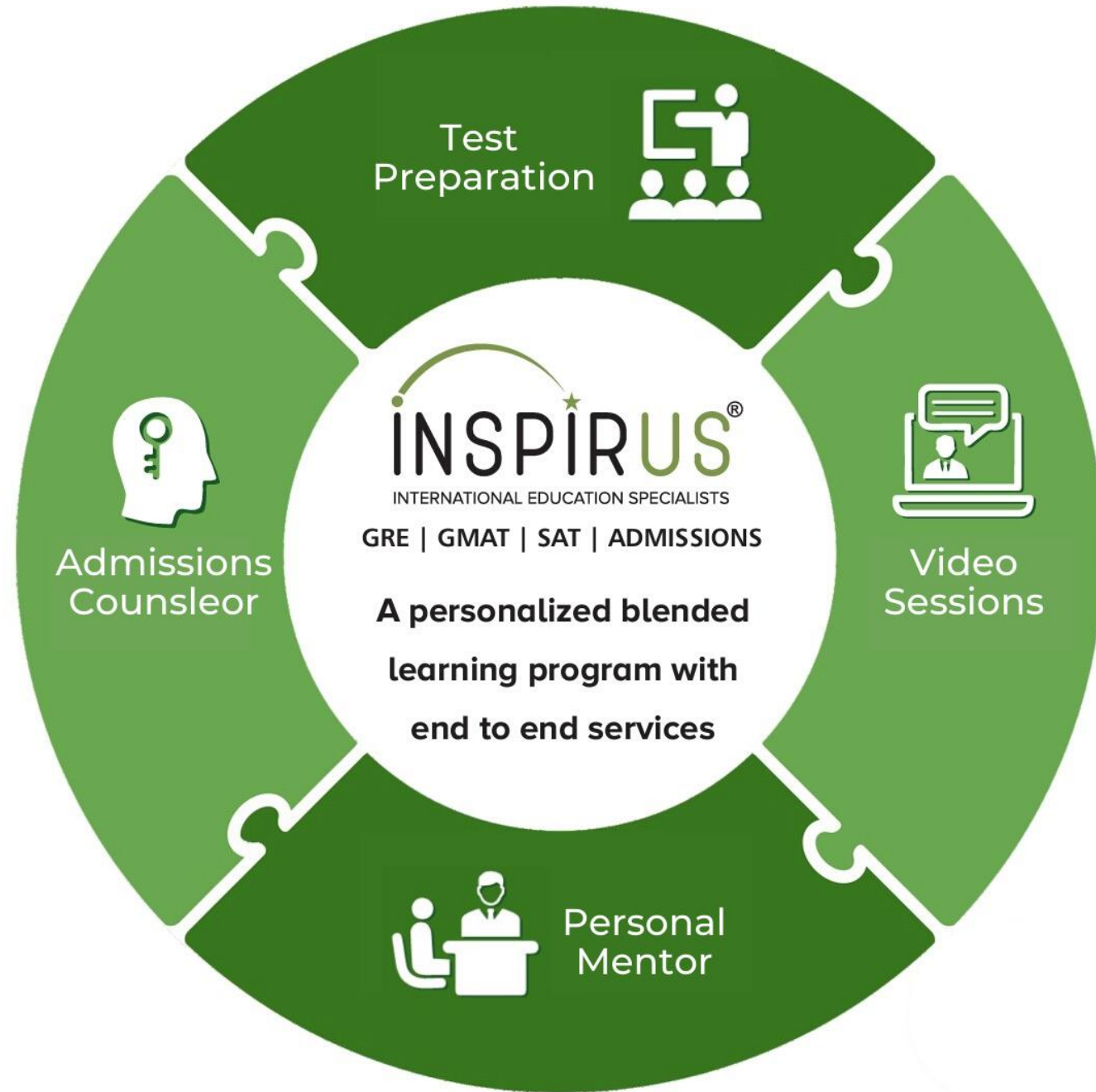


# GMAT

## Sentence Correction

### 2



# **PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT**

# The Pronoun should agree with the Subject (Noun)

- (1) Everyone is responsible for their luggage.
  - (2) Everyone is responsible for his or her luggage.
  - (3) Everyone is responsible for his luggage.
  - (4) All are responsible for their luggage.
- (5) Even if multiple pronouns can be used to refer to the same idea, they cannot be mixed and matched within a sentence or paragraph but must remain consistent throughout.
- Incorrect: If **ONE** wants to protect **THEIR** home from insect invasions, **ONE** should avoid leaving crumbs lying on the floor
- Correct: If **ONE** wants to protect **ONE's** home from insect invasions, **ONE** should avoid leaving crumbs lying on the floor

# The Pronoun should agree with the Subject (Noun)

- (1) Everyone is responsible for their luggage. ✗
  - (2) Everyone is responsible for his or her luggage. ✓
  - (3) Everyone is responsible for his luggage. ✓
  - (4) All are responsible for their luggage. ✓
- (5) Even if multiple pronouns can be used to refer to the same idea, they cannot be mixed and matched within a sentence or paragraph but must remain consistent throughout. ✗
- Incorrect: If **ONE** wants to protect **THEIR** home from insect invasions, **ONE** should avoid leaving crumbs lying on the floor
- Correct: If **ONE** wants to protect **ONE's** home from insect invasions, **ONE** should avoid leaving crumbs lying on the floor ✓

# AMBIGUITY & COMPARISON

For more than one Noun of the same type, DO NOT use an **AMBIGUOUS PRONOUN**. Ideally, all pronouns of the same type (all he-s, all it/its, all they-s etc) must refer to the same antecedent.

- John will take Harry and his son to the theatre.
- John will take Harry and John's son / Harry's son to theatre.

Important: Given the choice between a pronoun and noun naming a specific person or thing, the noun will virtually always be correct – even if it appears in the longer answer.

In a **COMPARISON**, similar elements should be compared, and the pronouns should replace only those antecedents that are compared.

- The roads in Delhi are better than Mumbai.
- The roads in Delhi are better than those in Mumbai.
- His project is better than us.
- His project is better than ours.

# AMBIGUITY & COMPARISON

For more than one Noun of the same type, DO NOT use an **AMBIGUOUS PRONOUN**. Ideally, all pronouns of the same type (all he-s, all it/its, all they-s etc) must refer to the same antecedent.

- John will take Harry and <sup>?</sup>his<sup>?</sup> son to the theatre.
- John will take Harry and John's son / Harry's son to theatre.

Important: Given the choice between a pronoun and noun naming a specific person or thing, the noun will virtually always be correct – even if it appears in the longer answer.

In a **COMPARISON**, similar elements should be compared, and the pronouns should replace only those antecedents that are compared.

- The roads in Delhi are better than Mumbai. ✗
- The roads in Delhi are better than those in Mumbai. ✓
- His project is better than us. ✗
- His project is better than ours. ✓

# USE OF RELATIVE PRONOUN

- (1) WHO / WHOM – people / names of characters [Simba, who is the lion, is very brave.]
- (2) THAT – objects or animals [in a specific or restrictive way]
- (3) WHICH – objects or animals [in a non-restrictive way]

When referring to people, "*That*" may be used to refer to the characteristics or abilities And specifically when the person is modified by a Superlative Adjective.

Ex: He is the kind of person that/who will never let you down.

Solomon is the richest king that ruled our country.

After the pronouns "*all*," "*any(thing)*," "*every(thing)*," "*few*," "*little*," "*many*," "*no(thing)*," "*none*," "*some(thing)*", or nouns modified by superlative adjective, preferably use "THAT".

Ex: Dessert is all **that** he wants. / This is the *best* resource **that** I have ever read! / I read anything **that** fits in the thriller space.

When the relative pronoun is the object of a preposition, which is used instead of that.

Ex: "*in which*," "*for which*," "*about which*," "*through which*," etc.

# SUBJECT – OBJECT – POSSESSION

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SPECIALISTS

| SUBJECTIVE | OBJECTIVE | POSSESSIVE           |
|------------|-----------|----------------------|
| I / WE     | ME / US   | MY, MINE / OUR, OURS |
| HE / SHE   | HIM / HER | HIS / HER, HERS      |
| IT / THEY  | IT / THEM | ITS / THEIR, THEIRS  |
| WHO        | WHOM      | WHOSE                |
| YOU        | YOU       | YOUR / YOURS         |



Subject or Doer of A Verb  
(Implicitly or Explicitly)  
I.E. Linked to a Verb



Object of A Verb or A  
Preposition (Receiver)  
I.E. Not Linked to a Verb



Describes ownership /  
characteristic / association  
of a Noun or a Gerund.



# SUBJECT – OBJECT – POSSESSION

1. The right to vote belongs to \_\_\_\_\_ (we/us) the citizens of India.
2. I requested the Dean to let Rana and \_\_\_\_\_ (I/me) attend the seminar.
3. Praise those \_\_\_\_\_ (who / whom) you feel helped you.
4. Praise those \_\_\_\_\_ (who / whom) you feel superior to.
5. My sister is more hard-working than \_\_\_\_\_ (I / me).
6. If this pen is mine, that pen is \_\_\_\_\_ (her / hers).
7. My mother was not worried about \_\_\_\_\_ (me / my) travelling alone to Europe.

*Use the possessive form of the pronoun before a Gerund.*

# SUBJECT – OBJECT – POSSESSION

1. The right to vote belongs to \_\_\_\_\_ (we/us) the citizens of India.
2. I requested the Dean to let Rana and \_\_\_\_\_ (I/me) attend the seminar.
3. Praise those \_\_\_\_\_ (who / whom) you feel helped you.
4. Praise those \_\_\_\_\_ (who / whom) you feel superior to.
5. My sister is more hard-working than *am (implied)* \_\_\_\_\_ (I / me).
6. If this pen is mine, that pen is \_\_\_\_\_ (her / hers). *Hers is the pronoun replacement of 'her pen'.*
7. My mother was not worried about \_\_\_\_\_ (me / my) travelling alone to Europe.

*Use the possessive form of the pronoun before a Gerund.*

# PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

Q1. The gyrfalcon, an Arctic bird of prey, has survived a close brush with extinction; its numbers are now five times greater than when the use of DDT was sharply restricted in the early 1970s.

- (A) extinction; its numbers are now five times greater than
- (B) extinction; its numbers are now five times more than
- (C) extinction, their numbers now fivefold what they were
- (D) extinction, now with fivefold the numbers they had
- (E) extinction, now with numbers five times greater than

# PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

Q1. The gyrfalcon, an Arctic bird of prey, has survived a close brush with extinction; its numbers are now five times greater than when the use of DDT was sharply restricted in the early 1970s.

(✓) extinction; its numbers are now five times greater than

(✗) extinction; its numbers are now five times more than

(✗) extinction, their numbers now fivefold what they were

(✗) extinction, now with fivefold the numbers they had

(✗) extinction, now with numbers five times greater than

Awkward construction

Singular subject 'the gyrfalcon' and singular verb 'has'. Hence, the pronoun also should be Singular, 'it'.

Number 'X' is greater than (NOT more than) Number 'Y'.

# PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

Q2. The naked mole rat is unique because it can run as fast backwards as forwards, which is not known to exist in any other animal.

(A) because it can run as fast backwards as forwards, which is not known to exist in any other animal

(B) because they can run as fast backwards as forwards, which is not known to be the case with any other animal

(C) since it can run equally efficiently backwards as forwards; this skill is not known to exist in any other animal

(D) since it runs as well backwards as forwards, and it's the only animal known to do that

(E) in its ability to run as fast backwards as forwards; this skill is not known to exist in any other animal

# PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

Q2. The naked mole rat is unique because it can run as fast backwards as forwards, which is not known to exist in any other animal.

(X) because it can run as fast backwards as forwards, which is not known to exist in any other animal

No suitable precedent for “which”

(X) because they can run as fast backwards as forwards, which is not known to be the case with any other animal

No suitable precedent for “which”

(X) since it can run equally efficiently backwards as forwards; this skill is not known to exist in any other animal

and

(X) since it runs as well backwards as forwards, and it’s the only animal known to do that

(✓) in its ability to run as fast backwards as forwards; this skill is not known to exist in any other animal

# PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

**Q.03** Though being tiny, blind, and translucent, a recently discovered species of catfish lessens their vulnerability with thickened bones and armor plates on their sides.

- (A) Though being tiny, blind, and translucent, a recently discovered species of catfish lessens their vulnerability with thickened bones and armor plates on their sides.
- (B) Though tiny, blind, and translucent, a recently discovered species of catfish has thickened bones and armor plates on its sides that lessen its vulnerability.
- (C) A recently discovered species of catfish has thickened bones and armor plates on its sides that lessen their vulnerability, though tiny, blind, and translucent.
- (D) Thickened bones and armor plates on their sides lessen the vulnerability of a recently discovered species of catfish that is tiny, blind, and translucent.
- (E) Tiny, blind, and translucent, thickened bones and armor plates on its sides lessen the vulnerability of a recently discovered species of catfish.

# PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

Singular Subject – Use ‘it/its’ and ‘has’

Q3. Though being tiny, blind, and translucent, a recently discovered species of catfish lessens their vulnerability with thickened bones and armor plates on their sides.

(✗) Though being tiny, blind, and translucent, a recently discovered species of catfish lessens their vulnerability with thickened bones and armor plates on their sides.

(✓) Though tiny, blind, and translucent, a recently discovered species of catfish has thickened bones and armor plates on its sides that lessen its vulnerability.

(✗) A recently discovered species of catfish has thickened bones and armor plates on its sides that lessen their vulnerability, though tiny, blind, and translucent.

(✗) Thickened bones and armor plates on their sides lessen the vulnerability of a recently discovered species of catfish that is tiny, blind, and translucent.

(✗) Tiny, blind, and translucent, thickened bones and armor plates on its sides lessen the vulnerability of a recently discovered species of catfish. Modifier for ‘Fish species’, not ‘bones’.



# PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

Singular Subject – Use ‘it/its’ and ‘has’

Q3. Though being tiny, blind, and translucent, a recently discovered species of catfish lessens their vulnerability with thickened bones and armor plates on their sides.

(✗) Though being tiny, blind, and translucent, a recently discovered species of catfish lessens their vulnerability with thickened bones and armor plates on their sides.

(✓) Though tiny, blind, and translucent, a recently discovered species of catfish has thickened bones and armor plates on its sides that lessen its vulnerability.

(✗) A recently discovered species of catfish has thickened bones and armor plates on its sides that lessen their vulnerability, though tiny, blind, and translucent.

(✗) Thickened bones and armor plates on their sides lessen the vulnerability of a recently discovered species of catfish that is tiny, blind, and translucent.

(✗) Tiny, blind, and translucent, thickened bones and armor plates on its sides lessen the vulnerability of a recently discovered species of catfish. Modifier for ‘Fish species’, not ‘bones’.

# PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

**Q.04** The North American moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing it must leap or go around them.

- (A) moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing it must leap or go around them
- (B) moose has long legs, enabling it to move quickly through the woods and to step easily over downed trees while predators pursuing them must leap or go around
- (C) moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees while predators pursuing them must leap or go around
- (D) moose has long legs that enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees while predators pursuing it must leap over or go around them
- (E) moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods and to step easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing them must leap over or go around them

# PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

Refers to 'Moose' - Singular

Refers to 'trees' - Plural

Q4. The North American moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing it must leap or go around them.

(X) moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing it must leap or go around them

(X) moose has long legs, enabling it to move quickly through the woods and to step easily over downed trees while predators pursuing them must leap or go around

(X) moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees while predators pursuing them must leap or go around

(✓) moose has long legs that enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees while predators pursuing it must leap over or go around them

(X) moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods and to step easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing them must leap over or go around them

In option (A), the pronoun 'it' does not have an explicit precedent – the subject stated is 'moose's legs'.

# PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

**Q.05** In good years, the patchwork of green fields that surround the San Joaquin Valley town bustles with farm workers, many of them in the area just for the season.

- (A) surround the San Joaquin Valley town bustles with farm workers, many of them
- (B) surrounds the San Joaquin Valley town bustles with farm workers, many of whom are
- (C) surround the San Joaquin Valley town bustles with farm workers, many of who are
- (D) surround the San Joaquin Valley town bustle with farm workers, many of which
- (E) surrounds the San Joaquin Valley town bustles with farm workers, many are

# PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

Q5. In good years, the patchwork of green fields that surround the San Joaquin Valley town bustles with farm workers, many of them in the area just for the season.

- (✓) surround the San Joaquin Valley town bustles with farm workers, many of them
- (✗) surrounds the San Joaquin Valley town bustles with farm workers, many of whom are
- (✗) surround the San Joaquin Valley town bustles with farm workers, many of who are
- (✗) surround the San Joaquin Valley town bustle with farm workers, many of which
- (✗) surrounds the San Joaquin Valley town bustles with farm workers, many are

Object of Preposition – ‘Whom’ (Not “Who”)

Cannot use “Which” for People

“That” refers to “green fields” (Plural Subject)

# PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

**Q.06** Shostakovich's Fourth Symphony had not hardly entered rehearsals when the political climate turned against the composer and made him having the piece performed impossible.

(A) had not hardly entered rehearsals when the political climate turned against the composer and made him having

(B) had not hardly entered rehearsals when the political climate turned against the composer and made his having

(C) had hardly entered rehearsals when the political climate turned against the composer and made his having

(D) had hardly entered rehearsals when the political climate turned against the composer and made him having

(E) had hardly entered rehearsals when the political climate turned against the composer and made himself having

# PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

Double Negative Error

Q6. Shostakovich's Fourth Symphony had not hardly entered rehearsals when the political climate turned against the composer and made him having the piece performed impossible.

(X) had not hardly entered rehearsals when the political climate turned against the composer and made him having

(X) had not hardly entered rehearsals when the political climate turned against the composer and made his having

(✓) had hardly entered rehearsals when the political climate turned against the composer and made his having

Before a Gerund, use the Possessive Form of the Pronoun.

(X) had hardly entered rehearsals when the political climate turned against the composer and made him having

(X) had hardly entered rehearsals when the political climate turned against the composer and made himself having

# TENSES AND VERB FORMS



**ACTION IS COMPLETE**

**ONGOING ACTIONS**

|                | <b>SIMPLE</b>  | <b>CONTINUOUS</b>                                  | <b>PERFECT</b>  | <b>PERFECT CONTINUOUS</b>   |
|----------------|--|--|---|---|
| <b>PAST</b>    | Finished actions at an indefinite time or at specific time in the past | Continuous action at a specific time in the past   | Actions completed before a specific time or another action in the past***   | Continuous Action in the Past before and during certain point of time in the past |
| <b>PRESENT</b> | Regular Activities,<br>Anything that is true at any point              | Continuous action, present time                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed actions in an unfinished period of time               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent events</li> <li>Experiences (no time given)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | Actions begun in the past which continue to present                               |
| <b>FUTURE</b>  | Predictions,<br>Spontaneous decisions                                  | Continuous Action at a specific time in the future | Completed future action before another action in the future   | Continuous future action before and during a later given time or event            |

# Sample Verb “GO”

|         | SIMPLE          | CONTINUOUS             | PERFECT         | PERFECT CONTINUOUS       |
|---------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| PAST    | Went            | Was / Were Going       | Had Gone        | Had Been Going           |
| PRESENT | Go / Goes       | Am / Is / Are<br>Going | Has / Have Gone | Has / Have Been<br>Going |
| FUTURE  | Will / Shall Go | Will Be Going          | Will Have Gone  | Will Have Been<br>Going  |

The Helper Verb determines the Major Tense of the Verb

# NON-CONTINUOUS VERBS

There are verbs that cannot be used in the continuous tense. These are typically intangible actions i.e. cannot be seen performing:

## (1) Mental / Emotional State

Ex: doubt, love, imagine, believe, recognise, understand, know etc.

## (2) Communication / Possession

Ex: agree, promise, satisfy, belong, include, comprise, deserve etc.

# COMMON RULES TO REMEMBER

- **Maintain Uniformity of Tense – For all actions in the same context, use the Same Broad Tense.**
- **However, a Fact / Universally Accepted Truth / Piece of Art that still exists are always written in Present Tense, irrespective of the context.**

Eg: During my childhood, my father taught me that honesty is the best policy.

In the movie ‘Independence Day’, the aliens attack the world.

- **If an action gets over before another action or time frame, the first action is written in Perfect Form and the second action/event is in Simple Form.\*\*\***

Eg: The Mehras had arrived at the meeting before the Kapoors came in.

We will have left this house by Sunday.

(Very commonly checked in the GMAT for Two Past Actions – PAST PERFECT followed by SIMPLE PAST.)

# COMMON RULES TO REMEMBER

- **The condition of a Future Action must be in the Present Tense.**

Ex: We will release your daughter if you send us the ransom.

- **To indicate a habitual pattern of behaviour use Present Perfect.**

Ex: She has always been very disciplined about her work.

- **To denote a future event that has already been planned, one can use Simple Future or Simple Present Tense.**

Ex: My brother will graduate / graduates from college next month.

# COMMON RULES TO REMEMBER

- To denote a plan for the future – something we intend to do, usually in the near future – we can use **Present Continuous** or **Future Continuous**.

Ex: My brother *will be going / is going* to France next week.

- For time adverbs such as **since / ever since / so far / till now**, the following action should be **Present Perfect Continuous (Tangible Action)** or **Present Perfect (Intangible Action)**.

Ex: I *have hated* motorcycles ever since my brother died.

He *has been crying* ever since his brother died.

(Very commonly checked in the GMAT)

# TENSES AND VERB FORMS

**Q.7** She was less successful after she had emigrated to New York compared to her native Germany, photographer Lotte Jacobi nevertheless earned a small group of discerning admirers, and her photographs were eventually exhibited in prestigious galleries across the United States.

- (A) She was less successful after she had emigrated to New York compared to
- (B) Being less successful after she had emigrated to New York as compared to
- (C) Less successful after she emigrated to New York than she had been in
- (D) Although she was less successful after emigrating to New York when compared to
- (E) She had been less successful after emigrating to New York than in

# TENSES AND VERB FORMS

Not happening before any other Action

Q7. She was less successful after she had emigrated to New York compared to her native Germany, photographer Lotte Jacobi nevertheless earned a small group of discerning admirers, and her photographs were eventually exhibited in prestigious galleries across the United States.

(X) She was less successful after she had emigrated to New York compared to

(X) Being less successful after she had emigrated to New York as compared to

(C) Less successful after she emigrated to New York than she had been in

(X) Although she was less successful after emigrating to New York when compared to

(X) She had been less successful after emigrating to New York than in

‘New York’ is after ‘Germany’. So, we cannot use Past Perfect for New York.

‘She was less successful .... when compared to her native Germany’ – Wrong Comparison



# TENSES AND VERB FORMS

**Q.8** By 1492, when Christopher Columbus “discovered” the New World, North America was visited by the Vikings from Northern Europe and, it is believed by many, the Polynesians from the South Pacific.

- (A) when Christopher Columbus “discovered” the New World, North America was visited by the Vikings from Northern Europe and,
- (B) Christopher Columbus “discovered” the New World and North America was visited by the Vikings from Northern Europe along with,
- (C) the year during which Christopher Columbus “discovered” the New World, North America was visited by the Vikings from Northern Europe along with,
- (D) during the year when Christopher Columbus “discovered” the New World, North America was visited by the Vikings from Northern Europe along with,
- (E) when Christopher Columbus “discovered” the New World, North America had been visited by the Vikings from Northern Europe and,

The sentence implies that the Vikings and the Polynesians visited America before Columbus did.

Hence, Past Perfect for Vikings & Polynesians.

# TENSES AND VERB FORMS

Time Adverb

Q8. By 1492, when Christopher Columbus “discovered” the New World, North America was visited by the Vikings from Northern Europe and, it is believed by many, the Polynesians from the South Pacific. **‘Had Been Visited’ > ‘Was Visited’ in this context.**

(✗) when Christopher Columbus “discovered” the New World, North America was visited by the Vikings from Northern Europe and,

(✗) Christopher Columbus “discovered” the New World and North America was visited by the Vikings from Northern Europe along with, **Changes the Meaning**

(✗) the year during which Christopher Columbus “discovered” the New World, North America was visited by the Vikings from Northern Europe along with, **Redundant with 1492**

(✗) during the year when Christopher Columbus “discovered” the New World, North America was visited by the Vikings from Northern Europe along with, **Redundant with 1492**

(✓) when Christopher Columbus “discovered” the New World, North America had been visited by the Vikings from Northern Europe and,

# TENSES AND VERB FORMS

**Q.9** Financial analysts said they were surprised that despite higher inflation and shrinking profit margins, investors continue pouring money into the stock market, believing that the American economy was nicely balanced, with little inflation.

- (A) continue pouring money into the stock market, believing that the American economy was
- (B) continue pouring money into the stock market, believing in the American economy as
- (C) still continue pouring money into the stock market in the belief that the American economy as
- (D) still continued to pour money into the stock market, believing in the American economy as
- (E) continued to pour money into the stock market in the belief that the American economy was

# TENSES AND VERB FORMS

## Past Context

Q9. Financial analysts said they were surprised that despite higher inflation and shrinking profit margins, investors continue pouring money into the stock market, believing that the American economy was nicely balanced, with little inflation.

(X) continue pouring money into the stock market, believing that the American economy was

(X) continue pouring money into the stock market, believing in the American economy as

(X) still continue pouring money into the stock market in the belief that the American economy as

**Not the outcome but the cause**

(X) still continued to pour money into the stock market, believing in the American economy as

(✓) continued to pour money into the stock market in the belief that the American economy was

# TENSES AND VERB FORMS

**Q.10** While the stock market was bouncing back from its 2002 low, U.S. families are still reeling from the recent recession; between 2001 to 2004, typical household savings plummeted nearly 25% and the median household debt rose by a third.

(A) was bouncing back from its 2002 low, U.S. families are still reeling from the recent recession; between

(B) bounced back from its 2002 low, U.S. families are still reeling from the recent recession, from

(C) has bounced back from its 2002 low, U.S. families are still reeling from the recent recession; between

(D) has bounced back from its 2002 low, U.S. families are still reeling from the recent recession; from

(E) bounced back from its 2002 low, U.S. families are still reeling from the recent recession; from

# TENSES AND VERB FORMS

**Reference Time is Present Tense**

Q10. While the stock market was bouncing back from its 2002 low, U.S. families are still reeling from the recent recession; between 2001 to 2004, typical household savings plummeted nearly 25% and the median household debt rose by a third.

(X) was bouncing back from its 2002 low, U.S. families are still reeling from the recent recession; between

(X) bounced back from its 2002 low, U.S. families are still reeling from the recent recession; from

(X) has bounced back from its 2002 low, U.S. families are still reeling from the recent recession; between **‘Between’ is paired with ‘And’. ‘From’ is paired with ‘To’.**

(D) has bounced back from its 2002 low, U.S. families are still reeling from the recent recession; from

(X) bounced back from its 2002 low, U.S. families are still reeling from the recent recession; from

# TENSES AND VERB FORMS

**Q.11** Since 1986, when the Department of Labour began to allow investment officers' fees to be based on how the funds they manage perform, several corporations began paying their investment advisers a small basic fee, with a contract promising higher fees if the managers perform well.

(A) investment officers' fees to be based on how the funds they manage perform, several corporations began

(B) that investment officers' fees be based on the performance of the funds they managed, several corporations began

(C) that fees of investment officers be based on how the funds they managed perform, several corporations have begun

(D) fees of investment officers to be based on the performance of the funds they manage, several corporations have begun

(E) fees of investment officers to be based on the performance of the funds they manage, several corporations have been beginning

# TENSES AND VERB FORMS

Time Adverb – Use Present Perfect for Non-Action Verbs

Q11. Since 1986, when the Department of Labour began to allow investment officers' fees to be based on how the funds they manage perform, several corporations began paying their investment advisers a small basic fee, with a contract promising higher fees if the managers perform well.

✗ investment officers' fees to be based on how the funds they manage perform, several corporations began

✗ that investment officers' fees be based on the performance of the funds they managed, several corporations began

Tense is not Uniform

✗ that fees of investment officers be based on how the funds they managed perform, several corporations have begun

✓ fees of investment officers to be based on the performance of the funds they manage, several corporations have begun

✗ fees of investment officers to be based on the performance of the funds they manage, several corporations have been beginning



# TENSES AND VERB FORMS

**Q.12** Members of Congress were surprised to learn that legislation that was passed to prevent discrimination on the basis of religious beliefs had been used by convicted felons demanding special treatment while serving terms of imprisonment.

(A) had been used by convicted felons demanding special treatment while serving terms of imprisonment.

(B) had been used by convicted felons who demanded while serving terms of imprisonment.

(C) was used by convicted felons who demanded special treatment while serving out their terms of imprisonment.

(D) was used by convicted felons demanding special treatment while serving terms of imprisonment.

(E) was used by felonious convicts who had demanded special treatment while serving terms of imprisonment.

# TENSES AND VERB FORMS

**Not happening before any other Action**

Q12. Members of Congress were surprised to learn that legislation that was passed to prevent discrimination on the basis of religious beliefs had been used by convicted felons demanding special treatment while serving terms of imprisonment.

**(X)** had been used by convicted felons demanding special treatment while serving terms of imprisonment.

**(X)** had been used by convicted felons who demanded while serving terms of imprisonment.

**One 'serves the term', not 'serves out the term' – Wrong Idiom**

**(X)** was used by convicted felons who demanded special treatment while serving out their terms of imprisonment.

**(✓)** was used by convicted felons demanding special treatment while serving terms of imprisonment.

**Awkward construction**

**(X)** was used by felonious convicts who had demanded special treatment while serving terms of imprisonment.

**Not happening before any other Action**

# SUBJUNCTIVES & CONDITIONALS

# SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD

- Such words are used for giving orders / making requests or suggestions i.e. telling others what you want to be done.
- Commonly used words are: order / command / demand / insist / advise / recommend / urge etc.
- The form of the following verb changes, based upon the construction / voice of that part.
- **DO NOT USE SHOULD / MUST ALONG WITH SUCH WORDS TO AVOID REDUNDANCY.**

# SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD

## ACTIVE VOICE

**If the subjunctive verb is followed by ‘that’, the next verb is in the original / be form.**

We require *that* he ***come*** to the office.

The judge ordered *that* you ***be*** present.

## PASSIVE VOICE

**In these cases, the following verb is typically in be + past participle form.**

- The Principal insisted that the dossier ***be presented*** by Nick.
- My mother commanded that the gifts ***be taken*** away at once.

# HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION

- For any improbable / unreal situation, use **PAST TENSE**. At the same time, between ‘was’ and ‘were’, always choose ‘were’.
- The same is applicable for hypothetical expressions such as ‘as if’, ‘as though’, ‘it is high time’, ‘it is time’ etc.

Examples:

I **wish** I were rich, and I owned this car.

He behaves **as if** he were the poorest among us.

**It is high time** that you took matters seriously.

I **would rather** you joined my team. (would+rather+subject)

# CONDITIONALS

| Frequency        | Condition                   | Effect                                       |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Every-time Event | SIMPLE PRESENT              | SIMPLE PRESENT                               |
|                  | SIMPLE PAST                 | SIMPLE PAST                                  |
| One-time Event   | SIMPLE PRESENT              | SIMPLE FUTURE                                |
|                  | SIMPLE PAST (Hypothetical)  | COULD / WOULD + ORIGINAL FORM OF VERB        |
|                  | PAST PERFECT (Hypothetical) | COULD / WOULD + PRESENT PERFECT FORM OF VERB |

Whenever I win a match, he ***gives*** me a gift.  
 Whenever I won a match, he ***gave*** me a gift.  
 If I win the match, he ***will give*** me a gift.  
 If I won the match, he ***would give*** me a gift.  
Had I won the match, he ***would have given*** me a gift.  
 If I had won the match, he ***would have given*** me a gift.

For a hypothetical condition “If+were”, the outcome is written in the “WOULD + ORIGINAL VERB” form.  
 If I were you, I ***would accept*** the current offer

# SUBJUNCTIVES AND CONDITIONALS

**Q.13** A recent and popular self-help book wryly notes that if adolescence was not so painful, it would have a droll comedic aspect, at least in retrospect.

- (A) was not so painful, it
- (B) was not so painful, they
- (C) were not so painful, they
- (D) were not so painful, it
- (E) were not so painful, being one



# SUBJUNCTIVES AND CONDITIONALS

Q13. A recent and popular self-help book wryly notes that if adolescence was not so painful, it would have a droll comedic aspect, at least in retrospect.

(X) was not so painful, it

(X) was not so painful, they

(X) were not so painful, they **Adolescence is 'singular' – use 'it'**

 (D) were not so painful, it

(X) were not so painful, being one

**Adolescent could be referred to as  
'being one', not Adolescence.**

**A hypothetical condition as the rhetoric implies that  
Adolescence is actually quite painful.**


# SUBJUNCTIVES AND CONDITIONALS


**Q.14** In the Scopes Trial in 1925, three-time Presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan, who opposed evolution on religious grounds, argued that evolution not be taught in public schools, while famed trial lawyer Clarence Darrow argued that it be.


- (A) three-time Presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan, who opposed evolution on religious grounds, argued that evolution not be taught in public schools, while famed trial lawyer Clarence Darrow argued that it be
- (B) three-time Presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan opposed evolution on the grounds of religion and also argued that evolution should not be taught in public schools, but that evolution should be taught in public schools was argued by Clarence Darrow, who was a famous trial lawyer
- (C) William Jennings Bryan, who had run for President three times and who had opposed evolution on religious grounds, had argued against the teaching of evolution in public schools, while Clarence Darrow, a famous trial lawyer, had argued with it
- (D) William Jennings Bryan, who ran for President three times, opposed evolution on the grounds of religion, as he argued that evolution should not be taught in public schools, Clarence Darrow, a famous trial lawyer, had argued for it
- (E) William Jennings Bryan, who had run for President three times, opposing evolution on religious grounds, argued against the teaching of evolution in public schools, although famous trial lawyer Clarence Darrow argued that it should be

# SUBJUNCTIVES AND CONDITIONALS


Q14. In the Scopes Trial in 1925, three-time Presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan, who opposed evolution on religious grounds, argued that evolution not be taught in public schools, while famed trial lawyer Clarence Darrow argued that it be. **‘argued’ is Subjunctive, so it should not be followed by ‘should/must/need etc’.**


(A)  three-time Presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan, who opposed evolution on religious grounds, argued that evolution not be taught in public schools, while famed trial lawyer Clarence Darrow argued that it be

 three-time Presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan opposed evolution on the grounds of religion and also argued that evolution should not be taught in public schools, but that evolution should be taught in public schools was argued by Clarence Darrow, who was a famous trial lawyer

 William Jennings Bryan, who had run for President three times and who had opposed evolution on religious grounds, had argued against the teaching of evolution in public schools, while Clarence Darrow, a famous trial lawyer, had argued with it

**All in the same time frame, so ‘past perfect’ is incorrect.**

 William Jennings Bryan, who ran for President three times, opposed evolution on the grounds of religion, as he argued that evolution should not be taught in public schools, Clarence Darrow, a famous trial lawyer, had argued for it

 William Jennings Bryan, who had run for President three times, opposing evolution on religious grounds, argued against the teaching of evolution in public schools, although famous trial lawyer Clarence Darrow argued that it should be

# SUBJUNCTIVES AND CONDITIONALS

**Q.15** Legislation in the Canadian province of Ontario requires of both public and private employers that pay be the same for jobs historically held by women as for jobs requiring comparable skill that are usually held by men.

(A) that pay be the same for jobs historically held by women as for jobs requiring comparable skill that are

(B) that pay for jobs historically held by women should be the same as for a job requiring comparable skills

(C) to pay the same in jobs historically held by women as in jobs of comparable skill that are

(D) to pay the same regardless of whether a job was historically held by women or is one demanding comparable skills

(E) to pay as much for jobs historically held by women as for a job demanding comparable skills

# SUBJUNCTIVES AND CONDITIONALS

Q15. Legislation in the Canadian province of Ontario **requires** of both public and private employers that pay be the same for jobs historically held by women as for jobs requiring comparable skill that are usually held by men.

✓ (A) that pay be the same for jobs historically held by women as for jobs requiring comparable skill that are **‘Requires’ is Subjunctive, so it should not be followed by ‘should/must/need etc’.**

✗ (B) that pay for jobs historically held by women **should be the same** as for a job requiring comparable skills **The ‘infinitive’ form is wrong for Active Voice construction in Subjunctive cases.**

✗ (C) **to pay** the same in jobs historically held by women as in jobs of comparable skill that are **pay “for” a job; “job” and “jobs” are not parallel**

✗ (D) **to pay** the same regardless of whether a job was historically held by women or is one demanding comparable skills **Awkward construction**

✗ (E) **to pay** as much for jobs historically held by women as for a job demanding comparable skills **“job” and “jobs” are not parallel**

# SUBJUNCTIVES AND CONDITIONALS

**Q.16** Maria Bonaparte put up the ransom that the Nazis insisted on if Freud were allowed to leave Vienna.

- (A) if Freud were allowed
- (B) if Freud was to be allowed
- (C) should Freud be allowed
- (D) if they will allow Freud
- (E) should allowance be made for Freud

# SUBJUNCTIVES AND CONDITIONALS

Q16. Maria Bonaparte put up the ransom that the Nazis insisted on if Freud were allowed to leave Vienna.

(✗) if Freud were allowed

**Because Maria Bonaparte actually put up the ransom, the condition was not hypothetical.**

 (✓) if Freud was to be allowed

(✗) should Freud be allowed **For a conditional in GMAT, choose 'if' over 'should'.**

(✗) if they will allow Freud **Can't use 'will allow' for past context 'insisted'.**

(✗) should allowance be made for Freud **Long and awkward construction**

# SUBJUNCTIVES AND CONDITIONALS

**Q.17** Art museums do not usually think of their collections as capital or consider the interest income that would be generated if a portion of the capital would have been invested in another form.

- (A) be generated if a portion of the capital would have been
- (B) have been generated if a portion of the capital would have been
- (C) be generated if a portion of the capital were
- (D) be generated if a portion of the capital was
- (E) be generated if a portion of the capital had been



# SUBJUNCTIVES AND CONDITIONALS

Q17. Art museums do not usually think of their collections as capital or consider the interest income that would be generated if a portion of the capital would have been invested in another form.

(✗) be generated if a portion of the capital **would have been**

**‘would have’ is used for effect, not condition.**

(✗) have been generated if a portion of the capital **would have been**

✓ be generated if a portion of the capital were

(✗) be generated if a portion of the capital **was**

(✗) be generated if a portion of the capital **had been**

**If we use ‘had been invested’ for condition, the outcome has to be written as ‘would have been generated’.**

**The sentence implies that it is a hypothetical condition because museums do not invest their capital in another form.**

# SUBJUNCTIVES AND CONDITIONALS

**Q.18** Had Russian lieutenant colonel Stanislav Petrov not correctly judged the early warning system's reports of an incoming nuclear missile on September 26, 1983, to be false and disobeyed orders from his superiors to retaliate, Russia and the United States would likely have entered a large-scale nuclear war.

(A) Had Russian lieutenant colonel Stanislav Petrov not correctly judged the early warning system's reports of an incoming nuclear missile on September 26, 1983, to be false and disobeyed orders from his superiors to retaliate, Russia and the United States would likely have entered a large-scale nuclear war.

(B) If Russian lieutenant colonel Stanislav Petrov had not correctly judged the early warning system that reported an incoming nuclear missile on September 26, 1983 to be false and then disobeyed orders from his superiors to retaliate, Russia and the United States likely would have entered a large-scale nuclear war.

(C) Russian lieutenant colonel Stanislav Petrov likely prevented a large-scale nuclear war between the United States and Russia on September 26, 1983 by correctly judging that the early warning system's reports of an incoming nuclear missile were false, disobeying orders from his superiors to retaliate.

(D) On September 26, 1983, Russian lieutenant colonel Stanislav Petrov correctly judged that the early warning system's reports of an incoming nuclear missile were false, disobeying orders from his superiors to retaliate and likely preventing the United States and Russia from entering a large-scale nuclear war.

(E) On September 26, 1983, Russian lieutenant colonel Stanislav Petrov likely prevented the United States and Russia from entering a large-scale nuclear war when he disobeyed orders from his superiors to retaliate and correctly judged that the early warning system's reports that a nuclear missile was incoming were false.

# SUBJUNCTIVES AND CONDITIONALS

The “comma + gerund clause” refers to a “cause + outcome” construction.

Q18. Had Russian lieutenant colonel Stanislav Petrov not correctly judged the early warning system’s reports of an incoming nuclear missile on September 26, 1983, to be false and disobeyed orders from his superiors to retaliate, Russia and the United States would likely have entered a large-scale nuclear war.

✓ Had Russian lieutenant colonel Stanislav Petrov not correctly judged the early warning system’s reports of an incoming nuclear missile on September 26, 1983, to be false and disobeyed orders from his superiors to retaliate, Russia and the United States would likely have entered a large-scale nuclear war.

✗ If Russian lieutenant colonel Stanislav Petrov had not correctly judged the early warning system that reported an incoming nuclear missile on September 26, 1983 to be false and then disobeyed orders from his superiors to retaliate, Russia and the United States likely would have entered a large-scale nuclear war. **The ‘warning system’ was not false, the reports were...**

✗ Russian lieutenant colonel Stanislav Petrov likely prevented a large-scale nuclear war between the United States and Russia on September 26, 1983 by correctly judging that the early warning system’s reports of an incoming nuclear missile were false, disobeying orders from his superiors to retaliate. **‘disobeying’ is not the outcome; ‘prevented’ is the outcome.**

✗ On September 26, 1983, Russian lieutenant colonel Stanislav Petrov correctly judged that the early warning system’s reports of an incoming nuclear missile were false, disobeying orders from his superiors to retaliate and likely preventing the United States and Russia from entering a large-scale nuclear war. **‘disobeying’ is not the outcome; ‘prevented’ is the outcome.**

✗ On September 26, 1983, Russian lieutenant colonel Stanislav Petrov likely prevented the United States and Russia from entering a large-scale nuclear war when he disobeyed orders from his superiors to retaliate and correctly judged that the early warning system’s reports that a nuclear missile was incoming were false. **Not two separate actions. ‘Judged’ must have happened before ‘disobeyed’.**



Thank you