civil War, saw one-third of its participants killed and injured.

The following are the problems with this sentence:

CONSIDERED AS is considered wrong idiom on the GMAT.

It is only CONSIDERED...

As per the meaning of the sentence, you cannot have somebody "killed AND injured"... it must be "killed OR injured".

The Battle of Gettysburg, considered **as** the turning point of the Civil War, saw one-third of its participants killed **OR** injured.

This sentence should definitely tell you that Idiom and Meaning Clarity are very important on the GMAT.

As per the recent trends (since January 2009) on the GMAT, I (Sandeep Gupta) have observed the following:

- A lot of emphasis on meaning clarity
- A lot of emphasis on subtle parallelism
- A lot of emphasis on Very fine (nuanced, not direct) Comparisons
- A lot of emphasis on Participles (Present Participle, Past Participle), Gerunds, Adjectival Modifiers, Adverbial Modifiers, and -ING forms of all kinds).
- A lot of emphasis on Absolute Phrases, Appositives, and "Abstract Noun modifying an entire clause" concepts
- A lot of emphasis on subtle (purely meaning based) pronoun ambiguity (which, it, they, that etc.)

44. Joan looked nervous, her fears creeping up on her.

This sentence may look wrong at first sight, as the second part doesn't have a verb.

However, this construction is considered correct on the GMAT – ALWAYS!!

This is called ABSOLUTE PHRASE.

Absolute Phrases

Notice the following sentences (such constructions are considered correct)

1. Joan looked nervous, **her fears** *creeping* up on her.
2. Tom paled when he came home, **his mother** *standing* in the doorway.
3. She returned to her bench, **her face showing all the unhappiness that had suddenly overtaken her.**
4. The boy watched, **his eyes bulging in the dark.**
5. About the bones, ants were ebbing away, **their pincers full of meat.**
6. Six boys came over the hill half an hour early that afternoon, running hard, **their heads down, their forearms working, their breath whistling.**
7. Noiselessly Lenny appeared in the open doorway and stood there looking in, **his big shoulders nearly filling the opening.**
8. Light flickered on bits of ruby glass and on sensitive capillary hairs in the nylon-brushed nostrils of the creature that quivered gently, gently, **its eight legs spidered under it on rubber-padded paws.**

Notice in the above sentences:

The part after the comma (called the **absolute phrase**) has the following characteristics:

1. It starts with a possessive form (his, her, its, their etc.)
2. It only adds to the meaning (just additional or filler information). It is not core information.
3. It contains no verb (it is a phrase).
4. It is adverbial in nature (it goes back to the whole clause, not to a specific noun).

Absolute phrase construction is a preferred construction on GMAT SC.

NOTICE the sentences below:

Sound can travel through water for enormous distances, prevented from dissipating its acoustic energy as a result of boundaries in the ocean created by water layers of different temperatures and densities.

- A. prevented from dissipating its acoustic energy as a result of
- B. prevented from having its acoustic energy dissipated by
- C. its acoustic energy prevented from dissipating by
- D. its acoustic energy prevented from being dissipated as a result of
- E. preventing its acoustic energy from dissipating by

Ans. C

ABSOLUTE PHRASE CONSTRUCTION... similar to the above problem.

* take a look at this problem (along with its OA). take a look at the other problem.

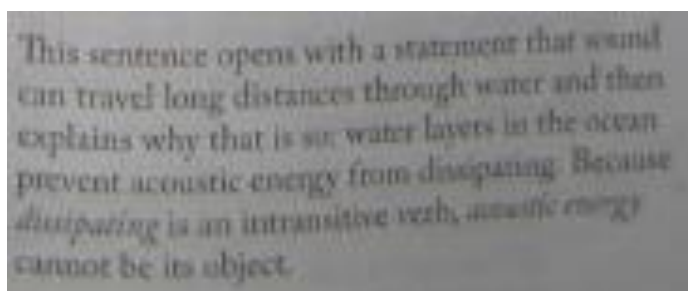
* **note, and memorize, the pattern of each correct answer.**

* try to **create your own sentences with the same structure**, to reinforce your knowledge.

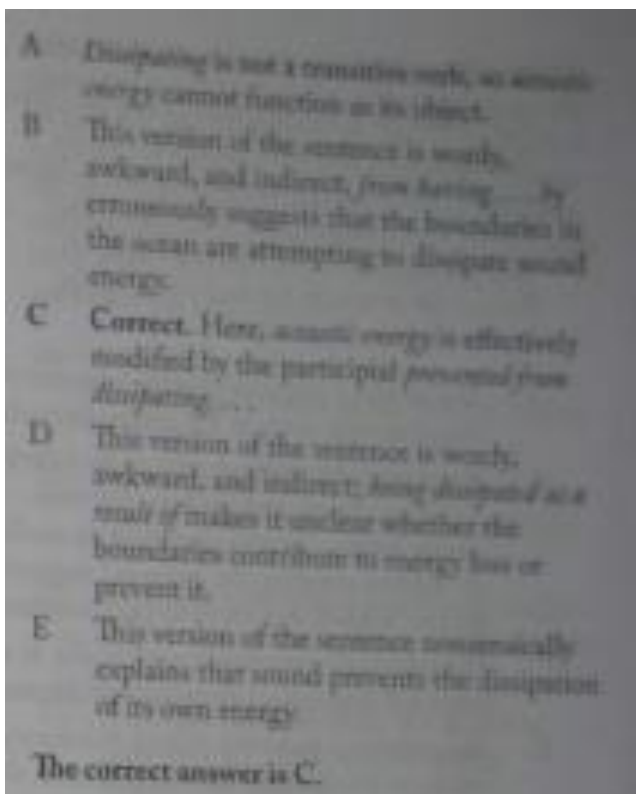
e.g.

joe ran after the bus, his arms flailing wildly as he attempted to capture the driver's attention.

OG Verbal Review 2 Explanation:



This sentence opens with a statement that sound can travel long distances through water and then explains why that is so: water layers in the ocean prevent acoustic energy from dissipating. Because dissipating is an intransitive verb, acoustic energy cannot be its object.



Some more real GMAT problems using this logic:

With surface temperatures estimated at minus 230 degrees Fahrenheit, Jupiter's moon Europa has long been considered far too cold to support life, and with 60 square miles of water thought to be frozen from top to bottom.

- A. Europa has long been considered far too cold to support life, and with
- B. Europa has long been considered far too cold to support life, its**
- C. Europa has long been considered as far too cold to support life and has
- D. Europa, long considered as far too cold to support life, and its
- E. Europa, long considered to be far too cold to support life, and to have

(a)

"and with ..." isn't parallel to anything.

AND sets up parallelism, so there must be something to which "with..." can be parallel (other prepositional phrase, or other adverbial modifier). there is no such thing.

(b)

correct.

this is a type of modifier with which you should be familiar. (i have no idea what it's called - sorry)

here's another example:

john, **his arms flailing in the wind**, called out desperately for help.

note that **the presence of frozen water SUPPORTS the claim that europa is "far too cold to support life", so it should be a MODIFIER.**

this is done here.

it's inappropriate to place these two things in parallel with AND.

(c)

AND is rhetorically inappropriate (see above).

"considered as" is unidiomatic here.

(d)

this is not a sentence. (the clause before "and" doesn't have a verb; "considered" is a participle, not a verb, here)

"considered as" is unidiomatic here.

(e)

"considered to be" is wrong,

this sentence has no verb at all! the only verb forms present are participles and infinitives, none of which is eligible to be the main verb of the sentence.

Margaret Courtney-Clarke has traveled to remote dwellings in the Transvaal to photograph the art of Ndebele women, whose murals are brilliantly colored, their geometrical symmetries embellished with old and new iconography and in a style that varies from woman to woman and house to house.

- A. whose murals are brilliantly colored, their geometrical symmetries embellished with old and new iconography and in a style that varies from woman to woman and house to house
- B. whose murals are brilliantly colored, their geometrical symmetries are embellished with old and new iconography, and their style is varying among women and houses
- C. whose murals are brilliantly colored, their geometrical symmetries are embellished with old and new iconography, and they are in styles that vary from woman to woman and house to house
- D. with murals brilliantly colored, their geometrical symmetries embellished with old and new iconography, and their style varies among women and houses
- E. with murals that are brilliantly colored, their geometrical symmetries embellished with old and new iconography, and their styles vary among women and houses

One of the most difficult problems:

Here parallelism cannot be applied... 'whose' refers to women... 'their' refers to murals... SO 'are colored' and 'are embellished' can never be parallel as there are 2 different subjects... so B and C are out...

D ...
with murals brilliantly colored (**PHRASE**), their geometrical symmetries embellished with old and new iconography (**PHRASE**), and their style varies among women and houses (**CLAUSE**)... **not parallel**

E.
with murals that are brilliantly colored (**CLAUSE**), their geometrical symmetries embellished with old and new iconography (**PHRASE**), and their styles vary among women and houses (**CLAUSE**) ... **not parallel.**

A uses Absolute phrase concept correctly...

45. The coach tried to put 5 receivers on the line, which ultimately failed.

The word WHICH is a pronoun... but there is no single NOUN for it to refer back to... so the usage is wrong!

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

Abstract nouns modifying the entire clause (after a comma)

(If you have an appositive modifier that's 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 previous clause.)

1. I only have one onion, **a deficiency** that will make it impossible to cook this dish.
2. The scientists discovered whale-fish bones in the Arctic, **findings** that prove the existence of whale-fish.
3. Scientists have found high levels of iridium in certain geographical formations around the world, **results** that suggest the cataclysmic impact of a meteor millions of year ago.
4. An asteroid bigger than Mount Everest slammed into North America, Sixty-five million years ago, **an event** that caused the plant and animal extinctions that mark the end of the geologic era known as the Cretaceous Period.
5. The coach tried to put 5 receivers on the line, **a strategy** that failed.
6. X observed large concentrations of metals in the sediments, **findings** consistent with the history of deposits in the region.
7. Recent studies have shown that X is 60 percent of Y, **a finding** that has shocked many in the scientific community. OR Recent studies have shown that X is 60 percent of Y, **a statistic** that has shocked many in the scientific community.
8. Neanderthals had a vocal tract resembling an ape's and so were probably without language, **a shortcoming** that may explain why they were supplanted by our own species.

9. Scientists have observed large concentrations of heavy—metal deposits in the upper twenty centimeters of sediments from the Baltic Sea, **findings** consistent with the growth of industrial activity in the area.
10. I went to the bar with John Smith, **an excursion** that was much more fun than working all night.
11. The general tried to get his troops to retreat before being surrounded, **a strategy** that ultimately failed.

Such **abstract noun constructions** are preferred on the test ... always correct.

46. In America, as in anywhere else in the world, we must find a focus in our lives at an early age, **a focus** that is beyond the mechanics of earning a living or coping with a household.

This question uses the concept of APPOSITIVE Phrases:

Appositive Phrases

Appositives rename noun phrases and are usually placed beside what they rename.

The bold part in the following sentences is **the appositive**. The appositives are nouns that **refer to a particular noun** in the preceding part. They are **adjectival** in nature, i.e., they modify only a specific noun. Appositives provide **filler** (not core) information about the main noun. Such constructions are preferred on the GMAT.

1. The lady, **our president**, spoke out against racism.
2. We waited in our favorite meeting place, **the pub**.
3. Our department head, **a careful reader and outspoken critic**, will review the memo before it is circulated.
4. My radio, **an old portable**, is in the repair shop.
5. The boys climbed the mountain, **one of the highest in the West**.
6. Lamp Trimmer Samuel Hemming, lying in his bunk, heard a curious hissing sound coming from the forepeak, **the compartment** closest to the bow of the Titanic.
7. Ives and Ramirez parked, and upon approaching the entranceway saw Father Jimenez, **an old man** now in wire-rim glasses peering out from behind the screen.
8. Three days ago he received a payment for \$1000, **part of the** long-overdue pension that had been delayed for various bureaucratic reasons.
9. I went to the bar with John Smith, **a consultant** in Los Angeles.
10. In America, as in anywhere else in the world, we must find **a focus** in our lives at an early age, **a focus** that is beyond the mechanics of earning a living or coping with a household.

Notice the above sentence (#10) carefully. The word FOCUS is repeated. Such appositive constructions are the most preferred on the GMAT.

If we want to refer to a previous noun in a sentence, this construction is preferred to a PRONOUN referring to a noun.... This is essentially RENAMING...

The best construction as per the GMAT is when the SAME NOUN is written again after the comma... in case such an option is not there, use the Appositive with some other NOUN.

Appositives function as NON Essential Modifiers... they are called phrases because there is no VERB in them.

So in the given sentence, we find the same noun (FOCUS) repeated after the comma... this is the best possible construction... so this is already correct.

In America, as in anywhere else in the world, we must find a focus in our lives at an early age, **A FOCUS** that is beyond the mechanics of earning a living or coping with a household.

Some real GMAT questions using this construction:

Yellow jackets number among the 900 or so species of the world's social wasps, wasps living in a highly cooperative and organized society where they consist almost entirely of females—the queen and her sterile female workers.

- A. wasps living in a highly cooperative and organized society where they consist almost entirely of
- B. wasps that live in a highly cooperative and organized society consisting almost entirely of
- C. which means they live in a highly cooperative and organized society, almost all

- D. which means that their society is highly cooperative, organized, and it is almost entirely
- E. living in a society that is highly cooperative, organized, and it consists of almost all

Appositives (the word WASPS repeated after the comma... so A or B could be our answers)

This sentence identifies yellow jackets as one of 900 types of social wasps and provides an explanation of the term *social wasps*. In this explanation, the society or population—not the individual wasps themselves—consists almost entirely of females. The three descriptors of social wasps (*cooperative, organized, and consisting almost entirely of females*) are most effectively expressed in parallel structures.

A *They*, referring to wasps, is an incorrect subject for *consist*.

B Correct. The three descriptors of the wasp society are in parallel form, and *consisting* properly modifies *society*.

C The sentence structure makes it unclear what *almost all females* describes.

D *And it is ...* violates the parallelism of the three descriptors of social wasps.

E *And it consists ...* violates the parallelism of the three descriptors.

The correct answer is B.

Floating in the waters of the equatorial Pacific, an array of buoys collects and transmits data on long-term interactions between the ocean and the atmosphere, interactions that affect global climate.

- A. atmosphere, interactions that affect
- B. atmosphere, with interactions affecting
- C. atmosphere that affects
- D. atmosphere that is affecting
- E. atmosphere as affects

Appositive modifier... so the "interactions" must repeat after the comma... **Ans. A**

'array of buoys' is plural and needs 'collect' not 'collects'. Eliminate B and D.

In C : 'atmosphere that affects' - 'that' modifies 'atmosphere'. Atmosphere is not the one that affects but the interactions b/w ocean and atmosphere.

In D: 'atmosphere as global climate' - changes the meaning.

The state has proposed new rules that would set minimum staffing levels for nurses, rules intended to ensure that at least one nurse is assigned for every four patients put through triage in a hospital emergency room.

- A. rules intended to ensure that at least one nurse is assigned for every four patients put through triage in a hospital emergency room
- B. rules with the intent of ensuring one nurse at least to be assigned for every four patients to be put through triage in a hospital emergency room
- C. rules intending to ensure at least one nurse is assigned for every four patients in a hospital emergency room put through triage
- D. with the intent of ensuring that at least one nurse should be assigned for every four patients in a hospital emergency room that are put through triage
- E. and this is intended to ensure one nurse at least to be assigned for every four patients put through triage in a hospital emergency room

Appositive modifier... so the "rules" must repeat after the comma...

C: "rules intending..." is incorrect, since the rules aren't intending to do anything. rules don't have intentions, although their authors do.

this is a passive type construction. the rules are intended to do x, y, and z, so you need "intended", not "intending".

Ans. A

B has the same problem... rules cannot have an intent of their own.

"The rules intended to ensure that at least one nurse is assigned for every four patients put through triage in a hospital emergency room."

"Intended" can be two things (at least!): it can be the simple past form of the verb "to intend" or it can be the past

participle of the verb "to intend." A past participle by itself is not a complete, conjugated verb form.

So, which is it here? Well, if we're going to use "intended" as the simple past tense form, then the subject has to be the person or thing that is intending to do something. For example:

"I intended to study last night, but then I fell asleep." I am the one doing the action: intending to do something.

What do we have as the potential subject in this case? The rules. Can the rules intend to do something?

Nope. We can intend to do something by making a rule. Rules can BE intended to do something. But the rules can't intend to do something themselves. If we want a conjugated verb here to make this a sentence, then we need to write this in passive voice. (Passive voice is used when the subject is not actually performing the action of the verb; instead, the subject is having that action performed on it by something or someone else.) For example:

"The rules are intended to ensure X." (Someone has made some rules and that someone intends for the rules to ensure X.)

"The rules were intended to ensure X." (Same thing as above, except in past tense.)

So, that bit after the comma is not a stand-alone sentence. It's a modifier. As a result, choice A is not a run-on.

47. If I meet her, I will tell her a story.

This is called a CONDITIONAL:

In this, we are talking about a "POSSIBLE" future – the action is NOT IMPROBABLE in future.

In this case, use the PRESENT + FUTURE (WILL) form.

So the sentence "If I meet her, I will tell her a story." Means that there is a positive possibility of my meeting her in the future...

Never use double future in such sentences:

If I WILL meet her, I WILL tell her a story. – **WRONG.**

But we may use the present tense in both parts if the context so demands:

If I meet her, I tell her a story.

In this case, 'if' means 'whenever'... this is correct construction.

48. If I met her, I would tell her a story.

If I were to meet her, I would tell her a story.

Were I to meet her, I would tell her a story.

All of these forms mean the same thing... there is no preference for one to another.

To your surprise, even this form denotes FUTURE.

In this, we are talking about an almost "IMPOSSIBLE" future – the action is IMPROBABLE in future.

In this case, use the

PAST + WOULD form

Or If + were + would form

Or Were + Would form....

So the sentence "If I met her, I would tell her a story." Means that there is a hardly any possibility of my meeting her in the future...

SIMILARLY the sentence "If I were to meet her, I would tell her a story." Means that there is a hardly any possibility of my meeting her in the future...

Similarly the sentence "Were I to meet her, I would tell her a story." Means that there is a hardly any possibility of my meeting her in the future...

In all "wish" sentence, the above structures are used.

49. If I had met her, I would have told her a story. ≡ Had I met her, I would have told her a story.

This sentence is not about FUTURE... this is about PAST that could not happen...

We always use

"If + had + would have" form OR

"HAD + would have" form here

Indians (in colloquial English) often commit a mistake in the above construction...

Most of us tend to use WOULD HAVE in both parts. Clearly WRONG!!

50. There are hopeful signs that we are shifting away from our heavy reliance on fossil fuels: more than ten times as much energy is (generated through wind power now as it was / generated through wind power now as was the case) in 1990.

Option 1: There are hopeful signs that we are shifting away from our heavy reliance on fossil fuels: more than ten times as much energy is generated through wind power now as **it** was in 1990.

In this sentence, we must find an antecedent for the word IT... as we can see, there is no proper antecedent for IT, we must remove the pronoun and try to introduce a **NEW NOUN** instead.

There are hopeful signs that we are shifting away from our heavy reliance on fossil fuels: more than ten times as much energy is generated through wind power now **as was the case** in 1990.

Also, REMEMBER this construction... AS is the case... as was the case... as would be the case... as will be the case... as has been the case etc. ... such constructions are always considered RIGHT on the GMAT.