

Top 10 GMAT Tips
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The GMAT is hard, and especially difficult if one is not prepared. Therefore, to be successful it is critical to study and understand how one prepares for such a test. How and what you study will make all the difference. Most importantly, talking to someone who has taken the test can be very beneficial, more so than hiring a tutor or downloading any preparatory program, at first. Ideally they can offer some useful tips before the big day! In the meantime, below are our top ten things to help prepare for the GMAT.

1) Practice and be smart about it!

Be smart with how you study. No need to study more, just be strategic and utilize the time efficiently to prepare. Strategy is everything. Most importantly, study when you are at your personal best – the time of day when you find yourself to be the most productive. Take time to know what is on the test and what the GMAT is actually testing. Most importantly, although it feels validating to work on the parts of the test that are most comfortable, don't be fooled by these areas. Just because there are certain sections that *are* your area of expertise, there will always be more difficult sections that will inevitably need your attention. Invest your time and energy in these and practice, practice, practice relentlessly!

2) Be careful on the wording

Take time to make sure you confidently understand what is being asked. If you aren't 100% sure, read the question again. We recommend reading every question twice before even getting to the answers. While at the same time, don't read too much between the lines. The questions on the GMAT are generally straight forward and precise. The main thing to be concerned with is making sure you are fully comprehending what is being asked.

3) If you have a gut feeling – it is probably right!

Generally, when our instinct kicks in to tell us something, we should, for the most part, take it into consideration. Prevent yourself from jumping all over the board with your final answers. Once you have come to a decision, stick with it. Second guessing yourself has potential to set you up for failure. There are more questions to get to. Therefore, choose your answer, take a breath of confidence and move on. Although the test set-up may try to divert your attention away from the correct answer with misleading ones, if you take just a moment to assess what the answers are, surely you will not be fooled.

4) Time your study practice

The time that is allotted for the GMAT is intended to give test takers an ample amount. However, on the day of the test, with anxiety and stress working in your disadvantage, you may or may not feel crunched. Therefore, even while taking a practice exam or study at home in any fashion, it is important to begin timing yourself in order to gauge your efficiency and pace. Don't be impetuous, but do be

consistent. Never linger too long, while at the same time don't rush through the exam with reckless abandonment.

5) If you need to – guess!

Study and practice as much as you can before taking the exam. However, every now and then no matter how much studying we commit ourselves to, there are always those questions that will forever stump us. Lucky for GMAT takers, the test does not penalize for guessing. In fact, they are encouraging test takers to never skip a question, even if they don't know the answer. If needing to guess, pull out your intelligent *process of elimination* guide (hypothetical guide that is), choose the best answer and move on.

6) Data sufficiency section

This is the section that needs the most strategizing. Become super proficient with the structure of the questions on this section along with the concepts. In addition, be just as familiar with the answer choices since they are always the same. This will help to eliminate the wrong answer faster. Always remember the important information is in the prompt, therefore make sure you understand the question loud and clear to better clarify what you are looking to solve.

7) Sentence correction section

The sentence correction section can be difficult since many of us have not taken an English class in years. For this reason, learning the most commonly tested errors will be extremely helpful to be able to spot the error sooner. Other grammar errors to look for are prepositions and sentence structure, more specifically parallelism.

8) Validity

The information in each question is there for a reason. Therefore, understanding this information is imperative for your answer. Take stock in what is being shared, it could potentially be gold.

9) Attention

When reading a compare and contrast question, where you have to choose which answer is *not* true, people tend to make careless mistakes. Take time here to digest each answer and how they are different. Give scrupulous attention to these types of question, because this is what it demands.

10) Stay Optimistic

Staying positive about the outcome of your success can play a significant role in the outcome of your score. Repeat to yourself that you are going to be successful and map out a strategic plan for how you will be going about making that happen. Positivity and confidence can get you through this beast!

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