

# Interactive Flashcards for GMAT Sentence Correction

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# Parts of Speech – The Basics

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Noun

- Person, place, thing or abstract idea

## Pronoun

- Replaces a noun

## Verb

- Action or state of being

**Action Verb** – what someone/something is doing

**Linking Verb** – connects noun to additional information

## Adjective

- Provides information about a noun or pronoun
- What kind? Which one? How many? How much?
- Also known as a **modifier**



# Parts of Speech – The Basics

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Adverb

- Modifies a verb, adjective, phrase, clause, or adverb
- Where? When? How? How often? Why? How long? How likely? To what degree?
- Also known as a **modifier**

## Preposition

- Connects nouns/pronouns/etc. to other words
- Information about location, direction, time
- Logical relationship

*above, about, across, after, against, along, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, beyond, by, despite, down, during, except, for, from, in, inside, into, like, near, of, off, on, onto, out, outside, over, past, since, through, to, toward, under, until, up, upon, with, within, without, . . .*

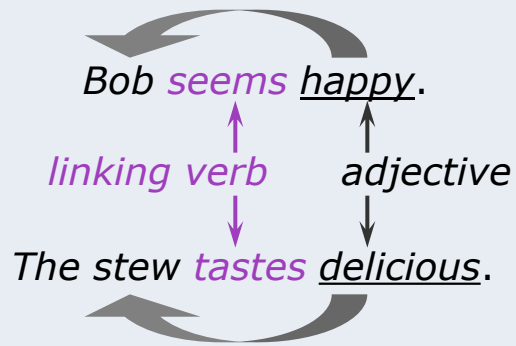
**Most common:** *at, before, by, during, except, for, from, in, into, of, off, on, onto, out, over, since, through, to, under, until, with, within, without*



# Grammar Tidbit – Linking Verbs

(watch the entire video [here](#))

**A modifier that follows a linking verb must be an adjective.**



# Parts of Speech – Subjects and Objects

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Subject

- Every verb requires a person/thing to perform the action
- That person/thing = the subject
- Ask “Who or what is performing the action?”

*Dharma tickled the neighbor's horse.*

↑      ↑

subject      verb

*Kofi ran to the kitchen and ate all of the mustard.*

↑      ↑      ↑

subject      verb      verb

*Paola's fear of cotton is a source of delight among her friends.*

↑      ↑

subject      verb

*Behind the pickle factory sits Edna Miller's beautiful home.*

↑      ↑

verb      subject



# Parts of Speech – Subjects and Objects (watch the entire video [here](#))

## Object

- Receives the action of the verb
- Object ≈ any noun that is **not** the subject

*Dharma tickled the neighbor's horse.*

↑  
verb

↑  
object

*The king and queen enjoy heavy metal music.*

↑  
verb

↑  
object





# Parts of Speech – Clauses

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Clause

- Group of words with subject **and** verb
- Independent clauses and dependent clauses
- Independent clauses express a **complete thought**

*Jack and Jill went up the hill.*

↑                      ↑  
subject              verb

*Gertrude stole the ball from the opposing player and ran home.*

↑                      ↑    ↑  
subject              verb    verb



# Parts of Speech – Clauses

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Clause

- Group of words with subject **and** verb
- Independent clauses and dependent clauses
- Dependent (subordinate) clauses **do not** express complete thought

*After my father broke the lawnmower, I cut the lawn with scissors.*

↑      ↑      ↑      ↑  
subject    verb    subject    verb

*My barber sued me because I used the wrong conditioner.*

↑      ↑      ↑      ↑  
subject    verb    subject    verb

## Keywords

*after, although, as, as if, because, before, despite, even if, even though, how, if, in order to, once, since, that, though, unless, until, whatever, when, whenever, where, whether, which, while, who, why*



# Parts of Speech – Clauses

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Sentences with two independent clauses

- Separate with a semicolon  
*Nangila loves Paris; Kammi loves Rome.*
- Separate with comma and a coordinating conjunction  
- *and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet*  
*Nangila loves Paris, **and** Kammi loves Rome.*  
*Nangila loves Paris, **but** Kammi loves Rome.*
- Write as two separate sentences  
*Nangila loves Paris. Kammi loves Rome.*

## Semicolons

- On the GMAT, semicolons separate independent clauses
- Spot semicolon → confirm independent clauses



# Gerunds

(watch the entire video [here](#))

*run**ning**, bor**ing**, dan**cing**, smok**ing**,  
collect**ing**, look**ing**, read**ing**, help**ing**...*



## Gerund

(noun)

- Skydiving is fun.
- Jay enjoys swimming.
- Smoking costs a lot of money.
- My favorite pastime is stamp collecting.



## Present participle

(verb, adjective)

- Diego is dancing.
- Lee is boring.

# Parts of Speech – Phrases

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Phrase

- Group of words **missing** a subject and/or verb
- Does not express a complete thought

### Prepositional phrase

- Begins with a preposition
- Modifies a noun or a verb

### Appositive phrase

- Renames a noun next to it
- Always functions as a noun

### Gerund phrase

- Begins with a gerund
- Always functions as a noun
- Can function as subject or object

### Infinitive phrase

- Begins with an infinitive
- **to** + **verb**
- Functions as a noun, adjective or adverb

### Participial phrase

- Begins with a present or past participle
- Participle: verb ending in **ed** or **ing**
- Always modifies a noun
- Note: some participles do not end in **ed** or **ing**



# Participles

(watch the entire video [here](#))

- Participle: form of a verb that does not function as a verb on its own
- A participle functions as an adjective

*Yanni boiled an egg.*

↑  
verb

*Yanni ate a boiled egg.*

↑  
verb

↑  
participle

*Kevin laughs at danger.*

↑  
verb

*The laughing clown jumped in the car.*

↑  
participle

↑  
verb

---

*Vern is swimming in the city championship.*

↑  
verb phrase

*The brothers are cheering.*

↑  
verb phrase

*Fiona has visited Miami.*

↑  
verb phrase



# Participles

(watch the entire video [here](#))

- Participle: form of a verb that does not function as a verb on its own
- A participle functions as an adjective

<b>Verb</b>	<b>Present Participle</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
<i>learn</i>	<i>learning</i>	<i>learned</i>
<i>jump</i>	<i>jumping</i>	<i>jumped</i>
<i>chop</i>	<i>copping</i>	<i>chopped</i>
<i>listen</i>	<i>listening</i>	<i>listened</i>
<i>start</i>	<i>starting</i>	<i>started</i>
<i>choose</i>	<i>choosing</i>	<i>chosen</i>
<i>sing</i>	<i>singing</i>	<i>sung</i>
<i>be</i>	<i>being</i>	<i>been</i>
<i>weave</i>	<i>weaving</i>	<i>woven</i>



# Eliminating Fluff

(watch the entire video [here](#))

- Remove/ignore:
  - adjectives and adverbs
  - phrases functioning as adjectives and adverbs
  - appositive phrases
  - dependent clauses

*The government's tireless efforts to preserve the blue-finned wigglesfish, the smallest species in the bluefish family, have negatively impacted the local fishing industry.*



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# Subject-Verb Agreement – Part I

(watch the entire video [here](#))

- Singular subjects need singular verbs
- Plural subjects need plural verbs

My brother enjoys cake.  
↑            ↑  
singular    singular

My brothers enjoy cake.  
↑            ↑  
plural      plural

Oscar plays tennis.  
↑            ↑  
singular    singular

Bert and Ernie play tennis.  
↑            ↑  
plural      plural

Locate each verb in a sentence and confirm agreement with the subject

- **Ignore** additive phrases.

singular  
↓  
The leaking roof, *in addition to the broken windows*,  
have has made the house difficult to sell.  
↑  
singular



# Subject-Verb Agreement – Part I

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Additive phrases

- *accompanied by* \_\_\_\_\_
- *along with* \_\_\_\_\_
- *as well as* \_\_\_\_\_
- *in addition to* \_\_\_\_\_
- *including* \_\_\_\_\_
- *together with* \_\_\_\_\_

George's many *talents*, *together with his charm*, *make* ✓  
him very popular.

*plural* ↓  
*(additive phrase)*  
*plural* ↓

**Ignore additive  
phrases**



# Subject-Verb Agreement – Part I

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Collective noun

- refers to an entire group of people/animals/things
- almost always singular
- Sometimes (although rarely) plural

**Function as a unit → singular**

**Function individually → plural**

The committee **is** meeting next door.

➡ The orchestra members **are** tuning **their** instruments.

➡ The jury members **are** arguing among **themselves**.



# Subject-Verb Agreement – Part I

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Clauses and phrases as subjects

- A phrase/clause **subject** is always singular

*singular*      *singular*  
↓                      ↓  
Eating vegetables **is** are good for you.

*singular*                      *singular*  
↓                                      ↓  
To watch Aunt Peg make gravy **is** an eye-opening  
experience.

*singular*                                      *singular*  
↓    ↓  
Whether the twins drive or fly to Baltimore **is** no  
one's concern



# Subject-Verb Agreement – Part I

(watch the entire video [here](#))

- Singular subjects need singular verbs
- Plural subjects need plural verbs
- Ignore additive phrases
  - *accompanied by* \_\_\_\_\_
  - *along with* \_\_\_\_\_
  - *as well as* \_\_\_\_\_
  - *in addition to* \_\_\_\_\_
  - *including* \_\_\_\_\_
  - *together with* \_\_\_\_\_
- *the number of* \_\_\_\_\_ → singular
- *a number of* \_\_\_\_\_ → plural
- Collective nouns
  - *Members function as a unit* → singular
  - *Members function individually* → plural
- A phrase/clause **subject** is always singular



# Subject-Verb Agreement – Part II

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Indefinite pronoun

- Does not replace any specific person/thing/amount

**Always singular:** *anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, every, everybody, everyone, everything, less, little, much, neither, no one, nobody, nothing, somebody, someone, something, whatever, whoever, whichever*

**Always plural:** *both, few, fewer, many, others, several*

**Dual-purpose:** *any, all, more, most, none, some*

- Dual-purpose pronouns (*any, all, more, most, none, some*)
  - check the noun in the prepositional phrase immediately following the pronoun
- *Neither/nor, either/or, or*
  - check the noun closest to the verb



# Pronouns – Part I

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Personal pronouns

**Subjective:** *I, you, he, she, it, we, they*

**Objective:** *me, you, him, her, it, us, them*

**Possessive:** *my, your, his, her, its, our, their*

- Confirm:
  - pronoun has an antecedent
  - pronoun-antecedent relationship makes sense
  - no ambiguity regarding the antecedent



# Pronouns – Part II

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Demonstrative pronouns

- *this, that, these, those*
- Identify or point to nouns
- *this/these*: nearby
- *that/those*: farther away

*those/that*: do not necessarily **replace** antecedents

*it/them*: **fully replace** antecedents

Rule: no ambiguity regarding the intended antecedent

**Possible exception**: parallel clauses





# Modifiers – Part I

(watch the entire video [here](#))

- Noun modifiers: *What kind? Which one? How many? How much?*
- Verb modifiers: *Where? When? How? How often? Why? How long? How likely? To what degree?*

## Noun modifiers

- A noun modifier **should touch** the noun it modifies
- Begins with noun modifier → ask question at comma

## Verb modifiers

- Place close enough to prevent ambiguity



# Modifiers – Part II

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Relative clauses

- Clause: group of words with subject **and** verb
- A relative clause begins with: *that, whatever, when, whenever, where, wherever, which, whichever, who, whom, whose, whoever, whomever*

## Who/Whom/Whoever/Whomever

- Use **who/whoever** for the **subject** in the clause
- Use **whom/whomever** for an **object** in the clause

## Using “that” to refer to people

- Clauses beginning with **that** cannot modify people

## Whose

- Clauses beginning with **whose** can modify non-people

## Where

- Clauses beginning with **where** can modify a location, but not something abstract

### **That** clauses vs. **Which** clauses

- That → restrictive clause
  - narrows topic to a subset of things
  - use when the topic is **unclear** up to that point
- Which → non-restrictive clause
  - does not limit topic of discussion
  - use when the topic is **clear** up to that point

### Non-restrictive clauses beginning with **which**

- Separated by commas
- Modify **nouns** only
- Must **immediately follow** the noun it is modifying

# Modifiers – Part IV

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Punctuating Modifiers

- Modifier **vital** → no commas
- Modifier **not** vital → commas

Without the modifier, is the noun under discussion clearly identified?

## Word Order

- A noun modifier should touch the noun it modifies
- Modifier improperly separated → *misplaced modifier*
- Frequently misplaced: *almost, even, exactly, hardly, just, nearly, only, simply*



# Dropping “that”

(watch the entire video [here](#))

- If **that** is the **subject** of a clause, it must remain
- If **that** is the **object** of a clause, it is optional

object



*This is the shed **that** Jake built.* ➡ **that** is optional

*This is the shed Jake built.*

subject



*Jake built the car **that** won the race.* ➡ **that** is not optional

*Jake built the car won the race. ❌*




# Exceptions to the “Touch Rule”

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Exceptions to the “Touch Rule”

- An appositive phrase inserted between noun modifier and its corresponding noun
- A **vital** noun modifier inserted between noun modifier and its corresponding noun

 (vital)  
*The workers at the factory, exhausted from working a 12-hour shift, were forced to walk home. ✓*

*Exhausted from working a 12-hour shift, the workers at the factory were forced to walk home. ✓*

*The factory workers, exhausted from working a 12-hour shift, were forced to walk home. ✓*



# Parallelism – Part I

(watch the entire video [here](#))

- Parallelism: **similar elements** in a series expressed in **similar form**
- Watch for common keywords: *and, but, or*
- Watch for common correlative conjunctions
  - *both x and y*
  - *either x or y*
  - *just as x so y*
  - *neither x nor y*
  - *not x but y*
  - *not only x but also y*
  - *the more x the more y*
  - *x rather than y*
  - *from x to y*



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# Parallelism – Part II

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Relative clauses

- Should begin with the same word

*For years, Manny searched for the anonymous man who donated millions of dollars to the orphanage that Manny founded and financed the construction of the local hospital. ❌*

➡ *For years, Manny searched for the anonymous man **who** donated millions of dollars to the orphanage that Manny founded and **who** financed the construction of the local hospital. ✔*





# Parallelism – Part III

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Exceptions

- Infinitives (*to run, to ski, to think,...*)
  - Use **to** throughout, or before first verb only
  - Does not apply to correlative conjunctions
- Ending is fully understood

*Buzz cannot explain why robots exposed to radiation are able to function properly, and why those not exposed to radiation are not able to function properly.✓*

*Buzz cannot explain why robots exposed to radiation are able to function properly, and why those not so exposed are not.✓*



# Comparisons – Part I

(watch the entire video [here](#))

- Comparison: discussion of similarities or differences
- Keywords: *as, compared to, contrast, different from, more, less, like, similar, unlike...*
- Comparatives: *larger, slower, higher, colder, longer...*
- Comparison must be logical
- Comparison must be ambiguity-free

*Max dislikes broccoli more than his girlfriend. ❌*

➡ *Max dislikes broccoli more than his girlfriend dislikes broccoli. ✔*

➡ *Max dislikes broccoli more than his girlfriend **does**. ✔*



## Comparisons – Part II

(watch the entire video [here](#))

- Placeholders rely on parallelism
- Replace **noun** elements with *that, those, it...*
- Replace **verb** elements with *do, does,...*
- Omit words without using a placeholder
- Do not omit *other* or *else* when comparing a noun with a group to which the noun belongs



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# Comparisons – Part III

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## *like* vs. *as*

- Use *like* to compare nouns
  - followed by noun, pronoun, gerund, or noun phrase
- Use *as* to compare verbs
  - followed by clause

*Belinda sings like/as an angel.*

➡ *Belinda sings like an angel.* ✓

➡ *Belinda sings as an angel sings.* ✓

➡ *Belinda sings like an angel sings.* ✗

## *like* vs. *such as*

- Replace *such as* with *for example*
- Replace *like* with *similar to*



# Verb Tenses – Introduction

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Simple tenses

- **Simple past tense:** describes a specific action that was completed in the past

*Ben **watched** a movie yesterday.*

*The car **exploded**.*

*Kyle **lived** in Spain.*

- **Simple present tense:** describes a repeated or habitual action (may or may not be happening now)

*Lyle **drives** a taxi.*

*Jenny and Fran **live** in Paris.*

*The team **meets** every Tuesday.*

- **Simple future tense:** an action that will occur in the future
  - **will/shall** + base verb (**will** = **shall**)

*George **will play** tennis tomorrow.*

*We **shall defend** our island, whatever the cost may be.*



# Verb Tenses – Progressive Tenses

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Progressive (continuous) tenses

- **Past progressive tense:** describes an action that was occurring when another action occurred
  - *was/were* + present participle (verb-**ing**)
  - Lee lost his watch while he **was running**.*
  - Sarah missed the test because she **was sleeping**.*
- **Present progressive tense:** describes an action occurring at this very moment
  - *is/am/are* + present participle (verb-**ing**)
  - Jane **is attending** a concert tonight. ☹️*
  - ➡️ *Jane **will attend** a concert tonight. ✅*
- **Future progressive tense:** describes an action that will be in progress at some point in the future
  - *shall be/will be* + present participle (verb-**ing**)
  - Zeke **will be running** tomorrow. ☹️*
  - Zeke **will run** tomorrow. ✅*

**Avoid the present progressive tense when possible**

**The future progressive tense is usually incorrect**



# Verb Tenses – Perfect Tenses

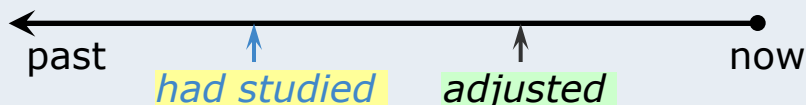
(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Perfect tenses

- **Past perfect tense:** describes a completed action that occurred before some other completed action in the past

- *had* + past participle

*Karen quickly **adjusted** to life in Paris because she **had studied** French.*



If the order is obvious, we need not use the past perfect tense

- **Present perfect tense:** describes an action that occurred at indefinite time and may continue into the present/future

- *has/have* + past participle

*Vince **has washed** his hands.*

- **Future perfect tense:** describes a future action that will be completed before another future action occurs

- *will have* + past participle

*Warren **will have arrived** at work before his boss **gets** out of bed.*



# Conditional Sentences

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## 3 types of conditional sentences

1<sup>st</sup> conditional: *If Wanda studies, she will ace the test.*

- **If** simple present **then** simple future
- **If** something happens **then** something else **will** happen

2<sup>nd</sup> conditional: *If Wanda studied, she would ace the test.*

- **If** simple past **then** clause beginning with would
- **If** something happened **then** something **would** happen

3<sup>rd</sup> conditional: *If Wanda had studied, she would have aced the test.*

- **If** past perfect **then** clause beginning with would have
- **If** something had happened **then** something **would have** happened





# Idioms

(watch the entire video [here](#))

- Idiom: a construction with no grammatical basis
- Download idiom list from <http://www.gmatprepnw.com/module/gmat-sentence-correction>

## Common GMAT Idioms

accuse A of B	define A as
agree with	descend from
allow for	depend on
associate with	depends on
assure that	determined
attribute A to B	different from
based on	distinguish
because of	distinguish



# Concision

(watch the entire video [here](#))

- The best answer expresses the message clearly and **concisely**
- **concisely**: no complicated expressions, and no superfluous words

*in close proximity to* = *near*

*at that point in time* = *then*

*in spite of the fact that* = *although*

*in the event that* = *if*

*has the ability to* = *can*

*with reference to the fact that* = *concerning*

*Sales have experienced a ~~downward~~ decline.*

*Kirk relied on his ~~past~~ experience.*

*The vote was ~~completely~~ unanimous.*

*The dog circled ~~around~~ the cat.*

*Lenny combined the ingredients ~~together~~.*

*Masako reverted ~~back~~ to her old tricks.*

*The company introduced several ~~new~~ innovations.*



# Word Choice – Part I

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## Lay vs. Lie

- Use **lay** with a stated object receiving the action
- Use **lie** with no stated object receiving the action

## Between vs. Among

- Use **between** when discussing two entities
- Use **among** when discussing more than two entities, or when the number of entities is unclear

## Comparatives vs. Superlatives

- Use a **comparative** when comparing two entities
- Use a **superlative** when comparing more than two entities, or when the number of entities is unclear

A comparative must be accompanied by **than**



# Word Choice – Part II

(watch the entire video [here](#))

## If vs. Whether

- Use **if** in a conditional sentence
- Use **whether** to show two possible alternatives

**A conditional sentence can be reversed**

*Peg will scream if you break that bowl. ✓*

➡ *If you break that bowl, then Peg will scream. ✓*

*Sarita cannot remember **if** she paid the phone bill.*

➡ *If Sarita paid the phone bill, then she cannot remember. ??*

*Sarita cannot remember **whether** she paid the phone bill. ✓*



# Word Choice – Part III

(watch the entire video [here](#))

- Use **fewer**, **many**, and **number** for countable nouns
- Use **less**, **much**, and **amount** for uncountable nouns
- Exception: When treating a collection as a single entity, treat the collection as an uncountable noun (**money, distance or time**)

## rather than vs. instead of

- Use **instead of** when replacing something with another thing
- Use **rather than** to show preference

**rather than** is preferred

*Darren's company now supplies every employee with a pen **instead of** a pencil.✓*

*Cleo decided to run **rather than** walk.✓*

## affect vs. effect

- **affect**: to influence
- **effect**: a change resulting from some action



# Passive Sentences vs. Active Sentences (watch the entire video [here](#))

- Passive: the subject does not perform the action
- Active: the subject performs the real action

## Possible justifications for a passive sentence

- noun performing the action is obvious/unknown
- to emphasize a certain outcome

given two grammatically-correct sentences



choose active over passive



# Sentence Correction Tips

(watch the entire video [here](#))

- Do not read answer choice A
- Do not change the intended meaning of the sentence
- Do not discount “wordy” sentences
- Simplify sentences by removing/ignoring “fluff”
  - adjectives
  - adverbs
  - appositive phrases
  - dependent clauses
  - phrases functioning as adjectives
  - phrases functioning as adverbs
- Beware of multiple errors
- Do not worry about spelling
- Trust your ear . . . to a certain extent
- Before selecting an answer choice, reread the entire sentence



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