

Supplement to the **GRE** Manual 7.1

Version 5.2

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VERBAL SECTION

WELCOME TO YOUR GRE COURSE

Congratulations on signing up for the best GRE prep course available today! We look forward to working with you to improve your GRE score by providing the most complete materials and qualified teachers for your classes. We know that preparing for the GRE is not a lot of fun, but our energetic and enthusiastic instructors are ready to present the material in an engaging yet thorough manner. Please review the material given to you and the contents of this letter for an overview of your course, what you can expect from us, what we expect from you, and some tips on what you can do before the course begins.

Test Registration

Go to www.gre.org in order to register for the GRE. Do this soon – testing centers fill up quickly! You must sign up personally for the GRE. We cannot register you for the GRE. Schedule your test within **two weeks** of the end of your course unless your teacher advises you otherwise. The GRE has little relevance to what you do in the workforce or what you will do in graduate school; the skills learned in our course are specific to the GRE and yield the best results when applied immediately after the completion of the course. Note that all test takers in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh must use only **ORIGINAL** valid passports as their ID documents. **No Xerox copies will be accepted as ID proof.**

Classes and Homework

1. Classes are designed to teach you various methods for attacking each aspect of the test and to review basic concepts. Plan to do several hours of homework every week. Do your best to keep up with what the teacher assigns.
2. **Don't go through the manual ahead of schedule**; do only what is assigned. For your first class, go through the Introduction section of your GRE manual, as this is the pre-work you need to be familiar with.
3. Most students find that by attending all classes and completing their homework, they can master the course material. Nevertheless, you may find that you need extra help on a particular topic. Your teacher will be available for such extra help, in accordance with our Course Policies.
4. If you need to miss a class (although it is a bad idea to do so), contact your office for make up options.

Course Policies

We are committed to helping you achieve the highest score possible. For that to happen, you must attend all classes and complete the 8 diagnostic tests, as well as complete all assigned homework. We understand that occasionally things come up that prevent you from attending every session, so we've outlined our course policies below to help answer any questions you may have.

Missed Classes: Missing a class is a bad idea. Each class builds upon the previous class to give you the most thorough coverage of GRE tips and techniques; therefore, it is extremely important to attend and participate in each class. If you absolutely cannot attend a session, you may attend the same class at any Princeton Review center around the city, with currently running batches. However, please check course policies with the office before attending another Batch/Session.

Extra Help: The GRE is not an easy exam; so don't get discouraged if you begin to feel overwhelmed. Throughout the duration of the course, you may find that you need extra-help on a particular topic. If so, and if you have joined a batch, your instructor will be available for extra help sessions provided that you are attending all classes and keeping up with the assigned homework. **You cannot use extra-help to make-up for classes you've missed.** Please talk to your instructor to schedule these extra help sessions.

The Satisfaction Guarantee: The Princeton Review provides students with the most effective GRE preparation in the country. Because of our success we are able to guarantee that every student who completes our program will be satisfied with his or her performance on the real test, or we will provide the student an opportunity to retake classes in any other batch currently running in the city for up to a year at no charge. However, we cannot guarantee an improvement in the scores of those students who do not follow our proven game plan. ***You must attend all of your classes, take all of your practice tests, do your homework, and take the GRE immediately after completing the course***

BETWEEN YOU AND US

We want to make this course as helpful as possible for you. Do not hesitate to tell your teacher (the scintillating person at the front of the classroom) if there is anything that can be done to make this course better for you. Your teacher has some information (name, contact information, etc.) to pass. You can write it down here:

NAME:

PH NO:

E-mail ID:

GRE – Computer Based Revised General Multi Stage Test is different

While the course will review the math and verbal concepts tested on the exam, for the GRE-Multi stage test you need to orient yourself differently, because the GRE- Multi stage test is different from any other test that you may have taken.

The GRE test you will be taking is Section level adaptive. This means the computer selects the second section of a measure based on your performance on the first. Within each section, all questions contribute equally to the final score. For each of the two measures a raw score is computed. The raw score is the number of questions you answered correctly.

An on-screen calculator will be available for use during the quantitative reasoning section.

Read! The verbal portion of the test relies heavily on good reading skills, and practice will increase both your speed and rate of comprehension (refer to the Additional Reading tips).

Learn as many words as you can till you take your test. The Verbal portion of the GRE Multi stage test, to a certain extent, does test your vocabulary skills. Use all means you can, to learn new words, relearn the precise meanings of the words you sort of know, and learn the secondary meanings of the words you already know, wherever applicable.

Relax. We don't want you to burn out before you take the test. When the exam day comes, you'll be ready!

Be sure to talk to your instructor if you are having any problems with any of the material. If you have joined a batch, your instructor will be available for extra help outside of class to help you through any challenging material.

Also make good use of the Student Portal (SP) – the unique feature of the Princeton Review, which has 8 Multi stage tests to enhance your skills and track your score, along with various sectional drills and practice sessions. You should receive an email with Login information within 7 days from the date of commencement of the course; if you do not have the information, please contact the office right away so you can begin using your Student Portal.

The Student Portal is valid for 6 months from the date of activation; hence be sure that you avail this facility before it expires.

GRE Power Prep Software

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) will send you a copy of "Power Prep for GRE" on CD-Rom when you register for the GRE. You may also download it free from the GRE website (www.gre.org). If you choose to download it, the following information will be useful:

You can only take 2 tests using this software. There are minimal annotations and explanations for questions and you cannot view them more than once.

Your teacher cannot review your test via the Internet, as s/he can with the exams within your OSC. Our Tech Support staff cannot help you with this software because The Princeton Review did not create it. It is a great addition to your preparation, but do not use it in place of our exams.

How a GRE score should be interpreted:

Your overall score can range from 130 to 170, for each of the two sections, Verbal and Quantitative. Analytical Writing score is reported on a 0-6 scale.

A score isn't to be seen as an individual number or used as a strict cutoff for admission. The test writers acknowledge a certain standard error of measurement, which means the score you get on any given exam may represent a "true" score a few points higher or lower.

Test-Taking Strategies for GRE

Your teacher will explain in detail the kind of approach you should have for taking the GRE. Because the test is section level adaptive, you need to have appropriate strategies for the test. Here are a few important points to note.

The early sections in the test matter the most. Therefore, it is important to develop and have an appropriate pacing strategy.

You can mark and skip a question within a section. Therefore you need not spend time in trying to guess a tough question; instead you can work on the easier ones and get back to the tough question. This is a skill that can be learnt.

Your score is calculated on the basis of, inter alia, the number of questions you answer. Therefore it is important to answer all the questions.

TOEFL: We have a comprehensive Test-Prep course for TOEFL. Please contact the office to find out about the course.

Contact us

The Princeton Review provides the best test preparation available. We thank you for enrolling with us and look forward to working with you. If you ever have any questions do not hesitate to contact us at any of our offices.

Our office is open from 10:00am-8:00pm, throughout the week.

Best of luck with your preparation!

Sincerely,

The Staff of The Princeton Review – India

TEST SMARTS

Careless mistake early in the test can really hurt your score. There are a few ways to avoid these mistakes and maximize your score.

Start slowly and carefully: Be sure to read the problem carefully. Take time to identify the question and determine the best way to approach it.

In the Math section, make sure you finish the problem. Don't fall into the trap of choosing a partial answer. Before you confirm your answer, reread the question. Check to see that your answer matches what the question asked.

In the Verbal section, don't rush through, use "POE" Eliminate choices systematically until only one answer choice remains. Before you confirm your answer, reread the question. Don't fall into the trap of answering the wrong question (such as in reading Comprehension, choosing a strengthen answer on a weaken question).

Use your scratch paper: Making good use of your scratch paper is the best way to stay on track. Do not do calculations in your head; this is a surefire way to make careless mistakes. Work math problems in bite-sized pieces, and write down each step as you go.

Remain calm and confident: Do not panic if you have difficulty with a question. While you should strive for a high degree of accuracy, you might encounter a problem you don't know how to approach. Spending excessive time on such a question won't help your score. Use the POE criteria to eliminate a few choices, and make a guess.

Goals: Use the techniques you've learned when you take the test. You will encounter some questions on topics we haven't covered yet. Use what you've learned about eliminating traps and Ball parking to work unfamiliar or difficult questions.

- Work on becoming more comfortable with the format of an online test.
- Practice setting up and using your scratch paper.
- Focus on the first section. Try to get as many of them right as possible.
- Focus on the test, not your score. Worrying about your score while you take the test distracts you from working the questions.
- Aim for a modest improvement. Improvements come in stages, and you shouldn't expect to reach your ultimate goal yet.

Test Analysis: After you have taken a practice test (and it is important to take practice tests periodically), analyze your performance. Always preserve your scratch paper and use it to review your performance. Ask yourself the following questions.

- Did you leave any question unanswered? (You shouldn't.)
- Did you get any easy question wrong just because you were in a hurry?
- Did you make efficient use of the Mark Button and the Review facility? (You should.)
- How many questions did you get right? What was the time you spent on them?
- How many questions did you get wrong? What was the time you spent on them? How many of these were avoidable errors?
- On how many questions did you waste time on without getting anywhere near the correct answer? (It would have been wiser to guess and move on.)
- Try to figure out the cause of your errors. Were they due to: (a) Lack of some Content Knowledge (For example, Vocabulary or some specific Math concept) (b) Non Application of the appropriate Approach/ Technique/ Strategy (c) Poor Stamina (d) Presence of timer that psyched you out.

Ask your trainer how to repair the issues before you take your next practice test!

ON YOUR MARKS

The time is approaching when you'll take the real GRE and put this stage of the graduate school application process behind you. Before you do, though, we wanted to share with you some of the impressions that have been relayed to us by students and instructors who have taken the exam recently. Obviously, both, the nature of an adaptive exam and the particular strengths and weaknesses of individual test-takers lead to different experiences of the GRE, but these comments should be helpful to you in knowing what to expect on test day.

THE TEST CENTER

By now, you know that you'll be taking your GRE in a room where others are taking different exams, starting and ending at different times. Some people have reported difficulty concentrating with so much activity in the background. You need to be ready to take this exam under less than ideal circumstances. If you want practice coping with test questions under difficult conditions, bring your GRE Supplement with you to lunch in a crowded room. If you can focus your attention on GRE problems in that setting, you should be able to adjust on test day.

IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Make sure you are familiar with the policies and rules outlined on the GRE website (www.gre.org). To avoid any problems at the test center, make sure you bring proper identification. GRE requires that you register for the exam under exactly the same name as shown on the identification document you will bring to the test center. If the names don't match exactly, you will not be allowed to take the test. Acceptable identification includes a passport, driver's license, state identification card, or military identification card. Your identification must have your photo and signature. If you don't have identification with your photo and signature, you will need to bring a supplemental identification document. Visit the GRE website to see the list of supplemental documents. Remember that all test takers in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh must use only valid passports as their ID documents.

WHAT TO EXPECT in Math

The quantitative reasoning measure of the GRE revised General Test assesses your –

- Basic math skills
- Understanding of elementary mathematical concepts
- Ability to reason quantitatively and to model and solve problems with quantitative methods

The quantitative reasoning measure has 4 types of questions –

- Quantitative comparison
- Multiple choice questions – select one answer choice
- Multiple choice questions – select one or more answer choices
- Numeric entry questions

Expect to see several questions dealing with basic math terms and concepts, fractions, and geometry. To be as prepared as possible, make sure you know your definitions, rules, and **formulae**. At least half of the math questions test your knowledge of things like geometry **formulae**, root and exponent rules, and math vocabulary. You have to know the rules cold, recognize when you need them, and be able to apply them in new situations. Topics from Math Etc. appear on the test, but not frequently. You should know how to approach those questions, but don't spend time worrying about them at the expense of the material that is tested more frequently. Most people experience some difference in the speed at which they work when they move from a practice environment into one in which the score counts. When you are taking the test, remember that although you should work slowly and carefully early in the section, you need to speed up once you're roughly a third of the way through, and after that be more selective about where you're spending your time. Time-consuming computations are worth the investment when you have a solid idea of the steps you need to follow in order to get to the answer, but if you're behind your pacing plan and find yourself spinning your wheels or hitting dead ends, don't be afraid to ballpark, eliminate, and move to the next question. Always know where you are in the section.

Verbal

Overall, you should see a verbal section that is quite consistent with your expectations. The verbal reasoning measure contains 3 types of questions.

- Reading comprehension
- Text completion
- Sentence Equivalence

You will also see very few Argument questions.

A major component of questions would be from Reading Comprehension and your vocabulary skills are tested on the sentence equivalence and text completion. Be sure to master your vocabulary and learn as many words as you can.

AWA

Analytical Writing Assessment involves 2 Essays (Issue and Argument). You are given 30 minutes for each essay. When you are taking your test, take advantage of the break after the AWA section. Get up, stretch, and get a drink of water. Use the time to get yourself ready for the multiple-choice sections.

Experimental and Research Sections

You will see either an unidentified, experimental section or an identified, research section on your exam. If you have an experimental section, it will likely be a Math or Verbal section with familiar question types. You won't be able to tell which section is experimental.

Generally

We won't mince words: You should expect the GRE you take to be challenging. Even as the test has grown more difficult, however, the exit scores and improvements of Princeton Review students have held steady because the test has not fundamentally changed the skills and information it tests. Be confident, stick to your pacing, and you should be fine.

Finally, if you have questions or needs as your course draws to a close, please don't hesitate to contact your local office. Also, after your course is over, please look for an email from us, asking you to share your real scores and pass along whatever comments you might have about the course or the exam. Your response is very important to us.

MENTAL PREPARATION

Your GRE preparation is never complete without a good mental preparation. Even though you've spent the last several weeks preparing for the exam, you're probably feeling slightly anxious about the GRE. In addition to developing an approach to each section of the exam, you need to be mentally prepared for the challenges presented by the GRE. Most test takers feel some anxiety, and the most prepared are those who have learned to manage that anxiety. Having a plan to manage stress is essential to achieving your goal score.

Be Positive

If you encounter a situation expecting to be successful, you are much more likely to be successful than if you expect to fail. Consider the following two statements:

)> I'm never going to get this. If I bomb the GRE, I will be a failure

)> I am well prepared and deserve to do my best. I know what to expect and I am ready to succeed.

It shouldn't take too much to figure out which student is going to do better. Whether it's looking in a mirror and saying Affirming statements or writing a positive thought on your scratch paper on test day, it's very important to go into the actual exam expecting to be successful. If you expect to fail, why should you be at the test in the first place? This can be a difficult exercise at first, but you must get yourself in a frame of mind to succeed. When you dwell on negative thoughts, your mind isn't free to work on the GRE. Trust that you are well prepared. If you've attended all the classes and done the work, you are better prepared than most of the population. Have confidence that you are going to be great.

Also, don't place excessive importance on the exam; keep the GRE in perspective. Remember that the GRE does not measure your intelligence or your ability to succeed in life. A GRE score only reflects how well you performed on the test on a given day. This is not the day that determines the rest of your life. If the test does not go as well as planned, you can always take it again next month. In fact, repeat exams make up about twenty percent of all GREs administered. Repeating the exam is unlikely to affect your chances for admission because most admissions committees look at your highest score.

Keep in mind

Seeing hard questions on this test is a good sign, not a bad sign. Remember that you have to "earn" the hard questions on this test by getting questions right. When you see something difficult, remind yourself that this is an achievement, not a pitfall.

The exam adapts to your performance, so you will encounter questions that challenge you. That's part of the game. If a question looks really strange or difficult take a breath and remain calm. Figure out what it's testing, and apply the appropriate techniques. If you're absolutely stumped, guess and move on. Maintain the pacing and approach you've learned from your practice tests.

One of the sections will be experimental. If you see something you have never seen before, may be that the section does not count. Even otherwise, don't let it shake your confidence.

Visualize Success

As much as your Princeton Review practice-tests serve as "dress rehearsals", practice tests are not quite the same as the "real" GRE. This is where visualization techniques come into play. If possible, visit the test center before the day of your actual exam. Get a feel for the layout of the center. At most test centers, you'll be able to see the testing room through a window in the lobby. This will help you simulate the actual GRE in your mind's eye in few days of preparation.

Imagine yourself in the examination room on test day. Get a good picture in your mind. In the picture you created in your mind, do you see yourself in the test room or do you see the situation through your eyes as if you were actually in the test room? Getting comfortable seeing the situation through your own eyes helps manage potential test anxiety. You are not scared; you are excited. This is the day that you have been training for over the last several weeks. You have prepared. You can't wait to get started. After the administrative rigmarole, you sit down in front of the computer. You feel a rush of adrenaline as you begin the first essay. You take a few deep breaths and execute the strategy that you have been planning for the few weeks leading up to today. Some of the questions are hard, but you expected that.

There are two important keys to visualization: See yourself succeeding and imagine yourself overcoming every type of obstacle. You are unstoppable. You have prepared to be successful and you deserve to be successful.

Control the Physiological Responses to Anxiety

It's normal to feel a little nervous on the day of a big event. Your breathing gets shallow, and you may even feel a little sick to your stomach. Something that you can do that will ameliorate these symptoms is deep breathing. Close your eyes and imagine that your torso is an empty cylinder. Take a deep breath, filling the cylinder from the bottom (as if you were filling your torso with air through your navel). Slowly release all the air from the top of the cylinder to the bottom. You will feel yourself **starting** to relax within the first few breaths. Your breathing should be deep and regular. This exercise will generally take about half a minute it's time well spent because folks who are highly stressed are not going to give their best performance. Once you have given your brain that little extra oxygen and gotten yourself focused back on the task at hand rather than on your stress, get back to the test and start kicking butt.

USE OF MNEMONICS FOR VOCABULARY BUILDING

Score improvement in the verbal section of the GRE needs a two pronged approach. While mastering our time-tested techniques helps, improving vocabulary – GRE relevant vocabulary – is also equally important.

We have already provided several lists of words germane to GRE-verbal and also mentioned a number of ways to learn the words. The methods include

- Maintaining a Vocabulary Journal
- Making Flash Cards
- Using Word Association
- Learning Word Roots

Here are a few mnemonic devices for learning and remembering words.

Mnemonics

Using Mnemonic Devices

A Mnemonic is anything that helps us to remember something or anything that aids our memory. Thus a mnemonic device is one that helps us to store information in the brain easily and effectively so that it can be recalled easily and quickly.

Almost every one of us has been using mnemonic devices since our childhood. Some are simple; some are complicated. Some use visual or mental images; some are simple rhymes, such as ‘Thirty days has September, / April, June and November....’

However, different types of information are processed by different types (domains) of memory in different ways, and, therefore, require different strategies and tools (mnemonics) for easy retrieval. Thus in order to remember and retain the meaning of the maximum number of words, you will, at least to some extent rely on mnemonic devices. ***When you come across words you can't seem to remember the meanings of, try to think of some mnemonic device which will trigger the meaning of the word when you see it***

Using Link-words

When we want to get some information from an encyclopedia, we move from relevant categories to subcategories. A lexicon has words listed in alphabetic order to help us get to any word easily. The categories, subcategories and alphabets are the links which help us to retrieve the information with ease. Word-association and word-roots are links used for remembering words and meanings. ***Phonetic similarity and phonetically similar words, including words from any other language known to the learner, can also be used effectively as links to recall the words to be learnt and its meaning.***

Consider the word ABASH. To be abashed is to feel embarrassed. As abashed rhymes well with embarrassed, it becomes easy to remember the word and the meaning. Choosing a suitable word from the meanings does the trick.

Consider the word PARSIMONIOUS. A phonetically similar word is purse. Once we have identified a suitable link-word the next step is to make an association involving the word to be learnt and the link- word so as to bring out the meaning. These two words can now be associated in a defining sentence to bring out the meaning.

A parsimonious lady will never pull out her purse as she does not want to spend any money at all

Visualization

When we learn words and meanings by rote, verbal information is received by reading and listening. But

our brain loves images – irrespective of whether those are real or imaginary. Visual capturing and recalling ability developed thousands of years before development of verbal languages. Visual information is, therefore, retained faster and longer and also recalled better than verbal information. Thus visualizing images and linking it to words we want to learn serve as a very effective mnemonic device. The method involves linking the word to a mnemonic cartoon or a scene from a movie we might have seen or creating a scene out of our own imagination. ***Visualization of images is to be used in combination with link-words or links to make the association strong and the recall easy.***

Using more of senses help

It has been found that we are able to recall only 25% of what we read and 50% of what we see, but Remember 90% of what we read, hear, see, say and do. Therefore, using more of senses helps. It is also found that weird and strange information – whether funny or bizarre – are recorded and retrieved more easily than other information. Perhaps, this can be termed as the sixth sense – ‘non-sense’ – that can be used extensively for memorizing and recalling words and meanings.

The idea is to use the whole of our mind to remember. In order to make mnemonics more memorable we can make the images vivid, colorful and sense-laden. We can add sounds, smells, tastes, touch, movements and feelings to the images. Make the images three dimensional and dynamic to make it real. When working with cartoons exaggerate the size of important parts of the image. Using humor can be of great help. Funny or peculiar images are **remembered** and recalled easily. Adding minute details such as a clock, a bed, a gun, red traffic lights etc. make images easy to remember and recall.

Look at this cartoon used to bring out the meaning of and memorize the word FATHOM. The link is fat thumb which sounds similar to the original word FATHOM.



Look at the cartoon and study the situation. Read the cartoons caption (or dialogue, if there is one), and have a laugh. Now replay the cartoon before mind's eye as vividly as possible. This is visualization! Add as many sensuous feelings as possible. At least relive the situation and repeat the caption (or the dialogue, as the case may be). Ability to see mental images or visualize improves with practice. Look back at the cartoon with 'The doctor could not FATHOM'; attention to the word, the link-word and 'how the boy got such a fat thumb', meaning revealed though the caption or dialogue.

You can draw a cartoon yourself that you can use as mnemonic for memorizing the word you want to learn with meaning. No, you need not be a great artist to be able to use this technique – a very rough sketch is good enough, if that reveals the meaning and connects the link to the original word.

Linking scenes from movies to words and meanings

Consider the word SUPERCILIOUS. Let the link be super silly. Now think of a scene from any movie where an actor (most likely he will be a comedian) is acting in a silly disdainful, contemptuous manner. Now make the association stronger by repeatedly visualizing the scene and linking the word and its meaning with the scene.

Creating your own movie script combining the word and the link

Let us take the word PRECOCIOUS meaning 'matured earlier than usual'. A link could be pre cautious. Now visualize/imagine a situation you are walking with a kid and the kid warns you of an impending danger and you are saved. The kid acts in a precocious manner. The most important part is that you must imagine a specific situation that appeals to you. The kid may be warning you about a speeding car when you are crossing a road or a ditch before you in a darkened street. Add light and sound to your film script – the sound of the fast moving car whizzing past you or the shadowy darkness in the street. If you can really recall any kid acting in a precocious manner you can make that itself your movie script. Replay the visual clipping several times before your mind's eye to convert it into long term memory.

A few points to remember

Similar sounding words from any other language, including your own language, can be used effectively to serve as links. Use of links and visual mnemonics are, no doubt, effective tools for learning the words of a foreign language; but it does not do away with the need for rehearsal and practice.

Links and visual images should be used in addition to the other mnemonic devices such as, vocabulary journal, flash cards, word-association, word-roots and use of the words in sentences.

GUIDE TO WORD ROOTS

Roots 1

What are Roots and why do you need to know them?

Preparation towards increasing your mental lexicon has usually been done by memorizing word lists having 5000 to 10,000 words. No doubt a boring and tedious task, which may even kill the fire in your head that goads you to work hard. Moreover, are you really sure that the guy who prepared the word list you are slogging on has really picked cherries; put simply - really selected the words that appear most frequently on GRE or are expected to appear in the coming month? Students who rely on word lists alone would have missed the bus. I am not belaboring on the futility of 'Word Lists', they trigger your preparation, but you cannot rely on them alone. You need a way to handle a word even if you are seeing it for the first time in your life. The way is familiarity with 'Word Roots'. Roots work excellently with the kind of contextual vocabulary that is tested in GRE.

Just what do we mean when we talk about finding "roots" in vocabulary words, anyway? A root is a combination of letters appearing in a word whose origins are from languages other than Modern English and got incorporated over hundreds of years. These combinations can appear in any part of the word (though they are often referred to as "prefixes" if they appear right at the beginning of the word, and "suffixes" if they appear right at the end). These letter combinations have particular meanings in their original languages, and as such can provide clues as to the meaning of the English words as they appear in GRE. While English borrows roots from many different sources, the majority of those that appear in GRE originally come from Latin or, sometimes, Greek. The words that appear are from International English but there is a marked tilt towards American English.

Take a word like "benevolent". It includes variations on the root "ben-" (think "bon" in French, "bueno" in Spanish, "bene" in Italian), which means "good", and "vol/val", which has to do with feelings or emotions (think "valentine"). Put that together and you get something along the lines of "good feelings", which is pretty close to the actual definition of well-meaning or generous. (What do you think "malevolent" might mean?)

Not all of the words involve these kind of roots, and sometimes spelling or pronunciation changes that have occurred over time result in words looking like they contain roots that they really don't; for instance, the prefix "a-", which means "not" or "without", works well for words like "atypical" or "amoral", but not for "apple", which does not mean "without -pple". Nevertheless, useful roots crop up enough in this test that it pays to be familiar with them and the words they appear in—who knows, they might appear on your next Text Completion or Sentence Equivalence question.

A little Root Chain discussion

Most of you know that a "carnivore" is something that eats meat; it involves the roots "carn-", which refers to meat or flesh, and "vor/vora-", which means to eat or consume. Forming a "root chain" of related words, we can get "carnal" (having to do with matters of the flesh), "carnage" (meaning slaughter or killing by the tearing of flesh), and "carnival" (literally, a "feeling" or celebration of the flesh). Try making a root chain from "vor/vora-"; what can you come up with?

Try doing a root chain for the following roots:

"co-", meaning with, as in "coherent" or "cohesive"

"dic/dict", meaning to say or tell, as in "dictatorial"

"desc", meaning downward, as in "condescending" (to talk down to)

"pen/peni", meaning to punish, as in penitent (one who seeks forgiveness, who is remorseful) **"in/im"**, meaning "not", as in "impartial" or "incontrovertible"

Word Wide Web

Let's try a little variation on the previous root chain approach. Your mission: starting with the word "lucid" in the center of a blank sheet of paper, create a "word web", joining with lines words that have roots in common. Once you've made all the interconnections (and some of the words will have several), see if you can define any words you don't know the meanings of, based on the common roots. You may also be guessing at what some of the roots.

Starting point: lucid

Words to link:				
antonym	culprit	genocide	monologue	spectator
circumcise circumlocution	excise exculpate	homogeneous homonym	monotonous portable	translucent transportable
Circumspect	export	loquacious	soliloquy	

Roots 2

You've already read about various ways to remember the meanings of words you don't already know the definitions of—using flash cards, creating images, or using other mnemonic (memory-aiding) devices such as puns or the good/bad method (if you can't recall a word's meaning, at least be able to remember whether it's got a positive or negative meaning). You may have also discussed some of these with your teacher, or may **be (not needed)** even come up with a few of your own.

One technique that seems to work particularly well for remembering the meanings of various roots is to pair one root with its opposite. There are many such opposite root pairs, and if you remember them together, you'll probably also remember a lot of the words that use them.

Take a few moments to look at the opposite root pairs below and try to come up with some of the words that contain them. (You'll often be able to think of many more words for one member of the pair **than** the other, but that's okay.)

<i>Size matters:</i>	grand	vs.	pet/pec
	magna	vs.	micro
<i>True or false:</i>	veri/vera	vs.	pseudo
<i>The over/under:</i>	arch	vs.	sub
<i>Good and bad:</i>	bon/bene	vs.	mal
<i>Young and old:</i>	nov/neo	vs.	vet
<i>To speak or not to speak:</i>	log/loqui	vs.	qui

Word Wide Web Redux

We liked it so much the first time, we figured we'd let you do it again . . .

Starting with the word "benevolent" in the center of a blank sheet of paper, create a "word web" from the following alphabetical list, joining with lines words that have roots in common. Once you've made all the interconnections (and some of the words will have several), see whether you can define any words you don't know the meanings of, based on the common roots.

Starting point: benevolent

Words to link:

ambiguous indifferent
ambivalent inevitable
beneficial insuperable
benign intrepid

It all comes out in the end—suffixes

reclamation superfluous Vitamin revalue trepidation revitalize valentine superficial vitality

A “suffix” is a combination of letters, comprising one or more full syllables, that gets stuck onto the end of a word to alter its meaning in some way. While there are some Greek and Latin based roots that are used as suffixes in English—for example, “-ology”, meaning study of, “-ory”, meaning place of, “-ium”, meaning building/structure in which an activity takes place, and “-archy”, meaning rule by— most suffixes either indicate an altered condition for the word, or change its part of speech (typically, noun to adjective or vice versa).

*-able/ible -less -ion -ism -ify -uce
-ous -ity -ance/ence -ist -ize*

Some suffixes can be tricky; they’ll often signal a certain part of speech, but not always. Look at the words with similar suffixes below; what part of speech is each word?

“rhetoric” vs. “didactic” or “cryptic” “luminary” vs. “arbitrary” or “dilatory”

In the above cases, the first example always represents the less common use of the suffix, but as you can see, there are exceptions. Even “-ly,” which people think always signals an adverb, sometimes shows up in words that are other parts of speech—think “wily” (adjective) or “melancholy” (noun or adjective).

So, does that mean we give up on suffixes? Of course not! Some are consistent signalers, while others, for which there are exceptions, most of the time, signal a certain part of speech. Context will often help you to determine what part of speech is involved if the word has an ambiguous suffix. Suffixes are still one more tool you should use in your vocabulary studies.

Roots 3

You’re so negative—prefixes that mean no

Many of the shorter roots that come at the beginning of words indicate a condition (such as “inter-” meaning between; “sub-”, meaning under), time period (“post-”, meaning after), or quantity (“dec-”, meaning ten); these are called prefixes. Some of the most commonly appearing prefixes in English are those that negate the rest of the word or set up an opposite to it. Below are listed some of the most common “negative” prefixes—see how many words you can find in your flashcards and use them.

<i>a</i>	<i>an/anti</i>	<i>dis</i>	<i>im</i>	<i>mis</i>	<i>ob</i>
<i>ab</i>	<i>contr</i>	<i>il</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>non/not</i>	<i>un-</i>

Different Origin/ Same Message

Due to the influence of many different languages on the vocabulary of English (which has more than twice as many distinct words as any other known language—English borrows from everywhere), there are very different-looking words that actually contain roots with the same meanings. While this happens with words that borrow roots from an assortment of tongues, the most common occurrences involve (no surprise) roots from Greek and Latin.

Below are some roots with similar meanings that appear in many English words. On the left is listed the Greek root; on the right, its Latin equivalent. See how many words you can find that contain one or the other. Contrast the meanings of these words—is there a difference (subtle or considerable) if a Greek versus a Latin root is present?

<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Greek root</i>	<i>Latin root</i>
time	chron	temp
love	philo	ami/amo
sound	phon	son
vision	scop	vis
self/alone	solo	auto
one/unit	mono	uni/uno
earth	geo	terr
water	hyd/hydr	aqu
fire/flame	pyr/pyro	flam/fier

Let's now try to use some of the roots from that exhaustive list in your manuals to see if we can indeed make the most of them.

I. Look at the following words. Try to guess the meanings of these words after identifying the roots that they

Word		Root	Approximate Meaning
1	pyromaniac	Pyro – heat, fire, maniac-	Lunatic, madman
2	somniferous		Soporific, sleep inducing
3	incipient		Inchoate, nascent
4	proclaim	Pro-in favor of	Glorify, laud, extol. Promulgate
5	corpulent	Corp - big	Obese, weight,
6	incumbent	In-towards	Office holder, leaning on something
7	genesis	gene	Coming into being
8	effluence		The process of flowing, inflow
9	predilection	pre	A strong liking
10	tenacious		Coherent, unyielding

Try this set:

	Word	Root	Approximate Meaning
1	abjure		
2	motility		
3	premonition		
4	egregious		
5	facile		
6	deify		
7	amortize		
8	detract		
9	circumvent		
10	incursion		

Hey! You're actually getting good at this. Some more practice and constant recollection of the roots will make you a pro!

How about some more guesses?

III. Here are some words which contain roots that you already know or should know. Try to get to the meanings of the words from the roots and match the meanings.

Match the following			
1	RECOURSE	characterized by giving birth to live offspring 5	A.
2	AMITY	below threshold of consciousness 8	B.
3	CREDO	A member of the masses 9	C.
4	ANACHRONISM	Having prior knowledge 10	D.
5	VIVIPAROUS	to cite or allege 7	E.
6	ACUITY	access to a person or thing for help or aid 1	F.
7	ADDUCE	good will 2	G.
8	SUBLIMINAL	a set of professed beliefs 3	H.
9	PLEBIAN	something out of its proper time 4	I.
10	PRESCIENT	sharpness of the senses 6	J.

And now that we've done all this . . .

. . . We can tell you that while roots are invaluable tools for helping to learn vocabulary, they can be tricky, and should not be relied on exclusively. Sometimes, in the process of the evolution of language, spelling or pronunciation changes have occurred over time, which result in words looking like they contain roots that they really don't. For instance, the word "eradicate", while it seems to have the root "dic", meaning talking or speaking, right in the middle, really has nothing to do with talking or speaking. We've included a few more examples below of words that look like they contain certain roots but don't have meanings that reflect those roots. See whether you can identify the root that appears to be contained in them and its meaning, as well as the meaning of the word itself (and how that doesn't involve the root). Perhaps you can come up with other such words as well. *contemptuous discourse diligent objectivity imperious transitor.*

ETYMOLOGY DRILL

Drill 1

WORD	ROOTS	MEANING	DERIVATIVES
EULOGY			
TRANSITION			
BELlicOSE			
DEMaGOGUE			
AGGRANDIZE			
SUPERFLOUS			
AMORPHOUS			
VERBOSE			
MALEVOLENT			
PRESCIENCE			

Drill 2

WORD	ROOTS	MEANING	DERIVATIVES
WORD			
BIOGRAPHY			
FRATERNAL			
GENESIS INSCRIBE			
TERRESTRIAL			
MONOLITHIC			
PATRIARCH			
EQUAMINITY			

Drill 3: Use Prefixes

WORD	PREFIX	MEANING	DERIVATIVES
AMBIVERT			
PARANORMAL			
COUNTERCLAIM			
HYPERACTIVE			
POSTHASTE			
METAMOTPHOSIS			
RECAPTURE			
DYSGENIC			
ANTEDATE			
SUBTERRANEAN			

Drill 4: Use Prefixes

WORD	PREFIX	MEANING	DERIVATIVES
WORD			
PRECOGNITIO			
SUPERNUMER			
DISAFFECT			
RETROSPECT			
TRANSCEND			
HYPERTHERMIA			
PERIPHERAL			
EXTRANEIOUS			
INTERMITTENT			
PSEUDONYM			

LEARNING VOCABULARY

As you may have discovered already, whether by taking your first CAT or from previous exposure to the GRE, the verbal section of the GRE is, to a great extent, one big vocabulary test. When you don't know the words in the question or the answer choices, it's much more difficult to answer analogy, sentence completion, and antonym questions correctly. The test writers add difficulty to all questions by testing difficult and obscure words.

The GRE tests lots of words that most people never use.

If you've started to panic, thinking that there's no way for you to learn enough words in a reasonable amount of time, fear not! Although it's going to take time and effort on your part, we'll help make learning vocabulary easier and more efficient. Spend time learning words likely to be tested on the GRE. How do you know what words those are? Luckily, we track the words that appear on the exam regularly and not so regularly. The vocabulary lists included in this book contain the words that ETS likes to test.

Start with the Hit Parade

The Hit Parade is a compilation of 250 core words that frequently appear on the GRE. We can't predict exactly which words will be served on any given exam, but you're likely to encounter several from this list. Learn all of these words first.

Go Beyond the Hit Parade

If you already know most or all of the words in the Hit Parade, don't think you're done. Move on to Beyond the Hit Parade, a list of words which have been known to appear on the GRE. If you are already scoring in the upper ranges on the **Verbal** section or want to reach those ranges, spend time learning the words on this list.

Keep Learning

Start a list of any unfamiliar words that you come across in this manual, *Practicing to Take the Revised GRE* diagnostic exams, and everyday reading.

Use and Make New Flashcards

There's a reason that flashcards have been around for a long time. They work well for many people. Make sure that you use the Flash Cards that we have provided and write down all the information that's needed. The act of writing information on the cards helps you learn the words. To create your cards, put the word on the front and the definition and part of speech on the back. Don't stop with definitions. Use as many mnemonic devices as possible. Think of a word, phrase, or image that will help you remember the word. For example, to remember that "torpid" means sluggish, lethargic, or apathetic, you might think of a torpid tortoise—a slow-moving turtle who is not interested in the world around him. Draw pictures that will help you remember definitions. Don't worry if your drawing skills aren't up to snuff, so long as you can recognize and remember your point. Color coding can also work as a mnemonic device. Outline definitions of words relating to emotions, positive meanings, and negative meanings with colors that you associate with those emotions and meanings.

Rank Words

Go through each group of words before you begin trying to learn them and rank them based on how well you know them. Level I Words, or Words You Know, are those that you can easily use in conversation or in writing. Only put a word in the Level I category if you can come up with your own definition for the word. Classify words that you recognize but can't precisely define as Level II, Words You Sort of Know. Words that are completely new to you go in Level III, Words You've Never Seen Before. Write a I, II, or III next to each word in the list. There's no need to work with Level I words because you already know them. Make flashcards for the Level II and Level III words. Start working with the Level II words, trying to make them Level I words. Once you've mastered all of them, start working on the Level III words. Work on making them Level II words before you try to jump all the way to Level I.

Carry Flashcards

Carry three flashcards or one index card with three words written on it, with you everywhere you go, even to work or parties. Whenever you have a minute to kill, whether you're in line to buy coffee, waiting for the restroom, or waiting for a meeting or class to begin, whip those flashcards out and glance at the words and definitions. A number of studies have shown that the brain is best able to integrate knowledge that it receives in several different locations, so help your memory out!

If you've got it, Flaunt it

Make a point of using at least one of your new words every day. Pick your word for the day in the morning and be on the lookout for a chance to use it. This is, of course, easier with some words than with others, but it does help you remember what you've learned.

Find a Friend

Enlist a classmate, friend, roommate, or family member to be your vocabulary partner. If you don't know anyone else preparing to take the GRE, you might still be able to find someone who wants to improve his or her vocabulary or is willing to help you. Quiz each other on the words, and challenge each other to use the words in conversation. Children are good for this because they are willing to play all kinds of silly quizzing games.

Make a Recording

Record yourself reading the words, definitions, and any memory devices you've come up with onto a cassette, CD, or digital file. Just like making flashcards, making the recording forces you to practice with the words. Play the recording back to yourself while you're commuting or exercising.

Know Yourself

Some of these suggestions will work better for you than others; figure out what works best for you. Also, use any other strategies that have worked in the past **than** you had to memorize information or learn a foreign language. If you come up with any new strategies for learning vocabulary, share them with your teacher and classmates—after all, they're in this with you.

THE HIT PARADE

In the pages that follow, you will find the Hit Parade. This is a list of some of the vocabulary words that most frequently appear on the GRE. Learn them, live them, love them.

Group 1

aberrant	deviating from the norm
alacrity	eager and enthusiastic willingness
anomaly	deviation from the normal order, form, or rule; abnormality
approbation	an expression of approval or praise
assuage	to ease or lessen; to appease or pacify
audacious	daring and fearless; recklessly bold
capricious	inclined to change one's mind impulsively; erratic; unpredictable
censure	to criticize severely; to officially rebuke
chicanery	trickery or subterfuge
connoisseur	an informed and astute judge in matters of taste; expert
discordant	conflicting; dissonant or harsh in sound
disparate	fundamentally distinct or dissimilar
eloquent	well-spoken; expressive; articulate
enervate	to weaken; to reduce in vitality
ennui	dissatisfaction and restlessness resulting from boredom or apathy
equivocate	to use ambiguous language with a deceptive intent
exculpate	exonerate; to clear of blame
exigent	urgent; pressing; requiring immediate action or attention
filibuster	intentional obstruction, esp. using prolonged speechmaking to delay legislative action
ingenuous	artless; frank and candid; lacking in sophistication
inured	accustomed to accepting something undesirable
irascible	easily angered; prone to temperamental outbursts
laud	to praise highly
magnanimity	the quality of being generously noble in mind and heart, esp. in forgiving

martial	associated with war and the armed forces
mundane	of the world; typical of or concerned with the ordinary
nascent	coming into being; in early developmental stages
nebulous	vague; cloudy; lacking clearly defined form
neologism	a new word, expression, or usage; the creation or use of new words or senses
noxious	harmful; injurious
obtuse	lacking sharpness of intellect; not clear or precise in thought or expression
obviate	to anticipate and make unnecessary
onerous	troubling; burdensome
parody	a humorous imitation intended for ridicule or comic effect, esp. in literature and art
perennial	recurrent through the year or many years; happening repeatedly
perfunctory	cursory; done without care or interest
prattle	to babble meaninglessly; to talk in an empty and idle manner
prescience	foreknowledge of events; knowing of events prior to their occurring
prevaricate	to deliberately avoid the truth; to mislead
refute	to disprove; to successfully argue against
relegate	to forcibly assign, esp. to a lower place or position
solicitous	concerned and attentive; eager
sporadic	occurring only occasionally, or in scattered instances
static	not moving, active, or in motion; at rest
stupefy	to stun, baffle, or amaze
tortuous	winding; twisting; excessively complicated
truculent	fierce and cruel; eager to fight
voracious	having an insatiable appetite for an activity or pursuit; ravenous
waver	to move to and fro; to sway; to be unsettled in opinion

Group 2

abscond	to depart clandestinely; to steal off and hide
ameliorate	to make better or more tolerable
arduous	strenuous; taxing; requiring significant effort
ascetic	one who practices rigid self-denial, esp. as an act of religious devotion
austere	without adornment; bare; severely simple; ascetic
axiom	a universally recognized principle
axiomatic	taken as a given; possessing self-evident truth
bucolic	rustic and pastoral; characteristic of rural areas and their inhabitants
canonical	following or in agreement with accepted, traditional standards
contentious	argumentative; quarrelsome; causing controversy or disagreement
convoluted	complex or complicated
culpable	deserving blame
disabuse	to undeceive; to set right
eclectic	composed of elements drawn from various sources
effrontery	extreme boldness; presumptuousness
ephemeral	brief; fleeting
erudite	very learned; scholarly
eulogy	a speech honoring the dead
extemporaneous	improvised; done without preparation
facetious	playful; humorous
fulminate	to loudly attack
hyperbole	an exaggerated statement, often used as a figure of speech
lucid	clear; easily understood
oscillation	the act or state of swinging back and forth with a steady, uninterrupted rhythm
paean	a song or hymn of praise and thanksgiving
penurious	penny-pinching; excessively thrifty; ungenerous

perfidy	intentional breach of faith; treachery
pernicious	extremely harmful; potentially causing death
perspicacious	acutely perceptive; having keen discernment
pious	extremely reverent or devout; showing strong religious devotion
precipitate	acting with excessive haste or impulse
precipitate	to cause or happen before anticipated or required
precursor	one that precedes and indicates or advances another
predilection	a disposition in favor of something; preference
prolific	producing large volumes or amounts; productive
qualms	misgivings; reservations; causes for hesitancy
quiescence	stillness; motionlessness; quality of being at rest
recant	to retract, esp. a previously held belief
redoubtable	awe-inspiring; worthy of honor
reticent	quiet; reserved; reluctant to express thoughts and feelings
satire	a literary work that ridicules or criticizes a human vice through humor or derision
sordid	characterized by filth, grime, or squalor; foul
squalid	sordid; wretched and dirty as from neglect
squander	to waste by spending or using irresponsibly
stoic	indifferent to or unaffected by pleasure or pain; steadfast
stymie	to block; thwart
supplant	to take the place of; supersede
synthesis	the combination of parts to make a whole
torpid	lethargic; sluggish; dormant
torque	a force that causes rotation
ubiquitous	existing everywhere at the same time; constantly encountered; widespread
veracity	truthfulness; honesty
vilify	to defame; to characterize harshly;

Group 3

abate	to lessen in intensity or degree
accolade	an expression of praise
adulation	excessive praise; intense adoration
aesthetic	dealing with, appreciative of, or responsive to art or the beautiful
avarice	greed, esp. for wealth
burgeon	to grow rapidly or flourish
cacophony	harsh, jarring, discordant sound; dissonance
canon	an established set of principles or code of laws, often religious in nature
castigation	severe criticism or punishment
catalyst	a substance that accelerates the rate of a chemical reaction without itself changing
catalyst	a person or thing that causes change
caustic	burning or stinging; causing corrosion
chary	wary; cautious; sparing
cogent	appealing forcibly to the mind or reason; convincing
compliance	the willingness to comply with the wishes of others
contrite	regretful; penitent; seeking forgiveness
dearth	smallness of quantity or number; scarcity; a lack
demur	to question or oppose
didactic	intended to teach or instruct
discretion	cautious reserve in speech; ability to make responsible decisions
disinterested	indifferent; free from self-interest
dogmatic	stubbornly opinionated
ebullience	the quality of lively or enthusiastic expression of thoughts and feelings
elegy	a mournful poem, esp. one lamenting the dead
emollient	soothing, esp. to the skin; making less harsh
empirical	based on observation or experiment

enigmatic	mysterious; obscure; difficult to understand
esoteric	intended for or understood by a small, specific group
exonerate	to remove blame
fallacy	an invalid or incorrect notion; a mistaken belief
furtive	marked by stealth; covert; surreptitious
gregarious	sociable; outgoing; enjoying the company of other people
harangue	to deliver a pompous speech or tirade
heretical	violating accepted dogma or convention
impecunious	lacking funds; without money
incipient	beginning to come into being or to become apparent
inert	unmoving; lethargic; sluggish
innocuous	harmless; causing no damage
intransigent	refusing to compromise
inveigle	to obtain by deception or flattery
morose	sad; sullen; melancholy
odious	evoking intense aversion or dislike
opaque	impenetrable by light; not reflecting light
peruse	to examine with great care
preen	to dress up; to primp; to groom oneself with elaborate care
prodigious	abundant in size, force, or extent; extraordinary
putrefy	to rot; to decay and give off a foul odor
quaff	to drink deeply
sanction	authoritative permission or approval; a penalty intended to enforce compliance
urbane	sophisticated; refined; elegant
viscous	thick; sticky

Group 4

acerbic	having a sour or bitter taste or character
amalgamate	to combine several elements into a whole
amenable	agreeable; responsive to suggestion
bolster	to provide support or reinforcement
bombast	self-important or pompous writing or speech
bombastic	pompous; grandiloquent
credulous	tending to believe too readily; gullible
diatribe	a harsh denunciation
fawn	to flatter or praise excessively
fervent	greatly emotional or zealous
flout	to demonstrate contempt for, as in a rule or convention
fortuitous	happening by fortunate accident or chance
garrulous	pointlessly talkative; talking too much
germane	relevant to the subject at hand; appropriate in subject matter
glib	marked by ease or informality; nonchalant; lacking in depth; superficial
halcyon	calm and peaceful
hubris	arrogant presumption or pride
idolatrous	given to intense or excessive devotion to something
imminent	about to happen; impending
imperturbable	marked by extreme calm, impassivity and steadiness
impetuous	hastily or rashly energetic; impulsive and vehement
implacable	not capable of being appeased or significantly changed
indifferent	having no interest or concern; showing no bias or prejudice
intrepid	steadfast and courageous
laconic	using few words; terse
malleable	capable of being shaped or formed; tractable; pliable

maverick	an independent individual who does not go along with a group or party
mendacity	the condition of being untruthful; dishonesty
mercurial	characterized by rapid and unpredictable change in mood
meticulous	characterized by extreme care and precision; attentive to detail
mollify	to calm or soothe; to reduce in emotional intensity
obdurate	unyielding; hardhearted; intractable
obfuscate	to deliberately obscure; to make confusing
obsequious	exhibiting a fawning attentiveness
obstinate	stubborn; hard-headed; uncompromising
opprobrium	disgrace; contempt; scorn
ostentatious	characterized by or given to pretentiousness
pedantic	the parading of learning; excessive attention to minutiae and formal rules
pervade	to permeate throughout
pervasive	having the tendency to permeate or spread throughout
phlegmatic	calm; sluggish; unemotional
pirate	to illegally use or reproduce
plethora	an overabundance; a surplus
polemical	controversial; argumentative
pragmatic	practical rather than idealistic
rancorous	characterized by bitter, long-lasting resentment
rhetoric	the art or study of effective use of language for communication and persuasion
salubrious	promoting health or well-being
sedulous	diligent; persistent; hard-working
solvent	able to meet financial obligations; able to
dissolve	another substance
soporific	causing drowsiness; tending to induce sleep
virulent	extremely harmful or poisonous; bitterly hostile or antagonistic

Group 5

aggrandize	to increase in intensity, power, or prestige
alchemy	a medieval science aimed at the transmutation of metals, esp. base metals into gold
anachronism	something or someone out of place in terms of historical or chronological context
astringent	having a tightening effect on living tissue; harsh; severe
contiguous	sharing a border; touching; adjacent
convention	a generally agreed-upon practice or attitude
cynicism	an attitude or quality of belief that all people are motivated by selfishness
decorum	polite or appropriate conduct or behavior
derision	scorn; ridicule; contemptuous treatment
desiccate	to dry out or dehydrate; to make dry or dull
dilettante	one with an amateurish or superficial interest in the arts or a branch of knowledge
disparage	to slight or belittle
divulge	to disclose something secret
immutable	not capable of change
inimical	damaging; harmful; injurious
intractable	not easily managed or directed; stubborn; obstinate
neophyte	a recent convert; a beginner; novice
presumptuous	overstepping due bounds (as of propriety or courtesy); taking liberties
pristine	pure; uncorrupted; clean
probity	adherence to highest principles; uprightness
proclivity	a natural predisposition or inclination
profligate	excessively wasteful; recklessly extravagant
propensity	a natural inclination or tendency; penchant
prosaic	dull; unimaginative

pungent	characterized by a strong, sharp smell or taste
quixotic	foolishly impractical; marked by lofty romantic ideals
quotidian	occurring or recurring daily; commonplace
rarefy	to make or become thin, less dense; to refine
recondite	hidden; concealed; difficult to understand; obscure
refulgent	radiant; shiny; brilliant
renege	to fail to honor a commitment; to go back on a promise
shard	a piece of broken pottery or glass
sparse	thin; not dense; arranged at widely spaced intervals
spendthrift	one who spends money wastefully
subtle	not obvious; elusive; difficult to discern
tacit	implied; not explicitly stated
terse	brief and concise in wording
tout	to publicly praise or promote
trenchant	sharply perceptive; keen; penetrating
unfeigned	genuine; not false or hypocritical
untenable	indefensible; not viable; uninhabitable
vacillate	to waver indecisively between one course of action or opinion and another; to waver
variegated	multicolored; characterized by a variety of patches of different color
vexation	annoyance; irritation
vigilant	alertly watchful
vituperate	to use harsh condemnatory language; to abuse or censure severely or abusively; to berate
volatile	readily changing to a vapor; changeable; fickle; explosive

Group 6

acumen	quick, keen, or accurate knowledge or insight
adulterate	to reduce purity by combining with inferior ingredients
archaic	outdated; associated with an earlier, perhaps more primitive, time
aver	to state as a fact; to confirm or support
dissemble	to disguise or conceal; to mislead
eccentric	departing from norms or conventions
endemic	characteristic of or often found in a particular locality, region, or people
evanescent	tending to disappear like vapor; vanishing
exacerbate	to make worse or more severe
grandiloquence	pompous speech or expression
hackneyed	rendered trite or commonplace by frequent usage
hedonism	devotion to pleasurable pursuits, esp. to the pleasures of the senses
hegemony	the consistent dominance of one state or ideology over others
iconoclast	one who attacks or undermines traditional conventions or institutions
impassive	revealing no emotion
impunity	immunity from punishment or penalty
inchoate	in an initial stage; not fully formed
infelicitous	unfortunate; inappropriate
insipid	without taste or flavor; lacking in spirit; bland
loquacious	extremely talkative
luminous	characterized by brightness and the emission of light
malevolent	having or showing often vicious ill-will, spite, or hatred
misanthrope	one who hates all other humans
mitigate	to make or become less severe or intense; to moderate
occlude	to obstruct or block

pedagogy	the art or profession of training, teaching, or instructing
penury	poverty; destitution
pine	to yearn intensely; to languish; to lose vigor
pith	the essential or central part
pithy	precise and brief
placate	to appease; to calm by making concessions
platitude	a superficial remark, esp. one offered as meaningful
plummet	to plunge or drop straight down
prodigal	recklessly wasteful; extravagant; profuse; lavish
profuse	given or coming forth abundantly; extravagant
proliferate	to grow or increase swiftly and abundantly
queries	questions; inquiries; doubts in the mind; reservations
querulous	prone to complaining or grumbling; quarrelsome
recalcitrant	obstinately defiant of authority; difficult to manage
repudiate	to refuse to have anything to do with; to disown
rescind	to invalidate; to repeal; to retract
reverent	marked by, feeling, or expressing a feeling of profound awe and respect
specious	seeming true, but actually being fallacious; misleadingly attractive
spurious	lacking authenticity or validity; false; counterfeit
subpoena	a court order requiring appearance and/or testimony
succinct	brief; concise
superfluous	exceeding what is sufficient or necessary
surfeit	excess; overindulgence
tenacity	the quality of adherence or persistence to something valued
tenuous	having little substance or strength; flimsy; weak
tirade	a long and extremely critical speech; a harsh denunciation
transient	fleeting; passing quickly; brief

BEYOND THE HIT PARADE

The Beyond the Hit Parade list starts with a set of words whose secondary meanings are frequently tested on the GRE. After that, you'll find six groups of advanced vocabulary words. Work with these after you have mastered all of the words in each week's Hit Parade.

Secondary Meanings

Here are some less common meanings of common words that ETS frequently tests.

alloy	to commingle; to debase by mixing with something inferior
appropriate	to take for one's own use; confiscate
arrest	to suspend; to engage; to hold one's attention
august	majestic; venerable
bent	leaning; inclination; proclivity; tendency
broach	to bring up or ance; to begin to talk about
brook	to tolerate, endure, or countenance
cardinal	of great importance
color	to change as if by dyeing, i.e., to distort, gloss, or affect
damp	to diminish the intensity or check the vibration of a sound, etc.
die	a part of a machine that punches shaped holes or cuts
essay	to test or try; to attempt or experiment
exact	to demand, call for, require or take
flag	to sag or droop; to become spiritless; to decline
flip	sarcastic, impertinent
ford	to wade across the shallow part of a river or stream
grouse	to complain or grumble
guy	a cord or cable used to steady or guide something
intimate	to imply, suggest, or insinuate
list	to tilt or lean to one side

lumber	to move heavily and clumsily
milk	to exploit; to squeeze every last ounce of
mince	to proce or speak affectedly; to speak too carefully; also, to take tiny steps or tiptoe
nice	exacting; fastidious; extremely, even excessively, precise
obtain	to be established, accepted, or customary
occult	hidden; concealed; beyond comprehension
pedestrian	commonplace; trite; unremarkable; quotidian
pied	multicolored, usually in blotches or patches
pine	to lose vigor (as through grief); to yearn
plastic	moldable; pliable; not rigid
prize/	to pry; to press or force with a lever; something taken by force; spoils
rail	to complain about bitterly
rent/	torn, past of rend; an opening or tear caused by such
quail	to lose courage; to become frightened
qualify	to limit
sap	to enervate or weaken the vitality of
scurvy	contemptible; despicable
singular	exceptional; unusual; odd
steep	to saturate or completely soak
strut	the supporting structural cross-part of a wing
table	to remove (as a parliamentary motion) from consideration
tender	to proffer or offer; to give
waffle	to equivocate; to change one's position
wag	wit; joker

Group 1

abjure	to reject solemnly; to recant; to avoid
abrogate	to abolish or annul by authority; to put down
abscission	the act of cutting off or removing
acarpous	effete; no longer fertile; worn out
accretion	growth; increase by successive addition; building up
admonish	to reprove; to express warning or disapproval
adroit	adept; dexterous
adumbrate	to foreshadow or intimate; to suggest sketchily; to obscure
anathema	a solemn or ecclesiastical (religious) curse; accursed or thoroughly loathed person or thing
anodyne/	soothing; something that assuages or allays pain or comforts
antipathy	aversion; dislike
antithetical	diametrically opposed; as in antithesis
apocryphal	of dubious authenticity or origin; spurious
apogee	farthest or highest point; culmination; zenith (antonym:perigee)
apostate	one who abandons long-held religious or political convictions
apotheosis	deification; glorification to godliness
apposite	appropriate; pertinent; relevant; apropos
apprise	to give notice to; to inform
arabesque	a complex, ornate design; also to a dance position
arcane	mysterious; abstruse; esoteric; knowable only to initiates
arrant	impudent
artless	completely without guile; natural; without artificiality
ascetic/	someone practicing self-denial; austere; stark
asperity	severity; rigor; roughness; harshness; acrimony; irritability
aspersion	an act of defamation or maligning; animadversion
assay/	an analysis; examination; test; to put to a test

asseverate	to aver; to allege; to assert
assiduous	diligent; hard-working; sedulous
attenuate	to rarefy; to weaken or make thinner
augury	omen; portent
auspice	protection or support; patronage
auspicious	favorable; propitious; successful; prosperous
aver	to affirm; to assert; to prove; to justify; to asseverate
baleful	sinister; pernicious; ominous
bane	cause of injury; poison; source of harm
beatify	to bless, make happy, or ascribe a virtue to; to regard as saintly
bedizen	to adorn, especially in a cheap, showy manner; to festoon
belie	to give a false impression of; to misrepresent
bellicose	belligerent; pugnacious; warlike
bilge	bulge; the protuberance of a cask
blandish	to toady or fawn
blithe	carefree; merry
boisterous	loud; noisy; rough; lacking restraint
boor	a rude or insensitive person; lout
burnish	to polish; to rub to a shine
byzantine	labyrinthine; complex
cabal	a scheme or plot; a group of plotters
cachinnate	to laugh loudly
cadge	to sponge or mooch
cajole	to inveigle, coax, or wheedle
calumniate	to slander; to make a false accusation
calumny	slander; aspersion
caparison	to adorn or bedizen

captious	calculated to confuse or entrap in argument; hypercritical; caviling
caret	an insertion mark (^) used by editors and proofreaders
cavil	to find fault without good reason
celerity	speed; alacrity
chasten	to chastise or correct
chauvinist	a blindly devoted patriot
chimera	an illusion; originally, an imaginary fire-breathing she-monster

Group 2

churlish	boorish; vulgar; loutish; difficult and intractable
coalesce	to come together; to fuse or unite
coda	concluding section of a musical or literary piece
coeval	of the same period; coexisting
commensurate	matching; corresponding or proportionate in degree, size, or amount
contemn	to scorn or despise
contumacious	insubordinate; rebellious
corrigible	capable of being set right; correctable; reparable
countenance/	to approve of or tolerate; face; composure
cozen	to deceive, beguile, or hoodwink
craven	contemptibly fainthearted; lacking any courage
curmudgeon	a crusty, ill-tempered coot; a misanthrope
daunt	to cow or dismay
debacle	rout; fiasco; complete failure
decorous	correct; formal; marked by decorum
defalcate	to embezzle or misappropriate
denigrate	to blacken; to belittle; to sully; to defame; to disparage

denouement	an outcome or solution; the unraveling of a plot
deposition	accretion; depositing; building up layer by layer; official testimony
deprecate	to disparage or belittle; to put down
depredate	to plunder, pillage, ravage, or destroy; to exploit in a predatory manner
derivative	unoriginal; obtained from another source
descant	to comment at length
descry	to discriminate or discern
desuetude	disuse
desultory	random; thoughtless; marked by a lack of plan or purpose
detraction	slandering; attack; aspersion
diaphanous	transparent; gauzy
diffident	reserved, shy, or unassuming; lacking in self-confidence
digress	to stray from the point; to go off on a tangent
dilatory	causing delay; procrastinating
din	loud, sustained noise
dirge	a song of grief or lamentation
disaffect	to estrange or alienate the affection of
discomfit	to defeat; to put down
discursive	digressive; passing from one topic to another
dissolution	disintegration; looseness in morals
distention	the state or act of extending or being swollen out of shape
distract	distracted; absent-minded, especially due to anxiety
doggerel	trivial, poorly constructed verse
dross	slag, waste, or foreign matter; impurity; surface scum
dulcet	melodious; harmonious; mellifluous
dynamo	generator; forceful, energetic person
eclectic	culled from many sources

edacious	voracious; devouring
edifying	enlightening
effluvia	outflow in a stream of particles; a noxious odor or vapor
effrontery	boldness; impudence; arrogance
effusive	gushing; excessively demonstrative
egress	exit
encomium	glowing and enthusiastic praise; panegyric; tribute; eulogy
endemic	restricted or peculiar to a particular region; indigenous
engender	to cause; to produce; to give rise to
enormity	excessive wickedness; evilness (Don't confuse with "enormousness," which means great size.)
ephemeral	evanescent; fleeting; short-lived
epicure	one devoted to sensual pleasure, particularly in food and drink; gourmand; sybarite
episodic	loosely connected; not flowing logically
epithet	disparaging word or phrase
epitome	embodiment; quintessence
equanimity	composure; self-possession

Group 3

equipoise	equal distribution of weight; equilibrium
errant	traveling; itinerant; peripatetic
eschew	to shun or avoid
estimable	worthy; formidable
evince	to show clearly; to indicate
excoriate	to censure scathingly; to upbraid
exegesis	critical examination; explication

exemplar	typical or standard specimen; paradigm; model
expatiate	to descant; to discourse; to discuss or write about at length
expiate	to atone or make amends for
expostulate	to argue earnestly in order to dissuade, correct, or protest
expurgate	to remove obscenity; to purify; to censor
excind	to cut out or extirpate
extant	existing; not destroyed or lost
extirpate	to destroy; to exterminate; to cut out; to excind
fallow	untilled; inactive; dormant
fatuous	silly; inanely foolish
feckless	ineffectual; irresponsible
felicitous	apt; suitably expressed; well-chosen; apropos
fetid	stinking; smelly; malodorous
fetter	to shackle; to put in chains
filigree	an ornamental work, especially of delicate lacelike patterns
florid	flowery; ruddy; ornate
foment	to incite; to rouse
forbearance	patience; willingness to wait
forestall	to act in a way to hinder; to exclude or prevent an action; to avert
forswear	to disallow; to repudiate
fracas	noisy quarrel; imbroglio; brawl
fractious	quarrelsome; rebellious; unruly; refractory; irritable
frieze	a semi-sculptural, raised-surface ornamental façade to a building
froward	intractable; not willing to yield or comply; recalcitrant
gainsay	to deny, dispute, contradict, to oppose
gambol	to skip about playfully
garner	to gather and save; to store up

gauche	crude; awkward; tasteless
gossamer	delicate; insubstantial or tenuous; insincere
guile	artfulness; trickery; chicanery; duplicity
hallow	to make holy; to consecrate
harrow	to distress; to create stress; to torment
heretical	unorthodox; iconoclastic; dissenting from established dogma
hermetic	sealed by fusion; airtight
heterodox	unorthodox; heretical; iconoclastic
hirsute	hairy; shaggy
homiletics	the art of preaching
homily	a sermon or morally instructive lecture
iconoclastic	attacking cherished beliefs; heretical; heterodox
idyll	a carefree, light-hearted pastoral or romantic episode; a literary or musical piece describing such
ignominious	shameful; dishonorable; ignoble; undignified
imbroglio	difficult or embarrassing situation
impassive	expressionless; stoic; stolid; unsusceptible to emotion; apathetic; phlegmatic
imperious	commanding; masterful; arrogant; domineering; haughty
importune	to ask incessantly; to beg; to nag
impugn	to attack or assail ally; to censure; to execrate
impute	to attribute to a cause or source; to ascribe
indefatigable	doggedness; tirelessness
indolent	lazy; listless; torpid
ineluctable	certain; inevitable
ingenuous	guileless; trusting; naive; credulous
inherent	ingrained within one's nature; intrinsic; innate; firmly established
inimical	hostile; adverse; unfriendly

Group 4

inimitable	one of a kind; peerless
iniquity	gross injustice; wickedness
innervate	to supply with nerves; to embolden; to energize
inscrutable	incapable of being discovered or understood
insensible	unconscious; unresponsive; unaffected; numb
insouciant	unconcerned; carefree; heedless
insular	parochial; narrow-minded
interdict	to prohibit; to forbid; to ban; to halt
inveigh	to attack ally; to dece; to deprecate
inveterate	deep-rooted; ingrained; habitual
involute	intricate; complex; convoluted
itinerate	to travel from place to place; to peregrinate
jejune	vapid; uninteresting; immature; puerile
jibe	to agree; to be in accord
jocose, jocular	humorous; gay; blithe
labile	readily open to change; unstable
lachrymose	causing tears; tearful
lambaste	to censure; to excoriate; to berate
lassitude	listlessness; languor; weariness
libertine	someone unrestrained by morality or convention
limn	to draw; to outline in detail; to delineate; to describe
limpid	transparent; serene; clear; untroubled; pellucid
lubricious	lewd; wanton; greasy; slippery
luculent	easily understood; lucid; clear
macerate	to waste away; to soften or wear away by excessive fasting or by excessive steeping

maculate	marked with spots or blotches; besmirched; impure
malinger	to feign illness so as to avoid work; to avoid work
maunder	to digress; to meander; to stray from the topic or path
mellifluous	sweetly flowing, usually used to describe use of words
mendicant	beggar; suppliant
meretricious	cheap; gaudy; tawdry; flashy; showy
metamorphose	to transform; to change utterly
mettle	strength of spirit; courage; stamina
mettlesome	courageous; high-spirited
militate	to have weight; to bear on; to argue (against)
minatory	menacing; threatening
misogynist	one who hates women/females
multifarious	varied; motley; greatly diversified
nadir	low point; perigee
natty	trimly neat and tidy; smart
nexus	a connection, tie, or link
noisome	offensive, especially to one's sense of smell; fetid
nonplused	baffled; in a quandary; at a loss for what to say or do
nostrum	panacea; cure-all; placebo; questionable remedy; palliative
nugatory	trifling; inconsequential
obloquy	abusively detractive language; sharp criticism; vituperation; calumny
obstreperous	noisy; loud
officious	meddlesome; pushy in one's services
ossified	tending to become more rigid; conventional; sterile and reactionary with age; literally, turned into bone
ostensible	seeming; appearing as such; professed
overweening	presumptuously arrogant; supercilious; overbearing

palliate	to make something appear less serious; to gloss over
panegyric	formal praise; eulogy; encomium
paradigm	a model, example, or pattern; exemplar
pariah	an outcast; a rejected and despised person
parry	to block; to evade or ward off, as a blow
parsimonious	cheap; miserly
partisan/	committed to a party; biased or prejudiced; supporter; adherent
paucity	scarcity; a lacking of
peccadillo	a slight offense; literally, a minor sin

Group 5

pellucid	transparent; easy to understand; limpid
penchant	strong inclination; a liking
peregrination	traveling about; wandering
peremptory	admitting of no contradiction; haughty; imperious
perigee	closest or lowest point in an orbit; nadir
peripatetic	itinerant; traveling; nomadic
peroration	the concluding part of a speech; grandiloquent speech
personable	pleasing in appearance; attractive
petrous	like a rock; hard; stony
petulant	impatient; irritable
philistine	a crass individual guided by material rather than by intellectual or artistic values
phlegmatic	impassive; stoical; lethargic; sluggish
picaresque	involving clever rogues or adventurers
pillory	to punish; to hold up to public scorn
piquant	agreeably pungent; stimulating

pique/	resentment; to annoy, irritate, or offend; to excite, provoke, or arouse
placebo	inactive pill prescribed for mental relief rather than for physical effect; something tending to soothe
plangent	pounding; thundering; resounding
plumb	to measure the depth; to examine critically
poignant	distressing; pertinent; touching; stimulating; emotional
poseur	affected or insincere person; literally, a poser
prate	to chatter; to babble, as in prattle
precarious	uncertain; risky; dangerous
precept	rule establishing standards of conduct
precis	concise summary of essential points
preempt	to replace; to supersede; to appropriate
profligate	spendthrift; prodigal; wildly extravagant
prolix	long-winded
propinquity	nearness in time or place; affinity of nature
propitiate	to appease; to conciliate
proscribe	to ostracize; to banish; to outlaw
provident	frugal; looking to the future
puerile	childish; immature
pugnacious	contentious; quarrelsome; contumacious; given to fighting; belligerent
puissance	power; strength
punctilious	precise; paying attention to trivialities, especially in regard to etiquette
pundit	an authority on a subject; one who gives opinions
pusillanimous	cowardly; craven
querulous	habitually complaining; whining
raffish	tawdry; flashy; meretricious; low; vulgar; base
ramify	to be divided or subdivided; to branch out

rapacious	voracious; greedy; plundering
rebus	riddle; a representation of words by pictures or symbols
recidivism	relapse into antisocial or criminal behavior
recondite	abstruse; profound; arcane
reconnaissance	preliminary survey to gain information, especially of an enemy
reconnoiter	to engage in reconnaissance
recreant/	coward; cowardly; craven; pusillanimous
recumbent	leaning; resting; prone
redolent	fragrant; suggestive or evocative
refractory	stubborn; unmanageable; intractable; unruly; fractious
regale	to delight or entertain; to feast
remonstrate	to protest; to object
repine	to feel or express dejection or discontent; to long for
repudiate	to disown; to disavow; to reject as untrue
resolute	adamant; steadfast; determined; irresolute
rubric	heading, title, or category
rue	to regret; to feel remorse or sorrow

Group 6

runic	mysterious; magical
sagacious	having sound judgment; perceptive; wise
salacious	obscene
salient	prominent; protruding; conspicuous; relevant
salutary	wholesome; causing improvement; favorable to health
sanctimony	self-righteousness
sanguine	cheerful; confident; optimistic
satiate	to surfeit; to overindulge

saturnine	gloomy; dark; sullen; morose
seine	a large net dragged to catch fish
seminal	like a seed; constituting a source; originative
sententious	aphoristic or moralistic; epigrammatic; tending to moralize excessively
sidereal	astral; relating to stars or constellations
simper/	to smirk; a silly smile
sinecure	position requiring little or no work and usually providing an income
sinuous	winding; undulating; serpentine
slake	to satisfy or quench
sodden	soaked or drenched; unimaginative; dull
solder	to weld, fuse, or join
sophistry	fallacious reasoning; faulty logic
sophomoric	self-assured though immature; affected; bombastic; lacking maturity
splenetic	bad-tempered; irritable
stanch	to stop the flow of a fluid
stentorian	extremely loud and powerful
stint	to restrain; to be sparing or frugal
striated	striped; grooved; banded
stygian	gloomy; dark
succor	assistance; relief in time of distress
sundry	various; miscellaneous; separate
supercilious	disdainful; arrogant; haughty
supine	mentally or morally slack; literally, lying on one's back; prone
suppliant	suppliant; asking humbly; beseeching
supplicant	beggar; mendicant
tamp	to plug; to drive in or down by a series of blows
tautology	a repetition; a redundancy

tawdry	cheap; gaudy; showy; tacky; meretricious
tendentious	biased; showing marked tendencies
timorous	timid; fearful; diffident
toady	sycophant; flatterer
torrid	scorching; ardent; passionate
tractable	docile; obedient; easily led
travesty	mockery; caricature; parody
tumid	swollen
turbid	roiled; muddy; clouded to the point of being opaque
turgid	swollen; tumid; thick; pompous; bombastic
turpitude	depravity; prurience
tyro	novice; greenhorn; rank amateur
umbrage	offense; resentment; pique
undulate	to move in wavelike fashion; to fluctuate
untoward	perverse; unruly; unseemly
upbraid	to scold; to censure; to rebuke; to chastise
usury	the practice of charging an exorbitant or illegal rate of interest to brag or boast
venal	capable of being bought or bribed; mercenary; purchasable
venerate	to revere; to worship
verisimilitude	appearance of truth or reality
veritable	authentic; honest-to-goodness
virago	a loud, domineering woman; a scold or nag
vitiate	to pervert; to debase; to spoil; to make ineffective
volubility	fluency; verbosity; easy use of spoken language
waft	to cause to move as if by a light breeze
welter	to writhe; to toss about; to be in turmoil
wend	to go; to proceed; to walk

WORD ASSOCIATION DRILLS

Think of any word you have heard the following words with. What does the association indicate about the connotation of each of the words? Is it a good, bad, ugly word? Or is it somewhat neutral?

	The word	The association	The connotation	Meaning
1	Sarcastic			
2	Extempore			
3	Delinquency			
4	Benign			
5	Abject			
6	Inclement			
7	Incessant			
8	Impeccable			
9	Servile			
10	Platonic			
11	Laudatory			
12	Flagging			
13	Irate			
14	Primordial			
15	Plenary			
16	Pied			
17	Peremptory			
18	Precarious			
19	Soporific			
20	Smattering			
21	Sever			
22	Precocious			

VOCAB DRILLS

DRILL 1

Pick the answer choice that is nearest in meaning to the words in CAPITAL letters:					
1	CAPRICIOUS	A: smart	B: loud	C: bright	D: fickle minded
2	EXIGENT	A: alive	B: urgent	C: extraneous	D: expert
3	STUPEFIED	A: duped	B: bold	C: stunned	D: imprisoned
4	RELEGATE	A: demote	B: deny	C: give up	D: throw away
5	ENNUI	A: boredom	B: energy	C: urge	D: vexation
6	PERFUNCTORY	A: uneasy	B: abrupt	C: cursory	D: functional
7	NOXIOUS	A: extreme	B: harmful	C: dishonest	D: foul smelling
8	AUDACIOUS	A: audible	B: impartial	C: prosaic	D: daringly bold
9	CONNOISSEUR	A: treasurer	B: custodian	C: curator	D: expert in taste
10	MUNDANE	A: relevant	B: ordinary	C: remote	D: innate

Match the following			
1	Inured	used to some unpleasant thing	A.
2	Martial	Burdensome	B.
3	Enervate	related to war	C.
4	Disparate	lacking sharpness	D.
5	Onerous	Innocent	E.
6	Filibuster	Trickery	F.
7	Ingenuous	well spoken	G.
8	Obtuse	prolonged speech	H.
9	Eloquent	dissimilar	I.
10	Chicanery	weaken	J.

DRILL 2

Pick the answer choice that is nearest in meaning to the words in CAPITAL letters:					
1	STYMIE	A: Tempt	B: block	C: instigate	D: dodge
2	QUALMS	A: Whims	B: vision	C: reservations	D: credentials
3	PREDILECTION	A: preference	B: dislike	C: assertion	D: predicament
4	BUCOLIC	A: Rustic	B: illicit	C: natty	D: very hot
5	ERUDITE	A: Rich	B: earnest	C: very learned	D: pecuniary
6	RECAT	A: reach out	B: recite	C: rehearse	D: retract publicly
7	RETICENT	A: serious	B: insipid	C: realistic	D: reserved
8	EPHEMERAL	A: eternal	B: fleeting	C: fascinating	D: idyllic
9	VIRULENT	A: indifferent	B: insistent	C: harmful	D: abbreviated
10	ARDUOUS	A: strenuous	B: helpful	C: effusive	D: astute
11	VERACITY	A: truthfulness	B: haste	C: humility	D: odium
12	PERFIDY	A: intuition	B: affinity	C: treachery	D: probation

Match the following			
1	Satire	very harmful	A.
2	Precursor	a person having simple and strict lifestyle	B.
3	Stoic	a song of praise	C.
4	Ascetic	denounce angrily and loudly	D.
5	Quiescence	Impassive	E.
6	Torpid	Forerunner	F.
7	Pernicious	a humorous literary work intended to ridicule	G.
8	Fulminate	quiet inaction	H.
9	Paeon	an exaggeration	I.
10	Hyperbole	Lethargic	J.
11	Convolutd	present everywhere	K.
12	Ubiquitous	Alleviate	L.
13	Austere	complicated and not straightforward	M.
14	Eclectic	Gathered from diverse sources	N.
15	Ameliorate	plain and simple without luxury	O.

DRILL 3

Pick the answer choice that is nearest in meaning to the words in CAPITAL letters:					
1	GREGARIOUS	A: gorgeous	B: ferocious	C: extroverted	D: boisterous
2	BURGEON	A: grow rapidly	B: break in	C: colorful	D: industrious
3	DIDACTIC	A: instructional	B: diligent	C: peripatetic	D: disdainful
4	URBANE	A: urgent	B: citizen	C: sophisticated	D: beautiful
5	INNOCUOUS	A: independent	B: harmless	C: insecure	D: absolute
6	PREEN	A: lovable	B: practical	C: prattle	D: dress up
7	MOROSE	A: unwise	B: morbid	C: immobile	D: sullen
8	DEMUR	A: damage	B: oppose	C: withhold	D: sneer
9	ENIGMATIC	A: energetic	B: wise	C: mysterious	D: lively
10	INTRANSIGENT	A: inflexible	B: secure	C: incapable	D: intangible
11	COGENT	A: convincing	B: marital	C: vacillating	D: helpful
12	ACCOLADE	A: accusation	B: objection	C: praise	D: advantage
13	CAUSTIC	A: hard	B: corrosive	C: audible	D: sensible
14	DEARTH	A: abundance	B: wisdom	C: error	D: scarcity
15	HARANGUE	A: shock	B: tirade	C: tremor	D: sermon

Match the following			
1	Esoteric	Surreptitious	A.
2	Prodigious	lessen in intensity	B.
3	Castigation	starting to develop	C.
4	Furtive	large and impressive	D.
5	Incipient	understood by a small group of people	E.
6	Abate	severe punishment	F.
7	Inveigle	extremely unpleasant	G.
8	Discretion	entice to do something by deception	H.
9	Odious	ability to make responsible decisions	I.
10	Emollient	Mollifying	J.
11	Heretical	free from blame	K.
12	Empirical	unrestrained admiration	L.
13	Complaisance	violating convention	M.
14	Adulation	willingly obliging	N.
15	Exonerate	based on observation or experiment	O.

DRILL 4

Pick the answer choice that is nearest in meaning to the words in CAPITAL letters:					
1	BOMBASTIC	A: pompous	B: damaging	C: very large	D: bright
2	FAWN	A: flatter	B: fly	C: sleep	D: warn
3	PLETHORA	A: shortage	B: pity	C: abundance	D: obesity
4	OBDURATE	A: oblivious	B: obstinate	C: compliant	D: stupid
5	IMMINENT	A: eminent	B: educated	C: far-off	D: impending
6	BOLSTER	A: impostor	B: lock	C: bolt out	D: reinforce
7	MENDACITY	A: meanness	B: lying	C: cruelty	D: malice
8	OSTENTATIOUS	A: illegal	B: offensive	C: showy	D: obliging
9	INTREPID	A: fearless	B: interested	C: afraid	D: insipid
10	GERMANE	A: relevant	B: infectious	C: contagious	D: holy
11	PRAGMATIC	A: unwise	B: exemplary	C: practical	D: prosperous
12	RANCOROUS	A: kind	B: acrimonious	C: noisy	D: racial

Match the following			
1	Glib	highly talkative	A.
2	Diatrobe	using few words	B.
3	Flout	deliberately violate	C.
4	Mercurial	make difficult to understand	D.
5	Obfuscate	too casual to be convincing	E.
6	Idolatrous	highly reverent	F.
7	Garrulous	having no interest	G.
8	Laconic	harsh denunciation	H.
9	Maverick	independent and unconventional	I.
10	Soporific	changing mood frequently and unpredictably	J.
11	Meticulous	exhibiting fawning attentiveness	K.
12	Rhetoric	inducing sleep	L.
13	Pirate	copy and sell without having a right to do so	M.
14	Pervade	art of using language effectively	N.
15	Obsequious	careful and attentive to detail	O.
16	Salubrious	pleasant and healthy	P.
17	Indifferent	permeate all over	Q.

DRILL 5

Pick the answer choice that is nearest in meaning to the words in CAPITAL letters:					
1	PROPENSITY	A: prosperity	B: abundance	C: scarcity	D: tendency
2	RECONDITE	A: reconciled	B: obscure	C: obvious	D: resigned
3	SPARSE	A: splurge	B: intense	C: not dense	D: strong
4	CONTIGUOUS	A: adjacent	B: communicable	C: distant	D: secluded
5	ASTRINGENT	A: harsh	B: astronomical	C: celestial	D: supportive
6	PROFLIGATE	A: hapless	B: parsimonious	C: wasteful	D: frugal
7	REFULGENT	A: dull	B: radiant	C: reclusive	D: formidable
8	VACILLATE	A: deny	B: remain firm	C: fulminate	D: waver
9	PRISTINE	A: private	B: soiled	C: pictorial	D: pure
10	VEXATION	A: obsession	B: annoyance	C: addiction	D: precision
11	TACIT	A: implied	B: explicit	C: tactful	D: stout
12	DISPARAGE	A: belittle	B: spend a lot	C: dislike	D: discharge
13	UNFEIGNED	A: unfamiliar	B: unperturbed	C: genuine	D: calm
14	INIMICAL	A: immune	B: hostile	C: affable	D: practical

Match the following			
1.	proclivity	unchangeable	A.
2.	shard	natural inclination	B.
3.	volatile	likely to change suddenly and unexpectedly	C.
4.	tout	stubborn	D.
5.	presumptuous	a piece of broken pottery	E.
6.	vituperate	unrealistically enthusiastic	F.
7.	aggrandize	belief that people always act selfishly	G.
8.	cynicism	overstepping due bounds	H.
9.	quotidian	dull and uninteresting	I.
10.	immutable	abuse	J.
11.	probity	occurring daily	K.
12.	intractable	promote	L.
13.	quixotic	make seemingly more prestigious or powerful	M.
14.	prosaic	high moral standard	N.
15.	renege	go back on promise	O.

DRILL 6

Pick the answer choice that is nearest in meaning to the words in CAPITAL letters:					
1	OCCLUDE	A: imagine	B: cover	C: obstruct	D: inoculate
2	PINE	A: vilify	B: languish	C: flourish	D: adore
3	IMPASSIVE	A: passionate	B: inspired	C: imaginative	D: unemotional
4	ECCENTRIC	A: thrilling	B: traditional	C: conservative	D: unconventional
5	HACKNEYED	A: heckled	B: trite	C: applauded	D: imaginative
6	PROFUSE	A: scanty	B: bleed	C: abundant	D: repugnant
7	REPUDIATE	A: disown	B: facilitate	C: resurrect	D: acknowledge
8	RESCIND	A: repeal	B: sparkle	C: reinstate	D: validate
9	QUERULOUS	A: amiable	B: quiet	C: complaining	D: attractive
10	INSIPID	A: spicy	B: bland	C: insensitive	D: inspiring
11	PENURY	A: prosperity	B: paucity	C: profusion	D: destitution
12	PITHY	A: pitiable	B: corpulent	C: convoluted	D: precise and brief
13	REVERENT	A: rude	B: respectful	C: revengeful	D: impertinent
14	SPURIOUS	A: polite	B: bona fide	C: counterfeit	D: spunky

Match the following		
1 Hedonism	dominance of one state or ideology over others	A.
2 Inchoate	excess	B.
3 Mitigate	increase quickly in number	C.
4 proliferate	court order directing appearance/ testimony	D.
5 exacerbate	ability to make good judgment and quick decisions	E.
6 Subpoena	the art of teaching	F.
7 Plummet	belief that pursuit of pleasure is most important in life	G.
8 Succinct	state as a fact	H.
9 Endemic	drop fast from great height	I.
10 Archaic	characteristic of a particular region or people	J.
11 Specious	associated with extremely olden time	K.
12 iconoclast	concise	L.
13 Aver	not yet fully developed	M.
14 hegemony	one who undermines generally accepted beliefs/things	N.
15 Acumen	make more severe	O.
16 Pedagogy	seemingly true but actually fallacious	P.
17 Surfeit	make less severe	Q.

MISCELLANEOUS DRILLS

Pick the answer choice that is nearest in meaning to the words in CAPITAL letters:					
1	TENUOUS	A: strong	B: related to	C: weak	D: biased
2	NEBULOUS	A: available in plenty	B: vague	C: celestial	D: tasty
3	FACETIOUS	A: humorous	B: true	C: false	D: beautiful
4	QUAFF	A: fail	B: squander	C: sneeze	D: drink deeply
5	OPPROBRIUM	A: honesty	B: scorn	C: opposition	D: opportunity
6	VARIEGATED	A: multicolored	B: partitioned	C: separated	D: specified
7	PLATITUDE	A: excess	B: plateau	C: abundance	D: cliché
8	INFELICITOUS	A: inappropriate	B: disrespectful	C: immoral	D: unlawful
9	CHARY	A: cautious	B: favorable	C: angry	D: audacious
10	SQUALID	A: blind	B: dirty	C: afraid	D: experienced

Match the following			
1	redoubtable	rot	A
2	putrefy	happy	B
3	halcyon	formidable	C
4	admonish	scorn	D
5	polemic	beginner	E
6	neophyte	strong argument	F
7	placate	appease	G
8	dissemble	diligent	H
9	derision	impulsive	I
10	sedulous	mislead	J

From the list below pick a word that suits best to fill each of the blanks.

a. truculent

b. phlegmatic

c. vilify

d. dilettante

e. implacable

f. contrite

g. impunity

h. trenchant

i. hubris

j. effrontery

1. He attends every art exhibition in Delhi, but he is a _____; he knows nothing about art and paintings.
2. At the slightest opposition he becomes rude and aggressive; he seems to be congenitally _____.
3. He had the _____ to challenge the boss in such a rude and disrespectful manner.
4. It was justified for the doctors to _____ the chemist selling spurious drugs.
5. He may be _____ now, but that does not reduce the severity of the crime committed by him.
6. The leftists will not withdraw their opposition to Foreign Direct Investment; their opposition is _____.
7. The ministerial post made him proud and arrogant; he was afflicted with _____.
8. His criticism of the Government's policies is very incisive and forceful, although everybody does not appreciate such _____ criticism.
9. Police inaction in nabbing the robbers leads us to believe that those robbers operate with apparent _____.
10. A coach who is not emotionally and physically charged but rather _____ cannot bring victory to the team.

CHOOSE SIDES

Positive (Intelligence)	Negative (Stupidity)
ACUMEN	
ASININE	
ASTUTE	
DERANGED	
DOLTISH	
FATUOUS	
FINESSE	
FLAIR	
GAUCHE	
GULLIBLE	
IGNORAMUS	
IMPOLITIC	
INANE	
INCISIVE	
INGENIOUS	
KEN	
MALADROIT	
OMNISCIENT	
PERCIPIENT	
PERSPICACIOUS	
PRECOCIOUS	
PUNDIT	
SAGACIOUS	
SAPIENT	
SIMPLE	
UNWITTING	
VACUOUS	
VAPID	

Loud and Long	Crisp and Clear
BOMBAST	
CURT	
DUMB	
ELOQUENT	
GARRULOUS	
GRANDILOQUENT	
LACONIC	
LOQUACIOUS	
MUTE	
OROTUND	
PLANGENT	
PROLIX	
RETICENT	
STENTORIAN	
SUCCINCT	
TACIT	
TACITURN	
TERSE	
TURGID	
VERBOSE	

Contiguous	Detached
ABUT	
AGGREGATION	
ASUNDER	
BIFURCATE	
CABAL	
COLLATE	
COLLOQUY	
COLLUSION	
CONCATENATE	
CONCOMITANT	
CONFLUENCE	
CONJOIN	
CONSENSUS	
CONSONANCE	
COTERIE	
DIFFUSE	
DISCRETE	
DISJOINTED	
DISPERSE	
DISSIPATE	
DIVERGE	
INCONGRUOUS	
INTERREGNUM	
INTERSTICE	
RIFT	
SCHISM	
SEQUESTERED	
SYNCHRONOUS	
SYNTHESIS	
TANDEM	

True	False
APOCRYPHAL	
CALUMNY	
CANARD	
CANDOR	
CHICANERY	
DISSEMBLE	
DISSIMULATE	
DUPE	
DUPLICITY	
EQUIVOCATE	
ERRONEOUS	
ERSATZ	
FALLACIOUS	
FEALTY	
FEIGNED	
FOIST	
FRANKNESS	
GUILE	
INDISPUTABLE	
INDUBITABLE	
LEGITIMATE	
MALINGER	
MENDACIOUS	
MENDACITY	
PERFIDY	
PREVARICATE	
PROBITY	
SINCERE	
SPECIOUS	
SPURIOUS	
VERACIOUS	

Happy	Unhappy
BLITHE	
DISCONSOLATE	
DISPIRITED	
DOLDRUMS	
DOLOROUS	
EBULLIENT	
EUPHORIC	
FELICITY	
PROVIDENT	
RUE	
WOE	

VOCABULARY DRILLS

Match the following			
1	abjure	abolish	A
2	abrogate	adorn	B
3	acarpous	bedizen	C
4	admonish	bulge	D
5	adumbrate	caviling	E
6	anodyne	deification	F
7	apocryphal	effete	G
8	apotheosis	esoteric	H
9	arabesque	foreshadow	I
10	arcane	illusion	J
11	asperity	labyrinthine	K
12	assay	laugh loudly	L
13	augury	noisy	M
14	auspice	ornate design	N
15	baleful	patronage	O
16	bedizen	portent	P
17	bilge	severity	Q
18	blandish	sinister	R
19	boisterous	slander	S
20	byzantine	soothing	T
21	cachinnate	speed	U
22	calumniate	spurious	V
23	caparison	test	W
24	captious	recant	X
25	celerity	reprove	Z

Match the following

1	churlish	coexisting	A
2	coeval	composure	B
3	contumacious	cow	C
4	craven	defeat	D
5	daunt	digressive	E
6	defalcate	discriminate	F
7	deprecate	disparage	G
8	depredate	disuse	H
9	descry	embezzle	I
10	desuetude	fainthearted	J
11	desultory	loutish	K
12	discomfit	melodious	L
13	discursive	panegyric	M
14	dulcet	pillage	N
15	encomium	quintessence	O
16	epitome	rebellious	P
17	equanimity	thoughtless	Q

Match the following

1	excoriate	awkward	A
2	expurgate	censor	B
3	exscind	censure	C
4	extant	delicate	D
5	fatuous	deny	E
6	feckless	doggedness	F
7	fetid	existing	G
8	forbearance	extirpate	H
9	forswear	heretical	I
10	fractious	ineffectual	J
11	gainsay	inevitable	K
12	gauche	nag	L
13	gossamer	patience	M
14	heterodox	refractory	N
15	hirsute	repudiate	O
16	iconoclastic	shackle	P
17	importune	shaggy	Q
18	indefatigable	silly	R
19	ineluctable	unorthodox	S
20	fetter	malodorous	T

Match the following

1	innervate	agree	A
2	insular	argue	B
3	interdict	baffled	C
4	inveigh	besmirched	D
5	involute	conventional	E
6	jibe	delineate	F
7	labile	denounce	G
8	lachrymose	embolden	H
9	limn	gloss over	I
10	lubricious	intricate	J
11	macerate	lewd	K
12	maculate	meander	L
13	maunder	meddlesome	M
14	meretricious	model	N
15	militate	panacea	O
16	nonplused	parochial	P
17	nostrum	professed	Q
18	nugatory	prohibit	R
19	officious	supercilious	S
20	ossified	tawdry	T
21	ostensible	tearful	U
22	overweening	trifling	V
23	palliate	unstable	W
24	paradigm	waste away	X

Match the following

1	pellucid	appease	A
2	peregrination	babble	B
3	petrous	cowardly	C
4	pillory	craven	D
5	pique	examine critically	E
6	plumb	fractious	F
7	prate	long-winded	G
8	profligate	ostracize	H
9	prolix	precise	I
10	propitiate	prodigal	J
11	proscribe	profound	K
12	puissance	protest	L
13	punctilious	punish	M
14	pusillanimous	regret	N
15	querulous	resentment	O
16	raffish	riddle	P
17	rebus	stony	Q
18	recondite	strength	R
19	recreant	tawdry	S
20	refractory	transparent	T
21	remonstrate	whining	U
22	rue	wandering	V

Match the following

1	sanctimony	bad-tempered	A
2	saturnine	biased	B
3	seine	brag	C
4	sententious	winding	D
5	simper	epigrammatic	E
6	sinuous	timid	F
7	splenetic	fishing-net	G
8	tamp	fluctuate	H
9	tendentious	swollen	I
10	timorous	gloomy	J
11	torrid	mockery	K
12	travesty	offense	L
13	tumid	plug	M
14	turgid	scold	N
15	umbrage	scorching	O
16	undulate	pompous	P
17	upbraid	self-righteousness	Q
18	vaunt	smirk	R

WORDS WORDS WORDS

To remember and recall words faster, group them into various categories. Try following the method of using a tag line, shown below, and put as many words as possible in that category. You will find it very helpful. Come up with your own groups for a lot of other words.

ARE YOU TALKING TO ME?

candid - honest or direct in a way that people find either refreshing or distasteful

The criminal who was arrested made a candid confession about the minister's involvement.

conjecture - the formation of judgments or opinions on the basis of incomplete or inconclusive information

Most theories on UFO's are merely conjectures or a figment of someone's active imagination

didactic - containing a political or moral message

Indian education system requires an overhaul and should be practical, not didactic in nature.

euphemism - a word or phrase used in place of a term that might be considered too direct, harsh, unpleasant, or offensive

Communication today commonly uses euphemisms such as "kicked the bucket", to refer to death.

extrapolate - to use known facts as the starting point from which to draw inferences or conclusions about something unknown

India is eclectic and unique and thus it is impractical to extrapolate the trends of one country to India.

incoherent - not clearly expressed or well thought out, and consequently difficult to understand

People suffering from high temperature are prone to incoherent ramblings and are medically termed delirious.

insinuate - to hint at something unpleasant or suggest it indirectly and gradually

Media trial is mostly incorrect as they insinuate that a possible suspect could be guilty without sufficient evidence.

lucid - rational, and mentally clear, especially only for a period between episodes of delirium or psychosis

The lucid instructions and clear directions given by the leader enabled the team win the treasure hunt competition held in the camp.

rhetoric - speech or writing that communicates its point persuasively

The Police officer tried to use the interrogatory rhetoric to make the criminal confess his wrongdoing.

DO YOU HAVE THE KNACK FOR IT?

acumen - the ability to make quick accurate intelligent judgments about people or situations

Dhirubhai Ambani succeeded in his innovative venture as he had sound business acumen.

adroit - displaying physical or mental skill

The juggler adroitly handled many knives, drawing cheerful applause from the audience.

ascertain - to find out something with certainty

Many experiments have been conducted to ascertain the possibility of life on other planets.

astute - shrewd and discerning, especially where personal benefit is to be derived

An astute businessman, Raghav was able to make the best use of resources to make maximum profits

circumspect - taking into consideration all possible circumstances and consequences before acting

The media is very powerful and therefore should be circumspect about its publications.

disseminate - to distribute or spread something, especially information, widely, or become widespread

Bees and butterflies help to disseminate the pollen of flowers to various places.

erudition - knowledge acquired through study and reading

Amartya Sen's erudition on economics makes him one of the foremost commentators on the subject.

husbandry - the management of domestic affairs or resources generally

Crop husbandry techniques have improved significantly resulting in a dramatic increase in yield.

pedantic - too concerned with what are thought to be correct rules and details, e.g. in language

The headmaster, who was a pedantic, rebuked the children for minor and trivial mistakes.

perspicacious - penetratingly discerning or perceptive

Although it was a complicated and mind boggling case, the detective with his perspicacious observations was able to get to the root of the case and solve it.

pragmatic - more concerned with practical results than with theories and principles

Students today have a lot of exposure and are quite pragmatic while dealing with everyday situations.

precocious - developed or mature, especially mentally, at an unusually early age, or showing such advanced development

Anna, a precocious child, started worrying about pollution and its effects on the environment after a session on the subject in school.

prospectus - an official document giving details about something that is going to happen such as a stock offering, a forthcoming publication, a new business, or a proposed project

The prospectus for the admission can be obtained from the school premises during working hours.

ARE YOU SHERLOCK HOLMES?

abstruse - difficult to understand

The concept of 3-d geometry is quite abstruse and students find it difficult to master it.

callous - showing no concern that other people are or might be hurt or upset

The callous behavior of the Warden hurt the poor student who had no means to stay in a rented accommodation.

emotionally - with emotion

As a lawyer, Harish has to be emotionally detached from the case he is handling, but he sometimes fails to do that.

convoluted - too complex or intricate to understand easily

The convoluted plot and the unexpected twists in the tale made the new novel a bestseller.

enigma - somebody or something that is not easily explained or understood

My new neighbor is a recluse who does not socialize, and is a kind of an enigma to the entire neighborhood.

inscrutable - not expressing anything clearly and thus hard to interpret

The play, though popular was quite inscrutable and was not enjoyed by the masses.

reticent - unwilling to communicate very much, talk freely, or reveal all the facts about something

The politician who was verbose about his achievements became reticent on being questioned about his corruption charges.

staid - sedate and settled in habits or temperament, sometimes to the point of dullness

Ravi, a traditional businessman, shook off his staid reputation and turned into quite a risk-taker, in keeping with changing business trends.

CULTURAL ARTIFACTS

arcane - requiring secret knowledge to be understood

The arcane nature of alchemy ensures that it remains a mystery to most people.

assimilate - to integrate somebody into a larger group, so that differences are minimized or eliminated, or become integrated in this way

Various concepts are repeated at regular intervals to help the children assimilate information easily.

autonomy - political independence and self-government

Employees should be given autonomy so that they learn to accept responsibility and show accountability in the process.

cosmopolitan - composed of or containing people from different countries and cultures

Mumbai, a city known for its cosmopolitan outlook, was taken aback by the terrorist attacks.

derivative - copied from somewhere and not original

Additional research was conducted at Mumbai, using a range of chemicals derivatives to find out the constituents of the explosives used.

esoteric - intended for or understood by only an initiated few

The books of Michael Crichton are esoteric and are meant for a niche section of readers.

gaffe - a clumsy social mistake or breach of etiquette, e.g. an insensitive remark

Gaffes made by politicians after the recent Mumbai terror attacks have shown them in poor light.

CAST OUT

castigate - to criticize or rebuke somebody or somebody's behavior severely

The controversial author's latest work was severely castigated in several sites on the web.

censure - severe criticism

Yuvraj Singh was censured for his heated argument with the umpire on the field.

denounce - to criticize or condemn something publicly and harshly

Christ lovers denounced Dan Browne's "Da Vinci Code" and strongly condemned its claims as untrue and unsubstantiated.

reclusive - solitary and withdrawn from the rest of the world

Many film stars, after being in constant limelight in their youth, become reclusive during later years.

relinquish - to renounce or surrender something

Sourav had to relinquish his captaincy to Dhoni after he was unanimously voted out by the board.

renounce - to give up formally a claim, title, position, or right

Spirituality is more than just renouncing wealth and all worldly pleasures.

vituperative - marked by harshly abusive criticism

Diana resorted to vituperative language when the official demanded a bribe in open daylight.

THERE IS NO WAY AROUND IT

circumscribe - to limit the power of something or somebody to act independently

it is important to circumscribe the limits of media entry, else there will be breach of privacy.

contiguous - sharing a boundary or touching each other physically

Curbing terrorist infiltration into India continues to be a challenge due to India's contiguous boundaries in Kashmir and Rajasthan with Pakistan.

LET'S MAKE PEACE

conciliatory - appease, reconcile

The Pakistan President called his Indian counterpart as a conciliatory gesture after the Mumbai blasts.

incontrovertible - certain, undeniable, and not open to question

There is now incontrovertible evidence that men in fast cars, particularly young men, cause a disproportionate number of road traffic accidents.

indict - to charge somebody formally with commission of a crime

Steve, a shopkeeper, was indicted on charges of helping the criminal by offering shelter.

partisan - a strong supporter of a person, group, or cause, especially one who does not listen to other people's opinions

– Somnath Chatterjee was ousted from CPI because he refused to be a partisan in the nuclear deal issue.

idiosyncrasy - a way of behaving, thinking, or feeling that is peculiar to an individual or group, especially an odd or unusual one

Some people indulge in weird idiosyncrasies like aping the hair style of their favorite hero.

insular - concerned only with local matters and not interested in new ideas or different cultures

All those companies that were too insular in the age of fast paced technological growth have been left far behind by their competitors.

orthodox - following the established or traditional rules of a political or religious belief, a philosophy, or a way of life

Many families in India still cling to their orthodox customs and traditions and are completely opposed to liberal minded rationale.

potentate - somebody with great power or influence, especially a ruler

Saddam Hussein was seen by many as a potentate and a tyrant dictator

I WILL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT

parity - equality of status or position, especially in terms of pay or rank

Companies today need to ensure that there is parity in the salary of people of the same cadre to avoid potentially controversial situations.

rectitude - strong moral integrity in character or actions

Arvind has a finely honed sense of rectitude that makes him strictly follow traffic rules and never jump traffic lights.

remiss - careless or negligent about doing something that is expected

The captain would certainly be remiss if he did not give credit to his entire team for the good work done by them.

repudiate - to disapprove of something formally and strongly and renounce any connection with it

India's claims that the terrorists are Pakistani nationals have been vociferously repudiated by that country's government.

sanctimonious - making an exaggerated show of holiness or moral superiority

My sanctimonious aunt always warned us about the evils of going out alone late in the evening but according to my mother, she did those things herself when she was young.

scrupulous - having or showing careful regard for what is morally right

After being caught once in school for copying, my friend made a scrupulous decision never to cheat again in her life.

solicitous - expressing an attitude of concern and consideration

Radha, being a solicitous mother, gets extremely anxious if her daughter stays out late in the evening.

sophistry - method of argumentation that seems clever but is actually flawed or dishonest

The senatorial candidate argued that his opponent was using sophistry in an effort to distort his plan for education reform.

substantiate - to confirm that something is true or valid

The judge invalidated the lawyer's argument as he failed to substantiate it with reliable evidence.

veracity - the truth, accuracy, or precision of something

His reputation as a chronic liar made us wonder about the veracity of his statements.

vindicate - to clear somebody or something of blame, guilt, suspicion, or doubt

The court vindicated the suspect claiming lack of substantial evidence.

CAN YOU FLATTER ME?

cajole - to persuade somebody to do something by flattery or gentle but persistent argument

Aruna was cajoled by her friends to take up dancing lessons even though she was not too keen.

chicanery - deception or trickery, especially by the clever manipulation of language

It was obvious that Mark only won the election through chicanery and bribery.

obsequious - excessively eager to please or obey

Shop assistants in certain stores can be too obsequious for a customer's comfort.

sycophant - a servile or obsequious person who flatters somebody powerful for personal gain

My boss isn't fooled by the sycophants in my team, who are always singing her praises.

BE GENEROUS

altruism - an attitude or way of behaving marked by unselfish concern for the welfare of others

Social workers such as Mother Teresa are motivated by altruism and not money when they put others before self in every aspect of their lives.

eminent - superior in position, fame, or achievement

Sunita Williams, an eminent personality after her feat, is a role model for many, today.

empathetic - understanding of another's feelings, motives and situations

It is difficult to be empathetic about Gautam's pain as I know it is self inflicted.

extol - to praise somebody or something with great enthusiasm and admiration

Priya continues to extol the virtues of her extremely lazy husband's exemplary character although her friends have repeatedly attempted to change the subject.

laudatory - expressing praise or admiration

The critic's laudatory review of the new movie causes everyone to watch it.

magnanimous - very generous, kind, or forgiving

It was magnanimous of Mr. Ratan Tata to have donated five million rupees to the Bihar flood victims.

philanthropic - showing kindness, charitable concern, and generosity toward other people

Ramakrishna Paramhansa had a philanthropic mindset from birth, and spent most of his life teaching these virtues to others.

reciprocate - to give or feel something mutually or in return

We had a great time at our neighbors' dinner party, and we hope to reciprocate with an invitation to a party of our own soon.

GET RID OF IT

defunct - no longer operative, valid, or functional

With the introduction of core 2 duo processors, Celeron is now defunct technology.

eradicate - to destroy or get rid of something completely, so that it can never recur or return

The need of the hour is to eradicate terrorism and embrace world peace.

expurgate - to remove words or passages considered offensive or unsuitable from a book before publication

The censor board expurgated all scenes from the film, which it felt was inappropriate for the viewing of children.

extirpate - to completely get rid of, kill off, or destroy somebody or something considered undesirable

The politician promised to take immediate measures to extirpate poverty and unemployment from the country.

quell - to bring something to an end, usually by means of force

Since the troops arrived promptly at the scene of crime, they managed to quell any rebellion quickly.

raze - to destroy or level a building or settlement completely

The terrorists had set off to raze the entire economic hub to the ground but could not succeed in their plans.

squelch - to tread heavily in water, mud, wet shoes, etc., with such a sound.

With the heavy rains we had to squelch through a short muddy path to reach the school on time.

supplant - to take the place or position of somebody by force or intrigue

Despite the amazing advancement in the field of robotics, it is difficult for a robot to completely supplant a human being.

stymie - to prevent somebody or something from making further progress

Security measures have to be strictly implemented to stymie the infiltrations across borders

CAN'T SAY ANYTHING NICE

abase - to make somebody feel belittled or degraded

I was warned by my superior that if I continued to be lethargic, he would abase me before my peers and subordinates.

deride - to show contempt for somebody or something

Teenagers today deride the very idea of discipline and brush off various arguments on the subject as a generation gap.

derogatory - expressing criticism or a low opinion

The people of Kerala took offence to the derogatory remarks of the Chief Minister against a martyr's family.

disparage - to refer disapprovingly or contemptuously to somebody or something

The lawyer's disparaging remarks towards Jeff's client was immediately overruled by the judge.

effrontery - behavior or an attitude that is so bold or arrogant as to be insulting

It was nothing but sheer effrontery on Karan's part to take on a wrestler of such repute.

ignominious - involving a total loss of dignity and self-respect, and making somebody or something appear shamefully weak and ineffective

India suffered an ignominious defeat at the hands of Bangladesh in the preliminary match in the World Cup Cricket.

impugn - to suggest that something cannot be trusted, relied on, or respected

The opposition impugned the claims by the home minister about having taken precautionary measures against booth capturing.

mar - to spoil or detract from something

Our holiday in Lakshadweep was marred by bad weather.

pejorative - expressing criticism or disapproval (formal)

Made to wait for a long time for his order, the reviewer was pejorative about the service at the newly opened restaurant on Baker Street.

vindictive - looking for revenge or done through a desire for revenge

The court was unable to find any discrepancies in the company accounts and the honest employee, who was charged falsely, was vindicated.

vex - to make somebody slightly annoyed or upset, especially over a relatively unimportant matter

The student decided to vex his teacher with his irrelevant and senseless questions.

vituperate - to attack somebody in violently abusive or harshly critical language

It is considered unkind to vituperate and condemn people who are lower in rank or status.

OVER KILL

bombastic - bragging

Politicians are so known for their bombastic speeches; hence a speech using simple words said sincerely, is like a breath of fresh air.

ebullience - high spirits, exhilaration

Barack Obama's campaign supporters were ebullient after the US presidential election results.

exorbitant - far greater or higher than is reasonable

Due to the IT boom in Bangalore, real estate prices for commercial properties in the city have become exorbitant.

exuberant - full of happy high spirits and vitality

Seeing John's perfect score in his English test, his teacher was exuberant in his praise.

flagrant - very obvious and contrary to standards of conduct or morality

Costumes worn by artists in music videos are so flagrant that they hurt sensibilities of many people.

lavish - given or produced in abundance or to excess

After winning the state tournament, the winner was praised lavishly by his coach.

opulence - affluence

The opulence of the lobby of The Leela Palace awes most of its visitors.

redundant - not or no longer needed or wanted

The application form had over one hundred questions, with nearly a quarter of the questions redundant.

THROUGH SOMEONE ELSE'S EYES

vicarious - experienced through somebody else rather than at first hand, by using sympathy or the power of the imagination

The concept of vicarious atonement, that one person can atone for the sins of another, is found in many religions.

LOTS AND LOTS

amalgamation - a combination of two or more business concerns so as to form one

Young's recently published theory on Black Hole is an amalgamation of his earlier theories.

inundate - to overwhelm somebody with a huge quantity of things that must be dealt with

Soon after the news flash about an aircrash in Delhi, the airport helpline was inundated with calls from anxious relatives.

multifarious - including parts, things, or people of many different kinds

Spiritualism, though thought by many as worship of God, is a multifarious subject, since there is more to it than just praying to God.

multiplicity - a considerable number or variety

Rome's streets have a multiplicity of architectural styles which tell us the artistic freedom enjoyed by the people who created this great city.

LIAR, LIAR, PANTS ON FIRE

belie - to disguise the true nature of something

Jane's trembling hands belied her confident voice when she dialed the police to report about her sister's kidnap.

debunk - to show that something is wrong or false

Without lack of substantiated research, the medical community debunked the claims made by a young doctor about the discovery of a miracle drug to cure tuberculosis.

dubious - not sure about an outcome or conclusion

The cricketer's dubious distinction with ball tampering made the selection committee think twice about including him in the team.

fallacy - something that is believed to be true but is erroneous

That the world is flat was at one time a popular fallacy.

mendacious - having lied in the past, or prone to lying at any time

Even though Dennis was suffering from fever, his teachers did not allow him to go home because of his reputation of being mendacious.

specious - appearing to be true but really false

The specious idea of the UFO sighting was substantiated when a couple of children owned up to their prank.

SITTING ON THE FENCE

ambiguous - having more than one possible meaning or interpretation

It is still ambiguous whether students will see new question format in the upcoming tests.

ambivalent - having mixed, uncertain, or conflicting feelings about something

Faced with uncertain economic times, the young couple was ambivalent about buying the house of their dreams.

apathetic - not taking any interest in anything, or not bothering to do anything

Politicians seem apathetic to the demands of the IT industry to improve conditions of roads in metropolitan cities.

capricious - tending to make sudden unexpected changes

He's such a capricious boss- I never know how he'll react.

equivocal - open to more than one interpretation, especially in being deliberately expressed in an ambiguous way in an attempt to mislead somebody

The salesman, in a desperate effort to meet his target, was equivocal about the uses of the Popcorn maker to push the purchase.

erratic - not predictable, regular, or consistent, especially in being likely to depart from expected standards at any time

The village always received erratic rainfall due to which farmers were forced to adopt rainwater harvesting.

impetuous - acting on the spur of the moment, without considering the consequences

Jack was infamous for his impetuous spending and gambling habits.

sporadic - occurring at intervals that have no apparent pattern

Rajasthan is characterized by sporadic rainfall giving rise to draught very often.

vacillate - to be indecisive or irresolute, changing between one opinion and another

Anne takes a long time while shopping as her mind vacillates while deciding what clothes to buy.

waver - to go back and forth between possibilities, or be indecisive in making a choice

After a spate of defeats in both ODI's and Test cricket, the country's faith in the cricket team wavered.

whimsical - imaginative and impulsive, capricious

He's such a whimsical boss I never know how he'll react.

I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE

jaded - no longer interested in something, often because of having been overexposed to it

Faced with the same corrupt candidates year after year, the youth of this country are so jaded that they don't even exercise their votes.

SHE'S CRAFTY

disingenuous - withholding or not taking account of known information

It is both insensitive and disingenuous for the White House to describe its aid package and the proposal to eliminate the federal payment as 'here to stay'.

subterfuge - a plan, action, or device designed to hide a real objective, or the process of hiding a real objective

The feeble subterfuge of an anonymous signature was not enough; the committee immediately knew who the writer was.

surreptitious - done in a concealed or underhand way to escape notice, especially disapproval

Bored by the Math class, Jane kept glancing surreptitiously at her watch, counting minutes for the class to end.

JUST A LITTLE BIT

dearth - a scarcity of something

There is a dearth of genuine talent among lyricists today in the entertainment industry.

modicum - a small amount, especially of something abstract such as a quality

He hasn't even a modicum of common sense.

paucity - an inadequacy or lack of something, dearth

There is a dearth of genuine talent among lyricists today in the entertainment industry

paltry - insignificant or unimportant

The company donated a miserable \$100 for flood relief, a paltry sum for what people in the city suffered.

tenuous - not based on anything significant or substantial, and therefore unlikely to stand up to rigorous examination

The criminal offered a tenuous attempt at self defense which was promptly rejected by the court.

FINE ARTS, ANYONE??

aesthetic - pleasing in appearance

As an interior designer, Jane decorated homes aesthetically, making her very popular among the elite.

byzantine - extremely complex or intricate

Modern generations have found similar reasons for their instinctive suspicion of the Byzantine world.

cacophony - an unpleasant combination of loud, often jarring, sounds

Music today sounds more of a cacophony than a melody to old-timers.

dirge - a funeral song, a song of lament

The ritual of singing a dirge is prevalent not only in the west but also in many parts for India.

eclectic - made up of parts from various sources

Indian cuisine is an eclectic blend of spices and flavors blended to give a unique taste.

incongruous - unsuitable or out of place in a specific setting or context

David's joke at the solemn gathering seemed incongruous.

sonorous - producing or possessing sound

The musician's sonorous, heartrending reflection of an American tragedy, Hurricane Katrina, moved the audience to tears.

strident - harsh, loud, grating, or shrill

The strident demands of the vociferous union leaders forced the committee to acknowledge workers' demands.

vignette – a decorative design or small illustration

The lady used the motif of the vignette to embroider on the little girl's frock.

IT'S ALL IN THE TIMING

anachronism - something from a different period of time, e.g. a modern idea or invention wrongly placed in a historical setting in fiction or drama

The sword is an anachronism in modern warfare.

archaic - no longer useful or efficient

The movies inspired from classics are based in Victorian times and follow archaic English.

dilatory - tending to waste time or move slowly

Steve is dilatory in his work habits and has not met a single deadline in the past quarter.

LOOK INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL

portent - an indication that something, often something unpleasant, is going to happen

King Bruce looked for portents before going into the battle.

prescience - knowledge of actions or events before they happen

The biographical film on Dhirubhai Ambani demonstrates his excellent prescience which enabled windfall profits and success.

I AM BORED!!

austere - imposing or suggesting physical hardship

People with high moral values propagate austere living and high thinking as an effective way of leading life.

banal - boringly ordinary and lacking in originality

The director's treatment in his film of war torn border areas was banal and failed to impress critics.

hackneyed - made commonplace and stale by overuse

The hackneyed promotional offers of various products have lost their charm on customers.

insipid - dull because lacking in character and lively qualities

Despite aggressive marketing, the critics found the spread at the newly opened Indian restaurant in New Zealand to be insipid.

prosaic - not having any features that are interesting or imaginative

The examples given by the teacher were prosaic and hackneyed, yet the students tried to feign interest

soporific - causing sleep or drowsiness

My uncle who suffers from insomnia stopped taking medicines and now watches Hindi movies instead; he says these movies have a soporific quality.

vapid - lacking interest or liveliness

Accustomed to tasteful and spicy food, Raj was unable to stomach the vapid food given to him at the hostel mess.

IT ALL CHANGES SO FAST

brevity - briefness in words, shortness of time

P. Chidambaram is known for his brevity while making speeches or conveying a policy change and is hence respected by most CEOs.

ephemeral - lasting for only a short period of time and leaving no permanent trace

Successful people do not bank on laurels and ephemeral praise but on dedicated efforts to bring them glory.

expedient - appropriate, advisable, or useful in a situation that requires action

Use any expedients you think necessary to improve your vocabulary for GRE.

transient - lasting for only a short time and quickly coming to an end, disappearing, or changing

The doctor examined the patient and diagnosed the swelling as a transient growth, not cancerous or fatal.

FULL ON

augment - to add to something in order to make it larger or more substantial, or to grow in this way

Dan's salary was augmented by a small inheritance, which made it easy for him to tide over these uncertain economic times.

bolster - strengthen something through support or encouragement

Raj bolstered his claim with new evidence when he appeared before the ruling committee, forcing the committee to reconsider its decision.

burgeon - produce new buds and leaves, or swell and develop into leaves and flowers

By the turn of the century, Bangalore burgeoned into India's premiere IT hub and is today known as the back office of the IT world.

copious - produced or existing in large quantities

Kerala, a popular holiday destination in India, has lush greenery due to the copious rainfall it receives during monsoon.

distend - to expand, swell, or inflate as if by pressure from within, or cause something to do this

A die-hard couch potato, habitual overeating while watching TV has distended Alex's stomach.

grandiose - pretentious, pompous, and imposing

The guest list for Lisa's wedding ran to nearly one thousand people, giving one the idea of how grandiose the wedding would turn out to be.

prodigious - great in amount, size, or extent

Abhinav Bindra was welcomed with a lot of cheer and received praise for his prodigious feat in the Olympics.

profundity - Depth of intellect, feeling, or meaning.

Visitors to the Vivekananda Memorial at Kanyakumari are awed by the profundity of silence there.

scintillating - possessing or displaying a dazzlingly impressive liveliness, cleverness, or wit

The scintillating performance by Chinese artists during the opening of the Beijing Olympics left viewers across the world mesmerized.

tumultuous - noisy and unrestrained in a way that shows excitement or great happiness

Hungry for leadership, the crowd broke into a tumultuous applause after hearing an inspiring speech by the independent candidate.

DUDE, THIS SUCKS!!

debacle - a sudden disaster, defeat, or humiliating failure

The debacle caused by the breaking of ice upstream during spring, caused the river to flood leading to tremendous damage to the fields surrounding the river.

debilitate - to sap the strength or energy of somebody or something

Tuberculosis debilitates people to such an extent that despite treatment, people take months to recover.

DO YOU AGREE?

concord - agreement, friendly relations, or peace

In 1933, Hitler reached a concord with the church which guaranteed religious rights of German Catholics in return for the church's non-interference in German politics.

concur - to have the same opinion as somebody else, or reach agreement independently on a specific point

Even George Bush now seems to concur with this criticism of George Bush - and I don't just mean speculation that the father is privately critical of the son.

YOU ARE TOO RIGID

dogmatic - the study of religious dogmas, especially Christian dogmas

The dogmatic culture of earlier centuries prevented many people of scientific disposition to speak out.

fastidious - concerned that even the smallest details should be just right

It is generally agreed that Michael Moore's anti-Bush documentary Fahrenheit 9/11 is not one for the intellectually fastidious.

intransigence - uncompromising

By avoiding the real issue of Israeli intransigence, and with no plan on tackling it, neither jobs nor justice are on offer to Palestinians.

jocular - with a playful joking disposition

The Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, suffered an embarrassing blow to his prestige when his own party attacked him for adopting a jocular tone towards inflation at a time of rampant price rises.

meticulous - extremely careful and precise

It was Darwin's meticulous powers of observation, that allowed him to see the exquisite detail of nature more clearly than others.

NASTY BOYS

belligerent - hostile, ready to start a fight, or ready to go to war

The two world wars of the first half of the century involved the entire populations of belligerent countries; both combatants and non-combatants suffered.

cantankerous - easily angered and difficult to get along with

While there is no official response from the famously cantankerous Metallica camp, the engineer who mastered Death Magnetic is apparently as frustrated as the fans.

contentious - causing or likely to cause disagreement and disputes between people with differing views

The contentious human fertilisation and embryology bill, which is passing through parliament, expressly allows research in the area as long as any resulting human embryos are destroyed at 14 days old.

deleterious - having a harmful or damaging effect on somebody or something

In the brain, excess methyl supplementation might have deleterious effects.

exacerbate - to make an already bad or problematic situation worse

Measurements inside the cloud showed raised levels of pollution particles known as PM10s which can exacerbate respiratory and cardiovascular disease, but again the dose is crucial.

flippant - showing a lack of seriousness that is thought inappropriate

The audience was shocked by his flippant remarks about patriotism

insolent - showing an aggressive lack of respect in speech or behavior

Japan is very critical of politicians who display insolent behavior in public.

nefarious - utterly immoral or wicked

He was accused of nefarious dealings by one of his former employees in a case that could have echoes of the dotcom-era abuses in America.

pernicious - causing great harm, destruction, or death

He knows, or should know, the potential consequences of the proliferation of the pernicious views with which he is willing to be associated.

rancorous - bitter

Bill Clinton lined up solidly behind Barack Obama after a rancorous primary campaign.

repugnant - offensive and completely unacceptable

To kidnap and kill anyone is inexcusable. But it is repugnant to commit such a crime against a woman who has spent most of her life working for the good of the people of Iraq.

tawdry - gaudy, cheap in appearance, and of inferior quality

Despite belonging to one of the most elite families in India, Ria wore tawdry clothers that embarrassed her siblings.

NOT THE CENTER OF ATTENTION

conspicuous - easily or clearly visible

John's ownership of an Indian car is conspicuous; a million miles removed from the new luxury that is the trademark of today's multimillionaires.

demure - looking or behaving in a modest manner, with reserve or seriousness

As required, she projected a persona defined by unassailably demure and virtuous composure.

diffidence - shyness

I suppose both shyness and charm and diffidence kept him from being shot at roadblocks in the midst of chaotic civil wars, and the nail-like hardness propelled him towards those roadblocks in the first place.

docile - quiet, easy to control, and unlikely to cause trouble

State building is a more complex operation and requires, at the very least, a friendly if not a docile population.

innocuous - not intended to cause offense or provoke a strong reaction and unlikely to do so

Immanuel Kant called free speech the most innocuous freedom, and tried to persuade enlightened despots to respect it.

placid - tending or appearing to be calm and not easily excited, upset, or disturbed

I give out the image of a placid, rather jovial person.

quiescent - inactive or at rest

Fischer was fairly quiescent for most of the Sixties but nevertheless made 11/11 in the 1963/4 US Championship.

EARTH, WIND AND FIRE

arboreal - describes a species that lives in trees

Scientists now believe that an early, arboreal species of dinosaur evolved feathers, initially to keep warm, and then found that these.....

invocation - a calling upon a greater power such as God or a spirit for help

Most Hindu rituals begin with the invocation of Lord Ganesha, who is known as "vighnaharta" or "remover of obstacles".

stratify - to form something into a layer or layers, or become formed into a layer or layers

Society stratifies when income gaps widen.

variegated - marked with or containing patches of different colors

The response to corruption needs to be as complex and variegated as corruption itself.

verdant - green with vegetation or foliage

If you don't have a verdant park on your doorstep, gyms are a great way to stay healthy.

IT'S GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME

alleviate - to make something such as pain or hardship more bearable or less severe

Industry projects have the potential to promote sustainable development and alleviate poverty.

ameliorate - to make something better, or become better

US secretary of state arrived in Pakistan hoping to ameliorate growing tensions with retribution-seeking India.

beneficial - producing a good or advantageous effect

There is some evidence that students are choosing subjects they believe will be more vocationally beneficial to them.

curative - able to restore health

Baden-Baden's curative Roman baths are supposed to help broken bones heal faster

palliative - soothing anxieties or other intense emotions

Those who reject Diane's plea for help point to palliative care as the solution.

therapeutic - relating to, involving, or used in the treatment of disease or disorders

Palm Springs Resort is located far away in remote countryside and spending even three days there has a therapeutic effect.

MODEL BEHAVIOR

complement - something that completes or perfects something else

It is intriguing to see Owen, Defoe and Rooney fielded together, but they do not complement one another perfectly.

epitome - a highly representative example of a type, class, or characteristic

Mother Teresa was the epitome of selflessness.

felicitous - appropriate or highly suitable

The chairman's felicitous anecdote set everyone at ease.

I WILL SURVIVE

diligent - showing persistent and hard-working effort in doing something

Always submitting projects two days before the deadline, Lisa earned lavish praise for her diligent nature.

maverick - an independent thinker who refuses to conform to the accepted views on a subject

Greg did not adhere to any of the rules subscribed by the group and earned a reputation of a maverick.

mercenary - a professional soldier paid to fight for an army other than that of his or her country

The Iraqi government's crackdown on mercenary companies is a first attempt to deal with the free ride they have enjoyed up to now.

obstinate - determined not to agree with other people's wishes or accept their suggestions

Mr Sharon picked the wrong country to be obstinate with. The US provides Israel with \$840m (£570m) in civilian aid a year.

proliferate - to increase greatly in number

By not declaring itself to be nuclear-armed, Israel gets round a US ban on funding countries that proliferate weapons of mass destruction.

tenacity - tending to stick firmly to any decision, plan, or opinion without changing or doubting it

A number of women in the crowd said they would always admire the example Hillary Clinton set of tenacity.

vigilant - watchful and alert, especially to guard against danger, difficulties, or errors

We will have to be more vigilant about supposed asylum seekers and refugees with revolutionary ambitions.

CONNECT THE DOTS

extraneous - not relevant or applicable

During debates on television news channel, many panelists end up discussing topics extraneous to the debate at hand.

juxtapose - to place two or more things together, especially in order to suggest a link between them or emphasize the contrast between them

Burgeoning pop festivals was started as a reaction against the polarisation of the Arabic world and the west and the idea is simple, to juxtapose sacred music of all cultures and religions

superfluous - in excess of what is needed

The prime minister brought Paul Murphy back for a second spell in the job, but he could have decided that the post had been rendered superfluous by a succession.

synergy - the working together of two or more people, organizations, or things, especially when the result is greater than the sum of their individual effects or capabilities

Many companies in the same domain favor mergers since they believe it creates better synergy.

tangential - with only slight relevance to the current subject

Forced to come to a meeting on a topic she knew nothing about, Sonia's remarks were tangential and raised quite a few eyebrows.

READING COMPREHENSION

TRANSLATING THE QUESTIONS

Some reading comp questions are pretty straightforward:

- According to the passage, what role does oxygen play in the process of photosynthesis?

Others, however, are not:

- Which of the following, if true, is likely to have been the kind of statement used to provide support for the view espoused in the second paragraph of the passage?

If you don't understand what the question is asking, there's no way to find the correct answer. Therefore, you must be able to translate the question from ETS-speak to English.

Translating ETS-speak is one of the keys to improving on reading comprehension questions.

To translate a reading comprehension question:

- read slowly
- don't get bogged down by fancy language
- turn it into a simple, straightforward question

Let's try an example:

- The author develops his argument primarily by

Let's take this one step by step. ETS is asking about the author's "argument," which means we're looking for the author's main point, not any one specific detail. And when ETS says "primarily by," it's asking, "How does he do it?" In other words, How does the author make his point?

Here's another one:

Which of the following would serve as an example of "structured forms" (line 22) that would qualify a poem as post-Modernist?

Again, we'll take it one piece at a time. The passage must be about post-Modernist poetry, and it must include a definition of "structured forms." Any guesses as to where that definition would be? Probably somewhere around line 22. Now, having found the definition of "structured forms" from line 22, you can figure out which one of the answer choices would match the definition given in the passage. In other words, this question is really asking:

Which of these fits the definition of "structured forms"?

As with the examples above, the key to getting started on the reading comp is finding simple, effective translations of all that horrible ETS-speak. Now, try some on your own.

1. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?
2. In describing the “quickly moving organisms” (line 5), the author discusses which of the following?
3. It can be inferred from the passage that, of the following, the most probable reason that feminist historians might be interested in the type of “homestead deeds” mentioned in line 28 is that these documents would
4. The passage suggests that a metal may be described as “reactive” if it
5. It can be inferred from the passage that Ibsen’s vision for *Enemy of the People*
6. Which of the following, if true, would cast the most doubt on the theory that Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz was the original author of the works attributed to her?
7. According to the author, the prevailing vision of the Sami culture during the late nineteenth century reflected Norway’s
8. The author structures her argument to present which of the following as the most obvious conclusion?
9. Which of the following statements could most logically follow the last sentence of the third paragraph?
10. The author would most likely regard the prospects of curing Parkinson’s disease as
11. Which of the following, if discovered to be true, would provide the best support for the view described in the second paragraph?
12. It can be inferred from the passage that the author regards Cheever’s attitude toward literary biographers with

Of course, once you understand what the question is asking, you still have to find and understand the information in the passage, which gets us to our next subject.

Paraphrasing the Information in the Passage

The good news about reading comprehension is this: The correct answer to every question must appear *in the passage*. There is no room for debate, discussion, or interpretation. The answer is there on the screen. You just need to find it. So once you locate the answer, your job is done, right? Hardly. The correct answer to a reading comprehension question will almost never be a direct quote. Rather, ETS goes out of its way to use **paraphrases**.

Be on the lookout for correct paraphrases.

The rules that apply to paraphrasing are similar to those we applied to translating the questions:

- read slowly
- don’t get bogged down by fancy language
- turn ETS’s answer into a simple, straightforward answer of your own

Try matching the numbered statements on the left to their correct paraphrases on the right:

1. Strong national commitment	a. Economic considerations
2. Limited to a few leviathans	b. The effect of a person's social milieu on his or her character
3. No longer local or national	c. Firm national resolve
4. Indifference or sheer stupidity	d. Lacks general consensus
5. Prevailing attitude	e. Limited quantity
6. How individuals are shaped by their social environments	f. Established view
7. There was no college or formal social organization except	g. Carelessness or insensitivity
8. Still subject to debate	h. Spread to several nations
9. Material prospects	i. Both colossal and scarce
10. Restricted in number	j. The only established institution

Of course, it gets a little harder when you have to paraphrase larger chunks of the passage.

Let's try the following example:

As Rothko moved farther from the representational into the purely abstract, he attempted to create a new relationship with the viewer by extending color to the sides of his canvases. This, he hoped, would create an "intimate space" in which the viewer would dwell with the painting, eliminating the separation between seer and object.

This excerpt from a passage discusses a painter named Rothko and how he painted. You can skip the art critic words and still come away with a pretty good idea of what he did. The first sentence says that he "attempted to create a new relationship with the viewer," meaning that he was trying to do something new. What was this new thing? Check out the second sentence: "This . . . would create an 'intimate space'." He was trying to make his paintings more intimate for the viewer. But how was he going to do this? Back to the first sentence: "by extending color to the sides of his canvases." He was going to paint not just the front but also the sides of his canvases.

In other words:

Rothko started painting on the sides of his canvases so that his paintings would be more intimate for the people who looked at them.

Notice that our paraphrase contains nothing that wasn't already in the original passage. Keep in mind that this is not an art, science, or history test—everything you need to know has to be right there in the passage.

Try these three examples. Choose the best paraphrase from the three options given.

1. Although it is tempting to arrange living species in a series of presumed primitive to advanced stages, series of this sort may be misleading if they are taken to represent evolutionary lineages, because each species is specialized for its own ecological niche, and most species combine primitive and advanced features.

(a) Plants and animals can be clearly categorized into advanced or primitive species.

(b) It is a misrepresentation to order different species into set sequences.

(c) It is attractive to determine the physiological make-up of groups. If this is done properly and carefully, taking ecological and evolutionary paths into account, an accurate understanding of a species' past can be gained.

2. Since an object moving across a visual field stimulates a set for a short period, it creates onset and offset patterns similar to those of an intermittent light.

(a) When an object travels briefly across your line of vision, it triggers an effect not unlike a strobe light.

(b) When visual stimuli quickly enter and exit your sight range, they generate an open-closed effect within the eye that stimulates the eye's innermost cells.

(c) Since the cells are stimulated for a short period of time, an object in front of the eye will cause intermittent stimulation.

3. Information about a novelist's life can provide important critical insight into his or her novels, but such information should be subordinated to ideological investigation.

(a) One should always investigate the political ideology of an artist to gain critical insight into that artist's work.

(b) Key events in the life of an author can provide insight into the author's work, but should be of secondary concern to an examination of the author's belief system.

(c) Those who write seem to develop critical insight into the political ideology of others even as they gain a better understanding of their own beliefs.

Now create your own paraphrase of the following excerpts:

1. Although modern culinary training continues to emphasize the 250 basic competencies which were first codified by the French as fundamental to mastering a classic culinary repertoire, the new influx of fusion and pan-Asian-influenced restaurants in the United States **have** succeeded in subverting the hold of this classic, and some say anachronistic, methodology.

2. The evidence that stomach ulceration may, in fact, result from bacterial infection by *Helicobacter pylori* has been accumulating since the 1970s, but has only been granted validity by the scientific establishment since 1994.

3. The advent of this new information technology has not been the panacea technophiles had promised, however; electronic collection and analysis of pharmaceutical data has indeed become a routinized procedure, but one with unforeseen pitfalls.

4. Resultant criticism of the book's strong moral stance often took the form of derogatory remarks in local papers. One critic in Kansas City, in fact, criticized the author for using a language "so elevated in tone as to be virtually unintelligible."

5. Musculoskeletal diseases may also respond to the manipulations of a practitioner of Trager work, a technique which increases patient functionality by releasing the accumulated tension and blockages associated with accidents, stress, and fear.

READING COMPREHENSION DRILLS

Passage 1

Archaeology as a profession faces two major problem. First, it is the poorest of the poor. Only paltry sums are available for excavating and even less is available for publishing the results and preserving the sites (5) once excavated. Yet archaeologists deal with priceless objects every day. Second, there is the problem of illegal excavation, resulting in museum-quality pieces being sold to the highest bidder.

I would like to make an outrageous suggestion that (10) would at one stroke provide funds for archaeology and reduce the amount of illegal digging. I would propose that scientific archeological expeditions and governmental authorities sell excavated artifacts on the open market. Such sales would provide substantial funds for (15) the excavation and preservation of archaeological sites and the publication of results. At the same time, they would break the illegal excavator's grip on the market, thereby decreasing the inducement to engage in illegal activities.

(20) You might object that professionals excavate to acquire knowledge, not money. Moreover, ancient artifacts are part of our global cultural heritage, which should be available for all to appreciate, not sold to the highest bidder. I agree. Sell nothing that has unique (25) artistic merit or scientific value. But, you might reply, everything that comes our of the ground has scientific value. Here we part company. Theoretically, you may be correct in claiming that every artifact has potential scientific value. Practically, you are wrong.

(30) I refer to the thousands of pottery vessels and ancient lamps that are essentially duplicates of one another. In one small excavation in Cyprus, archaeologists recently uncovered 2,000 virtually indistinguishable small jugs in a single courtyard. Even precious royal seal impressions (35) known as/ *melekh* handles have been found in abundance---more than 4,000 examples so far.

The basements of museums are simply not large enough to store the artifacts that are likely to be discovered in the future. There is not enough money even to

(40) catalogue the finds; as a result, they cannot be found again and become as inaccessible as if they had never been discovered. Indeed, with the help of a computer, sold artifacts could be more accessible than are the pieces stored in bulging museum basements. Prior to (45) sale, each could be photographed and the list of the purchasers could be maintained on the computer. A purchaser could even be required to agree to return the piece if it should become needed for scientific purposes.

It would be unrealistic to suggest that illegal digging (50) would stop if artifacts were sold on the open market. But the demand for the clandestine product would be substantially reduced. Who would want an unmarked pot when another was available whose provenance was known, and that was dated stratigraphically by the professional archaeologist who excavated it?

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to propose
 - (A) an alternative to museum display of artifacts
 - (B) a way to curb illegal digging while benefiting the archaeological profession
 - (C) a way to distinguish artifacts with scientific value from those that have no such value
 - (D) the governmental regulation of archaeological sites
 - (E) a new system for cataloguing duplicate artifacts
2. The author implies that all of the following statements about duplicate artifacts are true EXCEPT
 - (A) A market for such artifacts already exists.
 - (B) Such artifacts seldom have scientific value.
 - (C) There is likely to be a continuing supply of such artifacts.
 - (D) Museums are well supplied with examples of such artifacts.
 - (E) Such artifacts frequently exceed in quality those already catalogued in museum collections.
3. Which of the following is mentioned in the passage as a disadvantage of storing artifacts in museum basements?
 - (A) Museum officials rarely allow scholars access to such artifacts.
 - (B) Space that could be better used for display is taken up for storage.
 - (C) Artifacts discovered in one excavation often become separated from each other.
 - (D) Such artifacts are often damaged by variations in temperature and humidity.
 - (E) Such artifacts' often remain un-catalogued and thus cannot be located once they are put in storage.

4. The author mentions the excavation in Cyprus (lines 31-34) to emphasize which of the following points?
- (A) Ancient lamps and pottery vessels are less valuable, although more rare, than royal seal impressions.
 - (B) Artifacts that are very similar to each other present cataloguing difficulties to archaeologists.
 - (C) Artifacts that are not uniquely valuable, and therefore could be sold, are available in large quantities.
 - (D) Cyprus is the most important location for unearthing large quantities of salable artifacts.
 - (E) Illegal sales of duplicate artifacts are wide-spread, particularly on the island of Cyprus.
5. The author's argument concerning the effect of the official sale of duplicate artifacts on illegal excavation is based on which of the following assumptions?
- (A) Prospective purchasers would prefer to buy authenticated artifacts.
 - (B) The price of illegally excavated artifacts would rise.
 - (C) Computers could be used to trace sold artifacts.
 - (D) Illegal excavators would be forced to sell only duplicate artifacts.
 - (E) Money gained from selling authenticated artifacts could be used to investigate and prosecute illegal excavators.
6. The author anticipates which of the following initial objections to the adoption of his proposal?
- (A) Museum officials will become unwilling to store artifacts.
 - (B) An oversupply of salable artifacts will result and the demand for them will fall.
 - (C) Artifacts that would have been displayed in public places will be sold to private collectors.
 - (D) Illegal excavators will have an even larger supply of artifacts for resale.
 - (E) Counterfeiting of artifacts will become more commonplace.

Passage 2

Federal efforts to aid minority businesses began in the 1960's when the Small Business Administration (SBA) began making federally guaranteed loans and government-sponsored management and technical assistance (5) available to minority business enterprises. While this program enabled many minority entrepreneurs to form new businesses, the results were disappointing, since managerial inexperience, unfavorable locations, and capital shortages led to high failure rates. (10) Even 15 years after the program was implemented, minority business receipts were not quite two percent of the national economy's total receipts.

Recently federal policymakers have adopted an approach intended to accelerate development of the (15) minority business sector by moving away from directly aiding small minority enterprises and toward supporting larger, growth-oriented minority firms through intermediary companies. In this approach, large corporations participate in the development of successful and stable (20) minority businesses by making use of government-sponsored venture capital. The capital is used by a participating company to establish a Minority Enterprise

Small Business Investment Company or MESBIC. The MESBIC then provides capital and guidance to minority (25) businesses that have potential to become future suppliers or customers of the sponsoring company. MESBIC's are the result of the belief that providing established firms with easier access to relevant management techniques and more job-specific experience, as (30) well as substantial amounts of capital, gives those firms a greater opportunity to develop sound business foundations than does simply making general management experience and small amounts of capital available.

Further, since potential markets for the minority businesses already exist through the sponsoring companies, (35) the minority businesses face considerably less risk in terms of location and market fluctuation. Following early financial and operating problems, sponsoring corporations began to capitalize MESBIC's far above (40) the legal minimum of \$500,000 in order to generate sufficient income and to sustain the quality of management needed. MESBIC's are now emerging as increasingly important financing sources for minority enterprises.

(45) Ironically, MESBIC staffs, which usually consist of Hispanic and Black professionals, tend to approach investments in minority firms more pragmatically than do many MESBIC directors, who are usually senior

managers from sponsoring corporations. The latter (50) often still think mainly in terms of the "social responsibility approach" and thus seem to prefer deals that are riskier and less attractive than normal investment criteria would warrant. Such differences in viewpoint have produced uneasiness among many minority staff members, (55) who feel that minority entrepreneurs and businesses should be judged by established business considerations.

These staff members believe their point of view is closer to the original philosophy of MESBIC's and they are concerned that, unless a more prudent course is followed, MESBIC directors may revert to policies likely to re-create the disappointing results of the original SBA approach.

1. Which of the following best states the central idea of the passage?
 - (A) The use of MESBIC's for aiding minority entrepreneurs seems to have greater potential for success than does the original SBA approach.
 - (B) There is a crucial difference in point of view between the staff and directors of some MESBIC's.
 - (C) After initial problems with management and marketing, minority businesses have begun to expand at a steady rate.
 - (D) Minority entrepreneurs wishing to form new businesses now have several equally successful federal programs on which to rely.
 - (E) For the first time since 1960, large corporations are making significant contributions to the development of minority businesses.
2. According to the passage, the MESBIC approach differs from the SBA approach in that MESBIC's
 - (A) seek federal contracts to provide markets for minority businesses
 - (B) encourage minority businesses to provide markets for other minority businesses
 - (C) attempt to maintain a specified rate of growth in the minority business sector
 - (D) rely on the participation of large corporations to finance minority businesses
 - (E) select minority businesses on the basis of their location
3. Which of the following does the author cite to support the conclusion that the results of the SBA program were disappointing?
 - (A) The small number of new minority enterprises formed as a result of the program
 - (B) The small number of minority enterprises that took advantage of the management and technical assistance offered under the program.
 - (C) The small percentage of the nation's business receipts earned by minority enterprises following the programs, implementation.
 - (D) The small percentage of recipient minority enterprises that were able to repay federally guaranteed loans made under the program
 - (E) The small number of minority enterprises that chose to participate in the program

4. Which of the following statements about the SBA program can be inferred from the passage?
- (A) The maximum term for loans made to recipient businesses was 15 years.
 - (B) Business loans were considered to be more useful to recipient businesses than was management and technical assistance.
 - (C) The anticipated failure rate for recipient businesses was significantly lower than the rate that actually resulted.
 - (D) Recipient businesses were encouraged to relocate to areas more favorable for business development.
 - (E) The capitalization needs of recipient businesses were assessed and then provided for adequately.
5. The author refers to the “financial and operating problems”(line 38) encountered by MESBIC’s primarily in order to
- (A) broaden the scope of the discussion to include the legal considerations of funding MESBIC’S through sponsoring companies
 - (B) call attention to the fact that MESBIC’s must receive adequate funding in order to function effectively
 - (C) show that sponsoring companies were willing to invest only \$500,000 of government-sponsored venture capital in the original MESBIC’s
 - (D) compare SBA and MESBIC limits on minimum funding
 - (E) refute suggestions that MESBIC’s have been only marginally successful
6. The author’s primary objective in the passage is to
- (A) disprove the view that federal efforts to aid minority businesses have been ineffective
 - (B) explain how federal efforts to aid minority businesses have changed since the 1960’s
 - (C) establish a direct link between the federal efforts to aid minority businesses made before the 1960’s and those made in the 1980’s
 - (D) analyze the basis for the belief that job-specific experience is more useful to minority businesses than is general management experience
 - (E) argue that the “social responsibility approach” to aiding minority businesses is superior to any other approach

Passage 3

Nearly a century ago, biologists found that if they separated an invertebrate animal embryo into two parts at an early stage of its life, it would survive and develop as two normal embryos. This led them to believe that the (5) cells in the early embryo are undetermined in the sense that each cell has the potential to develop in a variety of different ways. Later biologists found that the situation was not so simple. It matters in which plane the embryo is cut. If it is cut in a plane different from the one used (10) by the early investigators, it will not form two whole embryos. A debate arose over what exactly was happening. Which embryo cells are determined, just when do they become irreversibly committed to their fates, and what (15) are the “morphogenetic determinants” that tell a cell what to become? But the debate could not be resolved because no one was able to ask the crucial questions in a form in which they could be pursued productively.

Recent discoveries in molecular biology, however, have (20) opened up prospects for a resolution of the debate. Now investigators think they know at least some of the molecules that act as morphogenetic determinants in early development. They have been able to show that, in a sense, cell determination begins even before an egg (25) is fertilized. Studying sea urchins, biologist Paul Gross found that an unfertilized egg contains substances that function as morphogenetic determinants. They are located in the cytoplasm of the egg cell; i.e., in that part of the (30) cell's protoplasm that lies outside of the nucleus. In the unfertilized egg, the substances are inactive and are not distributed homogeneously. When the egg is fertilized, the substances become active and, presumably, govern the behavior of the genes they interact with. Since the (35) substances are unevenly distributed in the egg, when the fertilized egg divides, the resulting cells are different from the start and so can be qualitatively different in their own gene activity.

The substances that Gross studied are maternal (40) messenger RNA's --products of certain of the maternal genes. He and other biologists studying a wide variety of organisms have found that these particular RNA's direct, in large part, the synthesis of histones, a class of proteins that bind to DNA. Once synthesized, the

(45) histones move into the cell nucleus, where sections of DNA wrap around them to form a structure that resembles beads, or knots, on a string. The beads are DNA segments wrapped around the histones; the string is the intervening DNA. And it is the structure of these beaded **(50)** DNA strings that guides the fate of the cells in which they are located.

1. It can be inferred from the passage that the morphogenetic determinants present in the early embryo are
 - (A) located in the nucleus of the embryo cells
 - (B) evenly distributed unless the embryo is not developing normally
 - (C) inactive until the embryo cells become irreversibly committed to their final function
 - (D) identical to those that were already present in the unfertilized egg
 - (E) present in larger quantities than is necessary for the development of a single individual
2. The main topic of the passage is
 - (A) the early development of embryos of lower marine organisms
 - (B) the main contribution of modern embryology to molecular biology
 - (C) the role of molecular biology in disproving older theories of embryonic development
 - (D) cell determination as an issue in the study of embryonic development
 - (E) scientific dogma as a factor in the recent debate over the value of molecular biology
3. According to the passage, when biologists believed that the cells in the early embryo were undetermined, they made which of the following mistakes?
 - (A) They did not attempt to replicate the original experiment of separating an embryo into two parts.
 - (B) They did not realize that there was a connection between the issue of cell determination and the outcome of the separation experiment.
 - (C) They assumed that the results of experiments on embryos did not depend on the particular animal species used for such experiments.
 - (D) They assumed that it was crucial to perform the separation experiment at an early stage in the embryo's life.
 - (E) They assumed that different ways of separating an embryo into two parts would be equivalent as far as the fate of the two parts was concerned.

4. It can be inferred from the passage that the initial production of histones after an egg is fertilized takes place
- (A) in the cytoplasm
 - (B) in the maternal genes
 - (C) throughout the protoplasm
 - (D) in the beaded portions of the DNA strings
 - (E) in certain sections of the cell nucleus
5. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is dependent on the fertilization of an egg?
- (A) Copying of maternal genes to produce maternal messenger RNA's
 - (B) Synthesis of proteins called histones
 - (C) Division of a cell into its nucleus and the cytoplasm
 - (D) Determination of the egg cell's potential for division
 - (E) Generation of all of a cell's morphogenetic determinants
6. According to the passage, the morphogenetic determinants present in the unfertilized egg cell are which of the following?
- (A) Proteins bound to the nucleus
 - (B) Histones
 - (C) Maternal messenger RNA's
 - (D) Cytoplasm
 - (E) Nonbeaded intervening DNA

Prior to 1975, union efforts to organize public-sector clerical workers, most of whom are women, were somewhat limited. The factors favoring unionization drives seem to have been either the presence of large numbers (5) of workers, as in New York City, to make it worth the effort, or the concentration of small numbers in one or two locations, such as a hospital, to make it relatively easy. Receptivity to unionization on the workers, part was also a consideration, but when there were large (10) numbers involved or the clerical workers were the only unorganized group in a jurisdiction, the multioccupational unions would often try to organize them regardless of the workers' initial receptivity. The strategic reasoning was based, first, on the concern that politicians and administrators might play off unionized (15) against nonunionized workers, and, second, on the conviction that a fully unionized public work force meant power, both at the bargaining table and in the legislature. In localities where clerical workers were few (20) in number, were scattered in several workplaces, and expressed no interest in being organized, unions more often than not ignored them in the pre-1975 period.

But since the mid-1970's, a different strategy has emerged. In 1977, 34 percent of government clerical (25) workers were represented by a labor organization, compared with 46 percent of government professionals, 44 percent of government blue-collar workers, and 41 percent of government service workers. Since then, however, the biggest increases in public-sector unionization (30) have been among clerical workers. Between 1977 and 1980, the number of unionized government workers in blue-collar and service occupations increased only about 1.5 percent, while in the white-collar occupations the increase was 20 percent and among clerical workers (35) in particular, the increase was 22 percent.

What accounts for this upsurge in unionization among clerical workers? First, more women have entered the work force in the past few years, and more of them plan to remain working until retirement age. Consequently, they are probably more concerned than their predecessors were about job security and economic benefits. Also, the women's movement has succeeded in legitimizing the economic and political activism of women on their own behalf, thereby producing a more positive attitude (45) toward unions. The absence of any comparable increase in unionization among private-sector clerical workers, however, identifies the primary catalyst—the structural change in the multioccupational public-sector unions themselves.

Over the past twenty years, the occupational distribution

(50) in these unions has been steadily shifting from predominantly blue-collar to predominantly white-collar. Because there are far more women in white-collar jobs, an increase in the proportion of female members has accompanied the occupational shift (55) and has union policy-making in favor of organizing women and addressing women's issues.

1. According to the passage, the public-sector workers who were most likely to belong to unions in 1977 were
 - (A) professionals
 - (B) managers
 - (C) clerical workers
 - (D) service workers
 - (E) blue-collar workers
2. The author cites union efforts to achieve a fully unionized work force (line 13-19) in order to account for why
 - (A) politicians might try to oppose public-sector union organizing
 - (B) public-sector unions have recently focused on organizing women
 - (C) early organizing efforts often focused on areas where there were large numbers of workers
 - (D) union efforts with regard to public-sector clerical workers increased dramatically after 1975
 - (E) unions sometimes tried to organize workers regardless of the workers' initial interest in unionization
3. The author's claim that, since the mid-1970's, a new strategy has emerged in the Unionization of public-sector clerical workers (line 23) would be strengthened if the author
 - (A) described more fully the attitudes of clerical workers toward labor unions
 - (B) compared the organizing strategies employed by private-sector unions with those of public-sector unions
 - (C) explained why politicians and administrators sometimes oppose unionization of clerical workers
 - (D) indicated that the number of unionized public-sector clerical workers was increasing even before the mid-1970's
 - (E) showed that the factors that favored unionization drives among these workers prior to 1975 have decreased in importance

4. According to the passage, in the period prior to 1975, each of the following considerations helped determine whether a union would attempt to organize a certain group of clerical workers EXCEPT
- (A) the number of clerical workers in that group
 - (B) the number of women among the clerical workers in that group
 - (C) whether the clerical workers in that area were concentrated in one workplace or scattered over several workplaces
 - (D) workplaces
 - (E) the degree to which the clerical workers in that group were interested in unionization
 - (F) whether all the other workers in the same jurisdiction as that group of clerical workers were unionized
5. The author states that which of the following is a consequence of the women's movement of recent years?
- (A) An increase in the number of women entering the work force
 - (B) A structural change in multioccupational public-sector unions
 - (C) A more positive attitude on the part of women toward unions
 - (D) An increase in the proportion of clerical workers that are women
 - (E) An increase in the number of women in administrative positions
6. The main concern of the passage is to
- (A) advocate particular strategies for future efforts to organize certain workers into labor unions
 - (B) explain differences in the unionized proportions of various groups of public-sector workers
 - (C) evaluate the effectiveness of certain kinds of labor unions that represent public-sector workers
 - (D) analyzed and explain an increase in unionization among a certain category of workers
 - (E) describe and distinguish strategies appropriate to organizing different categories of workers

Passage 5

At the end of the nineteenth century, a rising interest in Native American customs and an increasing desire to understand Native American culture prompted ethnologists to begin recording the life stories of Native American. Ethnologists had a distinct reason for wanting to hear the stories: they were after linguistic or anthropological data that would supplement their own field observations, and they believed that the personal stories, even of a single individual, could increase their understanding of the cultures that they had been observing from without. In addition many ethnologists at the turn of the century believed that Native American manners and customs were rapidly disappearing, and that it was important to preserve for posterity as much information as could be adequately recorded before the cultures disappeared forever.

There were, however, arguments against this method as a way of acquiring accurate and complete information. Franz Boas, for example, described autobiographies as being “of limited value, and useful chiefly for the study of the perversion of truth by memory,” while Paul Radin contended that investigators rarely spent enough time with the tribes they were observing, and inevitably derived results too tinged by the investigator’s own emotional tone to be reliable. Even more importantly, as these life stories moved from the traditional oral mode to recorded written form, much was inevitably lost. Editors often decided what elements were significant to the field research on a given tribe. Native Americans recognized that the essence of their lives could not be communicated in English and that events that they thought significant were often deemed unimportant by their interviewers. Indeed, the very act of telling their stories could force Native American narrators to distort their cultures, as taboos had to be broken to speak the names of dead relatives crucial to their family stories.

Despite all of this, autobiography remains a useful tool for ethnological research: such personal reminiscences and impressions, incomplete as they may be, are likely to throw more light on the working of the mind and emotions than any amount of speculation from an ethnologist or ethnological theorist from another culture.

1. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?
 - (A) The historical backgrounds of two currently used research methods are chronicled.
 - (B) The validity of the data collected by using two different research methods is compared.
 - (C) The usefulness of a research method is questioned and then a new method is proposed.
 - (D) The use of a research method is described and the limitations of the results obtained are discussed.
 - (E) A research method is evaluated and the changes necessary for its adaptation to other subject areas are discussed.
2. Which of the following is most similar to the actions of nineteenth-century ethnologists in their editing of the life stories of Native Americans?
 - (A) A witness in a jury trial invokes the Fifth Amendment in order to avoid relating personally incriminating evidence.
 - (B) A stockbroker refuses to divulge the source of her information on the possible future increase in a stock's value.
 - (C) A sports announcer describes the action in a team sport with which he is unfamiliar.
 - (D) A chef purposely excludes the special ingredient from the recipe of his prizewinning dessert.
 - (E) A politician fails to mention in a campaign speech the similarities in the positions held by her opponent for political office and by herself.
3. According to the passage, collecting life stories can be a useful methodology because
 - (A) life stories provide deeper insights into a culture than the hypothesizing of academics who are not members of that culture
 - (B) life stories can be collected easily and they are not subject to invalid interpretations
 - (C) ethnologists have a limited number of research methods from which to choose
 - (D) life stories make it easy to distinguish between the important and unimportant features of a culture
 - (E) the collection of life stories does not require a culturally knowledgeable investigator
4. Information in the passage suggests that which of the following may be a possible way to eliminate bias in the editing of life stories?
 - (A) Basing all inferences made about the culture on an ethnological theory
 - (B) Eliminating all of the emotion-laden information reported by the informant
 - (C) Translating the informant's words into the researcher's language
 - (D) Reducing the number of questions and carefully specifying the content of the questions that the investigator can ask the informant
 - (E) Reporting all of the information that the informant provides regardless of the investigator's personal opinion about its intrinsic value
5. The primary purpose of the passage as a whole is to
 - (A) question an explanation
 - (B) correct a misconception
 - (C) critique a methodology
 - (D) discredit an idea
 - (E) clarify an ambiguity

6. It can be inferred from the passage that a characteristic of the ethnological research on Native Americans conducted during the nineteenth century was the use of which of the following?
- (A) Investigators familiar with the culture under study
 - (B) A language other than the informant's for recording life stories
 - (C) Life stories as the ethnologist's primary source of information
 - (D) Complete transcriptions of informants' descriptions of tribal beliefs
 - (E) Stringent guidelines for the preservation of cultural data

Passage 6

Most large corporations in the United States were once run by individual capitalists who owned enough stock to dominate the board of directors and dictate company policy. Because putting such large amounts of **(5)** stock on the market would only depress its value, they could not sell out for a quick profit and instead had to concentrate on improving the long-term productivity of their companies. Today, with few exceptions, the stock of large United States corporations is held by large **(10)** institutions-pension funds, for example-and because these institutions are prohibited by antitrust laws from owning a majority of a company's stock and from actively influencing a company's decision-making, they can enhance their wealth only by buying and selling **(15)** stock in anticipation of fluctuations in its value. A minority shareholder is necessarily a short term trader. As a result, United States productivity is unlikely to improve unless shareholders and the managers of the companies in which they invest are encouraged to **(20)** enhance long-term productivity (and hence long-term profitability), rather than simply to maximize short-term profits.

Since the return of the old-style capitalist is unlikely, today's short-term traders must be remade into **(25)** tomorrow's long-term capitalistic investors. The legal limits that now prevent financial institutions from acquiring a dominant shareholding position in a corporation should be removed, and such institutions encouraged to take a more active role in the operations of the **(30)** companies in which they invest. In addition, any institution that holds twenty percent or more of a company's stock should be forced to give the public one day's notice of the intent to sell those shares. Unless the announced sale could be explained to the public on **(35)** grounds other than anticipated future losses, the value of the stock would plummet and, like the old-time capitalists, major investors could cut their losses only by helping to restore their companies' productivity. Such measures would force financial institutions to become **(40)** capitalists whose success depends not on trading shares at the propitious moment, but on increasing the productivity of the companies in which they invest.

1. In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with doing which of the following?
 - (A) Comparing two different approaches to a problem
 - (B) Describing a problem and proposing a solution
 - (C) Defending an established method
 - (D) Presenting data and drawing conclusions from the data
 - (E) Comparing two different analyses of a current situation

2. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is true of majority shareholders in a corporation?
- (A) They make the corporation's operational management decisions.
 - (B) They are not allowed to own more than fifty percent of the corporation's stock.
 - (C) They cannot make quick profits by selling their stock in the corporation.
 - (D) They are more interested in profits than in productivity.
 - (E) They cannot sell any of their stock in the corporation without giving the public advance notice.
3. According to the passage, the purpose of the requirement suggested in lines 30-33 would be which of the following?
- (A) To encourage institutional stockholders to sell stock that they believe will decrease in value
 - (B) To discourage institutional stockholders from intervening in the operation of a company whose stock they own
 - (C) To discourage short-term profit-taking by institutional stockholders
 - (D) To encourage a company's employees to take an active role in the ownership of stock in the company
 - (E) To encourage investors to diversify their stock holdings
4. It can be inferred that the author makes which of the following assumptions about the businesses once controlled by individual capitalists?
- (A) These businesses were less profitable than are businesses today.
 - (B) Improving long-term productivity led to increased profits.
 - (C) Each business had only a few stockholders.
 - (D) There was no short-term trading in the stock of these businesses.
 - (E) Institutions owned no stock in these companies.
5. The author suggests that the role of large institutions as stockholders differs from that of the "old-style capitalist" in part because large institutions
- (A) invest in the stock of so many companies that they cannot focus attention on the affairs of any single corporation
 - (B) are prohibited by law from owning a majority of a corporation's stock
 - (C) are influenced by brokers who advise against long-term ownership of stocks
 - (D) are able to put large amounts of stock on the market without depressing the stock's value
 - (E) are attracted to the stocks of corporations that demonstrate long-term gains in productivity
6. The primary function of the second paragraph of the passage is to
- (A) identify problems
 - (B) warn of consequence
 - (C) explain effects
 - (D) evaluate solutions
 - (E) recommend actions

Passage 7

Australian researchers have discovered electroreceptors (sensory organs designed to respond to electrical fields) clustered at the tip of the spiny anteater's snout. The researchers made this discovery by exposing small areas of (5) the snout to extremely weak electrical fields and recording the transmission of resulting nervous activity to the brain.

While it is true that tactile receptors, another kind of sensory organ on the anteater's snout, can also respond to electrical stimuli, such receptors do so only in response to (10) electrical field strengths about 1,000 times greater than those known to excite electroreceptors.

Having discovered the electroreceptors, researchers are now investigating how anteaters utilize such a sophisticated sensory system. In one behavioral experiment, researchers (15) successfully trained an anteater to distinguish between two troughs of water, one with a weak electrical field and the other with none. Such evidence is consistent with researchers' hypothesis that anteaters use electroreceptors to detect electrical signals given off by prey; however, (20) researchers as yet have been unable to detect electrical signals emanating from termite mounds, where the favorite food of anteaters live.

Still, researchers have observed anteaters breaking into a nest ants at an oblique angle and quickly locating nesting chambers. (25) This ability quickly to locate unseen prey suggests, according to the researchers, that the anteaters were using their electroreceptors to locate the nesting chambers.

1. According to the passage, which of the following is a characteristic that distinguishes electroreceptors from tactile receptors?
 - (A) The manner in which electroreceptors respond to electrical stimuli
 - (B) The tendency of electroreceptors to be found in clusters
 - (C) The unusual locations in which electroreceptors are found in most species.
 - (D) The amount of electrical stimulation required to excite electroreceptors
 - (E) The amount of nervous activity transmitted to the brain by electroreceptors when they are excited

2. Which of the following can be inferred about the experiment described in the first paragraph?
- (A) Researchers had difficulty verifying the existence of electroreceptors in the anteater because electroreceptors respond to such a narrow range of electrical field strengths.
 - (B) Researchers found that the level of nervous activity in the anteater's brain increased dramatically as the strength of the electrical stimulus was increased.
 - (C) Researchers found that some areas of the anteater's snout were not sensitive to a weak electrical stimulus.
 - (D) Researchers found that the anteater's tactile receptors were more easily excited by a strong electrical stimulus than were the electro receptors..
 - (E) Researchers tested small areas of the anteater's snout in order to ensure that only electroreceptors were responding to the stimulus.
3. The author of the passage most probably discusses the function of tactile receptors (lines 7-11) in order to
- (A) eliminate an alternative explanation of anteaters' response to electrical stimuli
 - (B) highlight a type of sensory organ that has a function identical to that of electroreceptors
 - (C) point out a serious complication in the research on electroreceptors in anteaters.
 - (D) suggest that tactile receptors assist electroreceptors in the detection of electrical signals.
 - (E) introduce a factor that was not addressed in the research on electroreceptors in anteaters.
4. Which of the following can be inferred about anteaters from the behavioral experiment mentioned in the second paragraph?
- (A) They are unable to distinguish between stimuli detected by their electroreceptors and stimuli detected by their tactile receptors.
 - (B) They are unable to distinguish between the electrical signals emanating from termite mounds and those emanating from ant nests.
 - (C) They can be trained to recognize consistently the presence of a particular stimulus.
 - (D) They react more readily to strong than to weak stimuli.
 - (E) They are more efficient at detecting stimuli in a controlled environment than in a natural environment.

5. The passage suggests that the researchers mentioned in the second paragraph who observed anteaters break into a nest of ants would most likely agree with which of the following statements?
- (A) The event they observed provides conclusive evidence that anteaters use their electroreceptors to locate unseen prey.
 - (B) The event they observed was atypical and may not reflect the usual hunting practices of anteaters.
 - (C) It is likely that the anteaters located the ants' nesting chambers without the assistance of electroreceptors.
 - (D) Anteaters possess a very simple sensory system for use in locating prey.
 - (E) The speed with which the anteaters located their prey is greater than what might be expected on the basis of chance alone.
6. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the hypothesis mentioned in lines 17-19?
- (A) Researchers are able to train anteaters to break into an underground chamber that is emitting a strong electrical signal.
 - (B) Researchers are able to detect a weak electrical signal emanating from the nesting chamber of an ant colony.
 - (C) Anteaters are observed taking increasingly longer amounts of time to locate the nesting chambers of ants.
 - (D) Anteaters are observed using various angles to break into nests of ants.
 - (E) Anteaters are observed using the same angle used with nests of ants to break into the nests of other types of prey.

ARGUMENT QUESTIONS

This chapter will focus on the second type of essay you will face on the GRE—Analysis of an Argument. The Argument essay tests your writing and reasoning skills in a different way than does the Issue essay. Instead of asking for your opinion on a topic, the Argument essay asks you to critique someone else’s argument. In fact, providing your opinion on the issue will result in a low score. Your job is to discuss how well-reasoned and persuasive you find the argument.

High-scoring Argument essays:

- Discuss the reasoning underlying the argument.
- Point out flaws in the reasoning or questionable assumptions made by the author.
- Explain how additional information would strengthen or weaken the assumptions and affect the conclusion.
- Suggest how to make the argument more sound.

Before we jump into how to approach the Argument essay, let’s take a look at how to analyze an argument.

Analyzing Arguments

On the GRE, “argument” means a set of statements intended to demonstrate the truth of a position. To analyze an argument, first identify what the author is arguing and how the author makes his or her points. Next, look for weaknesses in the argument.

Parts of an Argument

When you read an argument, begin by breaking it down into its parts. Three connected parts make up an argument. The first two, the conclusion and premises, are stated explicitly in the argument, while the third part, the assumption, is unwritten.

Let’s look at each of the parts in more detail.

Conclusion

The conclusion is the main point or central claim of the argument. Think of an argument as a television commercial. After you read the argument, ask yourself, “What is the author trying to sell me?” The claim the author wants you to accept is the conclusion of the argument.

Often, you will see indicator words that will help you find the conclusion.

Conclusion Indicators

- Therefore
- Hence
- Clearly
- Consequently
- Thus
- In conclusion
- So

Premises

Once you have found the conclusion, identify the premises—any reasons, statistics, or evidence—the author provides to support the conclusion. Premises usually sound like facts, rather than opinions. Even if you disagree with the premises provided as support for a conclusion, you must accept them as true. Sometimes, indicator words can help you find the premises.

Premise Indicators

- Since
- Because
- Suppose
- As a result of

The Why Test

Indicator words can help you find the conclusion and premises, but not every argument uses them. The most reliable method for identifying these parts is the Why Test. Once you have found the conclusion, ask yourself why the author believes the conclusion to be true. The premises should provide the answer to the question. If you try the Why Test and the answer does not make sense, you have probably reversed the conclusion and premises.

Let's break down an example:

Cream cheese contains 50 percent fewer calories per Table spoon than does butter or margarine. Therefore, a bagel with cream cheese is more healthful than is a bagel with butter on it.

First, find the conclusion. The word "Therefore" is a conclusion indicator. The conclusion of this argument is that "a bagel with cream cheese is more healthful than is a bagel with butter on it." Next, let's use the Why Test to confirm that we have correctly identified the conclusion. Ask, "Why is a bagel with cream cheese more healthful than a bagel with butter?" The answer is, "Cream cheese contains 50 percent fewer calories per tablespoon than does butter or margarine." Since the information makes sense as support for the conclusion, we know we correctly broke down the argument. Had we reversed the premise and conclusion, the Why Test would have failed. It is not logical to conclude that, "Cream cheese contains 50 percent fewer calories per tablespoon than does butter or margarine" because "Therefore, a bagel with cream cheese is more healthful than is a bagel with butter on it." Always use the Why Test to separate the conclusion and premises.

Finding Flaws and Assumptions

Now that you are getting the hang of reading for the conclusion and premises, let's move on to the next step in analyzing an argument. You probably found the preceding argument unconvincing. That's because, like most GRE arguments, it contains faulty reasoning. Whether or not you agree with an argument's conclusion, the reasoning leading to that conclusion likely contains a flaw. The test writers construct arguments with questionable reasoning so that they can test your ability to identify and describe these errors.

Identify the flaws in an argument by looking for a shift between the conclusion and premises or a faulty interpretation of evidence. The premises rarely provide enough evidence to lead convincingly to the conclusion.

Find shifts by determining what is mentioned in the conclusion that was not mentioned in the premises. Once you have found the shift, you can make the argument work by filling in the assumption. The assumption is the unstated part of the argument that is required to connect the premises to the conclusion. Though not explicitly stated by the author, the assumption must be true for the argument to be well-reasoned. If you want to weaken an argument, widen the gap between the conclusion and premises by attacking the assumption.

Let's examine the cream cheese argument again:

Conclusion: A bagel with cream cheese is more healthful than is a bagel with butter on it.

Premise: Cream cheese contains 50 percent fewer calories per tablespoon than does butter or margarine.

The author broadened the scope of the argument from calories (in the premise) to the more general statement about health in the conclusion. Thus, there is a shift from "fewer calories" to "more healthful." For this argument to be true, we must assume that having fewer calories per set amount is enough to qualify one food as more healthful than another.

You can also find assumptions by questioning the conclusion the author draws from the evidence. In this case, the author thinks the statistic—50 percent fewer calories—is sufficient to draw the conclusion about what is more healthful. That's questionable because we don't know how much butter, margarine, or cream cheese people put on their bagels. We also need to assume that people use similar quantities of butter, margarine, or cream cheese on a bagel, proving that the combination of bagel and cream cheese has fewer calories than does the combination of bagel and butter.

These two assumptions are necessary to make a valid argument. If we wanted to weaken the argument, we would need to attack the assumptions. For example, we could say that most people use significantly more cream cheese on their bagels than they do butter. Someone who uses more than twice as much cream cheese as butter would actually consume more calories. Even if calories were the only determining factor in healthfulness, the bagel with cream cheese would be less healthful.

Analyzing Arguments

1. Identify the conclusion.
2. Identify the premises.
3. Use the Why Test to confirm that you have correctly identified the conclusion and premises.
4. Identify flaws in the argument.

Look for shifts—words, phrases, or ideas that are new to the conclusion.

Question the interpretation of evidence—think about why the evidence in the premises might not be enough to prove the conclusion.

5. State the assumptions.

Flaws describe what's wrong with the argument or what's missing from the argument. Turn the flaw around and state what you need to believe in order to make the argument valid.

COMMON FLAWS

If you learn to recognize the following common flaws, you will find it much easier to analyze arguments.

Causal Flaws

Frequently, an argument's premises state that two things happened, and the author concludes that one caused the other.

Look at an example:

Causal Flaws

A study indicated that adults who listen to classical music regularly are less likely to have anxiety disorders. Clearly, classical music helps calm the nerves and lower anxiety.

The author concludes that classical music helps calm the nerves and lower anxiety because the study found a correlation between listening to classical music and experiencing a lower likelihood of having anxiety disorders. However, the fact that two things are related does not prove that one caused the other. To make the causal link in this argument, we must assume that listening to classical music was the only factor responsible for lowering anxiety. We must rule out the possibility that any other factors played a role. We must also rule out the idea that having a lower anxiety level causes people to listen to classical music. To break the causal link, we could show that another factor explains the lower rate of anxiety disorders in people who listen to classical music. For example, if we knew that a majority of people who listen to classical music take anti-anxiety drugs, we might conclude that the drugs, not the music, lowered their anxiety. We could also weaken the argument by showing the causality is reversed. If we knew that calmer people were predisposed to enjoy classical music because it reflects their moods, the conclusion would be invalid.

Sampling and Statistical Flaws

When you encounter an argument based on percentages, numbers, or samples, the flaw usually relates to the failure of the data to prove the conclusion. If you look at all evidence skeptically, you will be able to find these arguments more easily. Sampling arguments reach a conclusion based on evidence about a subset of a group. They assume that the subset is typical and reflects the larger group. Arguments about survey results usually fall into this category.

Look at an example:

Contrary to popular belief, high school students overwhelmingly approve of the high school administrative staff. We know this to be true because the student council expressed admiration for the high school principal and her staff in the council's editorial for the school paper.

The author concludes that students approve of the school administration based on the student council's opinion as expressed in the paper. The gap is between the student council and the general student body, and the author draws on a sample population to reach a conclusion about the whole population. To make the link, we must assume that the editorial is an accurate reflection of the feelings of the general student population. We could break the link by proving the student council's view does not represent the views of the rest of the students. For example, maybe the student council is made up of sycophants who want to get favorable college recommendations from members of the administration.

Whenever an author bases a conclusion about a general population on a sample or survey, remain skeptical. The author assumes that the part of the population sampled or surveyed is representative of the entire population. To strengthen a sampling argument, provide a reason why the sample is representative of the whole. To weaken a sampling argument, show that the sample is not necessarily representative of the whole.

Statistical arguments hinge on a questionable interpretation of numerical data. Most often, the author confuses percentages with actual values.

Look at an example:

Ninety percent of the population of Prelandia lived in rural areas in 1800. Today, only 20 percent of the population lives in rural areas. Clearly, more people lived in the countryside two centuries ago.

The author believes that since the percentage of people living in rural areas decreased, the actual number of people living in rural areas must have decreased. Arguments involving percentages are often math problems. Remember that percentages compare a part to a whole. In this case, the percentages tell us:

Rural population/Total population

Whether the conclusion is true depends on how the past and present populations compare. To make the link, we need to prove that the total population in the past and present are comparable. For example, if the population was 100 people in 1800 and 100 people today, we could say that 90 people lived in rural areas in the past and 20 people live there today. The argument would be valid. To attack the argument, we need to prove that the total population has changed. For example, if the country's population was 100 people in 1800, 90 of them lived in rural areas. If the population is 1,000 people today, then 20 percent would be 200 people. More people actually live in rural areas now, even though their percentage in the population has decreased. The argument is invalid.

Arguments that involve a comparison of percentages assume that the percentages are based on comparable totals. Be wary whenever an author uses information from percentages to draw conclusions about actual values and vice versa. To strengthen statistical arguments, prove that the author's interpretation of the figures is valid. To attack statistical arguments, add information that calls the author's interpretation of the statistics into question. Weakening statistical arguments most often involves demonstrating that the author incorrectly compared two percentages or confused percentages with actual values.

Analogy Flaws

Some arguments use evidence about one thing to reach a conclusion about another. These arguments assume that two things are similar enough to sustain the comparison. Look at an example:

Contrary to opponents' charges that a single-payer health-care system cannot work in a democratic nation such as the United States, an overhaul of the American health-care system is necessary. Opponents of the single-payer system in the United States should remember that Canada, a nation with a strong democratic tradition, has run a viable single-payer health-care program for many years.

The author concludes that because a single-payer health-care system works in Canada, it will work in the United States. The gap is between the United States and Canada, and we must assume they are similar enough to make the comparison valid. To strengthen this argument, we could add additional reasons for which the two nations may be compared. We could weaken the argument by suggesting reasons for which the comparison is not valid. For example, we could say that the differences in the populations and economies of the two nations mean that policies that work in one country won't work in the other.

Brainstorming

Start the brainstorming step by analyzing the argument in the prompt. The test writers purposely create badly reasoned arguments, so you should be able to find two or three significant flaws. Write down on your scratch paper:

- Conclusion
- Premises
- Flaws/Assumptions
- What additional evidence would be needed to support or undermine the conclusion
- How to make the argument more sound

CRITICAL REASONING – WEAKENING QUESTIONS

1. The average life expectancy for the United States population as a whole is 73.9 years, but children born in Hawaii will live an average of 77 years, and those born in Louisiana, 71.7 years. If a newlywed couple from Louisiana were to begin their family in Hawaii, therefore, their children would be expected to live longer than would be the case if the family remained in Louisiana.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the conclusion drawn in the passage?

- (A) Insurance company statisticians do not believe that moving to Hawaii will significantly lengthen the average Louisianan's life.
 - (B) The governor of Louisiana has falsely alleged that statistics for his state are inaccurate.
 - (C) The longevity ascribed to Hawaii's current population is attributable mostly to genetically determined factors.
 - (D) Thirty percent of all Louisianans can expect to live longer than 77 years.
 - (E) Most of the Hawaiian Islands have levels of air pollution well below the national average for the United States.
2. The ice on the front windshield of the car had formed when moisture condensed during the night. The ice melted quickly after the car was warmed up the next morning because the defrosting vent, which blows on the front windshield, was turned on full force.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously jeopardizes the validity of the explanation for the speed with which the ice melted?

- (A) The side windows had no ice condensation on them
 - (B) Even though no attempt was made to defrost the back window, the ice there melted at the same rate as did the ice on the front windshield.
 - (C) The speed at which ice on a window melts increases as the temperature of the air blown on the window increases
 - (D) The warm air from the defrosting vent for the front windshield cools rapidly as it dissipates throughout the rest of the car.
 - (E) The defrosting vent operates efficiently even when the heater, which blows warm air toward the feet or faces of the driver and passengers, is on.
3. A conservation group in the United States is trying to change the long-standing image of bats as frightening creatures. The group contends that bats are feared and persecuted solely because they are shy animals that are active only at night.

Which of the following, if true, would cast the most serious doubt on the accuracy of the group's contention?

- (A) Bats are steadily losing natural roosting places such as caves and hollow trees and are thus turning to more developed areas for roosting.
- (B) Bats are the chief consumers of nocturnal insects and thus can help make their hunting territory more pleasant for humans.

- (C) Bats are regarded as frightening creatures not only in the United States but also in Europe, Africa, and South America.
 - (D) Raccoons and owls are shy and active only at night; yet they are not generally feared and persecuted.
 - (E) People know more about the behavior of other greatly feared animal species, such as lions, alligators, and snakes, than they do about the behavior of bats.
4. The fewer restrictions there are on the advertising of legal services, the more lawyers there are who advertise their services, and the lawyers who advertise a specific service usually charge less for that service than lawyers who do not advertise. Therefore, if the state removes any of its current restrictions, such as the one against advertisements that do not specify fee arrangements, overall consumer legal costs will be lower than if the state retains its current restrictions.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument concerning overall consumer legal costs?

- (A) The state has recently removed some other restrictions that had limited the advertising of legal services.
 - (B) The state is unlikely to remove all of the restrictions that apply solely to the advertising of legal services.
 - (C) Lawyers who do not advertise generally provide legal services of the same quality as those provided by lawyers who do advertise.
 - (D) Most lawyers who now specify fee arrangements in their advertisements would continue to do so even if the specification were not required.
 - (E) Most lawyers who advertise specific services do not lower their fees for those services when they begin to advertise.
5. Opponents of laws that require automobile drivers and passengers to wear seat belts argue that in a free society people have the rights to take risks as long as the people do not harm other as a result of taking the risks. As a result, they conclude that it should be each person's decision whether or not to wear a seat belt.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the conclusion drawn above?

- (A) Many new cars are built with seat belts that automatically fasten when someone sits in the front seat.
 - (B) Automobile insurance rates for all automobile owners are higher because of the need to pay for the increased injuries or deaths of people not wearing seat belts.
 - (C) Passengers in airplanes are required to wear seat belts during takeoffs and landings.
 - (D) The rate of automobile fatalities in states that do not have mandatory seat belt laws is greater than the rate of fatalities in states that do have such laws.
 - (E) In automobile accidents, a greater number of passengers who do not wear seat belts are injured than are passengers who do wear seat belts.
6. A proposed ordinance requires the installation in new homes of sprinklers automatically triggered by the presence of a fire. However, a home builder argued that because more than ninety percent of residential fires are extinguished by a household member, residential sprinklers would only marginally decrease property damage caused by residential fires.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the home builder's argument?

- (A) Most individuals have no formal training in how to extinguish fires.
- (B) Since new homes are only a tiny percentage of available housing in the city, the new ordinance would be extremely narrow in scope.
- (C) The installation of smoke detectors in new residences costs significantly less than the installation of sprinklers.

- (D) In the city where the ordinance was proposed, the average time required by the fire department to respond to a fire was less than the national average.
 - (E) The largest proportion of property damage that results from residential fires is caused by fires that start when no household member is present.
7. The average normal infant born in the United States weighs between twelve and fourteen pounds at the age of three months. Therefore, if a three-month-old child weighs only ten pounds, its weight gain has been below the United States average.

Which of the following indicates a flaw in the reasoning above?

- (A) Weight is only one measure of normal infant development.
 - (B) Some three-month-old children weigh as much as seventeen pounds.
 - (C) It is possible for a normal child to weigh ten pounds at birth.
 - (D) The phrase "below average" does not necessarily mean insufficient.
 - (E) Average weight gain is not the same as average weight
8. Red blood cells in which the malarial-fever parasite resides are eliminated from a person's body after 120 days. Because the parasite cannot travel to a new generation of red blood cells, any fever that develops in a person more than 120 days after that person has moved to a malaria-free region is not due to the malarial parasite.

Which is the following, if true, most seriously weakens the conclusion above?

- (A) The fever caused by the malarial parasite may resemble the fever caused by flu viruses.
 - (B) The anopheles mosquito, which is the principal insect carrier of the malarial parasite, has been eradicated in many parts of the world.
 - (C) Many malarial symptoms other than the fever, which can be suppressed with anti-malarial medication, can reappear within 120 days after the medication is discontinued.
 - (D) In some cases, the parasite that causes malarial fever travels to cells of the spleen, which are less frequently eliminated from a person's body than are red blood cells.
 - (E) In any region infested with malaria-carrying mosquitoes, there are individuals who appear to be immune to malaria.
9. The number of people diagnosed as having a certain intestinal disease has dropped significantly in a rural county this year, as compared to last year. Health officials attribute this decrease entirely to improved sanitary conditions at water-treatment plants, which made for cleaner water this year and thus reduced the incidence of the disease.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the health officials' explanation for the lower incidence of the disease?

- (A) Many new water-treatment plants have been built in the last five years in the rural county.
- (B) Bottled spring water has not been consumed in significantly different quantities by people diagnosed as having the intestinal disease, as compared to people who did not contract the disease.
- (C) Because of a new diagnostic technique, many people who until this year would have been diagnosed as having the intestinal disease are now correctly diagnosed as suffering from intestinal ulcers.
- (D) Because of medical advances this year, far fewer people who contract the intestinal disease will develop severe cases of the disease.
- (E) The water in the rural county was brought up to the sanitary standards of the water in neighboring countries ten years ago.

10. Since the mayor's publicity campaign for Greenville's bus service began six months ago, morning automobile traffic into the midtown area of the city has decreased seven percent. During the same period, there has been an equivalent rise in the number of persons riding buses into the midtown area. Obviously, the mayor's publicity campaign has convinced many people to leave their cars at home and ride the bus to work.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most serious doubt on the conclusion drawn above?

- (A) Fares for all bus routes in Greenville have risen an average of five percent during the past six months.
- (B) The mayor of Greenville rides the bus to City Hall in the city's midtown area.
- (C) Road reconstruction has greatly reduced the number of lanes available to commuters in major streets leading to the midtown area during the past six months.
- (D) The number of buses entering the midtown area of Greenville during the morning hours is exactly the same now as it was one year ago.
- (E) Surveys show that longtime bus riders are no more satisfied with the Greenville bus service than they were before the mayor's publicity campaign began.

11. With the emergence of biotechnology companies, it was feared that they would impose silence about proprietary results on their in-house researchers and their academic consultants. This constraint, in turn, would slow the development of biological science and engineering.

Which of the following, if true, would tend to weaken most seriously the prediction of scientific secrecy described above?

- (A) Biotechnological research funded by industry has reached some conclusions that are of major scientific importance.
- (B) When the results of scientific research are kept secret, independent researchers are unable to build on those results.
- (C) Since the research priorities of biotechnology companies are not the same as those of academic institutions, the financial support of research by such companies distorts the research agenda.
- (D) To enhance the companies' standing in the scientific community, the biotechnology companies encourage employees to publish their results, especially results that are important.
- (E) Biotechnology companies devote some of their research resources to problems that are of fundamental scientific importance and that are not expected to produce immediate practical applications.

12. On the basis of a decrease in the college-age population, many colleges now anticipate increasingly smaller freshman classes each year. Surprised by a 40 percent increase in qualified applicants over the previous year, however, administrators at Nice College now plan to hire more faculties for courses taken by all freshmen.

Which of the following statements about Nice College's current qualified applicants, if true, would strongly suggest that the administrators' plan is flawed?

- (A) A substantially higher percentage than usual plan to study for advanced degrees after graduation from college.

- (B) According to their applications, their level of participation in extracurricular activities and varsity sports is unusually high.
- (C) According to their applications, none of them lives in a foreign country.
- (D) A substantially lower percentage than usual rate Nice College as their first choice among the colleges to which they are applying.
- (E) A substantially lower percentage than usual list mathematics as their intended major.

13. Most consumers do not get much use out of the sports equipment they purchase. For example, seventeen percent of the adults in the United States own jogging shoes, but only forty-five percent of the owners jog more than once a year, and only seventeen percent jog more than once a week.

Which of the following, if true, casts most doubt on the claim that most consumers get little use out of the sports equipment they purchase?

- (A) Joggers are most susceptible to sports injuries during the first six months in which they jog.
 - (B) Joggers often exaggerate the frequency with which they jog in surveys designed to elicit such information.
 - (C) Many consumers purchase jogging shoes for use in activities other than jogging.
 - (D) Consumers who take up jogging often purchase an athletic shoe that can be used in other sports.
 - (E) Joggers who jog more than once a week are often active participants in other sports as well.
14. Certain messenger molecules fight damage to the lungs from noxious air by telling the muscle cells encircling the lungs' airways to contract. This partially seals off the lungs. An asthma attack occurs when the messenger molecules are activated unnecessarily, in response to harmless things like pollen or household dust.

Which of the following, if true, points to the most serious flaw of a plan to develop a medication that would prevent asthma attacks by blocking receipt of any messages sent by the messenger molecules referred to above?

- (A) Researchers do not yet know how the body produces the messenger molecules that trigger asthma attacks.
 - (B) Researchers do not yet know what makes one person's messenger molecules more easily activated than another's.
 - (C) Such a medication would not become available for several years, because of long lead times in both development and manufacture.
 - (D) Such a medication would be unable to distinguish between messages triggered by pollen and household dust and messages triggered by noxious air.
 - (E) Such a medication would be a preventative only and would be unable to alleviate an asthma attack once it had started.
15. The recent decline in the value of the dollar was triggered by a prediction of slower economic growth in the coming year. But that prediction would not have adversely affected the dollar had it not been for the government's huge budget deficit, which must therefore be decreased to prevent future currency declines.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the conclusion about how to prevent future currency declines?

- (A) The government has made little attempt to reduce the budget deficit.
- (B) The budget deficit has not caused a slowdown in economic growth.
- (C) The value of the dollar declined several times in the year prior to the recent prediction of slower economic growth.
- (D) Before there was a large budget deficit, predictions of slower economic growth frequently caused declines in the dollar's value.
- (E) When there is a large budget deficit, other events in addition to predictions of slower economic growth sometimes trigger declines in currency value.

CRITICAL REASONING – STRENGTHENING

1. The average life expectancy for the United States population as a whole is 73.9 years, but children born in Hawaii will live an average of 77 years, and those born in Louisiana, 71.7 years. If a newlywed couple from Louisiana were to begin their family in Hawaii, therefore, their children would be expected to live longer than would be the case if the family remained in Louisiana.

Which of the following statements, if true, would most significantly strengthen the conclusion drawn in the passage?

- (A) As population density increases in Hawaii, life expectancy figures for that state are likely to be revised downward.
 - (B) Environmental factors tending to favor longevity are abundant in Hawaii and less numerous in Louisiana.
 - (C) Twenty-five percent of all Louisianans who move to Hawaii live longer than 77 years.
 - (D) Over the last decade, average life expectancy has risen at a higher rate for Louisianans than for Hawaiians.
 - (E) Studies show that the average life expectancy for Hawaiians who move permanently to Louisiana is roughly equal to that of Hawaiians who remain in Hawaii.
2. Toughened hiring standards have not been the primary cause of the present staffing shortage in public schools. The shortage of teachers is primarily caused by the fact that in recent years teachers have not experienced any improvements in working conditions and their salaries have not kept pace with salaries in other professions.

Which of the following, if true, would most support the claims above?

- (A) Many teachers already in the profession would not have been hired under the new hiring standards.
 - (B) Today more teachers are entering the profession with a higher educational level than in the past.
 - (C) Some teachers have cited higher standards for hiring as a reason for the current staffing shortage.
 - (D) Many teachers have cited low pay and lack of professional freedom as reasons for their leaving the profession.
 - (E) Many prospective teachers have cited the new hiring standards as a reason for not entering the profession.
3. Rural households have more purchasing power than do urban or suburban households at the same income level, since some of the income urban and suburban households use for food and shelter can be used by rural households for other needs.

Which of the following inferences is best supported by the statement made above?

- (A) The average rural household includes more people than does the average urban or suburban household.
- (B) Rural households have lower food and housing costs than do either urban or suburban households.
- (C) Suburban households generally have more purchasing power than do either rural or urban households.
- (D) The median income of urban and suburban households is generally higher than that of rural households.
- (E) All three types of households spend more of their income on food and housing than on all other purchases combined.

4. If the airspace around centrally located airports were restricted to commercial airliners and only those private planes equipped with radar, most of the private-plane traffic would be forced to use outlying airfields. Such a reduction in the amount of private-plane traffic would reduce the risk of midair collision around the centrally located airports.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion drawn in the second sentence?

- (A) Commercial airliners are already required by law to be equipped with extremely sophisticated radar systems.
 - (B) Centrally located airports are experiencing overcrowded airspace primarily because of sharp increases in commercial airline traffic.
 - (C) Many pilots of private planes would rather buy radar equipment than be excluded from centrally located airports.
 - (D) The number of midair collisions that occur near centrally located airports has decreased in recent years.
 - (E) Private planes not equipped with radar systems cause a disproportionately large number of midair collisions around centrally located airports.
5. Airline: Newly developed collision-avoidance systems, although not fully tested to discover potential malfunctions, must be installed immediately in passenger planes. Their mechanical warnings enable pilots to avoid crashes.

Pilots: Pilots will not fly in planes with collision-avoidance systems that are not fully tested. Malfunctioning systems could mislead pilots, causing crashes.

The pilots' objection is most strengthened if which of the following is true?

- (A) It is always possible for mechanical devices to malfunction.
 - (B) Jet engines, although not fully tested when first put into use, have achieved exemplary performance and safety records.
 - (C) Although collision-avoidance systems will enable pilots to avoid some crashes, the likely malfunctions of the not fully-tested systems will cause even more crashes.
 - (D) Many airline collisions are caused in part by the exhaustion of overworked pilots.
 - (E) Collision-avoidance systems, at this stage of development, appear to have worked better in passenger planes than in cargo planes during experimental flights made over a six-month period.
6. Two decades after the Emerald River Dam was built, none of the eight fish species native to the Emerald River was still reproducing adequately in the river below the dam. Since the dam reduced the annual range of water temperature in the river below the dam from 50 degrees to 6 degrees, scientists have hypothesized that sharply rising water temperatures must be involved in signaling the native species to begin the reproductive cycle.

Which of the following statements, if true, would most strengthen the scientists' hypothesis?

- (A) The native fish species were still able to reproduce only in side streams of the river below the dam where the annual temperature range remains approximately 50 degrees.
- (B) Before the dam was built, the Emerald River annually overflowed its banks, creating backwaters that were critical breeding areas for the native species of fish.
- (C) The lowest recorded temperature of the Emerald River before the dam was built was 34 degrees, whereas the lowest recorded temperature of the river after the dam was built has been 43 degrees.
- (D) Nonnative species of fish, introduced into the Emerald River after the dam was built, have begun competing with the declining native fish species for food and space.
- (E) Five of the fish species native to the Emerald River are not native to any other river in North America.

7. Since the routine use of antibiotics can give rise to resistant bacteria capable of surviving antibiotic environments, the presence of resistant bacteria in people could be due to the human use of prescription antibiotics. Some scientists, however, believe that most resistant bacteria in people derive from human consumption of bacterially infected meat.

Which of the following statements, if true, would most significantly strengthen the hypothesis of the scientists?

- (A) Antibiotics are routinely included in livestock feed so that livestock producers can increase the rate of growth of their animals.
 - (B) Most people who develop food poisoning from bacterially infected meat are treated with prescription antibiotics.
 - (C) The incidence of resistant bacteria in people has tended to be much higher in urban areas than in rural areas where meat is of comparable quality.
 - (D) People who have never taken prescription antibiotics are those least likely to develop resistant bacteria.
 - (E) Livestock producers claim that resistant bacteria in animals cannot be transmitted to people through infected meat.
8. Male bowerbirds construct elaborately decorated nests, or bowers. Basing their judgment on the fact that different local populations of bowerbirds of the same species build bowers that exhibit different building and decorative styles, researchers have concluded that the bowerbirds' building styles are a culturally acquired, rather than a genetically transmitted, trait.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion drawn by the researchers?

- (A) There are more common characteristics than there are differences among the bower-building styles of the local bowerbird population that has been studied most extensively
 - (B) Young male bowerbirds are inept at bower-building and apparently spend years watching their elders before becoming accomplished in the local bower style.
 - (C) The bowers of one species of bowerbird lack the towers and ornamentation characteristic of the bowers of most other species of bowerbird.
 - (D) Bowerbirds are found only in New Guinea and Australia, where local populations of the birds apparently seldom have contact with one another.
 - (E) It is well known that the song dialects of some songbirds are learned rather than transmitted genetically.
9. High levels of fertilizer and pesticides, needed when farmers try to produce high yield of the same crop year after year, pollute water supplies. Experts therefore urge farmers to diversify their crops and to rotate their plantings yearly. To receive governmental price-support benefits for a crop, farmers must have produced that same crop for the past several years.

The statements above, if true, best support which of the following conclusions?

- (A) The rules for governmental support of farm prices work against efforts to reduce water pollution.
- (B) The only solution to the problem of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides is to take farmland out of production.
- (C) Farmers can continue to make a profit by rotating diverse crops, thus reducing costs for chemicals, but not by planting the same crop each year.
- (D) New farming techniques will be developed to make it possible for farmers to reduce the application of fertilizers and pesticides.
- (E) Governmental price supports for farm products are set at levels that are not high enough to allow farmers to get out of debt.

10. Many breakfast cereals are fortified with vitamin supplements. Some of these cereals provide 100 percent of the recommended daily requirement of vitamins. Nevertheless, a well-balanced breakfast, including a variety of foods, is a better source of those vitamins than are such fortified breakfast cereals alone.

Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support the position above?

- (A) In many foods, the natural combination of vitamins with other nutrients makes those vitamins more usable by the body than are vitamins added in vitamin supplements.
 - (B) People who regularly eat cereals fortified with vitamin supplements sometimes neglect to eat the foods in which the vitamins occur naturally.
 - (C) Foods often must be fortified with vitamin supplements because naturally occurring vitamins are removed during processing.
 - (D) Unprocessed cereals are naturally high in several of the vitamins that are usually added to fortified breakfast cereals.
 - (E) Cereals containing vitamin supplements are no harder to digest than similar cereals without added vitamins.
11. Excavation of the ancient city of Kourion on the island of Cyprus revealed a pattern of debris and collapsed buildings typical of towns devastated by earthquakes. Archaeologists have hypothesized that the destruction was due to a major earthquake known to have occurred near the island in A.D.365.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the archaeologists' hypothesis?

- (A) Bronze ceremonial drinking vessels that are often found in graves dating from years preceding and following A.D.365 were also found in several graves near Kourion.
 - (B) No coins minted after A.D.365 were found in Kourion, but coins minted before that year were found in abundance.
 - (C) Most modern histories of Cyprus mention that an earthquake occurred near the island in A.D.365.
 - (D) Several small statues carved in styles current in Cyprus in the century between A.D.300 and 400 were found in Kourion.
 - (E) Stone inscriptions in a form of the Greek alphabet that was definitely used in Cyprus after A.D.365 were found in Kourion.
12. Sales of telephones have increased dramatically over the last year. In order to take advantage of this increase, Mammoth Industries plans to expand production of its own model of telephone, while continuing its already very extensive advertising of this product.

Which of the following, if true, provides most support for the view that Mammoth Industries cannot increase its sales of telephones by adopting the plan outlined above?

- (A) Although it sells all of the telephones that it produces, Mammoth Industries' share of all telephone sales has declined over the last year.
- (B) Mammoth Industries' average inventory of telephones awaiting shipment to retailers has declined slightly over the last year.
- (C) Advertising has made the brand name of Mammoth Industries' telephones widely known, but few consumers know that Mammoth Industries owns this brand.
- (D) Mammoth Industries' telephone is one of three brands of telephone that have together accounted for the bulk of the last year's increase in sales.
- (E) Despite a slight decline in the retail price, sales of Mammoth Industries' telephones have fallen in the last year.

13. In many corporations, employees are being replaced by automated equipment in order to save money. However, many workers who lose their jobs to automation will need government assistance to survive, and the same corporations that are laying people off will eventually pay for that assistance through increased taxes and unemployment insurance payments.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the author's argument?

- (A) Many workers who have already lost their jobs to automation have been unable to find new jobs.
 - (B) Many corporations that have failed to automate have seen their profits decline.
 - (C) Taxes and unemployment insurance are paid also by corporations that are not automating.
 - (D) Most of the new jobs created by automation pay less than the jobs eliminated by automation did.
 - (E) The initial investment in machinery for automation is often greater than the short-term savings in labor costs.
14. The number of patents granted to inventors by the United States Patent Office dropped from 56,000 in 1971 to 45,000 in 1978. Spending on research and development, which peaked at 3 percent of the gross national product (GNP) in 1964, was only 2.2 percent of the GNP in 1978. During this period, when the United States percentage was steadily decreasing, West Germany and Japan increased the percentage of their GNP's spent on research and development to 3.2 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively.

Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the information above?

- (A) There is direct relationship between the size of a nation's GNP and the number of inventions it produces.
 - (B) Japan and West Germany spent more money on research and development is directly related to the number of inventions patented in that nation.
 - (C) The amount of money a nation spends on research and development is directly related to the number of inventions patented in that nation.
 - (D) Between 1964 and 1978 the United States consistently spent a larger percentage of its GNP on research and development than did Japan.
 - (E) Both West Germany and Japan will soon surpass the United States in the number of patents granted to investors.
15. Manufacturers sometimes discount the price of a product to retailers for a promotion period when the product is advertised to consumers. Such promotion often results in a dramatic increase in amount of product sold by the manufacturers to retailers. Nevertheless, the manufacturers could often make more profit by not holding the promotions.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the claim above about the manufacturers' profit?

- (A) The amount of discount generally offered by manufacturers to retailers is carefully calculated to represent the minimum needed to draw consumers' attention to the product.
- (B) For many consumer products the period of advertising discounted prices to consumers is about a week, not sufficiently long for consumers to become used to the sale price.
- (C) For products that are not newly introduced, the purpose of such promotions is to keep the products in the minds of consumers and to attract consumers who are currently using competing products.
- (D) During such a promotion retailers tend to accumulate in their warehouses inventory bought at discount; they then sell much of it later at their regular price.
- (E) If a manufacturer fails to offer such promotions but its competitor offers them, that competitor will tend to attract consumers away from the manufacturer's product.

CRITICAL REASONING - ASSUMPTIONS

1. To prevent some conflicts of interest, Congress could prohibit high-level government officials from accepting positions as lobbyists for three years after such officials leave government service. One such official concluded, however, that such a prohibition would be unfortunate because it would prevent high-level government officials from earning a livelihood for three years.

The official's conclusion logically depends on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Laws should not restrict the behavior of former government officials.
 - (B) Lobbyists are typically people who have previously been high-level government officials.
 - (C) Low-level government officials do not often become lobbyists when they leave government service.
 - (D) High-level government officials who leave government service are capable of earning a livelihood only as lobbyists.
 - (E) High-level government officials who leave government service are currently permitted to act as lobbyists for only three years.
2. Even though most universities retain the royalties from faculty members' inventions, the faculty members retain the royalties from books and articles they write. Therefore, faculty members should retain the royalties from the educational computer software they develop.

The conclusion above would be more reasonably drawn if which of the following were inserted into the argument as an additional premise?

- (A) Royalties from inventions are higher than royalties from educational software programs.
 - (B) Faculty members are more likely to produce educational software programs than inventions.
 - (C) Inventions bring more prestige to universities than do books and articles.
 - (D) In the experience of most universities, educational software programs are more marketable than are books and articles.
 - (E) In terms of the criteria used to award royalties, educational software programs are more nearly comparable to books and articles than to inventions.
3. When limitations were in effect on nuclear-arms testing, people tended to save more of their money, but when nuclear-arms testing increased, people tended to spend more of their money. The perceived threat of nuclear catastrophe, therefore, decreases the willingness of people to postpone consumption for the sake of saving money.

The argument above assumes that

- (A) the perceived threat of nuclear catastrophe has increased over the years.
- (B) most people supported the development of nuclear arms.
- (C) people's perception of the threat of nuclear catastrophe depends on the amount of nuclear-arms testing being done
- (D) the people who saved the most money when nuclear-arms testing was limited were the ones who supported such limitations
- (E) there are more consumer goods available when nuclear-arms testing increases

4. If the airspace around centrally located airports were restricted to commercial airliners and only those private planes equipped with radar, most of the private-plane traffic would be forced to use outlying airfields. Such a reduction in the amount of private-plane traffic would reduce the risk of midair collision around the centrally located airports.

The conclusion drawn in the first sentence depends on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Outlying airfields would be as convenient as centrally located airports for most pilots of private planes.
 - (B) Most outlying airfields are not equipped to handle commercial-airline traffic.
 - (C) Most private planes that use centrally located airports are not equipped with radar.
 - (D) Commercial airliners are at greater risk of becoming involved in midair collisions than are private planes.
 - (E) A reduction in the risk of midair collision would eventually lead to an increase in commercial-airline traffic.
5. A researcher discovered that people who have low levels of immune-system activity tend to score much lower on tests of mental health than do people with normal or high immune-system activity. The researcher concluded from this experiment that the immune system protects against mental illness as well as against physical disease.

The researcher's conclusion depends on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) High immune-system activity protects against mental illness better than normal immune-system activity does.
 - (B) Mental illness is similar to physical disease in its effects on body systems.
 - (C) People with high immune-system activity cannot develop mental illness.
 - (D) Mental illness does not cause people's immune-system activity to decrease.
 - (E) Psychological treatment of mental illness is not as effective as is medical treatment.
6. In recent years many cabinetmakers have been winning acclaim as artists. But since furniture must be useful, cabinetmakers must exercise their craft with an eye to the practical utility of their product. For this reason, cabinetmaking is not art.

Which of the following is an assumption that supports drawing the conclusion above from the reason given for that conclusion?

- (A) Some furniture is made to be placed in museums, where it will not be used by anyone.
- (B) Some cabinetmakers are more concerned than others with the practical utility of the products they produce.
- (C) Cabinet makers should be more concerned with the practical utility of their products than they currently are.
- (D) An object is not an art object if its maker pays attention to the object's practical utility.
- (E) Artists are not concerned with the monetary value of their products.

7. Traditionally, decision-making by managers that is reasoned step-by-step has been considered preferable to intuitive decision-making. However, a recent study found that top managers used intuition significantly more than did most middle-or lower-level managers. This confirms the alternative view that intuition is actually more effective than careful, methodical reasoning.

The conclusion above is based on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Methodical, step-by-step reasoning is inappropriate for making many real-life management decisions.
 - (B) Top managers have the ability to use either intuitive reasoning or methodical, step-by-step reasoning in making decisions.
 - (C) The decisions made by middle-and lower-level managers can be made as easily by using methodical reasoning as by using intuitive reasoning.
 - (D) Top managers use intuitive reasoning in making the majority of their decisions.
 - (E) Top managers are more effective at decision-making than middle-or lower-level managers
8. "Fast cycle time" is a strategy of designing a manufacturing organization to eliminate bottlenecks and delays in production. Not only does it speed up production, but it also assures quality. The reason is that the bottleneck s and delays cannot be eliminated unless all work is done right the first time.

The claim about quality made above rests on a questionable presupposition that

- (A) any flaw in work on a product would cause a bottleneck or delay and so would be prevented from occurring on a "fast cycle" production line.
 - (B) the strategy of "fast cycle time" would require fundamental rethinking of product design.
 - (C) the primary goal of the organization is to produce a product of unexcelled quality, rather than to generate profits for stockholders.
 - (D) "fast cycle time" could be achieved by shaving time off each of the component processes in production cycle.
 - (E) "fast cycle time" is a concept in business strategy that has not yet been put into practice in a factory
9. A famous singer recently won a lawsuit against an advertising firm for using another singer in a commercial to evoke the famous singer's well-known rendition of a certain song. As a result of the lawsuit, advertising firms will stop using imitators in commercials. Therefore, advertising costs will rise, since famous singers' services cost more than those of their imitators.

The conclusion above is based on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Most people are unable to distinguish a famous singer's rendition of a song from a good imitator's rendition of the same song.
- (B) Commercials using famous singers are usually more effective than commercials using imitators of famous singers.
- (C) The original versions of some well-known songs are unavailable for use in commercials.
- (D) Advertising firms will continue to use imitators to mimic the physical mannerisms of famous singers.
- (E) The advertising industry will use well-known renditions of songs in commercials.

CRITICAL REASONING – RESOLVE AND EXPLAIN

1. In Asia, where palm trees are non-native, the trees' flowers have traditionally been pollinated by hand, which has kept palm fruit productivity unnaturally low. When weevils known to be efficient pollinators of palm flowers were introduced into Asia in 1980, palm fruit productivity increased-by up to fifty percent in some areas-but then decreased sharply in 1984.

Which of the following statements, if true, would best explain the 1984 decrease in productivity?

- (A) Prices for palm fruit fell between 1980 and 1984 following the rise in production and a concurrent fall in demand.
 - (B) Imported trees are often more productive than native trees because the imported ones have left behind their pests and diseases in their native lands.
 - (C) Rapid increases in productivity tend to deplete trees of nutrients needed for the development of the fruit-producing female flowers.
 - (D) The weevil population in Asia remained at approximately the same level between 1980 and 1984.
 - (E) Prior to 1980 another species of insect pollinated the Asian palm trees, but not as efficiently as the species of weevil that was introduced in 1980.
2. A milepost on the towpath read "21" on the side facing the hiker as she approached it and "23" on its back. She reasoned that the next milepost forward on the path would indicate that she was halfway between one end of the path and the other. However, the milepost one mile further on read "20" facing her and "24" behind.

Which of the following, if true, would explain the discrepancy y described above?

- (A) The numbers on the next milepost had been reversed.
 - (B) The numbers on the mileposts indicate kilometers, not miles.
 - (C) The facing numbers indicate miles to the end of the path, not miles from the beginning.
 - (D) A milepost was missing between the two the hiker encountered.
 - (E) The mileposts had originally been put in place for the use of mountain bikers, not for hikers.
3. Extinction is a process that can depend on a variety of ecological, geographical, and physiological variables. These variables affect different species of organisms in different ways, and should, therefore, yield a random pattern of extinctions. However, the fossil record shows that extinction occurs in a surprisingly definite pattern, with many species vanishing at the same time.

Which of the following, if true, forms the best basis for at least a partial explanation of the patterned extinctions revealed by the fossil record?

- (A) Major episodes of extinction can result from widespread environmental disturbances that affect numerous different species.
- (B) Certain extinction episodes selectively affect organisms with particular sets of characteristics unique to their species.
- (C) Some species become extinct because of accumulated gradual changes in their local environments
- (D) In geologically recent times, for which there is no fossil record, human intervention has changed the pattern of extinctions.
- (E) Species that are widely dispersed are the least likely to become extinct.

4. Some communities in Florida are populated almost exclusively by retired people and contain few, if any, families with small children. Yet these communities are home to thriving businesses specializing in the rental of furniture for infants and small children.

Which of the following, if true, best reconciles the seeming discrepancy described above?

- (A) The businesses specializing in the rental of children's furniture buy their furniture from distributors outside of Florida.
 - (B) The few children who do reside in these communities all know each other and often make overnight visits to one another's houses.
 - (C) Many residents of these communities who move frequently prefer renting their furniture to buying it outright.
 - (D) Many residents of these communities must provide for the needs of visiting grandchildren several weeks a year.
 - (E) Children's furniture available for rental is of the same quality as that available for sale in the stores.
5. Small-business groups are lobbying to defeat proposed federal legislation that would substantially raise the federal minimum wage. This opposition is surprising since the legislation they oppose would, for the first time, exempt all small businesses from paying any minimum wage.

Which of the following, if true, would best explain the opposition of small-business groups to the proposed legislation?

- (A) Under the current federal minimum-wage law, most small businesses are required to pay no less than the minimum wage to their employees.
- (B) In order to attract workers, small companies must match the wages offered by their larger competitors, and these competitors would not be exempt under the proposed laws.
- (C) The exact number of companies that are currently required to pay no less than the minimum wage but that would be exempt under the proposed laws is unknown.
- (D) Some states have set their own minimum wages---in some cases, quite a bit above the level of the minimum wage mandated by current federal law---for certain key industries.
- (E) Service companies make up the majority of small businesses and they generally employ more employees per dollar of revenues than do retail or manufacturing businesses.

CRITICAL REASONING – ID THE REASONING

1. Mourdet Winery: Danville Winery's new wine was introduced to compete with our most popular wine, which is sold in a distinctive tall, black bottle. Danville uses a similar bottle. Thus, it is likely that many customers intending to buy our wine will mistakenly buy theirs instead.

Danville Winery: Not so. The two bottles can be readily distinguished: the label on ours, but not on theirs, is gold colored.

Which of the following, if true, most undermines Danville Winery's response?

- (A) Gold is the background color on the label of many of the wines produced by Danville Winery.
 - (B) When the bottles are viewed side by side, Danville Winery's bottle is perceptibly taller than Mourdet Winery's.
 - (C) Danville Winery, unlike Mourdet Winery, displays its wine's label prominently in advertisements.
 - (D) It is common for occasional purchasers to buy a bottle of wine on the basis of a general impression of the most obvious feature of the bottle.
 - (E) Many popular wines are sold in bottles of a standard design.
2. Consumer health advocate: Your candy company adds caffeine to your chocolate candy bars so that each one delivers a specified amount of caffeine. Since caffeine is highly addictive, this indicates that you intend to keep your customers addicted.

Candy manufacturer: Our manufacturing process results in there being less caffeine in each chocolate candy bar than in the unprocessed cacao beans from which the chocolate is made.

The candy manufacturer's response is flawed as a refutation of the consumer health advocate's argument because it

- (A) fails to address the issue of whether the level of caffeine in the candy bars sold by the manufacture is enough to keep people addicted.
- (B) assumes without warrant that all unprocessed cacao beans contain a uniform amount of caffeine.
- (C) does not specify exactly how caffeine is lost in the manufacturing process.
- (D) treats the consumer health advocate's argument as though it were about each candy bar rather than about the manufacturer's candy in general.
- (E) merely contradicts the consumer health advocate's conclusion without giving any reason to believe that the advocate's reasoning is unsound

3. Division manager: I want to replace the Microton computers in my division with Vitech computers.
General manager: Why?
Division manager: It costs 28 percent less to train new staff on the Vitech.
General manager: But that is not a good enough reason. We can simply hire only people who already know how to use Microton computer.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the general manager's objection to the replacement of Microton computers with Vitech's?

- (A) Currently all employees in the company are required to attend workshops on how to use Microton computers in new applications.
 - (B) Once employees learn how to use a computer, they tend to change employers more readily than before.
 - (C) Experienced users of Microton computers command much higher salaries than do prospective employees who have no experience in the use of computers.
 - (D) The average productivity of employees in the general manager's company is below the average productivity of the employees of its competitors.
 - (E) The high costs of replacement parts make Vitech computers more expensive to maintain than Microton
4. Roland: The alarming fact is that 90 percent of the people in this country now report that they know someone who is unemployed.

Sharon: But a normal, moderate level of unemployment is 5 percent, with 1 out of 20 workers unemployed. So at any given time if a person knows approximately 50 workers, 1 or more will very likely be unemployed.

Sharon's argument is structured to lead to which of the following as a conclusion?

- (A) The fact that 90% of the people know someone who is unemployed is not an indication that unemployment is abnormally high.
 - (B) The current level of unemployment is not moderate.
 - (C) If at least 5% of workers are unemployed, the result of questioning a representative group of people cannot be the percentage Roland cites.
 - (D) It is unlikely that the people whose statements Roland cites are giving accurate reports.
 - (E) If an unemployment figure is given as a certain percent, the actual percentage of those without jobs is even higher.
5. Sharon's argument relies on the assumption that
- (A) Normal levels of unemployment are rarely exceeded
 - (B) unemployment is not normally concentrated in geographically isolated segments of the population
 - (C) the number of people who each know someone who is unemployed is always higher than 90% of the population
 - (D) Roland is not consciously distorting the statistics he presents
 - (E) knowledge that a personal acquaintance is unemployed generates more fear of losing one's job than does knowledge of unemployment statistics

6. Consumer advocate: it is generally true, at least in this state, that lawyers who advertise a specific service charge less for that service than lawyers who do not advertise. It is also true that **each time restrictions on the advertising of legal services have been eliminated, the number of lawyers advertising their services has increased and legal costs to consumers have declined in consequence.** However, eliminating the state requirement that legal advertisements must specify fees for specific services would almost certainly increase rather than further reduce a consumer's legal costs. Lawyers would no longer have an incentive to lower their fees when they begin advertising and **if no longer required to specify fee arrangements, many law years who now advertise would increase their fees.**

In the consumer advocate's argument, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is a generalization that the consumer advocate accepts as true; the second is presented as a consequence that follows from the truth of that generalization.
- (B) The first is a pattern of cause and effect that the consumer advocate argues will be repeated in the case at issue; the second acknowledges a circumstance in which that pattern would not hold.
- (C) The first is pattern of cause and effect that the consumer advocate predicts will not hold in the case at issue; the second offers a consideration in support of that prediction.
- (D)
- (E) The first is evidence that the consumer advocate offers in support of a certain prediction; the second is that prediction.
- (F)
- (G) The first acknowledges a consideration that weighs against the main position that the consumer advocate defends; the second is that position.

CRITICAL REASONING – INFERENCE

1. People buy prestige when they buy a premium product. They want to be associated with something special. Mass-marketing techniques and price-reduction strategies should not be used because _____.

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

- (A) affluent purchasers currently represent a shrinking portion of the population of all purchasers
- (B) continued sales depend directly on the maintenance of an aura of exclusivity
- (C) purchasers of premium products are concerned with the quality as well as with the price of the products
- (D) expansion of the market niche to include a broader spectrum of consumers will increase profits
- (E) manufacturing a premium brand is not necessarily more costly than manufacturing a standard brand of the same product

2. Ferber's syndrome, a viral disease that frequently affects cattle, is transmitted to these animals through infected feed. Even though chickens commercially raised for meat are often fed the type of feed identified as the source of infection in cattle, Ferber's syndrome is only rarely observed in chickens. This fact, however, does not indicate that most chickens are immune to the virus that causes Ferber's syndrome, since _____.

Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

- (A) chickens and cattle are not the only kinds of farm animal that are typically fed the type of feed liable to be contaminated with the virus that causes Ferber's syndrome
- (B) Ferber's syndrome has been found in animals that have not been fed the type of feed liable to be contaminated with the virus that can cause the disease
- (C) resistance to some infectious organisms such as the virus that causes Ferber's syndrome can be acquired by exposure to a closely related infectious organism
- (D) chickens and cattle take more than a year to show symptoms of Ferber's syndrome, and chickens commercially raised for meat, unlike cattle, are generally brought to market during the first year of life
- (E) the type of feed liable to be infected with the virus that causes Ferber's syndrome generally constitutes a larger proportion of the diet of commercially raised chickens than of commercially raised cattle

3. The computer industry's estimate that it loses millions of dollars when users illegally copy programs without paying for them is greatly exaggerated. Most of the illegal copying is done by people with no serious interest in the programs. Thus, the loss to the industry is quite small, because _____.

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

- (A) many users who illegally copy programs never find any use for them
- (B) most people who illegally copy programs would not purchase them even if purchasing them were the only way to obtain them
- (C) even if the computer industry received all the revenue it claims to be losing, it would still be experiencing financial difficulties
- (D) the total market value of all illegal copies is low in comparison to the total revenue of the computer industry
- (E) the number of programs that are frequently copied illegally is low in comparison to the number of programs available for sale

4. Under a new clean air proposal, the government has decided to tighten controls on the release of certain toxic chemicals, including benzene, formaldehyde, and other carcinogens, by chemical plants. The stated purpose of this proposal is to reduce cancers caused by air pollution. Yet, the chemical industry, rather than the government, is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the proposal. If the past actions of certain polluters in the chemical industry are any indication of future behavior, the net result of the new proposal will be an increase, rather than a decrease, in carcinogens released into the air. The author is arguing that ____.

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

- (A) no chemical companies can be trusted to follow the clean air proposal
 - (B) the chemical industry is responsible for releasing the majority of carcinogens into the air
 - (C) allowing self-monitoring for the new clean air proposal will result in the opposite of its intended consequence
 - (D) to ensure effective implementation, the government should always monitor the execution of its proposals
 - (E) benzene and formaldehyde are two of the most hazardous cancer-causing chemicals
5. Companies are often torn between the benefits of focusing on one major product or service and the drawbacks of relying too heavily on one primary source of income. While narrow focus can provide a company with an advantage over competitors that offer a wider range of products or services, an undiversified income stream can leave a company susceptible to major fluctuations in cash flow. We can see this tension realized when, for example, _____.

Which of the following best completes the passage above?

- (A) a local messenger service known for its speedy deliveries is forced to lay off twenty per cent of its work force after a rise in local taxes encourages many local businesses to move out of state.
- (B) an advertising agency loses one of its clients
- (C) a holding company that owns a car rental agency and a national doughnut chain is now interested in purchasing a professional basketball team.
- (D) a construction company opts to use non-union labor to increase its profits
- (E) a specialty sandwich store decides to open franchises throughout the country that will focus on using local ingredients.

READING COMPREHENSION: LAST WORDS

Avoid extremes

Ask yourself: Would this really be the correct answer on the GRE? ETS's official answer-writing policy is: Offend no one.

"Best" answers offend no one and make common sense

If you get down to two answer choices that seem to say the same thing, pick the one that is more wishy-washy. For each of the following pairs of answer choices, decide which choice is more likely to be an ETS answer:

- (A) seek a greater understanding of the choices his father made in his life
- (B) show that everything he had ever believed about his father was false

- (A) attempts to reconcile the religious belief in creationism with scientific evidence are destined for failure
- (B) the idea that humans evolved from lower primates remains a topic of great controversy

- (A) the chiefs of many Native American tribes were merely figure-heads controlled by European bureaucrats
- (B) the position of chief in many Native American tribes was more ceremonial than political

- (A) legislators are concerned that many of their constituents will not support the proposed legislation
- (B) legislators should concern themselves with lawmaking and not with ethics

Authors of GRE passages don't get overly excited about things. They often have strong opinions, but they won't go off the deep end

OK: **Not OK:**

- Opposition Disapproval • Abhorrence Revulsion

The authors will, however, care about the topics they're discussing, and they know what they think; they can have mixed feelings, but they won't be confused.

OK:

- Unbiased Neutral
- Objective Uncertain

Use POE to get rid of extreme answer choices:

- (A) moral aversion
- (B) strong disagreement
- (C) indifferent apathy
- (D) cautious appreciation
- (E) wholehearted enthusiasm

- (A) sarcastic
- (B) puzzled
- (C) exasperated
- (D) neutral
- (E) skeptical

Not OK:

- Indifferent
- Apathetic

- (A) passionate support
- (B) qualified approval
- (C) detached impartiality
- (D) reasoned opposition
- (E) indignant condemnation

- (A) uncertain
- (B) cynical
- (C) reflective
- (D) impulsive
- (E) jolly

If you come across:

- Vocabulary you don't know in the answer choices or in the passage.
- Confusing wording in the answer choices or in the passage, don't panic! You can still get the question right

Don't give up! Be a POE maniac

Even if you're not sure what the passage does say, you can be sure what it doesn't say Likewise, if you don't understand an answer choice, don't cross it • You may be able to eliminate all of the others.

TIME SUCK I/II/III and Except/Not/Least questions are not usually harder; they just take a long time to do.

Deal with these questions according to where the question appears in the verbal section

I /II/II Questions

These questions are time-wasters, pure and simple. They are designed to take three times as long to earn you points. Be methodical:

- As soon as you know that one of the three statements is False, eliminate any answer that contains it
 - As soon as you know that one of the statements is true, eliminate any answer that doesn't contain it,
 - Only test statements that appear in answer choices you haven't eliminated.
-

EXCEPT/NOT/LEAST Questions

If you thought the I, II, III questions were the biggest time-wasters, think again. These questions are the worst offenders of them all. ETS has included them for no other reason than to confuse you and hang you up while time expires. Here's how to crack them:

- Ignore the EXCEPT/NOT/LEAST.
- Check each answer choice to see whether it's correct or incorrect according to the passage.
- If it's correct, put a 'Y' next to it. If not, put an 'N' next to it.
- Pick the one that stands out.

SENTENCE EQUIVALANCE

GET A CLUE

Drill 1

Identify the Clues in the following sentences -

1. The politician decided to _____ his position when he realized there was strong opposition to it.
2. Serena had only a _____ knowledge of French, but she managed to make herself understood.
3. One employee was so fed up by the constant _____ between partners that he left the firm.
4. Since Charlie had been such a _____ student and earned a fine reputation, he won a college scholarship.
5. The English teacher told Holly she had included too much _____ information on her paper and advised her to be more precise.
6. Donna is a _____ housekeeper who takes pride in keeping an immaculate home.
7. As a result of the _____ allegations that Peter made, Rich was suspected for something he never did.
8. Andrew has few friends because of his forceful, _____ and intolerant attitude.
9. Hannah planned to make a _____ effort to solve the differences with her sister.

Clueless?

If you are having trouble finding the clue ask yourself the following?

- *Who or what is the blank talking about?*
- *What information does the sentence give you about the person or thing?*

For example

1. As my eye sight began to ----- I spent a lot of time writing about it--- both poems and eye journals-----describing what I saw as I looked out through damaged eyes.

Who or what is the blank talking about? "My eyesight"

What information does the sentence give you about the person or thing? "... I looked out through damaged eyes"

Drill 2

Find the clue in each of the following sentences and underline it. Then, choose your own word. Try to recycle the clue when you can.

1. String theory is an extremely model for understanding the universe since many physicists struggle with the theory's abstruse implications.
2. Arthur made the decision to drink plenty of water at the very beginning of the day- long hike, and thus was able to avoid dehydration.
3. The of the wax museum's statues was so amazing that the Elvis sculpture appeared as if it was alive
4. Her should not be confused with miserliness as far as I know her; she has always been willing to assist those who are in need.
5. Although the Harlem Globetrotters are Basketball players, it is their humorous antics, rather than their skills that have brought them worldwide popularity

TRIGGERS

Remember triggers? Trigger words indicate whether the word that fills the blank agrees or disagrees with the clue. How many "Same side" triggers do you remember? Write them down in the space provided below-

How many "Opposite side" triggers do you remember? Write them down in the space provided below-

DRILL 3

Underline the clues, Circle the triggers and then answer the questions that follow

1. Ever a demanding reader of the fiction of others, the novelist Chase was likewise often the object of.....analysis by his contemporaries.

Clue: _____

Trigger: _____

Your word: _____

(A) exacting (B) copious (C) respectful (D) acerbic (E) scathing (F) meticulous

2. A misconception frequently held by novice writer is that sentence structure mirrors through: the more convoluted the structure, the more the ideas.

Clue: _____

Trigger: _____

Your word: _____

(A) complicated (B) engaged (C) essential (D) fanciful (E) inconsequential (F) trivial

3. Currently a in philately, Roger decided to pursue his new hobby because he had already become an expert numismatist.

Clue: _____

Trigger: _____

Your word: _____

(A) dilettante (B) cherished (C) despised (D) managed (E) dabbler (F) owned

4. Many city-dwellers have a of knowledge about their food sources: indeed, a number of people have never ever seen a live chicken or cow

Clue: _____

Trigger: _____

Your word: _____

(A) pith (B) surfeit (C) plethora (D) dearth (E) dirge (F) smattering

5. Susan the theater; she bought tickets for all the shows put on by the local drama group.

Clue: _____

Trigger: _____

Your word: _____

(A) abhorred (B) cherished (C) despised (D) managed (E) patronized (F) owned

6. Nurses who work in emergency medicine departments are accustomed to handling urgent trauma situations in which every task must be performed with great

Clue: _____

Trigger: _____

Your word: _____

(A) passivity (B) ineptitude (C) dispatch (D) morbidity (E) consternation (F) celerity

7. While the medical profession was once strictly the of men, more than half the students at many American medical schools are now women.

Clue: _____

Trigger: _____

Your word: _____

(A) conscription (B) ignominy (C) discord (D) province (E) asylum
(F) domain

8. When with his family or among friends, the senator dropped his political appearance and resumed his typical demure habits.

Clue: _____

Trigger: _____

Your word: _____

(A) affected (B) modest (C) diffident (D) mercurial (E) mendacious (F) audacious

9. Although it does contain some pioneering ideas, One would hardly characterize the work as

Clue: _____

Trigger: _____

Your word: _____

(A) orthodox (B) eccentric (C) iconoclastic (D) trifling (E) conventional (F) innovative

DRILL 4

1. Nurses with personalities were welcomed during the war because of their ability to uplift the dejected soldiers who were disabled.

(A) winsome (B) practical (C) capricious (D) multifaceted (E) sanguine (F) versatile

2. The anxious and weary generals conferred and then decided that the war could be won only by a progressive of their enemy's military forces, rather than by an overwhelming assault.

(A) attrition (B) mobilization (C) cohesion (D) diminution (E) arrival (F) amelioration

3. The of people at the scene of the accident grew so large that the ambulance attendants and policemen had to intervene forcefully.

(A) coherence (B) adhesion (C) complicity (D) aggregation (E) subordination (F) congregation

4. Reports that Haber man surreptitiously supported the bill are clearly ; the bill in question greatly undermine both Haber man's interests and those of her constituents.

(A) sacrosanct (B) fallacious (C) valid (D) incontrovertible (E) ludicrous (F) inviolable

5. The government's implementation of a new code of ethics appeared intended to shore up the ruling party's standing with an increasingly electorate at a time when the party is besieged by charges that it trades favors for campaign money.

(A) aloof (B) placid (C) restive (D) skittish (E) tranquil (F) vociferous

6. It was her view that the country's problems had been by foreign technocrats, so that to ask for such assistance again would be counterproductive.

(A) ameliorated (B) ascertained (C) diagnosed (D) exacerbated (E) overlooked (F) worsened

7. Overlarge, uneven, and ultimately disappointing, the retrospective exhibition seems too much like special pleading for a forgotten painter of real but talents.

(A) limited (B) partial (C) undiscovered (D) circumscribed (E) prosaic
(F) hidden

8. The group in the adjoining room made it difficult for the students taking the mid-term examination to concentrate.

(A) boisterous (B) quiescent (C) rapacious (D) obstreperous (E) antagonistic (F) enervating

TEXT COMPLETIONS –

Finding Clues and Triggers

Find the clues and Triggers for each blank in the following sentences: Remember to look for the easier blank first in 2 and 3 blank questions.

The first one has been done for you:

Example –

The (i)____ shades of meaning, and still subtler echoes of association, make language an instrument which scarcely anything short of genius can wield with (ii)____ and (iii)____ .

Clue for the first blank: *still subtler*. **Trigger:** *and*

Clue for the second blank: *anything short of genius* .**Trigger** *scarcely*

Clue for the third blank: *short of genius* .**Trigger:** *and*

1. The success of the business venture ____ his expectations; he never thought that the firm would prosper.

Clue: _____ **Trigger** _____ **Your Word** _____

2. The journalist (i)____ the efforts of the drug squad to control drug peddling, claiming that they had actually (ii)____ the problem

Clue for the first blank: _____ **Trigger** _____ **Your Word** _____

Clue for the second blank: _____ **Trigger** _____ **Your Word** _____

3. Since the Romans failed to subjugate the tribes in Northern Britain, they built a wall in a (i)____ attempt to (ii)____ the natives. After all, what wall can (iii)____ the determined?

Clue for the first blank: _____ **Trigger** _____ **Your Word** _____

Clue for the second blank: _____ **Trigger** _____ **Your Word** _____

Clue for the third blank: _____ **Trigger** _____ **Your Word** _____

4. To Simon, not usually so (i)____, their bantering talk seemed (ii)____. Actually their exchanges masked underlying (iii)_____.

Clue for the first blank: _____ **Trigger** _____ **Your Word** _____

Clue for the second blank: _____ **Trigger** _____ **Your Word** _____

Clue for the third blank: _____ **Trigger** _____ **Your Word** _____

5. The new systematic nomenclature was so (i)____ that many chemists preferred to (ii)____ the older trivial names that were at least shorter. At least, that is the ostensible reason. Actually, tradition seems to carry more weight than (iii)____ with some scientists.

Clue for the first blank: _____ **Trigger** _____ **Your Word** _____

Clue for the second blank: _____ **Trigger** _____ **Your Word** _____

Clue for the third blank: _____ **Trigger** _____ **Your Word** _____

6. Even though the auditors (i) _____ the accountant, his reputation, hitherto unblemished, was (ii) _____ by the allegations of fraud

Clue for the first blank: _____ Trigger _____ Your Word _____

Clue for the second blank: _____ Trigger _____ Your Word _____

7. In showing the shocking images of depravity and degradation, the curators of the art museum said that the importance of historical accuracy outweighed the danger of encouraging _____.

Clue: _____ Trigger _____ Your Word _____

8. Although his findings were initially greeted with _____, the unlikely hero was finally vindicated when the French Academy acknowledged his work.

Clue: _____ Trigger _____ Your Word _____

9. No other modern day poet's work has such a well-earned reputation for , and there are few whose moral vision is so imperiously unsparing. Of late, however, the almost belligerent demands of his severe densely forbidding poetry has taken an improbable turn. This new collection is the poet's fourth book in six years- an ample output even for poets of sunny disposition, let alone for one of such over the previous 50years. Yet for all his newfound , his poetry is as thorny as ever.

Clue for the first blank: _____ Trigger _____ Your Word _____

Clue for the second blank: _____ Trigger _____ Your Word _____

Clue for the third blank: _____ Trigger _____ Your Word _____

Putting it all together: Use the words that you have come up with and answer the questions that follow. The first example has been done for you

Example –The (i) _____ shades of meaning, and still subtler echoes of association, make language an instrument which scarcely anything short of genius can wield with (ii) _____ and (iii) _____ .

Blank (i)	Blank(ii)	Blank(iii)
A. eloquent	D. sincerity	G. alacrity
B. nuanced	E. certainty	H. precision
C. stygian	F. hope	I. disinterest

1. The success of the business venture _____ his expectations; he never thought that the firm would prosper.

A. confirmed
B. belied
C. nullified
D. fulfilled
E. ratified

2. The journalist (i)_____ the efforts of the drug squad to control drug peddling, claiming that they had actually (ii)_____ the problem.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. commended	D. delineated
B. deprecated	E. mollified
C. noted	F. exacerbated

3. Since the Romans failed to subjugate the tribes in Northern Britain, they built a wall in a (i)_____ attempt to (ii)_____ the natives. After all, what wall can (iii)_____ the determined?

Blank (i)	Blank(ii)	Blank(iii)
A. seemingly overoptimistic	D. intimidate	G. deter
B. thoroughgoing	E. exclude	H. conquer
C. successful	F. barricade	I. circumscribe

4. To Simon, not usually so (i)_____, their bantering talk seemed (ii)_____. Actually their exchanges masked underlying (iii)_____.

Blank (i)	Blank(ii)	Blank(iii)
A. inscrutable	D. amicable	G. antagonism
B. unperceptive	E. exasperating	H. assumptions
C. perspicacious	F. hostile	I. geniality

5. The new systematic nomenclature was so (i)_____ that many chemists preferred to (ii)_____ the older trivial names that were at least shorter. At least, that is the ostensible reason. Actually, tradition seems to carry more weight than (iii)_____ with some scientists.

Blank (i)	Blank(ii)	Blank(iii)
A. succinct	D. revert to	G. chronology
B. cumbersome	E. adopt	H. longevity
C. irrational	F. suspend	I. system

6. Even though the auditors (i)_____ the accountant, his reputation, hitherto unblemished, was (ii)_____ by the allegations of fraud.

Blank (i)	Blank(ii)
A. indicted	D. enhanced
B. betrayed	E. tarnished
C. vindicated	F. condoned

7 With his sub-four minute mile Bannister broke a psychological barrier, and inspired thousands of others to attempt to overcome seemingly _____ hurdles.

A. insurmountable
B. inane
C. trivial
D. traumatic
E. ineffable

8. Although his findings were initially greeted with _____, the unlikely hero was finally vindicated when the French Academy acknowledged his work.

A. derision
B. accolades
C. commendations
D. sympathy
E. jubilation
F. incredulity

9. No other modern day poet's work has such a well-earned reputation for _____, and there are few whose moral vision is so imperiously unsparing. Of late, however, the almost belligerent demands of his severe densely forbidding poetry has taken an improbable turn. This new collection is the poet's fourth book in six years- an ample output even for poets of sunny disposition, let alone for one of such _____ over the previous 50 years. Yet for all his new found _____, his poetry is as thorny as ever.

Patent accessibility	Penitent austerity	Taciturnity
Intrinsic frivolity	Intractable prolixity	Volubility
Near impenetrability	Impetuous prodigality	Pellucidity

Text Completion Single blank (warm up)

1. In the 1860's, author Leo Tolstoy was With his family in the Tula region in Russia; while comfortably established there, he wrote War and Peace.

Ensnared
Circumscribed
Avowed
Coerced
Castigated

2. In parts of the Arctic, the land grades into the land fast ice so that you could walk off the coast and not know you are over the hidden sea.

permanently
imperceptibly
irregularly
precariously
relentlessly

3. For some time now, has been presumed not to exist: The cynical conviction that everybody has an angle is considered wisdom.

rationality
flexibility
diffidence
disinterestedness
insincerity

4. An investigation that is can occasionally yield new facts, even notable ones , but typically the appearance of such facts is the result of a search in a definite direction.

timely
unguided
consistent
uncomplicated
subjective

5. It comes as no surprise that societies have codes of behavior; the character of the codes, on the other hand, can often be

predictable
unexpected
admirable
explicit
confusing

Text Completion

1. The difference in economic terms between a bond and a note is still observed by the United States Treasury, but in other markets the the two terms have become unimportant the two words are used

distinction between	statistically
similarity of	interchangeably
usefulness	differentially

2. As expected, the candidate's speech was characterized by a lack of and a wealth of

partisanship	obliqueness
profundity	nepotism
patronage	banality

3. Modern writers, to drape reality with pretty phrases, show us everything, putrid and pure, with a grim.....

aspiring	candor
disdaining	fascination
endeavoring	determination

4. Parker could not allow her criticism to remain; she openly the members of the committee for their indolence and lackadaisical attitude.

Unheeded	Censured
Public	Exonerated
unspoken	Lauded

5. The sports pages touted the rookie as highly and predicted that his unparalleled talents would ultimately the team from last place.

adroit	arrogate
compensated	extirpate
disingenuous	extricate

6. Frequently capricious and when she went shopping, Sharon was occasionally frugal, yet could not be considered wholly

reticent	penurious
beguiling	profligate
impulsive	quixotic

7. The hallmark of a great is his ability to Listeners by telling a vivid story using only his words.

iconoclast	enthrall
raconteur	obfuscate
dullard	excoriate

8. Kurt Vonnegut, one of the most writers of his generation, has garnered a reputation that highlights this characteristic and downplays his narrative abilities.

Cynical	Sardonic
Ingenuous	Reclusive
extroverted	Complex

9. While Luis initially thought that his garden floundered due to a ... of water, he later found that it struggled because of a of it.

Surfeit	Correction
Dearth	Inundation
Quantity	Lack

10. The thanksgiving tradition in North America is more than any other; people of all ages, religion, and ethnic backgrounds this occasion by giving thanks for a bountiful harvest.

tenable	Sanction
widespread	Promulgate
rife	Cogitate

11. The boss's tone let the workers know that she was no longer going to listen to their arguments, which were aimed at getting her to her rigid deadlines.

ebullient	modify
genuflecting	substantiate
peremptory	exacerbate

12. Even though Jennifer seems, her deskher orderly image.

Unkempt	Validates
Structured	Verifies
Disoriented	Belies

13. The pace of Cassie's life eventually caught up with her; the effects of such over activity manifested themselves as painful ulcers.

frenetic	salutary
indolent	beneficial
convoluted	deleterious

14. Ten years ago, Representative Dooley successfully the many problems that had plagued previous administration by responding to requests from various leaders in each community that she be more in her policy development.

evaded	divisible
succumbed to	draconian
rejected	inclusive

15. Although the choreographer's work usually has a delicate quality, her more recent endeavors intended to reflect the worsening political situation have been disparaged by reviewers as being overly

ethereal	inane
generous	realistic
graceful	alluring

16. Educators who emphasize the of speech habits and literary technique, deplore the between the spoken and the written languages.

unity	competition
eloquence	similarity
rhetoric	schism

17. As to the of scientific truth, one need only examine history to realize that every discovery involves the of a previously accepted theory.

infallibility	Justification
analysis	commitment
permanency	refutation

18. Richards's new friends were so by his charming manner that it continued to captivate them even as they began to realize that it was , in fact

beguiled	genuine
dissuaded	unconstrained
intimidated	calculated

19. Vain and prone to violence, Caravaggio could not handle success: the more his as an artist increased, the more his life became.

temperance	tumultuous
notoriety	providential
eminence	dispassionate

20. Although considerable resources had already been expended on the new drug, development had to be halted due to adverse effects during human testing; once hailed as a kind of that could be used to treat numerous physical and mental ailments. The drug will only be remembered as a financial albatross that bankrupted its developers.

assiduous	sincere
pecuniary	mendicant
wholesome	panacea

21. A former aficionado, Nicholas his interest in motorcycles after a dangerous accident him from further riding.

abjure	cautioned
developed	encouraged
redoubled	dissuaded

22. Although Father's Day, first celebrated in 1908, is now An honored tradition in the United States, it did not always Enjoy such ; rather, unofficial from prominent Figures such as Woodrow Wilson and William Jennings Bryan were required before Americans embraced the holiday.

decorum	opprobrium
ennui	accolades
esteem	hyperbole

23. Some argue that profiting from terrible suffering by publishing photographic books about natural disasters is, but perhaps the practice has the effect of helping us to appreciate the humanity of people living far away.

presumptuous	salutary
idolatrous	specious
pernicious	sedulous

24. Holding that life is essentially truth, value or objective meaning, nihilism the notion of absolute moral principles.

resplendent with	bolsters
replete with	exonerates
devoid of	disavows

25. Many could not help but to view the glass as half-empty; For example, when the economy turned around and number of jobs began to, Marty insisted all who would listen that the good news would be quiet transient, another recession was, and those who doubted him would appreciate his unwillingness to celebrate.

proliferate	superfluous
aggrandize	imminent
pique	odious

TEXT COMPLETION TRIPLE BLANKS

1. While some academics applaud the modernist movement in many universities to treat history and fiction as inherently related fields, there remains a vocal group of traditional historians and literary critics who such a world-view and insist that the nature of the two disciplines must be inviolate.

Venerate	Dogmatic	Separate
Deride	Axiomatic	Logical
Celebrate	Heretical	Intertwined

2. Pearson's equanimity as he listened to the evidence of his fraudulent schemes caused his erstwhile supporters to question his; indeed, Pearson seemed to have a penchant for that would impress even the most of hucksters.

indolence	petulance	recumbent
alacrity	chicanery	maladroit
Probity	recidivism	ignoble

3. Political predictions generally prove fairly accurate when the presumption that the future will be similar to the past is In the periods with substantial In political world, however, predictions can bewrong.

Disproved	Upswings	Thoughtfully
Stipulated	Insurgencies	Perilously
Fulfilled	Changes	Carelessly

4. The notion that socialism, which emphasizes collective ownership of the means of production, individual expression is supposed by historical studies that have shown that individualism has only in societies where socialist programs have been

Promotes	Diminished	Improved
Inhibits	Thrived	Sponsored
Fosters	Wallowed	abandoned

5. As Molly was Spanish with her friends before their trip to Chile, she discovered that although she could comprehend her friends, she could not Her thoughts in the, language.

Mastering	Acknowledge	Inherent
Disregarding	Articulate	Objective
Practicing	Envision	Unfamiliar

6. People accustomed to thinking that the human lifespanthe outer bound of animal longevity tend to dismiss tales of musket balls being found in the shells of living turtles. Leading Samantha Romney, however, argues that while such Stories may be apocryphal; some turtles do exhibit a phenomenon Known as “negligible”, showing no signs of aging even as they Pass the two-century mark.

Belies	Herpetologist	Rejuvenation
Demarcates	Ichthyologist	Superannuation
Antedates	Ornithologist	Senescence

7. Many popular musicians have new digital technologies that allow them unprecedented control over music. These musicians .Use computers to and modify their songs, resulting in a level of musical precision often unattainable naturally. Of course, though, as in often the case with new technologies, some traditionalists these developments.

Incorporated	Energize	Balk at
Synthesized	Delineate	Revel in
Alleviated	Recast	Retaliate at

8. Richard M. Russell sad 52 percent of the nation’s growth since the Second World War had invention. He said research, The government’s greatest role in auguring continuing innovation is promoting a strong, modern patent office. “Unless we can Original ideas, we will not have invention”, Mr. Russell said. Speculating on the state of innovation over the next century, several inventors agreed that the future lay in giving children the tools to think creatively and the motivation to invent.

Been at the expense of	In addition to restricting	Evaluate
No bearing on	Aside from supporting	Protect
Come through	Far from exaggerating	Disseminate

9. Statements presented as fact in a patent application are Unless a good reason for doubt is found. The invention has only to be deemed “more likely than not” to work in order to receive initial approval. And, although thousands of patents are challenged in court for other Reasons, no incentive exists for anyone to expend effort the science of an erroneous patent. For this reason the endless stream of devices will continue to yield occasional patents.

Presumed verifiable	Corroborating	Novel
Carefully scrutinized	Advancing	Bogus
Considering capricious	Debunking	obsolete

10. No other modern day poet’s work has such a well-earned reputation for , and there are few whose moral vision is so imperiously unsparing. Of late, however, the almost belligerent demands of his severe densely forbidding poetry has taken an improbable turn. This new collection is the poet’s fourth book in six years- an ample output even for poets of sunny disposition, let alone for one of such over the previous 50years. Yet for all his newfound , his poetry is as thorny as ever.

Patent accessibility	Penitent austerity	Taciturnity
Intrinsic frivolity	Intractable prolixity	Volubility
Near impenetrability	Impetuous prodigality	Pellucidity

VERBAL ANSWER KEYS

ROOTS

	Word	Root	Approximate Meaning
1	pyromaniac	pyro = fire; mania = an irrational but irresistible motive	a person with mania to set things on fire
2	somniferous	somno = sleep; ferous (suffix) = 'bearing' or 'having'	sleep inducing
3	incipient	in (prefix) = into; cip = begin	beginning to exist or appear
4	proclaim	pro (prefix) = forward; claim = cry out	declare; announce officially or publicly
5	corpulent	corp = body	bulky
6	incumbent	cumb = to lie down; recline	lying; resting (as duty); holding an office
7	genesis	gen = birth; produce; kind; origin	origin; coming into being
8	effluence	e (prefix) = out; flu = flow	the act of flowing out; something that flows out
9	predilection	pre (prefix) = before; dil = to love;	preference; disposition in favor of something
10	tenacious	ten = hold	holding persistently to something (such as a point of view)

ETYMOLOGY DRILL

1	abjure	ab (prefix) = away; jur= away; jur = away; jur	to renounce solemnly
2	motility	mot = to move	ability to move; change of position
3	premonition	pre (prefix) = before; moni = admonish	early warning about future event
4	egregious	e (prefix) = out; greg = group	extremely bad
5	facile	fac = to do	easily done
6	deify	dei = god	consider as god
7	amortize	ad (prefix) = to; mort = death	gradually extinguish
8	detract	de (prefix) = off; tract = pull	to take away (a part) from
9	circumvent	circum = around ; ven =to come	find a way around
10	incursion	in (prefix) = into; curs = run	invasion

WORD ASSOCIATION DRILLS

	The word	The association	The connotation	Meaning
1	Sarcastic	Sarcastic remarks/comments	Bad	Taunting/mocking
2	Extempore	Extempore speech	Neutral	Without preparation/ rehearsal
3	Delinquency	Juvenile delinquency	Negative	Commission of minor crime (by the young)
4	Benign	Benign tumour/Malignant tumour	Good	Benign = not malignant
5	Abject	Abject poverty/failure	Bad	Extremely bad (quality /condition/situation)
6	Inclement	Inclement weather	Bad	Unpleasantly cold/ rainy/humid/ stormy
7	Incessant	Incessant rain/chatter	Neutral	continuous
8	Impeccable	Impeccable character	Good	Perfect/ without fault
9	Servile	Servile attitude	Negative	Like that of slaves
10	Platonic	Platonic love	Good?	Without involving sex
11	Laudatory	Laudatory remarks	Good	Expressing praise
12	Flagging	Flagging spirits	Negative	Weakening/drooping
13	Irate	Irate crowd	Negative	Angry/furious
14	Primordial	Primordial forests	Neutral	Belonging to early period of history of the world/ Primeval
15	Plenary	Plenary session	Neutral	To be attended by everyone
16	Pied	Pied piper (of Hamelin)	Neutral	Spotted with various colours
17	Peremptory	Peremptory tone/manner/gesture	Negative?	expected to be obeyed immediately
18	Precarious	Precarious condition	Negative	Uncertain/risky
19	Soporific	Soporific medicines	Neutral	Inducing sleep
20	Smattering	Smattering of (a language)	Negative?	A small quantity
21	Sever	Sever ties/relationship	Neutral?	Disconnect completely and suddenly
22	Precocious	Precocious child	Negative?	Matured before ex

VOCAB DRILL

Drill 1

Pick out the nearest Meanings-	
1)	d)
2)	b)
3)	c)
4)	a)
5)	a)
6)	c)
7)	b)
8)	d)
9)	d)
10)	b)

Match the words..	
1)	a)
2)	c)
3)	j)
4)	i)
5)	b)
6)	h)
7)	e)
8)	d)
9)	g)
10)	f)

Drill 2

Pick out the nearest Meanings-	
1)	b)
2)	c)
3)	a)
4)	a)
5)	c)
6)	d)
7)	d)
8)	b)
9)	b)
10)	a)
11)	a)
12)	c)

Match the words..	
1)	g)
2)	f)
3)	e)
4)	b)
5)	h)
6)	j)
7)	a)
8)	d)
9)	c)
10)	i)
11)	m)
12)	k)
13)	o)
14)	n)
15)	l)

Drill 3

Pick out the nearest Meanings-	
1)	c)
2)	a)
3)	a)
4)	c)
5)	b)
6)	d)
7)	d)
8)	b)
9)	c)
10)	a)
11)	a)
12)	c)
13)	b)
14)	d)
15)	b)

Match the words..	
1)	e)
2)	d)
3)	f)
4)	a)
5)	c)
6)	b)
7)	h)
8)	i)
9)	g)
10)	j)
11)	m)
12)	o)
13)	n)
14)	l)
15)	k)

Drill 4

Pick out the nearest Meanings-	
1)	a)
2)	a)
3)	c)
4)	b)
5)	d)
6)	d)
7)	b)
8)	c)
9)	a)
10)	a)
11)	c)
12)	b)

Match the words..	
1)	e)
2)	h)
3)	c)
4)	j)
5)	d)
6)	f)
7)	a)
8)	b)
9)	i)
10)	l)
11)	o)
12)	n)
13)	m)
14)	q)
15)	k)
16)	p)
17)	g)

Drill 5

Pick out the nearest Meanings-	
1)	d)
2)	b)
3)	c)
4)	a)
5)	a)
6)	c)
7)	b)
8)	d)
9)	d)
10)	b)
11)	a)
12)	a)
13)	c)
14)	b)

Match the words..	
1)	b)
2)	e)
3)	c)
4)	l)
5)	h)
6)	j)
7)	m)
8)	g)
9)	k)
10)	a)
11)	n)
12)	d)
13)	f)
14)	i)
15)	o)

Drill 6

Pick out the nearest Meanings-	
1)	c)
2)	b)
3)	d)
4)	d)
5)	b)
6)	c)
7)	a)
8)	a)
9)	c)
10)	b)
11)	d)
12)	d)
13)	b)
14)	c)

Match the words..	
1)	g)
2)	m)
3)	q)
4)	c)
5)	o)
6)	d)
7)	i)
8)	l)
9)	j)
10)	k)
11)	p)
12)	n)
13)	h)
14)	a)
15)	e)
16)	f)
17)	b)

Miscellaneous Drills

Pick out the nearest Meanings-	
1)	c)
2)	b)
3)	a)
4)	d)
5)	b)
6)	a)
7)	d)
8)	a)
9)	a)
10)	b)

Match the words..	
1)	c)
2)	a)
3)	b)
4)	i)
5)	f)
6)	e)
7)	g)
8)	j)
9)	d)
10)	h)

Fill in the Blanks-	
1)	d- dilettante
2)	a)
3)	j)
4)	c)
5)	f)
6)	e)
7)	i)
8)	h)
9)	g)
10)	b)

Positive (Intelligence)	Negative (Stupidity)
	ACUMEN
	ASININE ✓
✓	ASTUTE
	DERANGE ✓ D
	DOLTISH ✓
	FATUOUS ✓
✓	FINESSE
✓	FLAIR
	GAUCHE ✓
	GULLIBLE ✓
	IGNORAM ✓ US
	IMPOLITIC ✓
	INANE ✓
✓	INCISIVE

✓	INGENIOUS
✓	KEN
	MALADROIT ✓
✓	OMNISCIENT
✓	PERCIPIENT
✓	PERSPICACIOUS
✓	PRECOCIOUS
✓	PUNDIT
✓	SAGACIOUS
✓	SAPIENT
	SIMPLE ✓
	UNWITTING ✓
	VACUOUS ✓
	VAPID ✓

Loud and Long	Crisp and Clear
✓	BOMBAST
	CURT ✓
	DUMB ✓
✓	ELOQUENT
✓	GARRULOUS
✓	GRANDILOQUENT
	LACONIC ✓
✓	LOQUACIOUS
	MUTE ✓

✓	OROTUND
✓	PLANGENT
✓	PROLIX
	RETICENT ✓
✓	STENTORIAN
	SUCCINCT ✓
	TACIT ✓
	TACITURN ✓
	TERSE ✓
✓	TURGID
	VERBOSE ✓

contiguous	detached
✓	ABUT
✓	AGGREGATION
	ASUNDER ✓
	BIFURCATE ✓
✓	CABAL
✓	COLLATE
✓	COLLOQUY
✓	COLLUSION
✓	CONCATENATE
✓	CONCOMITANT
✓	CONFLUENCE
✓	CONJOIN
✓	CONSENSUS
✓	CONSONANCE
✓	COTERIE

	DIFFUSE ✓
	DISCRETE ✓
	DISJOINTED ✓
	DISPERSE ✓
	DISSIPATE ✓
	DIVERGE ✓
	ESTFWNGE ✓
	INCONGRUOUS ✓
	INTERREGNUM ✓
	INTERSTICE ✓
	RIFT ✓
	SCHISM ✓
✓	SEQUESTERED
✓	SYNCHRONOUS
✓	SYNTHESIS
✓	TANDEM

True	False
	APOCRYPHAL ✓
	CALUMNY ✓
	CANARD ✓
✓	CANDOR
	CHICANERY ✓
	DISSEMBLE ✓
	DISSIMULATE ✓
	DUPE ✓
	DUPLICITY ✓
	EQUIVOCATE ✓
	ERRONEOUS ✓

	ERSATZ ✓
	FALLACIOUS ✓
✓	FEALTY
	FEIGNED ✓
	FOIST ✓
✓	FRANKNESS
	GUILE ✓
✓	INDISPUTABLE
✓	INDUBITABLE
✓	LEGITIMATE
	MALINGER ✓
	MENDACIOUS ✓

	MENDACITY	✓
	PERFIDY	✓
	PREVARICATE	✓
✓	PROBITY	

✓	SINCERE	
	SPECIOUS	✓
	SPURIOUS	✓
✓	VERACIOUS	

Happy	Unhappy
✓	BLITHE
	DISCONSOLATE ✓
	DISPIRITED ✓
	DOLDRUMS ✓
	DOLOROUS ✓
✓	EBULLIENT

✓	EUPHORIC	
✓	FELICITY	
✓	PROVIDENT	
	RUE	✓
	WOE	✓

Reading Comprehension Answer Key

Archaeology passage- Passage 1
1-B
2-E
3-E
4-C
5-A
6-C
Federal Efforts to aid minority businesses Passage 2
1-A
2-D
3-D
4-C
5-C
6-B
Nearly a century ago- Passage 3
1-E
2-D
3-E
4-A
5-B
6-C
Australian researchers- Passage 7

1-D
2-C
3-A
4-C
5-E
6-B

	Sentence Equivalence				Text Completion Drill
	DRILL 3		DRILL 4		
Qno.	Answers	Q. No.	Answers		
1	A,F	1	A,E	1	D
2	A,D	2	A,D	2	B,F
3	A,E	3	D,F	3	A,D,G
4	D,F	4	B,F	4	B,D,G
5	B,E	5	C,F	5	B,D,I
6	B,E	6	D,F	6	C,E
7	C,F	7	A,D	7	A
8	D,F	8	A,D	8	A
9	A,F			9	C,F,H
10	C,F				

PARTING WORDS: COUNT DOWN TO THE GRE

All your hard work will be put to the test on the day of the actual GRE. The final week can be very stressful, and events on the day of the test have the potential to rattle unprepared testers. To help guarantee that you will emerge successfully from the GRE, here is some advice for the time leading up to your exam.

The Week Leading Up To The GRE Continue to

practice

Continue to practice regularly until you take your exam. Finish the last remaining online test a few days before your exam. It's best not to do it the day before, as you'll want time to review the last test and work on any last-minute problem areas. If any specific topics are still giving you trouble, do some targeted work in those areas. Review your class notes, and practice questions dealing with those topics. Continue to work problems in the Official Guide and online drills.

Visit the test center

If possible, take a field trip to your test center. If you're unfamiliar with the area, figure out how to get to the center ahead of time. It's much better to get lost on your dry run than on the day of your exams. Walk inside to check out the waiting area and peek into the testing room. Seeing the center ahead of time can have a calming effect, especially if you're picturing the testing room as a chamber of horrors.

Take care of yourself

In the days leading up to the test, try to get regular exercise and adequate sleep. Exercise, even a short walk, helps you manage your stress. You may have a little trouble sleeping the night before the test, so you want to be well rested in the days leading up to the test. To be at your best, your body must be conditioned to be awake and ready to work at the time you are going to take your GRE. If you have scheduled your exam first thing in the morning, become accustomed to waking up at the proper time for the entire week leading up to the test. It is also important not to go to bed at a ridiculously early hour the night before the exam. Fourteen hours of sleep the night before the test is not necessary, and any deviation from the sleep schedule you have established in the final week is a dangerous idea.

Run Up To the Test Day

Continue with your visualization techniques

Have confidence that you're well prepared: You've attended all the classes (or done the makeup), completed your homework, taken your practice tests, and consulted with your instructor as needed. You've mastered the GRE and all its sneaky little traps. In order to help ready yourself for the exam, here are a few things you'll want to keep in mind:

- The final week leading up to the GRE can inspire all kind of negative thinking. Being excited about the test is normal, even helpful. Letting the importance of the GRE inspire feelings of dread is not good.
- Use your stress management techniques to keep yourself in proper focus till the end of the exam.
- Remain positive. Now is not the time to start thinking that you are going to fail.

Keep physically fit

Be well-rested & well-fed. Try to get plenty of sleep in the days leading up to the exam.

Plan to reach the test center well in time

By this time you know where your test will take place. Physically go there, if possible and if you have not been there as yet, to ensure that you know how long it will take you to get to the center and precisely where it's located. Plan to arrive at the test center 30 minutes before your test appointment. If you are late, you may not be permitted to take your test.

The Day Before The Test

Review what you have learnt

Treat yourself to a thorough review of the materials. Don't bother doing hundreds of problems the day before the actual GRE. By this point, you've already learned everything you need to know. Simply review what you've learned, practice with a few problems from your materials, and relax.

Dress in layers

Be prepared for a wide range of temperatures. Dress in layers, and keep in mind that you are dressing for comfort. Dress comfortably, casually, and in layers. If it's winter, you may find yourself in one room that's heated to 120 degrees. Conversely, in summer, you may be situated just beneath the air-conditioning unit. Leave yourself the option to warm up or cool down by adding or removing layers.

The Night Before The Test

Relax

Don't study the evening before your test! Your performance depends on your work over the last several weeks, not in the last few hours before the exam. Go out to dinner (a simple one – not one that will make you uncomfortable) or watch a movie. Do not do any more GRE work because you are as ready as you are going to be.

Make a test-day kit that includes everything you might need. Be sure to include:

- Directions to the test center. Ideally, you will have been there already to check out the accommodations.
- Some warm-up problems. Leave your calculator at home, but feel free to bring your materials for review. Bring your *Jdh Edition* at the very least.
- Telephone numbers of taxi services in case you have car trouble.
- A passport and an additional photo ID
- Something to pass the time if you have to wait for the test to begin.
- List of schools you want to receive your scores. Your test fee covers up to five score reports. If you want to send scores to more than five schools or if you don't choose score recipients on the day of your test, you will be charged \$25 per school to send your scores later.
- Some snack, water, etc.

Fuel for body and mind

On the day of your test, eat something before your exam. It's a long test, your brain needs fuel also, bring a snack with you to the exam. You'll have to leave it in your locker during the test, but you can have it during one of your breaks. Stay away from excessive amounts of caffeine unless you are comfortable with the idea of either losing test time to bathroom trips or wearing a diaper.

Warm up

Just as an athlete warms up before a race, you may want to do some warm-up problems on the day of your exam. Treat yourself to another short review. Do a few *1dh Edition* questions during breakfast or while you're waiting in the test center. These help to get in test taking mode so that you can hit the ground running when the test begins. Your warm-up will help to prevent "brain sprains."

Work problems you've done before; if you do new problems and get them wrong, it could shake your confidence.

Remain positive

Finally, think positively. Everything you've done in class has prepared you for the test. The GRE will contain problems precisely like those you've been working with all along. Stick with the techniques; apply them to the best of your ability, and DON'T FORGET TO PACE YOURSELF!

At the Test Center

When you arrive, a staff member will check you in and verify your identification. You'll be given a confidentiality statement to write out and sign. It states that you are taking the GRE solely for the purpose of applying to a graduate program and that you agree not to disclose any material from them. You will be provided a locker into which you must place all of your belongings. You will not be allowed to bring anything with you into the testing room. Though the official policy states that you cannot remove anything from your locker during the breaks, we've found most test centers allow you to visit your locker during the break.

Time For Your Test

The proctor will give you six sheets of scratch paper and pencils. These will be the only items you are allowed to bring with you into the testing room. You will be taken into the testing room, which consists of computers separated by dividers. If you have any questions for the proctor, ask them before your test begins.

Although you must begin your test as soon as you are seated at your workstation, remember that the first section of the test is the tutorial. You have unlimited time here; make sure to take the time you need to prepare yourself to take the test and set up your scratch paper.

Your computer will keep track of the time remaining during the two five-minute breaks. You may not take longer than five minutes. You may eat or drink only on the break.

The Moment of Truth

At the end of the exam, you'll face the moment of truth. A window will appear on your computer screen, and the text will ask you whether you want to accept or cancel your score. You must decide whether to cancel or accept your scores before you see them. Even though you may feel uncertain, you probably did fine and should accept your score. Cancel your score only if you're certain something truly awful happened during the exam. For example, if you pushed the start button and threw up all over the keyboard, maybe it wasn't your day. If you cancel your scores, you won't find out what you scored and you won't receive a refund of the test fee. ETS will send a cancellation notice to you and to any schools you designated to receive score reports.

You Made It!

Upon exiting the testing room, the test administrator will give you your unofficial score report. You will receive your official score report, via mail, when the AWAs have been scored. The official score report usually arrives about two weeks after you take the exam, and schools you designated to receive score reports get them around the same time.

If Anything Goes Wrong

It's very rare to encounter technical problems during the exam. If technical problems occur that prevent you from completing your exam, you will be offered the chance to schedule another appointment at no charge.

If you want to complain about test center conditions or any testing irregularities, begin by filing a complaint before you leave the test center. If possible, get the test center staff to corroborate your complaint to file a complaint with ETS as soon as possible after leaving the test center. Explain the situation in a letter, and address it to "Attention: GRE Complaints." Submit it by fax (609-883-4349), email (gre@ets.org), or mail (GRE – Attention GRE Complaints, Educational Testing Service, P.O. Box 6103, Princeton, NJ 08541-6103).

You Are Ready

You are ready to beat the GRE! We at The Princeton Review want to wish you good luck on your upcoming GRE! We hope that all your hard work pays off and you achieve your desired scores. Go into the test with the utmost confidence, because you have worked hard to prepare for every question on the exam. We will follow up with you in about a month to see how you did on the exam, but feel free to contact us any time before or after the test.

Good Luck!