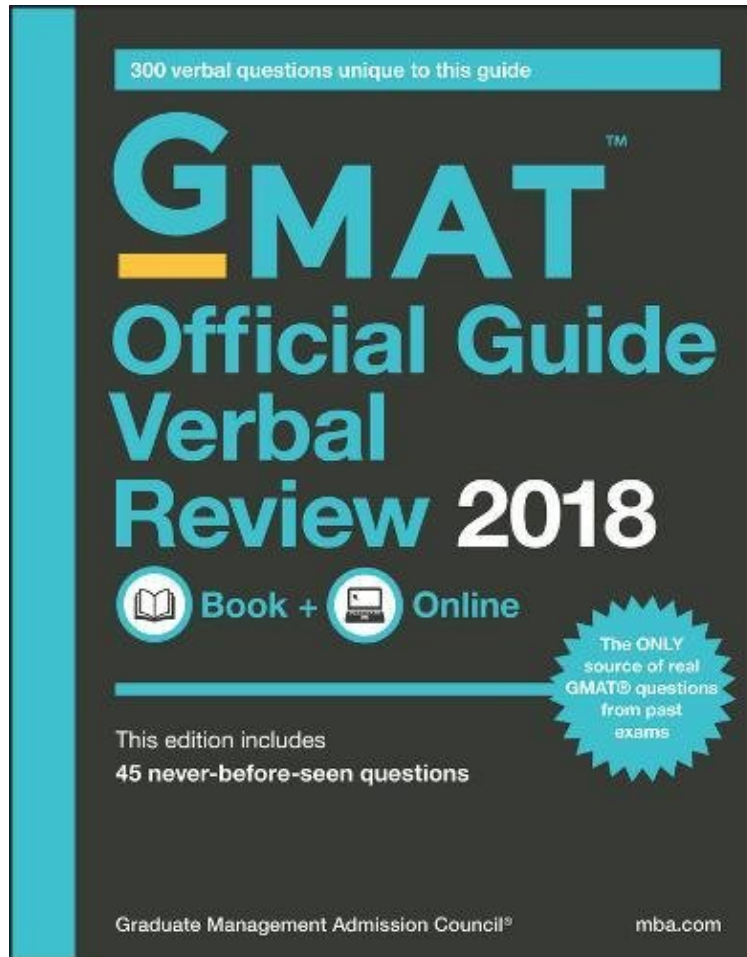


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## GMAT Official Guide 2018 Verbal Review: Book + Online (Official Guide for Gmat Verbal Review)

GMAC (Graduate Management Admission Council)  
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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerThe book is new and the paper is with good condition.10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. GMAT Genius Detailed Data-Driven Analysis and Question CategorizationBy GMAT GeniusFounded by a Stanford MBA, GMAT Genius offers the highest quality GMAT preparation services to GMAT aspirants worldwide. Our mission is crystal-clear: to help you achieve GMAT success. We provide extensive free GMAT prep advice on the GMAT Genius website: read all about the GMAT, gain

crucial strategy tips, learn how to best approach each question type, obtain optimal test preparation methods, discover effective GMAT study habits, and much more. In addition, we offer personalized GMAT tutoring to students worldwide. Please let us know if we can provide any assistance with your GMAT prep. GMAT Genius has thoroughly analyzed the 2018 Official Guides and we want to share our insights with you. Feel free to read our detailed analysis of the 2018 GMAT Verbal Official Guide or skip down to our conclusions. Please note that you can view this same review with the data in nicely formatted tables on the GMAT Genius blog. Wishing you tremendous success with the GMAT!

### OVERVIEW of OFFICIAL GUIDE

The Official Guides for GMAT Review contain retired real GMAT questions, and are an essential component of your GMAT preparations. The GMAC places questions in order of increasing difficulty, based on its assessment of difficulty. The Verbal Official Guide has no overlap with questions in the main Official Guide. The 2018 edition of this book contains 45 new questions out of the 301 total questions, representing 15% new content. These are new questions that we have not encountered before; they are not questions recycled from older GMAC resources.

### SENTENCE CORRECTION

This book contains 113 Sentence Correction questions. The GMAC classifies question difficulty into three categories as follows: Easy 35 (31%, 4 more than 2017) Medium 26 (23%, 25 fewer) Hard 52 (46%, 21 more) In the Sentence Correction section, questions are not fully presented in order of progressive difficulty, contrary to what the back cover of the book claims. Based on difficulty levels provided in the online version, Medium and Hard difficulty questions are interspersed. The following lists the question numbers for each difficulty level: Easy 189-223 Medium 224-247, 259, 261 Hard 248-258, 260, 262-301 The Sentence Correction section contains 17 new questions, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 8 / 0 / 9. This is in lieu of 17 questions from the 2017 edition that have been removed, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 4 / 8 / 5. The GMAC has also upgraded the difficulty of 17 Medium questions from the prior edition to Hard difficulty in this edition. GMAT Genius classifies question difficulty into five categories. Our assessment skews towards the easier side, but contains notable differences from the GMAC. Our difficulty assessment is only 63.8% correlated with the GMAC's assessment, clearly showing that there is subjectivity involved in assessing question difficulty. Here's our breakdown: Super Easy 4 (4%, 1 fewer than 2017) Easy 34 (30%, 4 more) Medium 43 (38%, same) Hard 27 (24%, 1 fewer) Very Hard 5 (4%, 2 fewer) Although Sentence Correction questions typically entail multiple grammar concepts (as described on our website), GMAT Genius classifies questions based on our assessment of the primary tested concept. We break down the 113 Sentence Correction questions as follows: Verb Agreement: 7 (6%, same than 2017) Verb Tense: 13 (12%, 1 fewer) Pronoun Ambiguity: 9 (8%, same) Pronoun Agreement: 11 (10%, same) Parallel Construction: 28 (25%, 4 fewer) Misplaced Modifiers: 17 (15%, 2 more) Idioms: 11 (10%, 1 more) Comparison Quantity: 8 (7%, same) Expression Meaning: 9 (8%, 2 more) Here's a list of the 17 new Sentence Correction questions: 198, 202, 204, 207, 209, 211, 212, 220, 267, 268, 270, 274, 284, 285, 286, 292, 293 Here's a list of the 113 Sentence Correction questions categorized by primary grammar concept: Verb Agreement: 202, 203, 229, 242, 269, 284, 287 Verb Tense: 200, 201, 204, 219, 221, 223, 228, 250, 262, 266, 276, 278, 289 Pronoun Ambiguity: 214, 241, 252, 255, 263, 271, 273, 277, 288 Pronoun Agreement: 190, 206, 208, 218, 233, 235, 253, 268, 281, 292, 298 Parallel Construction: 191, 193, 194, 196, 205, 210, 212, 213, 226, 227, 244, 245, 246, 248, 249, 251, 254, 256, 265, 270, 279, 280, 285, 293, 294, 296, 297, 301 Misplaced Modifiers: 189, 195, 197, 198, 209, 211, 224, 230, 231, 236, 238, 257, 258, 259, 282, 283, 290 Idioms: 192, 220, 222, 234, 237, 243, 260, 264, 272, 274, 295 Comparison Quantity: 215, 225, 232, 239, 247, 286, 291, 299 Expression Meaning: 199, 207, 216, 217, 240, 261, 267, 275, 300

### CRITICAL REASONING

This book contains 83 Critical Reasoning questions. The GMAC classifies question difficulty into three categories as follows: Easy 31 (37%, 3 fewer than 2017) Medium 27 (33%, 1 more) Hard 25 (30%, 2 more) In the Critical Reasoning section, questions are not fully presented in order of progressive difficulty, contrary to what the back cover of the book claims. Based on difficulty levels provided in the online version, Easy and Medium difficulty questions are interspersed. The following lists the question numbers for each difficulty level: Easy 106-135, 139 Medium 136-138, 140-163 Hard 164-188 The Critical Reasoning section contains 12 new questions, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 1 / 5 / 6. This is in lieu of 12 questions from the 2017 edition that have been removed, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 4 / 5 / 3. The GMAC has downgraded the difficulty of Hard questions from the prior edition to Medium difficulty in this edition. GMAT Genius classifies question difficulty into five categories. Our assessment skews slightly more towards the middle, but contains notable differences from the GMAC. Our difficulty assessment is only 70.5% correlated with the GMAC's assessment, demonstrating tremendous subjectivity involved in assessing question difficulty. Here's our breakdown: Super Easy 1 (1%, same as 2017) Easy 18 (22%, 6 fewer) Medium 40 (48%, 2 more) Hard 16 (19%, 2 more) Very Hard 8 (10%, 2 more) We have grouped the questions based on the question type categorization that GMAT Genius uses for Critical Reasoning (as described on our website). We break down the 83 Critical Reasoning questions as follows: Weaken: 20 (24%, 1 more than 2017) Strengthen: 16 (19%, 1 fewer) Assumption: 7 (8%, 1 more) Reasoning: 3 (4%, same) Conclusion: 7 (8%, same) Explain: 5 (6%, 2 fewer) Evaluate: 7 (8%, 1 more) Boldface: 4 (5%, same) Complete the Passage: 14 (17%, same) Here's a list of the 12 new Critical Reasoning questions: 112, 141, 144, 154, 161, 162, 166, 173, 175, 179, 182, 187 Here's a list of the 83 Critical Reasoning questions categorized by CR question type: Weaken: 122, 124, 125, 128, 131, 136, 141, 143, 159, 164, 168, 171, 173, 176, 177, 179, 182, 185, 186, 187 Strengthen: 106, 110, 112, 115, 121,

138, 139, 140, 142, 155, 158, 167, 170, 175, 181, 188 Assumption: 119, 144, 156, 166, 172, 180, 184 Reasoning: 123, 150, 157 Conclusion: 107, 113, 117, 118, 126, 147, 165 Explain: 114, 132, 135, 153, 154 Evaluate: 111, 120, 146, 149, 162, 163, 178 Boldface: 133, 160, 169, 183 Complete the Passage: 108, 109, 116, 127, 129, 130, 134, 137, 145, 148, 151, 152, 161, 174

**READING COMPREHENSION** This book contains 105 Reading Comprehension questions across 19 passages. The GMAC classifies question difficulty into three categories as follows: Easy 34 (32%, 6 more than 2017) Medium 27 (26%, 10 fewer) Hard 44 (42%, 4 more) The Reading Comprehension section contains 16 new questions in 4 passages, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 6 / 4 / 6. This is in lieu of 16 questions in 3 passages from the 2017 edition that have been removed, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 0 / 10 / 6. The GMAC has upgraded four Medium questions to Hard. GMAT Genius classifies question difficulty into five categories. Whereas the GMAC assigns the same difficulty to all questions for a given passage (except for one passage split between Medium and Hard), GMAT Genius assesses the difficulty of each question individually. Our assessment skews easier, but contains notable differences from the GMAC. Our difficulty assessment is only 67.0% correlated with the GMAC's assessment, in large part due to different difficulty assessment methodologies. Here's our breakdown: Super Easy 6 (6%, same as 2017) Easy 32 (30%, 3 more) Medium 38 (36%, 1 fewer) Hard 21 (20%, 1 fewer) Very Hard 8 (8%, 1 fewer) We have grouped the questions based on the question type categorization that GMAT Genius uses for Reading Comprehension (as described on our website). We break down the 105 Reading Comprehension questions as follows: Primary Purpose: 14 (13%, same than 2017) Author's Tone: 6 (6%, same) Organization: 3 (3%, same) Function: 15 (14%, same) Specific Reference: 24 (23%, 1 fewer) Inference: 40 (38%, 1 more) Critical Reasoning: 3 (3%, same) Here's a list of the 16 new Reading Comprehension questions: 5 to 10, 54 to 57, 89 to 94 We have not provided a list of Reading Comprehension questions by category because it makes sense to practice on one passage at a time, rather than attempting all the Primary Purpose questions (for example) at one go.

**ONLINE INTERFACE** The book includes an access code (see inside front cover) that provides 12-month usage of an online version of this Official Guide only. The online practice interface is the same as it was previously, except that the onerous limit of 10 saved sessions has been increased to 25 saved sessions in Exam Mode plus 25 saved sessions in Practice Mode (which you should not use, as mentioned below). The 100 questions from the Diagnostic Test chapter of the main Official Guide, but that are not contained in this printed book, are available in a separate tab that works with Exam Mode functionality. Since the GMAT is a computer-based test, we believe that it is advisable to work through the questions online. We strongly suggest that you use Exam Mode rather than Practice Mode, since we recommend that students practice using timed question sets that replicate test day conditions. The functionality of the online platform is good overall. You can choose practice sets by question type and difficulty level. Every question lists the corresponding book question number for easy cross-referencing.

**OTHER NOTES** The Official Guides are for practicing with real GMAT questions, not for learning the underlying concepts. The brief introductions to the concepts tested on the verbal section are highly inadequate. We recommend that you use additional study materials to learn the verbal concepts. Although all questions include answer explanations, many GMAT test takers are far from satisfied with these explanations. Most GMAT test takers consider the Sentence Correction explanations quite cryptic. The Critical Reasoning and Reading Comprehension explanations, however, are reasonably good overall.

**CONCLUSIONS** The Verbal Official Guide has three primary weaknesses, in our opinion: 1) An insufficient amount of difficult practice questions, particularly based on GMAT Genius assessment of difficulty. 2) Sentence Correction explanations are too cryptic. 3) In the Critical Reasoning and Sentence Correction sections, questions are not fully presented in order of progressive difficulty, contrary to what the back cover of the book claims. Despite these flaws, the Verbal Official Guide is an essential source of GMAT practice, and nicely supplements the main GMAT Official Guide for additional practice questions. We believe that every GMAT aspirant must use this book (or the prior edition). For these reasons, we give this book a 5-star rating. For the best value, we recommend purchasing this book as part of the GMAT Official Guide 2018 Bundle: Books + Online. If you already have the 2017 edition of this book, however, the replacement of 45 verbal questions is not sufficient to make this edition worth purchasing.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Compact Useful Guide with Real GMAT Verbal Questions By L. M. Keefer I am tutoring a student for the GMAT. The wisdom is that you use GMAT's official guides for accurate test questions on which to practice. We love this Verbal Review book as it's easier to lug around than the thick verbal and math combined book. When we're focusing on the verbal sections, it's great to have this smaller guide to narrow our focus. My student borrowed this for the week and will do several sections of real GMAT questions. It offers the clearest view of how he might perform on the actual test, so he likes the practice it offers in a compact size. He uses the large guide at his house, and will bring this smaller guide back and forth to tutoring sessions. This is a great extension of the GMAT materials. You can always use extra test questions. He loves the Mcgoosh videos - you pay \$100 a year in one package - for explanations on strategies on how to answer the Critical Reasoning sections, the Sentence Completion, Reading Comprehension etc. He highly recommends those videos - they helped him get all of the questions right on 10 Critical Reasoning exercises in this guide. I was impressed with their approach. So you may want to consider that program along with these GMAT materials. I took the Princeton Review instructor course for the SAT - what was explained is that the GMAT folks don't really give detailed explanations on how to ace their test. If they did, they'd

have to make the test harder, or change it as they can't have everyone ace their test. So, you use their materials for actual test practice, but you use other companies' materials for the explanations on strategies. So, these Official Guides aren't enough usually - you'll want to watch the Mcgoosh videos or use Princeton Review or Kaplan. But don't waste your time on their questions until you have used all of the GMAT questions from their Official Guides and any online materials they have.

A supplement to the Official Guide with 300 additional verbal questions  
The GMAT Official Guide 2018 Verbal Review provides additional practical preparation focused on the verbal portion of the exam. Written by the Graduate Management Admission Council, this guide contains 300 real GMAT questions from past exams, including 45 never-before-seen questions, plus the following features: An overview of the exam to help you get familiar with the content and format Comprehensive grammar review Detailed answer explanations that explain how the test maker thinks about a question Questions organized in order of difficulty from easiest to hardest to focus your study Access to the same questions online at [gmat.wiley.com](http://gmat.wiley.com), where you can build your own practice sets Don't waste time practicing on fake GMAT questions. Optimize your study time with the GMAT Official Guide 2018 Verbal Review using real questions from actual past exams.

From the Back Cover  
GMAT Official Guide Verbal 2018 Book + Online BUILD YOUR OWN PRACTICE SETS with questions from this guide at [gmat.wiley.com](http://gmat.wiley.com) SUPPLEMENT THE GMAT OFFICIAL GUIDE with 300 additional questions organized in order of difficulty from easiest to hardest Visit [mba.com](http://mba.com), the official GMAT website