

10.5. Since and Because

On GMAT, *since*, *for* and *because* are all considered synonymous, the way they are in colloquial English as well. For example, all of the following sentences would be correct on GMAT:

Peter had a heavy lunch, since he was hungry.

Peter had a heavy lunch, for he was hungry.

Peter had a heavy lunch, because he was hungry.

A sentence based on official question (#60, OG-13: *The Olympic Games helped to keep peace...*):

In 2012, discussions brokered by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and UN chief Ban Ki-Moon culminated successfully, for a ceasefire was proclaimed between Israel and Hamas.

In the above sentence, *for* is used as a synonym of *because* and is considered correct.

A sentence based on official question (#1, OG-13: *In a review of 2,000 studies...*):

Since most of the academic-medicine specialists who assess patented treatments have financial relationships with pharmaceutical companies, there is no easy way to determine the authenticity of medical research and official treatment guidelines.

In the above sentence, *since* is used as a synonym of *because* and is considered correct.

Note: *since* actually serves two different functions:

1. To refer to *how much time* has passed, as in *since yesterday*, *since 1939* etc.
2. As a synonym for *because*