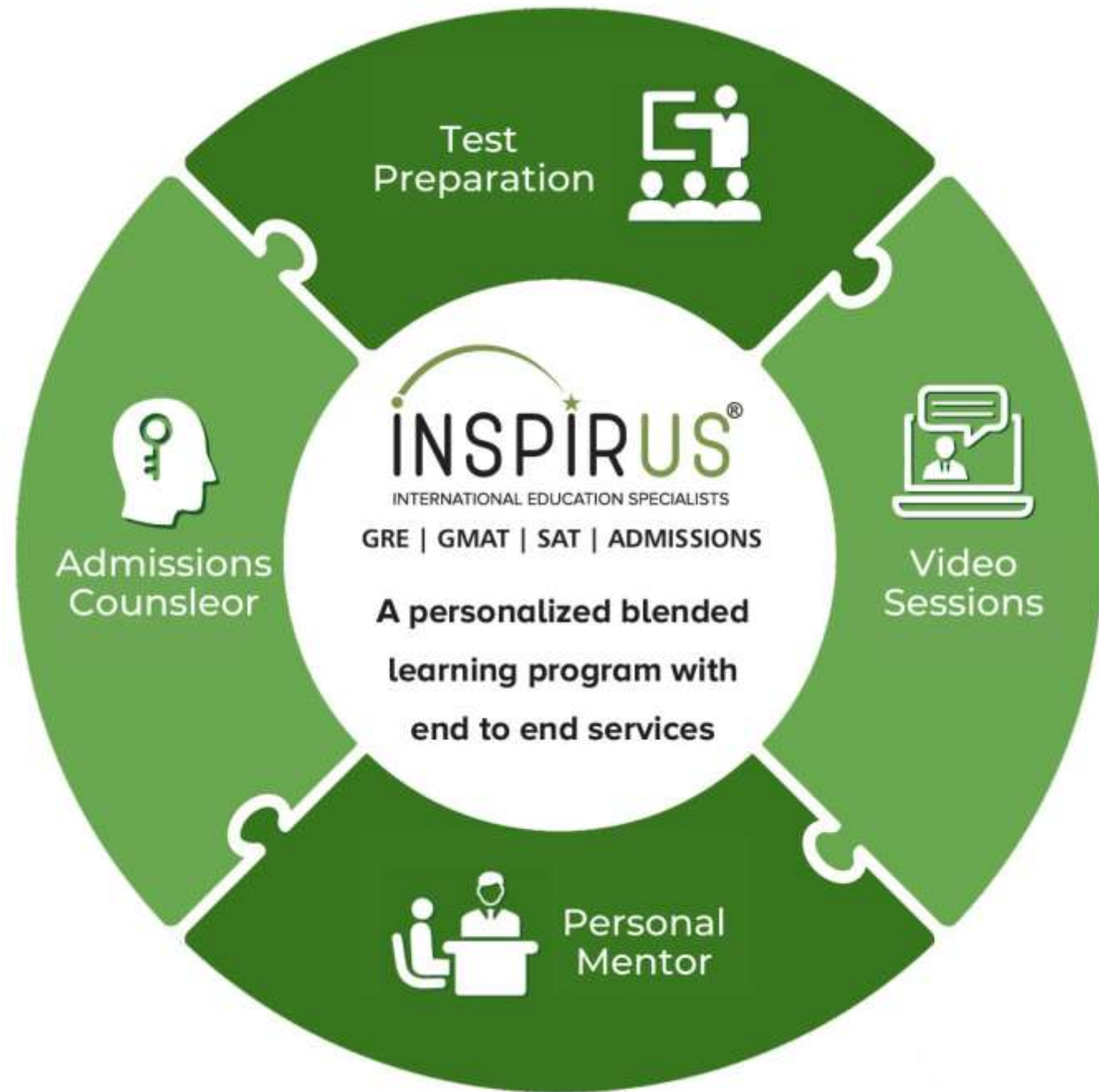


# GMAT Sentence Correction 1



# INTRODUCTION

- SENTENCE CORRECTION questions in GMAT measure two broad aspects of the test-taker's language proficiency:
  - Correct expression, referring to sentences that are grammatically and structurally sound.
  - Effective expression, referring to sentences that effectively express an idea or relationship clearly, concisely, and grammatically.
- Each Sentence Correction question presents a sentence, part of which is underlined. Beneath the sentence you will find five ways of phrasing the underlined part. **The first way repeats the original**, while the other four are different. You will determine if the original is the best choice, or whether one of the others is better.
- When you choose your answer, pay attention to grammar, word choice, and sentence construction. The best answer is the one that produces the most effective sentence—one that is clear, exact, and free of grammatical errors.

# OVERALL STRATEGY

- **Read the entire sentence carefully.** Try to understand the intention behind the sentence.
- **Evaluate the underlined part of the sentence.** Focus on that part, seeking errors and corrections before you read your answer choices.
- **Determine how well each choice corrects the original sentence.** Do the other choices fix what you consider to be wrong with the original sentence?
- **Consider all aspects of the sentence correctness and effectiveness.** You will be looking for general clarity, grammatical and idiomatic usage, language economy and precision, and appropriate diction.
- **Substitute your answer choice back into the sentence.** Remember that some sentences will require no corrections. Does your choice fit with the rest of the sentence?

# USING THE SPLIT

- Read the prompt sentence carefully, noting any grammatical mistakes and any possible areas for improvement. You should NEVER have to read Answer Choice (A), since it's identical the underline text in the sentence.
- After reading the sentence, you should not read but scan Choices (B), (C), (D), & (E), looking for patterns.
- The most efficient way to tackle GMAT SC is to eliminate answer choices in batches using splits. The most common splits are 3-2 splits, although others appear (4-1, 2-2-1, etc.)

Herbert, not as his many friends, do not enjoy watching football.

- ✗. not as his many friends, do not
- ✗. not as his many friends, does not
- ✗. unlike his many friends, do not
- ✓. unlike his many friends, does not
- ✗. unlike his many friends, nor does he

‘Herbert does not enjoy watching football’ is the Main Idea.

‘unlike his many friends’ is a better contrast than ‘not as his many friends’

# PARTS OF SPEECH

- ‘PARTS OF SPEECH’ helps us understand the functions of different words in a sentence. There are Eight parts of speech.

NOUN                      It gives us the NAME of a person, place, feeling, group, object etc.

PRONOUN                It Replaces a Noun to avoid repetition.

ADJECTIVE              It Describes/Modifies a Noun or a Pronoun.

VERB                     It gives us an Action, an Event or a State of Being.

ADVERB                 It Describes/Modifies a Verb, an Adjective or another Adverb.

PREPOSITION          It helps us Link or Connect two words or ideas, without joining them.

CONJUNCTION          It helps us Join two ideas or sentences.

INTERJECTION          It Expresses the Feelings or Emotion of the author.

# VERB

- Every sentence in English must have a Verb.

1. The boy jumped over the fence.

← ACTION

2. The show starts in two hours.

← EVENT

3. The child looks tired due to the exertion.

← STATE OF BEING

- HELPER VERB = It is a part of the full verb but not the main action.

1. I may complete the task.

2. He must help you out of this crisis.

3. She will deliver the project tomorrow.

# VOICE

- There are two types of Voice: **ACTIVE VOICE** & **PASSIVE VOICE**.
  - HOW TO IDENTIFY THE VOICE OF A SENTENCE?

Example: The children were served lunch in the auditorium.

Ask yourself: Does the subject perform the action?

Yes = Active Voice, No = Passive Voice.

 **NO = PASSIVE**

Other Examples:

**VERB + BY = PASSIVE**

(1) The assistants carried the files to the seminar.

 **ACTIVE**

(2) Lana's wallet was stolen by a passenger.

 **PASSIVE**

(3) My carpet was ruined last night.

 **PASSIVE**

# GERUND & INFINITIVE

My sister loves swimming.

My sister loves to swim.

We can replace ‘Swimming’ or ‘To Swim’ with ‘Chocolates’.

CHOCOLATE = NOUN

The original form of both ‘swimming’ and ‘to swim’ is the verb ‘Swim’, but they both act as Nouns here.

Verb + ing → NOUN = GERUND

to + Verb → NOUN = INFINITIVE

**No +ing word can be a Verb without a Helper Verb**

**GERUNDS and INFINITIVES can act as SUBJECTS.**



# PARTICIPLE

We found the sinking ship.

We found the sunken ship.



We can replace ‘Sinking’ or ‘Sunken’ with ‘Beautiful’.

BEAUTIFUL = ADJECTIVE

The original form of both ‘sinking’ and ‘sunken’ is the verb ‘Sink’, but they both act as Adjectives here.

Verb → Adjective = Participle

Participle + ing = Present, Participle + n/en/ed = Past

**Participles often act as modifiers. However, a uniformity in the usage (Parallel Construction) is crucial.**

# PHRASE VS CLAUSE

## PHRASE

## CLAUSE

Similarity: They are both meaningful expressions.

What is the difference?

A Phrase does not have a Verb.  
Hence, it cannot be a sentence.

Eg: My father's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday /  
Orange and lemon ice-cream

A Clause always has a Verb.  
Hence, it can be a sentence.

Full Sentence or  
Main Clause

Eg: I love to dance.

Part of a Sentence or  
Subordinate Clause

Eg: As I was unwell

# CLAUSES

For every SENTENCE CORRECTION question,  
identify the **SUBJECT** and the **MAIN CLAUSE**.

# CLAUSES

Q1. The colorization of black-and-white films by computers is defended by those who own the film rights, for the process can mean increased revenues for them; many others in the film industry, however, contend that the technique degrades major works of art, which they liken to putting lipstick on a Greek statue.

- (A) which they liken to putting lipstick on a Greek statue
- (B) which they liken to a Greek statue with lipstick put on it
- (C) which they liken to lipstick put on a Greek statue
- (D) likening it to a Greek statue with lipstick put on it
- (E) likening it to putting lipstick on a Greek statue

# CLAUSES

## Main Clause 01

Q1. The colorization of black-and-white films by computers is defended by those who own the film rights, for the process can mean increased revenues for them; many others in the film industry, however, contend that the technique degrades major

## Main Clause 02

✗ works of art, which they liken to putting lipstick on a Greek statue.

✗ which they liken to putting lipstick on a Greek statue

✗ which they liken to a Greek statue with lipstick put on it

✗ which they liken to lipstick put on a Greek statue

✗ likening it to a Greek statue with lipstick put on it

✓ likening it to putting lipstick on a Greek statue

The action of ‘colorization’ cannot be likened to ‘a Greek statue’, but to the action of ‘putting lipstick’.

The “works of art” are not similar to “putting lipstick” – the process of “colorization” is.

Main Clause, Gerund Clause / Phrase = Cause-Effect relationship.

# CLAUSES

Q2. Simply because they are genetically engineered does not make it any more likely for plants to become an invasive or persistent weed, according to a decade-long study published in the journal *Nature*.

- (A) because they are genetically engineered does not make it any more likely for plants to
- (B) because it is genetically engineered does not make a plant any more likely to
- (C) being genetically engineered does not make it any more likely that plants will
- (D) being genetically engineered does not make a plant any more likely to
- (E) being genetically engineered does not make a plant any more likely that it will

# CLAUSES

Q2. Simply because they are genetically engineered does not make it any more likely for plants to become an invasive or persistent weed, according to a decade-long study published in the journal *Nature*.

- (X) because they are genetically engineered does not make it any more likely for plants to
- (X) because it is genetically engineered does not make a plant any more likely to
- (X) being genetically engineered does not make it <sup>becomes vague</sup> any more likely that plants will
- (T) being genetically engineered does not make a plant any more likely to
- (X) being genetically engineered does not make a plant any more likely that it will

**Gerund Phrase Subject**

There is only one VERB. Hence, there is only one Clause.

A clause with 'because' is a Subordinate Clause. So, there is no Main Clause. Hence, it is a wrong sentence.

# CLAUSES

- Q3. As the price of gasoline rises, which makes substituting alcohol distilled from cereal grain attractive, the prices of bread and livestock feed are sure to increase.
- (A) which makes substituting alcohol distilled from cereal grain attractive
  - (B) which makes substituting the distillation of alcohol from cereal grain attractive
  - (C) making alcohol distilled from cereal grain an attractive substitute
  - (D) making an attractive substitution of alcohol distilled from cereal grain
  - (E) which makes distilling alcohol from cereal grain an attractive substitute.



# CLAUSES

Q3. As the price of gasoline rises, which makes substituting alcohol distilled from cereal grain attractive, the prices of bread and livestock feed are sure to increase.

- (X) which makes substituting alcohol distilled from cereal grain attractive
- (X) which makes substituting the distillation of alcohol from cereal grain attractive
- (✓) making alcohol distilled from cereal grain an attractive substitute
- (X) making an attractive substitution of alcohol distilled from cereal grain
- (X) which makes distilling alcohol from cereal grain an attractive substitute.

‘which’ does not refer to the term ‘rises’. It refers to the whole process of increase in petrol prices.

Main Clause, Gerund Clause / Phrase = Cause-Effect relationship.

‘D’ is a very awkward construction.

# CLAUSES

- Q4. Polio, although it is eradicated in the United States, it continues elsewhere and is able to be brought into the country by visitors.
- (A) Polio, although it is eradicated in the United States, it continues elsewhere and is able to be
  - (B) Polio, although eradicated in the United States, it still continues elsewhere and can be
  - (C) Although still continuing elsewhere, polio has been eradicated in the United States and could be
  - (D) Although having been eradicated in the United States, polio still continues elsewhere and is capable of being
  - (E) Although eradicated in the United States, polio continues elsewhere and could be

# CLAUSES

## Subordinate Clause

Q4. Polio, although it is eradicated in the United States, it continues elsewhere and is able to be brought into the country by visitors.

(✗) Polio, although it is eradicated in the United States, it continues elsewhere and is able to be If we ignore the subordinate clause, the main clause becomes 'Polio it continues'

(✗) Polio, although eradicated in the United States, it still continues elsewhere and can be

(✗) Although still continuing elsewhere, polio has been eradicated in the United States and could be 'still continuing' is awkward. Also, the meaning of the sentence is distorted.

(✗) Although having been eradicated in the United States, polio still continues elsewhere and is capable of being Long and tedious construction

(✓) Although eradicated in the United States, polio continues elsewhere and could be

# MODIFIER

A Modifier may be a word, phrase or clause that describes or provides more information about a Subject, without changing the meaning of other words.

**Thumb Rule: A Modifier & Its Correct Subject should be always together.**

# TYPES OF MODIFIERS

**(1) WORD MODIFIERS** – They include Adjectives, Adverbs and Participles.

Eg: (a) We need *approximately* 30 minutes to reach our home.

(b) The company provides *customised* solutions to all its clients.

**(2) PHRASE MODIFIER** – These modifiers usually start with Prepositions, Gerunds, Infinitives and Participles.

Eg: (a) We need somebody *with good character* to deliver the report.

(b) *Seeing the mouse on the floor*, Tara jumped onto a chair.

# TYPES OF MODIFIERS

(3) **CLAUSE MODIFIER** – Only Subordinate Clauses can act as Modifiers.  
[Main Clause contains the subject for the modifier.]

Eg: (a) The young actor, *who won a debut award*, was my father's student.

(b) *Although he was tired*, Raghav helped his mother with the decoration.

## (4) MODIFIERS STARTING WITH RELATIVE PRONOUNS

In GMAT, modifier expressions starting with relative pronouns such as “that”, “which”, “who/whom” almost always refer to the subjects mentioned immediately before “that, which, who, whom etc”.

# “THAT” vs “WHICH” Modifier

- A “That Modifier” introduces information **essential (Relevant and Mandatory)** to the **meaning** of the entire sentence. Hence, a “that modifier” never starts after comma.
- A “Which Modifier” introduces information **not essential (Relevant but Not Mandatory)** to the meaning of the sentence. Hence, a “which modifier” always starts after a comma.

## Examples:

(1) My VLC player does not play video files \_\_\_\_\_ [THAT / ,WHICH] are high definition.

Ask yourself: Does my VLC fail to play all video files? **NO**

Are all video files high definition or only specific ones are? **SPECIFIC**

If I don't say 'are high definition', will the meaning change? **YES**

(2) I have always wanted to see the Taj Mahal \_\_\_\_\_ [THAT / ,WHICH] is situated in Agra.

Ask yourself: Are there multiple Taj Mahals and one of them is in Agra? **NO**

If I don't say 'is situated in Agra', will the meaning change? **NO**

# “THAT” vs “WHICH” Modifier

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Ask yourself: Are there multiple Taj Mahals and one of them is in Agra? **NO**

If I don't say 'is situated in Agra', will the meaning change? **NO**



# **TYPES OF MODIFIER ERRORS**

# MISPLACED MODIFIER

- It implies that the correct subject is present in the sentence, but the modifier is placed next to a wrong subject.
- Rectify the problem simply by rearranging the sentence to place the correct subject and the modifier together.

Example:

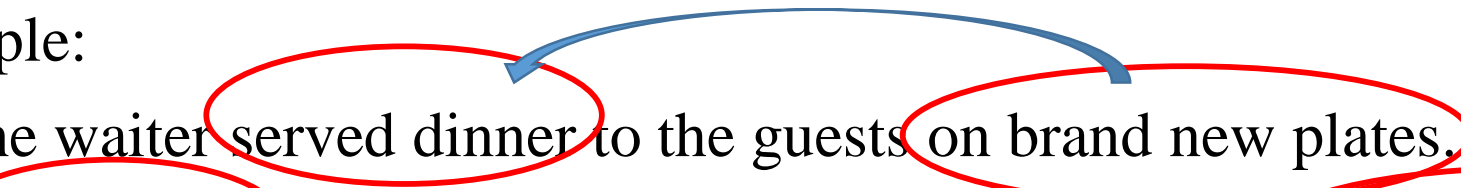
- (1) The waiter served dinner to the guests on brand new plates.
- (2) The trekkers were thrilled to see a field of daffodils climbing up the hill.

# MISPLACED MODIFIER


- It implies that the correct subject is present in the sentence, but the modifier is placed next to a wrong subject.
- Rectify the problem simply by rearranging the sentence to place the correct subject and the modifier together.

Example:

(1) The waiter served dinner to the guests on brand new plates.



(2) The trekkers were thrilled to see a field of daffodils climbing up the hill.



# DANGLING MODIFIER

- It implies that the subject is either missing or given in a wrong form.

Type 1: Being a moonlit night, we decided to visit the Taj Mahal.

In this case, the main clause has a Subject / Doer = We, but that is not the subject for the modifier.

Hence, we add a Subject to the Modifier only.

**Answer: It being a moonlit night, we decided to visit the Taj Mahal.**

Subjects in these cases should be either Nouns or Subject Pronouns [I, We, You, He, She, It, They].

# DANGLING MODIFIER

Type 2: Having completed the work, the TV set was turned on.

In this case, even the main clause does not have a doer. However, we understand that the doer is same for both Modifier and Main Clause.

Type 3: To complete the project, John's holidays were spent in the lab.

In this case, it is evident that the subject for both Modifier and Main Clause is JOHN. However, it is given in the wrong form → John's HOLIDAYS.

In both the above cases, we must ADD a subject between the Main Clause and the Modifier and rewrite the Main Clause (preferably in Active Voice).

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In both the above cases, we must ADD a subject between the Main Clause and the Modifier and rewrite the Main Clause (preferably in Active Voice).

Answer for Type 2: Having completed the task, I turned on the TV set.

Answer for Type 3: To complete the project, John spent his holidays in the lab.

# MODIFIERS

For every SENTENCE CORRECTION question, identify whether it contains a MODIFIER and (if, yes) what is its corresponding SUBJECT.

# MODIFIERS






- Q5. By the same techniques used for genetically enhancing plants, making them disease- or pest-resistant, researchers have been able to increase the amount of protein in potatoes, sweet potatoes, and tobacco.
- (A) By the same techniques used for genetically enhancing plants, making them
  - (B) With the same techniques to genetically enhance plants, so that they are
  - (C) Employing the same techniques used to genetically enhance plants so that they are
  - (D) Employing the same techniques to genetically enhance plants, which makes them
  - (E) Employing the same techniques for genetically enhancing plants that make them



# MODIFIERS

Modifier

Q5. By the same techniques used for genetically enhancing plants, making them disease- or pest-resistant, researchers have been able to increase the amount of protein in potatoes, sweet potatoes, and tobacco. Main Clause

-  (A) By the same techniques used for genetically enhancing plants, making them
-  (B) With the same techniques to genetically enhance plants, so that they are
-  (C) Employing the same techniques used to genetically enhance plants so that they are
-  (D) Employing the same techniques to genetically enhance plants, which makes them
-  (E) Employing the same techniques for genetically enhancing plants that make them

‘Employing the same techniques’ is a better modifier for ‘researchers’ than ‘By/With the same techniques’.

# MODIFIERS

Q6. Not trusting themselves to choose wisely among the wide array of investment opportunities on the market, stockbrokers are helping many people who turn to them to buy stocks that could be easily bought directly.

- (A) stockbrokers are helping many people who turn to them to buy stocks that could be easily
- (B) stockbrokers are helping many people who are turning to them for help in buying stocks that they could easily have
- (C) many people are turning to stockbrokers for help from them to buy stocks easily
- (D) many people are turning to stockbrokers for help to buy stocks that easily could have been
- (E) many people are turning to stockbrokers for help in buying stocks that could easily be

# MODIFIERS

## Modifier

Q6. [Not trusting themselves to choose wisely among the wide array of investment opportunities on the market,] stockbrokers are helping many people who turn to them to buy stocks that could be easily bought directly.

- (X) stockbrokers are helping many people who turn to them to buy stocks that could be easily
- (X) stockbrokers are helping many people who are turning to them for help in buying stocks that they could easily have redundant
- (X) many people are turning to stockbrokers for help from them to buy stocks easily
- (X) many people are turning to stockbrokers for help to buy stocks that easily could have been
- (F) many people are turning to stockbrokers for help in buying stocks that could easily be

The use of 'present perfect' implies that it is a completed action.

# MODIFIERS

- Q7. Although appearing less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins, heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year – they are often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises – heirlooms are more flavorful and thus in increasing demand.
- (A) Although appearing less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins, heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year
  - (B) Although heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year, appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins
  - (C) Although they appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins, heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year
  - (D) Grown from seeds saved during the previous year, heirloom tomatoes appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins
  - (E) Heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year, although they appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins

# MODIFIERS

Modifier 1

Q7. Although appearing less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins,

Modifier 2 heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year – they are often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises – heirlooms are more flavorful and thus in increasing demand. **Main Clause** *If we ignore the modifiers, the main clause becomes 'Heirloom tomatoes they are...'*

(X) Although appearing less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins, heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year

(P) Although heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year, appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins

(X) Although they appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins, heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year

(X) Grown from seeds saved during the previous year, heirloom tomatoes appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins *A separate main clause needs 'and' or ';'.*

(X) Heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year, although they appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins

# MODIFIERS

- Q8. Almost like clones in their similarity to one another, the cheetah species' homogeneity makes them especially vulnerable to disease.
- (A) the cheetah species' homogeneity makes them especially vulnerable to disease
  - (B) the cheetah species is especially vulnerable to disease because of its homogeneity
  - (C) the homogeneity of the cheetah species makes it especially vulnerable to disease
  - (D) homogeneity makes members of the cheetah species especially vulnerable to disease
  - (E) members of the cheetah species are especially vulnerable to disease because of their homogeneity

# MODIFIERS

Modifier

Q8. [Almost like clones in their similarity to one another,] the cheetah species' homogeneity makes them especially vulnerable to disease.

(X) the cheetah species' homogeneity makes them especially vulnerable to disease

(X) the cheetah species is especially vulnerable to disease because of its homogeneity

‘the cheetah species’ is Singular, but the pronoun used in the modifier is ‘their’.

(X) the homogeneity of the cheetah species makes it especially vulnerable to disease

(X) homogeneity makes members of the cheetah species especially vulnerable to disease

(F) members of the cheetah species are especially vulnerable to disease because of their homogeneity

What are ‘like clones in THEIR similarity’?

Beware of apostrophes! In “the cheetah species' homogeneity”, the subject is ‘homogeneity’.

# MODIFIERS

- Q9. Japan is a culture of accommodation and constraint, a system of forms, etiquette, and images, making its ever-present congestion tolerable.
- (A) Japan is a culture of accommodation and constraint, a system of forms, etiquette, and images, making its
  - (B) Japan, a culture of accommodation and constraint, is a system of forms, etiquette, and images, which makes its
  - (C) A culture of accommodation and constraint, Japan is a system of forms, etiquette, and images making its
  - (D) Japan's is a culture of accommodation and constraint, a system of forms, etiquette, and images that makes the
  - (E) Japan's is a culture of accommodation and constraint, of a system of forms, etiquette, and images which makes the



# MODIFIERS

## 700 LEVEL QUESTION

Q9. Japan is a culture of accommodation and constraint, a system of forms, etiquette, and images, making its ever-present congestion tolerable.

- (X) Japan is a culture of accommodation and constraint, a system of forms, etiquette, and images, making its
- (X) Japan, a culture of accommodation and constraint, is a system of forms, etiquette, and images, which makes its
- (X) A culture of accommodation and constraint, Japan is a system of forms, etiquette, and images making its
- (D) Japan's is a culture of accommodation and constraint, a system of forms, etiquette, and images that makes the
- (X) Japan's is a culture of accommodation and constraint, of a system of forms, etiquette, and images which makes the

'a system of forms... tolerable' describes 'Japan's culture'. The 'of' is odd.

# MODIFIERS

- Q10. Native to South America, when peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century they were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being so similar to the Bambarra groundnut, a popular indigenous plant.
- (A) when peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in sixteenth century they were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being
  - (B) peanuts having been introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being
  - (C) peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were
  - (D) peanuts, introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were
  - (E) peanuts, introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and having been quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were

What is native to South America? Peanuts!

## MODIFIERS

‘having been’ (present perfect) is wrong tense for 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Modifier

Q10. [Native to South America], when peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century they were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being so similar to the Bambarra groundnut, a popular indigenous plant.

✗) when peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in sixteenth century they were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being

✗) peanuts having been introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being

✓) peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were

✗) peanuts, [introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture], probably because they were

✗) peanuts, [introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and having been quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture], probably because they were

‘D’ and ‘E’ turn the bracketed portion into modifiers, thus making the main clause ‘peanuts probably because they were....’

# MODIFIERS

- Q11. Heavy commitment by an executive to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes it likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.
- (A) Heavy commitment by an executive to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes it likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.
  - (B) An executive who is heavily committed to a course of action, especially one that worked well in the past, makes missing signs of incipient trouble or misinterpreting ones likely when they do appear.
  - (C) An executive who is heavily committed to a course of action is likely to miss or misinterpret signs of incipient trouble when they do appear, especially if it has worked well in the past.
  - (D) Executives' being heavily committed to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes them likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpreting them when they do appear.
  - (E) Being heavily committed to a course of action, especially one that has worked well in the past, is likely to make an executive miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.

# MODIFIERS

Modifier

Q11. Heavy commitment by an executive to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes it likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.

**Ambiguous** ❌ Heavy commitment by an executive to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes it likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.

❌ An executive who is heavily committed to a course of action, especially one that worked well in the past, makes missing signs of incipient trouble or misinterpreting ones likely when they do appear.

❌ An executive who is heavily committed to a course of action is likely to miss or misinterpret signs of incipient trouble when they do appear, especially if it has worked well in the past.

❌ Executives' being heavily committed to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes them likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpreting them when they do appear.

‘being heavily committed’ becomes the subject, which is odd

✅ (F) Being heavily committed to a course of action, especially one that has worked well in the past, is likely to make an executive miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.

Option B: ‘An executive makes missing signs’ is an awkward construction.

# **SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT**

# Subject and Verb Must Agree in Number

- A singular subject requires a singular verb form: **The dog runs out of the house.**
- A plural subject requires a plural verb form: **The dogs run out of the house.**

<u>NOUN</u>	<u>VERB</u>	<u>PRONOUN</u>
Original Form = Singular Ex: chair, cross, tie etc.	Original Form = Plural Ex: go, read, possess etc.	(1) He, She, It, Him, Her, Himself, Herself, Itself, Yourself → <u>Singular</u>
Original Form + s/es = Plural Ex: chairs, crosses, ties etc.	Original Form + s/es = Singular Ex: goes, reads, possesses etc.	(2) You, We, They, Ourselves, Yourselves, Themselves → <u>Plural</u>
		(3) 'I' usually takes Plural Verb except Am and Was.

# (I) ELIMINATE THE MIDDLEMEN

- Many sentences hide the subject by inserting words between the subject and the verb. Learn to eliminate these Middlemen words to reveal the subject.

## 1. Prepositional phrase: (phrase starting with preposition)

Ex: The ringing of the temple bells in the Andaman islands IS melodious.

## 2. Subordinate Clause: (not the main idea of the sentence)

Ex: Several players who assume that their main focus should be the team's unity FAIL to achieve greatness.

## 3. Other Modifier: (describing the subject)

Ex: The tidal forces to which an object falling into a black hole is subjected ARE sufficient to tear the object apart.



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Ex: The tidal forces ~~to which an object falling into a black hole is subjected~~ ARE sufficient to tear the object apart.

## (II) ALWAYS SINGULAR

### 1. Words like ‘Each’, ‘Every’, and all the pronouns that end in *-one*, *-body*, or *-thing*.

Ex: (a) Each tiger and every lion IS crucial to wildlife.

(b) Everybody IS responsible for his / her luggage. [Never THEIR]

### 2. Any kind of Specific Name or Measurement

Ex: (a) The United States IS a powerful country.

(b) Mathematics HAS always been my strength.

(c) Three hundred rupees IS a lot of money for such a small thing.

### 3. ‘Either of’ and ‘Neither of’ [Without the Or and Nor part]

Ex: Either of the players IS going to attend the party.

## (II) AND / NOT

**(1) 2 or more singular nouns joined by AND usually require a Plural Verb. However, if they refer to one idea / thing / person, we must use a Singular Verb.**

Ex: (a) Nitin and Suraj have arrived at the venue.  
(b) Bacon and ham is a rich breakfast item.

**(2) THE + NOUN + AND + THE + NOUN = PLURAL**  
**THE + NOUN + AND + NOUN = SINGULAR**

Ex: (a) The doctor and the painter have passed away.  
(b) The doctor and painter has passed away.

**(3) For more than one Noun, the noun following NO / NOT doesn't impact the verb.**  
Ex: The President and not the ministers is worthy of honour.

## **(IV) ADDITIVE PHRASE vs PAIRED CONJUNCTION**

**(1) When 2 or more subjects are joined by using OR, NOR, EITHER-OR, NEITHER-NOR, NOT ONLY--BUT ALSO, the verb always agrees to the subject closer to the verb (2<sup>nd</sup> subject).**

Ex: (a) Either the Khans or Karim has arrived.

(b) Neither Karim nor the Khans have arrived.

**(2) For additive phrases such as “along with”, “in addition to”, “as well as”, “accompanied by”, “including” etc, the verb agrees to the subject before the phrase (1<sup>st</sup> subject).**

Ex: Karim as well as the Khans has arrived.

The Khans along with Karim have arrived.

## (V) MANSHA

**M** = Most / Majority / Minority

**A** = Any

**N** = None

**S** = Some

**H** = Half

**A** = All

**These indefinite pronouns can take either Singular or Plural Verbs depending on the entity following the Pronoun.**

Ex: Some of the staff is ill. / Some of the workers are ill.

**None can take both singular and plural verb. Maintain uniformity.**

Ex: None of them wants his share. None of them want their shares.

**In the absence of an entity, most of these words take Plural Verb.**

Ex: Some are coming to the party. / All are invited to the picnic.

GMAT is unlikely to check  
a controversial usage.

## (VI) COUNTABLE vs UNCOUNTABLE

**(1A) Much / Less = Uncountable → SINGULAR**

**(1B) Many / Few = Countable → PLURAL**

Ex: Much water has been wasted. / Many people have been invited.

**(2A) Expressions like ‘Many A/AN’ and ‘More than One’ always take Singular Verb.**

Ex: Many a soldier is injured. / More than one mango was found rotten.

**(3A) The number of = Measurement → SINGULAR**

**(3B) A number of = Many / Several → PLURAL**

Ex: The number of visitors has increased. / A number of visitors have arrived.

## (VIII) COLLECTIVE ENTITIES

**Words like ‘Team, Jury, Committee, Agency’ take SINGULAR verb if the collection is United or thought of as a Whole.**

**However, such words can take PLURAL verb when they are Divided or the Individuals are considered Disparate.**

Ex: The team has decided whom to choose captain.

The team have been allocated the positions on the field.

**GMAT sentences usually  
consider Collective Entities  
Singular.**

**When in confusion, match the verb and the pronoun.**

Ex: The jury ARE equivocal about whom to make their captain. [IS / ARE]

## (IX) ONE OF THE...

(1) The following NOUN must always be PLURAL.

(a) One of my friend is coming. (b) One of my friends is coming.

(2) One of The + Noun + Who / That = PLURAL

One of The – Who / Which / That = SINGULAR

One of the players who own a car is ill.



One of the players owns a car.

Sachin is one of the players who own a car.



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One of the players who own a car is ill.

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Sachin is one of the players who own a car.

# EXCEPTIONS!

**(1) For Prepositional Phrases or Expressions like ‘Here, There, Where, What etc.’ the Subject appears after the Verb.**

(a) Within the room are two black boxes.

(b) Where is the answer to this question?

**(2) News / Mathematics = Singular**

**Police / Goods / Media / Criteria / Data = Plural**

**Scissors / Trousers / Binoculars = Plural**

**A pair of scissors / trousers = Singular**

# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

For every SENTENCE CORRECTION question,  
identify what is the SUBJECT of the MAIN  
CLAUSE and what is its corresponding VERB.

# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Q12. Fitness experts say that the weighted barbell squat or the weighted hip thrust, each part of a family of training maneuvers called compound movements, is one of the best exercises for isolating and building the gluteal muscles.

- (A) is one of the best exercises for isolating and building the gluteal muscles
- (B) are among the best exercises to isolate and for building the gluteal muscles
- (C) is one of the best exercises for isolating and to build the gluteal muscles
- (D) are among the best exercises for isolating and building the gluteal muscles
- (E) is one of the best exercises to isolate and for building the gluteal muscles

# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Subject = Singular

Modifier

Q12. Fitness experts say that the weighted barbell squat or the weighted hip thrust, each part of a family of training maneuvers called compound movements, is one of the best exercises for isolating and building the gluteal muscles.

- ✓ (A) is one of the best exercises for isolating and building the gluteal muscles
- ✗ (B) are among the best exercises to isolate and for building the gluteal muscles
- ✗ (C) is one of the best exercises for isolating and to build the gluteal muscles
- ✗ (D) are among the best exercises for isolating and building the gluteal muscles
- ✗ (E) is one of the best exercises to isolate and for building the gluteal muscles

Option 'A' maintains the uniformity, which options 'C' and 'E' don't.

# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT






Q13. Rock samples taken from the remains of an asteroid about twice the size of the 6-mile-wide asteroid that eradicated the dinosaurs has been dated to be 3.47 billion years old and thus is evidence of the earliest known asteroid impact on Earth.

- (A) has been dated to be 3.47 billion years old and thus is
- (B) has been dated at 3.47 billion years old and thus
- (C) have been dated to be 3.47 billion years old and thus are
- (D) have been dated as being 3.47 billion years old and thus
- (E) have been dated at 3.47 billion years old and thus are

# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Subject = Plural

Q13. Rock samples taken from the remains of an asteroid about twice the size of the 6-mile-wide asteroid that eradicated the dinosaurs has been dated to be 3.47 billion years old and thus is evidence of the earliest known asteroid impact on Earth.

- (A)  has been dated to be 3.47 billion years old and thus is
- (B)  has been dated at 3.47 billion years old and thus
- (C)  have been dated to be 3.47 billion years old and thus are
- (D)  have been dated as being 3.47 billion years old and thus
- (E)  have been dated at 3.47 billion years old and thus are

‘dated at’ is better than ‘dated as being / to be’. Also, option D misses out the verb ‘are’.

# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Q14. Scientists have recently found evidence that black holes—regions of space in which matter is so concentrated and the pull of gravity so powerful that nothing, not even light, can emerge from them—probably exist at the core of nearly all galaxies and the mass of each black hole is proportional to its host galaxy.

(A) exist at the core of nearly all galaxies and the mass of each black hole is proportional to

(B) exist at the core of nearly all galaxies and that the mass of each black hole is proportional to that of

(C) exist at the core of nearly all galaxies, and that the mass of each black hole is proportional to

(D) exists at the core of nearly all galaxies, and that the mass of each black hole is proportional to that of

(E) exists at the core of nearly all galaxies and the mass of each black hole is proportional to that of



# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Subject = Plural

Modifier

Q14. Scientists have recently found evidence that black holes—regions of space in which matter is so concentrated and the pull of gravity so powerful that nothing, not even light, can emerge from them—probably exist at the core of nearly all galaxies and the mass of each black hole is proportional to its host galaxy.

(X) exist at the core of nearly all galaxies and the mass of each black hole is proportional to

(F) exist at the core of nearly all galaxies and that the mass of each black hole is proportional to that of

(X) exist at the core of nearly all galaxies, and that the mass of each black hole is proportional to

The mass of each black hole is proportional to ‘the mass’ [OR ‘that’] of its host galaxy.

(X) exists at the core of nearly all galaxies, and that the mass of each black hole is proportional to that of

(X) exists at the core of nearly all galaxies and the mass of each black hole is proportional to that of

As there are two distinct pieces of evidence, the use of “that” for the second evidence is important for the construction.

# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Q15. The full body armor of England's Earl of Kingsley, as well as that of Emperor Fernando, is the highlight of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

- (A) England's Earl of Kingsley, as well as that of Emperor Fernando, is the highlight
- (B) England's Earl of Kingsley, as well as that of Emperor Fernando's, are the highlights
- (C) England's Earl of Kingsley and that of Emperor Fernando is the highlight
- (D) England's Earl of Kingsley and that of Emperor Fernando's are the highlights
- (E) England's Earl of Kingsley, as well as that of Emperor Fernando's, is the highlight

# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Q15. The full body armor of England's Earl of Kingsley, as well as that of Emperor Fernando, is the highlight of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

- (✓) England's Earl of Kingsley, as well as that of Emperor Fernando, is the highlight
- (✗) England's Earl of Kingsley, as well as that of Emperor Fernando's, are the highlights
- (✗) England's Earl of Kingsley and that of Emperor Fernando is the highlight
- (✗) England's Earl of Kingsley and that of Emperor Fernando's are the highlights
- (✗) England's Earl of Kingsley, as well as that of Emperor Fernando's, is the highlight

When we say 'that of', the apostrophe 's' is not needed.

Because of 'AND', Option 'c' refers to two different subjects. Hence, the verb should be 'are'.

# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Q16. Efforts to equalize the funds available to school districts, a major goal of education reformers and many states in the 1970's, has not significantly reduced the gaps existing between the richest and poorest districts.

- (A) has not significantly reduced the gaps existing
- (B) has not been significant in reducing the gap that exists
- (C) has not made a significant reduction in the gap that exists
- (D) have not significantly reduced the gap that exists
- (E) have not been significant in a reduction of the gaps existing

# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Subject = Plural

Q16. Efforts to equalize the funds available to school districts, a major goal of education reformers and many states in the 1970's, has not significantly reduced the gaps existing between the richest and poorest districts.

- (✗) has not significantly reduced the gaps existing
- (✗) has not been significant in reducing the gap that exists
- (✗) has not made a significant reduction in the gap that exists
- (✓) have not significantly reduced the gap that exists
- (✗) have not been significant in a reduction of the gaps existing

‘D’ is a much more concise construction than ‘E’.

# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

- Q17. For many revisionist historians, Christopher Columbus has come to personify devastation and enslavement in the name of progress that has decimated native peoples of the Western Hemisphere.
- (A) devastation and enslavement in the name of progress that has decimated native peoples of the Western Hemisphere
  - (B) devastation and enslavement in the name of progress by which native peoples of the Western Hemisphere decimated
  - (C) devastating and enslaving in the name of progress those native peoples of the Western Hemisphere which in the name of progress are decimated
  - (D) devastating and enslaving those native peoples of the western Hemisphere which in the name of progress are decimated
  - (E) the devastation and enslavement in the name of progress that have decimated the native peoples of the Western Hemisphere

# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

## 700 LEVEL QUESTION

Christopher Columbus can personify the event 'devastation' and the not action 'devastating'.

Q17. For many revisionist historians, Christopher Columbus has come to personify devastation and enslavement in the name of progress that has decimated native peoples of the Western Hemisphere.

- (✗) devastation and enslavement in the name of progress that has decimated native peoples of the Western Hemisphere
- (✗) devastation and enslavement in the name of progress by which native peoples of the Western Hemisphere decimated Distorts the meaning of the sentence.
- (✗) devastating and enslaving in the name of progress those native peoples of the Western Hemisphere which in the name of progress are decimated
- (✗) devastating and enslaving those native peoples of the western Hemisphere which in the name of progress are decimated
- (✓) the devastation and enslavement in the name of progress that have decimated the native peoples of the Western Hemisphere






# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

- Q18. Not every woman, even those who have a strong familial history of breast cancer, wants to know if she carries a BRCA mutation, a serious risk factor for that cancer.
- (A) Not every woman, even those who have a strong familial history of breast cancer, wants to know if she carries a BRCA mutation, a serious risk factor for that cancer.
- (B) Not all women, even those who have a strong familial history of breast cancer, want to know if she carries a BRCA mutation, which is a serious risk factor for that cancer.
- (C) Not all women, even those who have a strong familial history of breast cancer, wants to know if they carry a BRCA mutation, which is a serious risk factor for that cancer.
- (D) Not every woman, even the ones who have a strong familial history of breast cancer, want to know if she carries a BRCA mutation, a serious risk factor for that cancer.
- (E) Not all women, even the ones who have a strong familial history of breast cancer, want to know if she carries a BRCA mutation, considered a serious risk factor for that cancer.



# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Q18. Not every woman, even those who have a strong familial history of breast cancer, wants to know if she carries a BRCA mutation, a serious risk factor for that cancer.

-  (A) Not every woman, even those who have a strong familial history of breast cancer, wants to know if she carries a BRCA mutation, a serious risk factor for that cancer.
-  (B) Not all women, even those who have a strong familial history of breast cancer, want to know if she carries a BRCA mutation, which is a serious risk factor for that cancer.
-  (C) Not all women, even those who have a strong familial history of breast cancer, wants to know if they carry a BRCA mutation, which is a serious risk factor for that cancer.
-  (D) Not every woman, even the ones who have a strong familial history of breast cancer, want to know if she carries a BRCA mutation, a serious risk factor for that cancer.
-  (E) Not all women, even the ones who have a strong familial history of breast cancer, want to know if she carries a BRCA mutation, considered a serious risk factor for that cancer.



*Thank you*