

The GMAT Verbal Domination Plan: A Ruthless, No-Nonsense Guide to V90

Welcome to Your Verbal Masterclass

If you've ever dreamed of obliterating the GMAT Verbal section with the precision of a surgeon and the confidence of a Wall Street shark, you're in the right place. This plan isn't just another dry, convoluted guide bloated with unnecessary advice—it's the essence of verbal domination distilled into an actionable, efficient, and dare we say, enjoyable experience.

Grab your coffee (or your energy drink of choice), and let's embark on a journey that will have you speaking and thinking like a logician, grammarian, and literary critic rolled into one.

[By Aadarsh Pathak](#)

Phase 1: Establishing a Ruthless Foundation

1. Should You Take a Diagnostic Test?

A diagnostic test before preparation can sometimes create a **premeditated low-score mindset**, which might demotivate some. If you think this applies to you, skip it and start your prep strong. However, if you prefer to know your starting point, taking a GMAT Official Practice Exam can help you assess your baseline and target your weak spots.

2. Mastering the Two Pillars of Verbal Warfare

Critical Reasoning (CR): Think Like a Lawyer

CR is all about **thinking in bulletproof logic**. Every argument has weak points—you just have to find them.

- **Core skills:** Identify assumptions, strengthen/weaken arguments, evaluate arguments, and recognize logical fallacies.
- **Golden Rule:** Do not **predict the answer before looking at choices**—this protects you from sneaky trap options.
- **Process of Elimination (POE):** If an answer isn't 100% defensible, **throw it out like expired milk**.
- **100% Accuracy Rule:** To hit V90, you need to **get every single easy, medium, and hard question right**. No exceptions.
- **Resources:**
 - Powerscore CR Bible – The gold standard for logic
 - Manhattan GMAT CR (5th Edition) – Builds core skills
 - GMATClub's CR question bank – Train with real-world difficulty

Reading Comprehension (RC): Taming the Text

RC is **not** about reading everything. It's about extracting **maximum insight with minimum effort**.

- **Comprehension is Everything:** Scoring 100th percentile in RC is easier than it sounds—it all boils down to understanding what you read.
- **Skim strategically:** There are quite a lot of people out there, who think skimming is damaging. No it isn't when you know what you're doing. Read the first and last sentences of paragraphs carefully - a lot of hidden insights can be realised by doing this.

- **Trigger words matter:** Words like "however," "although," and "therefore" signal major shifts in argument.
- **Main idea is king:** If you can't summarize the author's need to write the passage in your head, you don't understand it.
- **Practice with brutal texts:** Read The Economist, Scientific American, and The Atlantic.
- **Resources:**
 - Manhattan GMAT RC Guide – Must-read for structured strategy
 - Official GMAT passages – Nothing beats the real thing

Essential Practical Grammar: The Hidden Key to GMAT Verbal

While grammar isn't directly tested, it is the **single biggest determinant of your overall verbal performance**. Mastery of these concepts makes CR and RC dramatically easier.

- **Must-Know Topics:**
 - Subject-verb agreement
 - Parallelism
 - Modifiers (adjective/adverb, misplaced modifiers)
 - Pronoun clarity
 - Verb tenses (especially subjunctive mood, conditionals, and modals)
 - Idioms and commonly confused words
 - Logical comparisons (as vs. like, fewer vs. less)
 - **Pro Tip:** If you struggle with verbal overall, it's likely a **grammar gap**. Strengthening this foundation will make everything easier.
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Phase 2: Execution & Relentless Practice

1. Targeted Practice (Week 1-4)

- Alternate between RC, CR, and Grammar daily.
- Do timed drills (10 CR, 2 RC passages, grammar exercises per day) and untimed tests for topics that aren't your forte..
- Track errors and categorize them: Concept unclear? Misread the question? Fell for a trap?
- Review like a detective—dissect why you got something wrong. (Usually coaches say that the time you spend actively reviewing your performance should be at par or exceed the test time, and they're kinda right)

2. Full-Length Practice Tests (Week 5-6)

- Take **one GMAT Official Practice Exam per week.**
- Simulate test conditions—no distractions, full focus.
- Review thoroughly: Identify weak spots and drill them hard.
- Start working on **pacing**—aim for **2:00 per CR and 2:30-3:00 reading per RC passage.**

3. The Final 2 Weeks: Superhuman Mode

- Shift focus to **official GMAT questions only.**
 - Drill your weakest section (but don't neglect strengths).
 - **Test stamina:** Take 2-3 back-to-back verbal sections in one sitting.
 - **Fine-tune your timing strategy.**
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Make your own Study Plan ffs!

To craft a study plan tailored for YOU, use this **self-assessment framework** (use the template below)

1. **Set Your Target:** What score are you aiming for? V80? V84? V88? V90?
 2. **Self-Grade on a Scale of 1-10:** Evaluate yourself in:
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Critical Reasoning
 - Grammar
 3. **Identify Weaknesses:** What specifically are you unsure about?
 - **RC:** Author's tone, premises vs. conclusions, inference traps?
 - **CR:** Strengthen/weaken questions, negation technique, close-call eliminations?
 - **Grammar:** Parallelism, subjunctive mood, verb tense inconsistencies?
 4. **Time Management:** Do you struggle under pressure but perform well untimed? (If yes, do more untimed practice first.)
 5. **Practice Habits:** Are you doing:
 - Only timed tests?
 - Only untimed tests?
 - No tests at all?
 6. **Reading Speed:** Are RCs eating up too much time?
 7. **Answering Style:** Do you:
 - Pick answers based on gut instinct?
 - Eliminate all wrong choices first?
 8. **Performance Tracking:**
 - Do you record your mistakes?
 - Do you review practice tests thoroughly?
 - Do you even take practice tests?
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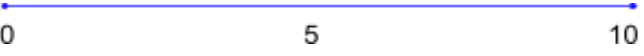
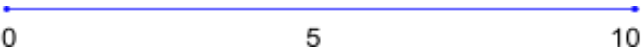
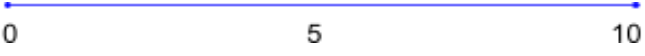
The Ultimate GMAT Verbal Self-Audit

Mark in the boxes

1. What's your Target?

V80	V84	V88	V90
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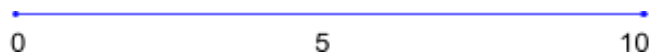
2. Self-Grade on a Scale of 1-10:

- Reading Comprehension 
- Critical Reasoning 
- Grammar 

3. Identify Weaknesses: (circle all that apply)

- **RC:** Author's tone, premises vs. conclusions, inference traps
- **CR:** Strengthen/weaken questions, negation technique, close-call eliminations
- **Grammar:** Parallelism, subjunctive mood, verb tense inconsistencies

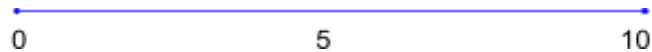
4. Grade yourself in Time Management:



5. Practice Habits:

- ☐ Only timed tests
- ☐ Only untimed tests
- ☐ No tests at all

6. Reading Speed:



7. Answering Style: Do you:

- ☐ Pick answers based on gut instinct
- ☐ Eliminate all wrong choices first
- ☐ Find the most logical answer and stick with it without knowing why others are explicitly wrong (ik, mark it!)

8. Performance Tracking:

- ☐ I record your mistakes, in excel or something
 - ☐ I review practice tests thoroughly
 - ☐ I don't even take many practice tests to gauge my performance
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The Bottom Line

If you follow this plan with **discipline, strategy, and ruthless execution**, a V90 isn't just possible—it's inevitable. Treat your GMAT Verbal prep like a high-stakes business deal: analyze, optimize, and execute flawlessly.

Good luck—now go conquer Verbal like a boss! 🚀
