

## Sentence Correction – Top 100 Questions – Detailed solutions

**NOTE:** Each question helps you build a unique concept – each question to be discussed in the class using multiple approaches. You need to write explanations for all the wrong answers choices using meaning, grammar, or idiom. Don't eliminate on the basis of awkwardness, ambiguity, or intuition (doesn't sound right). Your elimination must contain a very precise reason why each of the wrong choices is wrong. This is the only way to mark an answer confidently in SC.

**Directions:** Select the answer that produces the most effective sentence; your answer should make the sentence clear, exact, and free of grammatical error. It should also minimize awkwardness, ambiguity, and redundancy.

1. Before scientists learned how to make a synthetic growth hormone, removing it painstakingly in small amounts from the pituitary glands of human cadavers.
- A. scientists learned how to make a synthetic growth hormone, removing it painstakingly
  - B. scientists had learned about making a synthetic growth hormone, they had to remove it painstakingly
  - C. scientists learned how to synthesize the growth hormone, it had to be painstakingly removed
  - D. learning how to make a synthetic growth hormone, scientists had to remove it painstakingly
  - E. learning how to synthesize the growth hormone, it had to be painstakingly removed by scientists

CORRECT ANSWER: C

**This is a question on meaning clarity... the GMAT since January 2010 has shown a remarkable shift toward this pattern. Most students end up picking D here as they focus only on grammar... Choice D has 2 problems with its logical meaning.**

Problem 1:

In the problem at hand, A, B and D indicate that scientists removed "a synthetic growth hormone" from cadavers. This is nonsensical, as something synthetic, by definition, does not come from a natural source. Thus, A, B, and D can be eliminated based on their lack of clarity.

Problem 2:

See, the scientists mentioned in the passage are the ones who learned how to synthesize the growth hormone, but they weren't necessarily the same ones who had to remove it. In order to render the second half in the active voice, you'd have to introduce a subject - awkward at best, because who would be the subject? Not only that, but the subject is irrelevant: we don't care who had to remove the hormone from cadavers, only that it had to be removed from the cadavers.

E uses a wrong modifier: before learning.... there must be a subject (who is learning...?) immediately after the comma.

**Choice e is wrong, because it starts out with an initial modifier lacking a subject; such modifiers MUST modify the noun IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING the comma. In the case of choice e, this would mean that 'it' (referring to the hormone itself) learned how to make the hormone. That's crazy.**

**So C is the best answer by elimination.**

In C, the change from active → passive is appropriate here, because the subject of the second part isn't mentioned (or probably even known).

**Remember this:**

**If the subject of a verb is unknown or irrelevant, use the passive voice.**

*Before primitive man learned to make fire, it could only arise as a result of lightning, focused sunbeams, and the like.* This sentence clearly doesn't convey the idea that the lightning/sunbeams/etc could be caused by primitive man.

Before Marconi and Braun laid the foundation for wireless telegraphy, messages **had to be transmitted** over wires or **carried** by hand.

There's no avoiding the passive voice in the second half, without introducing an awkward (and irrelevant) subject, as in 'people had to transmit messages'. That would detract considerably from the quality of the sentence.

2. Greatly influenced by the Protestant missionary Samuel Kirkland, the Oneida was the only one of the five-nation Iroquois League who sided with the colonists during the American Revolution.
- A. was the only one of the five-nation Iroquois League who sided
  - B. was alone of the five-nation Iroquois League when they sided
  - C. alone among the five nations of the Iroquois League sided
  - D. were the only ones out of the five nations of the Iroquois League in siding
  - E. only of the five-nation Iroquois League had sided

**Ans. C**

**A tricky question:**

'The Oneida' is plural; in much the same way as 'the English' or 'the French' would be plural (the French eat foods that are rather bizarre by the standards of most other countries). That observation **knocks off choices A and B**.

D is wrong because of the wrong idiom.

He was the only one to win the race 3 times.... RIGHT

He was the only one in winning the race 3 times... WRONG

So the idiom IN SIDING is wrong in D.

CHOICE E is wrong because it uses the **past perfect (HAD SIDED)** to refer to a single event. you need the simple past here (just 'sided', not 'had sided'), because there is no more recent time signal to justify the use of the past perfect for the 'earlier' event.

That leaves choice c, which uses the simple past correctly and is concise.

3. Although she had been known as an effective legislator first in the Texas Senate and later in the United States House of Representatives, not until Barbara Jordan's participation in the hearings on the impeachment of President Richard Nixon in 1974 was she made a nationally recognized figure, as it was televised nationwide.
- A. later in the United States House of Representatives, not until Barbara Jordan's participation in the hearings on the impeachment of President Richard Nixon in 1974 was she made a nationally recognized figure, as it was
  - B. later in the United States House of Representatives, Barbara Jordan did not become a nationally recognized figure until 1974, when she participated in the hearings on the impeachment of President Richard Nixon, which were
  - C. later in the United States House of Representatives, it was not until 1974 that Barbara Jordan became a nationally recognized figure, with her participation in the hearings on the impeachment of President Richard Nixon, which was
  - D. then also later in the United States House of Representatives, not until 1974 did Barbara Jordan become a nationally recognized figure, as she participated in the hearings on the impeachment of President Richard Nixon, being
  - E. then also later in the United States House of Representatives, Barbara Jordan did not become a nationally recognized figure until 1974, when she participated in the hearings on the impeachment of President Richard Nixon, which was

**Ans. B**

MODIFIER... although SHE... so after the comma, we must have the NAME **Barbara Jordan**. Eliminate A, C, D.

Hearings WERE televised... So B is right.

**The usage of 'which':** The GMAT tends to write sentences in which "which" stands for the ELIGIBLE noun that's closest to the comma.

By "eligible", we mean that the noun has to AGREE IN TERMS OF SINGULAR/PLURAL with the FOLLOWING VERB. Here's an example:

The box of nails, which is on the counter, is to be used on this project.

In this case, "which" CANNOT refer to "nails", since the verb "is" is singular. Therefore, the nearest eligible noun is "box (of nails)". So, "which" unambiguously stands for that.

**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.**

You should check the following before deciding the correctness of the word 'which'

1. Subject Verb Agreement
2. The verb on the right of 'which' must be an eligible subject for the noun before 'which'
3. Meaning clarity is paramount
4. There is no verb between 'which' and the eligible noun.

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

4. The Achaemenid empire of Persia reached the Indus Valley in the fifth century B.C., bringing the Aramaic script with it, from which was derived both northern and southern Indian alphabets.
  - A. the Aramaic script with it, from which was derived both northern and
  - B. the Aramaic script with it, and from which deriving both the northern and the
  - C. with it the Aramaic script, from which derive both the northern and the
  - D. with it the Aramaic script, from which derives both northern and
  - E. with it the Aramaic script, and deriving from it both the northern and

**The singular verb "was derived / derives" does not agree in number with the plural subject "northern and southern Indian alphabets". SO eliminate A and D.**

**DERIVING is not a verb... -ING forms are verbs only with some other 'to be' form...**

**IS / WAS / AM / ARE / WERE / has been / have been / had been / will be / shall be / will have been / shall have been + ING is verb.**

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**-ING forms alone are never verbs... the sentence needs at least one verb in the second part because of the word 'and'... so B and E are wrong.**

**Ans. C**

C) CORRECT. "From which" correctly refers to the script. Additionally, "derive," a plural verb, correctly agrees with the plural subject "the Northern and the Southern Indian alphabets."

5. The company announced that its profits declined much less in the second quarter than analysts had expected it to and its business will improve in the second half of the year.

- A. had expected it to and its business will improve
- B. had expected and that its business would improve
- C. expected it would and that it will improve its business
- D. expected them to and its business would improve
- E. expected and that it will have improved its business

**Announced is past action... expected is past action before announced.**

**So we need HAD expected... remove C, D, and E.**

**THAT and THAT parallelism is compulsory here... announced that and that. So eliminate A.**

**Also, 'WILL' is wrong usage... future w.r.t. past is used with the word 'would'.**

**IT cannot refer back to profits. So B**

6. With its plan to develop seven and a half acres of shore land, Cleveland is but one of a large number of communities on the Great Lakes that is looking to its waterfront as a way to improve the quality of urban life and attract new businesses.

- A. is looking to its waterfront as a way to improve the quality of urban life and attract
- B. is looking at its waterfront to improve the quality of urban life and attract
- C. are looking to their waterfronts to improve the quality of urban life and attract
- D. are looking to its waterfront as a way of improving the quality of urban life and attracting
- E. are looking to their waterfronts as a way they can improve the quality of urban life and attract

**Focus on the following sentences:**

1. This is one of those (book / books) that (was / were) published last year.
2. Beckham is one of those footballers who (does / do) modeling assignments.
3. One of my (friend / friends) (is a doctor/ are doctors). / One of my (friend / friends) (is / are) a doctor.
4. He is one of my friends who (is a doctor / are doctors).
5. He is only one / just one / but one of my friends who (is a doctor / are doctors).
6. He is the only one of my friends who (is a doctor / are doctors).

**Correct answers:**

1. books, were ... *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.*
2. do ... *this is a confusing one... but the subject of the verb (do/does) is "footballers", not "Beckham", so the plural DO is required. This might sound awkward... normally we might want to associate ONE... DOES... But here, WHO as a pronoun refers to footballers ... hence we need DO... also, "DO" gives the logically correct meaning.*
3. One of my friends is a doctor. *Here we are talking about one person only.*
4. He is one of my friends who are doctors. *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.*

5. He is only one / just one / but one of my friends who are doctors. *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.*
6. He is THE only one of my friends who IS a doctor. *Watch out: Here THE ONLY ONE means there is only one person... so IS.*

In the sentence "...Cleveland is but one of a large number of communities on the Great Lakes that is .."

that acts as a relative pronoun for communities, so 'are' is required rather than 'is'

Eliminate A and B... Also, in D, 'its' is wrong... it should be 'their' for communities.

In E, the correct idiom should be TO IMPROVE and not as a way they can improve

**Whenever there is a purpose / intention / objective / wish is to be stated, we use TO + VERB.**

Answer C

7. However much United States voters may agree that there is waste in government and that the government as a whole spends beyond its means, it is difficult to find broad support for a movement toward a minimal state.
  - A. However much United States voters may agree that
  - B. Despite the agreement among United States voters to the fact
  - C. Although United States voters agree
  - D. Even though United States voters may agree
  - E. There is agreement among United States voters that

**THAT and THAT parallelism is needed... B, C, D out. This is a contrast meaning (they agree but it is difficult to find broad support) ... so E out. Ans. A**

A is the best choice. Choices B, C, and D incorrectly omit **that** after **agree**; **that is** needed to create the parallel construction **agree that there is waste . . . and that the government... spends**. Choice E, though it retains **that**, is grammatically incorrect: because E starts with an independent rather than a subordinate clause and separates its two independent clauses with a comma, it creates a run-on sentence with no logical connection established between the halves. In B, **the agreement ... to the fact** is unidiomatic, and B, C, and E alter the sense of the original sentence by saying that voters **agree** rather than that they **may agree**.

8. In one of the most stunning reversals in the history of marketing, the Coca-Cola Company in July 1985 yielded to thousands of irate consumers demanding that it should bring back the original Coke formula.
  - A. demanding that it should
  - B. demanding it to
  - C. and their demand to
  - D. who demanded that it
  - E. who demanded it to

## SUBJUNCTIVE:

**Futuristic verb / Futuristic condition + THAT + ROOT form verb or BE**

Demand is futuristic... followed by THAT... the next verb should be in root form BRING.

So D.

The Supreme Court decreed that he **should** take charge of the situation.

NOT: takes / should take / to take etc.

I insist that she **should** be quiet.

NOT: to be / should be etc.

Choice D, the best answer, uses the grammatically correct expression ***demanded that it bring back***, in which ***demanded that it*** is followed by the subjunctive verb ***bring***. Choice A incorrectly uses ***should bring*** rather than ***bring: demanding that*** already conveys the idea of "should," and at any rate a modal auxiliary verb, such as ***should*** or ***must***, cannot grammatically follow the expression ***demanded that***. Similarly, B and E use the ungrammatical expression ***demanding/demanded it to***. In C, the expression ***yielded to... customers and their demand to bring...*** unnecessarily states that the ***company yielded*** to the ***customers*** as well as to their ***demand***. This expression also fails to specify that the ***company*** is expected to bring back the original formula.

9. Because of the enormous research and development expenditures required to survive in the electronics industry, an industry marked by rapid innovation and volatile demand, such firms tend to be very large.
- A. to survive
  - B. of firms to survive
  - C. for surviving
  - D. for survival
  - E. for firms' survival

In the non-underlined portion, SUCH FIRMS needs the word FIRMS in the sentence at least once in the sentence... Only B uses the word FIRMS.

E doesn't have the word FIRMS... it has firms' survival, which is equivalent to survival, not firms.

Jack's car ≡ CAR... not Jack.

The subject of the main clause (***such firms***) presumes a prior reference to the firms in question. Furthermore, the logical subject of to ***survive*** and the logical complement of ***required*** should be made explicit. All three demands are met by B, the best choice. Choices A, C, and D, with no reference to the firms in question, meet none of these demands. In choice E, the illogical and awkward use of a prepositional phrase (***for firms' survival***) buries the needed initial reference ***to firms*** in a possessive modifier.

10. Manifestations of Islamic political militancy in the first period of religious reformism were the rise of the Wahhabis in Arabia, the Sanusi in Cyrenaica, the Fulani in Nigeria, the Mahdi in the Sudan, and the victory of the Usuli "mujtahids" in Shiite Iran and Iraq.
- A. Manifestations of Islamic political militancy in the first period of religious reformism were the rise of the Wahhabis in Arabia, the Sanusi in Cyrenaica, the Fulani in Nigeria, the Mahdi in the Sudan, and
  - B. Manifestations of Islamic political militancy in the first period of religious reformism were shown in the rise of the Wahhabis in Arabia, the Sanusi in Cyrenaica, the Fulani in Nigeria, the Mahdi in the Sudan, and also
  - C. In the first period of religious reformism, manifestations of Islamic political militancy were the rise of the Wahhabis in Arabia, of the Sanusi in Cyrenaica, the Fulani in Nigeria, the Mahdi in the Sudan, and
  - D. In the first period of religious reformism, manifestations of Islamic political militancy were shown in the rise of the Wahhabis in Arabia, the Sanusi in Cyrenaica, the Fulani in Nigeria, the Mahdi in the Sudan, and
  - E. In the first period of religious reformism, Islamic political militancy was manifested in the rise of the Wahhabis in Arabia, the Sanusi in Cyrenaica, the Fulani in Nigeria, and the Mahdi in the Sudan, and in

#### Consider this sentence:

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.

In the given sentences, there are two main lists:

RISE of A, B, C, D, and VICTORY of E... here the word AND has been used to connect RISE OF and VICTORY OF... but to end the list A, B, C, D, we need AND before D... so it should be A, B, C, and D.

So, there should be AND before the fourth element (the Mahdi in the Sudan)... only option E has it.

Also, VAN can give us the answer here... Verb form is preferred to a noun form... "Manifestation" is a noun... "was manifested" is a passive verb... only E gives the correct form.

E, the best choice, uses parallel phrases for the two major coordinate members (*in the rise of... and in the victory of ...*) and also for the series listed in the first of these (*s in t, u in v, w in x, and y in z*). E's placement of the *In... reformism* phrase at the beginning of the sentence is direct and efficient. Choices A, B, C, and D omit *and* before *the Mahdi*, the last element in the first series; thus, they incorrectly merge the second major member (*the victory of*) into the series listed under the first member (*the rise of*). Furthermore, in A and B the *in...reformism* phrase has been awkwardly set between the subject and verb of the sentence.

11. Scientists have identified an asteroid, 2000 BF19, that is about half a mile wide and, if it strikes Earth, it can do tremendous damage to part of the planet but probably not cause planet-wide destruction.
- A. and, if it strikes Earth, it can do tremendous damage to part of the planet but
  - B. and, if it would strike Earth, part of the planet could experience a tremendous amount of damage but it would
  - C. and that, if it were to strike Earth, could do tremendous damage to part of the planet but would
  - D. and that, if Earth is struck by it, can do part of the planet tremendous damage, but it would
  - E. and that, if it strikes Earth, it could experience a tremendous amount of damage but

### Hypothetical sentences are best written with the construction

**IF + WERE ... WOULD or IF + past tense ... WOULD or "Were ... + would". Only C gets it right.**

- A: 'it' after the comma cannot be correct as it breaks the parallelism... if we remove "if it strikes Earth", IT is not parallel. Also, hypothetical sentences are better written as IF + WERE.
- B. If it would... always wrong... "it" is ambiguous
- D. Passive... "but it would" is not parallel. Also, hypothetical sentences are better written as IF + WERE. "it" is ambiguous
- E. "it" is ambiguous... 'it' after the comma cannot be correct as it breaks the parallelism... if we remove "if it strikes Earth", IT is not parallel. Also, hypothetical sentences are better written as IF + WERE.

12. In the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the United States acquired 828,000 square miles for about four cents an acre, which more than doubled the country's size and that brought its western border within reach of the Pacific Ocean.
- A. In the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the United States acquired 828,000 square miles for about four cents an acre, which more than doubled the country's size and that brought
  - B. For about four cents an acre the United States acquired, in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, 828,000 square miles, more than doubling the country's size and it brought
  - C. With the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the United States acquired 828,000 square miles for about four cents an acre, more than doubling its size and bringing
  - D. The United States, in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, for about four cents an acre, acquired 828,000 square miles, more than doubling the country's size, bringing
  - E. Acquiring 828,000 square miles in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the United States bought it for about four cents an acre, more than doubling the country's size and bringing

Ans. C

This is a cause and effect situation, so ING forms are required for all the effects.

A out

B out

D. there are only 2 effects... so there must be AND between the 2... more than doubling the country's size AND bringing

Also, "in the Louisiana purchase" is placed AFTER "the united states". This placement implies that the United States itself is actually contained within the Louisiana Purchase.

\* "for about four cents an acre" is placed in a place that is unclear.

E has a bigger issue of IT referring to an adjective (Louisiana)

13. Heavy commitment by an executive to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes it likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.
- A. Heavy commitment by an executive to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes it likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.
- B. An executive who is heavily committed to a course of action, especially one that worked well in the past, makes missing signs of incipient trouble or misinterpreting ones likely when they do appear.
- C. An executive who is heavily committed to a course of action is likely to miss or misinterpret signs of incipient trouble when they do appear, especially if it has worked well in the past.
- D. Executives' being heavily committed to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes them likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpreting them when they do appear.
- E. Being heavily committed to a course of action, especially one that has worked well in the past, is likely to make an executive miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.

This sentence explains that an executive who is blindly committed to a proven course of action is likely to overlook or misinterpret indicators that the plan may no longer be working. The sentence needs to make clear *who* may misinterpret these indicators.

A The passive construction causes the sentence to be wordy and confusing; the reference for *it* is ambiguous, leaving the reader with questions about who or what is likely to miss these signs.

B The sentence structure indicates that the *executive*, not his or her strategy, causes signs to be overlooked; the modifier *when they do appear* is misplaced.

C The reference for the pronoun *it* is unclear because many nouns have intervened between the appearance of the logical referent (*course of action*) and *it*.

D *Misinterpreting* should be an infinitive verb form to parallel *miss*; the phrasing throughout the sentence is wordy and awkward. Notice POSSESSIVE "executives' " ... we cannot use THEM

**E is Correct.** The grammatical structure of this sentence and the appropriate placement of modifiers expresses the meaning clearly and concisely.

**The correct answer is E.**

14. Even though Clovis points, spear points with longitudinal grooves chipped onto their faces, have been found all over North America, they are named for the New Mexico site where they were first discovered in 1932.
- A. Even though Clovis points, spear points with longitudinal grooves chipped onto their faces, have been found all over North America, they are named for the New Mexico site where they were first discovered in 1932.
- B. Although named for the New Mexico site where first discovered in 1932, Clovis points are spear points of longitudinal grooves chipped onto their faces and have been found all over North America.
- C. Named for the New Mexico site where they have been first discovered in 1932, Clovis points, spear points of longitudinal grooves chipped onto the faces, have been found all over North America.
- D. Spear points with longitudinal grooves that are chipped onto the faces, Clovis points, even though named for the New Mexico site where first discovered in 1932, but were found all over North America.
- E. While Clovis points are spear points whose faces have longitudinal grooves chipped into them, they have been found all over North America, and named for the New Mexico site where they have been first discovered in 1932.

**Discovery is a point of time... so we need WERE DISCOVERED...**

**Also, a thing can't discover itself... so we need the passive voice WERE DISCOVERED**

**"Have been discovered" will imply that discovery has happened over a period of time... illogical meaning.**

**"Discovered" will imply that Clovis Points discovered themselves... illogical.**

**WERE DISCOVERED is essential... it is only in choice A.**

*Even though, although, and while* introduce clauses that appear to be logically incompatible but in fact are not. In this sentence, the apparent incompatibility that must be clearly expressed is that although the spear points are named for a particular place in New Mexico, they are in fact found throughout North America. Because their discovery took place in 1932 and is not ongoing, the correct verb tense is simple past, not present perfect.

**A Correct.** The *even though* clause expresses clearly that the seeming incompatibility is between where the spear points have been found (*all over North America*) and the naming of the spear points for a single site in New Mexico. B The sentence structure indicates that the expected incompatibility is between the geographically based name of the points and their physical properties, which makes no sense; *where discovered* is missing a subject—the correct form is *where they were first discovered*.

C *Have been first discovered* is the wrong tense, since the discovery is a discrete event completed in the past.

D The sequence of information in this sentence is confusing; *even though* and *but* both introduce information that is contrary to expectation, so to use them both to describe a single apparent contradiction is redundant and nonsensical.

E *While* introduces a description of Clovis points and suggests that this appears incompatible with their appearance all over North America, which makes no sense; *have been first discovered* is the wrong tense.

**The correct answer is A.**

15. Used by many natural history museum curators in the preparation of animal skeletons for display, dermestid beetles feed on the decaying flesh of animal carcasses, pulling with its mouthparts to strip the bone of any residual fat or muscle tissue.
- A. dermestid beetles feed on the decaying flesh of animal carcasses, pulling  
B. dermestid beetles feed on the decaying flesh of animal carcasses and pull  
C. the dermestid beetle feeds on the decaying flesh of animal carcasses and pulls  
D. the dermestid beetle feeds on the decaying flesh of animal carcasses, pulling  
E. the dermestid beetle feeds on the decaying flesh of animal carcasses and it pulls

**Remember:**

**If a sentence involves 2 actions – one main and the other subordinate – and if the second action is**

- **effect / offshoot / result of the main action (cause)**
- **part of the main action**
- **dependent on the main action**
- **sub-ordinate to the main action**
- **embedded in the main action**
- **can't happen without the first action**
- **etc.**

**WE USE the second verb in the –ING form...**

The plural subject in the original sentence, "dermestid beetles," does not agree in number with the singular pronoun "its," which appears in the non-underlined part of the sentence. In order to correctly agree with "its," the subject must be singular: "the dermestid beetle."

(A) This choice is incorrect as it repeats the original sentence.

(B) The plural subject "dermestid beetles" does not agree in number with the singular pronoun "its," which appears in the non-underlined part of the sentence. In order to correctly agree with "its," the subject must be singular: "the dermestid beetle." Also, the present tense verb "pull" is incorrectly consistent with the present tense verb "feed." In this case, verb consistency is undesirable as it separates "feed" and "pull" into two independent and sequential

actions: the beetles "feed on the decaying flesh" and "pull with...mouthparts." The logical meaning of the sentence, as dictated by the original version, is that the "pulling" occurs as part of the main verb "feed," not independent of it.

(C) While the singular subject "the dermestid beetle" correctly agrees in number with the singular pronoun "its," the present tense verb "pulls" is incorrectly consistent with the present tense verb "feeds." In this case, verb consistency is undesirable as it separates "feeds" and "pulls" into two independent and sequential actions: the beetle "feeds on the decaying flesh" and "pulls with...mouthparts." The logical meaning of the sentence, as dictated by the original version, is that the "pulling" occurs as part of the main verb "feeds," not independent of it.

(D) CORRECT. The singular subject "the dermestid beetle" correctly agrees in number with the singular pronoun "its." Also, the form "pulling" correctly implies that "pulling with its mouthparts" occurs as part of the main verb "feeds," not independent of it.

(E) The singular subject "the dermestid beetle" correctly agrees in number with the singular pronoun "its." However, the present tense verb "pulls" is incorrectly consistent with the present tense verb "feeds." In this case, verb consistency is undesirable as it separates "feeds" and "pulls" into two independent and sequential actions: the beetle "feeds on the decaying flesh" and "pulls with...mouthparts." The logical meaning of the sentence, as dictated by the original version, is that the "pulling" occurs as part of the main verb "feeds," not independent of it. Also, the use of the pronoun "it" is unnecessarily wordy; the subject of the verb "pulls," "the dermestid beetle," is clear without of the use of "it."

16. More than thirty years ago Dr. Barbara McClintock, the Nobel Prize winner, reported that genes can "jump," as pearls moving mysteriously from one necklace to another.

- A. as pearls moving mysteriously from one necklace to another
- B. like pearls moving mysteriously from one necklace to another
- C. as pearls do that move mysteriously from one necklace to others
- D. like pearls do that move mysteriously from one necklace to others
- E. as do pearls that move mysteriously from one necklace to some other one

B

"JUMP" written in quotes means hypothetical... so LIKE

Like cannot be followed by a VERB ... So "like pearls DO" in D is wrong.

Like pearls moving... in this MOVING is an adjective (present participle), not a verb.

17. Most of the purported health benefits of tea comes from antioxidants—compounds also found in beta carotene, vitamin E, and vitamin C that inhibit the formation of plaque along the body's blood vessels.

- A. comes from antioxidants—compounds also found in beta carotene, vitamin E, and vitamin C that
- B. comes from antioxidants—compounds that are also found in beta carotene, vitamin E, and vitamin C, and they
- C. come from antioxidants—compounds also found in beta carotene, vitamin E, and vitamin C, and
- D. come from antioxidants—compounds that are also found in beta carotene, vitamin E, and vitamin C and that
- E. come from antioxidants—compounds also found in beta carotene, vitamin E, and vitamin C, and they

Benefits (plural) ... COME not COMES... So A, B out

This is one of the best questions to understand parallelism.

After the underline (after the word AND) there is a verb 'INHIBIT' but in options C and E, there is no verb before AND... only D has a verb ARE...

So compounds that are found || and that inhibit.

**Also, there is no "that and that" clause parallelism in this sentence. THAT here is a pronoun referring to COMPOUNDS...**

**Though by coincidence, you may feel that there is THAT and THAT parallelism here.**

18. 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 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.

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.

- A *Dissipating* is not a transitive verb, so *acoustic energy* cannot function as its object.
- B This version of the sentence is wordy, awkward, and indirect; *from having . . . by* erroneously suggests that the boundaries in the ocean are attempting to dissipate sound energy.
- C **Correct.** Here, *acoustic energy* is effectively modified by the participial *prevented from dissipating* . . .
- D This version of the sentence is wordy, awkward, and indirect; *being dissipated as a result of* makes it unclear whether the boundaries contribute to energy loss or prevent it.
- E This version of the sentence nonsensically explains that sound prevents the dissipation of its own energy.

**The correct answer is C.**

**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. **(ABSOLUTE PHRASE)**

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.**

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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 – because VARIES is a VERB**)... **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...

19. The hognose snake puts on an impressive bluff, hissing and rearing back, broadens the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does, feigning repeated strikes, but, having no dangerous fangs and no venom, eventually, if its pursuer is not cowed by the performance, will fall over and play dead.
- A. broadens the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does, feigning repeated strikes, but, having no dangerous fangs and no venom,
  - B. broadens the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does and feigns repeated strikes, but with no dangerous fangs and no venom,
  - C. broadening the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does and feigning repeated strikes, but it has no dangerous fangs and no venom, and
  - D. broadening the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does and feigns repeated strikes, but with no dangerous fangs and no venom, and
  - E. broadening the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does, feigning repeated strikes, but with no dangerous fangs and no venom, and

hissing & rearing AND broadening & feigning... are all part of the BLUFF so they have to be in ING form.

**Parallelism: Hissing ... so broadening A, B out**

**D has broadening and feigns... not parallel.**

BUT indicates parallelism

C maintains this parallelism

The hognose snake puts.... but it has... here SNAKE PUTS and IT HAS are parallel. E violates this parallelism.

E is not parallel.

20. Since 1990 the global economy has grown more than it did during the 10,000 years from the beginning of agriculture to 1950.
- A. Since 1990 the global economy has grown more than it did during the 10,000 years from the beginning of agriculture
  - B. Since 1990 the growth of the global economy has been more than that during 10,000 years, from when agriculture began
  - C. The growth of the global economy since 1990 exceeds that which had been for 10,000 years from the beginning of agriculture
  - D. The growth of the global economy since 1990 exceeds what it has been for 10,000 years, from when agriculture began
  - E. The growth of the global economy since 1990 exceeds what it did for the 10,000 years from the beginning of agriculture

**'Since' denotes an ongoing action that started in the past... so in C, D, and E, 'exceeds' is definitely wrong.**

**As per VAN (verb preferred to an adjective and adjective preferred to a noun), only one option has 'has grown (verb)' and the remaining four have 'growth (noun)'**

**'Has been' cannot be used for something till 1950. So D is wrong for this reason as well.**

**In E, it should be growth... exceeds what it **was**, not what it **did**.**

In D, E 'it' could refer to either 'growth' or 'global economy' ... That is another reason to eliminate D, E .

21. Hydrocarbons, with which fruit flies perfume themselves in species-specific blends, are known to be important in courtship, and apparently this assists flies that taste the hydrocarbons on prospective mates to distinguish their own species from that of others.
- A. and apparently this assists flies that taste the hydrocarbons on prospective mates to distinguish their own species from that of
  - B. and apparently this assists flies when they taste the hydrocarbons on prospective mates in distinguishing their own species from those of
  - C. which apparently assists flies that taste the hydrocarbons on prospective mates in being able to distinguish their own species from
  - D. apparently assisting flies to taste the hydrocarbons on prospective mates to distinguish their own species from those of
  - E. apparently assisting flies that taste the hydrocarbons on prospective mates in distinguishing their own species from

**CAUSE EFFECT... can't use pronouns such as "this" and "which"... Have to use ING form**  
**Right idiom is assist X in doing Y.**

'assist ... in' is the generally preferred form

Ans. E

Choice D: 'those of' is wrong ...

The original meaning is that hydrocarbons assist those flies that happen to taste them in species identification. Choice D asserts that hydrocarbons somehow help flies to taste hydrocarbons with the intention of species identification, which is a whole different ballgame.

The infinitive (to + verb) signals intention, or purpose.

I ran over the glass in the road, flattening my tire --> the flattening of the tire was a result, not my intention.

I ran over the glass in the road to flatten my tire --> for some reason, I actually wanted to flatten the tire, so I chose this particular method of doing so.

By the same logic, D is wrong as well.

22. Noting that the price of oil and other fuel components, a major factor in the cost structure of an airline, have risen and will continue to rise, the company management was pessimistic about their outlook for the upcoming quarter.
- A. have risen and will continue to rise, the company management was pessimistic about their
  - B. have risen and will continue to rise, the company management was pessimistic about the
  - C. will continue to rise, the company management was pessimistic about the
  - D. has risen and will continue to rise, the company management was pessimistic about their
  - E. will continue to rise, the company management was pessimistic about their

C

The original sentence supplies the plural verb construction "have risen" for the singular subject "price." Further, the phrase "have risen and will continue to rise" is redundant. Finally, the original sentence uses the plural pronoun "their" to refer to the singular subject "management."

(A) This choice is incorrect as it repeats the original sentence.

(B) This answer corrects the pronoun issue, but suffers from the lack of agreement between the subject "the price" and the verb "have risen." This answer choice also retains the redundant and wordy construction "have risen and will continue to rise."

(C) CORRECT. This answer replaces the redundant construction "have risen and will continue to rise" with the more concise "will continue to rise." This change is possible without any loss of content, since using "will continue to rise" already implies that the price of oil and fuel components has been increasing to date. Further, this modification resolves the subject-verb agreement issue in the original sentence. Finally, this answer choice replaces the plural pronoun "their" with the article "the," thus remedying the original lack of agreement between the noun "management" and pronoun "their."

(D) While supplying the appropriate singular verb "has risen" for the singular subject "the price," this choice is wordy and retains the incorrect pronoun "their" from the original sentence.

(E) While resolving the issues of redundancy and subject-verb agreement, this answer uses the plural pronoun "their" to refer to the singular noun "management."

23. Given its authoritative coverage of other science topics, the textbook's chapter on genetics is surprisingly tentative, which leads one to doubt the author's scholarship in that particular area.
- A. the textbook's chapter on genetics is surprisingly tentative, which leads
  - B. the chapter of the textbook on genetics is surprisingly tentative, leading
  - C. the textbook contains a surprising and tentative chapter on genetics, which leads
  - D. the textbook's chapter on genetics is surprisingly tentative and leads
  - E. the textbook is surprisingly tentative in its chapter on genetics, leading

E

**Misplaced modifier: A, B, D out... cause effect.. C out.**

The original sentence contains several errors. First, the opening modifier "given its authoritative coverage of other science topics" describes the textbook as a whole, yet the subject of the main clause is "the textbook's chapter on genetics." Second, the relative pronoun "which" is used here to modify the entire clause "the textbook's chapter on genetics is surprisingly tentative." "Which" must modify the immediately preceding noun only; it cannot modify the action of an entire clause, as it does here.

(A) This choice is incorrect as it repeats the original sentence.

(B) The modifier issue is not corrected here, since "the chapter" remains the subject of the main clause (as opposed to "the textbook"). However, this choice does correct the misuse of "which" by replacing it with "leading."

(C) The modifier issue is corrected here by making "the textbook" the subject of the main clause. However, the misuse of "which" is retained. The relative pronoun "which" is used here to modify the entire clause "the textbook's chapter on genetics is surprisingly tentative." "Which" must modify the immediately preceding noun only; it cannot modify the action of an entire clause, as it does here.

**Also, the phrase "surprising and tentative" implies that the chapter on genetics is both "surprising" and "tentative," two characteristics that are independent of one another. However, it is clear in the original sentence that "surprisingly" is meant to be an adverb that modifies the adjective "tentative." The chapter is "surprisingly tentative," not "surprising and tentative."**

(D) The modifier issue is not corrected here, since "the textbook's chapter" is the subject of the main clause (as opposed to "the textbook").

**Moreover, the verb "leads" is incorrectly parallel with "is" when it should be subordinate (e.g., "leading"). This makes it less clear that doubting the author's scholarship is a result of the tentativeness of the chapter on genetics.**

**(E) CORRECT.** The modifier issue is corrected here by making "the textbook" the subject of the main clause.

Moreover, "which" is replaced by "leading," thus eliminating the incorrect use of "which" while preserving the meaning of the sentence.

24. Since 1989, after the Berlin Wall had been demolished, one of the most problematic ethnic groups in the reunified Germany, in cultural and economic assimilation terms, were the former East Germans, who have had to acclimate to an entirely different political system.
- A. after the Berlin Wall had been demolished, one of the most problematic ethnic groups in the reunified German, in cultural and economic assimilation terms, were the former East Germans
  - B. after the Berlin Wall was demolished, one of the most problematic ethnic groups in the reunified Germany, in cultural terms as well as those of economic assimilation, were the former East Germans
  - C. when the Berlin Wall was demolished, one of the reunified Germany's most problematic ethnic groups, in terms of cultural and economic assimilation, was the former East Germans
  - D. when the Berlin Wall was demolished, one of the most problematic ethnic groups in the reunified Germany, in terms of cultural and economic assimilation, has been the former East Germans
  - E. after the Berlin Wall had been demolished, one of the most problematic ethnic groups in the reunified Germany, in both terms of cultural and economic assimilation, have been the former East Germans

D

**SINCE means ongoing action... so we have to use 'has been' or 'have been'... here there is one group... so HAS been... D**

The subject of the sentence is "one of the most problematic ethnic groups", a singular noun. The verb, however, is "were," which is plural. We need to find a choice that uses a singular verb instead.

- (A) This choice is the same as the original sentence.
- (B) This choice does not correct the subject-verb issue; it still uses "were" to refer to "group."
- (C) This choice uses the singular "was," but the simple past is not the appropriate tense here because of the ongoing nature of the problem. Moreover, "the reunified Germany's most problematic ethnic groups" is an awkward construction.
- (D) CORRECT.** This choice uses the singular "has been," which is also in the present perfect tense, indicating the ongoing nature of the problem. Moreover, "in terms of cultural and economic assimilation" is a more idiomatic and elegant phrasing than that of the original.
- (E) This choice does not correct the subject-verb issue; it uses "have been" to refer to "group."

25. The Federal Reserve announcement said that growth had accelerated after slowing in the second quarter and that the policy makers remain concerned about the prospects of inflation, even though there are few signs of higher energy prices driving up the cost of other goods so far.
- A. that growth had accelerated after slowing in the second quarter and that the policy makers remain concerned about the prospects of inflation, even though there are few
  - B. growth had accelerated after slowing in the second quarter and that the policy makers remain concerned about the prospects of inflation, even though there are few
  - C. that growth had accelerated after slowing in the second quarter and the policy makers remain concerned about the prospects of inflation, even though there are few
  - D. growth had accelerated after slowing in the second quarter and the policy makers remain concerned about the prospects of inflation, even though there are few
  - E. that growth accelerated after slowing in the second quarter and that the policy makers remain concerned about the prospects of inflation, even though there are few

A

**SAID THAT and THAT... A/E.**

**Acceleration happened before the announcement (PAST)... so HAD accelerated. A it is.**

The original is correct. The equivalent elements, "that growth had accelerated..." and "that the policy makers remain..." are parallel clauses beginning with "that." The verb tenses are also correct; the action that occurred in the

most distant past ("had picked up pace") uses the past perfect; the later past event ("statement also said") uses the simple past. Also, "few" is correct, since it modifies the quantifiable noun "signs."

**(A) CORRECT.** This choice is correct as it repeats the original sentence.

(B) This choice is not parallel; "that" is required before "growth had accelerated..." to make it parallel to "that the policy makers remain..."

(C) This choice is not parallel; "that growth had accelerated..." is not parallel to "the policy makers remain..."

(D) This choice is parallel, but the syntax is incorrect. **"That" can be colloquially omitted after the verb "said," but not in formal writing.**

(E) This choice is parallel, but incorrectly uses the simple past, "accelerated." This action is the earlier past event, as it must have occurred before the Fed commented on the trend. The earlier of multiple past events must use the past perfect.

26. Rather than accept the conventional wisdom that the earth was flat, Christopher Columbus was sent by the king and queen of Spain to see if he could reach India by traveling west.

- A. Rather than accept the conventional wisdom that the earth was flat, Christopher Columbus was sent by the king and queen of Spain to see if he could reach India by traveling west.
- B. Rather than accepting the conventional wisdom that the earth was flat, Christopher Columbus was sent by the king and queen of Spain to see if he could reach India by sailing west.
- C. Instead of accepting the conventional wisdom that the earth was flat, Christopher Columbus sailed west to see whether he could reach India, having been sent by the king and queen of Spain.
- D. Rather than accept the conventional wisdom that the earth was flat, Christopher Columbus sailed west to see whether he could reach India, having been sent by the king and queen of Spain.
- E. Instead of accepting the conventional wisdom that the earth was flat, Christopher Columbus was sent by the king and queen of Spain to sail west to see if he could reach India.

**THE GMAT prefers 'rather than' to 'instead of' and 'whether' to 'if'.**

**So, D.**

The original sentence contains several errors. First, the construction "X rather than Y" requires parallelism between X and Y, but the original sentence pairs an active verb ("accept") with a passive one ("was sent"). Second, the use of "if" in this context is incorrect. On the GMAT, "if" is used only to introduce conditional clauses (e.g. "if X, then Y"). Here, "whether" should be used instead of "if" to indicate uncertainty about reaching India by traveling west.

(A) This choice is incorrect as it repeats the original sentence.

(B) The construction "X rather than Y" requires parallelism between X and Y, but this choice pairs an active verb ("accepting") with a passive one ("was sent"). Second, the use of "if" in this context is incorrect. On the GMAT, "if" is used only to introduce conditional clauses (e.g. "if X, then Y"). Here, "whether" should be used instead of "if" to indicate uncertainty about reaching India by traveling west.

**(C) This choice begins with "instead of," which is incorrectly used to compare the verbs "accepting" and "sailed." When comparing verbs, "rather than" is the correct choice.**

**(D) CORRECT.** This choice uses the construction "X rather than Y" to correctly compare the parallel active verbs "accept" and "sailed." The uncertainty about reaching India by traveling west is correctly indicated by the word "whether."

(E) This choice begins with "instead of," which is incorrectly used to compare the verbs "accepting" and "sailed." When comparing verbs, "rather than" is the correct choice.

Even if "instead of" were correct, the construction "X instead of Y" requires parallelism between X and Y, but this choice pairs an active verb ("accepting") with a passive one ("was sent"). Finally, the use of "if" in this context is

incorrect. On the GMAT, "if" is used only to introduce conditional clauses (e.g. "if X, then Y"). Here, "whether" should be used instead of "if" to indicate uncertainty about reaching India by traveling west.

27. In the remote western province of China, the prevailing price for a large bowl of noodles, which are a staple in the region, rose from 27 cents to 31 cents overnight, prompting allegations that noodle shop owners had colluded to fix their prices.
- A. rose from 27 cents to 31 cents overnight, prompting allegations that noodle shop owners had
  - B. rose from 27 cents to 31 cents overnight, and prompts allegations that noodle shop owners had
  - C. had risen from 27 cents to 31 cents overnight, prompting allegations that noodle shop owners
  - D. had risen from 27 cents to 31 cents overnight, prompting allegations that noodle shop owners had
  - E. raised from 27 cents to 31 cents overnight, prompting allegations that noodle shop owners had

**COLLUSION happened first... prices rose next and allegations prompted as a result..**

**So HAD COLLUDED... ROSE... prompting.**

There are three actions in the underlined portion of the sentence. The logical time line is that (1) the noodle shop owners (allegedly) colluded to fix their prices, so (2) the price of a bowl of noodles suddenly increased, causing (3) the allegations against the noodle shop owners. All three actions took place in the past. The original sentence uses the simple past "rose" to indicate that the second action took place in the past. The construction "rose...prompting allegations" correctly indicates the cause and effect relationship between the second and third actions. Finally, the use of the past perfect "had colluded" correctly indicates that the alleged collusion took place prior to the other two past actions.

(A) CORRECT. The original sentence avoids all of the errors in the other choices.

(B) The construction "rose...and prompts" fails to convey the cause and effect relationship between the price increase and the leveling of allegations against the noodle shop owners. Furthermore, the use of the present tense "prompts" is incorrect: according to the original sentence, the allegations have already been made.

(C) The use of the past perfect "had risen" and the simple past "colluded" reverses the time line of events, illogically suggesting that the prices increased before the noodle shop owners colluded to raise their prices.

(D) The use of the past perfect "had risen" with the past perfect "had colluded" illogically suggests that the price increase and the alleged collusion occurred simultaneously. Furthermore, when correctly using the past perfect tense, the sentence must also have some other action in the simple past tense; here there is no such simple past action.

(E) The verb "to rise" is an irregular verb. The simple past tense is not "raised," but rather "rose."

28. So-called green taxes, which exact a price for the use of polluting or nonrenewable fuels, are having a positive effect on the environment and natural resource base of countries as varied as China, the Netherlands, and Hungary.
- A. as varied as
  - B. as varied as are
  - C. as varied as those of
  - D. that are as varied as
  - E. that are varied as are

Imagine the sentences:

I want to meet someone as intelligent as Jack... BEST

I want to meet someone as intelligent as IS Jack... OK

I want to meet someone as intelligent as Jack IS... OK

I want to meet someone as intelligent as THAT OF Jack... WRONG.

I want to meet someone WHO IS as intelligent as Jack... WORDY

I want to meet someone WHO IS as intelligent as IS Jack... WRONG

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**As per the above analysis, A is the best answer.**

We don't need "are" because there is no ambiguity. If the sentence were ambiguous without "are", then we would need to insert it. (Note that the sentence is not actually incorrect if you add "are"; you just don't have to.)

Examples:

I know more about biology than chemistry correct.

(I could say "...than about chemistry", but I don't have to, since there is no ambiguity here)

I know more about Shakespeare than my brother. Here, we NEED a helping word.

If I mean that I am superior to my brother in terms of Shakespeare knowledge, then I have to add "does".

If I mean that I know more about Shakespeare than I know about my own brother, then I have to add "about".

Same deal here. There's no ambiguity (as in the first example here), so you don't need a helping word.

The phrase "as varied as" indicates some kind of comparison, so what are you comparing? What is it that is actually varying here? The noun 'countries' before the phrase and the three specific countries listed after the phrase. When you're comparing, you need the things you're comparing in parallel format.

So: "countries" on one side and "China, the Netherlands, and Hungary" on the other. Proper, parallel comparison.

29. Nearly 2000 years after its initial construction, the United Nations declared the Roman aqueduct of Segovia to be a Heritage of Humanity in 1985, prompting the Spanish government to begin renovations on the aqueduct, which had been deteriorating.
- A. Nearly 2000 years after its initial construction, the United Nations declared the Roman aqueduct of Segovia to be a Heritage of Humanity in 1985, prompting the Spanish government to begin renovations on the aqueduct, which had been deteriorating.
- B. Since its initial construction nearly 2000 years earlier, the Roman aqueduct of Segovia had been deteriorating, prompting the Spanish government to begin renovations after the United Nations declared the aqueduct to be a Heritage of Humanity in 1985.
- C. After being declared a Heritage of Humanity by the United Nations in 1985, the Spanish government began renovations on the Roman aqueduct of Segovia, which had been deteriorating since its initial construction nearly 2000 years earlier.
- D. In 1985, the United Nations declared the Roman Aqueduct of Segovia to be a Heritage of Humanity and prompted the Spanish government to begin renovations on the aqueduct, which had been deteriorating since its initial construction nearly 2000 years earlier.
- E. In 1985, the United Nations declared the Roman aqueduct of Segovia a Heritage of Humanity, prompting the Spanish government to begin renovations on the aqueduct, which had been deteriorating since its initial construction nearly 2000 years earlier.

**CORRECT IDIOM: Declare X Y... not TO BE.**

**A, B, D out.**

**C uses a wrong modifier...**

The modifying phrase "After being declared...in 1985" incorrectly modifies the adjacent noun "Spanish government." It is not the "Spanish government" that was declared a Heritage of Humanity, but rather the "Roman aqueduct."

**So E**

The original sentence contains a misplaced modifier, which alters the intended meaning of the sentence. The modifying phrase "Nearly 2000 years after its initial construction" incorrectly modifies "the United Nations," the adjacent noun. However, it is the "Roman aqueduct" that was constructed nearly 2000 years earlier, not "the United Nations." Further, "declared the Roman aqueduct...to be a Heritage of Humanity" uses an incorrect idiom: "declare X to be Y." The correct form of the idiom is: "declare X Y."

(A) This choice is incorrect as it repeats the original sentence.

(B) This sentence implies that it was the deterioration of the aqueduct that prompted the "Spanish government to begin renovations." However, the intended meaning, as dictated by the original sentence, is that the United Nations' declaration prompted the renovations. Further, "declared the Roman aqueduct...to be a Heritage of Humanity" uses an incorrect idiom: "declare X to be Y." The correct form of the idiom is: "declare X Y."

(C) The modifying phrase "After being declared...in 1985" incorrectly modifies the adjacent noun "Spanish government." It is not the "Spanish government" that was declared a Heritage of Humanity, but rather the "Roman aqueduct." Additionally, the modifying phrase "which had been deteriorating..." incorrectly modifies the immediately preceding noun, "Segovia." Again, it was not "Segovia" that had been deteriorating, but rather the "Roman aqueduct."

**(D) The verbs "declared" and "prompted" are written with parallel structure. This changes the original meaning of the sentence by making these actions independent and sequential. However, the intended meaning is that the "prompting" occurred not independently of the declaration, but as a consequence of the declaration. Further, "declared the Roman aqueduct...to be a Heritage of Humanity" uses an incorrect idiom: "declare X to be Y." The correct form of the idiom is: "declare X Y."**

**(E) CORRECT.** This sentence is clear in meaning. The modifying phrase "which had been deteriorating..." correctly modifies the immediately preceding noun "aqueduct." Also, the phrase "prompting the Spanish government..." is subordinate to "declared," making it clear that the "prompting" occurred as a result of the declaration. Finally, "declared the Roman aqueduct...a Heritage of Humanity" uses the correct form of the idiom: "declared X Y."

30. The Environmental Protection Agency frequently puts mandatory controls on toxic substances that present as little risk as one in a million chances to cause cancer.
- A. as little risk as one in a million chances to cause
  - B. as little risk as one chance in a million of causing
  - C. as little risk as one chance in a million that it will cause
  - D. a risk as little as one chance in a million for causing
  - E. a risk as little as one chance in a million for it to cause

Correct Idiom: *risk of causing*. Ans. B

31. Heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved from the previous year, only look less appetizing than their round and red supermarket cousins, often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but are more flavorful.
- A. cousins, often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but are
  - B. cousins, often green and striped, or with plenty of bumps and bruises, although
  - C. cousins, often green and striped, or they have plenty of bumps and bruises, although they are
  - D. cousins; they are often green and striped, or with plenty of bumps and bruises, although
  - E. cousins; they are often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but they are

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.**

**A, B, C... have wrong modifier – the cousins are not green and striped. Also all three don't use the semicolon.**

(D) cousins; **they are** often green and striped, **or with** plenty of bumps and bruises, although - "or with plenty of bumps " - not parallel

(E) cousins; **they are** often green and striped, or **have** plenty of bumps and bruises, but **they are** - "they are ... green and striped or (they) have ...." - parallel

"Although" cannot be used to introduce phrases. It should be followed with a subordinate clause, which has a subject and verb.

**AND, OR, and BUT have to maintain strict parallelism on either side.**

32. Today's technology allows manufacturers to make small cars more fuel-efficient now than at any time in their production history.
- A. small cars more fuel-efficient now than at any time in their
  - B. small cars that are more fuel-efficient than they were at any time in their
  - C. small cars that are more fuel-efficient than those at any other time in
  - D. more fuel-efficient small cars than those at any other time in their
  - E. more fuel-efficient small cars now than at any time in

You must have the word "any other"

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

**It should be Jack is taller than any OTHER boy in his class... so A, B, E out.**

Option D gives the meaning that MORE CARS (number), whereas we need the meaning MORE EFFICIENCY... clearly this is borne out by C. So D out.

Technically, they're not more efficient than those at ANY time in production history - because part of that history includes right now, when they're more fuel-efficient. So, they're only more efficient than those at any OTHER time in history.

One more error in (e) is redundancy - Because the sentence is discussing "today's" technology it is redundant to say "now." I also think that the meaning of (e) is ambiguous: are manufacturers making cars that are more fuel efficient, or are manufacturers simply making more cars (number of cars)?

The sentence is supposed to say that today's small cars are more fuel-efficient than previous small cars -- i.e., OTHER small cars. This is important, because you can't use a "they"/"their" construction (which would illogically imply that you're talking about the same small cars mentioned in the first part of the sentence). The use of "those" in (c), on the other hand, accomplishes this distinction nicely.

Analogy:

sprinters in Texas can run faster than they can in North Dakota.

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

Sprinters in Texas can run faster than those in North Dakota.

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

Same thing with "they/their" vs. "those" in these instances

33. Antarctica receives more solar radiation than does any other place on Earth, yet the temperatures are so cold and the ice cap is reflective, so that little polar ice melts during the summer; otherwise, the water levels of the oceans would rise 250 feet and engulf most of the world's great cities.
- A. is reflective, so that little polar ice melts during the summer; otherwise,
  - B. is so reflective that little of the polar ice melts during the summer; were it to do so,
  - C. so reflective that little polar ice melts during the summer, or else
  - D. reflective, so that little of the polar ice melts during the summer, or
  - E. reflects so that little of the polar ice melts during the summer; if it did

Temperatures ARE so cold AND the ice-cap IS so reflective... parallelism and Subject Verb Agreement.

So B

**Also, notice the semicolon usage. We have to use the semicolon as the first part is balanced.**

B. is so reflective that little of the polar ice melts during the summer; were it to do so,

--- CORRECT. Proper usage of idiom: Xs are so cold and so Y is so reflective that . And also phrase "were it to do so" introduces hypothetical situation/uncertainty which is required in the second half of the whole sentence.

34. Industrialization and modern methods of insect control have improved the standard of living around the globe while at the same time they have introduced some 100,000 dangerous chemical pollutants, having gone virtually unregulated since they were developed more than 50 years ago.
- A. while at the same time they have introduced some 100,000 dangerous chemical pollutants, having
  - B. while at the same time introducing some 100,000 dangerous chemical pollutants that have
  - C. while they have introduced some 100,000 dangerous chemical pollutants at the same time, which have
  - D. but introducing some 100,000 dangerous chemical pollutants at the same time that have
  - E. but at the same time introducing some 100,000 dangerous chemical pollutants, having

Ans. B

Remember as a thumb rule (these are not grammar rules but are always followed on the GMAT):

If there is a choice between 'having', 'which have', and 'that have', the GMAT always prefers 'that have'.

So we are down to B and D.

Whenever the word 'but' is used, the GMAT mandates strict parallelism from Left to Right and from Right to Left. In D, 'have improved' is not parallel to 'introducing'. Ans. B.

\*\*\*\*\*

### COMMA -ING modifiers:

\* modify the ENTIRE PRECEDING CLAUSE OR

\* are ATTRIBUTED TO THE SUBJECT of the PRECEDING CLAUSE

The second of these principles tells us that *Industrialization and modern methods of insect control* are what have "gone virtually unregulated" in choice A and E. This is incorrect; it's the *chemicals* that have gone virtually unregulated. So A, E out

If we use BUT... we must have precise Parallelism (have improved... have introduced)... So D, E out

**Also, there are two results... one a desirable (intended) result and the other an undesirable result... they cannot be put in absolutely parallel form... the second is an accidental offshoot of the first... so C is wrong.**

**Also, the use of 'which' is wrong in C... as the last part of the sentence is required for the correct meaning of the sentence. In such situation, 'that' is considered right.**

In choice d, the placement of 'at the same time' is illogical: it means that all 100,000 of the pollutants are released at exactly the same time (as in a big explosion).

The sentence is attempting to indicate that the chemical pollutants have gone unregulated since they were developed, a sentiment indicated clearly and correctly in answer choice B.

35. A New York City ordinance of 1897 regulated the use of bicycles, mandated a maximum speed of eight miles an hour, required of cyclists to keep feet on pedals and hands on handlebars at all times, and it granted pedestrians right-of-way.
- A. regulated the use of bicycles, mandated a maximum speed of eight miles an hour, required of cyclists to keep feet on pedals and hands on handlebars at all times, and it granted
  - B. regulated the use of bicycles, mandated a maximum speed of eight miles an hour, required cyclists to keep feet on pedals and hands on handlebars at all times, granting
  - C. regulating the use of bicycles mandated a maximum speed of eight miles an hour, required cyclists that they keep feet on pedals and hands on handlebars at all times, and it granted
  - D. regulating the use of bicycles, mandating a maximum speed of eight miles an hour, requiring of cyclists that they keep feet on pedals and hands on handlebars at all times, and granted
  - E. regulating the use of bicycles mandated a maximum speed of eight miles an hour, required cyclists to keep feet on pedals and hands on handlebars at all times, and granted

Imagine the sentence:

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.

As per this structure, the right answer is E.

36. Many environmentalists, and some economists, say that free trade encourages industry to relocate to countries with ineffective or poorly enforced antipollution laws, mostly in the developing world, and that, in order to maintain competitiveness, rich nations have joined this downward slide toward more lax attitudes about pollution.
- A. that, in order to maintain competitiveness, rich nations have joined this downward slide toward more lax attitudes about pollution
  - B. that, for maintaining competitiveness, rich nations join in this downward slide toward more lax attitudes about pollution
  - C. that rich nations join this downward slide toward more lax attitudes about pollution because of wanting to maintain competitiveness
  - D. that in rich nations, joining this downward slide toward more lax attitudes about pollution is a result of wanting to maintain competition
  - E. that wanting to maintain competition is making rich nations join in this downward slide toward an attitude about pollution that is more lax
- D / E ... the words 'maintain competition' is wrong. No country wants to maintain competition. Everyone wants to maintain competitiveness.

**SUPERB meaning clarity problem... you must be able to guess that this is a recent phenomenon... so the answer cannot use the word JOIN as an eternal truth.**

B: to maintain is the right idiom (to show intention)

C: "nations join" means present simple tense... shows eternal truth... not a recent phenomenon. "Because of wanting" is worse than "Because they want"

D, E are plain BAD. The major trouble is "WANTING to maintain".

37. Like any star of similar mass would do, once the Sun has exhausted the hydrogen in its core, it expands into a red giant, eventually ejecting its outer envelope of gases to become a white dwarf.
- A. Like any star of similar mass would do, once the Sun has exhausted the hydrogen in its core, it expands into a red giant, eventually ejecting
  - B. Like any star of similar mass, once the hydrogen in the Sun's core is exhausted, then it expands into a red giant and eventually ejects
  - C. As in the case of any star of similar mass, once the hydrogen in the Sun's core is exhausted, it will expand into a red giant, and eventually ejecting
  - D. As any star of similar mass would, once the hydrogen in the Sun's core is exhausted it will expand into a red giant and will eventually eject
  - E. As would be the case with any star of similar mass, once the Sun exhausts the hydrogen in its core, it will expand into a red giant and eventually eject

A: Like followed by a VERB – wrong

B, C: Possessive – it refers to core

D: it refers to hydrogen

**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 ... such constructions are always considered RIGHT on the GMAT.**

Sentence is making a projection. So, future tense is needed. A and B are out. The 'its' after the underlined portion should refer back to Sun and not Sun's core. C and D have 'Sun's Core' and 'it' cannot refer to a possessive.

what's more important is to notice that, in choices C and D, "it" refers to "hydrogen" (the subject of the previous clause). This reference leads to the absurd idea that the \_hydrogen\_ will expand into a red giant AFTER IT'S ALL GONE. Choice C also exhibits a rather obvious parallelism defect, which also happens to be ungrammatical: "and eventually ejecting" not only fails to be parallel to "will expand," but is also, well, wrong.

Choice B is all kinds of wrong. Since "like any star of similar mass" doesn't have a subject, we need "the Sun" right after the comma (and it isn't there). Like choices C and D, this sentence mistakenly employs "it" to refer to hydrogen. eliminate choice "A" on the basis that it is starting a clause with "like"----->"**Like** any star of similar mass would do".

*like* is limited to introducing nouns (or their equivalents, such as pronouns and noun phrases). *like* cannot introduce clauses.

38. As the former chair of the planning board for 18 consecutive years and a board member for 28 years, Joan Philkill attended more than 400 meetings and reviewed more than 700 rezoning applications.
- A. As the former  
B. The former  
C. Former  
D. She was  
E. As the

Answer choice A indicates that Joan, for 18 years, was the former chair; it is nonsensical to think that she would be attending meetings while she was the former chair. **A, B, C out...**

The sentence is attempting to indicate that Joan served for 18 years as the chair, and during this time she attended meetings. Thus, E is more clear and precise in its meaning than is A.

D needs a semi-colon as the left part is balanced.

Ans. E

39. 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).

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

- A. which was determined by when the sun reached the observer's meridian and differing
- B. which was determined by when the sun reached the observer's meridian and which differed
- C. which were determined by when the sun reached the observer's meridian and differing
- D. determined by when the sun reached the observer's meridian and differed
- E. determined by when the sun reached the observer's meridian and differing

As per meaning clarity, only 'local times' could have been determined by the movement of the sun, so the word 'which' refers to 'local times' (plural). The word 'was' cannot be correct in **A and B**.

In C, 'were determined' is a passive verb and 'differing' cannot be a verb (ING forms alone are never verbs). Not parallel.

### 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 + 3<sup>rd</sup> 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)

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'.

As per meaning clarity, only 'local times' could have been determined by the movement of the sun, so the word 'which' refers to 'local times' (plural). The word 'was' cannot be correct in A and B.

In C, 'were determined' is a passive verb and 'differing' cannot be a verb (ING forms alone are never verbs). Not parallel.

In D, **determined** is the right adjective but **differed** is the wrong adjective.

In E, **determined** and **differing** are the right adjectives, both of which refer to 'local times'. CORRECT.

41. As the etched lines on computer memory chips have become thinner and the chips' circuits more complex, both the power of the chips and the electronic devices they drive have vastly increased.
- A. the chips' circuits more complex, both the power of the chips and the electronic devices they drive have
  - B. the chips' circuits more complex, the power of both the chips and the electronic devices they drive has
  - C. the chips' circuits are more complex, both the power of the chips and the electronic devices they drive has
  - D. their circuits are more complex, the power of both the chips and the electronic devices they drive have
  - E. their circuits more complex, both the power of the chips and the electronic devices they drive have

The split of 'has/have' tells us that there is a SVA error. As the 'power' has increased, we need the word 'has'. Also, the subject in C is 'both'. For which 'has' is not the right verb.

Ans. B

42. Although it claims to delve into political issues, television can be superficial such as when each of the three major networks broadcast exactly the same statement from a political candidate.
- A. superficial such as when each of the three major networks
  - B. superficial, as can sometimes occur if all of the three major networks
  - C. superficial if the three major networks all
  - D. superficial whenever each of the three major networks
  - E. superficial, as when the three major networks each

There is a subject-verb error in A / D. In the construction "each of the three major networks" each is the subject. Each is singular, so the verb has to be singular... but it isn't. The verb in A is "broadcast," which is plural. In E, they move each - that one says "the three major networks each." Now, networks is the subject, and networks is plural, so the verb has to be plural... and it is!

each of the three major networks - singular

the three major networks each - plural

examples:

each of the students - singular

the students each - plural

generic pattern:

each (of the/pronoun/any determiner) [noun] - singular

[noun] each - plural

Also, as per the meaning of the sentence, this is a situation that has happened in the past and keeps recurring. This is not something conditional that will happen (possibly) in the future. So the use of the word 'if' is wrong. Eliminate B and C.

When (or whenever) I go to New York, I visit a lot of museums. – keeps happening.

If I go to New York, I will visit a lot of museums. – Conditional in future.

Answer E

43. Lacking information about energy use, people tend to overestimate the amount of energy used by equipment, such as lights, that are visible and must be turned on and off and underestimate that used by unobtrusive equipment, such as water heaters.
- A. equipment, such as lights, that are visible and must be turned on and off and underestimate that
  - B. equipment, such as lights, that are visible and must be turned on and off and underestimate it when
  - C. equipment, such as lights, that is visible and must be turned on and off and underestimate it when
  - D. visible equipment, such as lights, that must be turned on and off and underestimate that
  - E. visible equipment, such as lights, that must be turned on and off and underestimate it when

"Unobtrusive equipment" is parallel to "visible equipment". Eliminate A, B, and C.

Also, "overestimate the amount of energy used by visible equipment" is perfectly parallel to "underestimate that (= amount of energy) used by unobtrusive equipment" in D. **Correct.**

In E, 'when' is not parallel to anything.

Choices A and B incorrectly use the plural verb **are** with the singular noun **equipment**. In B, C, and E, **when used by** does not parallel **amount... used by** and nonsensically suggests that the people are used by the equipment. D, the best choice, correctly parallels **the amount... used by** with **that used by**, in which **that** is the pronoun substitute for **amount**. Moreover, D solves the agreement problem of A and B by omitting the **to be** verb used with **visible** and placing **visible** before **equipment**; the phrase **visible equipment** is also parallel with **unobtrusive equipment**.

44. Geologists believe that the warning signs for a major earthquake may include sudden fluctuations in local seismic activity, tilting and other deformations of the Earth's crust, changing the measured strain across a fault zone, and varying the electrical properties of underground rocks.
- A. changing the measured strain across a fault zone and varying
  - B. changing measurements of the strain across a fault zone, and varying
  - C. changing the strain as measured across a fault zone, and variations of
  - D. changes in the measured strain across a fault zone, and variations in
  - E. changes in measurements of the strain across a fault zone, and variations among

Warning signs include ... this is a list of things ... so all of them has to be parallel ... the parallel words are Fluctuations (NOUN) || tilting (NOUN) and other deformations (NOUN) || changes (NOUN) || variations (NOUN) A, B, and C present the gerund / participle form 'changing' ... we prefer a standard noun 'changes' to a gerund 'changing'. This leaves us with D or E. Also, 'changes in' and 'variations in' are parallel. Also, 'variations in' is the right idiom.

D, the best choice, describes *the warning signs* in parallel phrases. Despite surface appearances, the nouns *changes* and *variations* are parallel with *tilting*, but the verbal forms *changing* and *varying* in A, B, and C are not: *tilting*, one of the *deformations of the Earth's crust*, is used here as a noun that is parallel to *fluctuations*, whereas *changing* and *varying* are used as verbs indicating some action undertaken. Moreover, these verbs are used incorrectly because the sentence mentions no subject that is performing these actions. B and E illogically state that it is not the *strain* but the *measurements* that portend danger, and *among* in E wrongly suggests a comparison of different electrical properties rather than of different behaviors of the same properties.

45. One legacy of Madison Avenue's recent campaign to appeal to people fifty years old and over is the realization that as a person ages, their concerns change as well.
- A. the realization that as a person ages, their
  - B. the realization that as people age, their
  - C. to realize that when a person ages, his or her
  - D. to realize that when people age, their
  - E. realizing that as people age, their

In choice A, the plural pronoun **their** does not agree in number with the singular noun **person**. Further, **when** in C and D is wrong ... a person doesn't age at a moment. So "as a person ages" is definitely better than "when a person ages". "As" signifies a process; "when" signifies a point.

E uses a gerund form 'realizing' and B uses a standard noun form 'the realization'. As the standard noun is preferred to the gerund, B is the best answer.

46. New theories propose that catastrophic impacts of asteroids and comets may have caused reversals in the Earth's magnetic field, the onset of ice ages, splitting apart continents 80 million years ago, and great volcanic eruptions.
- A. splitting apart continents
  - B. the splitting apart of continents
  - C. split apart continents
  - D. continents split apart
  - E. continents that were split apart

Reversals (Noun) || onset (Noun) || eruptions (Noun) || the splitting apart (ING OF Gerund ≡ Noun).

The word **splitting** must function as a noun to parallel the other items in the noun series of which it is part: **reversals**, **onset**, and **eruptions**. In B, the best choice, the definite article **the** clearly signifies that **splitting** is to be taken as a noun. In A, **splitting** introduces a verb phrase that breaks the parallelism of the noun series. In C, the

verb **split** is similarly disruptive. Choice D, grammatically vague, resembles C if **split** is a verb and E if **split** is an adjective. In E, **continents** illogically replaces **the splitting** in the series: although the **impacts** in question may have caused continents to split, they did not cause those continents that were split apart 80 million years ago to materialize.

47. Legislation in the Canadian province of Ontario requires of both public and private employers that pay be the same for jobs historically held by women as for jobs requiring comparable skill that are usually held by men.
- A. that pay be the same for jobs historically held by women as for jobs requiring comparable skill that are
  - B. that pay for jobs historically held by women should be the same as for a job requiring comparable skills
  - C. to pay the same in jobs historically held by women as in jobs of comparable skill that are
  - D. to pay the same regardless of whether a job was historically held by women or is one demanding comparable skills
  - E. to pay as much for jobs historically held by women as for a job demanding comparable skills

Subjunctive constructions are always preferred.

Legislation requires (futuristic verb) of X that Y **BE** done.

Example: it is required of companies that employees be paid in time.

A is the only answer possible.

Choice A is best. In choice B, **should** is illogical after **requires**, or at least unnecessary, and so is better omitted; in choices B and E, **job** does not agree in number **with jobs**; and in choices B, D, and E, the wording illogically describes the **comparable skills** rather than **the jobs** as being "usually held by men." Choices C, D, and E produce the ungrammatical construction **requires of... employers to pay**, in which **of** makes the phrase incorrect. In C, the use of **in** rather than **for** is unidiomatic, and **jobs of comparable skill** confusedly suggests that the jobs rather than the workers possess the skills. In D, the phrase beginning **regardless ...** is awkward and wordy in addition to being illogical.

48. One view of the economy contends that a large drop in oil prices should eventually lead to lowering interest rates, as well as lowering fears about inflation, a rally in stocks and bonds, and a weakening of the dollar.
- A. lowering interest rates, as well as lowering fears about inflation,
  - B. a lowering of interest rates and of fears about inflation,
  - C. a lowering of interest rates, along with fears about inflation,
  - D. interest rates being lowered, along with fears about inflation,
  - E. interest rates and fears about inflation being lowered, with

There are parallel elements 'a rally in' || a weakening of ... so the first element also has to be parallel ... we need 'a lowering of'. Eliminate A, D, and E.

The correct meaning is that interest rates and fears are both lowered. C gives a meaning that interest rates are lowered but the fears remain.

Choose B.

At issue is the need for logical and formal parallelism in a coordinate series. B, the best choice, clearly and correctly uses parallel noun phrases to list three effects of a drop in oil prices: **a lowering of..., a rally in ..., and a weakening of...** In place of the correct **lower before/fears**, choice A uses an incorrect participial adjective, **lowering**, that could cause confusion by seeming at first to function as a verb. A also violates parallelism. In C and D, the use of **along with** confuses meaning by making **fears about inflation** an independent effect, not an object of **lowering**. D and E violate parallelism by substituting an awkward gerund clause for the first noun phrase.

49. Despite protests from some waste-disposal companies, state health officials have ordered the levels of bacteria in seawater at popular beaches to be measured and that the results be published.
- A. the levels of bacteria in seawater at popular beaches to be measured and that the results be
  - B. that seawater at popular beaches should be measured for their levels of bacteria, with the results being
  - C. the measure of levels of bacteria in seawater at popular beaches and the results to be
  - D. seawater measured at popular beaches for levels of bacteria, with their results
  - E. that the levels of bacteria in seawater at popular beaches be measured and the results

Subjunctive Construction ... preferred on the GMAT!

The futuristic verb 'ordered' needs the construction 'ordered that X be done.'

Choose E

In this sentence, English idiom requires one of two paradigms: ***x ordered y to be z'ed*** or ***x ordered that y be z'ed***. Choice E, the best answer, employs the second of these paradigms. Choice A mixes the two paradigms (***levels... to be measured*** and ***that the results be published***), producing a sentence that lacks parallelism. C and D use neither paradigm and are thus unidiomatic. Also, in D, the pronoun ***their*** has no logical and grammatical antecedent. Choice B unidiomatically employs the verb ***should*** (not in either paradigm); also, the pronoun ***their*** does not agree in number with ***seawater***, its most logical antecedent.

50. The first trenches cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, have yielded strong evidence for centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East that were arising simultaneously with but independently of the more celebrated city-states of southern Mesopotamia, in what is now southern Iraq.
- A. cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, have yielded strong evidence for centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East that were arising simultaneously with but
- B. cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, have yielded strong evidence that centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East arose simultaneously but
- C. cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, have yielded strong evidence that centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East were arising simultaneously but
- D. cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, have yielded strong evidence of centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East arising simultaneously but
- E. cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, have yielded strong evidence that centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East arose simultaneously with but

The last word in the underlined portion is BUT... so we look for parallelism.

Simultaneously with BUT independently of ... PARALLEL

Imagine the 2 sentences:

A was happening simultaneously with B.

X was happening independently of Y.

So with the word 'simultaneously' we need 'with' and with the word 'independently' we need 'of'.

So A or E

A uses the past continuous construction 'were arising' ... continuous tenses denote a moment ... the given situation is the evolution of societies / cultures ... definitely happens over a long period of time ... so A is incorrect.

Evidence THAT is better (refer to VAN pattern 2 below). So A is out. Ans. E

### **V-A-N Pattern 2: Prefer a That-Clause (with Verbs) to a Series of Phrases (with Nouns)**

**Wordy:** The hypothesis ABOUT the COMPOSITION OF the universe AS largely dark energy seems strange.

**Better:** The hypothesis THAT the universe IS largely COMPOSED OF dark energy seems strange.

When you tack a long thought onto a noun, try to put the thought in a **That-Clause** rather than in a long series of prepositional phrases. A **That-Clause** starts with the word **that** and contains a working verb (one that, **as is**, can be the main verb of a sentence by itself). **Is composed** is a working verb.

"Idea" nouns, such as *hypothesis*, *idea*, or *suggestion*, lend themselves particularly well to this pattern. Other examples include *belief*, *discovery*, *evidence*, *indication*, and *report*. These sorts of nouns are often modified by **That-Clauses** that contain full sentences:

The **BELIEF THAT** the Earth is flat is contradicted by **EVIDENCE THAT** the Earth is round and the **DISCOVERY THAT** the Earth circles the Sun.

51. The 32 species that make up the dolphin family are closely related to whales and in fact include the animal known as the killer whale, which can grow to be 30 feet long and is famous for its aggressive hunting pods.
- A. include the animal known as the killer whale, which can grow to be 30 feet long and is
  - B. include the animal known as the killer whale, growing as big as 30 feet long and
  - C. include the animal known as the killer whale, growing up to 30 feet long and being
  - D. includes the animal known as the killer whale, which can grow as big as 30 feet long and is
  - E. includes the animal known as the killer whale, which can grow to be 30 feet long and it is

'32 species' is plural, so use the plural verb (include).

Also, adjectival modifiers (ING form) immediately after a comma don't refer to the immediately preceding noun. Eliminate B and C.

Also, when we talk of characteristics of an animal, we must use the simple present tense ... make up ... are ... include ... can grow ... is ... all these denote simple present tense verbs.

Also, in B and D, the use of the words 'big' and 'long' in the same sentence denotes redundancy.

### –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.

The subject of the sentence is *the 32 species that make up the dolphin family*, and the sentence makes two claims about them: They are closely related, and they include the killer whale. The relative pronoun *which* restates the object of the second verb, reintroducing *the animal known as the killer whale* as the subject of a relative clause followed by two parallel verbs: *can grow* and *is famous*.

**A Correct.** In this concise sentence, verbs agree in number with their subjects and the relative pronoun *which* indicates clearly that *the animal known as the killer whale* is the subject of the verbs in the dependent clause.

B Changing the verb to the participial *growing* introduces ambiguity, because it could refer back to the subject of the sentence (*32 species*).

C The participial *growing* might refer to *the 32 species*; the introduction of *being* is unnecessarily wordy and adds nothing in terms of meaning.

D *as big as* is an idiomatically incorrect expression of the comparison; the plural verb form *include* is needed to match the plural subject *the 32 species*.

E *It* simply restates the subject of the previous phrase, introducing more words but no additional meaning; the singular verb form *includes* should be the plural form *include*.

**The correct answer is A.**

52. Past assessments of the Brazilian rain forest have used satellite images to tally deforested areas, where farmers and ranchers have clear-cut and burned all the trees, but such work has not addressed either logging, which is the removal of only selected trees, as well as surface fires, burning down individual trees but do not denude the forest.
- A. which is the removal of only selected trees, as well as surface fires, burning
  - B. which removes only selected trees, or surface fires that burn
  - C. which removes only selected trees, along with surface fires that burn
  - D. removing only selected trees, or surface fires, burning
  - E. removing only selected trees, as well as surface fires that burn

Either OR... so A, C, E out

B is parallel... that burn down... but do not denude... D is not parallel.

53. While studying the genetic makeup of corn, a new class of mutant genes was discovered by Barbara McClintock, a discovery which led to greater understanding of cell differentiation.
- A. a new class of mutant genes was discovered by Barbara McClintock, a discovery which led
  - B. a new class of mutant genes in corn were discovered by Barbara McClintock, leading
  - C. Barbara McClintock discovered a new class of mutant genes, and it led
  - D. Barbara McClintock discovered a new class of mutant genes, a discovery that led
  - E. Barbara McClintock, who discovered a new class of mutant genes, leading

'While studying' is a modifier so we need the correct subject immediately after the comma (Barbara). Eliminate A and B. In C, the word 'it' (pronoun) refers to 'discovered' (verb) ... wrong. Pronouns can refer back only to nouns.

E is wrong because the main verb of the sentence (discovered) has been put in the non-essential part. So if the non-essential part is removed, the sentence will read:

While studying the genetic makeup of corn, ~~Barbara McClintock, who discovered a new class of mutant genes,~~ leading to greater understanding of cell differentiation.

While studying the genetic makeup of corn leading to greater understanding of cell differentiation. **Completely illogical!**

The biggest issue: **This is abstract noun modifying the entire clause construction.**

So after the comma, there should be a noun (discovery)

Also, remember the preference order: Abstract noun > ING form > which / it.

54. Possible long-term consequences of the "greenhouse effect," the gradual warming of the Earth's climate, may include melting the polar ice caps and a rising sea level.
- A. may include melting the polar ice caps and a rising sea level
  - B. may include the melting of polar ice caps and the rising sea level
  - C. may include polar ice caps that are melting and sea levels that are rising
  - D. include melting the polar ice caps and sea levels that are rising
  - E. include melting of the polar ice caps and a rise in sea level

As 'possible' is already mentioned in the sentence, 'may' is redundant. Eliminate A, B, and C. D is not parallel.

E is parallel

Melting of PIC (Gerund... equivalent to noun) || the rise in sea level :- NOUN.

55. Almost a decade after New York State passed laws to protect patients by reducing the grueling hours worked by medical residents, twelve hospitals have been investigated by state medical officials, finding that all twelve consistently break the laws, many residents work longer than 24 hours straight, and that more than half the surgical residents work more than 95 hours a week.
- A. twelve hospitals have been investigated by state medical officials, finding that all twelve consistently break the laws, many residents work longer than 24 hours straight, and that more than half the surgical residents work
  - B. an investigation by state medical officials of twelve hospitals have found all twelve consistently breaking the laws, that many residents work longer than 24 hours straight, with more than half the surgical residents working
  - C. an investigation of twelve hospitals by state medical officials has found that all twelve consistently break the laws, that many residents work longer than 24 hours straight, and that more than half the surgical residents work
  - D. twelve hospitals were investigated by state medical officials who found all twelve breaking the laws, with many residents working longer than 24 hours straight, and more than half the surgical residents work
  - E. an investigation by state medical officials has found that, of twelve hospitals, all twelve consistently break the laws, that many residents work longer than 24 hours straight, with more than half the surgical residents working

What can happen almost a decade after the passage of law: the investigation or twelve hospitals? Naturally the subject is 'an investigation'. Remove A and D.

A: violates that ... that ... that parallelism ... also, wrong modifier.

B: SVA error ... investigation HAVE found... violates that ... that ... that parallelism ... also, wrong modifier.

D: Passive voice not needed... found THAT not present... not parallel.

E: violates that ... that ... that parallelism ... also, wrong modifier.

C is correct.

56. The greatest road system built in the Americas prior to the arrival of Christopher Columbus was the Incan highway, which, over 2,500 miles long and extending from northern Ecuador through Peru to Southern Chile.

- A. Columbus was the Incan highway, which, over 2,500 miles long and extending
- B. Columbus was the Incan highway, over 2,500 miles in length, and extended
- C. Columbus, the Incan highway, which was over 2,500 miles in length and extended
- D. Columbus, the Incan highway, being over 2,500 miles in length, was extended
- E. Columbus, the Incan highway was over 2,500 miles long, extending

Here, the fact that the highway extended from A to B is a result of it being 2500 miles long, and hence is dependent on the length. So the second part of the sentence must start with -ING.

E is correct.

A. Columbus was the Incan highway, which, over 2,500 miles long and extending  
-though the modifier *which* correctly describes *highway*, the "sentence" is actually a sentence fragment, as the *which* needs to be followed by a verb (preferably "was") ... **there is no verb in the which part.**

B. Columbus was the Incan highway, over 2,500 miles in length, and extended  
-the use of *extended* in the absence of *which was* is incorrect; the proper construction should be *extending* (as *extended* gives the impression that the road was intentionally lengthened rather than simply existing between two points).

C. Columbus, the Incan highway, which was over 2,500 miles in length and extended  
-since the phrase *the Incan highway* is set off by commas, the entire introductory modifier is describing the Incan highway. As a result, the *which* is unnecessary since it creates a sentence fragment.

C is a sentence fragment...

a sentence fragment is a *grammatical* problem. whether a construction is a fragment has *nothing* to do with whether its meaning is clear.

in choice (c), everything preceding "the incan highway" is an appositive-type modifier. everything following "the incan highway" is a "which" modifier.

if you eliminate these modifiers, you're left with just "the incan highway" as a sentence; that doesn't work.

D. Columbus, the Incan highway, being over 2,500 miles in length, was extended  
"Was extended" means the highway was intentionally extended. Completely wrong meaning!

E. Columbus, the Incan highway was over 2,500 miles long, extending  
-The introductory phrase *The greatest road system built in the Americas prior to the arrival of Christopher Columbus* properly describes *the Incan highway*. Furthermore, the subordinate phrase *extending from northern Ecuador through Peru to Southern Chile* provides additional information about the length of the highway in a manner that is grammatically correct.

E should be correct

"extending from northern Ecuador..." is not used as verb. It's an adverbial modifier for "the Incan highway was over 2,500 miles long"

The -ing form as a modifier is NOT a verb. It is just modifying some verb or clause. In these cases, it usually functions in the same "time" as the verb/clause it modifies.

one thing you need to get straight is that forms ending with -ING are not verbs.

therefore, -ING forms don't have a tense of their own. instead, they adopt the tense of the clause to which they are attached.

consider the following sentences, all of which are correct:

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*james fell down, fracturing his hand on the concrete.*

*james had fallen down, fracturing his hand on the concrete, when i saw him.*

*james falls down, fracturing his hand on the concrete* (this version may be spoken by, e.g., a sports announcer)

*james will fall down, fracturing his hand on the concrete*

etc.

in all of those sentences, "fracturing" just adopts the tense of the main clause. other -ING modifiers behave similarly.

57. Seldom more than 40 feet wide and 12 feet deep, but it ran 363 miles across the rugged wilderness of upstate New York, the Erie Canal connected the Hudson River at Albany to the Great Lakes at Buffalo, providing the port of New York City with a direct water link to the heartland of the North American continent.
- A. Seldom more than 40 feet wide and 12 feet deep, but it ran 363 miles across the rugged wilderness of upstate New York, the Erie Canal connected
- B. Seldom more than 40 feet wide or 12 feet deep but running 363 miles across the rugged wilderness of upstate New York, the Erie Canal connected
- C. It was seldom more than 40 feet wide and 12 feet deep, and ran 363 miles across the rugged wilderness of upstate New York, but the Erie Canal, connecting
- D. The Erie Canal was seldom more than 40 feet wide or 12 feet deep and it ran 363 miles across the rugged wilderness of upstate New York, which connected
- E. The Erie Canal, seldom more than 40 feet wide and 12 feet deep, but running 363 miles across the rugged wilderness of upstate New York, connecting

Wide (adj), deep (adj), ran (verb) ... not parallel. Eliminate A, C, and D.

E is not a sentence at all ... there is not even one verb (you will notice this if you read the entire sentence). Also, 'providing' is the effect of the cause 'connected'.

B is correct.

The phrase *seldom...deep* is the first half of a modifier that describes *the Erie Canal*. However, because a comma incorrectly follows *deep*, this phrase appears to be the entire modifier, which must agree with the noun or pronoun that immediately follows it. This phrase cannot modify the conjunction *but*, and *it* has no referent; *but it ran* is not a logical or grammatical construction following the modifying phrase. Substituting *running* for *it ran* creates an adjective phrase parallel to the first adjective phrase (*seldom...deep*). To contrast the small size reported in the first phrase with the great distance reported in the second, the two phrases may be joined with *but*; together they create a single modifier correctly modifying *the Erie Canal*. *The Erie Canal* is then the subject of the sentence and requires the verb *connected* to provide a logical statement.

A *But it ran* cannot logically or grammatically follow the modifying phrase.

**B Correct.** This sentence properly has the single modifier consisting of two contrasting parts.

C Neither *and* nor *but* acts as a logical connector; the use of *connecting* results in a sentence fragment.

D The paired concepts of width and depth should be joined by *and*, not *or*; this construction calls for two main clauses to be separated by a comma after *deep*; *which* is ambiguous.

E The two halves of the modifier should not be separated by a comma after *deep*; the subject is awkwardly and confusingly placed at a great distance from the predicate; the use of *connecting* rather than *connected* creates a sentence fragment.

In this case, choices A, B, and D use "connected," while choices C and E use "connecting." As "connecting" creates a sentence fragment (read C and E in their entirety; neither is a complete sentence), choices C and E can be eliminated. Sticking with the "connected" split, answer choice D includes "which" before "connected," causing "which connected" to incorrectly describe New York rather than The Erie Canal. D is out.

The final two answer choices are close, but at least you now have a 50% chance rather than a 20% chance with a strategic guess. Grammatically, the antecedent of the pronoun "it" in choice A is somewhat ambiguous and the placement of it is awkward. Additionally, the simple past tense "ran" incorrectly seems to indicate that the Erie Canal no longer exists. Finally, "or" from choice B is preferential to "and" from choice A, since "and" indicates that both of these conditions must be met at the same time. It is more logical that the canal is infrequently 40 feet wide or 12 feet deep anywhere along its 363 mile length.

The correct answer is B.

58. Researchers have found that individuals who have been blind from birth, and who thus have never seen anyone gesture, nevertheless make hand motions when speaking just as frequently and in virtually the same way as sighted people do, and that they will gesture even when conversing with another blind person.
- A. who thus have never seen anyone gesture, nevertheless make hand motions when speaking just as frequently and in virtually the same way as sighted people do, and that they will gesture
  - B. who thus never saw anyone gesturing, nevertheless make hand motions when speaking just as frequent and in virtually the same way as sighted people did, and that they will gesture
  - C. who thus have never seen anyone gesture, nevertheless made hand motions when speaking just as frequently and in virtually the same way as sighted people do, as well as gesturing
  - D. thus never having seen anyone gesture, nevertheless made hand motions when speaking just as frequent and in virtually the same way as sighted people did, as well as gesturing
  - E. thus never having seen anyone gesture, nevertheless to make hand motions when speaking just as frequently and in virtually the same way as sighted people do, and to gesture

There are 3 parallel structures ...

found that ... and that  
have been ... have never seen  
make ... do.

A it is.

The researchers have found (1) *that individuals... make hand motions...as sighted people do* and (2) *that they will gesture...with another blind person*. In the original sentence, the two findings are reported in two parallel subordinate clauses introduced by *that*. The verb tenses are logical and parallel: *who have been blind* and *who have never seen* indicate a condition that began in the past and continues in the present; *make* and *do* refer to present actions. The verb *make* (*hand motions*) is correctly modified by the adverb *frequently* to show how the action of the verb is carried out. The emphatic future *will gesture* is properly used here with *even* to emphasize the extreme or the unexpected.

**A Correct.** Although the original sentence is complicated, the parallelism of its structure and phrasing allows its meaning to be clear and its expression effective.

B Verbs *saw* and *did* indicate action completed in the past; the simple past tense is not appropriate in either case; the adjective *frequent* cannot modify the verb; awkward and muddy.

C *Made* indicates past action, but the present tense is logically required; *as well as gesturing* violates the parallelism of the two subordinate (*that*) clauses; choppy and unclear.

D *Having seen* is not parallel to *have been*; *made* and *did* do not show ongoing action; *frequent* incorrectly modifies the verb; *as well as gesturing* destroys the parallelism of the two subordinate (*that*) clauses; awkward and unclear.

E Replacing the verb *make* with the infinitive *to make* results in an ungrammatical construction that fails to complete the sentence.

**The correct answer is A.**

59. Scientists have recently discovered that the ultrathin, layered construction of a butterfly's wings, the same as the one making some butterflies shimmer via the phenomenon of iridescence, are enabling the insect to control how much heat energy is absorbed by its wings and how much is reflected away.
- A. wings, the same as the one making some butterflies shimmer via the phenomenon of iridescence, are enabling
  - B. wings, which is the same one that makes some butterflies shimmer via the phenomenon of iridescence, that also enables
  - C. wings is the same as the one that makes some butterflies shimmer via the phenomenon of iridescence, enabling
  - D. wings—the same construction that makes some butterflies shimmer via the phenomenon of iridescence—also enables
  - E. wings—of the same construction that makes some butterflies shimmer via the phenomenon of iridescence—also enable

"Construction" singular... "are enabling" and "enable" are plural So A, E out.

The word 'construction' is repeated in the second part ... appositive modifier with the same word repeated is preferred. So D is correct.

60. The artist Renoir's last word was "flowers," spoken as they arranged a bouquet of roses just picked from his garden in a vase on his bedroom windowsill.
- A. as they arranged a bouquet of roses just picked from his garden
  - B. as a bouquet of roses had been just picked from his garden and was being arranged
  - C. as a bouquet of roses just picked from his garden was being arranged
  - D. during the arrangement of a bouquet of roses just picked from his garden
  - E. while they arranged a bouquet of roses that had just been picked from his garden

The situation given in this sentence describes a moment, not a period of time.

- A, E... "they" is wrong as there is no logical referent for the word 'they'.
- B. "HAD Been" cannot be used as there are no two past actions. The entire situation denotes a moment. Also, 'just' signifies a moment whereas 'had been' signifies a period. MISMATCH.
- D: "During" describes a period... this sentence is about a moment... to speak the word "flowers", one would not take more than a second.

C is correct.

61. Combining enormous physical strength with higher intelligence, the Neanderthals appear as equipped for facing any obstacle the environment could put in their path, but their relatively sudden disappearance during the Paleolithic era indicates that an inability to adapt to some environmental change led to their extinction.
- A. appear as equipped for facing any obstacle the environment could put in their path,
  - B. appear to have been equipped to face any obstacle the environment could put in their path,
  - C. appear as equipped to face any obstacle the environment could put in their paths,
  - D. appeared as equipped to face any obstacle the environment could put in their paths,
  - E. appeared to have been equipped for facing any obstacle the environment could put in their path,

Correct idiom is EQUIPPED TO. Also, the word 'paths' is wrong usage as we are talking about the word 'path' in an abstract sense, not in the sense of material (roads etc.) So **Answer is B**.

Because Neanderthals "disappeared," the verb describing their apparent abilities cannot be present tense, so *as equipped* must be changed to *to have been equipped*. The expression *equipped to face* is clearer and more direct than *equipped for facing*.

A *As equipped* indicates that Neanderthals still appear this way; *equipped* should be followed by an infinitive form instead of a prepositional phrase.

**B Correct.** The verb tense clearly indicates that the current evidence is about Neanderthals in the past.

C *As equipped* does not indicate that Neanderthals appeared this way in the past; while individual Neanderthals may well have followed different paths, this sentence is about the single evolutionary path taken by Neanderthals as a species.

D Present-tense *appear* is needed to parallel present-tense *indicates* and to reinforce that this is current evidence about Neanderthals in the past; as in C, *paths* should be singular.

E *For facing* is an incorrect substitution of a prepositional phrase for an infinitive.

**The correct answer is B.**

62. A wildlife expert predicts that the reintroduction of the caribou into northern Minnesota would fail if the density of the timber wolf population in that region is more numerous than one wolf for every 39 square miles.
- A. would fail if the density of the timber wolf population in that region is more numerous
  - B. would fail provided the density of the timber wolf population in that region is more
  - C. should fail if the timber wolf density in that region was greater
  - D. will fail if the density of the timber wolf population in that region is greater
  - E. will fail if the timber wolf density in that region were more numerous

Correct usage:

Predicts ... will

Predicted ... would.

Density can't be called more numerous as density is uncountable.

D is correct.

A prediction is made about a future event, which can be restated using the construction *y will happen if x happens first* (an alternate form is *if x happens, y will happen*). The subjunctive verb form *would* expresses remoteness and thus casts some doubt on the likelihood of *x*. The verb form *will fail* expresses the likelihood *x* with greater certainty. *Density* is not a countable quantity, so it cannot be modified by *more numerous*, which is used solely for countable quantities; *greater* is correct.

A *Would fail* expresses doubt about the future outcome; *density* should be modified by *greater*.

B This construction requires *will fail*, not *would fail*; *if* is preferred to *provided*; *density* should be modified by *greater*.

C *Will fail*, not *should fail*, is required; *timber wolf density* does not clearly refer to the population; the tense of the final verb is incorrect.

**D Correct.** The verb form *will fail* better expresses the certainty of the prediction; *density* is appropriately modified by *greater*.

E *Timber wolf density* does not clearly refer to the population; the tense and number of the final verb are incorrect; *density* cannot be modified by *numerous*.

**The correct answer is D.**

63. Based on accounts of various ancient writers, scholars have painted a sketchy picture of the activities of an all-female cult that, perhaps as early as the sixth century B.C., worshipped a goddess known in Latin as Bona Dea, "the good goddess."

- A. Based on accounts of various ancient writers
- B. Basing it on various ancient writers' accounts
- C. With accounts of various ancient writers used for a basis
- D. By the accounts of various ancient writers they used
- E. Using accounts of various ancient writers

The subject after the comma is 'scholars', so from the point of modifiers, we have to choose the action that the scholars are capable of ... the only correct action is 'using'.

So E is correct.

The underlined phrase is a modifier; it functions as an adjective to describe the noun that immediately follows it. In this case, the phrase incorrectly modifies *scholars*, which does not make any sense. What are the scholars doing?

When the modifier begins with *using*, it correctly links the scholars with the modifier that describes their activity.

A *Based on ...* incorrectly modifies *scholars*.

B The pronoun *it* does not have a clear reference.

C This choice is wordy and awkward.

D This choice is wordy and awkward.

**E Correct.** In this sentence, *using accounts of various ancient writers* correctly modifies *scholars* in a clear and concise expression of their activity.

**The correct answer is E.**

64. As a baby emerges from the darkness of the womb with a rudimentary sense of vision, it would be rated about 20/500, or legally blind if it were an adult with such vision.

- A. As a baby emerges from the darkness of the womb with a rudimentary sense of vision, it would be rated about 20/500, or legally blind if it were an adult with such vision.
- B. A baby emerges from the darkness of the womb with a rudimentary sense of vision that would be rated about 20/500, or legally blind as an adult
- C. As a baby emerges from the darkness of the womb, its rudimentary sense of vision would be rated about 20/500; qualifying it to be legally blind if an adult
- D. A baby emerges from the darkness of the womb with a rudimentary sense of vision that would be rated about 20/500; an adult with such vision would be deemed legally blind.
- E. As a baby emerges from the darkness of the womb, its rudimentary sense of vision, which would be deemed legally blind for an adult, would be rated about 20/500.

As per the meaning, there are 2 things ... the baby is blind and the vision is 20/500.

A. this choice means that the baby is 20/500

B. this choice means that the vision is blind

C. this choice uses a semicolon ... but the second part of the sentence is not a balanced sentence.

E. this choice means that the vision is blind

This sentence fails to convey its meaning because its construction is faulty. It begins with a subordinate clause, whose subject is *a baby*; the subject of the main clause, *it* appears to refer back to *baby*. However, reading the main clause

reveals that *it* is intended to refer to the *sense of vision* the first time it is used and to the *baby* the second time. The whole sentence must be revised, and the relationships between the two parts of the sentence must be clarified.

A Repeated use of *it* creates confusion because the referent is not clear.

B The final phrase is awkwardly and ambiguously attached to the sentence.

C The use of a semicolon instead of a comma creates a sentence fragment.

**D Correct.** One independent clause describes a baby's vision, the other an adult's; the two independent but linked main clauses are correctly separated with a semicolon in this version of the sentence.

E Subordinate clause beginning with *which* is awkward and ambiguous.

**The correct answer is D.**

65. The spectacular disintegration of a comet last year in full view of ground- and space-based telescopes provided new insights into how comets form and may thus force a rethinking of the role of comets in the delivery of organic compounds to the evolving Earth.

A. The spectacular disintegration of a comet last year in full view of ground- and space-based telescopes provided new insights into how comets form and may thus force

B. The spectacular disintegration of a comet last year in full view of ground- and space-based telescopes, provided new insights into how comets form and thus possibly forcing

C. When a comet's spectacular disintegration occurred in full view of ground- and space-based telescopes last year, it provided new insights into how comets form and thus may possibly force

D. Last year, in full view of ground- and space-based telescopes, a comet's spectacular disintegration provided new insights into how comets form and thus possibly forcing

E. Last year, in full view of ground- and space-based telescopes, the spectacular disintegration of a comet has provided new insights into how comets form and may thus force

Because of the word 'and', the word forcing is not parallel in B and D... C uses 'may possibly' ... redundant.

E... last year... has provided (wrong tense). "Last year, it happened" is right. "Last year, it has happened" is wrong.

A is correct.

66. It was only after Katharine Graham became publisher of The Washington Post in 1963 that it moved into the first rank of American newspapers, and it was under her command that the paper won high praise for its unrelenting reporting of the Watergate scandal.

A. It was only after Katharine Graham became publisher of The Washington Post in 1963 that it moved into the first rank of American newspapers, and it was under her command that the paper won high praise

B. It was only after Katharine Graham's becoming publisher of The Washington Post in 1963 that it moved into the first rank of American newspapers, and under her command it had won high praise

C. Katharine Graham became publisher of The Washington Post in 1963 and only after that did it move into the first rank of American newspapers, having won high praise under her command

D. Moving into the first rank of American newspapers only after Katharine Graham became its publisher in 1963, The Washington Post, winning high praise under her command

E. Moving into the first rank of American newspapers only after Katharine Grahame's becoming its publisher in 1963, The Washington Post won high praise under her command

In B and E, 'Graham's becoming' is wrong. C uses the word 'that' (pronoun) to refer to 'became' (verb) ... wrong usage. D has no main clause ... the second part of the sentence must contain a verb. So answer A.

B- "Had won" – wrong use of the perfect tense.

C: "that" should refer to a noun... there is no noun... only a clause to go back to.

D: is not a sentence as it contains no main verb... it is a fragment.

E: ONLY after KG's becoming is wrong... it should be only after KG BECAME

B uses past perfect incorrectly (simple past for "it was only after" and past perfect for "it had won high praise" which comes later chronologically than when KG became publisher)

C has a problematic pronoun (it) - logically refers to Wash Post but structurally could refer to KG or publisher. Also, this sentence indicates that it moved into the first ranks as a result of having won high praise. The original sentence doesn't indicate that meaning and we can't just change the meaning of the sentence.

D is a sentence fragment - there's no verb for Wash Post, which is the ostensible subject.

E "moving" and "becoming" indicate something that's going on right now - this should be in the past. And "after Katherine Graham's becoming its publisher" is horrible.

That leaves us with A (where the second "it" pronoun is fine, by the way, because both logically and structurally it refers to Wash Post).

**Notice the usage of the word IT 3 times in a sentence.**

It (Introductory IT) was only after Katharine Graham became publisher of The Washington Post in 1963 that it (Pronoun) moved into the first rank of American newspapers, and it (introductory IT) was under her command that the paper won high praise for its unrelenting reporting of the Watergate scandal.

67. The budget for education reflects the administration's demand that the money is controlled by local school districts, but it can only be spent on teachers, not on books, computers, or other materials or activities.
- A. the money is controlled by local school districts, but it can only be spent
  - B. the money be controlled by local school districts, but it allows them to spend the money only
  - C. the money is to be controlled by local school districts, but allowing it only to be spent
  - D. local school districts are in control of the money, but it allows them to spend the money only
  - E. local school districts are to be in control of the money, but it can only spend it

DEMAND THAT money BE controlled... subjunctive ... only B is correct. The word 'it' refers to the budget and the word 'them' refers to 'districts'.

68. From studies of the bony house of the brain, which is the cranium, located in the back of the skull, come what scientists know about dinosaur brains.
- A. From studies of the bony house of the brain, which is the cranium, located in the back of the skull, come what scientists know about dinosaur brains.
  - B. The knowledge that scientists know about dinosaur brains comes from studies of the bony house of the brain, located in the back of the skull, that is, the cranium.
  - C. The knowledge of dinosaur brains that scientists have come from studies of the bony house of the brain, which is located in the back of the skull and is called the cranium.
  - D. What scientists know about dinosaur brains comes from studies of the cranium, the bony house of the brain located in the back of the skull.
  - E. Located in the back of the skull is the cranium, the bony house of the brain, and it is from studies of this that scientists know what they know about dinosaur brains.

A: SVA – COMES not come... what scientists know is singular... comes ... singular

B: knowledge and know... redundant and hence wrong...

C: knowledge HAS COME, not HAVE COME

E: KNOW and KNOW... redundant and hence wrong

Answer D

- A. Subject verb mismatch. 'What scientists know about dinosaur brains' is singular ... we cannot use the plural verb 'come'.
- B. Redundant: 'knowledge' and 'know' in the same sentence. The usage "that is," is always wrong. 'Cranium' is misplaced.
- C. Subject verb mismatch. Knowledge have ... wrong.
- D. **Correct**
- E. know ... know ... redundancy. "This" is a pronoun ... must refer to a specific noun. This usage of 'this' is fatally wrong.

69. The Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to place restrictions on both diesel fuel and diesel engines has sparked a counterattack by the oil industry, saying that the move will exacerbate the nation's fuel supply problems.
- A. on both diesel fuel and diesel engines has sparked a counterattack by the oil industry, saying
  - B. on both diesel fuel and engines have sparked the oil industry to counterattack, and they say
  - C. on both diesel fuel and diesel engines has sparked a counterattack by the oil industry, which says
  - D. both on diesel fuel and engines has sparked the oil industry to a counterattack, saying
  - E. both on diesel fuel and diesel engines have sparked the oil industry to counterattack, and it says

Both X and Y... X has to be parallel to Y. Eliminate D and E. Proposal HAS ... eliminate B.  
Eliminate B, D, E

**–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.

So in A, the word 'saying' goes to the environment protection agency ... senseless meaning.

C is correct.

Actually, "which" should indeed refer to the oil industry, because the oil industry is saying that the proposal will exacerbate the nation's fuel supply problems. This is a *response* to the proposal, not the content of the proposal itself.

70. At the annual stockholders meeting, investors heard a presentation on the numerous challenges facing the company, including among them the threat from a rival's multibillion-dollar patent-infringement suit and the declining sales for the company's powerful microprocessor chip.
- A. including among them the threat from a rival's multibillion-dollar patent-infringement suit and the declining sales for
  - B. which includes the threat of a rival's multibillion-dollar patent-infringement suit and declining sales of
  - C. included among these the threat from a rival's multibillion-dollar patent-infringement suit as well as a decline in sales for
  - D. among them the threat of a rival's multibillion-dollar patent-infringement suit and the decline in sales of
  - E. among these the threat from a rival's multibillion-dollar patent-infringement suit as well as the decline in sales for

Decline in sales OF... elim A, C, E

B... which refers to challenges... so the verb cannot be 'includes'...Ans. D

71. Now that so much data travels via light—i.e., is carried in glass fibers rather than by electrical current—one goal of semiconductor research is to develop a silicon chip that can transmit and receive light signals directly, a development that may one day lead to smaller, faster semiconductors.
- A. to develop a silicon chip that can transmit and receive light signals directly, a development that may one day lead
  - B. to develop a silicon chip with the capability of transmitting and receiving light signals directly, which may one day lead
  - C. the development of a silicon chip that has the capability of transmitting and receiving light signals directly, a development maybe one day leading
  - D. developing a silicon chip that can transmit and receive light signals directly, which may one day lead
  - E. developing a silicon chip with the ability to transmit and receive light signals directly, with this development maybe one day leading

GOAL is TO DEVELOP (intention)... eliminate C, D, and E.

A also has Abstract noun ... always better than pronoun. Also, 'can' is always better than ability, able, capable, and capability.

In B, the word 'which' refers to 'develop' (verb) ... wrong.

Answer A.

72. The computer company has announced that it will purchase the color-printing division of a rival company for \$950 million, which is part of a deal that will make it the largest manufacturer in the office color-printing market.
- A. million, which is part of a deal that will make
  - B. million, a part of a deal that makes
  - C. million, part of a deal making
  - D. million as a part of a deal to make
  - E. million as part of a deal that will make

"Announced" means that the effect will take in future... so we need 'will'... The use of 'which' is wrong here as 'which' (pronoun) refers 'will purchase' (verb). Ans. E

73. The number of people flying first class on domestic flights rose sharply in 1990, doubling the increase of the previous year.
- A. doubling the increase of
  - B. doubling that of the increase in
  - C. double as much as the increase of
  - D. twice as many as the increase in
  - E. twice as many as the increase of

On the GMAT, 'twice' is used as an adjective and 'double' is used as a verb or a cause-effect modifier (adverbial).

This sentence denotes a CAUSE and EFFECT sequence ... ING... so A, B remain. B is wrong as 'that of' doesn't have any antecedent.

Answer A

74. According to surveys by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, about 20 percent of young adults used cocaine in 1979, doubling those reported in the 1977 survey.
- A. doubling those reported in the 1977 survey
  - B. to double the number the 1977 survey reported
  - C. twice those the 1977 survey reported
  - D. twice as much as those reported in the 1977 survey
  - E. twice the number reported in the 1977 survey

Here 20% is twice 10% ... so the word 'double' is not correct. In D, the word 'much' can't be used to mean number of people as 'much' is uncountable.

(C) twice those the 1977 survey reported

'Those' refers to 'young men'. You cannot have 'twice young men'. You have 'twice the number of young men'.

Twice is always used for comparison.

(C) "...the 1979 survey reported..." makes the survey the subject of the verb reported. There's a logical flaw--surveys don't report. People can report, using survey data.

(E) "...reported (by someone) in the 1977 survey..."

75. The loan company announced it would soon lend money to borrowers with proven records of their not paying back their loans on time, collectively known as the subprime lending market.
- A. of their not paying back their loans on time,
  - B. of not paying back their loans on time, a group
  - C. of not paying back their loans on time, with such a group
  - D. that they do not pay back their loans on time,
  - E. that they do not pay back their loans on time, such a group

This is an appositive (a preferred construction) question ... choice B is an appositive (a group) ... so it is the best answer if there are no other errors in B.

(d) and (e) are unidiomatic; you can't write "proven records that they..."

if you substitute "such a group" for "a group", then that's incorrect, because "such" wouldn't be referring to anything.

**B is correct.**

76. A group of paleontologists recently announced that a site in Utah has yielded fossils of some of the biggest armored dinosaurs ever found, and that they were at least 25 million years older than any similar dinosaur type previously found in North America.
- A. and that they were at least 25 million years older than any similar dinosaur type previously
  - B. and they are at least 25 million years older than those of any similar dinosaur type that previously was
  - C. and the fossils are at least 25 million years older than any similar dinosaur types that previously were
  - D. fossils that are at least 25 million years older than those of any similar dinosaur type previously
  - E. fossils at least 25 million years older than similar dinosaur types previously

D and E use appositive ... the preferred construction.

B, C, and E are out because of wrong comparison of fossils with dinosaur types.

In A, 2 errors:

- 1. use of third person pronoun 'they' is ambiguous - fossils or dinosaurs.
- 2. They announced that X and that Y - latter that is missing in A

compare fossils with fossils.

fossils that are at least 25 million years older than **those of** any similar dinosaur type previously

In this question, two "splits" provide insight into the grammatical issues under consideration. First, the original sentence and answer choice B use the ambiguous pronoun "they," which can refer either to fossils (correctly) or to paleontologists or dinosaurs (incorrectly). Once choices A and B are eliminated, the remaining choices test parallel structure by focusing on similar comparison terms. Answer choices C and E incorrectly compare fossils to *dinosaur types*; however, the sentence must compare fossils to fossils rather than fossils to dinosaurs. Answer choice D, the credited answer, corrects this comparison by including the pronoun *those* to explicitly refer to fossils.

77. Women are expected to be the majority of student entering law school this fall, a trend ultimately placing more women in leadership position in politics and business.
- A. Women are expected to be the majority of student entering law school this fall, a trend ultimately placing
  - B. The majority of students entering law school this fall are expected to be women, a trend that will ultimately place
  - C. The majority of students entering law school this fall are expected to be women, which will ultimately place
  - D. It is expected that the majority of students entering law school this fall will be women, a trend ultimately placing
  - E. It is expected for the women to be the majority of students entering law school this fall, which will ultimately place

The word 'ultimately' denotes future ... so the word 'will' is required. Eliminate A and D.

**Also, the abstract noun construction is always preferred to the pronoun construction.**

In C and E, the word 'which' refers to the entire preceding clause. Wrong! C is also wrong because the relative pronoun 'which' is placed in a position where it must refer to 'women'. this is wrong for 2 different reasons: (a) 'which' can't refer to people, and (b) according to the sentence, women don't place themselves in leadership positions; the trend does. The error in choice e is very similar to that in choice c: the pronoun 'which' is used incorrectly again. the noun closest to this relative pronoun - 'this fall' - makes no sense in context.

B is correct.

78. Soaring television costs accounted for more than half the spending in the presidential campaign of 1992, a greater proportion than it was in any previous election.
- A. a greater proportion than it was
  - B. a greater proportion than
  - C. a greater proportion than they have been
  - D. which is greater than was so
  - E. which is greater than it has been

Appositive constructions are preferred ... so eliminate D and E. C ... a faulty comparison has been made between proportion and they (the only plural noun is costs) ... proportion (ratio) and costs (number) can't be compared.

In A, the word 'it' can wrongly go to 'spending' or 'proportion' but if we say

'a greater proportion than spending was' ... illogical as the comparison is between proportion (ratio) and spending (number) ... completely illogical.

or

'a greater proportion than proportion was' ... absolutely illogical.

'Which' does not have a logical reference so we prefer the appositive ... a greater proportion ... In A, there is no logical reference for IT so B.

79. To Josephine Baker, Paris was her home long before it was fashionable to be an expatriate, and she remained in France during the Second World War as a performer and an intelligence agent for the Resistance.

- A. To Josephine Baker, Paris was her home long before it was fashionable to be an expatriate,
- B. For Josephine Baker, long before it was fashionable to be an expatriate, Paris was her home,
- C. Josephine Baker made Paris her home long before to be an expatriate was fashionable,
- D. Long before it was fashionable to be an expatriate, Josephine Baker made Paris her home,
- E. Long before it was fashionable being an expatriate, Paris was home to Josephine Baker,

As per Right to Left Parallelism rule, the words "AND she remained" must be parallel to Josephine Baker made. This leaves us with C and D.

This sentence expresses a surprise. D brings out the surprise whereas C doesn't. "She remained in France as an intelligence agent at a time when it was unfashionable to be an expatriate" ... is indeed a surprise statement.

This compound sentence (consisting of two independent clauses joined by the coordinating conjunction *and*) would be most clearly expressed if Josephine Baker were the subject of the first clause since *she* is the subject of the second clause: *Josephine Baker made Paris her home* would clearly parallel *she remained in France*. The adverb clause *long ... expatriate* is best placed before the main clause.

A *To Josephine Baker ... her* is redundant and awkward; the subject of the first main clause is *Paris* rather than *Baker*.  
B *For Josephine Baker ... her* is redundant and awkward; putting two introductory elements together before the main clause is awkward.

C Inversion of the expected word order in *to be an expatriate was unfashionable* is awkward.

**D Correct.** The clearest, most economical order for this sentence is to put the adverb clause first, and make *Baker* the subject of the first main clause, parallel to *she* in the second.

E *Being* is awkward; *Baker* should be the subject of the first main clause, parallel to *she* in the second main clause.

**The correct answer is D.**

80. The nineteenth-century chemist Humphry Davy presented the results of his early experiments in his "Essay on Heat and Light," a critique of all chemistry since Robert Boyle as well as a vision of a new chemistry that Davy hoped to found.

- A. a critique of all chemistry since Robert Boyle as well as a vision of a
- B. a critique of all chemistry following Robert Boyle and also his envisioning of a
- C. a critique of all chemistry after Robert Boyle and envisioning as well
- D. critiquing all chemistry from Robert Boyle forward and also a vision of
- E. critiquing all the chemistry done since Robert Boyle as well as his own envisioning of

Essay || critique || vision ... the essay itself is the critique and the vision (used as an appositive modifier). **So A it is.**

The main objective of the sentence is to describe "Essay on Heat and Light" as Davy's presentation of his own experiments and to further explain that the essay served as both a critique of previous chemistry and a vision of a new kind of chemistry. The clearest, most effective form for providing this explanation of the essay's function is to make *critique* and *vision* both appositives of "Essay on Heat and Light," and to present them in a parallel structure.

**A Correct.** The phrases describing the essay's function are presented in parallel form.

B *Critique* and *his envisioning* are not parallel; the phrase *and also his envisioning* is unnecessarily wordy; it is also unclear to whom *his* refers.

C The two descriptors are not parallel.

D The two descriptors are not parallel.

E The meaning is confused in the assertion that Davy critiqued his own vision of chemistry.

**The correct answer is A.**

81. Originally developed for detecting air pollutants, a technique called proton-induced X-ray emission, which can quickly analyze the chemical elements in almost any substance without destroying it, is finding uses in medicine, archaeology, and criminology.
- A. Originally developed for detecting air pollutants, a technique called proton-induced X-ray emission, which can quickly analyze the chemical elements in almost any substance without destroying it,
  - B. Originally developed for detecting air pollutants, having the ability to analyze the chemical elements in almost any substance without destroying it, a technique called proton-induced X-ray emission
  - C. A technique originally developed for detecting air pollutants, called proton-induced X-ray emission, which can quickly analyze the chemical elements in almost any substance without destroying it,
  - D. A technique originally developed for detecting air pollutants, called proton-induced X-ray emission, which has the ability to analyze the chemical elements in almost any substance quickly and without destroying it,
  - E. A technique that was originally developed for detecting air pollutants and has the ability to analyze the chemical elements in almost any substance quickly and without destroying the substance, called proton-induced X-ray emission,

Quick solution: can / able / ability / capability ... always choose CAN. B, D, and E are eliminated.

In C, the part 'called proton-induced X-ray emission' should come immediately after 'technique'.

So A it is.

The original sentence successfully avoids the problems that may occur in a long sentence with multiple modifiers. The sentence opens with the modifier *originally developed for detecting air pollutants*. This participial phrase is immediately followed by the word *technique* that it modifies; *technique* is in turn followed by the phrase *called proton-induced X-ray emission*. Finally, the nonrestrictive clause *which ... destroying it* is correctly placed next to *emission* and set off from the rest of the sentence by a pair of commas.

**A Correct.** The modifiers are all correctly placed and punctuated; the meaning is clear.

B Placement of two long modifiers at the beginning of the sentence is awkward and makes it difficult to locate the subject; second modifier (*having...*) actually modifies the first modifier.

C *Called proton-induced X-ray emission* should be placed next to *a technique* and should not be set off by commas; relative clause introduced by *which* incorrectly and illogically modifies *emission*.

D *Called proton-induced X-ray emission* should be placed next to *a technique* and should not be set off by commas; relative clause introduced by *which* incorrectly and illogically modifies *emission*; *has the ability to* is wordy.

E *Called proton-induced X-ray emission* should be placed next to *a technique* and should not be set off by commas; *has the ability to* is wordy. **The correct answer is A.**

82. Construction of the Roman Colosseum, which was officially known as the Flavian Amphitheater, began in A.D. 69, during the reign of Vespasian, was completed a decade later, during the reign of Titus, who opened the Colosseum with a one-hundred-day cycle of religious pageants, gladiatorial games, and spectacles.
- A. which was officially known as the Flavian Amphitheater, began in A.D. 69, during the reign of Vespasian,
  - B. officially known as the Flavian Amphitheater, begun in A.D. 69, during the reign of Vespasian, and
  - C. which was officially known as the Flavian Amphitheater, began in A.D. 69, during the reign of Vespasian, and
  - D. officially known as the Flavian Amphitheater and begun in A.D. 69, during the reign of Vespasian it
  - E. officially known as the Flavian Amphitheater, which was begun in A.D. 69, during the reign of Vespasian, and

The main subject of the sentence is *Construction*, and it has two main verbs: *began* and *was completed*. These two verbs should be connected by the conjunction *and* to preserve their equal grammatical status. Both verbs should be in simple past tense.

A The conjunction is missing before the second main verb, *was completed*.

B *Begun* is the wrong verb form. In fact, *begun* is not even a verb. The third forms of the verb without an auxiliary verb are not verbs.

**C Correct.** The two verbs of the main clause are in simple past tense and are joined with *and*.

D There is no need to use the pronoun *it* as the subject of *was completed*, because *Roman Colosseum* (modified by phrases describing its name and the time it was begun) already serves as the subject of the final verb.

E The appearance of the relative pronoun as the subject of the main verbs deprives the term *construction* of a verb and makes this sentence a fragment.

**The correct answer is C.**

83. Researchers in Germany have unearthed 400,000-year-old wooden spears from what it appears was an ancient lakeshore hunting ground as stunning evidence of human ancestors who systematically hunted big game much earlier than believed.
- (A) it appears was an ancient lakeshore hunting ground as stunning evidence of human ancestors who  
(B) it appears had been an ancient lakeshore hunting ground and is stunning evidence that human ancestors  
(C) it appears to have been an ancient lakeshore hunting ground and is stunning evidence that human ancestors  
(D) appears to be an ancient lakeshore hunting ground, stunning evidence that human ancestors  
(E) appears that it is an ancient lakeshore hunting ground, stunning evidence of human ancestors who

'it appears' is plain wrong. We can't say 'from what it happened yesterday, no conclusions can be drawn'. But we can say, "from what happened yesterday, no conclusions can be drawn". A, B, and C are eliminated.

Evidence THAT is better (refer to VAN pattern 2 below). A and E are out. Ans. D

### V-A-N Pattern 2: Prefer a That-Clause (with Verbs) to a Series of Phrases (with Nouns)

**Wordy:** The hypothesis ABOUT the COMPOSITION OF the universe AS largely dark energy seems strange.

**Better:** The hypothesis THAT the universe IS largely COMPOSED OF dark energy seems strange.

When you tack a long thought onto a noun, try to put the thought in a **That-Clause** rather than in a long series of prepositional phrases. A **That-Clause** starts with the word **that** and contains a working verb (one that, **as is**, can be the main verb of a sentence by itself). **Is composed** is a working verb.

"Idea" nouns, such as *hypothesis*, *idea*, or *suggestion*, lend themselves particularly well to this pattern. Other examples include *belief*, *discovery*, *evidence*, *indication*, and *report*. These sorts of nouns are often modified by **That-Clauses** that contain full sentences:

The **BELIEF THAT** the Earth is flat is contradicted by **EVIDENCE THAT** the Earth is round and the **DISCOVERY THAT** the Earth circles the Sun.

84. A survey of 765 working women over eighteen years of age found that 60 percent of them worked 40 or more hours a week and for married women with children under eighteen it was more likely that they would work different shifts from their husbands.
- (A) for married women with children under eighteen it was more likely that they would work different shifts from their husbands  
(B) for married women whose children were under eighteen, they were more likely than other married women to work shifts different from their husbands'  
(C) when married women had children under eighteen it was more likely for them to be working different shifts from those of their husbands'  
(D) that married women with children under eighteen were more likely than other married women to work shifts different from their husbands'  
(E) that when married women had children under eighteen they were more likely to be working shifts that differed from their husbands

Found that and that ... parallelism needed. A, B, and C out.

Shifts are different from husbands' (= husbands' shifts) ... D is correct.

E says that the shifts are different from husbands (illogical comparison).

85. Unlike other Mayan cities, Cancun's commercial power throughout the lowlands seems to be from using its strategic position at the foot of the highlands, which were a source of jade, obsidian, and other valuable commodities.

- (A) Cancun's commercial power throughout the lowlands seems to be from using its strategic position at the foot of the highlands, which were a source of jade, obsidian, and other valuable commodities
- (B) Cancun's commercial power throughout the lowlands seems to have come from using its strategic position at the foot of the highlands, a source of jade, obsidian, and other valuable commodities
- (C) the commercial power of Cancun throughout the lowlands seemed to have come from using its strategic position at the foot of the highlands, a source of jade, obsidian, and other valuable commodities
- (D) Cancun seemed to be using its strategic position at the foot of the highlands, which was a source of jade, obsidian, and other valuable commodities, in becoming a commercial power throughout the lowlands
- (E) Cancun seems to have used its strategic position at the foot of the highlands, a source of jade, obsidian, and other valuable commodities, to become a commercial power throughout the lowlands

The comparison is cities || cities ... so A, B, and C can't be right. D uses the idiom 'use X in becoming Y' ... wrong. The correct idiom is 'use X to become Y'.

E it is.

86. Some patients who do not respond to therapies for depression may simply have received inadequate treatment, having, for example, been prescribed a drug at a dosage too low to be effective or having been taken off a drug too soon.

- (A) having, for example, been prescribed a drug at a dosage too low to be effective or having been
- (B) having, for example, a drug prescription that was ineffective because the dosage was too low, or being
- (C) as, for example, having too low of a dosage of a prescribed drug for it to be effective, or being
- (D) when they have, for example, been prescribed too low a drug dosage for it to be effective, or were
- (E) for example, when they have a drug prescription with a dosage too low to be effective, or been

If we remove the nonessential part 'for example', the sentence reads:

Some patients who do not respond to therapies for depression may simply have received inadequate treatment, having been prescribed a drug at a dosage too low to be effective or having been taken off a drug too soon. So A is parallel.

Because of the word OR, we need parallelism of 'having been prescribed' OR 'having been taken off'. Both the actions are on part of the doctor.

In B, 'having a prescription' is not parallel to 'being taken off' as the first is an action on part of the patient and the second is an action on part of the doctor.

In C, 'having too low a dosage' is not parallel to 'being taken off' as the first is an action on part of the patient and the second is an action on part of the doctor.

In D, "they have" is not parallel to "were".

In E, "they have" is not parallel to "been".

The best way to attack this problem is to remove 'for example' from each of the choices.

- A. having been prescribed a drug at a dosage too low to be effective or having been
- B. having a drug prescription that was ineffective because the dosage was too low, or being
- C. as having too low of a dosage of a prescribed drug for it to be effective, or being
- D. when they have been prescribed too low a drug dosage for it to be effective, or were
- E. when they have a drug prescription with a dosage too low to be effective, or been

A is parallel 'having been || having been' ... the connector word is 'or' ... as we are joining two similar ideas (and only two ideas), we should not use a comma. This alone is sufficient to eliminate B, C, D, and E.

In B, 'having a drug prescription (refers to patients) can't be parallel to being taken off (refers to a doctor, possibly) ... as the subjects are different, the two words are not parallel.

In C, 'having too low of a dosage (refers to patients) can't be parallel to being taken off (refers to a doctor, possibly) ... as the subjects are different, the two words are not parallel.

D is not parallel ('have been' is not parallel to 'were')

E is not parallel ('have a prescription' is not parallel to 'been taken off')

Correct: A

87. Because Miranda, the smallest moon of Uranus, has a large number of different surface features, including craters, mountains, valleys, and fractures, some astronomers suggest that at one time repeated impacts broke the surface apart, and after which the fragments were subsequently rejoined because of mutual gravitational attraction.

- (A) repeated impacts broke the surface apart, and after which the fragments were subsequently rejoined because of
- (B) repeated impacts on the surface broke it apart, after which the fragments having rejoined with
- (C) through repeated impacts that the surface broke apart, after which the fragments subsequently rejoined by
- (D) the surface broke apart with repeated impacts, after which the fragments having rejoined through
- (E) the surface broke apart as a result of repeated impacts, after which the fragments rejoined through

Repeated impacts can't happen at a moment (at one time) ... so A, B, and C are out. In D, there is no verb in the second part ... 'having' is not a verb. So E is correct. Also, the fragments would have joined on their own (by natural forces). There was nothing intended.

88. Complex human traits such as artistic talent or social skill are likely to be shaped by thousands, if not tens of thousands, of the 80,000 or so genes in the human genome.

- (A) such as artistic talent or social skill are likely to be shaped by thousands, if not tens of thousands, of the 80,000 or so
- (B) such as artistic talent or social skill are likely shaped by thousands, if not tens of thousands, of 80,000 or so of the
- (C) such as artistic talent or social skill is likely to be shaped by thousands, if not tens of thousands, of 80,000 or so of the
- (D) like artistic talent or social skill is likely to be shaped by thousands, if not tens of thousands, of the 80,000 or so
- (E) like artistic talent or social skill are likely shaped by thousands, if not tens of thousands, of the 80,000 or so

The GMAT prefers 'such as' to 'like'. Eliminate D and E.

In C, the verb 'is' doesn't go with the subject 'traits'.

In B, the idiom 'likely shaped' changes the meaning. The correct version in this context is 'likely to be shaped'.

Also, there are 80000 specific genes that contribute to these traits, so the word THE 80000 is essential.

A is correct.

89. Diesel engines burn as much as 30 percent less fuel than gasoline engines of comparable size, emitting far less carbon dioxide gas and far fewer of the other gases that have been implicated in global warming.

- (A) of comparable size, emitting far less carbon dioxide gas and far fewer of the other gases that have
- (B) of comparable size, as well as emit far less carbon dioxide gas and far fewer of the other gases having
- (C) of comparable size, and also they emit far fewer carbon dioxide and other gases that have
- (D) that have a comparable size, and also they emit far less carbon dioxide gas and other gases that have
- (E) that have a comparable size, as well as emitting far fewer carbon dioxide and other gases having

The correct construction is 'less carbon dioxide' and 'fewer of the gases'. So C, D, and E can be eliminated.

Also, 'emitting' is the action that depends on 'burning'; it can't happen on its own. So the second part needs to be written in 'ing' form.

A it is.

90. Nine months after the county banned jet skis and other water bikes from the tranquil waters of Puget Sound, a judge overturned the ban on the ground of violating state laws for allowing the use of personal watercraft on common waterways.
- (A) of violating state laws for allowing
  - (B) of their violating state laws to allow
  - (C) that it violates state laws that allowed
  - (D) that it violated state laws allowing
  - (E) that state laws were being violated allowing

The correct idiom when the word 'ground' is used to mean 'reason' is 'on grounds that / on the ground that'. Eliminate A and B.

In C, 'violates' denotes present tense while the overall sentence is written in the past tense (banned / overturned).

In E, the expression 'were being violated' is written in past continuous tense. Continuous tenses denote a moment. But the laws can't be violated only for a moment. Wrong construction!

D it is.

91. Gone are the sharp edges and jutting planes of styles from former eras; instead, designers of everything from cars to computer monitors have adopted a cornerless style of smooth surfaces and curves that is more ergonomic, conforming to the shape of the body rather than flaunting shape for its own sake.
- (A) more ergonomic, conforming to the shape of the body rather than flaunting shape
  - (B) more ergonomic, conformed to the body's shape and not to flaunting shape
  - (C) ergonomic, more conformed to the shape of the body and not to shape flaunted
  - (D) ergonomic, conforming more to the body's shape rather than shape flaunted
  - (E) ergonomic, conforming more to the shape of the body than flaunting shape

Classic meaning clarity problem:

When we try to make something better for human comfort (a chair, a car seat, a remote control, a cellular phone etc.), we can make it only 'more ergonomic' as it must have been ergonomic to some degree even before. So, first, examine the split between 'more ergonomic' and just 'ergonomic'. The new design is more ergonomic than the old design. If we change this to just 'ergonomic', we're attaching an implication that the old design simply wasn't ergonomic (and that the new design, by contrast, is) - an unacceptable implication. So C, D, and E are out because of this meaning clarity issue.

B: to the body's shape and not to flaunting shape <-- logically nonparallel and also awkward

Also, in B and C, the word 'conformed' is wrongly used. The correct word should be 'conforming'. This (conformed) is completely absurd usage.

In D, 'more to ... rather than shape' are not parallel. The correct parallelism is 'more X ... than Y', not 'more X ... rather than Y'. Also, bad parallelism between to the body's shape and shape flaunted...

In E, 'more to ... than flaunting' are not parallel.

92. Although ice particles in the upper atmosphere benefit Earth in that they reflect and absorb solar radiation, acting as a global thermostat and thus keeping Earth from either burning up or freezing over, they also accelerate the destruction of the ozone layer by reacting with chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's).
- (A) acting as a global thermostat and thus keeping Earth from either burning up or freezing over, they also accelerate
  - (B) acting as a global thermostat and thus keeping Earth either from burning up or freezing over, while also accelerating
  - (C) act as a global thermostat and thus keep Earth from either burning up or freezing over, while also accelerating
  - (D) they act as a global thermostat that thus keeps Earth either from burning up or freezing over, even though it also accelerates
  - (E) they act as a global thermostat to thus keep Earth from either burning up or freezing over, but they also accelerate

'Although' is a contrast word. The sentence can't have another contrast word(s) (such as 'while / even though / but') immediately after the comma. This eliminates B, C, D, and E.

Either X or Y (X||Y) eliminates B and E ('from' and 'freezing' are not parallel).

Although ice particles in the upper atmosphere benefit Earth in that they reflect and absorb solar radiation, acting as a global thermostat and thus keeping Earth from either burning up or freezing over, they also accelerate the destruction of the ozone layer by reacting with chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's).

About the adverbial modifier in choice A: The COMMA -ING modifier in choice (a) is called the adverbial modifier; it is used when the -ING form can't go back to a specific noun but goes back to the entire preceding clause, or to the verb of the preceding clause, or to the action of the entire preceding clause. In this case, 'acting as a global thermostat' goes back to 'benefit (verb)' and / or to 'reflect' and 'absorb' ... so the adverbial modifier is absolutely correct here. The "global thermostat" clause is an adverbial modifier that further explains the process described in the first clause.

Correct A

93. A recent poll indicates that many people in the United States hold a combination of conservative and liberal political views; i.e., they denounce big government, saying government is doing too much and has become too powerful, while at the same time supporting many specific government programs for health care, education, and the environment.

- (A) they denounce big government, saying government is doing too much and has become too powerful, while at the same time supporting
- (B) they denounce big government—they say that government is doing too much and has become too powerful—but supporting at the same time
- (C) they denounce big government, they say that government is doing too much and it has become too powerful, while they support at the same time
- (D) while they denounce big government, saying that government is doing too much and has become too powerful, at the same time supporting
- (E) while they are denouncing big government—they say that government is doing too much and it has become too powerful— supporting at the same time

### Remember:

If a sentence involves 2 actions – one main and the other subordinate – and if the second action is

- effect / offshoot / result of the main action (cause and effect sequence)
- part of the main action
- dependent on the main action
- sub-ordinate to the main action
- embedded in the main action
- can't happen without the first action independently
- explanation (how / why the first action happens) of the first action ... etc.

WE USE the second verb in the -ING form...

In this sentence, before the underline, a semicolon (;) has been used. This means that the second part (after the semicolon) has to be a balanced sentence.

Also, the second part (saying) is part of the 'denouncing', not independent of it. So as per the rules above, the second part (saying) has to be in -ING form. This eliminates B, C, and E.

In option D, the second part of the sentence (after the semicolon) is not balanced, so D can't be correct.

Correct: A

94. With no natural predators and expanses of green suburban neighborhoods that allow no hunting, wildlife officials estimate the New Jersey deer population to have grown to exceed 175,000.
- (A) With no natural predators and expanses of green suburban neighborhoods that allow no hunting, wildlife officials estimate the New Jersey deer population to have
  - (B) With no natural predators and with expanses of green suburban neighborhoods that do not allow hunting, wildlife officials' estimate of the deer population in New Jersey has
  - (C) With no natural predators and with expanses of green suburban neighborhoods where there is no hunting, the deer population in New Jersey, wildlife officials estimate, has
  - (D) Without natural predators and no hunting allowed in expanses of green suburban neighborhoods, New Jersey has a deer population that wildlife officials estimate to have
  - (E) Without natural predators and with expanses of green suburban neighborhoods where there is no hunting, wildlife officials in New Jersey estimate a deer population that has

'With no natural predators' is a modifier ... so after the comma, the legitimate subject (the deer population) should come. Only C is correct.

A and E imply 'wildlife officials have no natural predators' ... nonsensical

B implies 'the estimate has no natural predators' ... nonsensical

D implies 'New Jersey has no natural predators' ... nonsensical ... also, D is not parallel. "Without natural predators" is definitely not parallel to "no hunting allowed".

C: Correct

95. An international group of more than 2,000 scientists project an average global warming that will be between 1.8 and 6.3 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2000.
- (A) project an average global warming that will be between 1.8 and
  - (B) project an average global warming to be from 1.8 to
  - (C) project global warming that will average between 1.8 and
  - (D) projects global warming to average from 1.8 to
  - (E) projects an average global warming of between 1.8 and

The subject of the sentence is 'group', so the correct verb is 'projects' ... this eliminates A, B, and C.

Also, the average is a fixed number. It is not a range.

Imagine someone average GMAT score is 730 (in multiple attempts).

We can say: His average score is between 720 and 740. CORRECT

But we can't say: His average score is from 720 to 740. INCORRECT

Same deal here: So D is wrong.

Correct: E

96. According to a 1996 survey by the National Association of College and University Business Officers, more than three times as many independent institutions of higher education charge tuition and fees of under \$8,000 a year than those that charge over \$16,000.
- A. than those that charge
  - B. than are charging
  - C. than to charge
  - D. as charge
  - E. as those charging

"As many as" is the right idiom. So A, B, and C are eliminated.

Also, as per parallelism, we need charge || charge.

Imagine the statement: More than 3 times the participants attended the meeting this year than did last year. – the sentence is perfectly correct. There is no need to repeat the subject.

D it is.

97. A new hair-growing drug is being sold for three times the price, per milligram, as the drug's maker charges for another product with the same active ingredient.

- A. as
- B. than
- C. that
- D. of what
- E. at which

If we remove the nonessential part 'per milligram', we are left with

A new hair-growing drug is being sold for three times the price (X) as the drug's maker charges (Y) for another product with the same active ingredient.

Imagine the sentences:

The price of X is three times that of Y. CORRECT

The price of X is three times as Y. Wrong

The price of X is three times than Y. Wrong

The price of X is three times of what is Y. Wrong

... Here 'of what' will mean 'of the price'. So the sentence will read the "price of the price", which is senseless.

The price of X is three times at which is Y. Wrong

... Here 'at which' will mean 'at the price'. So the sentence will read the "price at the price", which is senseless.

D it is.

98. According to public health officials, in 1998 Massachusetts became the first state in which more babies were born to women over the age of thirty than under it.

- A. than
- B. than born
- C. than they were
- D. than there had been
- E. than had been born

In this sentence, the word 'it' means 'the age of 30'. If we choose any other option apart from A, the meaning will distort to 'babies born / were under the age of 30', which is senseless.

A it is.

99. Since the start of the space age, more and more littering has occurred in orbits near Earth, often because the intentional discarding of lens caps, packing material, fuel tanks, and payload covers.

- (A) more and more littering has occurred in orbits near Earth, often because
- (B) orbits near Earth have become more and more littered, often from
- (C) orbits near Earth became littered more and more, often resulting from
- (D) there have been more and more littering of orbits near Earth, often because of
- (E) there had been littering more and more of orbits near Earth, often with

A. 'Because' is always followed by a clause; 'Because of' is followed by a noun.

Imagine the two statements:

Because he was ill, he could not come.

Because of his illness, he could not come.

Here, 'he was ill' is a clause and 'his illness' is a noun.

In option A, whatever is written after 'because' (the intentional discarding of lens caps, packing material, fuel tanks, and payload covers) is a noun. So option A cannot be correct.

**B. Correct**

C. 'Since' implies present perfect tense or present perfect continuous tense; we cannot write 'became' as a simple past tense verb.

D. The word 'littering' is a singular noun; we cannot use the word 'have', which is a plural verb.

E. 'Since' implies present perfect tense or present perfect continuous tense; we cannot write 'had been' as a past perfect tense verb.

100. The single-family house constructed by the Yana, a Native American people who lived in what is now northern California, was conical in shape, its framework of poles overlaid with slabs of bark, either cedar or pine, and banked with dirt to a height of three to four feet.

- (A) banked with dirt to a height of
- (B) banked with dirt as high as that of
- (C) banked them with dirt to a height of
- (D) was banked with dirt as high as
- (E) was banked with dirt as high as that of

When the non-essential parts within the comma are removed from the sentence, the sentence remains:

"The single-family house constructed by the Yana was conical in shape, its framework of poles overlaid with slabs of bark and banked with dirt to a height of three to four feet."

The first clue here is AND ... this indicates parallelism.

The second clue is the 'possessive' form after the comma. This indicates the 'absolute phrase' construction (explained in detail below). Absolute phrases can't contain a verb. Here the word 'banked' is an adjective (past participle) that refers to the 'framework of poles'. Because of the word AND, we have to have another adjective before the word AND that describes the 'framework of poles'. Here 'overlaid' is an adjective (past participle) that describes the 'framework of poles'. So the words 'banked' and 'overlaid' are perfectly parallel. 'banked with dirt' applies to the framework of poles, not to the house itself. Parallelism signs: (1) both have the same form ("verb-ed with noun"), (2) they are linked with an "and", and (3) both modify the "framework of poles." In other words, you should read it like this:

...its framework of poles banked with dirt...

and

...its framework of poles overlaid with slabs...

So option A is perfectly correct.

D and E are wrong as they use the verb 'was'. Another problem with choice D is that the phrase 'as high as' should be followed by one value, not a range.

Some of our players weigh as much as 300-325 pounds --> bad phrasing

Some of our players weigh as much as 325 pounds --> good phrasing

C uses the word 'them' to refer to framework. Wrong!

B is wrong because there's nothing for "that of" to refer to. (There are no other possessives or "of" constructions anywhere else in the sentence).

### 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.