

3.4. Inverted sentences

In a sentence, *normally* the *subject* appears *before* the corresponding *verb*. For example:

Mary liked ice-cream.

– The subject *Mary* appears *before* the corresponding verb *liked*.

Inverted sentences, on the other hand, reverse this order. In *inverted sentences*, the *verb* appears *before* the corresponding *subject*.

Let's take an example:

Among the players selected for the upcoming tour (were/was) James.

– The key is to realize that *James* is the *subject* of this sentence, and hence we need to use a *singular* verb (in this case *was*). Easiest way to figure this out is to *convert* the sentence into a *normal* (non-inverted) sentence:

James was among the players selected for the upcoming tour.

A sentence based on GMATPrep question (*Among the emotions on display...*):

Among the cars on display in the Auto-expo were a car specifically designed for rugged and hilly terrains that have always posed challenges for car manufacturers.

Analysis: The key is to realize that *a car* is the *subject* of this sentence, and hence we need to use a *singular* verb (in this case *was*). Easiest way to figure this out is to *convert* the sentence into a *normal* (non-inverted) sentence:

A car specifically designed for rugged and hilly terrains that have always posed challenges for car manufacturers was/were among the cars on display in the Auto-expo.

So, to decide whether the verb should be *was/were*, we should ask: *What (was/were) among the cars on display in the Auto-expo?* The answer is: *a car (specifically designed for rugged and hilly terrains)*. So, *a car* is the subject, and hence, singular verb *was* should be used.

So, the correct sentence is:

Among the cars on display in the Auto-expo was a car specifically designed for rugged and hilly terrains that have always posed challenges for car manufacturers.