

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## PREVARICATE

**Definition:** [verb] avoid telling the truth by not directly answering a question

**Example sentence:** *During the trial, the lead witness was willing to prevaricate in order to protect his friend.*

**Synonyms:** perjure, beguile, fool, misrepresent

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## OSTENTATION

**Definition:** [noun] excessive display of wealth

**Example sentence:** *Owning a mansion doesn't imply ostentation, but traveling exclusively by private jet certainly can.*

**Synonyms:** showiness, pretentiousness, gaudiness

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## MALLEABLE

**Definition:** [adj.] easily influenced; pliable

**Example sentence:** *Children's moods are often malleable since children are greatly affected by their surroundings.*

**Synonyms:** impressionable, compliant, tractable

## GRE Vocab: TOP 52

### GARRULOUS

**Definition:** [adj.] excessively talkative

**Example sentence:** *The garrulous hair stylist talked to each customer for hours at a time.*

**Synonyms:** loquacious, verbose, chatty

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## DISSONANCE

**Definition:** [noun] a lack of harmony or agreement

**Example sentence:** *The school board's meeting lasted for hours due to the lengthy debate fueled by dissonance among opinions.*

**Synonyms:** discord, discrepancy, disparity, incongruity

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## BOLSTER

**Definition:** [verb] support or strengthen

**Example sentence:** *The prosecutor worked to find evidence that would bolster her case against the defendant.*

**Synonyms:** reinforce, renew, fortify, boost

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## WAVER

**Definition:** [verb] go back and forth between choices or opinions

**Example sentence:** *Some citizens vote solely along party lines and never waver in their political decisions.*

**Synonyms:** fluctuate, vacillate, dither

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## PHILANTHROPIC

**Definition:** [adj.] seeking to promote the welfare of others

**Example sentence:** *The students were grateful to receive financial support from philanthropic organizations that promote education.*

**Synonyms:** charitable, generous, benevolent



# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## OBDURATE

**Definition:** [adj.] stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion

**Example sentence:** *The obdurate three-year-old refused to eat any vegetables, no matter how they were prepared.*

**Synonyms:** obstinate, intransigent, inflexible

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## LETHARGIC

**Definition:** [adj.] lacking energy

**Example sentence:** *It is not uncommon to feel lethargic for weeks or even months after major surgery.*

**Synonyms:** listless, inactive, slow, lifeless

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## EULOGY

**Definition:** [noun] a speech that praises someone, typically someone who has recently died

**Example sentence:** *The rabbi's eulogy was both heartfelt and inspiring.*

**Synonyms:** tribute

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## DERIDE

**Definition:** [verb] express contempt for; ridicule

**Example sentence:** *The unreasonable supervisor was known to deride his employees on a daily basis.*

**Synonyms:** ridicule, mock, scorn

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## CACOPHONY

**Definition:** [noun] a harsh, unpleasant mixture of sounds

**Example sentence:** *The cacophony of the middle school band warming up was nearly unbearable for the audience.*

**Synonyms:** racket, noise, clamor, dissonance, uproar

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## ANTIPATHY

**Definition:** [noun] a strong feeling of dislike

**Example sentence:** *The students voiced their antipathy for homework very loudly.*

**Synonyms:** animosity, enmity, bitterness, hostility, rancor

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## MISANTHROPE

**Definition:** [noun] a person who dislikes humankind

**Example sentence:** *The neighborhood misanthrope surrounded his yard with barbed wire to keep people away.*

**Synonyms:** pessimist, cynic, naysayer

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## VENERATE

**Definition:** [verb] regard with great respect

**Example sentence:** *To venerate the fire chief's forty years of service, the department held a special banquet.*

**Synonyms:** revere, exalt, honor, respect, esteem



# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## PROPRIETY

**Definition:** [noun] the state or quality of being correct or proper

**Example sentence:** *The students were instructed to behave with the utmost propriety while on their class field trip.*

**Synonyms:** decorum, respectability, decency, civility

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## ENERVATE

**Definition:** [verb] cause (someone or something) to feel drained of energy; weaken

**Example sentence:** *The boxer used a swift left uppercut to the jaw to enervate his opponent.*

**Synonyms:** exhaust, tire, fatigue, incapacitate

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## MITIGATE

**Definition:** [verb] make less severe, serious, or painful

**Example sentence:** *We want to mitigate students' GRE stress by offering helpful study tools.*

**Synonyms:** alleviate, reduce, diminish, lessen, weaken, lighten, attenuate

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## EPHEMERAL

**Definition:** [adj.] lasting for a very short time

**Example sentence:** *An ephemeral moment of victory may last mere seconds, but it can remain as a triumphant memory for decades.*

**Synonyms:** transitory, transient, fleeting, momentary, brief

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## CORROBORATE

**Definition:** [verb] confirm or make more certain

**Example sentence:** *The scientist was able to corroborate his hypothesis with data gathered from multiple sources.*

**Synonyms:** confirm, verify, endorse, ratify, authenticate

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## ADULTERATE

**Definition:** [verb] make (something) impure or weaker by adding something of inferior quality

**Example sentence:** *Many chefs use fresh produce and refuse to adulterate their dishes with canned ingredients.*

**Synonyms:** degrade, debase, spoil, taint, contaminate

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## PRAGMATIC

**Definition:** [adj.] dealing with the problems that exist in a reasonable and logical way instead of depending on theories

**Example sentence:** *A pragmatic approach to legislation can be difficult given the complexities of politics.*

**Synonyms:** practical, sensible, businesslike

## GRE Vocab: TOP 52

### CAPRICIOUS

**Definition:** [adj.] given to sudden changes of mood or behavior

**Example sentence:** *The capricious supervisor would hand out raises one day and fire his entire staff the next.*

**Synonyms:** unpredictable, temperamental, erratic, variable



# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## LOQUACIOUS

**Definition:** [adj.] tending to talk a great deal

**Example sentence:** *The loquacious professor was known for his five-hour lectures.*

**Synonyms:** talkative, communicative, chatty

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## LACONIC

**Definition:** [adj.] using few words

**Example sentence:** *The student's laconic response suggested that she did not know very much about the topic the professor was discussing.*

**Synonyms:** brief, concise, terse, succinct, short

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## PLACATE

**Definition:** [verb] make (someone) less angry or hostile

**Example sentence:** *A parent may decide to placate a baby with a pacifier.*

**Synonyms:** pacify, calm, appease, mollify, soothe, conciliate, propitiate

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## OPAQUE

**Definition:** [adj.] not able to be seen through; not transparent

**Example sentence:** *Medical jargon includes many opaque terms like macrosomic, which describes a newborn who weighs more than 4,000 grams.*

**Synonyms:** nontransparent, obscure, unclear

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## PRECIPITATE

**Definition:** [verb] cause (something) to happen quickly or suddenly

**Example sentence:** *Unforeseen costs can precipitate a budget crisis.*

**Synonyms:** cause, trigger, instigate, spark

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## ENIGMA

**Definition:** [noun] a person or thing that is mysterious, puzzling, or difficult to understand

**Example sentence:** *Scientists continue to research cancer to solve the enigma of its primary cause, which will hopefully lead to a cure.*

**Synonyms:** paradox, quandary, riddle

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## PRODIGAL

**Definition:** [adj.] wastefully extravagant

**Example sentence:** *The prodigal prince bought lavish gifts and planned expensive events.*

**Synonyms:** spendthrift, profligate, improvident, imprudent

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## ASSUAGE

**Definition:** [verb] make (an unpleasant feeling) less intense

**Example sentence:** *A massage can assuage the soreness in your muscles.*

**Synonyms:** relieve, ease, alleviate, soothe, mitigate, allay, palliate, abate, suppress, subdue



# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## ERUDITE

**Definition:** [adj.] having or showing great knowledge

**Example sentence:** *High school students often struggle with novels that are more erudite than they are entertaining.*

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## LUCID

**Definition:** [adj.] very clear and easy to understand

**Example sentence:** *The lecture was lucid and straightforward, allowing the students to fully grasp the concepts presented.*

**Synonyms:** intelligible, unambiguous, comprehensible

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## ERUDITE

**Definition:** [adj.] having or showing great knowledge

**Example sentence:** *High school students often struggle with novels that are more erudite than they are entertaining.*

**Synonyms:** scholarly, educated, knowledgeable, intellectual

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## FERVID

**Definition:** [adj.] intensely enthusiastic or passionate

**Example sentence:** *The child showed a fervid fascination for superheroes, pouring over comic books for hours.*

**Synonyms:** fervent, ardent, intense, vehement

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## AUDACIOUS

**Definition:** [adj.] a willingness to take bold risks  
[adj.] showing a lack of respect

**Example sentence:** *The new CEO pursued audacious initiatives to save the company from bankruptcy.*

*The student's audacious remark earned her a seat in afternoon detention.*

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## LAUDABLE

**Definition:** [adj.] deserving praise and commendation

**Example sentence:** *Providing affordable healthcare for all citizens is a laudable goal.*

**Synonyms:** praiseworthy, commendable, admirable, worthy, deserving

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## GULLIBLE

**Definition:** [adj.] easily persuaded to believe something

**Example sentence:** *The gullible little boy gave his older sister all of his allowance because she told him she would buy a pony for him.*

**Synonyms:** innocent, inexperienced, unsuspecting, unsuspecting

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## PEDANT

**Definition:** [noun] a person who makes an excessive display of learning

**Example sentence:** *Professor Blackwell, a well-known pedant, required his pre-med students to speak in Latin throughout the entire semester.*

**Synonyms:** purist, perfectionist, formalist, literalist



# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## VACILLATE

**Definition:** [verb] waver between different opinions or actions

**Example sentence:** *Undergraduate students often vacillate among various majors before deciding which degree to pursue.*

**Synonyms:** fluctuate, sway, oscillate

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## DESICCATE

**Definition:** [verb] remove the moisture from (something)

**Example sentence:** *The heat and energy from the sun can desiccate even the most hearty plants.*

**Synonyms:** dry, dehydrate

# GRE Vocab: TOP 52

## EQUIVOCAL

**Definition:** [adj.] not easily understood or explained

**Example sentence:** *Politicians have been known to provide equivocal answers to reporters' questions.*

**Synonyms:** disputable, dubious, questionable, ambiguous