

Idioms

Concept

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- Idioms are words or group of words that convey certain standard meanings.
- In standard English, certain standard ideas are best conveyed by certain standard forms of expression.
 - For correct usage, it is important to conform to these standard forms of expressions.
- Thus, correct idiomatic usage is essential for correct English usage and for ensuring that the correct meaning is conveyed.
- Often, there is no grammatical justification for correct idiomatic usage.
 - For example “credited for” is incorrect while “credited with” is correct; perhaps, no grammatical explanation is possible for this norm.
 - Hence, the key is to learn and practice idiomatic usage.

Approach

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- The most effective way to learn idioms is to keep revisiting them.
 - Every time you get an idiom question wrong, note down the idiom. Form a list and keep revising it.
 - A finite number of idioms are tested on the GMAT. Thus, with due practice, you can cover most of them.
 - Always remember that knowing idioms actually helps...questions testing idioms can be solved really very quickly if you know the relevant idiom while not knowing an idiom compels you to try your luck by opting for sheer guess.
 - The next section shall cover the frequently asked idioms on GMAT.
 - We suggest that you print these pages and paste them some place duly visible and keep revisiting them.

Must Knows

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- 'Like' is never used for giving examples. Whenever there is a choice between 'like' and 'such as', choose 'such as'.
- Whenever there is an authoritative term such as 'mandate', 'state', 'requires', etc, the only conjunction that can follow is 'that'. Minister stated that, law mandates that, etc.
- 'That' should also follow terms such as 'assume', 'observed', 'proved', etc. Hence, for thoughts suggesting authority, wish, or hypothesis, 'that' is the right conjunction.
- 'Whether' is always better than 'if'.
 - 'whether' is used in case of two alternatives being suggested, and 'if' is used for expressing conditional cases.
- 'Rather than' is always better than 'instead of'.
- 'Few' is used for countable things and 'little' is used for uncountable things.
- 'Do it' is for nouns, 'Do so' is for actions; 'do so' applies more often.
- 'On account of' is always incorrect for its wordiness.

Frequently Asked

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- **Access to**
 - *The company has access to large capital reserves.*
- **Act as**
 - *The mountains act as a natural wall against invaders.*
- **Allow for**
 - *Heavy workout allows for a high calorie meal.*
- **As....as**
 - *For some individuals, soft drinks are as good as water in the summers.*
- **Associate with**
 - *One associates Antarctica with ice.*
 -
- **Attribute to**
 - *The poor first quarter results are attributed to the high inflation.*

Frequently Asked

- **A responsibility to**
 - *The President has a moral responsibility towards all the citizens.*
- **A result of**
 - *The recent slag in the stock market is a result of high crude oil prices.*
- **A sequence of**
 - *The recently discovered ancient sculptures have a sequence of complex symbols.*
- **Agree to...an idea**
 - *The Manager agreed to the terms and conditions listed in the Memorandum of Understanding.*
- **Agree with...a person**
 - *The manager found it difficult to agree with the executives.*
 -
- **Among**
 - *Tom distributed chocolates among all students in the class.*
 -
- **Appear to be**
 - *Jack appears to be a nice boy.*

Frequently Asked

- **As good as / better than**

- *The new bike is as good as any other bike on the market.*
- *The new bike is better than any other bike on the market.*
- *The new bike is as good as or better than any other bike on the market. - Redundant.*

- **Attribute X to Y**

- *The success of the quarterly result can be attributed to the new CEO.*

- **Based on**

- *The paper is based on the research by Thomas Elva Edison.*

- **Begin to**

- *After running five miles, Tom began to pant badly.*

- **Believe X to be Y**

- *Till a few thousand years back, trees were believed to be non-living things.*

- **Between A and B** (Used when two things are involved. When there are more than two, among is used.)

- *Lilly was confused when her father asked her to choose between chocolate and a packet of chips.*

Frequently Asked

- **Care about**

- *Tim never cares about the result after taking his exams.*

- **Centers on + person/thing**

- *The GMAT centers on the knowledge of Mathematics and English.*

- **Choose to**

- *Moon chose to join a lower ranked university because that university offered her full scholarship.*

Consistent with

- *Today's weather was consistent with the CNN's weather forecast.*

Consider + Noun

- *Isaac Newton is considered the father of modern Physics.*
- Considered as – Incorrect
- Considered to be – Incorrect
- Please note that “consider” is same as “regard as”.

Frequently Asked

- **Contend that**
 - *Mary contends that the professor has a regional bias.*
- **Continue to**
 - *If you continue to run three miles per day for a month, you will have better stamina.*
- **Contrast A with B**
 - *Kim was asked to contrast a river with a lake.*
- **Compare A with B (for similar things)**
 - *Friends often compare Maria's looks with her mother's.*
- **Compare A to B (for dissimilar things)**
 - *During adolescence, stretching and running are better exercises compared to weightlifting.*
- **Count on + noun**
 - *Hanna is counting on Mike to learn playing the guitar.*

Frequently Asked

- **Concerned with**
 - *John was sad to learn that his younger brother was more concerned with scoring marks than with learning concepts.*
- **Conform to**
 - *Henry tried to conform to the culture of China during his stay there.*
- **Decide to**
 - *After securing poor grades in the first semester, John decided to work sincerely on his subjects.*
- **Decide on**
 - *We decided on the conclusion reached by the team.*
- **Depend on**
 - *One's result depends on the efforts one puts in.*
- **Different from**
 - *The way kindergarten students are taught now is quite different from how they were taught ten years back.*

Frequently Asked

- **Difficult to**
 - *Jack found it difficult to learn statistics.*
- **Distinguish between A and B**
 - *Rose asked her student to distinguish between a valley and a delta.*
- **Distinguish X from Y**
 - *Rose asked her student to distinguish a valley from a delta.*
- **Except for**
 - *Except for Jack, every member of the family likes eating sweets.*
- **Flee from**
 - *Heavy surveillance was kept to ensure that the terrorists did not flee from the city.*
- **Grew from**
 - *Ashley grew from an average student to a gold medalist in Mathematics.*
- **Indicate that**
 - *The recent surveys indicate that migration to United States will continue to rise for another ten years.*

Frequently Asked

- **Invest in**

- *Jack is repenting his decision to invest in IT stocks at that point in time.*

- **Identical with**

- *Tom was convicted when his fingerprints were found to be identical with those found in the room where robbery took place.*

- **In contrast to**

- *In contrast to Justin's verbal aptitude, his quantitative aptitude is weak.*

- **Independent from**

- *The saint was independent from worldly aspirations.*

- **Leads to**

- *Lack of recreation leads to fatigue.*

- **Like** (Used for comparing nouns)

- *Like his father, Jack is tall and well-built.*

Frequently Asked

- **Localized in**
 - *Residential buildings in the city are localized in an area of just few hundred square yards.*
- **Mistake + noun + for**
 - *Jack mistook a stranger for his classmate.*
- **Modeled after**
 - *The statue has been modeled after a masterpiece by Picasso.*
- **More...than**
 - *John has scored more marks in Mathematics than any of his classmates.*
- **Native to (Can be used for humans as well as non-humans)**
 - *The Great Bengal Tiger is native to India.*
- **A native of (Used only for humans)**
 - *John is a native of Canada*
- **Need to**
 - *Spending a vacation in Kashmir is something every traveler needs to try.*

Frequently Asked

- **Necessary....to**
 - *It is necessary to concentrate well in the professor's class to understand Accounting.*
- **Neither....nor**
 - *Neither Jack nor his brother likes to get up early in the morning.*
- **Not only....but also**
 - *Rose secured not only an admit in Wharton but also scholarship.*
- **Priced at 'a figure'**
 - *Mushrooms in this shop are priced at \$10/lbs.*
- **Priced for 'a quality'**
 - *Mushrooms are highly priced for their scarcity.*
- **Prohibited from + present participle**
 - *John's mother should prohibit from consuming carbohydrates.*

Frequently Asked

- **Range from A to B**

- *The age of students in the class ranges from 23 to 41.*

- **Refer to**

- *One must refer to the basic books before starting a new course.*

- **Regard as**

- Regard to be – Incorrect
- *Jack regards his uncle as his father.*
- 'Regard as' and 'consider' mean the same.

- **Require + noun + to**

- *One requires a good GMAT score to attend a good U.S. business school.*

- **Rivalry between**

- *There is a healthy rivalry between the captain and the vice-captain of the team.*

Frequently Asked

- **Responsible for**

- *The CEO took responsibility for the weak policies and stepped down.*

- **Seems to be**

- *Ashley seems to be a confident person.*

- **So....that** (if so comes, that should succeed it somewhere in the sentence)

- *Jack studied so much Mathematics all day that he dreamt of problems at night.*

- **Subscribe to**

- *The professor asked students to subscribe to the Wall Street Journal.*

thank you



support@expertsglobal.com

[+91-8800-2828-00](tel:+91-8800-2828-00)