

IDIOMS

An idiomatic phrase is an expression peculiar to a language and not explainable through rules of logic or grammar.

When used in an idiomatic phrase, a word loses its individual meaning; the expression or phrase takes on a meaning different from the literal meaning of the words involved.

Some standard and non standard idioms:

| Standard | Nonstandard |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Accord with | Accord to |
| According to | According with |
| At home | To home |
| Superior to | Superior than |
| As regards | As regards to |
| In accordance with | In accordance to |
| Frightened by | Frightened of |
| In search of | In search for |
| Within a month | Inside of a month |
| Aim to prove | Aim at proving |

Idiomatic phrases:

Custom often labels one of a pair of synonymous idioms standard and the other nonstandard.

| Standard | Nonstandard |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| In search of | In search for |
| Try to see | Try and see |
| Blame us for it | Blame it on us |
| Cannot help | Cannot help but |
| Within an hour | Inside of an hour |
| Kind of | Kind of a |
| Type of | Type of a |
| Among all three | Between the three |

GAT High Frequency Idioms

in order to

Correct Usage: She began dating the playboy in order to go to the best parties.

Incorrect Usage: She began dating the playboy in order that she got to go to the best parties.

inherit from

My dark hair was inherited from my father.

invest in

I invested five weeks of my time building this model ship.

invest with

The constitution invests the vice president with the authority to act on the president's behalf in certain conditions.

isolated from

We isolated the children from the source of the disease

just as x, so y

Just as Kate was considered for a seat at Harvard Business School, so was Tina.

known to

Correct Usage: Even as a young boy he was known to explore different ways of doing things.

Incorrect Usage: Even as a young boy, he was known as wanting to explore different ways of doing things.

lead away

The trainer led away the dog from the other animals.

lead to

a life of crime will lead to inevitable sorrow.

left, right and center

The rebels were firing at people left, right and center.

localized in

Are International Charities Becoming More Localized in the Economic Crisis.

manage with

I am sure we can manage with the money that we have.

a means to

Correct Usage: For some people, mobile phones are just a means to an end.

Incorrect Usage:

- For some people, mobile phones are a means for an end.

- For some people, mobile phones are a means of an end.

mistake x for y

Correct Usage: Because of the sisters' similar looks, one was often mistaken for the other

Incorrect Usage: Because of the sisters' similar looks, one was often mistaken as the other

more than ever

Correct Usage: I regret more than ever not getting into NUST.

Incorrect Usage: I regret more than never not getting into NUST.

much as

Much as she needed the job, she had to refuse.

native of

Palvasha is a native of Peshawar.

native to

The cobra is native to Africa

necessary to

Lisa deemed it necessary to go home.

originate from

Some of our customs originate from old beliefs

originate in

All your troubles originate in your lungs.

originate with

This idea originated with the committee.

permit (someone) through

Would you permit me through the door?

permit up

She would not permit me up the ladder

prized above

He prized his only daughter above everyone else in the world

prized as

Pink corals have been prized as jewelry for 5000 years.

prized for

Gold Jewelry Has Been Prized for Thousands of Years.

prohibit from

Correct Usage: Only when we prohibit people from driving fast will we reduce the number of accidents.

Incorrect Usage: Only when we prohibit people to drive fast will we reduce the number of accidents.

promise the moon

My boss promised the moon, but never gave me a raise

promise to

Is this book promised to anyone?

range from

The winter weather ranges from bad to terrible in this part of the north.

range over

These animals range over a very large territory

reluctant to

Correct Usage: The child was reluctant to jump into the deep end of the pool.

Incorrect Usage: The child was reluctant about jumping into the deep end of the pool.

refer to

My doctor referred me to a specialist.

regard as

I have always regarded you as my friend.

required to

The employees were required to hand over

the pass when they quit the company.

require of

What is required of me in this job?

resemble in

This resembles vanilla ice cream in flavor, but not in consistency.

result from

It will be interesting to see what results from your efforts.

result in

I hope that this will result in the police finding your car.

rival in

No one rivals Tahir in pitching a baseball.

sacrifice for

Would you sacrifice your bank account for a chance to go to Europe?

sacrifice to

I sacrificed a lot of money to a fancy lifestyle

seem like

seemed like such a nice person when I met you.

seem to

Correct Usage: The officer went to question the man who seemed to be hiding something.

Incorrect Usage: The officer went to question the man who seemed like hiding something.

seek out

Rizwana sought out a helper for Ashfaq.

seek from

We will seek an injunction from the judge.

seek after

Nawaz will continue to seek after the thief who stole my car.

seek revenge

I will not seek revenge for what he did to me.

sequence of

The sequence of events folded step by step.

Speak about

And now I will speak about Alama Iqbal.

Speak against

Please don't speak against Pakistan in my presence.

Speak down to (Talk in simple language)

There is no need to speak down to me. I can understand anything you are likely to say.

Speak from

Believe me, I speak from experience.

Speak up

I want to speak up for the rights of students.

Speak volumes

The unsightly yard and unpainted house speaks volumes about what kind of people live there.

Speak with

He did what? I will speak with him!

Speak for

Is the experiment a success? I think the numbers speak for themselves.

think of or think to be

Correct Usage:

- I think of him as my best friend.
- I think him to be my best friend.

train to

Correct Usage: Manju was trained to become an athlete ever since she was a child.

Incorrect Usage: Manju was trained as an athlete ever since she was a child.

try to or try and

Correct Usage: He tried to start afresh after the set back.

Incorrect Usage: He tried and started afresh after the set back.

unlike x, y

Unlike Taimur, Babar loves to go shopping.

used as

Correct Usage: language can be used as a weapon.

Incorrect Usage: language can be used like a weapon.

Other idioms rules generally tested on the GAT**Among Vs Between**

Among is used when more than two items are in question, between is used when there are only two items:

e.g. I have to choose between studying and watching a movie.

I have been admitted to several schools. I now need to choose the best among them.

Both Vs Each

Use "both" to point similarities, "each" to point differences. "Each" is always singular

Twice Vs Double

Use "twice, thrice" for comparison; "double, triple" is used as a verb only.

Each Other Vs One another

"each other" is for two things; "one another" for more than two.

If vs Whether

If there is a choice between the two, use "whether". On the GAT, "if" is primarily for if/then type sentences.

like vs such as

Use "such as" when possible. On the GAT, "like" is used when implying "similar to"

DOUBLE NEGATIVE

A double negative is a construction that uses two negative terms when one would be sufficient.

No, nothing, not, none, nobody, should not be used with another negative to convey a denial.

I don't want none of it.