



# The 357 GRE Words You Need to Know

And How to Learn Them Best

*By the PrepScholar Team*



# Vocabulary Builder Flashcards

Your mastery of vocabulary will be tested in GRE Verbal section. If you don't know the definitions of the words, you'll be at a significant disadvantage in this section!

We've provided the following 357 words completely free for you to use. These words are the most commonly appearing words on the GRE. Read on for directions on how to print and use them.

## **Directions to Print:**

These flashcards are designed for you to print on a double-sided printer, so that the word appears on one side and the definition appears on the back. For best results, make sure you choose the following settings:

- Duplex
- Scaling: None

## How to Use these Flashcards

What does it mean for you to know the word? If you look at the word on a flashcard and can remember the definition, you'll know the basic meaning of the word.

The **wrong** way to study flashcards is to keep going from front to back, front to back. This is ineffective because you spend time on words you already know and not enough on words you have trouble with.

### **Here's how you can use your flashcards intelligently.**

The strategy we recommend is to review the cards you have more problems with more often.

- Each day, start with a stack of 30 cards.
- Go through each card. Place the card into one of two stacks: Know it, or Struggled with it.
- For the Struggled with it stack, go through the entire stack once. Then, split it again, into a know it or struggled with it stacks.
- Repeat step 3 until you have no more Struggled with it stacks. You've now created a waterfall of stacks, where the stack at the end has the words that are hardest for you, and the stack at the beginning is easiest. Theoretically, you should know all the words now.
- Go back up the waterfall. Take the last stack, and

combine it with the next highest Know it stack. If you forgot any of the words in the stack, go through all of them again. If you remembered all the words in the stack, integrate the next highest Know it stack.

- When you've gone back to your first Know it stack and you have all the cards in one stack again, you should now know all the words very well.

Think of it like a series of waterfalls, where you keep filtering the cards by difficulty until you're left with the most difficult, hard to remember cards.

Now, go for it! Print out the rest of the pages using the settings we described, and master these common GRE vocab words!

abate



aberrant



abjure



abscond



abstain



acumen



admonish



adulterate



adj. diverging from the standard type



v. to diminish in intensity  
v. to cause to diminish in intensity



v. to leave secretly, evading detection



v. to reject or renounce



n. keen judgment and perception



v. to voluntarily refrain from doing something



v. to contaminate or make impure by introducing inferior elements



v. scold or to advise firmly



advocate



aesthetic



affectation



aggrandize



alacrity



alleviate



amalgamate



ambiguous



adj. concerned with the nature of beauty  
and art



v. to recommend, support, or advise  
n. one who advocates



v. enlarge or increase, esp. wealth, power,  
reputation



n. fake or artificial behavior, often meant to  
impress or conceal the truth



v. to relieve a problem or ease a burden



n. promptness and eagerness



adj. unclear  
adj. open to multiple interpretations



v. to combine to or mix together





ambivalent



ameliorate



amenable



anachronism



analogous



anoint



anomaly



antipathy



v. to improve or mitigate a situation



adj. having mixed or contradictory feelings about someone or something



n. something old-fashioned  
n. something appearing in a time period where it does not belong



adj. easily convinced or persuaded



v. to choose for a particular office or position  
v. to use oil on a person in a religious ceremony



n. comparable  
n. appropriate for analogy



n. strong dislike or hatred



n. an exception or unusual case



antithetical



apathy



appease



arbitrary



arcane



archaic











arduous



articulate



<p>n. state of total disinterest or unenthusiasm</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>	<p>adj. contrary to the very nature of</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>
<p>adj. seemingly chosen or designated without reason or purpose</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>	<p>v. to placate v. to satisfy (an appetite, a need)</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>
<p>adj. old-fashioned adj. no longer in the common usage</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>	<p>adj. secret or known only to a select group</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>
<p>adj. exhibiting considerable communication skills, well-spoken</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>	<p>adj. difficult, taxing, requiring considerable effort</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>

artless



ascetic



assuage



astonishment



audacious



austere



avarice



aver



adj. austere or self-denying



adj. without artifice  
adj. natural, untrained



n. total surprise, shock



v. to provide relief from an unpleasant  
feeling  
v. to satisfy a need or appetite



adj. severe, unadorned



adj. very bold or presumptuous



v. to assert or allege



n. greed



banal



belie



benign



biased



bolster



bombastic











brazen



bucolic



<p>v. give a false impression (intentional or unintentional) in word, appearance, or deed</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>	<p>adj. boring, cliché</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>
<p>adj. prejudiced, displaying partiality</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>	<p>adj. gentle, harmless</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>
<p>adj. overblown, theatrical</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>	<p>v. to shore up or support</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>
<p>adj. pastoral, rustic, countryfied</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>	<p>adj. bold or open to the point of shocking adj. shameless</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>



burgeon

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cacophony

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

calumny

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

candid

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

canon

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

capacity

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

capricious

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

castigate

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

n. loud and chaotic noise



v. flourish, bloom, expand or increase quickly



adj. honest, open



n. lie or slander



n. the capability to perform a particular action or fulfill a given function  
n. the total amount a container can hold  
n. a particular position or role (i.e. "she served in an advisory capacity")



n. accepted rules and tenets of a discipline  
n. sacred works/scripture; in this sense it is also used to refer to notable literary and artistic works of a culture or discipline



v. to scold or berate strongly



adj. mercurial, unpredictable, whimsical



catalyst

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caustic

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censure

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chauvinist

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chicanery

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chronological

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coalesce

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.Prepscholar.com)

cogent

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.Prepscholar.com)

adj. corrosive  
adj. bitterly sarcastic



n. something that speeds up a process or  
causes action



n. someone who believes prejudicially that  
their own group is the superior one



v. to express intense condemnation



adj. ordered by time



n. trickery or deception



adj. clearly laid out and persuasive



v. to come together, esp. from disparate  
parts



commensurate



compelling



comprehensive



condone



confound



connoisseur



consequential



construe



adj. captivating  
adj. very persuasive



adj. in accordance with, proportional



v. to approve or allow



adj. complete and thorough



n. an expert in a particular subject matter  
area, usually relating to the fine arts or  
cultural pursuits



v. to confuse or astonish



v. to interpret



adj. as a result of  
adj. significant or memorable



consumption



contend



contentious



contrite



convoluted



copious



cosmopolitan



covet



v. assert or claim  
v. grapple with



n. utilization (esp. of a resource)



adj. remorseful



adj. controversial  
adj. involving conflict



adj. plentiful or abundant



adj. roundabout, not straightforward



v. to desire something that does not belong  
to you



adj. of or relating to a city or urban area  
adj. sophisticated





craft



craven



credence



credulous



decorum



deference



deflect



deftness



adj. cowardly to the point of being shameful



n. cunning  
n. skill



adj. gullible, naïve



n. belief or trust



n. respect or polite submission



n. appropriate behavior or good manners



adj. skill, acumen  
adj. manual dexterity



v. divert or cause to ricochet



delineate



demur



denigrate



deride



derivative



desiccate



desultory



detachment



v. to object or raise concerns



v. to describe very accurately  
v. to clearly demarcate a boundary  
v. to render an outline



v. to mock or ridicule



v. say negative things about, particularly in a defamatory way



v. to dry out completely  
v. to suck out the vitality and passion



adj. imitates another work in a way that is unoriginal or uninspiring



n. objectivity or aloofness



adj. halfhearted  
adj. inconsistent or random



determinant



diatribe



didactic



diffident



dilettante



dirge



disabuse



discern



n. a rant or angry speech denouncing someone or something



n. a strong factor in an outcome



adj. shy, timid, or reserved due to a lack of confidence



adj. educational or with an instructive purpose; often includes an element of moralizing



n. funeral or mourning lament  
n. any sad, slow song



n. someone with an amateur, nonserious interest in something



v. to perceive



v. to dispel someone's illusions or false impressions about something



discrepancy



disinterested



disparage



disparate



dispassionate



disregard



dissemble



disseminate



adj. objective, unbiased  
adj. not invested in the outcome



n. inconsistency



adj. dissimilar to such a degree that  
comparison is not possible



v. to belittle



v. to ignore or pay no attention to



adj. impartial or cool



v. to spread widely (esp. information)



v. to mislead or conceal the truth, esp. with  
respect to one's motives





dissonance



diverge



dogma



dupe



ebullient



eccentric



eclectic



efficacy



v. to split apart, esp. a road or path



n. a clash between two elements that don't blend well



v. to deceive or fool



n. the official beliefs or tenets of particular sect or group



adj. quirky or unusual



adj. cheerful, enthusiastic, excited



n. effectiveness



adj. composed of a variety of styles, themes, motifs, etc.



elegy



elicit



eloquence



eminent



empirical



emulate



enervate



engender



v. to provoke a response



n. sad poem or song, often in remembrance of someone deceased



adj. well-known, respected, distinguished



adj. persuasive and articulate speech



v. to imitate or attempt to equal in accomplishment



adj. based on evidence



v. to cause or give rise to



v. to exhaust or drain of energy



enhance



entitlement



ephemeral



equable



equivocate



erroneous



erudite



eschew



n. belief that one deserves things one has not earned  
n. the rights one is afforded under the law



v. intensify, increase, augment



adj. even-tempered  
adj. not given to much change or variation



adj. short-lived or transient



adj. incorrect



v. to use ambiguous language in order to mislead or deceive



v. avoid or abstain from



adj. learned



esoteric



estimable



eulogy



exacerbate



exacting



exculpate



exigent



exonerate



adj. deserving respect, esteem, and admiration



adj. obscure, arcane



v. to make worse



n. memorial speech for one who has passed, normally given at a funeral



v. to exonerate or vindicate



adj. challenging, demanding, grueling



v. to clear of charges of wrongdoing



adj. urgent or pressing





expatiate



explicate



exposition



extraneous



extrapolate



facetious



facilitate



fallacious



v. to explain in detail



v. to elaborate on something in great detail



adj. irrelevant or superfluous



n. a thorough explanation  
n. a public show or fair



adj. glib or flippant



v. to estimate or conjecture about the future  
based on presently available information or  
facts



adj. relying on a fallacy and thus  
incorrect/misinformed



v. to make something easier or simpler



fastidious



fluctuate



foment



forestall



fortuitous



frugal



gainsay



galvanize



v. to shift without apparent pattern



adj. meticulous  
adj. invested in cleanliness



v. to hold off or try to prevent



v. to foster unrest or discontent



adj. economical, thrifty



adj. fortunate and lucky



v. to prod someone into action



v. deny or oppose



garrulous

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gauche

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germane

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.prepscholar.com)

glib

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gregarious

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guile

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hackneyed

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harangue

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adj. socially inept, inappropriate, or awkward



adj. talkative



adj. talking volubly, but carelessly or insincerely



adj. relevant to the matter at hand



n. craftiness and cunning



adj. sociable, genial



n. diatribe or rant



adj. cliché, trite, banal



hedonism



hierarchical



homogenous



hyperbole



iconoclast



ideological



imminent



immutable



adj. arranged in rank order or hierarchy



n. the pursuit of pleasure



n. obvious exaggeration for effect



adj. uniform, identical



adj. relating to a particular belief system or theory



n. a person who attacks traditional religious and cultural institutions



adj. unchangeable



adj. about to happen





impair



impediment



imperturbable



implacable



implicit



imprudence











impudent



inadvertent



<p>n. barrier, hindrance, or obstruction</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>	<p>v. to hinder or weaken someone or something</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>
<p>adj. unforgiving adj. relentless</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>	<p>adj. remaining calm under any circumstance</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>
<p>n. bad judgment</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>	<p>adj. implied or insinuated without being directly stated</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>
<p>adj. by accident or unintentional</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>	<p>adj. disrespectful</p> <p> PrepScholar.com</p>

Inchoate



inconclusive



indebted



indefatigable



indolent



infer



ingenuous



inimical



adj. indeterminate or unresolved



adj. rudimentary, in the beginning stages



adj. cannot be made tired



adj. owing money  
adj. owing gratitude to someone or something



v. to conclude from implicit evidence (as opposed to explicit facts)



adj. lazy  
adj. idle



adj. harmful or hostile



adj. naïve or innocent



Innocuous



inscrutable



insipid



insular



intensive



intermediary



intimate



intractable



adj. enigmatic, incomprehensible



adj. harmless



adj. tight-knit and isolated; uninterested in matters outside one's immediate sphere



adj. bland, uninspired, inane



n. a go-between



adj. concentrated and in-depth



adj. unmanageable  
adj. stubborn or obstinate



adj. close (as in a relationship)  
adj. particularly private  
v. to imply



intransigent



intrepid



inveterate



invulnerable



irascible



irresolute



laconic



laud



adj. bold and adventurous



adj. uncompromising, obstinate



adj. indestructible, impervious to harm



adj. ingrained, habitual



adj. wishy-washy, hesitant



adj. irritable, testy, touchy



v. to praise



adj. taciturn, reserved, succinct





laudable



litigation



loquacious



lucid



luminous



magnanimity



maladroit



malign



n. legal proceedings



adj. praiseworthy



adj. clear and coherent



adj. talkative



n. generosity and nobility of spirit



adj. full of light



adj. evil or harmful  
v. to speak negatively about someone or something



adj. clumsy, awkward, inept



malleable



maverick



mendacity



mercurial



meticulous



misanthrope



mitigate



modest



n. an unorthodox person or rebel



adj. pliant or pliable  
adj. easily influenced



adj. easily changeable, fickle



n. untruthfulness, dishonesty



n. person who hates humanity



adj. paying close attention to detail



adj. not boastful  
adj. not overly showy



v. to improve a painful, unpleasant, or  
negative situation



mollify

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monotony

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

mundane

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

munificent

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

naïve

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

nascent

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

neglect

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

nonplussed

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

n. boredom and repetition



v. placate



adj. very generous



adj. everyday, boring



adj. just beginning or in the early stages



adj. inexperienced or gullible



adj. confused and baffled



v. to abandon or leave uncared-for



notoriety



nuance



obdurate



obscure



obsequious



obstinate



obviate



occlude



n. subtle shades of difference



n. fame for doing something negative or criminal



adj. mysterious or not well-known  
v. to cover something up or make it more difficult to perceive



adj. stubborn, obstinate



adj. stubborn, uncompromising



adj. overly fawning and helpful in a way that is disingenuous



v. to block or obstruct



v. to forestall the need for something  
v. to prevent





occult



offset



olfactory



omniscience



onerous



opaque



opportunism



opprobrium



v. to counterbalance or counteract



n. the mystical and supernatural



n. the quality or state of being all-knowing



adj. relating to smell or the sense of smell



adj. not see-through; blocking light



adj. difficult or burdensome



n. criticism or condemnation



n. the practice of taking advantage of opportunities as they arise without particular concern for morality or ethics



oscillate



ostentatious



outstrip



overshadow



painstaking



partial



partisan



patent



adj. overly showy in a way that is gaudy or vulgar



v. to swing back and forth between two points, poles, or positions



v. to literally cast a shadow over  
v. to appear more notable than



v. to overtake or outrun



adj. incomplete



adj. attentive to detail, meticulous



adj. blatant, obvious



n. a devoted supporter of a group, cause, or person



paucity



pedantic



pedestrian



perfidy



perfunctory



peripheral



permeate



perseverance



adj. overly concerned with irrelevant detail,  
fussy



n. scarcity, poverty



n. treachery or deceit



adj. boring, monotonous, run-of-the-mill



adj. on the edge or periphery; not centrally  
important



adj. done without much effort, care, or  
thought



n. persistence in the face of obstacles



v. to pervade or penetrate throughout



peruse



pervasive



phenomena



phlegmatic



pith



placate



plastic



platitude



adj. found everywhere, widespread; often has a negative connotation



v. to read something carefully and closely  
v. to read something informally or quickly

(context is critical for this word!)



adj. cool and unruffled



n. things that happen



v. to calm, esp. an angry or upset person



n. the essential substance of something



n. a trite or cliché statement



adj. easily shaped or molded  
adj. made of plastic





plausible



plethora



plummet



polarize



polemical



pragmatic



precarious



preceded



n. a surplus or overabundance of something



adj. believable, reasonable



v. to cause a sharp division between two groups



v. to fall quickly and far



adj. practical



adj. angry, hostile, harshly critical



adj. went before



adj. uncertain or unstable



precipitate



precursor



prescient



presumptuous



prevail



prevaricate



pristine



probity



n. a forerunner



v. to cause  
adj. hastily and not well-considered  
n. particulate matter formed within a solution



adj. overly familiar; invades social boundaries



adj. knowing things before they happen, prophetic



v. to evade or deceive without outright lying



v. to succeed, esp. with respect to vanquishing an opponent  
v. to convince or persuade



n. integrity and honor



adj. untouched, clean, pure



prodigal



prodigious



profligate



proliferate



propitiate



propriety



prospective



qualification



adj. enormous, immense, gigantic



n. a reckless spender



v. to multiply and spread rapidly



adj. extravagant and wasteful, esp. in an immoral way



n. appropriateness, manners, decorum



v. to obtain special favor from someone, esp. a powerful person or deity, by performing a pleasing action  
v. to appease someone who is angry



n. credential  
n. a modifying statement



adj. potential or likely  
adj. applicable to the future



quotidian



rationalize



reconcile



recondite



refute



relentless



relevant



reproach



v. to attempt to justify with reasons that are only superficially valid



adj. relating to the everyday or mundane



adj. arcane or obscure



v. to bring into harmony  
v. to repair a relationship



adj. never stopping, constant



v. to rebut or disprove



v. to scold or express criticism



adj. relating to the topic or issue at hand





repudiate



rescind



respectively



reticent



reverent



rhetoric



salubrious



sanction



v. to take back or retract (an offer or statement)



v. to renounce or disown



adj. hesitant to speak  
adj. introverted or silent



adv. in the sequential order previously given



n. the art of effective communication  
(written or verbal)



adj. solemn and respectful



v. to give official permission  
v. to impose a penalty for a particular action  
n. punishments imposed for breaking a regulation



adj. health-promoting



satiate



secular



sediment



sedulous



simultaneous



solicitous



soporific



sparse



adj. of or relating to the world or worldly matters (as opposed to religious ones)



v. to completely satisfy (with respect to hunger or appetite)



adj. dedicated and careful



n. material that settles at the bottom of a body of water



adj. considerate, attentive



adj. occurring at the same moment



adj. scattered or scarce  
adj. austere and unadorned



adj. makes sleepy



specious

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sporadic

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

spurious

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

stolid

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

subjective

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

substantiate

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

subversive

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

sufficient

 [PrepScholar.com](https://www.PrepScholar.com)

adj. occasional or scattered



adj. spurious; appearing true but actually false



adj. calm and dependable



adj. fake or false



v. to corroborate or give evidence of something



adj. open to personal interpretation; not based in objective fact



adj. enough for a given purpose



adj. meant to undercut established institutions or norms



superbly



supine



supplant



sycophant



synthesize



tacit



taciturn



temperance



adj. laying back with the face upward  
(opposite position to prone)



adv. excellently



n. a fawning, insincere admirer



v. to overtake or replace



adj. unspoken; implicit



v. to combine disparate parts into a  
coherent whole



n. moderation and restraint, sometimes  
used to specifically describe abstinence  
from alcohol



adj. reticent or reserved; tending towards  
silence





tenuous



timorous



tirade



torpor



tortuous



tractable



transient



ubiquitous



adj. meek or timid



adj. weak, flimsy, insubstantial



n. tiredness, lethargy



n. an angry rant



adj. can be easily influenced or managed



adj. winding or twisty  
adj. complicated



adj. ever-present or universal



adj. passes quickly; short-lived



unadorned



undermine



underscore



untenable



vacillate



venality



venerate



veracity



v. to weaken or compromise



adj. plain; unembellished



adj. weak or unsupportable, esp. with respect to an opinion or situation



v. to line underneath for emphasis  
v. to emphasize



n. the state of being capable of being bribed



v. to shift between multiple options or opinions



n. Truth and factual accuracy



v. to give a high degree of respect; may border on worship



verbose



vexation



volatile



whimsical



zeal



n. state of being frustrated, irritated, or concerned.



adj. long-winded; loquacious



adj. fanciful or capricious



adj. easily changeable or extreme; unstable



n. passion or fervor

