

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 then 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 or de
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
virulent	extremely harmful or poisonous; bitterly hostile or antagonistic

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
complaisance	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

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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 HitParade

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 allude; 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 prance 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; al 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

Group3

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
excise	to cut out or extirpate
extant	existing; not destroyed or lost
extirpate	to destroy; to exterminate; to cut out; to excise
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	torece; to disallow; to repudiate
fracas	noisy quarrel; imbroglio; brawl
fractious	quarrelsome; rebellious; unruly; refractory;
	irritable
frieze	a semi-sculptural, raised-surface ornamental facade
	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
imbroglia	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; 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; oearing
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
vaunt	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