

GRE Vocabulary

Vocabulary List

English	Definition	Word type
Alacrity	eager, cheerful readiness to do something	n.
Prosaic	dull and ordinary; lacking imagination	adj.
Veracity	truthfulness; accuracy	n.
Paucity	a shortage; too little of something	n.
Maintain	to firmly assert or insist (a claim)	v.
Contrite	deeply sorry for having done wrong	adj.
Laconic	using very few words; terse	adj.
Pugnacious	eager to fight or argue	adj.
Disparate	fundamentally different; not comparable	adj.
Egregious	outstandingly bad; shockingly wrong	adj.
Innocuous	harmless; unlikely to offend	adj.
Candid	frank and honest; straightforward	adj.
Erratic	irregular and unpredictable	adj.
Bleak	gloomy; offering little hope	adj.
Profuse	given or flowing in great amounts	adj.
Extant	still existing; not lost or extinct	adj.
Contentious	likely to cause argument; quarrelsome	adj.
Auspicious	promising good luck; favorable	adj.
Enervate	to drain of energy; weaken (not energize)	v.
Equivocate	to speak vaguely to avoid the truth	v.
Ambivalent	having mixed or conflicting feelings	adj.
Sedulous	hardworking and diligent	adj.

English	Definition	Word type
Stem	to stop or hold back (a flow)	v.
Blinkered	having a narrow, limited outlook	adj.
Unchecked	not stopped or controlled	adj.
Checkered	marked by mixed fortunes or dubious episodes	adj.
Raft	a large number or amount	n.
Involved	complicated; intricate	adj.
Retiring	shy; avoiding company	adj.
Expansive	wide-ranging; open and talkative	adj.
Moment	importance or significance (of great moment)	n.
Base	morally low; contemptible	adj.
Imbibe	to drink; to absorb (ideas)	v.
Inundate	to flood; to overwhelm	v.
Scintillating	brilliantly lively, witty, or sparkling	adj.
Benighted	ignorant; lacking knowledge or culture	adj.
Galvanize	to shock or stir into action	v.
Hedge	to avoid committing; limit one's risk	n./v.
Flush	having plenty, especially of money	adj.
Fell	fierce; deadly (one fell swoop)	adj.
Arch	deliberately playful or sly	adj.
Beg	to dodge or wrongly assume (beg the question)	v.
Tender	to formally offer or present	v.
Intimate	to hint or suggest subtly	adj./v.
Wanting	lacking; falling short	adj.

English	Definition	Word type
Becoming	flattering; fitting	adj.
Start	to jump or flinch in surprise	v.
Fleece	to swindle; cheat out of money	v.
Telling	revealing; strikingly significant	adj.
Wax	to grow larger or stronger (wax and wane)	n./v.
Check	to restrain or limit	v.
Qualify	to limit or soften (a statement)	v.
Miserly	extremely unwilling to spend; stingy	adj.
Frugal	sensibly economical with money (positive)	adj.
Prevaricate	to speak evasively to mislead	v.
Variance	difference; the state of disagreeing	n.
Histrionic	overly dramatic or theatrical	adj.
History	the study or record of past events	n.
Demur	to object or hesitate politely	v.
Demure	modest, reserved, and shy	adj.
Beatific	radiantly blissful; serenely happy	adj.
Beautiful	very pleasing to the senses	adj.
Perfunctory	done routinely, with little care	adj.
Preemptive	done to stop an action before it happens	adj.
Peremptory	bossy; allowing no refusal	adj.
Indigent	very poor; needy	adj.
Indigenous	native to a particular place	adj.
Indignant	angry at unfair treatment	adj.
Errant	straying; wandering from the right path	adj.

English	Definition	Word type
Arrant	complete; utter (usually of something bad)	adj.
Errand	a short trip to do a small task	n.
Err	to make a mistake	v.
Artless	innocent and sincere; without guile	adj.
Artful	cunning; cleverly deceptive	adj.
Artifice	clever trickery or deception	n.
Expurgate	to remove objectionable parts from a text	v.
Expunge	to erase or wipe out completely	v.
Censure	to criticize or blame formally	v.
Censor	to remove unacceptable content	v.
Ponderous	heavy and dull; laboriously slow	adj.
Imponderable	impossible to estimate or assess	adj./n.
Kowtow	to behave with excessive submission	v.
Powwow	a meeting for discussion	n./v.
Junta	a group ruling after seizing power	n.
Imbroglia	a confused, embarrassing situation	n.
Juggernaut	an unstoppable, crushing force	n.
Schadenfreude	pleasure at another's misfortune	n.
Amuck	in a wild, uncontrolled way (run amuck)	adv.
Pariah	a social outcast	n.
Nabob	a very rich or important person	n.
Zeitgeist	the spirit or mood of a period	n.
Sangfroid	calm composure under pressure	n.
Parvenu	an upstart newly risen to wealth or status	n.

English	Definition	Word type
Arriviste	a ruthlessly ambitious social climber	n.
Melee	a confused, chaotic fight or crowd	n.
Lagniappe	a small extra gift or bonus	n.
Picayune	petty; of little value	adj.
Mesmerize	to hold spellbound; fascinate	v.
Gerrymander	to redraw voting lines for unfair advantage	v.
Hector	to bully or pester aggressively	v.
Pollyannaish	foolishly or blindly optimistic	adj.
Chauvinist	someone with blind, excessive loyalty to a group	n.
Pyrrhic	won at too great a cost (Pyrrhic victory)	adj.
Kafkaesque	nightmarishly complex and absurd	adj.
Quixotic	wildly idealistic and impractical	adj.
Maudlin	tearfully or excessively sentimental	adj.
Panglossian	naively sure all is for the best	adj.
Malapropism	a comic misuse of a similar-sounding word	n.
Quisling	a traitor who helps an occupying enemy	n.
Byzantine	excessively complex and devious	adj.
Supercilious	haughtily superior; disdainful	adj.
Protean	readily taking many forms; versatile	adj.
Sartorial	relating to clothing or tailoring	adj.
Saturnine	gloomy and sullen in temperament	adj.
Mercurial	quick to change mood; volatile	adj.
Thrifty	careful and economical with money	adj.
Spendthrift	a person who wastes money	n.

English	Definition	Word type
Parsimonious	stingy to a fault; excessively frugal	adj.
Sybarite	a person devoted to luxury and pleasure	n.
Impecunious	having little money; habitually broke	adj.
Penurious	miserly; or extremely poor	adj.
Insolvent	unable to pay one's debts	adj.
Affluent	wealthy; prosperous	adj.
Profligate	recklessly wasteful or immoral	adj./n.
Prodigal	wastefully extravagant with money	adj.
Avarice	extreme greed for wealth	n.
Cupidity	greed; a strong craving for possessions	n.
Defray	to pay or cover (a cost)	v.
Stipend	a fixed, regular allowance or payment	n.
Pittance	a very small amount of money	n.
Dupe	to deceive; or a person who is fooled	n./v.
Mulct	to cheat or extract money from by fraud	v.
Jaundice	bitterness or prejudice that distorts judgment	n.
Jejune	naïve and simplistic; or dull	adj.
Bilious	peevish and ill-tempered	adj.
Choleric	quick to anger; hot-tempered	adj.
Sanguine	cheerfully optimistic; hopeful	adj.
Martinet	a strict disciplinarian; stickler for rules	n.
Curmudgeon	a bad-tempered, grumpy person	n.
Misanthrope	a person who hates or distrusts people	n.
Reprobate	an unprincipled, immoral person	n.

English	Definition	Word type
Virago	a fierce, domineering woman	n.
Cardinal	most important; fundamental	adj.
Syncretic	merging different beliefs or practices	adj.
Parochial	narrow in outlook; provincial	adj.
Catholic	broad; wide-ranging in tastes	adj.
Anathema	something or someone intensely disliked	n.
Desecrate	to treat something sacred with disrespect	v.
Apostasy	abandonment of one's belief or faith	n.
Sanctimonious	making a show of being morally superior	adj.
Iconoclast	one who attacks cherished beliefs or institutions	n.
Malfeasance	wrongdoing, especially by an official	n.
Lascivious	openly lustful; lewd	adj.
Embroiled	deeply caught up in conflict	adj.
Venality	willingness to be bribed; corruptibility	n.
Turpitude	depraved, wicked behavior	n.
Zenith	the highest point; peak of success	n.
Summit	the very top; highest level	n.
Acme	the peak of perfection or achievement	n.
Pinnacle	the highest point of success or development	n.
Apex	the very tip or topmost point	n.
Apogee	the farthest or highest point reached	n.
Apotheosis	the perfect example; elevation to glory	n.
Nadir	the lowest point	n.

English	Definition	Word type
Untoward	unexpected and inappropriate; unfavorable	adj.
Upbraid	to scold or criticize sharply	v.
Underwrite	to financially support or guarantee	v.
Overweening	arrogant; excessively self-confident	adj.
Bellicose	eager to fight; warlike	adj.
Truculent	aggressively defiant; savage	adj.
Jingoist	an aggressively nationalistic person; extreme patriot	n.
Badger	to pester or nag persistently	v.
Hound	to pursue or harass relentlessly	v.
Dog	to follow or trouble persistently	v.
Cow	to frighten into submission	v.
Ferret	to search out by persistent effort	v.
Mellifluous	sweet and smooth-sounding	adj.
Palimpsest	something reused yet still showing earlier traces	n.
Serendipity	a lucky discovery made by chance	n.
Defenestrate	to throw out of a window	v.
Invective	abusive, insulting language	n.
Diatribes	a bitter, abusive verbal attack	n.
Screed	a long, ranting piece of writing or speech	n.
Tirade	a long, angry outburst of criticism	n.
Harangue	a long, aggressive lecture or scolding	n./v.
Vituperation	sustained bitter, abusive criticism	n.
Precipitate	to trigger suddenly; (adj.) hasty, rash	adj./n./v.

English	Definition	Word type
Amalgam	a blend or mixture of different things	n.
Solvent	able to pay one's debts	adj.
Catalyst	something that speeds up or sparks change	n.
Slapdash	careless and hasty	adj.
Heyday	the period of greatest success or vigor	n.
Hodgepodge	a confused mixture; jumble	n.
Aboveboard	honest and open; without deception	adj.
Thoroughgoing	complete and absolute; very thorough	adj.
Telltale	revealing; giving away a secret	adj.
Cadaverous	pale and gaunt; corpse-like	adj.
Macabre	disturbing; concerned with death	adj.
Goosebumps	bumps on the skin from cold or fear	n.
Diabolical	extremely wicked; devilish	adj.
Phantasmagorical	dreamlike and constantly shifting; surreal	adj.
Gregarious	sociable; fond of company	adj.
Ingenuous	innocent, trusting, and frank (not ingenious)	adj.
Peruse	to read carefully and thoroughly	v.
Disabuse	to free someone of a mistaken belief	v.
Mettlesome	spirited and courageous	adj.
Amiable	friendly and good-natured (of a person)	adj.
Affable	warm and easy to talk to; approachable	adj.
Amenable	willing to cooperate or agree	adj.
Attenuate	to weaken or reduce in force	v.
Animosity	strong hostility; ill will	n.

English	Definition	Word type
Anomalous	abnormal; deviating from the norm	adj.
Acrimony	bitterness and harshness, especially in speech	n.
Aberration	a departure from what is normal	n.
Ambiguous	open to more than one meaning; unclear	adj.
Amorphous	shapeless; without clear form	adj.
Conciliate	to win over or soothe; reconcile	v.
Corroborate	to confirm with evidence; support	v.
Calumny	a false statement meant to ruin a reputation	n.
Commensurate	in proportion; corresponding in size	adj.
Churlish	rude and bad-tempered	adj.
Castigate	to criticize or punish severely	v.
Chastise	to scold or punish harshly	v.
Cogent	clear, logical, and convincing	adj.
Chary	cautious; wary; reluctant	adj.
Fractious	irritable and quarrelsome; unruly	adj.
Factionous	causing dissent; given to infighting	adj.
Factitious	artificial; not genuine	adj.
Vindictive	seeking revenge; spiteful	adj.
Vindicate	to clear of blame; prove right	v.
Vicarious	experienced secondhand, through another	adj.
Vicissitude	an unpredictable change in circumstances	n.
Venal	open to bribery; corrupt	adj.
Venial	minor and forgivable (of a fault)	adj.

English	Definition	Word type
Veracious	truthful; accurate	adj.
Voracious	having a huge appetite; greedy for	adj.
Venerate	to regard with deep respect	v.
Excoriate	to criticize harshly; censure severely	v.
Extenuating	making an offense seem less serious	adj.
Execrate	to detest; denounce bitterly	v.
Exegesis	a critical explanation of a text	n.
Exhort	to strongly urge or encourage	v.
Insufferable	unbearable; intolerably annoying	adj.
Impertinent	rudely disrespectful; impudent	adj.
Unconscionable	unreasonable; morally unacceptable	adj.
Immaterial	irrelevant; unimportant	adj.
Inflammable	easily set on fire (means flammable)	adj.
Unnerve	to make anxious; rob of courage	v.
Belie	to give a false impression of; contradict	v.
Disinterested	impartial; unbiased (not uninterested)	adj.
Equivocal	ambiguous; open to two interpretations	adj.
Undermine	to weaken gradually or secretly	v.
Sententious	preachy; given to pompous moralizing	adj.
Propitiate	to appease; win the goodwill of	v.
Feckless	weak, irresponsible, and ineffective	adj.
Tendentious	biased; pushing a particular viewpoint	adj.
Limpid	clear and transparent; easily understood	adj.
Betray	to reveal unintentionally; or be disloyal to	v.

English	Definition	Word type
Remiss	negligent; careless in one's duty	adj.
Restive	restless and impatient; hard to control	adj.
Repine	to fret or complain; long discontentedly	v.
Remonstrate	to protest or argue in objection	v.