* **Changing the meaning** of the sentence unnecessarily by changing overall word order.
* Failed to identify whether original sentence is in passive voice (i.e. non underlined part of the original sentence). Thus, choosing perfect tense rather than passive voice.
* Slight change of meaning is tolerated if ***all***other statements are grammatically *incorrect*.
* When we have words that express time frame of the event such as **today** etc., then use the verb tense of that time frame only i.e. simple present in case of today.
* **Although** can also be used as comparison marker to compare between two entities.
* A relative pronoun modifier can modify a slightly far away noun if this noun and its modifier are separated by some phrase that cannot be placed anywhere else and if it makes sense for the modifier to only modify the slightly far away noun. (twice)
* When actual function is described then use **as**; use like for comparison only.
* The usage of "would" depends on the context - if the context requires signifying the sense of uncertainty, then usage of "would" is perfectly fine.

Ex: Lawmakers are examining measures that would require banks to disclose all fees and account requirements in writing.

But, if there is **if else** construction then follow the stringent rule of if else construction.

Ex: A wildlife expert predicts that the reintroduction of the carribou will fail if the density of the timber wolf population in that region is greater than one wolf/39 square miles. (would will be wrong in this case)

* Whose can refer to things also.
* Present participle and past participle can be parallel when they both acts as adjectives.
* Make sure that clauses that begins with same word must indeed be clauses. It can be possible that one of them could be fragment.
* Make sure to check for superficial parallelism instead of actual parallelism.(**yet** wala example)
* When each comes after the subject it doesn’t change the subject to singular.
* Failed to identify complex gerund parallel to action noun. Thus, selecting participle instead of noun.
* Infinitive is used to show intention whereas participles are used to show result.
* Failed to read non underlined part carefully. Thus, choosing a run on sentence.
* Use of **if** should always include a consequence (in the form of then clause).
* **if** should be used only while making a conditional statement and **whether** should be used to evaluate alternatives. The usage of *or* is also incorrect if the two events are mutually exclusive, hence we need *and* to make the meaning clear.
* If hung between two answer choices, *avoid* words ending with –*ing*.
* Take care of the parallelism of *you* and *your*.
* Understand the meaning of the sentence to determine which part of sentence needs to be sub-ordinated.
* *May* and *might* can both be used in present tense. Same is true for *can* and *could*.
* -ing form without comma before it modifies the preceding word.
* Unable to ascertain that two fairly close independent clauses are connected by semicolon not comma.
* A superlative degree is required to be identified by the definite article ‘the’. Eg *the* most.
* All subjects of the list can either be plural or singular but not the combination of both.
* In comparison using **as** verb can come before subject.

Eg. In its most recent approach, the comet Crommelin passed the Earth at about the same distance and in about the same position, some 25 degrees above the horizon, as will Halley’s comet the next time it appears.

* *Would have* is used for uncertain things of future while *would* is preferred when we want to show some certainty in uncertainty.
* *The* is not used with *such as.*

Eg. The other infections such as chicken pox, malaria. (wrong)

* Make sure *not* to make *concrete noun* parallel to *action noun or complex gerund*.
* the gmat tends to write sentences in which "which" stands for the ELIGIBLE noun that's closest to the comma by "eligible", i mean that the noun has to AGREE IN TERMS OF SINGULAR/PLURAL with the FOLLOWING VERB. Also, which always comes after comma as it provides non-essential information.

Eg. the box of nails, which is on the counter, is to be used on this project. in this case, "which" CANNOT refer to "nails", since the verb "is" is singular. therefore, the nearest eligible noun is

"box (of nails)". so, "which" unambiguously stands for that.

* When we reduce a verb to its -ing or -ed form i.e. past (generally used in past sense) and present participle(generally used in present sense), we must look at one and only one thing: whether the noun that it will modify is the **subject** or **object** of that verb.

The -ing form is used for DOING the action, which means SUBJECT, which means ACTIVE voice.

The -ed form is used for RECEIVING the action, which means OBJECT, which means PASSIVE voice.

* if it says ***the only*** *one* *of*..., then it's singular. if it says ***only*** *one of*... (without the), then it's plural.
* *Such* alone (without as) can be used as pronoun.

Eg.: if somewhere in the sentence it is mentioned a phrase **such firms** then **firms** should be mentioned somewhere else in the sentence.

* In general, the rule for percentages would be:

Use "less" with percentages of uncountable nouns.

Use "fewer" with percentages of countable nouns.

* Failed to miss a cause and effect relationship and thus, did not selected a -ing form for effect.
* *During* describes a period.
* If "being" expresses IDENTITY or CHARACTERISTICS, then kill it. Otherwise, evaluate it on the same merits as you would any other verb.

Eg. being a cigar aficionado, john has strong opinions (kill being).

* Missed that *even though, although, and while* introduces clauses. So, a clause must follow them.
* Uncountable things cannot be modified by *numerous* but rather we use *greater* in those cases.
* The test writers prefer to use the noun first and then later use a subject pronoun (if necessary). Note that I am specifically limiting this to subject pronouns, not object or possessive pronouns.
* **'there were' / 'there was'** is a very common construction in spoken english, but its use in formal written language (such as the language of the gmat) is ordinarily restricted to discussion of the physical location of things (as in, those things literally were there, etc.) if it's not being used in this sense, it's considered wordy, because it can be replaced by more concise phrasing. Additionally, you only use **there** **were** construction when you are actually asserting the presence of something/someone (where it is **not** already obvious).

For instance, if you start a sentence with 'there are two cars in the street...', you're assuming that your reader does not already know that there are two cars in the street. Otherwise, you'd start with something like 'the two cars in the street are...'

Eg. There were less than 1 percent of homes with electricity

This is bad. First of all, we aren't using the sentence to assert the presence of the homes - they're already understood to be there. (also, it's not really clear where 'there' is.) Second, we can easily rephrase this to 'less than 1% of homes had electricity', which is much nicer and more concise.

* *Present Participle* modifiers used **after comma** at the end of sentence modifies the *action* of preceding clause. Thus, if preceding clause has *linking verb* as the main verb than such modifiers don’t make sense.
* "While" should be used in one of two circumstances: (1) if the first act takes place during the second act, or (2) if there is some sort of contrast between the two acts.
* Absolute phrases are very handy when you want to describe something from earlier in the sentence but cannot simply start a modifier due to placement issues. (structure of absolute phrases= noun+ noun modifier)
* **Appositive noun modifier**, a type of modifier that NEVER appears in spoken language but that appears on the gmat a lot. The reason is that, unlike relative pronouns such as 'which', these modifiers don't have to touch their referent. if you have an appositive modifier that's an abstract noun - such as "strategy", "figure", "statistic", "findings", "situation", "change", "difference", etc. - then such an appositive may be allowed to describe the entire situation described in the previous clause. A modifier starting with an *abstract noun* is always better than same type of modifier starting with a *pronoun* in terms of clarity.
* You **shouldn't** have a comma before "that". However, if the comma **BELONGS TO A MODIFIER**, then it can be fine.

Eg. this is the book, that i bought at the store --> wrong.

this is the book, recommended to me by my brother, that i bought at the store --> correct

* Majority can be considered plural at least when it refers to *majority of* **countable noun**.
* A noun that acts as subject in one clause is also preferred as subject in subsequent clauses.
* You **lay** something down (i.e transitive), and people **lie** (i.e. intransitive) down by themselves. But, **past tense** of **lie** is **lay** and **past participle** is **lain** whereas **past tense** and **past participle** of **lay** is **laid**.
* **Its** refer to possessive noun.
* Take care of s-v agreement in **which clause** also.
* **Verb-ed** can act asmodifier, and it modifies the closest noun.
* **Economical** is **in**correct adjective.
* **With** be followed by an independent clause.