

GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION

Tips for Cracking the GRE

GRE ANTONYMS

The GRE includes 9 antonym questions in the Verbal section of the test. Each question will include a word or phrase in capital letters, followed by five lettered words or phrases. You must choose the lettered word or phrase that is most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to the word in capital letters.

Antonyms are probably the hardest type of question to improve on, as they depend on the inherent strength of your vocabulary. Other than trying to memorize a dictionary (which we do NOT recommend), there aren't many short-term ways to quickly learn hundreds or thousands of new words. A large vocabulary is built over time, usually by voracious reading.

This does not mean that it is hopeless, however. This site includes a list of the 180 most common words featured on the GRE. We define each word and use it in context. We also include a list of helpful prefixes, roots and suffixes. We consider these lists valuable preparation for both the antonym and analogy test questions. Study them each day during the weeks just before taking the GRE and learn as many new words as possible.

We suggest the following plan of attack for antonym questions:

1) Define the stem word. If you don't know the precise definition of

the word in capital letters, an approximate definition will probably be sufficient. Most words are built or derived from other words with which you may be more familiar:

Examples:

a) tempestuous Related Words temper

b) perturbation Related Word: perturbed

c) severance Related Word: sever

2) Put the word in context. When we speak, we use words in phrases in sentences, rather than in isolation. Yet words that we understand fully in sentences may appear unfamiliar when we view them in isolation. When you see a word on the GRE, put it in context to better understand its meaning.

Examples:

a) savant "idiot savant" means genius

b) gratuitous "gratuitous violence" means unnecessary

c) requiem "requiem for a heavyweight" means a rest

3) Test the word for positive or negative connotations.

a) Any word that starts with "de-", "dis-" or "anti-" is usually negative. This includes degradation, discrepancy, debase, antipathy

b) Words that include the concept of going up are usually positive, while those that include the concept of going down are usually negative.

Positive examples: elevate, ascend, adulation, illustrious

Negative examples: decline, suborn, derision, consecrate

4) Watch out for words that look similar, but have different meanings.

Examples: ambulance/ambulatory, suffer/suffrage, friend/fiend,

platitude/gratitude,

inspired/insipid, vicious/viscous, noble/ignoble

5) Don't overlook rare meanings of words, as they are commonly used on the GRE. The parts of speech in an antonym problem will be consistent throughout the problem. If the given word is a verb, all of the answer choices will also be verbs. This helps you to quickly determine if the word is being used in a secondary sense, as common words have different meanings if they are used as verbs, nouns or adjectives.

Words that are commonly used as both nouns and verbs:

curb document table harbor

rent steep flower bolt

champion air bustle

6) Define its opposite and predict an answer. Whenever possible, you should have an idea of what you're looking for before you check the answer choices. Consciously predicting an answer will reduce the chances that you'll select a choice that's a synonym of the stem word, rather than an antonym.

7) Find the answer choice that best matches your prediction. Check all the choices for the best fit. If necessary, consider alternative definitions for the stem word.

8) Use guessing strategies, if necessary.

a) Eliminate answer choices that have no clear opposite.

b) If two (or more) choices have the same meaning, eliminate both.

c) Use the "sense" of a word to eliminate probable wrong answers: if the stem is positive, the correct answer will be negative, and vice versa.

Exercises: 10 Antonym Questions (with explanations)

1) METTLE:

(A) ad hoc

(B) perdition

(C) woe

(D) trepidation

(E) apathy

2) ABRIDGE:

(A) distend

(B) assail

(C) unfetter

(D) enfeeble

(E) prove

3. FANATICISM:

(A) delusion

(B) fascism

(C) remorse

(D) cynicism

(E) indifference

4. MUTABILITY:

(A) simplicity

(B) apprehension

(C) frailty

(D) maverick

(E) tenacity

5. INEXORABLE:

(A) surreptitious

(B) tractable

(C) jaded

(D) ionoclast

(E) garish

6. UNCOUTH:

(A) urbane

(B) travail

(C) sentient

(D) prevaricate

(E) maladroit

7. VOCIFERATE:

(A) turgid

(B) listen

(C) resurgent

(D) rapacity

(E) vilify

8. DISPERSE:

(A) account for

(B) gather up

(C) apply to

(D) concentrate on

(E) take apart

9. VENERATE:

(A) detest

(B) disrespect

(C) renew

(D) uncover

(E) deserve

10. OBLIVIOUS:

(A) visible

(B) subtle

(C) active

(D) intelligent

(E) mindful

Answer Key: Antonyms

1. D is correct. Mettle means character or courage. The opposite is trepidation, which means fear.

2. A is correct. Abridge means to shorten. The opposite is distend, which means to swell or protrude.

3. E is correct. Fanaticism means overenthusiastic. The opposite is indifferent.

4. E is correct. Mutability means changing. Tenacity is the opposite.

5. B is correct. Inexorable means rigid or uncompromising. The opposite is tractable, or yielding.

6. A is correct. Uncouth means crude. The opposite is urbane, or sophisticated.

7. B is correct. Vociferate means to shout. The opposite is to listen or be silent.

8. B is correct. Disperse means to scatter. The opposite is to gather up.

9. B is correct. Venerate is to treat with respect. The opposite is disrespect.

10. B is correct. Oblivious means unaware. The opposite is mindful

GRE ANALOGIES

The Verbal section of the GRE contains approximately 7 analogy questions, which present two words that are related in some way. You must:

a) discover the relationship

b) find another pair of words that is related in the same way

Example:

WAGGISH : LAUGHS ::

(A) risible: yawns

(B) bilious : smiles

(C) lachrymose : tears

(D) ribald : moans

(E) frown grin

The correct answer is C. A remark that is waggish is designed to produce laughs.

Likewise, something that is lachrymose (sad) will produce tears.

What the colons mean:

Single colon (:) means "is related to"

Double colon (::) means "in the same way that"

To answer analogy questions, use the following strategy:

1) Before looking at the answer choices, think of a short sentence that describes the relationship between the two words.

Example: RACKET: TENNIS

A racket is used to play tennis

2) Find the pair of words in the answers that can be substituted for the original pair.

Example:

RACKET: TENNIS

(A) type : book

(B) ball : soccer

(C) glove : baseball

(D) club : golf

(E) board : chess

In this case, our sentence "A racket is used to play tennis" eliminates only one answer choice, (A) .

3) If more than one answer choice fits your paraphrase, make your statement more specific.

We must write a more specific sentence that demonstrates the relationship between the words Racket and Tennis:

A racket is used to strike a ball in the game of tennis.

This more specific sentence allows us to eliminate all the answer choices except

D. Just as a club is used to strike a golf ball, a racket is used to strike a tennis ball.

4) Eliminate answer choices that do not have a clear and obvious relationship.

Always consider the meaning of the word being used. In difficult analogy problems, rare or esoteric meanings of words are commonly used.

5) If one of the given words has more than one part of speech, determine how it is being used in the analogy. The parts of speech will be consistent in analogy

problems. If the given pair of words is an adjective and a noun, then each answer pair will be an adjective and a noun, in that order.

6) Carefully scrutinize answers pairs that remind you of the original pair, but have a different relationship. The correct answer pair will have the same relationship as the original pair, but the words in the answer will usually be in an entirely different category.

Example:

EXCERPT : NOVEL ::

(A) critique : play

(B) review : manuscript

(C) swatch : cloth

(D) foreward : preface

(E) recital : performance

The correct answer to this problem is C. An excerpt is part of a novel, just as a swatch is part of a cloth. However, many testakers are distracted by choices B and D, which contain words that ALSO relate to novels.

7) Be aware of the most common types of analogies that appear on the test:

a) Synonyms

provisions : supplies

potent : omen

diligent : assiduous

b) Antonyms

assist : hinder

enthrall : bore

incomparable : equal

c) Member and class

aria : song

robin : bird

slipper : shoe

d) Degree of Intensity

walk : run

drizzle : rain

grow : burgeon

e) Part to a whole

professors : faculty

page : book

limb : tree

f) Definition (one word defines the other)

shark : scavenger

lion : carnivore

refuge : sanctuary

g) Lack of / Absence of

amoral : ethics

anonymous : name

destitute : wealth

h) Manner or style

promenade: walk

prattle : speak

sashay : walk

i) Function or purpose

pencil: writing

tractor : plowing

hyphen : join

j) Action and significance

smile : happiness

frown : disappointment

bow : reverence

k) Pertaining to

didactic : teach

forensic : debate

ontology : being

l) Symbol and representation

period : stop

Trojan horse : deception

brackets : enclose

m) Different Connotations of words

interrogate : question

conspire : collaborate

bias : inspire

n) Cause and effect

sun : sunburn

overeating : indigestion

debt : overspending

o) Product and source

curtains : cloth

window : glass

fireplace : brick

p) Spatial order

epilogue : story

postscript : epistle

intermission : play

q) Time order

outline : essay

blueprint : house

crawling : walking

r) Worker and tool

welder : torch

musician : piano

artist : paintbrush

s) Worker and workplace

chef : kitchen

judge: courtroom

farmer : meadow

t) Worker and creation

artist : sketch

architect : blueprint

composer : etude

u) Action to object

play : clarinet

incise : knife

drain : colander

8) Boost your vocabulary.

Analogies are probably the hardest type of question to improve on, as they depend on the inherent strength of your vocabulary. Other than trying to memorize a dictionary (which we do NOT recommend), there aren't many short-term ways to quickly learn hundreds or thousands of new words. A large vocabulary is built over time, usually by voracious reading.

This does not mean that it is hopeless, however. This website (www.freewebs.com/allboutgre) includes the following lists:

- a) the 180 most common words featured on the GRE (definitions plus illustrative sentences)**
- b) groups of related words**
- c) tricky lookalike words that testmakers love**
- d) the most common roots, prefixes and suffixes for GRE vocabulary words**

We consider these lists valuable preparation for sentence completion and analogy test questions. Study this list each day during the weeks just before taking the GRE and learn as many new words as possible. We suggest the following plan of attack for defining words:

a) Define the stem word. If you don't know the precise definition of the word in capital letters, an approximate definition will probably be sufficient. Most words are built or derived from other words with which you may be more familiar:

Examples:

a) tempestuous Related Words temper

b) perturbation Related Word: perturbed

c) severance Related Word: sever

b) Put the word in context. When we speak, we use words in phrases in sentences, rather than in isolation. Yet words that we understand fully in sentences may appear unfamiliar when we view them out of context. When you see a word on the GRE, put it in a familiar context to better understand its meaning.

Examples:

a) savant "idiot savant" means genius

b) gratuitous "gratuitous violence" means unnecessary

c) requiem "requiem for a heavyweight" means a rest

c) Test the word for positive or negative connotations.

i) Any word that starts with "de-", "dis-" or "anti-" is usually

**negative. This
includes degradation, discrepancy, debase, antipathy**

**ii) Words that include the concept of going up are usually positive,
while those
that include the concept of going down are usually negative.**

Positive examples: elevate, ascend, adulation, illustrious

Negative examples: decline, suborn, derision, consecrate

**d) Watch out for words that look similar, but have different
meanings.**

**Examples: ambulance/ambulatory, suffer/suffrage, friend/fiend,
platitude/gratitude,**

inspired/insipid, vicious/viscous, noble/ignoble

**e) Don't overlook rare meanings of words, as they are commonly
used on the GRE.**

**The parts of speech in an analogy problem will be consistent
throughout the
problem. If the given word is a verb, all of the answer choices will
also be
verbs. This helps you to quickly determine if the word is being used
in a
secondary sense, as common words have different meanings if they
are used as
verbs, nouns or adjectives.**

Words that are commonly used as both nouns and verbs:

curb document table harbor

rent steep flower bolt

champion air bustle

10 Analogy Questions (w/ Solutions)

1. TRUSS: SUPPORT::

(A) calcium: bone

(B) fence: barrier

(C) tile: patio

(D) wood. burn

(E) tobacco: cigarette

2. REEL: TAPE ::

(A) ball: string

(B) turntable: record

(C) tire: wheel

(D) skein: yarn

(E) spool: thread

3. SHINGLE: ROOF::

(A) rind: melon

(B) armor: knight

(C) feather: wing

(D) patch: cloth

(E) canopy: bed

4. RHETORIC : ORATOR::

(A) legerdemain : magician

(B) baggage: immigrant

(C) justice: lawyer

(D) map: cartographer

(E) tractor: farmer

5. INDISPUTABLE: QUESTION ::

(A) unlikely: know

(B) amoral: perform

(C) incredible: prove

(D) immutable: change

(E) insoluble: submerge

6. UNSCATHED: DAMAGE ::

(A) ameliorated: improvement

(B) obliterated: invisibility

(C) rolled: flatness

(D) shaken: homogeneity

(E) arid: dampness

7. PROTRACTION: DURATION::

(A) extension: length

(B) retraction: instant

(C) corruption: truth

(D) taxation: wealth

(E) altercation: shape

8. PORTRAIT : CARICATURE::

(A) serialization: novel

(B) drama: musical

(C) theater: vaudeville

(D) saga: epic

(E) characterization : parody

9. STARS: GALAXY::

(A) cells: prison

(B) sand: dune

(C) nuclei: atom

(D) eggs : nest

(E) hair: head

10. ATROPHY : INACTIVITY::

(A) resistance : timidity

(B) frown : anger

(C) growth : youth

(D) rot : refrigeration

(E) debt : overspending

Solutions to Analogy Questions

1. B is correct. A truss is used as a support.

Likewise, a fence is used as a barrier.

2. E is correct. A reel is an object that tape winds around.

Likewise, a spool is an object that thread winds around.

3. C is correct. Many shingles make up the outer covering of a rook.

Likewise, many feathers make up the outer covering of a wing.

4. A is correct. Rhetoric is a skill used by an orator.

Likewise, legerdemain is a skill used by a magician.

5. D is correct. Something indisputable cannot be questioned.

Likewise, something immutable cannot be changed.

6. E is correct. Somthing unscathed lacks damage.

Likewise, something arid lacks dampness.

7. A is correct. A protraction is an increase in duration.

Likewise, an extension is an increase in length.

8. E is correct. An exaggerated portrait is a caricature.

Likewise, an exaggerated characterization is a parody.

9. B is correct. Stars make up a galaxy.

Likewise, sand makes up a dune.

10. E is correct. Atrophy is caused by inactivity.

Likewise, debt is caused by overspending.

GRE SENTENCE COMPLETION

The Verbal section of the GRE will contain approximately 6 sentence completion questions. Each includes a sentence with either one or two blanks. You must select the correct word (or pair of words) to best complete the sentence. The sentences are not biased toward any particular field of study and you will NOT need any specific knowledge of the subject being discussed. Sentence completion questions are intentionally structured to provide all the clues you need to identify the missing word(s).

The directions for the section are:

Directions: Each of the following questions begins with a sentence that has either one or two blanks. The blanks indicate that a piece of the sentence is missing. Each sentence is followed by five answer choices that consist of words or phrases. Select the answer choice that completes the sentence best.

Example:

After a hectic week in the city, as a relief from _____ pressures, Carrie plans to _____ on her long weekend.

(A) inveterate -- pique

(B) urban -- rusticate

(C) pent -- prate

(D) neolithic -- venerate

(E) laconic -- slake

Solution: Choice B is correct. The key word "city" indicates that the first word must relate to urban life. The trigger for the second word is long weekend. We know that Carrie wants to get away from the city, making "rusticate" a good choice.

Example:

After surgery for my knee injury, my doctor gave me painkillers that made me _____ and _____.

(A) articulate -- copious

(B) doltish -- overt

(C) autocratic -- congruent

(D) torpid -- phlegmatic

(E) ludicrous -- remiss

Solution: The first key word in this is "pain killers", which are known to

induce drowsiness. The second key word is "and", indicating that the two words we seek are synonyms.

Tips & Strategies for Sentence Completion Questions

1) Identify the crucial clues in the sentence. These sentences are never vague; each will include adjectives or descriptive terms that indicate the meaning of the missing word.

2) Look for what is directly implied or stated by the sentence. Each presents a complete thought and the missing words support that thought.

3) Look for structural words that will help you find the right answer:

a) If the second part of the sentence supports or elaborates on the first part, it will invariably include words like:

and, similarly, in addition, since, also, thus, because, likewise, consequently

b) If the second part of the sentence deviates or contradicts the first part, it will inevitably include words like:

but, despite, yet, however, unless, rather, although, while, nevertheless

In statements with two blanks, these structural words help to

**determine whether
the two words are synonyms or antonyms. Use the relationship
between the two
words to help select the correct answer choice.**

4) Quickly eliminate choices that are not grammatically correct.

**5) Always check all five answer choices. Sometimes more than one
choice will
theoretically "fit" the sentence, but one fits better than the others.
Your job
is to identify the BEST choice.**

**6) Don't be intimidated by odd or unusual words. The sentence
completion
questions aren't designed to test vocabulary, yet they will often
contain
somewhat difficult words. Rely on the content of the sentence to
determine their
meaning. In nearly all problems, the definition of the word is given
or strongly
implied in the sentence. In sentences with two blanks, you will
usually know the
meaning of at least one of the two words in each answer choice. This
is usually
enough to help you accept or reject the answer choice.**

**7) If a sentence is long, meandering or otherwise complex,
paraphrase it to get
the gist. Consider the author's tone or attitude. Then, search the
answer
choices for the correct words.**

8) Always read your choice back into the original sentence to verify

**that it
makes sense.**

9) Always work with the easier blank first. Often, you can eliminate one or two answer choices simply because the "easy" word in the pair doesn't fit.

10) If you can't predict an answer, quickly plug the five answer choices into the sentence. Many times, you can eliminate a few choices that don't "sound correct" in context.

Ten Sentence Correction Questions (with Solutions)

1. Many medical experts believe that the origin of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) is _____, while others believe it is _____.

(A) contiguous -- environmental

(B) congenital --- environmental

(C) congenital -- deleterious

(D) contagious -- pathological

(E) exogenous -- celestial

2. The fourth grade teacher taught her students to _____ thoroughly when eating to enable proper _____.

(A) rankle -- temerity

(B) mitigate -- digestion

(C) transmute -- veneration

(D) query -- progeny

(E) masticate -- digestion

3. The state attorney began his lecture by explaining that _____ is a phase of the study of _____.

(A) nihilism -- gynecology

(B) hypertension -- etymology

(C) recidivism -- criminology

(D) altruism -- paleontology

(E) hallucination -- chivalry

4. The students _____ until there was no choice but to _____ a desperate, last-minute solution.

(A) berated -- try

(B) delayed -- envision

(C) procrastinated -- implement

(D) debated -- maintain

(E) filibustered -- reject

5. Working with an unbelievably _____ budget and an impossible schedule, the wedding planner somehow arranged an event that _____ the guests with its beauty and style.

(A) low -- disappointed

(B) inflated -- distracted

(C) uneven -- amused

(D) disproportionate -- appalled

(E) inadequate -- surprised

6. Because members of the _____ family are _____, farmers must grow grass.

(A) bovine -- herbivorous

(B) anthropoid -- adamant

(C) conduit -- nocturnal

(D) incarnadine -- nocturnal

(E) heretic -- herbivorous

7. When the law clerk got his first job, his novice _____ led to an

embarrassing _____.

(A) collusion -- consanguinity

(B) synthesis -- cordovan

(C) colophon -- temerity

(D) ineptitude -- imbroglio

(E) chauvinism -- quirk

8. Because of her _____ nature, the scientist avoided any job that she feared might be a travail.

(A) impudent

(B) insolent

(C) eminent

(D) indolent

(E) imminent

9. Whenever I see Wade's long face, I know that he is feeling _____ and _____.

(A) scintillating -- verbose

(B) quiescent -- succinct

(C) lugubrious -- lachrymose

(D) reviled -- providential

(E) providential -- rubicund

10. Psychologists insist that all people, even the most _____ and _____, have varying degrees of extreme emotions.

(A) brackish --- mature

(B) sylvan -- intellectual

(C) celestial -- civilized

(D) beneficent -- stable

(E) defunct - healthy

Solutions to Sentence Completion Questions

1. Choice B is correct. We know from the context of the sentence that we are seeking opposite words relating to the origin of a disease.

2. Choice E is correct. Mastication is the same as chewing, which enables digestion.

3. Choice C is correct. Recidivism, or repeating an offense, is a common problem in criminology.

4. Choice C is correct. While all of the answer choices fit the blanks,

Choice c

is best. The clues in the sentence are "last-minute" and "desperate".

5. Choice E is correct. The clues in the sentence are "unbelievable" and "impossible".

We know the first word must be negative. We also know from the words "somehow",

"beauty" and "style" that the second word is positive.

6. Choice A is correct. The key words are "grass" and "farmers", indicating that the correct words are animals that eat grass.

7. Choice D is correct. The key words "novice" and "embarrassing" mean our

correct words are both negative. The best choice is D, as the first wrd relates

to newness and inexperience.

8. Choice B is correct. The correct word means the opposite of "travail", which is lazy.

9. Choice C is correct. The correct words are synonyms for sad and tearful.

10. Choice D is correct. From the word "even", the correct terms must be the opposite of "extreme".

GRE READING COMPREHENSION

The reading comprehension section on the GRE contains four

written passages (each between 200 - 500 words long) followed by a series of questions. Passages can be about any subject, but the most common themes are politics, history, science, business and the humanities. Most readers find the passages difficult because the subject matter is dry and obscure. Many are written in the passive voice and contain unpronounceable words. By design, no academic background offers an "edge" or greater likelihood of success in this section of the test. The material is purposely selected to test your reading comprehension, rather than your understanding of a specific subject area. This ensures:

a) the passages do not require the reader to have any specialized knowledge in the subject area

b) everything you need to answer the questions is presented in the passage

The passages always use a formal, compact style. They are excerpted from academic journal articles, but are not printed verbatim. The original article is heavily edited to just one-quarter to one-third of its original length, retaining the formal style of the piece, but removing the introductory material, fillers and transitional phrases. Worse, passages are untitled and often start in the middle of an explanation or discussion, so the reader must

**jump in with
no clear point of reference.**

The purpose of the section is to determine if you can quickly identify the structure, objective and logic of a long, difficult passage and apply the author's premise to new situations. To succeed in the rigid timeframe (35 minutes), students must read with a different mindset than they use in most traditional coursework.

Here are the exact directions used on the exam:

Directions: Each selection in this test is followed by several questions. After reading the selection, choose the best response to each question and mark it on your answer sheet. Your replies are to be based on what is stated or implied in the selection.

Reading styles are subjective, as what works for one person may not work for another. Success with these passages depends on your individual style. We can't recommend speed reading, which is designed for ordinary, non-technical material.

Because passages are so dense, you can not skim over a single sentence without missing key information. You should read faster than normally, but not to the point that your comprehension suffers. Experiment to find your

optimum pace.

Some guides recommend that you read the questions first, then go back and read the passage. Sadly, few students will have enough time for that approach. In some cases, the questions and answer choices are longer than the actual passage!

We recommend that you take a few seconds at the beginning of the section and scope out the passages. Read the first line of each and determine which will be easiest for you and which will be hardest. Do the easiest one first. Don't waste precious time on a dense, difficult passage. Rack up as many "easy" points as possible first, then return to the hardest questions.

The Five Questions

The key to performing well on the passages is not your particular reading technique, but in your familiarity with the types of possible questions. In general, there are only five question types explored on the reading comprehension test:

a) Main Idea

b) Details

c) Organization

d) Extension / Application

e) Attitude / Tone

As you become familiar with the different question types, you will gain an intuitive sense for the places from which they are likely to be drawn. You can then approach these questions quickly and efficiently. Generally, the order in which the questions are asked corresponds to the order in which the main issues are presented in the passage. Early questions should correspond to information given early in the passage, and so on.

a) Main Idea Questions

Main idea questions test your ability to identify and understand an author's intent. The main idea is usually stated:

- i) in the last (occasionally the first) sentence of the first paragraph**
- ii) in last sentence of the entire passage.**

Main idea questions are usually the first questions asked in the question set.

Some common main idea questions are:

Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?

The primary purpose of the passage is to ...

In the passage, the author's primary concern is to discuss. ..

Which of the following would be an excellent title for the passage?

Main idea questions are usually not difficult. If you don't catch the main idea

after your first reading, review the first and last sentence of each paragraph.

These will give you a quick overview of the passage.

Because main idea questions are relatively easy, the test writers try to obscure

the correct answer by surrounding it with close answer-choices that either

overstate or understate the author's main point. Answers that stress specifics

tend to understate the main idea, while choices that go beyond the scope of the

passage tend to overstate the main idea. The correct answer to a main idea

question will summarize the author's argument, yet be neither too specific nor

too broad. In most cases, the main idea of a passage is found in the first

paragraph or in the final sentence of the entire passage.

b) Detail Questions

Detail questions refer to a minor point or to incidental information in the

passage, but not to the author's main point. These questions take various forms:

According to the passage. ..

In line 25, the author mentions....for the purpose of ...

The passage suggests that which one of the following would....

The answer to a detail question must refer directly to a statement in the passage, not to something implied by it. When answering a detail question, find the point in the passage from which the question is drawn. Don't rely on memory, as many tactics are used with these questions to confuse test takers. Not only must the correct answer refer directly to a statement in the passage, it must refer to the relevant statement. The correct answer will be surrounded by wrong choices which refer directly to the passage but don't address the question. These choices can be tempting because they tend to be quite close to the actual answer.

Once you locate the sentence to which the question refers, you must read a few sentences before and after it to put the question in context. If a question refers to line 30, the information needed to answer it can occur anywhere from line 25 to 35. Even if you spot the answer in line 28, you should still read a few more lines to ensure you have the proper perspective.

c) Organization of the Passage

Because they are derived from diverse subject areas, passages can cover an infinite number of topics.

While main idea questions ask the purpose of the piece, organization questions ask how the author presents his ideas. While authors can theoretically use an endless number of writing techniques, most test passages use one of just three organizational styles:

i) Compare and contrast two positions

This technique simply develops two ideas and then explains why one is better than the other. Some common comparison phrases include "by contrast" or "similarly".

Typical questions for these types of passages are:

According to the passage, a central distinction between a woman's position and a man's is:

In which of the following ways does the author imply that birds and reptiles are similar?

ii) Show cause and effect

The author demonstrates that a particular cause leads to a specific result.

**Sometimes this method introduces a sequence of causes and effects:
A causes B,
which causes C, which causes D, etc. Hence B is both the effect of A
and the
cause of C.**

iii) State a position and then offer supporting evidence

**This technique is common with opinionated passages. Many authors
prefer the
reverse order, where the supporting evidence is presented first and
then the
position or conclusion is stated.**

Following are some typical questions for these types of passages:

**According to the author, which of the following is required for one
to become
proficient with a computer?**

**Which of the following does the author cite as evidence that the
species is
dangerous?**

d) Extension / Application Questions

**Extension questions require you to go beyond what is stated in the
passage,
asking you to draw an inference, to make a conclusion, or to identify
one of the
author's tacit assumptions. You may be asked to draw a conclusion
based on the
ideas or facts presented:**

It can be inferred from the passage that. ..

The passage suggests that. ..

From this we can conclude that.....

Since extension questions require you to go beyond the passage, the correct

answer must say more than what is stated in the passage. The correct answer to

an extension question will not require a quantum leap in thought, but it will

add significantly to the ideas presented in the passage.

While extension questions ask you to apply what you learned from the passage to

derive new information about the same subject, application questions go one step

further, asking you to apply what you have learned from the passage to a

different or hypothetical situation.

The following are common application questions:

Which one of the following is the most likely source of the passage?

Which of the following is an appropriate title for this piece?

Which one of the following actions would be most likely to have the same effect

as the author's actions?

The author would most likely agree with which one of the following statements?

Which one of the following sentences would the author be most likely to use to complete the last paragraph of the passage?

To answer an application question, consider the author's perspective. Ask yourself:

what is he arguing for?

what might make his argument stronger?

what might make it weaker?

Because these questions go beyond the passage, they tend to be the most difficult. They require you to pick up subtleties of the author's attitude.

e) Attitude / Tone Questions

Tone questions discuss the writer's attitude or perspective. Does he feel positive, negative or neutral? Does he give his own opinion or objectively present those of others? Before reading the answer choices, decide whether the writer's tone is positive, negative or neutral. If you didn't get a feel for the writer's attitude on the first reading, check the adjectives used (they nearly always have a strong positive or negative connotation).

Beware of answer choices that contain extreme emotions. Passages are usually taken from academic journals, where strong emotions are considered inappropriate.

The writers usually display opinions that are considered and reasonable, not spontaneous or off-the-wall. The tone or attitude of a passage closely parallels the main idea. If the author's intent is to explain the reasons for abolishing slavery, the tone is explanatory or encouraging, not negative or discouraging.

The correct answer will also be indisputable. The test writers NEVER allow the correct answer to be vague, controversial or grammatically questionable.

Key Words That Identify Potential Questions

Each passage contains about 400 - 700 words and only a few questions, ensuring that you will NOT be tested on most of the specific details. Your best reading strategy is to identify the places from which questions will most likely be drawn and concentrate your attention there.

Key, pivotal words indicate contrast, warning that the author is about to either make a U-turn or introduce a counter-premise (a concession to a minor point that weakens his case). Common pivotal words include:

But Although In Contrast Even though

However Yet Nonetheless Except

Despite Nevertheless

These words show where the author changes direction, providing natural places for questions to be drawn. The test writers form questions at these junctures to test whether you followed the author's line of reasoning or got lost. Sentences containing pivotal words nearly ALWAYS contain the answer to a test question.

Handling Incorrect Answer Choices

One of the most difficult tasks in writing test questions is composing tempting, incorrect answer choices. In most cases, only two of the five choices will have any real merit. We've observed several common threads in the wrong answer choices that most test takers should consider. Be on the look-out for the following:

a) For main idea questions, incorrect choices use the wrong verb and focus on supporting details, rather than the main point of the passage. Incorrect choices also tend to either overstate or understate the author's view. Beware of extreme choices, as they are often wrong. Correct answers tend to be rational, measured

responses. Other tempting incorrect answer choices are "half-right, half-wrong", incorporating some of the author's view, but not a complete match. Other wrong answers pick a point of view that is inconsistent with the author's.

b) On detail questions, incorrect answer choices distort the author's words or are exact opposites of the correct answer.

c) For inference questions, incorrect choices distort the passage's ideas and go beyond the scope of the passage. For application questions, wrong choices are not parallel or analogous to the situation in the passage.

d) Incorrect tone answers are overly emotional or the opposite of the correct answer. Some incorrect answers are odd combinations of adjectives that make no sense in real world applications, such as "detached ambivalence", "enlightened apathy", and "muffled denial".

e) Sometimes incorrect answers are logically wrong. They misrepresent the author's purpose or focus on the "what" rather than the "why" of the detail.

f) Watch for unusual or uncommon usage of words. Students sometimes overlook points in passages because a familiar word is used in an unfamiliar manner. An example is champion. As a noun, champion means a hero or accomplished person.

Yet, a a verb, champion means to support or advocate.

g) Be wary of extreme answers that contain "all or nothing" buzzwords such as must, always, impossible, never, cannot, each, every, totally, all, solely and only. Few passages will be written in such an absolute tone.

Two Sample Reading Comprehension Passage (and Solutions)

Now we will apply all the methods we have learned to two test passages. To parallel the timing of the actual test, spend about 10 minutes on each passage.

Passage 1

Among the several hundred million cells that comprise the wondrously complex

human body, and thus to be theoretically detectable in lab tests and in

electron photomicrographs, a tiny fraction, no more than a few hundred, belong

to a curious subclass whose luminiscence has a wavelength distribution so unique that

5 it long defied explanation. Such systems luminisce strongly in the visible region of the

spectrum, but some of them do so even more strongly at both shorter and longer

wavelengths: in the ultraviolet region and in the infrared regions.

10 This odd distribution of luminiscence is best explained by the pairing

of a giant red blood cell and an intensely small white blood cell that is virtually

in contact with its larger companion as the two travel around a common center.

Such objects have become known as Clinging cells. On photographic plates

only the giant cell can be discerned, but evidence for the existence of the

15 tiny companion has now been supplied by magnifying instruments capable

of detecting ultraviolet luminiscence at wavelengths that are absorbed by the body's

heat and therefore cannot be detected by typical analytical instruments.

The spectra of Clinging cells indicate that the giant red blood cell is surrounded by

20 very thin lipid filaments. The existence of the lipid filaments marked such objects as

being unique several decades before clinical observations finally identified the

lipid as the luminiscence from the tiny companion white blood cell. Clinging cells

also flare up in outbursts indicating the ejection of material in the form of a shell

or a ring, reminiscent of the recurrent circulation of hormonal cells. Clinging cells may

25 therefore represent a transitory phase in the evolution of certain types of hormonal

systems in which there is a substantial transfer of matter from the larger partner

to the smaller.

The exact evolutionary course that turns a typical blood cell system into a clinging one is

30 a matter of conjecture. The comparatively small number of

**known Clinging
cells**

**in our bodies suggests that if all binaries of modest mass normally
pass through**

**a clinging phase in their evolution, the phase must be extremely
brief, perhaps**

as short as a millisecond.

1. The author's primary purpose in the passage is to

**(A) demonstrate that most hormonal systems were at one time
clinging**

(B) dismiss current knowledge of Clinging cells as overly speculative

(C) describe Clinging cells as a distinct type of cell system

**(D) present evidence that hormonal systems are formed from tiny
white blood
cells**

**(E) compare characteristics of giant red blood cells and tiny white
blood cells**

**2. The passage implies that Clinging cell systems differ from other
hormonal
systems**

in that the former

(A) display luminiscence patterns different from those of most

hormonal systems

- (B) contain two cells that revolve around a common center**
- (C) possess far greater mass than other hormonal systems**
- (D) are more common in our bodies than other hormonal systems**
- (E) are the only hormonal systems that can be detected by electron microscopes**

3. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about "the luminiscence"

mentioned in line 22?

- (A) It causes certain large red blood cells to appear tiny to observers.**
- (B) It was incorrectly associated with hormonal cells in our bodies.**
- (C) It interferes with the clarity of photographs of most hormonal systems.**
- (D) It corresponds to the visible region of the light spectrum.**
- (E) It could not be positively identified from photomicrograph observations.**

4. According to the passage, the exchange of matter within a Clinging cell system

is believed to be a process in which

- (A) cell grows in mass at the expense of the other**
- (B) the mass of each cell remains fairly stable**
- (C) the mass of both cells declines**
- (D) both cells absorb matter emitted by other nearby cells**
- (E) both cells gradually return to an earlier singular state**

5. The assumption that the Clinging cell phase in the evolution of some hormonal

systems "must be extremely brief " (line) is most likely based on the fact that

- (A) hormones are rapidly ejected from clinging systems**
- (B) few Clinging cells have been detected in our bodies**
- (C) the cells in a clinging pair are in close proximity to each other**
- (D) Clinging cells vary considerably in size from one another**
- (E) the outbursts of Clinging cells resemble those of hormonal cells**

Passage 2

Nearly forty years ago, former President Kennedy signed

the National Reproductive Policy Act, this nation's first major federal

law addressing federal reproductive freedom. Although the nation has

now witnessed almost forty years of continuing debate

5 about abortion freedom law, a relatively new element has recently entered the controversy: the use of partial birth procedures and their high risks in facilitating voluntary third trimester pregnancy terminations.

10 Before the development of techniques to facilitate partial birth abortions, when an unwanted pregnancy occurred, a government agency often simply told a patient she could only abort during the first trimester. Doctors performing the procedures often relied on visual

observations to determine compliance with the legal time limits.

15 Most reproductive freedom professionals consider flexible legal guidelines an improvement over pre-1960 restrictions because it provides a factual and scientific basis for the abortion methodology rather than an intuitive or emotional basis. Accordingly, many reproductive freedom professionals regard formal abortion laws

20 to be neutral policy tools that can be employed by the government to make sound policy judgments that assure efficient and appropriate procedures.

But are abortion laws and their proponents really neutral political 25 issues? Analysis of the choices that must be made in reproductive issues makes the answer clear. Because pregnancy termination depends

on choices for which there is no a priori legal method of deciding from among available assumptions, decisions

ultimately depends largely, if not predominantly, on values

30 positions rather than on legal precedent . Laws must now govern partial birth abortion methodology for women's health, including a determination of whether the procedure will cause an adverse

health effect; dose-response assessment of drugs, an analysis of the rela-

tionship between an administered dose and the incidence of

35 the adverse health effect; exposure assessment, an analysis of the processes and pathways by which contact with a

labor-inducement drug

creates opportunity for exposure; and risk characterization, the process of identifying the incidence of adverse health effects under various clinical conditions-requires the application of some judgment that must ultimately rely on something less than legally-proven principles. Indeed, many of the choices that must be made in completing a risk assessment must be viewed as pure values judgments. For example, in the hazard identification portion of an assessment, the decision on picking a confidence level to determine statistically whether there has been a positive determination of whether a labor-inducement drug is a hazard is a pure values judgment.

Decisions on reproductive freedom based on current risk assessment procedures should therefore be viewed primarily as ethical choices rather than as technically dictated conclusions. It is important in an age of increasing scientific complexity that interested parties attempt to understand the values positions

and ethical issues that underlie legally derived policy

55 choices. Government must bring greater clarity to the debate

about reproductive freedom through identification of the

embedded values positions and issues in therapeutic abortion

procedures.

6. Which one of the following best expresses the main point of the passage?

(A) Therapeutic abortion is an improvement over past methods because it is

based more on factual evidence than on intuition.

(B) Former President Kennedy did more than his predecessors to protect the reproductive freedom

of women by approving the use of first trimester abortion.

(C) Though perhaps more radical than previous birth control measures, partial birth

abortion is a value-free process.

(D) While the concept of partial birth abortion is enticing from a scientific viewpoint, this

method is so expensive that its use is impractical on a large scale.

(E) Since past abortion procedures were effective in the first trimester, the

government should not have approved further restrictions on its use or implementation.

7. All of the following are explicitly mentioned in the passage as part of the adverse health effects EXCEPT

(A) visual observation

(B) exposure assessment

(C) analysis of labor-inducement drugs

(D) risk characterization

(E) dose-response assessment

8. The author most probably mentions "confidence level" (line 45) in order to

(A) demonstrate that partial birth procedures are safer than past abortion methods

(B) question the accuracy of physician's clinical observations

(C) suggest that government should eliminate ambiguities in its reproductive

freedom

agenda

(D) show that nonlegal principles can affect subsequent legal decisions

(E) strengthen the notion that the National Reproductive Policy Act needs to be modified

9. The author suggests which one of the following about abortion methods that

predated the development of the partial birth procedure?

(A) They are considered to be completely ineffective in protecting women's health.

(B) President Kennedy's National Reproductive Policy Act was based on their success.

(C) Many reproductive freedom professionals are not satisfied with the results produced by

these methods.

(D) They are often difficult to apply because they depend on precise time limitations.

(E) The best features of these methods should be integrated into the partial birth process.

10. Which of the following words, as it appears in the passage, best supports the

author's view of the role of non-legal components in the risk assessment process?

(A) improvement (line 16)

(B) neutral (line 20)

(C) adverse (line 35)

(D) opportunity (line 38)

(E) underlie (line 54)

11. The passage's reference to the "factual and scientific basis" of abortion rights

process in line 17 serves which of the following functions?

(A) It explains the government's unwillingness to choose between older methods and the assessment of newer ones.

(B) It outlines the differences among reproductive freedomists over

**the
practicality of visual**

observation techniques.

**(C) It underscores the belief of reproductive freedomists that risk
assessment
is a useful method for evaluating new procedures.**

**(D) It introduces birth control policy choices for which there is no a
priori
assessment method.**

**(E) It highlights the attitude of reproductive freedomists toward the
National
Reproductive Policy Act.**

12. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with

**(A) comparing risk assessment of new procedures with earlier
abortion methods**

**(B) explaining why government should make explicit the ethical
choices involved
in**

reproductive freedom choices

**(C) highlighting government's inability to deal effectively with
reproductive
freedom issues**

**(D) reviewing the evolution of abortion methods over the past two
decades**

(E) proposing a new method for reproductive freedom that incorporates the best features of risk assessment

Answers and Explanations for Reading Passages

Passage 1

1. C is the correct answer. This is a main idea question and choice C matches the passage's topic and scope. Choices A, D and E are too narrow and limited, while B distorts the author's tone.

2. A is correct. Although the question asks you to infer, it is actually a description question. Choice A is suggested in the passage's first sentence.

Neither B nor C is ever suggested, while D contradicts the passage. E is tricky, but distorts the passage.

3. E is the correct choice to this inference question. It corresponds to information in paragraphs 2 and 3. Choice A is not indicated by the passage, while choice C distorts it. D seems to contradict the passage. This is a difficult question, as the correct answer does not appear in immediately surrounding lines. In this case, the answer is suggested at the end of the previous paragraph.

4. A is correct. This is a challenging detail question with no line

reference.

Choice A paraphrases information at the end of paragraph 3. Choices B and C are inconsistent, while D and E are never suggested.

5. B is the correct answer. Although the question includes the word "assumption", it is actually a description question. A , D and E mention irrelevant information, while C discusses an unrelated fact. While all the choices are factually accurate, only B contains the relevant information.

Passage 2

6. Choice C correctly and elegantly sums up the author's skepticism. Choice A contradicts the author's view, while B violates the actual timeline of events. Choice D totally misses the ethical question, while E goes too far.

7. Choice A is correct. All other components appear explicitly in the four wrong choices.

8. Choice D is correct. Choices A and B refer to earlier efforts, while C comes at the very end of the passage. E has no connection with either risk assessment or the line in question.

9. Choice C is easily inferable from the passage. Choice A goes too far, while B and E aren't supported by the passage. Choice D is simply incorrect.

10. Choice E best captures the main idea. Choices A and B are not improvements, while D is too positive. Choice C is tempting, but does not capture the idea as well as E.

11. Choice C is correct. Choice A is not mentioned in the passage, while B refers to

a topic on which the passage's reproductive freedomists are undivided. Choices D and E come at incorrect points in the passage to make sense.

12. Choice B well captures the overall concept of the passage. Choice A pushes too far, while C, D and E all miss the heart of the passage.

Tips for the Quantitative Section of the GRE

The quantitative section of the GRE contains 28 multiple choice-questions in a 45-minute period. The questions include two formats:

- a) standard multiple choice**
- b) quantitative comparison**

The math topics include arithmetic, basic algebra and geometry (no proofs). Trigonometry and calculus are NOT included. The test writers carefully choose questions to eliminate biases toward candidates with specific majors: all test takers will be on a level playing field. The section is designed to test your ability to solve problems, rather than your mathematical knowledge. Questions lean heavily toward word problems and applying mathematical formulas in

typical real-world applications, such as:

- * calculating interest on a loan**
- * calculating the percentage drop of a stock price**
- * determining a salary increase**
- * determining travel times and speeds**
- * determining work schedules**

While test writers vary their question types from year to year, topics tend to appear with similar frequency. Recent exam questions fell into the following categories:

Ratios, Rates, Percentages 25%

Word Problems 25%

Number Properties 25%

Geometry 20%

Other 5%

Nearly every test question has a simple solution and can be solved with a minimum of calculations. In fact, quantitative comparison questions often require NO calculating, asking you to simply determine whether the quantity in Column A or Column B is greater. The trick is to correctly assess each question and apply the correct formulas to get the right answer. For standard multiple choice questions, you have the advantage of the correct answer being right in front of you. You KNOW it is one of the five listed choices.

Tips & Strategies for Success

- 1) Read and thoroughly review the math topics that are tested. Work on areas where you need improvement. Practice each question**

type until you are confident you can succeed.

2) Know the directions for each section cold. We list them below for both the standard multiple-choice section and for the quantitative comparison questions. The quantitative comparison options are particularly confusing and bear close scrutiny. Don't waste a moment of valuable time on your test day reading the directions.

Directions for problem-solving questions: For each of the following questions, select the best of the answer choices.

Numbers: All numbers used are real numbers.

Figures: The diagrams and figures that accompany these questions are for the purpose of providing information useful in answering the questions. Unless it is stated that a specific figure is not drawn to scale, the diagrams and figures are drawn as accurately as possible. All figures are in a plane unless otherwise indicated.

Instructions for Quantitative Comparison Questions:

Directions: Each of the following questions consists of two quantities, one in column A and another in Column B. You are to compare the two quantities and answer

- (A) if the quantity in Column A is greater**
- (B) if the quantity in Column B is greater**
- (C) if the two quantities are equal**
- (D) if the relationship cannot be determined from the information given**

Common information: In a question, information concerning one or both of the quantities to be compared is centered above the two columns. A symbol that appears in both columns represents the same thing in Column A as it does in Column B.

3) Read each question carefully to understand what you are being asked. The alternate answer choices are usually chosen to reflect typical mistakes test takers make when they misread the question. (If the question asks for the x-intercept, you can be fairly certain the y-intercept will be one of the wrong answer choices!)

4) Determine immediately whether the problem is simple or complex. The test questions vary from easy to very difficult but are not presented in any particular order. You should determine quickly whether the question is an "easy point" that you can answer immediately, or whether it requires multiple calculations.

5) Do all easy questions first, leaving the more time-consuming and difficult ones for later. Many test takers cannot finish the quantitative section in the time given. Make sure that you quickly earn as many easy points as possible. The time to struggle with that monster calculation is AFTER you've answered every other question on the test.

6) Before solving a problem, read all the answer choices. They will all be in the format that your own solution should take. Are the answers in miles per hour, centimeters, fractions?

7) Eliminate choices that are completely off-track. Many are chosen

to correspond to typical mistakes you may make if you misread the question or miscalculate. Eliminate those that simply don't make sense as well, such as distances that are negative or % that are obviously too high or low.

8) Look for shortcuts. The test is measuring your ability to reason, not to make endless calculations. If you find yourself spending too much time doing complex calculations, stop and re-think the question. You probably missed a crucial shortcut or simple equation that can be used to solve the problem quickly.

9) Don't obsess on any one problem. If you get stuck, skip the question and go on to the next one. Skip the spot on your answer sheet and circle the whole question that you are skipping on the test sheet. This way, if you have a moment or two at the end to come back to it, you can find it quickly.

10) Use the substitution (or backsolving) method whenever possible. Some problems are solved fastest by simply plugging in the five answer choices and finding the one that works.

11) If you are testing answer choices randomly, start with Choice C. The five choices are always listed in order, either ascending or descending. By testing C first, you are trying the "middle" answer. If it's too large, you only need to check the two smaller answers. This quickly eliminates working with the other two incorrect answer choices.

12) If a problem lists only unknowns, try substituting real numbers.

for example, consider the following:

If n is an odd integer, which of the following must be an EVEN integer?

Substitute an odd integer (such as 3) for n into all of the answer choices until you have eliminated all but the correct answer. Such calculations usually just take a few seconds and quickly solve a potentially cumbersome problem.

13) Circle all words in the question that may confuse you. Typical words include not, except and but. Consider the following question:

A survey of 50 people revealed that 42 of them had eaten at restaurant B and that 37 of them had eaten at restaurant G. Which of the following could not be the number of people in the surveyed group who ate at both B and G.

The word "not" in the question means you are looking for the one answer that doesn't work, rather than the four that could.

Overlooking just this one word changes everything.

14) Most figures are drawn to scale. If they are not, the test writers will tell you otherwise. do NOT, however, assume that an angle is a right angle unless it is specifically stated in the question.

15) Be prepared to break complex figures into smaller, simpler ones. Many times a diagram will show an odd-shaped polygon and ask you to determine an area, side length or perimeter. Upon closer inspection, this polygon is actually two triangles that share a common side. The problem is usually easily solved using the Pythagorean theorem or another basic formula. This "trick" is the key to correctly

solving a number of geometry questions on the exam.

16) Be ready to draw a diagram to solve word problems. Older versions of the test offered sketches for most geometry problems. Increasingly, test writers present the problem verbally, requiring the student to draw his/her own picture of the scenario. In many cases, a diagram is the fastest way to assess a problem, organize information and find the solution.

17) Be prepared to read data from graphs and charts. Increasingly, test writers present data in a tabulated form and ask general questions about percent increases and decreases. Handle the questions the same way as you would any similar problem.

18) If you've tried everything else (substitution, backsolving, etc.) and STILL can't solve a problem, don't sweat it. Just guess. Your chances for success are 20% for multiple choices questions, 25% for quantitative comparisons and up to 50 % if you can eliminate a few incorrect answer choices.

Tips for Quantitative Comparison Questions

Quantitative comparison questions offer unique opportunities and challenges. Your job isn't to solve a problem, just to determine whether one quantity is greater than another. In addition to all of the general tips and strategies listed above, keep the following in mind when answering quantitative comparison questions:

1) If the quantities are expressed in different forms, make them

look alike. Eliminate parentheses and factor out expressions. In geometry formulas, convert a given measurement (such as an area, perimeter or volume) to the formula that it represents.

2) Consider the two columns to be sides of an equality. Whatever you do to one side, do to the other. (The only operations that you cannot do without potentially changing the relationship between the two sides are multiplying and dividing by a negative number.)

3) If the problem includes variables, try substituting numbers to make the relationship clearer. Choose numbers that are easy to work with. Try to find a second set of numbers that will alter the relationships. Make sure the relationship holds for positive numbers, negative numbers and fractions.

4) Choice D is correct in cases when you can demonstrate two different relationships between the columns. If the quantities both contain only numbers, Choice D is never correct.

5) Beware of common traps. One trap is the use of squares: the square root of 25 can be either +5 or -5.

6) Remember your goal: to determine whether one side is larger than another. Stop working on the question the second you have enough information. Do NOT bother doing any additional calculations.

Examples of Quantitative Comparison Questions:

Column A Column B

When 1 is added to the square of B, the result is 65.

1) B 8

$$\mathbf{k/h = e/4}$$

k, h, and e are positive

2) $6k$ $2he$

j is greater than 1

3) The number of minutes in j hours $60 / j$

Answers to Quantitative Comparison Questions:

1. Choice D is correct. While $65 = (8)(8) + 1$, we cannot assume that $B = 8$. B could also be -8. Since B could be either +8 or -8, we must select D.

2) Choice B is correct. We convert both sides of the "equation" to make them look alike. Divide both columns by $6h$. We discover that $e/3 > h/k$.

3) Choice A is correct. The number of minutes in j hours is $60j$.

Since $j > 1$, Column A is the greater quantity.

VERBAL

Reading wordlists containing words about 3000 and odd is highly tedious and remembering vague and complex words, its synonym, its definition is difficult and requires repeated revision!

One effective way to remember a word and register it thoroughly in your mind is to search a word's all possible synonyms and its nearby meanings and frame a sentence on your own.

In this comprehensive synonym and antonym list, unique, parallel word-learning approach is introduced and many words can be learnt at a time in most efficient manner!

A word's most possible synonym and its many nearby meanings are also included.

A word is selected, its synonym, many nearby meanings and group of words, which give the same meaning, are included in brackets.

By studying a word, you can easily remember its synonym and its many nearby meanings, its antonym (the antonym's synonym and its many nearby meanings are also included).

For easy recollection, a word's meaning is described in simple English, which makes a word very easy to comprehend and register its meaning. By reading a word, you will be learning nearly ten or more words at a time!

This way you can learn many words in a minute and never forget its meaning, synonym and antonym.

This synonym and antonym list was prepared after collecting a word's exhaustive meanings from many sources. The list provided includes words, which were tested in the actual GRE, in the earlier and recent times, and words, which are likely to appear in the GRE!

Since, a word's exact antonym (opposite word) doesn't exist, to spot an antonym one must clearly identify whether a given word is yielding positive meaning or negative.

COMPREHENSIVE SYNONYM AND ANTONYM LIST

Immutable (fixed, non-variant, not changing) - changeable (mutable, variable, alterable)

Nebulous (indefinite, imprecise) - (distinct), (precise, pithy), (clear)

Prodigal (spendthrift, uncontrolled, extravagant, wasteful, reckless) - cautious (frugal, thrifty, parsimonious, economical)

Turbid (cloudy, dirty, murky, muddy) - clear (limpid, lucid, apparent)

Paeon (song of praise) - dirge (sad song)

Expatriate (lengthy talk, elaborate) - talk briefly

Nascence (incipient, event of being born, start) - conclusion

Contemplate - random

Indigenous - alien

Effrontery - deference

Acerbity (acrimonious, bitterness of speech, harsh) - sweetness

Omniscient (all knowing, infinitely wise) - ignorant

Arrant (complete, total, absolute) - partial (incomplete, limited, fractional)

Feckless (feeble, ineffective, weak, impotent) - (dynamic), (strong, potent, puissant)

Prolix (verbose, grandiloquent, loquacious, wordy, garrulous, talkative, voluble) - terse (concise, laconic)

Improbity - honesty

Insipid (lacking in flavor, dull, bland, tasteless) - flavorful, exciting

Defection (abandonment, desertion) - joining

Aplomb (cool, composure) - confusion

Hone (sharpen) - blunt

Frangible (breakable) - sturdy

Inane (silly, stupid, immature) - wise (astute, sensible, judicious, shrewd, clever, prudent)

Harbinger (forerunner, precursor, foretell, herald, portend) - follower

Tyro (callow, tenderfoot, greenhorn, learner, novice, pupil, trainee, apprentice, student, neophyte, beginner, inexperienced) - expert(sophisticated, specialist, authority, proficient, adept)

Nettle (enrage, annoy, vex, irritate, infuriate, exasperate) - mollify (pacify, placate, appease, propitiate, conciliate, reconcile, soothe)

Conciliate - quarrel

Nefarious (immoral, disreputable, evil, wicked) - angelic (innocent, good, moral, reputable)

Palpability (tangibility) - intangibility, impalpability

Vapid (lifeless, insipid, bland) - spirited (lively, animated, vivacious, cheerful)

Labile - stable

Clemency (mercy, kindness, pity, forgiveness, compassion) - unmerciful treatment, harshness

Limp (walk lamely, flaccid, wilted, bendy, floppy, shamle) - firm

Radiate - absorb

Anathema (abhorrence, curse, baneful) - blessing (benison, benediction)

Vacuous (dim) (stupid, unintelligent, inane) - (insightful, wise) (bright)

Stark (barren, weak, full) - partial, lush

Exhume (dig-up, quarry) - inter, bury

Extirpate (destroy completely, root-out, uproot) - implant

Wastrel (spendthrift, squanderer, prodigal) - conservator, stint, thrifty, frugal, cautious

Cliché (banal, hackneyed, trite) - novelty (originality, newness, uniqueness, freshness)

Haggard (tired, faded, exhausted, worn down, fatigue, gaunt, wasted away) - fresh, plump

Moribund (dying, waning, declining) - living, existing, waxing

Specious (misleading, inaccurate, baseless, false, fallacious, fallible) - accurate, plausible, leading to truth

Propinquity (kinship, closeness, proximity, nearness, affinity) - remoteness (detachment, aloofness, solitude, seclusion, isolation, reserve)

Exhume (dig up, quarry) - inter, bury

Punctuality (time keeping, reliability, regularity, promptness) - tardiness (lateness, delay)

Artifice (affected, ploy, pretense, gambit, deception, trick, deceit) - candor (frankness, sincerity, forthrightness, honesty, openness)

Ephemeral (fleeting, brief, transient, momentary, temporary) -

eternal (everlasting, perpetual, long-lasting, permanent)

Travail (toil, sweat, work hard) - relaxation, rest

Generously (liberally, charitably, kindly) - ungenerously (stingy, niggardly, miserly)

Compound (mix, multiple, amalgam, multifarious) - separate (split, divide, by parts)

Turpitude (depravity, immorality) - righteousness, goodness (inborn good quality)

Venial (forgivable, excusable, minor, trivial) - inexcusable, unforgivable, crucial

Unsullied (clean, pure, untainted, uncontaminated, untarnished) - sullied (tarnished, stained, tainted, contaminated)

Amalgamate (combine, join, merge, unite, fuse, integrate) - isolate (separate, disintegrate, detach)

Gauche (tactless, rude, careless) - tactful (polite, careful, diplomatic, delicate)

Punctilious (minutely attentive, meticulous, scrupulous, conscientious) - careless (sloppy, slapdash)

Secular (worldly, materialistic) - clergy, clerical, spiritual, religious

Crass (insensitive, grossly insensible) - refined, sensitive

Fidelity (loyalty, trustworthy, reliability, faithfulness) - treachery, disloyalty, perfidious, dishonest

Sanguine (cheerful, hopeful, optimistic) (certain, positive) - (pessimistic, hopeless), (doubtful, uncertain)

Solvent (able to pay all debts), (substance that dissolves another) - (bankrupt, indebt), (insolvent)

Obfuscate (confuse, muddle, make complex) - clarify (make clear, elucidate, simplify)

Rail (scold, rebuke, rant) - praise, eulogy

Granulate (form into grains, grind, crush, powder, refine) - crystallize (come together, shape up)

Trenchant (cutting, acumen, keen) - obtuse (slow, dull, insensitive)

Unruly (disobedient, lawless) - well behaved, obedient, lawful

Aver (state confidently, declare, agree, assert, affirm, avow) - deny (reject, disagree, refute)

Excoriate (scold with biting harshness, strip the skin off), (criticize, berate, condemn) - praise (extol, honor, admire, eulogize, applaud, acclaim, congratulate)

Temerarious (brash, daredevil) - prudent (cautious, careful, discreet, wise)

Temerity (audacity, impudence, effrontery, boldness, harshness) - reticence, reserved, shyness, taciturn

Benignity (graciousness, kindness) - evilness (cruelty, unkind, rudeness)

Execrate (repugnance, curse, loathe, abhor, abominate, detest, hate) - (adore, love), (acclaim)

Alienate (make hostile, separate, estrange, make unfriendly, isolate) - harmonize, make friendly

Wanton (willfully malicious, unchaste),(unrestrained) - (chaste, unsullied, pure), (restrained)

Choleric (hot tempered, hot headed, irascible, petulant, short tempered) - easy going, good natured

Distend (dilate, expand, swell out, balloon - diminish, reduce, deflate, contract

Assuage (alleviate, improve, to lessen as of pain, satisfy (hunger), soothe (anger) - worsen, degenerate, exacerbate, aggravate, intensify

Garrulous (voluble, chatty, loquacious, verbose, wordy) - taciturn (reticent, shyness, diffidence, introverted, silence), (laconic)

Quell (subdue, suppress, calm down, quiet, extinguish, put down) - foment (instigate, stir up, provoke, stimulate)

Nadir (all-time low, rock bottom, pits, lowest point, bottom most, base) - (apex, top, apogee, acme, pinnacle, climax, tip, zenith, peak, height, summit)

Soporific (sleep inducing, hypnagogic, hypnogogic, narcotic, somnific, hypnotic, dull, monotonous) - awakening, invigorating, energizing, stimulating, arousing, exciting, stirring

Terminus (finishing point, end, limit, last, concluding, final) -

beginning , start, opening, inauguration, launch, commencement, initiation, introduction

Condign (merited, deserved) - undeserved

Artisan (skilled laborer, artificer, craftsmen, journeyman) - unskilled laborer, amateurish, inexpert, unprofessional

Unscathed (unhurt, uninjured, unharmed, without a scratch) - wounded, injured, hurt

Hoyden (tomboyish, romp, used of boisterous girls) - demure girl, shy, diffident

Doltish (cloddish, stupid) - clever, smart, intelligent

Cursory (superficial, perfunctory, hurried, brief, hasty) - thorough, comprehensive, profound, deep

Chary (wary, careful, cautious, mindful, thrifty) - foolhardy (headlong, rash, imprudent, unwise, impetuous, impulsive, reckless, hasty)

Sloth (slow-moving tree-dwelling mammal),(sluggishness, laziness, idleness, inactive) - (industry, hard work, diligence), (liveliness, vigor, spirit)

Crabbed (bad-tempered, ill tempered) - sweet tempered

Turgid (swollen, distended, inflated, overblown, enlarged, puffed up, bloated) -deflated, shrunken, emaciated

Local (limited, restricted), (narrow, confined, specific) - (global, universal, worldwide, total, boundless), (general, broad, common)

Vilify (speak ill of, malign, libel, belittle, slander, defame, insult, deride, decry, disparage, criticize, condemn, censure, reproach, blame, denigrate, defame, mock, tease, taunt) - **eulogize** (commend, honor, congratulate, praise, laud, extol, exalt, acclaim, applaud, compliment, admire)

Asteroid (small planet, planetoid) - **large planet**

Malevolent (malicious, spiteful, wicked, nasty, mean) - **benevolent, kindly**

Impotent (weak, powerless, unable, incapable) - **puissant, potent** (all powerful, effective, strong, forceful, mighty)

Concur (agree, harmony, accede, accord), (coincide, happen together, overlap) - **dissent** (disagree, discord, dissonance, dispute), (conflict)

Plethora (glut, excess, surfeit, surplus, extra, superfluous, over abundance) - (shortage, scarcity, paucity, meager, scanty, dearth, insufficiency, sparse, scarce, inadequate)

Equanimity (composure, level-headedness, self control, calmness, poise) - **agitation** (stir, anxiety, disturbance)

Sardonic (disdainful, disrespectful, contemptuous, scathing, cynical, acerbic, scornful, mocking, sarcastic, ironic, derisive, satirical, cutting, mordant) - **sincere** (respectful, straight, honest, truthful, earnest, genuine)

Prim (very precise and formal, exceedingly proper), (neat, tidy, trim) - (improper, informal), (untidy, messy)

Evince (show, make clear, verify, prove, substantiate, support) - conceal (hide, obscure, cover, mask, cloak, secrete, veil, unearth)

Limp (walk lamely, wilted, bendy, flabby, flaccid, shamle, shuffle, hobble, floppy) - firm (solid, hard, rigid, dense)

Porous (permeable, absorbent, leaky, spongy) - impermeable (impervious, resistant, waterproof)

Erratic (inconsistent, unreliable, irregular, variable, changeable, mutable, capricious, alterable, fluctuating, whimsical, fickle, impulsive) - consistent (predictable, reliable, constant, dependable, unswerving, regular, steady)

Repine (express discontent, complain, fret, quetch) - express joy

Loquacious (chatty, gabby, gushing, bombastic, grandiloquent, articulate, voluble, vociferous, effusive, rambling, wordy, garrulous, verbose, talkative) - taciturn (shy, diffidence, reticence, reserved, introverted, compendious, withdrawn)

Verbose (wordy) - compendious (succinct, compact)

Ulterior (unstated and questionable), (situated beyond), (hidden, mysterious, underhanded, secret, concealed, clandestine) - (transparent), (stated)

Obese (fat, chubby, portly, fleshy, over weight, corpulent, stout, plump, large) - cadaverous (corpselike, thin, pale, pallid, wan, gaunt, bony, skeletal, emaciated, lean, skinny)

Chasten (punish, castigate, correct, reprimand, censure, discipline) - reward

Compliant (yielding, flexible, accepting, willing, obedient, submissive, amenable, acquiescent) - (adamant, resistant, unyielding, stubborn, inflexible, obdurate)

Lionize (treat as a celebrity), (glorify, praise, extol, fete, celebrate) - denigrate (defame, mock, tease, taunt, disparage)

Enmity (dislike, acrimony, rancor, spite, animosity, loathing, hatred, hostility, bad feeling, unfriendly, - affection (friendliness, camaraderie, warmth, fondness, liking, love)

Avarice (acquisitiveness, greediness, covetousness, cupidity, selfishness) - altruism (unselfishness, selflessness, generosity, philanthropy, self sacrifice)

Unfeigned (frank, genuine, sincere, real) - disguised (camouflaged, veiled, masked, concealed, hidden)

Fetid (squalid, fusty, smelly, stinking, foul, putrid, rancid), (rotten, stale) -(having a pleasant smell, odorous, fragrant, aromatic, scented), (fresh)

Amelioration (meliorate, amend, betterment, improvement) - deterioration (worsen, decline, weaken, drop)

Goad (stimulate, provoke, prod, incite) - curb (restrain, reduce, control, curtail, limit)

Feasible (doable, viable, realistic, practical, pragmatic) - unfeasible, (idealistic (not viable, unrealistic, impractical)

Disputatious (controversial, litigious, contentious) - conciliatory (appeasing, pacifying, assuaging, mollifying)

Focus (to meet at a point, hub) - disperse (scatter, diffuse, disband)

**Heterogeneous (varied, mixed, diverse, various, assorted) -
homogeneous (similar, consistent, identical, uniform)**

Hummock (hill, hillock, mount) - vale (valley, dale, gorge, dell)

**Dissuade (advise against, deter, discourage, prevent) - persuade
(influence, convince), exhort (encourage, insist, foster, promote)**

**Inebriation (habitually intoxicated, drunk) - sobriety (abstinence,
abstemiousness, temperance, restraint)**

**Abrogate (abolish, get rid of) - institute (introduce, establish, set
up)**

**Acquiescence (passive agreement, acceptance, assent, consent,
compliance, accord, accede) - (rebellion), (resistance)**

Bedizen (dress garishly, vulgarly, tastelessly, dizen) - strip bare

**Odious (repulsive, hateful, loathsome, detestable, abhorrent) -
delightful (wonderful, pleasant, enjoyable, amusing)**

**Frustrate (discourage, annoy, bother, disturb, upset) - abet (assist,
support, encourage usually in wrong doing)**

**Mutter (mumble, grumble, complain), (talk softly, murmur,
whisper) - speak distinctively**

**Extraneous (irrelevant, not pertinent, superfluous, inappropriate) -
essential (relevant, appropriate, necessary)**

Extrinsic (alien, foreign, external) - intrinsic, inherent (innate,

natural, inborn, inbuilt)

Churlish (uncouth, rude, coarse, impolite) - polite (courteous, respectful, gracious)

Supernal (celestial, ethereal) - devilish

Non-striated - striped (banded, lined)

Pallid (pale, white, ashen, pasty, colorless) - 1ruddy, 2dark

Hibernal (wintry) - summer like

Wastrel (compulsive, shopper, spendthrift, squanderer) - conservator

Ultimate (crucial, vital, final, decisive, last, definitive) - incipient (initial, start, beginning, early, embryonic, budding, developing)

Gratuity (privilege, bonus, benefit, freebie, perk) - stipend (salary, pay, income, earning, remuneration)

Cower (shrink, cringe, tremble) - brazenly confront (tackle, face, meet up)

Pinch (bit, nip)- abundant amount (excess, plethora)

Protract (dilate, stretch out, drag out, expand, prolong, extend, lengthen) - shorten (cut short, abridge, condense, abbreviate, curtail, curb, limit)

Ungainly (ungraceful, graceless, awkward - graceful (elegant, stylish, polish, attractive, charming, lovely)

Ancillary (auxiliary, supplementary, subsidiary, additional, secondary) - principal (main, primary, key, most important, foremost, chief, major)

Somatic (Corporal, corporeal, carnal, bodily, physical) - (mental, psyche), (spiritual)

Immunity (resistance, exemption, protection) - (susceptibility), (vulnerability)

Opaque (obscure, unclear, muddy, turbid) - transparent (translucent, clear, obvious, apparent, visible, perspicuous, pellucid, lucid, limpid)

Corroborate (confirm, support, substantiate, agree with, uphold) - contradict, controvert (refute, cancel out, disprove, invalidate, negate, quash, make void)

Cryptic (mysterious, puzzling, secret, enigmatic, hidden, obscure) - (straightforward), (candid)

Ferrous (containing iron) - containing no iron

Raffish (casual, jaunty) - (bland), (august)

Trite (pedestrian, commonplace, hackneyed, banal, prosaic, worn, clichéd) - original

Prosaic (mundane, quotidian, ordinary, characterless, trite, pedestrian, commonplace, hackneyed, banal, worn, clichéd - romantic (idealistic, quixotic, dreamy, impractical)

Fortuitous (accidental, by chance, unexpected) - expected

Solecism (blooper, error, mistake, gaffe, blunder, faux pas, gaucherie) - proper usage

Gaucherie (gracelessness, inelegance, tackiness, awkwardness) - elegance (chic, classiness, stylish, sophistication, grace, attractive, fashionable, modishness)

Grisly (atrocious, dreadful, heinous, horrible, shocking, repugnant, ghastly, gruesome, macabre) - pleasant (enjoyable, amusing, nice, lovely, pleasurable, satisfying)

Apropos (accidentally, opportune, timely, apt) - untimely

Catholic (broad, wide-ranging, extensive, varied) - (narrow), (conservative)

Impeccable (unsullied, spotless, unimpeachable, flawless, perfect, faultless, immaculate) - faulty (sullied, flawed, damaged, imperfect, defective)

Benison (benediction, blessing, boon) - curse (nuisance, bane, pest)

Languor (lassitude, laziness, sluggishness, lethargy, indolence, inertia, inactivity, torpor, dormant, quiescent, slowness, quiet, stillness, inert, sleeping, at rest) - (vigor, energetic, vitality), (active, swiftness, motion, activity, alert)

Belated (late, delayed, tardy, postponed, deferred)- (on time, timely, punctual, prompt)

Sagacious (clever, scholarly, perceptive, learned, knowledgeable, savant, sage, erudite, astute, wise, judicious) - stupid (inane, immature, childish, fool)

Cozen (deceive, mislead, dupe, hoodwink, delude, cheat, trick, defraud, bamboozle, bilk, swindle, trick, hoax, con) - treat honestly

Equable - stormy

Laudatory - defamatory

Undermine - strengthen

Console - aggravate grief

Serendipitous - planned

Sordid - magnificent

Debonair - awkward

Depravity - goodness

Bucolic (country, rural, rustic, pastoral, uncouth, uncivilized) - urban (municipal, city, town, metropolitan)

Mundane (quotidian, routine, everyday,)- extraordinary

Contamination (pollution, corruption, infectivity) - decontamination (purification, distillation, refinement, sanitization)

Acarpous (unfruitful) - fecund (prolific, fruitful)

Perfunctory (not thorough, superficial) - thorough (profound, scrupulous, meticulous)

Lugubrious (dismal, cheerless, somber, sad, melancholy, mournful, gloomy) - gay (cheerful, jocund, jolly, jovial, merry, buoyant)

Unanimity - discord

Genuflect - stand erect

Dastard - hero

Tawdry - elegant

Spurious - genuine

Nefarious - virtuous

Trepidation (fear, daunt, anxiety, apprehension, nervousness, consternation, worry) - courage (valor, heroism, gallant, bravery, audacity, nerve, guts, dauntless)

Hiatus (pause, break, interruption, gap, space, lull, interval, time away) - nexus (link, connection)

Adroit (adept, skillful, nimble, practiced, able, clever, dexterous, competent, accomplished) - unskillful (inept, clumsy, untalented, maladroit, incompetent, amateurish, awkward)

Retrench (cut back, economize, save, tighten your belt, limit, reduce) - augment (increase, enhance, boost, bump up, expand, enlarge, add to, supplement, dilate)

Repugnance (abominable, detestable, disgust, revulsion, loathsome, hate, abhorrence, repulsion) - love (adore, worship, fond of, affectionate)

Fractional (petulant, irritable, peevish, touchy, complaining) - agreeable (pleasant, delightful, enjoyable, good, satisfying)

Admonition (scolding, reproach, reprimand, rebuke, caution, warning) - countenance (put up with, tolerate, stand for, allow, approve of)

Doltish (cloddish, heavy and dull and stupid)- clever (bright, intelligent, smart, knowledgeable, intellectual, brainy, witty, sharp)

Abstruse (obscure, profound, perplexing, complex, puzzling, enigma, riddle, mystery, rarefied) - obvious (understandable, clear, palpable, noticeable, evident, apparent, conspicuous)

Eschew (avoid, shun, get rid of, steer clear of) - welcome (greeting, reception, salutation, acknowledgement, receive, hail, meet)

Schism (split, branch, separate divide, rupture, ramify, gulf, break, rift) - union (combination, amalgamation, merging, joining together, fusion, unification, blending, coalition, alliance)

Factitious (fictitious, artificial, fake, synthetic, unreal, fantastic, imaginary, imitation) - real (genuine, actual, authentic, valid, true, bona fide, legitimate, legal, veritable, absolute)

Pandemonium (chaos, tumult, clamor, disorder, furor, ruckus, rumpus, fuss, hullabaloo, stir, fracas, disturbance, confusion, commotion, turbulence, turmoil, uproar hubbub, mayhem, racket, bedlam) - calm (tranquil, serene, halcyon, peaceful, composed, still, quiet, hushed, muted, subdued, soothing, restrained, soothe, relaxing, restful)

Flinch (hesitate, falter), (recoil, cringe, start, shy away, balk) - extol (praise, honor, admire, eulogize, applaud, acclaim, congratulate)

Proclivity (appetite, tendency, leaning, propensity, taste, desire,

liking, penchant, inclination, affinity, desire, fondness, affection,) - aversion (dislike, repugnance, loathing, hate, antipathy, antagonism, ill will, hostility, opposition)

Parry (avoid, ward off, dodge, sidestep, escape, deflect, elude, circumvent, evade, skirt, shirk) - discuss (talk about, address, converse, argue, chat about, confer)

Ductility (malleability) - brittleness (fragility, weakness, frailty)

Naïveté (innocence, simplicity, ingenuousness, artlessness) - sophistication (complexity, difficulty, erudition, superiority, classiness, stylishness, refinement)

Longevity (prolonged existence, permanence, endurance, durability) - evanescence (disappearance)

Sessile (attached, fixed, immovable, immobile, stalk less) - mobile (movable, portable, transportable, itinerant)

Destitute (poor, penniless, needy, bankrupt, impecunious, indigent, impoverished, insolvent) - (affluent, solvent, prosperous, rich, wealthy, opulent, sumptuous, luxurious)

Camaraderie (friendship, comradeship, companionship, solidarity, amity, amicable, cordial, affable, sociable, convivial, hospitable, goodwill, genial) - animosity (ill will, hostility, hatred, loathing, enmity, bitterness, acrimony, ill feeling, antagonism, rancor, malice, spite, rivalry, opposition, resentment, antipathy, aversion, dislike, repugnance)

Egress (way out, door, exit, outlet) - entrance (way in, entry, access, doorway, opening)

Gelid (extremely cold, frigid, chilly, arctic, glacial, icy, polar, frosty, frozen) - warm (sultry, hot, torrid, humid, temperate, lukewarm, tepid)

Supercilious (arrogant, bigheaded, egotistical, condescending, snooty, patronizing, haughty, proud, snobbish, lofty, conceited, disdainful, pretentious, pompous, portentous, self-centered, self-important) - subservient (obedient, compliant, docile, amenable, yielding, acquiescent), (down-to earth, humble, meek, submissive, modest, lowly)

Cogent (convincing, articulate, reasoned, strong, coherent, sound, forceful, logical, rational) - unconvincing (illogical, specious, unreasonable, irrational, unscientific)

Renegade (betrayer, defector, apostate, fugitive, turncoat, deserter, traitor, rebel, recreant, ratter, maverick) - conformist (follower, traditionalist, sheep, conventional person)

Piquancy (sharp taste, tartness, tanginess, spiciness, pungency, acidity) - blandness (tastelessness, insipidness, mildness)

Virile (characterizing a man, machismo, manlike, manful, strong, potent) - effeminate (emasculate, epicene, sissy)

Capitulation (surrender, succumb, submission, admit defeat, yield, give up) - resistance (opposition, fight, battle, conflict, confrontation)

Chimerical (factitious, fictitious, fantasy) - realistic

Utopia (Ideally perfect state; especially in its social and political and moral aspects) - dystopia (fiction, state)

Renege (go back on, break your word, break a promise) - carry out

faithfully

HIGH FREQUENCY GRE WORDS

The GRE tests a surprisingly limited number of words. In the following lists, you will find words that occur frequently on the GRE. As you read the lists, mark any words that you do not know with a check mark. Then when you read the list again, mark any that you do not remember with two checks. Continue in this manner until you have learned the words.

The first list, The High Frequency 400, contains words that have appeared frequently on the GRE.

abash humiliate, embarrass

abdicate relinquish power or position

aberrant abnormal

**abet aid, encourage (typically of
crime)**

abeyance postponement

aboriginal indigenous

abridge shorten

abstemious moderate

**acclimate accustom oneself to a
climate**

**accost to approach and speak to
someone**

acquiesce agree passively

acumen insight

adamant insistent

admonish warn gently

adulterate contaminate, corrupt

adversary enemy, hostility, opponent

adversity hardship

aegis that which protects

aesthetic pleasing to the senses,

beautiful

affable friendly

affinity fondness

aggregate total, collect

aghast horrified

alacrity swiftness

alienate estrange, antagonize

alleviate lessen, assuage

altruism benevolence, generosity

amalgamation mixture

ambiguous unclear

ambivalence conflicting emotions

amenable agreeable

amorphous shapeless

anachronistic out of historical order

analogous similar

anarchy absence of government

anathema curse

animus hate

anomalous abnormal

antipathy repulsion, hatred

antipodal exactly opposite

antiquated outdated, obsolete

apathy indifference

appease pacify

approbation approval

artless naive, simple

ascetic self-denying

assiduous hard-working

assimilate absorb

audacity boldness
auspicious favorable
austere harsh, Spartan
autonomous self-governing
avarice greed
axiom self-evident truth
banal trite
belie misrepresent
belittle disparage
bellicose warlike
benefactor patron
boisterous noisy
boor vulgar person
bourgeois middle class
bucolic rustic
buttress support
cachet prestige
cacophony dissonance, harsh noise
callow inexperienced
canon rule
capacious spacious
capitulate surrender
castigate criticize
cathartic purgative, purifying
catholic universal, worldly
caustic scathing (of speech)
censure condemn
chagrin embarrassment
charlatan quack
chary cautious
coagulate thicken
Coda concluding passage
cogent well-put, convincing
collusion conspiracy

Commensurate proportionate
commiserate empathize
compensatory redeeming
compliant submissive
conciliatory reconciling
conglomeration accumulation, amass
condone overlook wrong doing
conducive helping
connoisseur an expert, gourmet
consensus general agreement
contentious argumentative
conundrum puzzle, enigma
convoluted twisted, complicated
covenant agreement, pact
covert secret
credence belief
credulous believing
cynical scornful of the motives of others
dauntless courageous
dearth scarcity
defamation (noun) slander
deference courteously yielding to another
deleterious harmful
delineate draw a line around
describe
demur take exception
denigrate defame
deprecate belittle
desiccate dehydrate
despot tyrant
destitute poor
desultory without direction in life

deterrent hindrance
devoid empty
devout pious
diatribe long denunciation
dichotomy a division into two parts
didactic instructional
diffident shy, tacit
digress ramble
disabuse correct a misconception
discerning observant
discord lack of harmony
discrete separate
discretion prudence
disingenuous deceptive
disparate various
disseminate distribute
dissent disagree
dissolution disintegration
dissonance discord
distend swell
divest strip, deprive
divulge disclose
dogmatic certain, unchanging in
opinion
dormant asleep
eclectic from many sources
efficacy effectiveness
effigy likeness, mannequin
effloresce to bloom
effrontery insolence
elicit provoke
eloquent well-spoken
emancipate liberate
embellish exaggerate

**endemic peculiar to a particular
region**

enervate weaken

engender generate

ennui boredom

enumerate count

esoteric known by only a few

esthetic artistic

euphemism genteel expression

euphoria elation

evanescent fleeting, very brief

exacerbate worsen

exasperate irritate

**exhibitionist one who draws
attention to himself**

exonerate free from blame

expedite hasten

extemporize improvise

extol praise highly

facetious joking, sarcastic

facilitate make easier

fallacy false belief

fathom understand

fervor intensity

fickle always changing one's mind

filibuster long speech

**fledgling just beginning,
struggling**

**flout to show disregard for the law
or rules**

foment instigate

forsake abandon

fortuitous lucky

foster encourage

frugal thrifty
fulminate denounce, menace
furtive stealthy
gainsay contradict
germane relevant
glib insincere manner
gratuitous unwarranted, uncalled for
gregarious sociable
halcyon serene
hamper obstruct
harangue tirade
Harry harass
hedonism excessive pursuit of
pleasure in life
hegemony authority, domination
histrionic overly dramatic
homogeneous uniform
hyperbole exaggeration
hypocritical deceiving, two-faced
iconoclast one who rails against
sacred institutions
idiosyncrasy peculiarity
imminent about to happen
impecunious indigent
imperative vital, pressing
imperturbable calm
impervious impenetrable
impetuous impulsive
implicit implied
impolitic unwise
impulsive to act suddenly
impunity exemption from harm
inadvertent unintentional
incendiary inflammatory

incipient beginning
incontrovertible indisputable
Incorrigible unreformable
indifferent unconcerned
indigent poor
indolent lazy
indomitable invincible
ineffable inexpressible
inert inactive
inherent innate, inborn
inhibit restrain
inimical adverse, hostile
insatiable gluttonous
insidious treacherous
insipid flat, dull
insufferable unbearable
insular narrow-minded
intangible not perceptible by touch
internecine mutually destructive
intractable unmanageable
intrepid fearless
inundate flood
inure accustom, habituate, harden
invective verbal insult
inveigle lure
irascible irritable
irresolute hesitant, uncertain
itinerary route
judicious prudent
laconic brief, terse
lassitude lethargy
laudatory commendable
levity frivolity
lucid clearly understood

lurid ghastly
Machiavellian politically crafty, cunning
magnanimous generous, kindhearted
magnate a powerful, successful person
malevolence bad intent, malice
malinger shirk
malleable moldable, tractable
misanthrope hater of mankind
miscreant evildoer
mitigate lessen the severity
mundane ordinary
nadir lowest point
narcissism self-love
nascent incipient
neologism newly coined expression
nonplus confound
noxious toxic
obfuscate bewilder, muddle
obtuse stupid
obviate make unnecessary
odious despicable
officious forward, obtrusive
omnipotent all-powerful
onerous burdensome
opprobrium disgrace
oscillate waver
paeon a song of praise
paradigm a model
paragon standard of excellence
parody imitation, ridicule
parsimonious stingy
paucity scarcity
pedagogical pertaining to teaching
pedantic bookish

penchant inclination
penury poverty
pernicious destructive
perpetuity eternity
perspicacious keen
pervade permeate
philanthropic charitable
phlegmatic sluggish
piety devoutness
pious devout, holy
piquant tart-tasting, spicy
pithy concise
platitude trite remark
platonic nonsexual
plethora overabundance
polemic controversy
posthumous after death
pragmatic practical
precarious dangerous, risky
precipitate cause
precursor forerunner
preponderance predominance
presumptuous assuming
pretentious affected, inflated
pretext excuse
prevaricate lie
probity integrity
problematic uncertain
prodigal wasteful
prodigious marvelous, enormous
**prodigy a person with extraordinary
ability or talent**
profligate licentious, prodigal
profound deep, knowledgeable

profusion overabundance
prolific fruitful, productive
propensity inclination
proportionate commensurate
propriety decorum
prosaic uninspired, flat
proscribe prohibit
protuberance bulge
pundit politically astute person
pungent sharp smell or taste
qualms misgivings
quash put down, suppress
querulous complaining
quixotic impractical, romantic
raconteur story teller
recalcitrant stubborn
recant retract
redoubtable formidable, steadfast
refractory obstinate
relegate assign to an inferior position
renege break a promise
renounce disown
reprehensible blameworthy
reproach blame
reprobate miscreant
repudiate disavow
requisite necessary
rescind revoke
resolute determined
reticent reserved
retribution reprisal
reverent respectful
rhapsody ecstasy
rhetoric elocution, grandiloquence

sanctimonious self-righteous
sanction approval
sanguinary gory, murderous
satiate satisfy fully
satire ridicule
schism rift
secular worldly, nonreligious
sedulous diligent
severance division
skeptical doubtful
solicitous considerate, concerned
solvent financially sound
sophistry specious reasoning
specious false but plausible
spurious false, counterfeit
squander waste
stolid impassive
stupefy deaden, dumfound
stymie hinder, thwart
sullen sulky, sour
supercilious arrogant
superfluous overabundant
surfeit overabundance
synthesis combination
tacit understood without being spoken
temerity boldness
tenuous thin, insubstantial
terse concise
torpid lethargic, inactive
tractable docile, manageable
transient fleeting, temporary
Trenchant incisive, penetrating
truculent fierce, savage
ubiquitous omnipresent, pervasive

ulterior hidden, covert
Untenable cannot be achieved
untoward perverse
urbane refined, worldly
vacillate waver
venerable revered
veracity truthfulness
verbose wordy
vernacular common speech
vex annoy
viable capable of surviving
vilify defame
virulent deadly, poisonous
vitriolic scathing
Catastrophic appalling, disastrous
vituperative abusive
vivacious lively
volatile unstable
voluminous bulky, extensive
voracious hungry
xenophobia fear of foreigners
zealot fanatic

WORD CATEGORIES

abandoned, neglected derelict dilapidated remiss
absorb, learn assimilate imbibe
abstract, profound abstruse esoteric recondite
academic matriculate
accompanying concomitant consort corollary
addition,
increase accretion accrue affix aggrandize amplify annex append
addition,
increase augment compound concatenate cumulative wax

agree, similar,

harmony accede acquiesce assent concerted concord concur conformity

agree, similar,

harmony congruent consensus consonance covenant jibe kindred palatable

agree, similar, harmony parity rapport unanimity

agriculture, land, estate,

trees agrarian alluvial arable arboretum arid conifer defoliate

agriculture, land, estate,

trees domicile enclave fallow foliage frond fructify fruition

agriculture, land, estate,

trees horticultural humus peon reaper tract vassal verdant

agriculture, land, estate, trees yeoman yield

air, attitude,

charm bravado charisma condescend defeatist deign mincing patronize

analyze, estimate,

measure appraise assay assess disquisition dissection exalt mete

anatomy, body

features ciliated clavicle hackles hirsute lineaments palate swarthy

anatomy, body features tactile

ancient, obsolete antedeluvian antiquated archaic pristine

anger,

offence bristling incense indignation irate seethe umbrage wrath

animals, birds,

insects aerie apiary aviary bestial canine carapace carnivorous

animals, birds,

insects dorsal entomology equine ewe fancier feral fleece

animals, birds,

insects herbivorous herpetologist ichthyology leonine low menagerie omnivorous

animals, birds,

insects ornithologist pachyderm prehensile simian spawn talon tanner

animals, birds,

insects ursine ventral vivisection vixen vulpine warren whelp

animals, birds, insects whinny

annoy, irritation,

vex badger chagrin exasperate fester fret gadfly gall
annoy, irritation,
vex irascible irksome nettle pique provocative rankle rile
annoy, irritation, vex testy touchy
apart, separate, split,
isolate alienate aloof asunder cleave cleft disjointed disjunction
apart, separate, split,
isolate dislodge dismantle dismember estranged polarize rend rift
apart, separate, split,
isolate schism seclusion sequester sunder winnow
appearance, dressing,
grooming bedizen cherubic coiffure comely countenance dapper disheveled
appearance, dressing,
grooming doff don dowdy foppish guise mangy mode
appearance, dressing,
grooming natty personable physiognomy preen primp pulchritude ragamuffin
appearance, dressing,
grooming semblance spruce unkempt unprepossessing visage
approval approbation
architecture,
roads alcove arcade arroyo citadel cornice dormer façade
architecture,
roads gargoyle grotto hovel levee monolithic obelisk parquet
architecture, roads rotunda scaffold
art,
drama collage connoisseur conservatory daub dilettante embroider fresco
art,
drama histrionic milieu mosaic motif mural palette pantomime
art, drama proscenium repertoire soliloquy thespian virtuoso
artificial, pretended,
deliberate affected calculated contrived dissimulate factitious feign mannered
artificial, pretended,
deliberate poseur posture sham studied subterfuge unctuous
artistic, skillful,

versatile adroit aesthetic deft dexterous finesse protean prowess
assertion, statement affirmation aver avow
assistance abet accomplice connivance succor
astronomical apogee asteroid astral aureole auroral cosmic lunar
astronomical perigee sidereal solstice stellar
attack, invade,
intrude aggressor assail beleaguer coup incursion interloper onslaught
attack, invade, intrude waylay
attract, entice,
tempt allure cynosure engage entice provocative savory
audience,
attention enrapture enthrall oblivious ovation rapt riveting
auspicious, advantageous propitious
avoid avert eschew evade ineluctable inevitable
balance equipoise
banal, unoriginal hackneyed platitude prosaic trite
beg beseech entreat implore importune mendicant suppliant
belief credence credulity doctrine dogma tenet
blessing,
prayer benediction benison boon hallowed invocation litany supplicate
bold, shameless audacious barefaced effrontery temerity
boredom blasé ennui tedium
calm, bliss,
heavenly beatific elysian ethereal halcyon placid quietude serenity
calm, bliss, heavenly sublime tranquillity
cancel, boycott,
ban abolish abrogate countermand embargo expunge interdict ostracize
cancel, boycott, ban proscribe repeal rescind revoke
cautious, care,
prudence chary circumspect conscientious discretion gingerly impolitic judicious
cautious, care, prudence lax leery methodical scrupulous wary
ceremony,
procession cavalcade fanfare fete inaugurate mace ordination rubric
certainty, risk certitude irresolute precarious vacillate

chain, tie down,
enslave enthrall fetter indenture servitude shackle thrall
chaos, commotion disarray ferment hubbub tumult uproarious
chief, first cardinal
clarity elucidate limpid lucid pellucid perspicuity turbid
cleanse, correct,
sanctify bowdlerize catharsis chasten consecrate disabuse distill expurgate
cleanse, correct, sanctify purge sacrosanct sublimate
cloying, excessively sentimental maudlin mawkish saccharine
coax, encourage, force,
stimulate cajole coercion exhort goad hortatory impel impetus
coax, encourage, force,
stimulate incite induce instigate inveigle solicit wheedle whet
colors ashen azure blanch brindled cadaverous denigrate florid

colors aspect iridescent jaundiced kaleidoscope livid mauve nuance
colors pallid piebald pied ruddy sallow variegated wan
combination,
gathering agglomerate aggregate amalgamate coalesce conglomeration garner
combination, gathering muster yoke
common, ordinary nondescript pedestrian plebeian quotidian
complaint grievance grouse misgivings quibble repine
complete complement consummate counterpart plenary
concise,
terse aphoristic brevity laconic pithy sententious succinct
confuse, dilemma, puzzle,
unclear addle baffle befuddle bemused confound conundrum discombobulate
confuse, dilemma, puzzle,
unclear discomfit disconcert elliptical embroil enigma equivocate faze
confuse, dilemma, puzzle,
unclear fluster hazy imbroglio incoherent knotty labyrinth mire
confuse, dilemma, puzzle,
unclear nebulous nonplus obfuscate pell-mell quandary rebus stymie
confuse, dilemma, puzzle, unclear turmoil welter

conspire collusion connivance machinations

continuity breach episodic fitful halting hiatus incessant intermittent

continuity lull piecemeal spasmodic sporadic

contrast, oppose,

difference antithesis belie cavil contend contest contravene controvert

contrast, oppose,

difference converse demur discord discrepancy disparate dissent dissonance

contrast, oppose,

difference divergent foil friction irreconcilable militate recrimination remonstrance

control ascendancy

convincing cogent

courageous dauntless fortitude gamely pluck prowess valor venturesome

craft and tools artifact artisan awl chisel emboss figurine filigree

craft and tools pestle tessellated vise

crime, blame and

acquittal conviction culpable exculpate exonerate felon implicate impunity

crime, blame and

acquittal incriminate misdemeanor peccadillo perpetrate recidivism reprehensible

crime, blame and acquittal vindicate

curse,

evil anathema bane canker execrate exorcise imprecation malediction

curse, evil sinister

dangerous,

threatening formidable hazardous jeopardize minatory ominous pitfall precipitous

dangerous,

threatening predicament quagmire redoubtable virulent

death, loss,

ghost apparition bereavement cadaver carrion casualty crypt epitaph

death, loss,

ghost mausoleum moribund mortician obsequy posthumous sepulcher spectral

death, loss, ghost stygian

deception, trickery,

theft artifice beguile bilk chicanery chisel cozen delude

deception, trickery,

theft dupe duplicity embezzle filch guile gull hoodwink

deception, trickery,

theft illusory kleptomaniac larceny machiavellian malfeasance mirage mulct

deception, trickery, theft skulduggery swindler vulpine

decrease, shorten,

cut abbreviate abridge abscission amputate attrition curtail decapitate

decrease, shorten,

cut deplete diminution excise hew nip prune sever

decrease, shorten, cut truncate wane whittle

degradation,

pollution abase adulteration besmirch contaminate debase debauch desecrate

degradation, pollution profane sacrilegious squalor sully taint

demanding exacting hypercritical importunate peremptory

depressed, discontent,

grieving crestfallen despondent disconsolate disgruntle distraught doldrums do

depressed, discontent,

grieving downcast forlorn funereal lament languor lassitude lugubrious

depressed, discontent,

grieving malcontent melancholy morose plaintive saturnine solicitous somber

depressed, discontent, grieving wistful

deprivation, lack bereft dearth devoid divest paucity

describe, outline delineate graphic limn

desire pine yen

destroy, disease, disaster,

damage annihilate blighted debacle dire exigency impasse internecine

destroy, disease, disaster,

damage malady marred morbid obliterate pathological perdition pernicious

destroy, disease, disaster, damage raze saboteur subversive

deviation, abnormality aberration anomaly atypical

difficult, severe, burden,

fatigue arduous ascetic astringent austere condign cumbersome dogged

difficult, severe, burden,

fatigue draconian encumber exertion grapple gruelling incubus indefatigable
difficult, severe, burden,
fatigue jaded laborious languor lassitude onerous onus ordeal
difficult, severe, burden, fatigue pall privation
digging, burying disinter exhume inter quarry unearth
diligence, sincerity application assiduous industrious sedulous
disapproval,
lament disapprobation bemoan decry deprecate disparage reproach reprobation
discourage,
obstruct deterrent dishearten hamper hindrance impede impediment inhibit
disgrace ignominy
disguise, anonymity dissemble imposture incognito
disown,
deny disavowal disclaim gainsay recant renege renounce repudiate
display, show off flaunt ostensible ostentatious
distress, suffering,
pain affliction anguish harrowing masochist throes travail tribulation
distress, suffering, pain woe writhe
disturb, unrest,
agitate disquietude foment frantic frenetic overwrought roil turbulence
division,
classification bifurcation codify dichotomy graduated phylum ramification strata
division, classification taxonomist
doubt dubious indubitable misgivings qualms skeptic
dull, mild, placid bland bleak bovine dingy dispirited dour drab
dull, mild, placid equable humdrum lacklustre vapid
eagerness alacrity avid exuberance gusto zeal
easy, fluent facile glib voluble
embarrass abash
endure, tolerate brook countenance weather
entry, exit adit egress entrée exodus
error,
mistake blunder bungle fallacious fallible gaffe inerrancy infallible
error, mistake misapprehension

example,
embodiment epitome exemplary exemplify paradigm paragon quintessence ster
excess,
profusion barrage bountiful copious cornucopia exorbitant exuberance fulsom
excess,
profusion glut inordinate luxuriant plenitude plethora prolific rife
excess, profusion unconscionable
excited, joyous,
happy agog blithe ebullient effervescent euphoria felicity frenzied
excited, joyous, happy furor
extent commensurate pandemic perennial perpetual pervasive

extraneous extrinsic supererogatory superfluous supernumerary
fabric, cloth,
fashion brocade decollette modish outmoded passe raiment rakish
fabric, cloth,
fashion ravel rent sartorial spangle threadbare toga vogue
fairness, justice equitable equity evenhanded objective
familiar,
accustomed conversant habituate inured unwonted wont
family, relations,
kinship affinity ancestry atavism avuncular consanguinity filial forebears
family, relations,
kinship genealogy lineage nepotism primogeniture progenitor progeny propinq
fantasy, magic, imaginative,
unreal chimerical conjure entrance fancied figment hallucination incantation
fantasy, magic, imaginative,
unreal legerdemain mesmerize necromancy preternatural quixotic reverie sleigh
fantasy, magic, imaginative, unreal visionary wizardry
fear, terror,
intimidation cow daunt intimidate intrepid petrify quail qualm
fear, terror, intimidation timorous trepidation
fickle, rash,
whim capricious finicky foolhardy headstrong impetuous mercurial mutability

fickle, rash, whim precipitate vagary
filled, satisfied, rich,
full fraught imbue replete sate satiate slake succulent
filled, satisfied, rich, full surfeit

fire conflagration holocaust ignite incendiary kindle pyromaniac sear
fire smolder stoke

fleeting ephemeral evanescent fugitive temporal transient transitory
flexibility,
openness adamant amenable compliance compliant doctrinarian dogmatic ductile
flexibility,
openness limber lithe malleable plasticity pliable resilient supple
foil balk
food and drink,
utensils alimentary bouillon buffet carafe chalice colander collation
food and drink,
utensils comestible condiments cuisine culinary dyspeptic epicure gastronomy
food and drink,
utensils glutton gorge gourmand gourmet gruel gustatory knead
food and drink,
utensils lap larder masticate potable provender purveyor quaff
food and drink,
utensils refectory repast ruminant swill tureen venison viand
food and drink, utensils victuals vintner
fortunate, unlucky, accidental,
fate adventitious fortuitous hap misadventure mischance mishap quirk
fortunate, unlucky, accidental,
fate serendipity untoward vicissitude windfall
freedom emancipate extricate manumit
friend, approachable,
agreeable accessible affable amiable amicable camaraderie confidant congenial
friend, approachable, agreeable winsome
generous, doing

good altruistic beneficent benevolent benign magnanimity munificent philanthropy
geography,
nature archipelago avalanche bluff cartography cascade cataract deluge
geography,
nature ford gorge hinterlands hummock igneous inundate isthmus
geography,
nature knoll lagoon legend ligneous maelstrom miasma obsidian
geography,
nature precipice promontory rivulet silt stratum torrent tundra
geography, nature vortex
gesture, facial expression,
action askance chortle contortion cower cringe ejaculation gloat
gesture, facial expression,
action grimace guffaw obeisance prostrate purse simper smirk
gesture, facial expression,
action snicker snivel titillate tremor tremulous wince
giving, gift benefactor bestow endue largess
government, political,
leadership anarchy apolitical authoritarian autocratic autonomous bureaucracy
government, political,
leadership demagogue depose despot domineer gerontocracy hegemony matriarchy
government, political,
leadership monarchy oligarchy patriarch plutocracy polity reactionary theocracy
gratitude ingrate
greed avarice covetous cupidity rapacious ravenous voracious
group, circle, meeting,
crowd bevy cabal caucus clique conclave contingent convene
group, circle, meeting,
crowd convoke coterie credo creed ethos faction factious
group, circle, meeting,
crowd intelligentsia parley quorum rendezvous throng tryst
harass bait beset besiege browbeat harry heckler
harmful,
harmless baleful deleterious detrimental fell innocuous insalubrious lethal

harmful, harmless malevolent malignant noxious pestilential
hatred, hostility, enmity,
resentment abominate adversary adverse animosity animus antagonism antipathy
hatred, hostility, enmity,
resentment aversion begrudge contempt disdain inimical loathe malaise
hatred, hostility, enmity,
resentment malicious misanthrope misogynist odious odium rancor repugnance
hatred, hostility, enmity, resentment spurn xenophobia
honesty, straightforwardness candor forthright
immature, inexperienced,
rudiment callow embryonic fledgling inchoate neophyte novice puerile
immature, inexperienced,
rudiment sophomoric tyro unfledged
imply, allege,
indicate betoken connotation contention innuendo insinuate purported putative
important,
superior momentous paramount preeminent preponderance salient transcendence
improve ameliorate salutary
inclination, aptitude,
ability averse bent caliber capacity flair panache penchant
inclination, aptitude,
ability predilection predispose proclivity propensity
indifference, impassive,
insensitive apathy callous deadpan detached disinterested insensate insensible
indifference, impassive,
insensitive insouciant loath nonchalance phlegmatic stoic stolid
influence, influential,
eminent clout foist magnate mogul subliminal susceptible tycoon
inform apprise intimate
innocence, lack of
pretence artless guileless gullible ingenuous naivete
insignificant, trivial,
empty bauble cipher dregs dross inconsequential insubstantial iota
insignificant, trivial,

empty minutiae mote paltry petty pittance puny scanty
insignificant, trivial,
empty slag sleazy sparse trifling trinket vacuous whit
insolent brazen impertinent impudent irreverence pert
insult, criticism,
slander affront animadversion aspersion calumny derogatory detraction discre
insult, criticism,
slander indignity invective libel obloquy opprobrium revile slight
insult, criticism, slander slur traduce vilify
intention purport
intolerance,
narrowmindedness bigotry insularity myopic parochial philistine provincial
intoxication,
numb bacchanalian carousal inebriated orgy sobriety sodden stupefy
intoxication, numb stupor tittle
involvement, participation complicity
joking,
teasing badinage bantering chaffing facetious jocose quizzical tantalize
knowledge, logic,
understanding assumption axiom causal cerebral cognitive cognizance congrue
knowledge, logic,
understanding conjecture construe contingent correlation dialectical empirical
knowledge, logic,
understanding exegesis extrapolation fathom gloss
over impalpable implausible implicit
knowledge, logic,
understanding imponderable inductive intangible interpolate ken misconstrue
knowledge, logic,
understanding nexus omniscience ponderous postulate premise propound ratio
knowledge, logic,
understanding rationale refute schematic smattering sophistry specious substan
knowledge, logic,
understanding supposition supposititious surmise syllogism symbiotic tangential
knowledge, logic,

understanding tautological touchstone truism unexceptionable untenable valid
lacking seriousness and
depth cursory dabble flippant frivolous jaunty lackadaisical levity
lacking seriousness and
depth offhand perfunctory slapdash slipshod superficial
lazy,
sluggish indolent inert laggard languid lethargic slothful sluggard
lazy, sluggish torpor
legal, legislative,
official adjuration affidavit arbiter arbitrate arraign attest beneficiary
legal, legislative,
official bequeath bicameral clientele codicil codify communal compact
legal, legislative,
official consign curator default deposition disenfranchise docket edict
legal, legislative,
official emissary enjoin expropriate fiat filibuster forensic franchise
legal, legislative,
official functionary gavel gazette gerrymander hireling illicit impeach
legal, legislative,
official inalienable indict infraction jurisprudence legacy liaison lien
legal, legislative,
official litigation mandate manifesto moratorium ordain ordinance perjury
legal, legislative,
official preamble prerogative promulgate protocol proviso proxy ratify
legal, legislative,
official reprieve retroactive rider shyster statute suborn subpoena
legal, legislative,
official suffragist tender testator title tribunal vitiate vouchsafe
legal, legislative, official writ

linguistic argot cognate etymology jargon lexicographer lexicon litotes

linguistic malapropism onomatopoeia orthography parlance patois philology p
linguistic rhetoric simile solecism spoonerism vernacular

literary allegory alliteration anthology bard canon canto compendium

literary context denouement dissertation doggerel elegy ellipsis emend

literary epic epilogue excerpt genre metaphor miscellany parable

literary paraphrase precis prologue prosody recast satire scenario

literary stanza treatise trilogy vignette wry

lively,

active animated convivial frisky rousing skittish spry verve

lively, active vivacious

local endemic homespun indigenous

love enamored

loyalty, faith allegiance fidelity stalwart steadfast troth

lustful, indecent,

flirt amorous bawdy coquette erotic expletive incontinent lascivious

lustful, indecent,

flirt lechery lewd libidinous licentious paramour philanderer promiscuous

lustful, indecent, flirt prurient ribald salacious scurrilous

luxurious, spacious capacious commodious

marital alimony annul betroth conjugal connubial misogamy nubile

marital nuptial polygamist uxorious

materialism,

spiritualism carnal corporeal monastic mundane platonic regeneration somatic

materialism, spiritualism worldly

meddle officious pry

medical,

medicinal ambulatory analgesic anemia anesthetic anodyne antidote antiseptic

medical,

medicinal aphasia apothecary aseptic astigmatism autopsy carcinogenic cataract

medical,

medicinal cathartic cauterize chronic congenital contagion contusion delirium

medical,

medicinal elixir emetic euthanasia febrile forensic hypochondriac laceration
medical,
medicinal lachrymose lancet nostrum oculist optometrist panacea paranoia
medical,
medicinal placebo podiatrist poultice prognosis prophylactic quarantine remiss
medical, medicinal stanch suture unguent
memory memento memorialize mnemonic reminiscence
military, defense, war,
strategy armada arsenal barrage bellicose besiege bivouac bulwark
military, defense, war,
strategy centurion cipher cohort commandeer confiscate conscript deploy
military, defense, war,
strategy foray galleon infiltrate martial militant rampart reconnaissance
military, defense, war, strategy sentinel stockade vantage
mischief frolicsome waggish
miserly, frugal,
prodigal husband husbandry improvident niggardly parsimony skinflint spend
miserly, frugal, prodigal tightwad
mock, imitate, mimic,
ridicule burlesque caricature deride emulate flout gibe lampoon
mock, imitate, mimic, ridicule parody satirical scoff travesty
money, financial,
accounts actuarial annuity arrears audit defray disburse emolument
money, financial,
accounts exchequer extort gouge gratis gratuity haggle impecunious
money, financial,
accounts insolvent levy liability liquidate lucrative lucre mercantile
money, financial,
accounts mercenary pecuniary perquisite prohibitive rebate reimburse remiss
money, financial,
accounts remunerative solvent stipend subsidy tithe tribute usury
motion amble bolt canter careen clamber flit flounder
motion gait gambol hover hurtle levitate list lope

motion lumber lunge meander motility palpitate peripatetic pulsate

motion saunter scurry shunt slither strut swerve totter

motion veer wallow welter writhe

motivate, motive actuate incentive ulterior

music, musical

instruments aria cadence cantata carillon clapper clarion coda

music, musical

instruments crescendo dirge diva knell libretto opus oratorio

music, musical

instruments paean reprise requiem staccato tempo timbre unison

mythology amazon ambrosia centaur phoenix saga satyr

name, title appellation caption denotation misnomer

necessary,

core imperative integral kernel pith pivotal requisite substantive

negative, bad,

notorious diabolical egregious exceptionable execrable flagrant heinous infamous

negative, bad,

notorious infernal iniquitous malefactor nefarious pejorative perverse scurvy

negative, bad, notorious seamy seedy sordid stigma

obligation,

duty beholden behoove devolve incumbent mandatory

obvious blatant glaring manifest overt patent unequivocal

occupation avocation diversion

odor acrid balmy effluvium fetid malodorous musky musty

odor noisome odoriferous olfactory pungent putrid rancid redolent

odor reek septic whiff

open, close occlude orifice pry

opinion, debate, vote,

controversy canvass deadlock dialectical elicit marshal polemic stalemate

origin,

beginning aboriginal archetype genesis inception incipient matrix nascent

origin,

beginning prefatory prelude primordial prototype provenance seminal

ornament,

jewellery brooch cameo chase circlet diadem embellish embroider

ornament, jewellery epaulet frieze garnish trappings

ornate,

gaudy baroque flamboyant garish meretricious rococo tawdry

outlaw, prison,

rogue buccaneer confine contraband depredation desperado despoil extradition

outlaw, prison,

rogue flay fleece grill immune incarcerate inquisitor knave

outlaw, prison,

rogue libertine manacle miscreant pillage ravage

outwit, defeat,

subdue circumvent discomfit foil prevail quash quell repress

outwit, defeat,

subdue rout scotch stifle subjugate surmount thwart

overwhelm inundate

pacify,

appease allay implacable mitigate mollify palliate placate propitiate

pacify, appease reconcile

pamper coddle mollicoddle

passion ardor fanaticism fervent fervid rabid torrid zealot

patterns,

changes checkered dappled fleck fluted flux immutable labile

patterns,

changes maculated metamorphosis motley mottled stipple striated transmute

patterns, changes volatile

peak, lowest

point acme apex climactic culmination heyday nadir pinnacle

peak, lowest point trough vertex zenith

perceive apprehend discern inkling insightful intuition sagacious

perfection, precise,

ideal immaculate impeccable irreproachable nicety niggle peerless punctilious

perfection, precise, ideal stickler utopia

period,

time coeval concurrent eon epoch imminent impending interim
period,
time posterity precedent precursor synchronous vanguard yore
philosophy existential fatalism hedonist metaphysical
physique buxom corpulent emaciated flaccid gaunt haggard lank
physique portly squat
pity, sympathy,
feeling commiserate condole empathy evocative humane pathos poignant
pity, sympathy, feeling sentient
poise, behavior,
clumsy aplomb comport composure demeanor equanimity gauche genteel
poise, behavior,
clumsy gentility lout maladroit ungainly unwieldy

pompous bombastic grandiloquent grandiose inflated magniloquent megalomania
pompous rave rhapsodize stilted tumid verbiage
popularity ingratiate lionize luminary pander
posture recumbent sedentary supine
poverty, misery abject destitute indigence pauper penury
praise,
flattery acclaim adulation blandishment encomium eulogy extol kudos
praise, flattery laud panegyric plaudit rave tout
precious metals and stones bullion carat facet touchstone
preempt, obviate forestall preclude supersede
prejudiced jaundiced partisan tendentious
presence omnipresent ubiquitous
pride, arrogance,
boasting blowhard braggadocio braggart cavalier conceit consequential haughtiness
pride, arrogance,
boasting hubris imperious magisterial narcissist overbearing overweening pratfall
pride, arrogance,
boasting presumptuous pretentious supercilious vainglorious vaunted
produce, cause, grow,
result beget burgeon coin conception concoct effectual efficacy

produce, cause, grow,
result effusive emanate engender ensue exude fabricate fruition
produce, cause, grow,
result germinal germinate gestate improvise loom proliferate prompt
produce, cause, grow, result rampant repercussion stem
from upshot
promise, assurance, security collateral indemnify

proper apposite expedient felicitous impropriety prim propriety prude
proper seemly

properties buoyant diaphanous gossamer impalpable impassable impenetrable

properties incorporeal indissoluble intangible navigable osseous palpable precise
properties tangible tensile tenuous wispy

prophetic,
foreshadow apocalyptic augury bode clairvoyant divine foreboding harbinger
prophetic,
foreshadow oracular portend portent premonition presage prescience presentiment
prophetic, foreshadow prognosticate sibylline

protection,
refuge aegis asylum bastion harbor haven sanctuary tutelary

punishment castigation chastise flay mortify penance pillory punitive
punishment scourge

push, pull obtrude oust protrude wrench wrest

quarrel, quarrelsome,
fight altercation belligerent bicker contentious disputatious fracas fray
quarrel, quarrelsome,
fight impugn melee polemical pugnacity scuffle skirmish spat
quarrel, quarrelsome, fight squabble vendetta wrangle

queer droll

range gamut

read, examine,

search browse collate peruse plumb pore probe rummage
read, examine, search scavenge scrutinize
rebellion, upheaval cataclysm insurgency insurrection
records, history,
remains annals antecedents archives chronicle log relic vestige
refer advert allude apropos ascribe attribute impute
refreshing, energizing exhilarating
regret,
remorse compunction contrite deplore impenitent penitent rue
rejoice, celebrate exult festive revelry
relative position,
position abut adjacent collateral contiguous hindmost juxtapose lofty
relative position,
position nether plumb proximity superimpose
relieve,
reduce abate alleviate assuage balm ebb emollient quench
relieve, reduce retrench sap
religion, church, clergy,
tradition agnostic apotheosis atheist blasphemy canon cant catechism
religion, church, clergy,
tradition cloister defrock ecclesiastic genuflect heresy icon iconoclastic
religion, church, clergy,
tradition idolatry immolate infidel laity lectern limbo mores
religion, church, clergy,
tradition nihilist orthodox pharisaical pontifical prelate proselytize purgatory
religion, church, clergy,
tradition sanctimonious secular seminary temporal tonsure unfrock
remedy, compensation,
relief redress reparation respite restitution
renunciation,
restraint abdicate abjure abnegation abstain abstemious celibate continence
renunciation,
restraint forgo forsake forswear pinion refrain stem teetotalism
renunciation, restraint temperate wanton

respect, polite,
courteous chivalrous comity deference esteem reverent venerable
restrict, limit, confine bate circumscribe cordon duress
retort,
retaliation comeuppance rebuff rebuttal rejoinder repartee reprisal
revenge avenge nemesis requite retribution vindictive wreak
revive, restore,
renovate recuperate refurbish rehabilitate rejuvenate resuscitate
rhythm, periodicity arrhythmic
ridiculus, laughable ludicrous preposterous
rooted, habit,
established entrenched ingrained inherent innate intrinsic inveterate
roundabout circuitous devious
royalty,
nobility aristocracy gentry imperial interregnum patrician regal regicide
royalty, nobility usurp
rural, rustic bucolic idyllic madrigal provincial sylvan
sarcastic, sharp,
bitter acerbity acidulous acrimonious barb brusque captious carping
sarcastic, sharp,
bitter caustic censorious censure gall incisive invidious irony
sarcastic, sharp,
bitter mordant pungent sardonic stricture trenchant vitriolic vituperative
sayings, expressions,
lessons anecdote aphorism apothegm cliché dictum epigram epithet
sayings, expressions, lessons euphemism idiom maxim precept
scholar erudite pedant pundit sage savant
science and
engineering acoustics alchemy anneal automaton ballast bolt calorific
science and
engineering coagulate cog conduit congeal culvert die extrude
science and
engineering fulcrum gyroscope homeostasis lode paleontology sluice strut

scold berate chide diatribe excoriate expostulation inveigh malign

scold pan rail rant rebuke reprimand reprove tirade

scold upbraid

scope, relevance,

strength categorical compelling conclusive definitive germane inclusive incontr

scope, relevance,

strength pertinent plausible provisional qualified subsume ultimate

secret, hiding,

mysterious arcane cache camouflage clandestine covert cryptic furtive

secret, hiding,

mysterious hermetic insidious latent lurk occult potential privy

secret, hiding,

mysterious runic secrete skulk sphinx-like surreptitious

see, glimpse, look,

view descry gawk ogle panoramic surveillance voyeur

selection, variety,

mixed cull eclectic manifold medley multifarious potpourri promiscuous

selection, variety, mixed sundry

senility, old age,

eccentricity crone crotchety doddering dotage dote hoary longevity

senility, old age, eccentricity superannuated

servile, fawning,

servant complaisant grovel minion obsequious retinue subservient sycophant

servile, fawning, servant toady

shapes,

form amorphous angular anthropomorphic aquiline askew awry corrugated

shapes,

form garbled gnarled ovoid rotundity serpentine serrated sinuous

shapes, form tortuous whorl

sharpness, keenness acuity acumen acute astute perspicacious

shining burnish glimmer glossy incandescent lumen luster opalescent

shining refulgent resplendent scintillate shimmer

shock aghast appall dumbfound galvanize

show, prove, demonstrate evince explicate expository

shrewd, thrifty canny provident stint

sin,

pardon absolve amnesty atone condone expiate remission reprobate

sin, pardon transgression venial

size,

quantity behemoth colossal exiguous gargantuan girth illimitable infinitesimal

size,

quantity juggernaut lilliputtian mammoth minuscule modicum monumental m

size, quantity prodigious scad scintilla slew stint titanic

sleep comatose cubicle dormant insomnia opiate quiescent somnambulist

sleep somnolent soporific

social sciences anthropology demographic ethnology

sound cacophonous clamor clangor din dulcet euphony grate

sound mellifluous raspy raucous resonant reverberate rotundity sonorous

sound stentorian strident

speech, oration,

presentation articulate bandy babble belabor broach circumlocution cite

speech, oration,

presentation colloquial colloquy convoluted desultory digression discourse disc

speech, oration,

presentation drone elaboration eloquence enunciate expatiate harangue harpin

speech, oration,

presentation ineffable jabber mealymouthed oblique peroration perspicuous pr

speech, oration,

presentation quip raconteur ramble rationalize recount regale reiterate

speech, oration,

presentation rostrum slur ventriloquist waffle warble witticism

speed, promptness, haste,

sudden celerity dispatch expedite meteoric plummet precipitate precipitous

speed, promptness, haste, sudden slacken spate

sport,

adventure barb equestrian escapade feint ferret gambit piscatorial
sport, adventure pugilist regatta seine
spread disseminate strew suffuse
stick, cling cleave cohere glutinous viscid
stop, hesitate, end balk cessation flinch scruple valedictory
strange,
weird exotic grotesque idiosyncrasy outlandish quaint uncanny unearthly
strength,
strengthen consolidate forte hardy mettle omnipotent potent puissant
strength, strengthen robust sinewy stalwart
strike, bump, touch impinge jostle
stupid, clowning,
insane asinine bufoonery demented deranged dolt drivell fatuous
stupid, clowning,
insane imbecile inane maniacal oaf obtuse stultify witless
stupid, clowning, insane zany
subordinate,
auxiliary accessory addendum adjunct adjutant ancillary appurtenances subal
subordinate, auxiliary subsidiary

support adherent advocacy apologist bolster buttress champion constituent
support corroborate embrace espouse jingoist martyr proponent
surface glaze incrustation patina slough veneer verdigris
surrender,
yield cede cession concede concession disgorge indulgent inexorable
surrender,
yield intransigence monolithic obdurate obstinate recalcitrant relinquish subm
surrender, yield succumb waive wean
talkative garrulous loquacious
taste acetic brackish insipid luscious piquant saline savor
teaching,
guidance didactic doctrine edify inculcate martinet mentor pedagogue
teaching, guidance protégé sophist tutelage
temper, lifestyle, convention,

nature asperity bilious bluff bohemian boisterous boorish bourgeois

temper, lifestyle, convention,

nature buoyant cantankerous catholic churlish clemency coy crabbed

temper, lifestyle, convention,

nature crass craven curmudgeon cynical debonair demure diffidence

temper, lifestyle, convention,

nature disingenuous distant distrait docile drone earthy egotistical

temper, lifestyle, convention,

nature enterprising expansive extrovert fastidious forbearance geniality glacial

temper, lifestyle, convention,

nature gregarious gruff heterodox inscrutable introvert jocund jovial

temper, lifestyle, convention,

nature killjoy maverick meek meticulous mirth obstreperous opportunist

temper, lifestyle, convention,

nature outspoken petulant pragmatic precocious pusillanimous queasy querulous

temper, lifestyle, convention,

nature recluse regimen reserve reticent retiring sanguine sedate

temper, lifestyle, convention,

nature shrew skimp solemnity spartan sportive staid stodgy

temper, lifestyle, convention,

nature suavity surly sybarite taciturn tempestuous tenacity truculence

temper, lifestyle, convention,

nature unassuming uncouth urbane vegetate vigilant vixen withdrawn

temper, lifestyle, convention, nature yokel

think,

ponder cerebration cogitate deliberate introspect meditation muse pensive

think, ponder premeditate retrospective ruminate

traitor,

deserter apostate defection disaffected perfidious quisling renegade turncoat

travel,

wandering errant expatriate itinerant itinerary jaunt junket migrant

travel,

wandering migratory odyssey peregrination sojourn trek vagabond wanderlust

travel, wandering vagrant

truth veracity verisimilitude veritable

unbeatable indomitable insuperable insurmountable invulnerable

union coalition confluence fusion splice

unoriginal, plagiarize derivative pastiche

unruly, in a rage,

disobedient amok berserk contumacious dissident firebrand fractious insubordinate

unruly, in a rage,

disobedient insurgent intractable irrepressible mutinous refractory restive seditious

unsuccessful, useless abortive futile nugatory

untrue, fake, farce,

rumor apocryphal bogus bugaboo canard cant charlatan debunk

untrue, fake, farce,

rumor fabricate hoax hyperbole mendacious mountebank prevaricate quack

untrue, fake, farce, rumor spurious wangle

unwarranted gratuitous

uprightness integrity probity rectitude venal

verbose diffuse prolixity

violent, gruesome,

bloody carnage gory grisly lurid macabre mayhem sanguinary

violent, gruesome, bloody unbridled

vocal catcall

warn admonish homily premonitory

wasting, deteriorate,

postpone atrophy dally dawdle decadence decrepitude depravity desolate

wasting, deteriorate,

postpone dilatory disband dissolution effete fritter lavish linger

wasting, deteriorate,

postpone loiter loll procrastinate profligate protract ramshackle retrograde

wasting, deteriorate,

postpone shambles squander tarry temporize turpitude wastrel wither

wasting, deteriorate, postpone wizened

water, sea,

ships floe flotsam founder jettison maritime natation quay

water, sea, ships scuttle sextant skiff tepid tiller

weak,

weaken attenuate debilitate enervate extenuate flag frail impair

weak,

weaken impuissance incapacitate invalidate languish listless pine rarefy

weak, weaken subdued undermine

weakness, fault, shortcoming foible infirmity liability

wealth, prosperity affluence opulence

weapons,

beating bludgeon buffet detonation flail flick fulminate fusillade

weapons,

beating gouge holster impale lambaste mace maim maul

weapons,

beating mutilate parry pummel scabbard throttle trident trigger

weapons, beating welt

weather, climate clime frigid hibernal inclement swelter vernal

wet, dry,

saturated bedraggle dank douse humid macerate muggy sere

wet, dry, saturated sodden steep turgid

wind, waves billowing bluster eddy gale gusty undulating waft

wind, waves zephyr

withdraw retract secession

work,

labor drudgery factotum malingerer proletarian shirk sinecure subsistence

worsen exacerbate

writing,

documents calligraphy collate cursive dossier facsimile indite missive

writing,

documents palimpsest roster rubric runic tome tract transcribe

writing, documents verbatim

(secondary) alloy appropriate array attribute balk barb barrage

(secondary) besiege bluff bolt bovine buffet buoyant cadaverous

(secondary) cameo canon cant cataract chase cipher civil

(secondary) cleave codify collate collateral communal compact compliant

(secondary) confine confiscate connivance consort contingent countenance defe

(secondary) desolate dialectical die distant divine dote drone

(secondary) elliptical engage enthrall entrance exuberance fabricate felicity

(secondary) fell flay fleece foil forensic founder fruition

(secondary) gall gorge gouge guy hermetic husband inundate

(secondary) jaundiced knit lay languor lassitude liability mace

(secondary) medium milieu mode monastic monolithic plumb precipitate

(secondary) precipitous preen promiscuous prompt provincial provocative pro

(secondary) pry purchase quarry rally rant rider roil

(secondary) rotundity rubric ruminare runic secrete slight slur

(secondary) sodden stalwart strut taper temporal tender title

(secondary) touchstone tract transport tribute trough unctuous vixen

(secondary) vulpine wake welter writhe

(specific) abeyance accoutre caulk chafe debutante demotic dint

(specific) diorama disport ensconce eugenic extirpate fecundity hermetic

(specific) knit leaven microcosm occident ossify pallet paraphernalia

(specific) paroxysm pendant pendulous penumbra preen purchase pylon

(specific) quarry rally recourse repository riddle roil roseate

(specific) rusticate shard shaving sheaf sheath sleeper supplant

(specific) surrogate swathe tacit taper transpire transport unction

(specific) unctuous vicarious visceral vitreous volition waif wake

No Time to Memorize? Learn to Recognize Groups of Related Words

Many test questions simply require you to have a general idea of what a word means, not an exact definition. Use this list to quickly learn a few hundred related words that are grouped in commonly-tested subject areas.

1) Communication

assertion: a declaration or statement

clarity: clearness in communication

cogent: convincing, reasonable

coherent: logically connected

cohesive: sticking together

didactic: intended to instruct

discourse: verbal expression, conversation

eloquence: the ability to speak persuasively

fluid: flows easily

lucid: clearly understood

rhetoric: using language effectively and persuasively

2) Legal Terms

arbiter: a judge

exculpate: to free from guilt or blame

incontrovertible: indisputable

integrity: trustworthiness

jurisprudence: the philosophy or science of law

objectivity: treating facts without influence from personal feelings or biases

penitent: expressing remorse for misdeeds

vindicated: freed from blame

3) Air of Superiority

condescending: treating others as inferior

contemptuous: scornful

despotic: having absolute power, tyrannical

dictatorial: domineering, overbearing

disdain: contempt, scorn

imperious: domineering, overbearing

patronizing: to treat in a condescending manner

4) Hard to Understand

convoluted: intricate, complex

cryptic: difficult to comprehend

futile: pointless

impede: to slow progress

obscure: to conceal

quandary: a state of uncertainty

5) Bad Habits

dilatory: always late

indolent: lazy

insipid: uninteresting, unchallenging

listless: lacking energy

torpor: laziness, dullness

6) Excessive

ebullience: intense enthusiasm
effusive: emotionally unrestrained
egregious: bad or offensive
flagrant: shocking or noticeable
frenetic: wildly excited or active
gratuitous: given freely, unwarranted
superfluous: extra, unnecessary

7) Positive Connotations

asylum: a place for retreat
auspicious: favorable, promising
benevolent: well-meaning, generous
benign: kind and gentle
emollient: soft and soothing
intuition: sharp insight
mollify: to calm or soothe
reclamation: to make something useful again
sanction: to give official approval

8) Untruthful

dubious: doubtful
dogmatic: stubbornly adhering to unproven beliefs
fabricated: made, concocted to deceive
hypocrisy: insincerity
slander: false oral statements about someone
spurious: not genuine, counterfeit

9) Sneaky

astute: clever, shrewd

camouflage: to hide by blending in

clandestine: secretive

coup: a well-executed plan

disingenuous: not straightforward, crafty

ruse: a trick

stratagem: a clever trick used to deceive someone

surreptitious: done by secretive means

wary: on guard

wily: cunning

adumbrate

10) Undecided

ambiguous: open to more than one interpretation

ambivalent: uncertain, felling opposite feelings simultaneously

apathetic: showing little emotion

arbitrary: determined by impulse rather than reason

capricious: impulsive

equivocate: to avoid making a decision

inconsequential: unimportant

tenuous: shaky, unsure, weak, whimsical: unpredictable

11) Hard Working

assiduous: hard working

diligent: hard working

dogged: persevering

intrepid: courageous, fearless

maverick: independent

obdurate: stubborn, inflexible

obstinate: stubborn

proliferate: to grow or increase rapidly

tenacity: persistence

12) To Bring Together

assimilation: to absorb, to make similar

consensus: general agreement

incumbent: imposed as a duty

malleable: easily shaped or formed, easily influenced

subdue: to restrain or hold back

13) Personal Space

inherent: inborn, built in

innate: inborn, possessed at birth

inveterate: long established, deep rooted, habitual

omnipotent: all powerful

proximity: closeness

14) Moving

elusive: difficult to capture

emigrate: to leave one country and settle in another

transient: moving from one place to another

transitory: short-lived or temporary

15) Friendly

affable: friendly

amenable: agreeable

camaraderie: goodwill
candor: sincerity, openness
facetious: playfully humorous

16) Feeling Bad

impinge: hinder
lament: mourn
melancholy: sadness, depression
truncated: shortened, cut off

17) Writing

aesthetic: appreciation of beauty
anthology: a collection of literary pieces
dilettante: one with a superficial understanding of a field
eclectic: composed of a variety of sources or styles
excerpt: a selected part of a passage
genre: a category of art
medley: as assortment or mixture of musical pieces
parody: an artistic work that imitates the style of another work for comic effect
virtuoso: a skilled artist

18) Calmness

decorous: proper, good taste
equanimity: composure
propriety: appropriate behavior
prudent: using good judgment or common sense
serene: calm

staid: serious, unemotional

stoic: impassive, indifferent to pleasure or pain

19) Negative Thoughts

disparage: to belittle, to speak badly of

pejorative: to speak negatively of someone

plagiarism: to pass someone else's ideas or writing off as one's own

vilify: to make vicious statements about

20) Rude

brusque: abrupt

caustic: biting, sarcastic

feral: savage, untamed

fractious: quarrelsome, unruly

incorrigible: unable to be reformed

ingrate: ungrateful person

insolent: insulting in manner or speech

notorious: known widely in an unfavorable manner

pugnacious: combative, belligerent

reprehensible: worthy of blame

21) Evil

deleterious: injurious, having a harmful effect

enmity: mutual hatred or ill-will

heinous: evil, abominable

malfeasance: wrongdoing, misconduct

malice: ill will

putrid: rotten

rancorous: hateful

22) Old

archaic: old-fashioned

hackneyed: trite, overused

medieval: old-fashioned

obsolete: no longer in use, old-fashioned

23) Boring

austere: without decoration, plain

mediocrity: average, low quality

mundane: ordinary, commonplace

ponderous: dull

prosaic: dull, unimaginative

sedentary: settled, not migratory

24) Bad Feelings

harbinger: something that indicates what is to come, a forerunner

ominous: menacing, threatening

timorous: timid, fearful of the future

trepidation: uncertainty, apprehension

25) New

innovative: introducing something new

naive: lacking sophistication

nascent: emerging

novice: a beginner

26) Earth

arid: a dry, rainless climate

conflagration: a widespread fire

nocturnal: occurring in the night

sonorous: producing a deep or full sound

27) Abundant

comprehensive: large in scope

copious: plentiful

permeated: spread or flowing throughout

pervasive: dispersed throughout

prodigious: enormous

replete: filled to capacity

28) Respect

exemplary: commendable, worthy of imitation

laudatory: giving praise

venerated: highly respected

facile: easy

fastidious: paying careful attention to detail, hard to please

meticulous: careful and precise

pragmatic: practical

solvent: able to pay one's debts

29) Scientific

abstract: not applied to actual objects

paradigm: an example or model

rational: logical, motivated by reason rather than feelings

theoretical: lacking practical application

Branches of Study: -logy's,-ics,-try's

Cosmology study of origins and structure of the universe,

Cosmogony

Astronomy study of celestial bodies and the universe as a whole

Astrology pseudoscience claiming divination by the positions of the planets and sun and moon

Chemistry study of composition of substances and their properties and reactions

Alchemy pseudoscientific forerunner of chemistry in medieval times

Onthropology study of human development

Oynaecology study of female ailments

Oermatology study of skin

Ophthalmology study of eyes

Orthopaedics study of bones

Osteopathy Study of disease of the bones

Cardiology study of heart

Neurology study of nervous system

Pathology study of the causes and nature and effects of diseases

Psychiatry study of mental or emotional disturbance

Pedagogy study of principles of teaching

Geriatrics study of medical problems of elderly

Orthodontics study of teeth and straightening of teeth

Periodontics study of gums

Endodontics dental speciality of pulp & root canal

Exodontics dental speciality of tooth extraction

Epistemology philosophical theory of knowledge

Entomology study of Insects

Spectroscopy study of spectroscopic phenomena; The production and investigation of spectra

Medical Conditions:

taxidermy stuffing of skins of teaching

hypodermic under the skin

epidermis outer layer of the skin, integument

pachyderm thick skin

dermatitis inflammation of the skin

neuritis inflammation of nerves

neuralgia nerve pain

neurosis emotional disturbance

psychosis mental disturbance

People: -cian's,-ist's One who...

obstetrician is a doctor of pregnancy, childbirth

paediatrician is a doctor of infants

optometrist measures vision

osteopath has interests in bones & blood vessels

chiropractor has interests in joints of spine

chiropodist has interests in feet

graphologist has interests in handwriting

gerontologist has interests in problems of aging

socialist has a community & family life

egoist believes in self advancement

egotist talks about accomplishments

altruist is interested in welfare of others

introvert turns thoughts inwards

extrovert turns thought outwards

ambivert turns thought inward & outwards

misanthrope hates people

misogynist hates women

misogamist hates marriage

masochist indulges in or enjoys pain
hedonist indulges in or enjoys pleasure
polygynist male with many wives
polyandrist female with many husbands
monogamy system of only one marriage
bigamy illegal plurality of marriages
polygamy custom of one man many wives
misogyny hatred of women
misogamy hatred of marriage

Characteristics: The property of...
philanthropy love of mankind
misanthropy hatred of mankind
altruism putting another's welfare above own
conscience having sense of right and wrong
omniscience having infinite knowledge
prescience having fore knowledge
nescience having ignorance
ambiguity being unclear
perspicuity being clear
veracity being truthful
mendacity being untruthful
tenacity having persistent determination
ferocity being wild or turbulent
paucity being insufficient
perspicacity quick judging and understanding
sagacity wisdom, knowledge, or insight, often gained from years of experience.

Fears: -phobia's Morbid fear of...
acrophobia Heights
agoraphobia Open Spaces
algophobia Pain
androphobia Men

aquaphobia Drowning
claustrophobia Confined spaces
gynophobia Women
hydrophobia Water
xenophobia Foreigners
zoophobia Animals

Instruments and Tools:

sphygmomanometer blood pressure apparatus
metronome instrument to measure musical time
plexor/pleissor hammer used by docs to check reflexes, percussor
gavel mallet used by a Judge
Polissoir (n.) A polishing or grinding implement or instrument.

man:tool:: doctor:stethoscope/plexor
judge:gavel
blacksmith:hammer
painter:brush
carpenter:chisel
farmer:plough
gardener:rake/shears

ANALOGIES

Bridges Parts of Speech Word

Charge

Group of N:N

Type of / Part of N:N

Place where N:N

Caused by N:N / N:V or V:N

Function of N:N / N:V or V:N

Measure of N:N

Degree of N:N

Extreme of N:N / A:A / V:V Less + : More + : : Less - :

More - or Neutral: negative extreme::

Opposite of N:N / A:A / V:V

Lack of N:N / N:A or A:N + : - : : + : - or - : - : : + : +

Characteristic of N:N / N:A or A:N + : - : : + : - or - : -

: : + : +

Tool used by N:N

Interruption N:N

Sequence N:N

Some Examples

alcohol:inebriation:: sun:heatstroke (Cause)

diva:songs:: orator:speeches (function)

bomb:explosion:: joke:mirth (Function)

Credible:believed:: brittle:broken (Characteristic)

fortress:impregnable:: comedy:funny (Characteristic)

masochist:pain:: hedonist:pleasure (Characteristic)

exact:precision:: violent:force (Characteristic)

villain:malevolence:: impostor:deceit (Characteristic)

courteous:respect:: aloof:disdain (Characteristic)

detractor:criticism:: teacher:instruction (Characteristic) [- : - : : + : +]

recalcitrant:authority:: rebellious:governance (Characteristic)

{A:N::A:N} [- : + : : - : +]

exculpate:blame:: vindicate:fault (Lacks)

sociable:diffidence:: crass:manners (Lacks)

apathetic:emotion:: sophomoric:maturity (Lacks)

liar:truthfulness:: philanderer:fidelity (Lacks)

loathe:dislike:: castigate:rebuke (Extremes)

Incarceration:punishment:: hurricane:storm (Extremes)

misdemeanor:felony:: frugality:parsimoniousness (Extremes)

Pedantic:learned:: fussy:careful (Extremes) {A:A::A:A} [negative extreme:Neutral:: negative extreme:Neutral]

apprehension:terror:: affection:adoration (Extremes) [Less negative:More negative::Less positive:More Positive]

nuance:distinction:: hint:suggestion (Degree)

cabin:house:: hamlet:village (Extremes/Type of)

Please send your feedback

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