3 Reasons Why You May Not Score As High on GMAT Verbal

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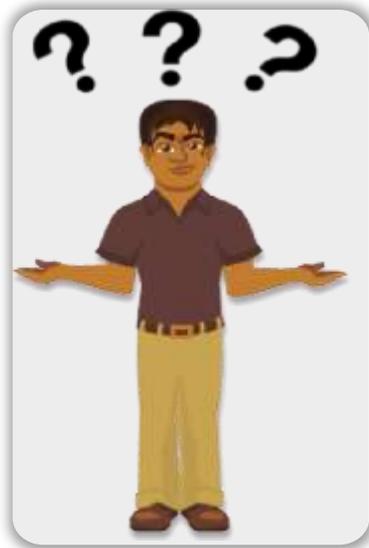# 3 Reasons Why You May Not Score As High On GMAT Verbal

Most of us put in a great deal of effort to prepare for the GMAT - spend money on the best of resources and burn the midnight oil. Yet, there are some who improve tremendously (10+ points out of 60, or 100+ out of 800) and come through with flying colors, while there are others who don't perform as well (< 3 points improvement).

At e-GMAT, we study the learning patterns of students and their success on the GMAT very closely. In this e-book, we will analyze three behaviors that are leading indicators signaling that you will likely not score as well as you expect to. We will attribute causality to lack of score improvement.

#1: Your Accuracy is High, But You are Not Sure Why the Correct Answer is correct

I have seen many students say that their accuracy is high (80%) while solving OG but they are not sure as to why the correct answer is correct, or for that matter, why the incorrect answer is incorrect. They often say that the correct answer just seems "better" than the incorrect one. Hence, more often than not, these students are not very confident of their answers. These students take the high accuracy as a proxy for good performance on the exam. While a <u>high accuracy</u> is necessary, it is **NOT a sufficient condition** to perform well on the real test. There are two key differences between solving a question from OG and solving the same on the real GMAT:

1. On the real GMAT one is faced with questions from different topics such as SC, CR, and RC simultaneously.
2. One has to solve questions under time constraints.

In fact, these students, more often than not, falter on the real exam. This is because as they move from one question to the other, in the back of their minds, they are concerned about whether they solved the previous question correctly or not, and hence are not able to devote their full attention to the question in front of them. Hence, they not only take longer to solve the current question, but also are not confident about their answer. This results in a vicious circle due to which the accuracy precipitates and so do the scores.

On the other hand a student who is confident of his answers and arrives at the correct answer for the right reasons is less likely to fall under this trap. Hence, this student after solving a question is not likely to think about the same and puts his/her entire focus on the question that he/she is attempting. As a result, he/she is much more likely to maintain his/her accuracy when solving problems of different kinds one after another. Even when faced with time pressure, his/her accuracy does not precipitate because the student can reason out why the correct answer is correct and the incorrect answer is incorrect.

OG problems with Application files: The 30+ application files in e-GMAT course teach you how to approach problems, how test makers formulate answer choices, and how to select the correct answers and reject the incorrect answers for the right reasons. Solving the recommended OG questions after the application files is useful because it builds on the capabilities developed while going through e-GMAT course.

#2: After Doing a Question Incorrectly, You Make the Statement:
"I am able to narrow down to 2 Answer Choices but then I get confused."

First of all, to be very clear, the above happens to almost everyone! Even the best of us find ourselves in situations when we are down to two answer choices and cannot decide on the correct answer. However, regardless of whether we solve the question correctly or incorrectly, we always make sure that **we avoid being in that situation again.** Why – because we know that for official questions, there is only one correct answer and that the dilemma is result of a gap in our understanding. We acknowledge our shortcomings and take concrete steps towards fixing the gap and 9/10 times this prevents us from making the same mistake again.

Those who stop their analysis at "I am able to narrow down to 2 answer choices but then I get confused" don't believe that there is a gap in their understanding or approach and hence do not take the required corrective action(s). They congratulate themselves for having been able to narrow down the choices from five to two and do not spend the required time to understand why the correct answer is correct and how they can avoid making the same mistakes again. Because these people don't work on bridging the gaps in their understanding, they continue to make the same mistakes, and hence they do not improve.

In the live sessions, we closely evaluate incorrect answer choices in which most students face doubts. Many of these choices test the fundamental understanding of the concepts by building nuances around such concepts in the questions. We bring these nuances to the fore so that students develop the core understanding and are able to move from two choices to the one correct choice.

Similarly, our application files and post session exercise solutions emphasize this point.

#3: After a Mock, You are at a Loss as to How to Move Forward

The primary objective to take a mock is to understand how far you are from your target score and to understand the areas that you need to improve in. After properly analyzing a mock, you should be able to list three areas that you need to improve. If you are unable to do the same then it could mean one of the two things: either you are satisfied with your current score and have little desire to improve or you don't believe that spending time on analysis will lead to something worthwhile. In other words, you are lazy or scared to analyze your mistakes. Trust me, most of you are smart enough to analyze the mocks.

If you don't do a thorough analysis and are unable to come up with **three areas** where you can improve, then most of your post mock work will be brute force effort, resulting in little improvement as you go from one mock to another. The higher your score, the more profound this problem becomes. This is one reason why many people remain stuck between 32 and 35.