



# 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

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





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



## GROUP 2

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





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



### GROUP 3

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





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



## GROUP 4

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







<b>intrepid</b>	adjective	steadfast and courageous
<b>laconic</b>	adjective	using few words; terse
<b>malleable</b>	adjective	capable of being shaped or formed; tractable; pliable
<b>maverick</b>	noun	an independent individual who does not go along with a group or party
<b>mendacity</b>	noun	the condition of being untruthful; dishonesty
<b>mercurial</b>	adjective	characterized by rapid and unpredictable change in mood
<b>meticulous</b>	adjective	characterized by extreme care and precision; attentive to detail
<b>mollify</b>	verb	to calm or soothe; to reduce in emotional intensity
<b>obdurate</b>	adjective	unyielding; hardhearted; intractable
<b>obfuscate</b>	verb	to deliberately obscure; to make confusing
<b>obsequious</b>	adjective	exhibiting a fawning attentiveness
<b>obstinate</b>	adjective	stubborn; hardheaded; uncompromising
<b>opprobrium</b>	noun	disgrace; contempt; scorn
<b>ostentatious</b>	adjective	characterized by or given to pretentiousness
<b>pedantic</b>	adjective	the parading of learning; excessive attention to minutiae and formal rules
<b>pervade</b>	verb	to permeate throughout
<b>pervasive</b>	adjective	having the tendency to permeate or spread throughout
<b>phlegmatic</b>	adjective	calm; sluggish; unemotional
<b>pirate</b>	verb	to illegally use or reproduce
<b>plethora</b>	noun	an overabundance; a surplus
<b>polemical</b>	adjective	controversial; argumentative
<b>pragmatic</b>	adjective	practical rather than idealistic
<b>rancorous</b>	adjective	characterized by bitter, long-lasting resentment
<b>rhetoric</b>	noun	the art or study of effective use of language for communication and persuasion



*Manual for the GRE Test*

<b>salubrious</b>	adjective	promoting health or well-being
<b>sedulous</b>	adjective	diligent; persistent; hard-working
<b>solvent</b>	adjective	able to meet financial obligations; able to dissolve another substance
<b>soporific</b>	adjective	causing drowsiness; tending to induce sleep



**GROUP 5**

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



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



**GROUP 6**

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



<b>mitigate</b>	verb	to make or become less severe or intense; to moderate
<b>occlude</b>	verb	to obstruct or block
<b>pedagogy</b>	noun	the art or profession of training, teaching, or instructing
<b>penury</b>	noun	poverty; destitution
<b>pine</b>	verb	to yearn intensely; to languish; to lose vigor
<b>pith</b>	noun	the essential or central part
<b>pithy</b>	adjective	precise and brief
<b>placate</b>	verb	to appease; to calm by making concessions
<b>platitude</b>	noun	a superficial remark, esp. one offered as meaningful
<b>plummet</b>	verb	to plunge or drop straight down
<b>prodigal</b>	adjective	recklessly wasteful; extravagant; profuse; lavish
<b>profuse</b>	adjective	given or coming forth abundantly; extravagant
<b>proliferate</b>	verb	to grow or increase swiftly and abundantly
<b>queries</b>	noun	questions; inquiries; doubts in the mind; reservations
<b>querulous</b>	adjective	prone to complaining or grumbling; quarrelsome
<b>recalcitrant</b>	adjective	obstinately defiant of authority; difficult to manage
<b>repudiate</b>	verb	to refuse to have anything to do with; to disown
<b>rescind</b>	verb	to invalidate; to repeal; to retract
<b>reverent</b>	adjective	marked by, feeling, or expressing a feeling of profound awe and respect
<b>specious</b>	adjective	seeming true, but actually being fallacious; misleadingly attractive
<b>spurious</b>	adjective	lacking authenticity or validity; false; counterfeit
<b>subpoena</b>	noun	a court order requiring appearance and/or testimony
<b>succinct</b>	adjective	brief; concise
<b>superfluous</b>	adjective	exceeding what is sufficient or necessary
<b>surfeit</b>	verb	excess; overindulgence





<b>tenacity</b>	noun	the quality of adherence or persistence to something valued
<b>tenuous</b>	adjective	having little substance or strength; flimsy; weak
<b>tirade</b>	noun	a long and extremely critical speech; a harsh denunciation
<b>transient</b>	adjective	fleeting; passing quickly; brief
<b>zealous</b>	adjective	fervent; ardent; impassioned

