

*500 Words for the
Graduate Record
Examination (G.R.E.)*

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Introduction

500 Words for the GRE is a compact version of the previous volume with removal of some more obscure words. The content remains in the middle range for difficulty. As noted in the prior volume:

...[this] represents an independent research project into the standardized testing industry's core aspects with one major portion devoted to the verbal ability sections of the G.R.E. or the test required for multiple graduate level programs upon completion, and certification, of undergraduate studies. All words researched, collected, and collated for ease of access with respect to the user, likely an undergraduate student or prospective graduate student. If constrained to a 5-point scale of measurement for the difficulty of the words included in this compendium, where 1 equates to very easy, 2 equates to easy, 3 equates to average, 4 equates to hard, and 5 equates to very hard, the range seems within 1.5- 3.5 (maybe) on the scale of difficulty with a handful or two of 4-point words. Within these restrictions and provisions, this set of words should provide the basic foundation for the inclusion of the proper, or basic, study materials for the vocabulary sections of standardized tests with some (possible) transferability to common tests such as the verbal sections in intelligence tests such as the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (W.A.I.S.) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (S.A.T.). Bear in mind, in the midst of this independent initiative, something came to the fore, quite glaringly. Standardized tests remain of utility, and not in other ways. Too much to delve into the subject to give the appropriate coverage to the more than a century of research and debate into the topic of intelligence research. However, the nature of the tests seems of partial utility to discover generality of academic talents, temperaments, abilities, and skills. In this

particular case, one's verbal fluency based on raw vocabulary. Insofar as this cautionary, and positive and hopeful, note leaves one in the mood form further motivation, best wishes with this volume as a supplementary compendium in preparation for standardized tests.

This is more or less the same. It is a collection of words for the GRE intended to assist other documents and preparation materials. Tests change over time. The GRE might change its verbal content. That is, these and other resources might become obsolete.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen

A

1. Abrogate – to abolish or invalidate by authority
2. Abstruse – difficult to comprehend
3. Adage – old saying or proverb
4. Adjudicate – to study and settle a dispute
5. Adumbrate – to sketch in a shadowy way; foreshadow
6. Advent – coming or arrival
7. Aegis – protection; sponsorship; shield
8. Affable – pleasant to speak to; approachable
9. Affectation – artificial behavior to impress others
10. Agrarian – relating to the land and its cultivation
11. Algorithm – mechanical problem-solving procedure
12. Altercation – noisy dispute
13. Antagonist – the main character opposing the protagonist, usually the villain
14. Anthology – collection of literary works
15. Anthropogenic – caused by humans
16. Apotheosis – glorification; glorified ideal
17. Apt – precisely suitable
18. Arable – suitable for cultivation
19. Ardent – passionate; enthusiastic; fervent
20. Arrogate – to claim or seize without justification
21. Artifice – stratagem; trickery; ingenious or artful device
22. Assuage – to make less harsh, severe
23. Augury – prophecy; prediction of events

- 24. August – dignified, awe-inspiring, majestic, venerable
- 25. Auxiliary – avatar

B

- 26. Balk – to refuse, shirk; prevent
- 27. Bane – something causing death or destruction
- 28. Bastion – fortification
- 29. Beguile – to deceive; mislead; to charm or delight
- 30. Benighted – unenlightened
- 31. Bequeath – to hand down
- 32. Bicameral – composed of two legislative branches
- 33. Bilk – to cheat, defraud
- 34. Bleak – cheerless; unlikely to be favorable
- 35. Blight – affliction
- 36. Blithe – joyful; cheerful; carefree
- 37. Bohemian – unconventional in an artistic way
- 38. Bromide – a commonplace remark; a platitude
- 39. Brusque – abrupt in manner
- 40. Buffoon – clown
- 41. Bulwark – something serving as a defense
- 42. Bustle – commotion

C

- 43. Cabal – small group of people united secretly to promote their interests
- 44. Cachet – superior status; prestige

45. Cajole – to flatter; coax; persuade
46. Callow – immature
47. Camaraderie – good will and rapport among friends
48. Canonical – following or in agreement with accepted, traditional standards
49. Castigate – to punish, chastise, criticize
50. Casuistry – false or excessively subtle reasoning
51. Caveat – a warning; a qualification or explanation
52. Censure – to criticize severely
53. Cerebral – intellectually sophisticated
54. Chagrin – shame, embarrassment
55. Chary – wary, cautious
56. Chaste – not having experienced sexual intercourse; morally pure in thought and conduct
57. Choleric – short-tempered
58. Cipher – non-entity; worthless person or thing
59. Circumlocution – indirect way of saying something
60. Cogitate – to think carefully; ponder
61. Cognate – related, similar
62. Collusion – secret agreement between two or more parties for a fraudulent or illegal purpose
63. Commune – to be very sensitive and receptive to something
64. Complacent – self-satisfied
65. Complaisant – overly polite; willing to please; obliging
66. Complicity – partnership in wrongdoing
67. Conciliatory – overcoming distrust or hostility
68. Condescend – to bestow courtesy with a superior air

69. Connote – to suggest or imply in addition to literal meaning
70. Consonant – consistent with, in agreement with
71. Consortium – an association formed by joint venture
72. Constituency – body of voters of the residents of a district represented by a elected official
73. Consummate – to complete, fulfill
74. Contrivance – something invented or fabricated
75. Cordial - warm and sincere
76. Corporeal - concerned with the body; tangible, material
77. Corpus – a large collection of writings on a specific subject or of a specific kind
78. Corrugated – wrinkled; ridged
79. Cosmopolitan – sophisticated, free of local prejudices
80. Coterie – small group of persons with a similar interest
81. Cotermious – having common boundaries; contiguous; coextensive in scope or time
82. Countenance – to favor, support
83. Countervailing – counteracting
84. Covert – hidden, secret
85. Coy – shy, flirtatious
86. Crass – crude, unrefined
87. Crescendo – gradual increase in vlume or sound
88. Culpable – guilty
89. Curmudgeon – cranky person
90. cursory – done with little attention to detail
91. Curt – abrupt

D

92. Damp – to diminish the intensity or check the vibration of a sound
93. Decadence- a process or period of deterioration or decline
94. Deciduous – falling off or shedding at a particular season or stage of growth
95. Decimate – to kill a large part of a group; destroy
96. Decorum – one of the neo-classical principles of dram. Decorum is the relation of style to content in the speech of dramatic characters.
97. Deduce – to draw a conclusion by reason
98. Defamatory – slanderous, injurious to the reputation
99. Deluge – a great flood; something that overwhelms
100. Demarcation – establish limits; limit or boundary
101. Demur – to express doubt
102. Deprecate – to belittle, disparage
103. Depredation – damage or loss
104. Despondent – feeling discouraged
105. Despot – tyrannical ruler
106. Destitute – very poor
107. Diminution – lessening, reduction
108. Disbar – to expel from a legal profession
109. Discreet – having good sense and behavior
110. Disheveled – untidy, unkempt
111. Disquiet –absence of peace; anxiety
112. Dissemble – to pretend; disguise one’s motives
113. Dissuade – to persuade someone to alter intentions
114. Divisive – creating disunity
115. Dour – sullen and gloomy

- 116. Dulcet – pleasant sounding
- 117. Duress – threat of force or intimidation

E

- 118. Ebullient – exhilarated, enthusiastic
- 119. Ecclesiastical – relating to a church
- 120. Edifice – building; elaborate conceptual structure
- 121. Effulgent - shining brightly
- 122. Egregious – obviously bad
- 123. Endemic – inherent; belonging to an area
- 124. Enjoin – to order, urge; officially forbid
- 125. Enmity – ill-will; hatred
- 126. Ennui – boredom; dissatisfaction and restlessness resulting from boredom or apathy
- 127. Ensconced – settled comfortably
- 128. Epidemic – a widespread disease
- 129. Epistemology- branch of philosophy that examines the nature of knowledge
- 130. Epithet – word or phrase characterizing a person or thing
- 131. Equine – relating to horses
- 132. Esteem – to value; respect
- 133. Ethos – beliefs or character of a group
- 134. Evanescent – transitory, short-lived
- 135. Evince – to show plainly
- 136. Exemplar – example worth imitating
- 137. Exodus – departure of a large group of people
- 138. Expeditious – done with speed and efficiency

139. Expound – elaborate
 140. Extant – in existence; not lost

F

141. Fastidious – very fussy; concerned with detail
 142. Feckless – ineffective; irresponsible
 143. Fecund – fertile, productive
 144. Feign – to pretend
 145. Felony – a very serious crime
 146. Fiasco – disaster
 147. Filibuster – use of obstructive tactics to block passage of a law
 148. Flagrant – conspicuously wicked
 149. Flippant – disrespectfully light-hearted
 150. Flora – plants of a region or era
 151. Flounder – to waver, falter, struggle
 152. Flourish – to grow vigorously
 153. Forlorn – dreary; unhappy; despairing
 154. Fortuitous – accidental, occurring by chance
 155. Frenetic – hectic, frantic
 156. Frivolous – lacking in seriousness; relatively unimportant

G

157. Galvanize – to rouse or stir
 158. Geophysics – the physics of the earth and its environment
 159. Geriatric – related to the aged or the aging process

- 160. Germane – appropriate, relevant
- 161. Gingerly – very carefully
- 162. Gloaming – twilight; dusk
- 163. Gratuitous – free, voluntary; unnecessary

H

- 164. Hapless – unfortunate, having bad luck
- 165. Haughty – arrogant and condescending
- 166. Heinous – shocking, wicked, terrible
- 167. Hemorrhage – heavy bleeding
- 168. Hermeneutic – explaining; interpreting
- 169. Heuristic – helping to learn
- 170. Hiatus – break, interruption, vacation
- 171. Hierarchy – a series arranged by rank or grade
- 172. Hydrological – concerned with water, esp. its effects on the earth
- 173. Hyperbole – a deliberate exaggeration

I

- 174. Idiosyncrasy – peculiarity of temperament, eccentricity
- 175. Idyllic – simple and carefree
- 176. Ignoble – dishonorable, not noble in character
- 177. Ignominious – disgraceful and dishonorable
- 178. Imbroglio – complicated situation; an entanglement
- 179. Imbue – to infuse; dye, wet, moisten
- 180. Impeccable – perfect

181. Impugn – to call into question, attack verbally
182. Impunity – exemption from penalty, punishment, or harm
183. Inadvertent – careless, unintentional
184. Incisive- perceptive; penetrating
185. Incurable – uncorrectable
186. Incumbent – holding a specified office, often political
187. Indict – to charge
188. Indigent – very poor
189. Indignant – angry incensed, offended
190. Indolent – habitually lazy; idle
191. Induct – to place ceremoniously in office; to admit to military service
192. Ineluctable – not to be escaped or avoided; inevitable
193. Infatuated – strongly or foolishly attached to, inspired with foolish passion
194. Ingratiate – to purposely bring oneself into another's good graces
195. Inimical – injurious or harmful; hostile; unfriendly
196. Inimitable – defying imitation; matchless
197. Iniquity – wickedness; evil act
198. Injunction – command, order
199. Inopportune – untimely; poorly chosen
200. Insensible – unconscious, unresponsive
201. Insipid – lacking in flavor; dull
202. Insolvent – bankrupt, unable to pay one's debts
203. Intemperate – not moderate
204. Intrepid – fearless
205. Inundate – to cover with water; overwhelm

206. Irreverent – disrespectful

J

207. Jejune – not interesting; childish

208. Jurisdiction – power to interpret and apply law; control

209. Jurisprudence – philosophy of law

K

210. Kindle – to set fire to or ignite; excite or inspire

211. Kinetic – relating to motion; characterized by movement

L

212. Laceration – cut or wound

213. Lackadaisical – idle, lazy; apathetic; indifferent

214. Lackluster – lacking brightness or vitality

215. Laconic – using few words

216. Largess – generosity; gift

217. Lassitude – lethargy; sluggishness

218. Latent – present but hidden; potential

219. Leery – suspicious

220. Lethargy – inactivity

221. Lexis – vocabulary; the set of words in a language

222. Liberal – tolerant, tolerant; broad-minded

223. Libretto – the text of a dramatic musical work

224. Licentious – immoral; unrestrained by society

225. Lien – right to possess and sell property of a debtor
226. Lilliputian – extremely small
227. Limn – to draw; describe
228. Limpid – clear, transparent
229. Lineage – ancestry
230. Listless – lacking energy or enthusiasm
231. Litigation – legal proceedings
232. Livid – discolored from a bruise; reddened with anger
233. Loathe – to abhor, despise, hate
234. Lobbyist – person who attempts to influence legislators or other public officials
toward desired action
235. Locus – locality; center of gravity
236. Loquacious – talkative
237. Lumber – to move slowly and awkwardly
238. Luminary – a person who has achieved eminence in a specific field
239. Luminous - bright; brilliant; glowing
240. Lunar – relating to the moon

M

241. Macabre - grim and horrible
242. Machinations – plots or schemes
243. Magnanimous –generous, noble
244. Magnate – powerful person
245. Magnitude – extent, greatness in size
246. Malady – illness

247. Malice – animosity, hatred
248. Malign – evil
249. Malinger – to feign illness to escape duty
250. Malleable – capable of being shaped impressionable
251. Manifest – obvious
252. Manifold – diverse, comprised of many parts
253. Manna – spiritual nourishment
254. Matriarchy – a family or community governed by women
255. Matriculate – to enroll in college
256. Matrilineal – tracing ancestry through the other's line
257. Maverick – dissenter
258. Meager – scanty; inadequate
259. Meandering – winding back and forth, rambling
260. Mercurial – quick, unpredictable
261. Meritocratic – relating to a system in which advancement is based on achievement
262. Meritorious – deserving praise
263. Metaphor – figure of speech that compares two different things
264. Metaphysic – an underlying philosophical or theoretical principle
265. Meteorological – concerned with the weather
266. Mettle – courage, endurance
267. Mettlesome – full of courage and fortitude; spirited
268. Milieu – environment; surroundings
269. Miscreant – villain criminal
270. Miserly – stingy, mean
271. Misgivings – doubt, sense of foreboding

- 272. Missive – letter
- 273. Monochromatic – having one color
- 274. Mores – customs
- 275. Moribund – dying
- 276. Morose – ill-humored; sullen
- 277. Multifaceted – made up of many parts
- 278. Mutation – significant genetic change
- 279. Muted – silent; toned down
- 280. Myopic – near-sighted, unable to anticipate events

N

- 281. Nefarious – vicious, evil
- 282. Negate – to cancel out, nullify
- 283. Neonate – newborn child
- 284. Nether – located below or under
- 285. Nettle – to irritate
- 286. Noisome – stinking, putrid
- 287. Nonplussed – bewildered; confused

O

- 288. Obeisance – deference or homage
- 289. Oblique – indirect, evasive; misleading, devious
- 290. Obloquy – abusively detractive language; ill repute
- 291. Obscure – dim, unclear; not well-known
- 292. Obsequy – funeral ceremony

293. Obsolescent – becoming obsolete
294. Obstreperous – troublesome, boisterous, unruly
295. Obtrusive – pushy, too conspicuous
296. Obviate – to make unnecessary; anticipate and prevent
297. Occult - relating to supernatural phenomena; secret
298. Ockham`s razor – the principle that no more assumptions than necessary should be made in explaining a phenomenon
299. Odious – hateful, contemptible
300. Oeuvre – the sum of the lifework of an artist
301. Ogle – to stare at
302. Ombudsman – a person who investigates complaints and mediates settlements between parties
303. Ominous – threatening
304. Ontology – theory of the nature of existence
305. Onus – a difficult responsibility or burden
306. Opalescent – iridescent, displaying colors
307. Opaque – not transparent; obscure; unintelligible
308. Opine – to express an opinion
309. Opprobrium – disgrace; contempt
310. Opulence – wealth
311. Oracular – prophetic; uttered as if with divine authority; mysterious or ambiguous
312. Ordain – to make someone a priest or minister; order
313. Osmosis – diffusion of a fluid; gradual assimilation or absorption
314. Ossify – to turn to bone; become rigid; make rigidly conventional
315. Oxymoron – the combining of incongruous or contradictory terms

P

316. Pagan – someone who has no religion
317. Palliative – something that relieves symptoms without curing the disease
318. Palpable – obvious; real; tangible
319. Palpitation – trembling; shaking
320. Panacea – cure-all
321. Pandemic – disease spread over a whole area
322. Panoply – impressive array
323. Panorama – broad view; comprehensive picture
324. Pantheist – a person who believes that manifestations of the universe are God
325. Pantheon – all gods of a people; a group of highly regarded persons
326. Parable – a short, simple story that teaches a moral lesson
327. Paradigm – model; example; pattern
328. Parenthetical – clarifying or qualifying
329. Parity – equality
330. Parochial – narrow in outlook
331. Pathogen – agent causing disease
332. Pathos – pity, compassion
333. Patronizing – condescending, disparaging; buying from
334. Peculation – theft of money or goods
335. Pecuniary – relating to money
336. Pedagogy – art of profession of teaching
337. Pedant – uninspired, boring academic
338. Pediment – triangular gable on a roof or façade

- 339. Pejorative – having bad connotations; disparaging
- 340. Penance – voluntary suffering to repent for a wrong
- 341. Penitent – expressing sorrow for sins or offenses, repentant
- 342. Penurious – poverty-stricken; destitute
- 343. Perdition – complete and utter loss; damnation
- 344. Perennial – present throughout the years; persistent
- 345. Perfidious – faithless, disloyal, untrustworthy
- 346. Perfunctory – superficial; not thorough; performed really as a duty
- 347. Pernicious – very harmful
- 348. Persona – a person`s public image
- 349. Personification – act of attributing human qualities to objects or abstract qualities
- 350. Pert – lively and bold
- 351. Perusal – close examination
- 352. Peruse – to examine closely
- 353. Perverse – stubborn, intractable, contradicting without good reason
- 354. Pervert – to cause to change in an immoral way
- 355. Pestilence – epidemic, plague
- 356. Philology – study of words
- 357. Phlegmatic – calm in temperament; sluggish
- 358. Phobia – irrational fear
- 359. Phonic – relating to sound
- 360. Physiology – study of living organism; the functions of a living organism
- 361. Pilfer – to steal
- 362. Pillage- to loot, especially during a war
- 363. Pinnacle – peak, highest point of development

- 364. Pique – fleeting feeling of hurt pride
- 365. Pique – to provoke, arouse
- 366. Pithy – forceful and brief
- 367. Plebeian – crude, vulgar, low-class
- 368. Plenary – complete in all respects; fully attended by all qualified members
- 369. Plenitude – abundance, plenty
- 370. Pliant – pliable, yielding
- 371. Plutocracy – society ruled by the wealthy
- 372. Polity – an organized society having a specific form of government
- 373. Polyglot – speaker of many languages
- 374. Portly – stout, dignified
- 375. Posterior – later in time
- 376. Potable – drinkable
- 377. Potentate – monarch or ruler with great power
- 378. Precarious – uncertain
- 379. Preclude – to make impossible; prevent
- 380. Predilection – preference, liking
- 381. Prescience – foresight
- 382. Prescribe – to order the use of
- 383. Presumption – belief based on reasonable evidence
- 384. Procure – to obtain
- 385. Profane – to treat with irreverence or disrespect; degrade or abuse
- 386. Prognosis – predictor of a disease outcome; any prediction
- 387. Proletariat – the class of industrial age earners who must sell their labor to survive
- 388. Promulgate – to make known publicly

389. Propitiate – to win over, appease
390. Propitious – favorable, advantageous
391. Protestation - strong expression of disapproval; formal declaration
392. Protocol – ceremony and manners observed by diplomats
393. Protract – to prolong
394. Protrusion – something that sticks out
395. Proverbial – widely referred to
396. Provident – providing for future needs; frugal
397. Province – range; scope

Q

398. Quixotic – foolishly impractical; marked by lofty romantic ideals
399. Quotidian – occurring or recurring daily; commonplace

R

400. Ramification- implication
401. Rancor – bitter hatred
402. Rapport – relationship of trust and respect
403. Ratify – to approve formally, confirm
404. Ratiocination – methodical, logical reasoning
405. Ravage – to destroy, devastate
406. Raze – to tear down, demolish
407. Rebuff – to sub; beat back
408. Recalcitrant – resisting control
409. Redress – relief from wrong or injury

- 410. Refurbish – to renovate
- 411. Regimen – government rule; systematic plan
- 412. Rejoinder – response
- 413. Relegate – to consign to an inferior position
- 414. Relic – surviving remnant; memento
- 415. Remonstrate – to object or protest
- 416. Remorseless – having no pity; merciless
- 417. Render – to provide; give what is due; represent in drawing or painting
- 418. Reparation – fame, widespread acclaim
- 419. Repentant – apologetic, guilty, remorseful
- 420. Replete – abundantly supplied
- 421. Replica – duplication, copy of something
- 422. Reprimand – to scold
- 423. Reprove – to criticize or correct
- 424. Reticence – reserved; reluctance
- 425. Retort – cutting response
- 426. Revelry – boisterous activity
- 427. Rife – widespread, prevalent; abundant
- 428. Rotund – round in shape; flat
- 429. Rue – to regret

S

- 430. Sanguine – ruddy; cheerfully optimistic
- 431. Sardonic – cynical; scornfully mocking
- 432. Scourge – source of widespread affliction or devastation

- 433. Seditious – behavior prompting rebellion
- 434. Semantics – the study of the meaning of language
- 435. Semblance – outward appearance; resemblance
- 436. Senescent – growing old; aging
- 437. Serendipitous – resulting from a fortunate discovery by chance
- 438. Serrated – saw-toothed, notched
- 439. Simian – ape-like
- 440. Slipshod – carelessly, hasty
- 441. Slovenly – untidy or messy
- 442. Sordid – filthy; contemptible and corrupt
- 443. Speculate – take something as true based on insufficient evidence
- 444. Stark – bare, empty, vacant
- 445. Stupefy – to dull the senses of; stun, astonish
- 446. Stupor – daze; state of mental confusion
- 447. Stylized – conforming to a particular style
- 448. Subdued – suppressed, stifled
- 449. Subsume – to include or incorporate into something else
- 450. Succinct – terse, brief, concise
- 451. Succumb – yield; give in; die
- 452. Sufferable – bearable
- 453. Suffrage – right to vote
- 454. Sullen – brooding, gloomy
- 455. Supercilious – arrogant, haughty, overbearing, condescending
- 456. Supererogatory – more than needed; superfluous
- 457. Suppliant – one who asks humbly and earnestly

458. Surrogate – relating to a substitute
459. Syntax – the way in which words are put together to form phrases and sentences

T

460. Taciturn – uncommunicative; not inclined to speak much
461. Tandem – one behind the other
462. Tantamount – equivalent in value or significance; amounting to
463. Technocracy – government by scientists and engineers
464. Tirade – long violent speech; verbal assault
465. Tome – book, usually large and academic
466. Topography – art of making maps or charts; physical features of a place
467. Torpid – lethargic; unable to move; dormant
468. Torque – a turning or twisting force
469. Torrid – burning hot; passionate
470. Totem – a natural object or animal believed to have spiritual significance
471. Tout – to promote or praise energetically
472. Tractable – obedient; yielding
473. Trammel – to impede or hamper
474. Translucent – partially transparent
475. Trappings – outward decorations; ornaments
476. Tremulous – trembling, quivering; fearful, timid
477. Trenchant – acute, sharp, incisive; forceful, effective
478. Trite – commonplace, unoriginal
479. Trope – a figure of speech using words in a nonliteral way
480. Troupe – group of actors

481. Tumult – state of confusion; agitation
482. Turbulence – commotion, disorder; agitation
483. Tyrannical – oppressive; dictatorial

U

484. Undulating – moving in waves
485. Unfetter – to set free
486. Urban – related to a city
487. Usurp – to seize by force

V

488. Vapid – tasteless, dull
489. Venerable – respected because of age
490. Verbatim – word for word
491. Viable – practicable; capable of developing
492. Vilify – to slander, defame
493. Visceral – deep; profound; instinctive
494. Voracious – having a great appetite

W

495. Wallow – to indulge oneself excessively; luxuriate
496. Wile – clever stratagem or trick to deceive
497. Writ – written document
498. Wry – amusing, ironic

Y

499. Yahoo – a coarse or brutish person

Z

500. Zeitgeist – the outlook characteristic of a period

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