

# GRAMMAR REVIEW

On GAT in Pakistan, in this type of questions, you are not being evaluated purely for your understanding of grammar; rather you are tested for the correct usage and vivid expression. Of course, if you can explain usage in grammatical terms, you will be able to generalize the error and be able to spot it much quicker. Therefore, if you can understand the grammatical reasons, take some extra time to study and gain this advantageous mastery.

You can easily learn to identify an error by relating it with one of the examples discussed in the following section. Memorize the name of the error, the example, and the correct form. This method will give you complete examination control of the items being tested.

## EFFECTIVE STRATEGY

If GAT history is observed keenly, one can find that not every rule or point of grammar is tested. You can perform well if you develop habit of finding the right choice by observing the relevancy in given choices and the related part of the sentence. Following are some important points; you must keep in mind while going through the section of the Test.

- The most important is to find the main verb and subject of the sentence and find it through the given choices.
- Don't waste your time in finding the meaning of the sentences.
- Don't think about the meaning of the words you find difficult in the sentence. Concentrate on the structure of the sentence.
- Think about the grammatical type of the sentence.
- Read the sentence. If it makes sense or sounds correct.
- If all your tools are failed go to elimination method. Pick the choices one by one and try to fit in the structure of the sentence in your mind.

## THE MOST COMMON TESTING POINTS

Not all of the grammatical aspects of any sentence are covered in any grammar book. Focusing our

attention towards the Test, following are the most common points normally asked on the test.

Subject	Verbs and Tenses
Nouns	Singular and Plural
Articles	Pronouns
Appositives	Adjectives
Adverbs	Subordination
Noun Cases	Passive and Active
Gerund and Infinitive	Preposition
Conjunctions	Comparison

The best method of improving your use of English Grammar on the test is to study the sample sentences in this book. Then do the practice exercises at the end of each section.

After each group of lessons, there is an exercise using grammatical points from the preceding explanation.

## SUBJECT

Subject is the agent of the sentence in the active voice; it is the person or thing that performs or is responsible for the action of the sentence, and it normally precedes the verb.

Every sentence in English must have a subject. (In the case of commands, the subject you is understood.)

**The subject may be a single noun.**

**Examples:**

Subject	
Javed	is a clever boy
Milk	contains healthful nutrients.

The subject may be a plural noun.

**Examples:**

Subject	
Books	are easy to read for me.
Cats	are going out.

The subject may be a noun phrase.

### Examples:

Subject	
The book	is on the table.
That new black book	is Qasim's.

"It" can act as a pronoun

### Examples:

Subject	
It	rains here in the summer.
It	is hard to believe that he is dead.

On the GAT, you should always try to find and isolate the main subject and the main verb. This will greatly increase your chances to eliminate the incorrect choice to fill in and selecting the best answer.

"There" can act as a pseudo-subject

### Examples:

Subject	
There	is a boy in the room.
There	are many books on the table.

The subject of every sentence must be a noun.

A noun is a word that names something.

Nouns:	Biologists divide Biology in to two branches.
Pronouns:	It was M. M. Alam who successfully fired four jet fighters of the enemy in a single minute.
Gerunds:	Tough exercising is recommended by all health care professionals.

The most common way GAT tests your basic knowledge of subjects on the test is by having you identify the noun functioning as the subject. Sometimes the subject is a gerund, which acts as a noun-but usually the subject is just a regular noun. Test sometimes tries to confuse you by hiding the subject behind a modifying phrase or by including the main verb in the answer choice.

## PRACTICE EXERCISE

**Directions:** Questions below are not complete sentences. One or more words are left out of each sentence. Under each sentence, you will see four words or phrase, marked A., B., C., and D. Choose the one word or phrase that completes the sentence correctly.

The answers and explanations of some questions have been given at the next page after exercise.

1. According to Dr. Daniel, when the companions of the king, saw the king after he had risen from the ground, they said, \_\_\_\_\_ and we'll fight again.  
A. it is him                      B. it is he  
C. it is his                        D. it is himself
2. When the machines are not lubricated, \_\_\_\_\_ decreases the speed, putting more load on the lifts.  
A. then                              B. than  
C. so                                 D. it
3. When the chairman became very ill, his wife began to take a more active role in business activities, and many people believed that \_\_\_\_\_ and the chairman shared his responsibilities.  
A. her                                B. she  
C. herself                         D. hers
4. Although most species of cat are black in color, \_\_\_\_\_ is often pure white.  
A. the Iranian cat  
B. nevertheless the Iranian cat  
C. That the Iranian cat  
D. but the Iranian cat
5. \_\_\_\_\_, regarded as the world's oldest continuously inhabited city, is the main city of Punjab.  
A. the Multan                      B. Multan being  
C. Multan                         D. that Multan

### Answers

1	B	2	D	3	B	4	A	5	C
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

## Explanations

- All choices include "it is". After it is there must be nominative case personal pronouns (he).
- The verb "decreases" requires its subject (it).
- "and the chairman" need a parallel personal pronoun (she).
- is after the blank space indicates the need of subject. Although indicates the contrast in qualities (colour) of the cat and "species of cat are" indicates the use of subject of second part "the Iranian cat" with is.
- Ignore the part in commas and read the sentence as "\_\_\_\_\_ is the main city of Punjab. Hence it need a subject (Multan)

## VERBS

The verb shows the action of the sentence. Every sentence must have a verb.

The verb may be a single word.

Example:

	verb	
Kamran	drives	very fast
They	like	to go to Lahore.

The verb may be a verb phrase.

A verb phrase consists of one or more auxiliaries and one main verb. The auxiliaries always precede the main verb.

Examples:

	auxiliary	verb	
Kamran	Is	going	to Karachi

	auxiliary	verb	
Javed	has been	reading	the book

Verbs and verb phrases

Examples:

	Verb Phrase	
She	will go to	Bhakkar this week.
She	must has gone	to the bank.
He	is watching	the hockey match.

A verb is an action. Verb express

- physical action
- mental action
- state of being

In case of more than one verb in a sentence, try to identify the main verb. You can find it as it will not be in the "to \_\_\_" or \_\_\_ ing form.

to do	cannot be a main verb
doing	Cannot be a main verb
do, does, did	can be a main Verb

## Subject - Verb agreement:

- Singular subjects must take singular verbs
- Plural subjects must take plural verbs

## The Past Perfect and the Simple Past

In such questions, the test confuses with the use of would in sentences having two pasts. The past perfect should only be used when the action expressed in the past perfect verb happens before another past event in the sentence. This other past event may be expressed by another verb in the sentence.

Example:

### First part

	First verb	
Before we	went,	to Karachi

### Second Part

	second verb	
we	had finished	all of our work.

For an event that took place before a more recent second event, use the word before and the past perfect.

Example:

	Past Perfect		before
He	had last been	to Karachi	five years before.

## VERB SEQUENCES

When a sentence has two verbs, make sure that the relationship between the two verbs is correct in occurrence.

Example:

Present		Past	Before
I live in Multan now,	but I	lived	in Karachi before.

### Incorrect Verb Forms

Here is a list of rules that you should learn to avoid some impossible compound verb forms.

#### Use of the verb be

A present participle in the progressive tense

##### Example:

	verb be		
Khalid	has been writing		his thesis for the last two years.

A past participle in the passive

##### Example:

	verb be		
The brochures	were given		to the participants on the last time of the session.

An infinitive with the meaning of must, or the meaning of an unreal present

##### Example:

	verb be		
Salesman	is to report		to the head office.

### Use of auxiliary verb have

Part of a finite verb

##### Example:

	verb have		
We	have seen		that scene three times.

A participle

##### Example:

have		past	
Having seen	the scene three times, we really	didn't want	to see it again.

An infinitive

##### Example:

	infinitive		
He was glad	to have seen		the car race.

Remember that the auxiliary have is always followed by a past participle.

### Avoid Using to with modal verb:

A modal verb is always followed by the simple form of the verb without the word to.

### Example:

	Verb without to		
You	should work		hard to win the title.

Exception: ought to.

### Example:

	verb have		
He	ought to		read the textbooks.

## PRACTICE EXERCISE

- The psychiatrist advised that \_\_\_\_\_ on diet.  
A. I am going      B. I am to go  
C. I should go      D. I go
- The hotel manager suggested that they arrived on time for their reservation.  
A. we arrive      B. we should arrive  
C. we arrived      D. were arrive
- The college discipline committee requires that students \_\_\_\_\_ college 165 days a year.  
A. are in      B. be in  
C. were in      D. should in
- After the complete failure of the mission the leader of the guerilla band realized that it was important that money \_\_\_\_\_ for the cause.  
A. has been collected      B. is collected  
C. be collected      D. was collected
- I wish that \_\_\_\_\_ in Multan.  
A. I was living      B. I has been living  
C. I were living      D. I am living

### Answers

1	D	2	A	3	B	4	C	5	C
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

### Explanations

- The verb advised is a verb of demand so it must follow be form (I go)
- suggestion is a verb of demand so there must be in "be form" (they arrive).
- requires is a verb of demand so there must be a "be form" (be in)
- "it is important" show that important is a verb of demand so there must be a "be form" (be collected)