

Focus on :

1. Meaning - Option retains the intended meaning of the prompt
2. Grammar - Options uses legitimate constructions
3. Logic - Option has no logical error when place with rest of the sentence
4. Construction - Option is eloquent

Fundamental Strategy : SAMPIR

1. S : Split - Focus of Batch Elimination if Possible
2. A : Verb Agreement in Plurality/Mood/Sequence of Tense + Pronoun Agreement
3. M : Modifiers - Dangling Modifiers - Distance
4. P : Parallelism
5. I : Idioms
6. R : Rhetoric

Agreement :

Verb Agreement -

- Every sentence must have a main subject and a main verb.
- The main verb must agree with the subject in plurality
- Every clause in the sentence (even the subordinate/substantive clause) must have its own subject - Verb
- Ensuring that each clause has its own verb is a crucial ability in GMAT.
- Participles , Gerund and Infinitive are not Full Verb
 - Participle - Modifier - The king, **dressed in black**, walked down the hallway.
 - Gerund - Noun - **Swimming** is a good exercise.
 - Infinitive - **To err** is human.

Some key points to remember in Agreement :

- **Tense of the Verb :**
 - Use simple tense to represent events in present , past and future
 - Simple Progressive - An ongoing action
 - Perfect Progressive - Only use if necessary
 - Present : An event started in past and continuing in the present
"John and Jane have been fighting since morning."
 - Past : An event that started in past and was going on at the time of another past event
"The stock of Company X had been plunging for last one year, when the CEO was fired in May"

- Don't use present progressive to discuss the future
"He is going to New York next week."
Instead, use "He will go to New York next week."
 - Perfect Tense - means fully completed action
 - Present : represents something that has just been completed
"I have finished my work."
 - Present : represents something that has an influence in present
"I have read the Hamlet." - it is something of value to me even now
"I read the Hamlet" - it is an inconsequential occurrence
 - Past : represent something that was done in past. Only used to represent the sequence of events in Past where one action is completed before the other
"Dan had killed the beast when the rescue team arrived on the scene"
 - Past : If words like before is already there to clarify the timeline the use of Past perfect is redundant. Only use past perfect when the clarity of sequence is required
"Dan killed the beast before the rescue team arrived on the scene."
 - Future : Very Rare
- Subjunctive Mood - Hypothetical, Command, Hope, Wish
 - Subjunctive is used after "That" or "Lest" - lest means *to avoid the risk of*
 - Present Tense of Subjunctive Mood is the infinitive form of the verb - **do not add 's' with singular**
He commands that Henry buy a car.
She wishes that he be quiet.
 - If that clause conveys wish or hope etc., use subjunctive mood.
 - Past Subjunctive is only used with 'to be' in conditional statement
"If I were you,
"If New York were a country"
- The Agreement of Conditionals :
 - For General rules : Present tense indicative.
"If traffic light is red, you must stop."
 - **First Conditional : For ordinary conditionals** - use regular tenses - but never use the future tense inside the if clause.
"If New York Mets wins, John will throw as party."
 - **Second Conditional: For unlikely events :**
 - If [subject] [past subjunctive] , [subject] [would] - conditional sentence
 - Future unlikely event : If [subject] [were to] [verb], [subject] would
 - Difference between ordinary and unlikely conditional is the likelihood of the event.
 - **Third Conditional : For Impossible Events** - Alternative to an event already happened in Past
If [Subject] [Past Perfect], [subject] would have [verb]
"If it had been me, I would have expelled her."
 - Present - > Future

- Past -> Would
- Past Perfect -> Would have

- Verb Phrases - Participle, Infinitive and Gerund

- Infinitive = to + [standard form of verb] - used as a noun
- Subject of Infinitive follows - For
 - “**For me to die will be a great disaster**” - notice me in objective form because it object of preposition for
- Participle : -ing -ed/irregular form - modifiers (adjective/adverb)
- Participle is the only type of modifier that can modify an entire clause
 - “Running stream of water” , “inflated balloon” - adjective
 - “He came to the fair, riding a bike.” - adverb
 - “Acting on his instincts, he struck down the enemy” - adverb
 - “Company A fired its CEO, causing its stock to plunge by 10\$” - clause
 - “Company A fired its CEO, its stock eventually plummeting by 10\$” - clause
 - Present Participle - Active Modification
 - Spinning wheel , Shining Sword, the man throwing the ball
 - Past Participle - Passive Modification
 - The broken sword, the lost man
 - Perfect Participle - Having [past participle] - completed action and modifies only the subject of the sentence , is a way to show sequence- often causal
 - “Having suffered a defeat at Panipat, the Maratha Empire disintegrated into smaller houses.”
 - Limitation : If the action of the verb is different from the action of the phrase you will need two different clauses.
 - “Right now, I see the man riding the unicycle yesterday” - wrong
 - “Right now, I see the man who was riding the unicycle yesterday”- right

- Gerund - Hiking as noun, Swimming as noun

- The Rule of Passive - GMAT prefers Active form. But it is not a rule of thumb.

- Only transitive verbs can be expressed in passive voice
- Infinitives also have passive form
 - “We have to see it” , “It has to be seen (by us)”
- Don’t replace **to be** with **to get**
 - The cookies got eaten - wrong
 - The cookies were eaten - right
- In passive for **by** is reserved for the does
 - Chris was killed by sheer coincidence by a car - wrong
 - Because of sheer coincidence, Chris was killed by a car.
- Beware of Passive Voice
- Passive voice is acceptable if the identity of the does is unknown or inconsequential
 - “He was praised for his bravery in the battle of Zenjin.”

- Passive voice is acceptable when the recipient of the action is more important
The Jazz, a kind of music that was immensely popular in United States in 1950, was first performed by African musicians in New Jersey.
- Sequence of Tenses
 - Indirect Reporting in Past
John told Mir that Jane Doe **had revealed** her identity, the reporter **were already interviewing her that day**, and the deposition **would happen** in the upcoming week.
 - Present -> Past
 - Past -> Past Perfect
 - Future -> Conditional
- Plurality Agreements :
 - Collective Nouns have singular verbs
 - A number/majority - Plural , The number/majority - Singular
 - One of the kids is playing , One of the kids who are playing
 - Compound subjects - and - Plural
“Melissa and Jane are shopping”
 - Additive Phrases are singular -including, as well as, accompanied by, in addition to
Randy, along with his friends, is coming to play
 - Gerund Phrases and Infinitive Phrases are always singular - even if the subject of infinitive is plural - “For students to commit crime is completely immoral.”
 - Compound Subjects that depend on distance -
 - Either A or B - Depend on B
 - Neither A nor B - Depends on B
 - A or B depends on B
 - Not only A but also B - depends on B
 - No so much A as B - depends on B
 - Not A But B - depends on B
- Pronoun Agreements
 - Pronouns Must have an antecedent
 - it , its, this, they, them , their - in GMAT often has antecedent problem
 - Pronoun must refer to a noun in the sentence. The noun can be substituted in the place of pronoun.
 - Personal Pronouns have
 - Subjective Case (I, We, He , She)
 - Objective Case (Me, Us, Him, Her)
 - Possessive Case (His , Her, Mine, My, Our, Ours)
 - Demonstrative Pronouns - This, That, These, Those - require antecedent
 - Interrogative Pronoun - Who, Whom, Whose, What, Which,
 - Relative - That -Relative Pronoun are used to Introduce a noun modifying clause
“The hand that wielded the sword”
 - Indefinite Pronoun - Unknown Subjects

- Some are singular - ending with body or one, or represent UC : less, little, neither and either, much, every, each

“Every senator and assemblyman is to be elected every year.”

Whatever each or every modify is singular.

“Much of the last few year of her life was devoted to prayers”
 - Some are plural - both, many, several, few, fewer, others

Few understand physics, and fewer understand quantam physics.

Both are dead, but others are alive.

Several good men

Many seem reluctant
 - Some can be both singular and plural SANAMM - Some, All, None, Any, Most, More

They always have a noun followed by ‘of’

You have to check what they are standing for to determine their numbers
- Collective Nouns take singular pronouns
- Multiple Antecedent problems - A pronoun’s antecedent must be ambiguous

“The athletes won a number of medals for their countrymen, but most of them were not happy. “ - they is ambiguous.
- Possessive Antecedent issue - A subjective pronoun shouldn’t have a possessive antecedent.

“Ram’s shirt was so bright that he took it off.” - not wrong but questionable

“Ram took off his shirt because it was too bright.” - better

“His shirt was so bright that Ram took it off” - anticipatory reference
- Possessive noun can be an antecedent of possessive pronoun

John’s victories boosted his reputation.
- Demonstrative Pronoun and their antecedents -
 - Demonstrative pronoun do not refer exactly to the antecedent but the idea of the antecedent
 - It may have different plurality from its antecedent.
- Parallelism might resolve the Pronoun antecedent ambiguity
- Common Agreement Errors :
 - Missing Verb Problem
 - Verb forms cannot replace the full verb
 - Double Subject Problem
 - Be suspicious of what happens after a long modifier
 - Run-on Sentences : Two independent clause must be separated by :

Never use a comma - Comma Splice

 - Semi-Colon
 - Co-ordinating Conjunction
 - Infinitive of Purpose
 - All purpose words are represented by - infinitive and not for + [gerund]

“I came here to eat” - wrong

“I came here for eating” - right

- 'to X' can be replaced by 'in order to X' or 'so as to X'

Parallelism:

Parallelism is putting together of similar grammatical and logical structures in a sentence.
Nouns , Verbs , Clause and Phrases - Prepositional, Infinitive, Participial and Gerund can be in parallel

Conjunctions are good indicative of Parallelism, especially correlative conjunctions.

Parallelism depends on both grammar and logic.

Some Common rules in Parallelism:

- Once Out or Twice In - very important with correlative conjunction
"He not only played guitar but also played harmonium"
"He played not only guitar but also harmonium"
- Sometime Once Out is preferred with auxiliary verbs for rhetoric reasons
- Split infinitive "to madly love", "to deeply care" are considered wrong by the conservatives - GMAT does add them to right answer options
- Not only...But also and other correlative conjunctions will follow twice inside rule with infinitives to avoid split infinitives
- Shortening of Clauses in Parallel
 - Omit from the second clause almost everything that is repeated from the first clause.
"While John fought a bear at Mt.Cajun, Avenka fought a baboon"
 - Use "do/did so" to simplify same action in parallel clauses
- Beware of False Parallelism:-
 - Word that do not play the same logical part need not be in parallel
- Rules of Comparison :
 - Comparative - between 2 , Superlative among many
"I scolded her not so much to insult her as to warn her."
 - A comparison must be between two logical entity
Music to Music, Person to Person
 - Also Use the right case for pronouns in comparison
I run faster than she (does).
 - Use of That of or those of
The GDP of China is larger than GDP of Pakistan.
The GDP of China is larger than that of Pakistan.
 - Use 'any other' rather than 'any' and 'anything else' rather than 'anything'
- Comparison using Like and As
 - Like is used to compare nouns that are similar in category
 - Can also work with Noun + Participial Modifier

- Though John is an amateur, he played like an athlete brimming with testosterone
- Use as with clause (full actions)
 - Though John is an amateur, he played as an athlete would play on testosterone.
- As [adjective] as - indicates that two items are similar
- Not as [adjective] as = less than

Modifiers :

Can be divided into - Noun (which? what kind?) and Verb Modifiers (why? How? Where? when?)

- Rules for Noun Modifiers:
 - Noun Modifiers must obey the touch rule - in most circumstances - If this is not followed, it leads to dangling modifiers problem.
 - “The doctor did not treated the patient with medication, fearing side-effects.” - wrong
 - Appositive Phrase are noun modifiers
 - “Zen, the ancient buddhist philosophy, is being adopted by many people in developed countries.”
- Rules for Verb Modifiers
 - Verb modifiers do not adhere to the stick rule
 - Verb modifiers can appear anywhere in the sentence as long as there is no logical ambiguity
 - Shouldn't be too far from the verb it is modifying
- Rule for Participial Phrase
 - The subject must appear somewhere in the sentence.
 - “The Doctor treated the patient, curing his illness” - right
 - “The patient was treated, curing his illness” - wrong
 - “Who is the actor must be obvious?”
- Rules for Relative clause modifiers
 - Don't use that or which for people - use who
 - Who vs Whom vs Whose are different in case inside the relative clause
 - “Jon, who was killed by Doe, was a happy soul”
 - “Jon, whom Doe killed, was a happy soul”
 - Where must refer to a physical place
 - Don't use where metaphorically - use ‘in which’ instead
- Vital Noun Modifier
 - Essential modifier - No Comma Separation - use “that” in place of “which”
 - I heard a lecture by a professor who had won a nobel prize in Physics.
 - Non-vital modifiers are separated by comma
 - Vital noun modifiers must touch the noun
- Exception to Noun Modifier touch rule :

- Non-vital noun modifiers do not have to touch the noun if they have a vital noun modifier in between
 “Henry II **of England**, who married Eleanor of Ireland, brought peace in Ireland
- Appositive Phrase - Touch rule exception
 “Ranchi, the capital city of Jharkhand, known for its cosmopolitan culture, witnessed an unfortunate communal riots.
- Short Phrase or examples can come between noun and its modifiers
 “Mega cities, such as Rome and New York, having a population greater than 10 million, are the backbones of the economy.
- Positioning of Certain Adverbs Matter : Only, Almost, Even. Just Nearly . They change the meaning of the sentence based on their positions
 “He almost ate a pizza”
 “He ate almost a pizza”
- Number of animals vs number of known animals - logical predication

Diction and Idioms

Concerned with proper usage of words

- Economic Vs Economical
- Lie vs Lay
 - Lie -> Lay -> Lain - Located in
 - Lay -> Laid -> Laid - To place horizontally
- If vs Whether
 - Whether introduces a Yes/No question - substantive clause
 - Whether can come with depends on
 - Whether or Not is unnecessary
 - If - then conditional
- Countable Vs UC
 - How Many Vs How Much
 - Few Vs Less
 - Number VS Amount
 - Many More Vs Much More
- Instead of Vs Rather Than
 - Generally Rather than is preferred to avoid cascading of preposition
 - Instead of can be used with noun, A, instead of B,
 - Rather than can be used with any grammatical structure
 - Instead of [gerund] is often incorrect - use [noun] [verb] rather than [verb]
 - Instead is correct by itself
- Because of vs Due to
 - Due to is a noun modifier = caused by
 - It answers the question what kind?
 “Famine, due to lack of rain, caused large scale migration
 - Because of is a verb or clause modifier and answers the question - Why?

- X is due to Y is an acceptable statement
- Like Vs Such As
 - Like means similar to and is used to compare nouns
“Like father, like son”
 - Such as is used introduce examples
- Words like ask, state, indicate etc follow a that
- Exemplifying Vs Exemplified By
- Required for vs Required by
- Responsible to vs Responsible for
- Compared with vs Compared to
- To write about
- Idea, principle, doctrine of/that
- Fight, Struggle, Stand against/for
- Fear of / for
- Differ from
- Prevent from
- Forbid to

Rhetorical Constructions

Some rule to select better answers - if one or more answers are logically and grammatically correct

- Prefer Active Language over Passive Language
- Avoid [preposition] [noun] [participle] construction
- Subject Verb Proximity - keep the verb close to subject and keep more words in full verb than in other verb forms
- Avoid redundancy
 - Attempt to try
 - Past perfect and before
 - Expert authority
 - Attributed as the cause
 - Explained by the reason
 - To avoid redundancy scan all answer choices to see if two words are sometimes present together and sometime missing - then decide if both are necessary.
- If two sentences are grammatically and logically equal - fewer words is always better.
 - Noun form vs Verb Form : indication of vs indicate - verb form is preferred

Some ignored but important stuff

- Substantive Clause - clause that acts as a noun
 - Subordinate Clause “Whoever drinks alcohol may die of jaundice.”
“I don’t care about what she has to say”
 - Often Singular but can be plural

- Apposite Phrase: Noun as noun modifier
 “My friend Ganesha”
 Thomas Jefferson, the founding father of America,
- Absolute Phrase: [noun][participial phrase]
 - Stays outside the main clause and modifies the main clause
 “He returned from the battle, his army defeated.”
- FANBOYS and ON A WHITE BUS
 - For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So
 - Only if, Now That, After, Although, As, While, Whereas, When, If , That Though, Even if Even though, Because Before, Until, Unless, Since, So, So That