

GRE VOCABULARY—A LIST

aberration	anomaly, deviation from standard, irregularity, atypical
abrogate	do away with
abstemious	sparing, moderate (in eating, drinking)
abstruse (recondite)	concealed, deep, difficult to comprehend
accolade	award, honor, high praise
accretion	accumulation, enlargement, growth
adroitly	skillfully
adulate	admire excessively/slavishly, flatter
alacrity	eagerness, readiness
alias	assumed
allocate	distribute, designate
allusion	indirect reference to something else, hint (in literature)
ameliorate	improve
amenable	agreeable
arbiter	one who arbitrates/decides, judge
ardor	fervor, enthusiasm
assuage	lessen the intensity of something
audacious	bold, fearless
audacity (impertinence)	boldness, reckless daring
auspicious (propitious)	prosperous, favorable
aver	prove truth of, state it is true
badger	harass/annoy continuously, bait
baleful	deleterious
beget	bring into being, cause to exist
beneficent	kind, doing good
bereave	deprive, leave desolate (through death)
brazenly	boldly
brook	tolerate
burnish	polish
cacophony	harsh sounding mixture of sounds
cajole	deceptively persuade someone to do something he/she declines to
candid (candor)	free from prejudice/bias/malice, honest, fair
capricious	unpredictable, momentarily changeable
chary	cautious
circumlocution	indirect expression, use of wordy/evasive language
coda	distinct passage concluding a composition
cogent	powerful
cognizant	perceptive, observant
compliant	yielding, submissive
composure	ease
conciliatory	peace making
conjoin	join together
conjure	summon, bring into being as if by magic
connoisseur	expert (in art, taste)

consensus	unanimity, near unanimity, complete accord in opinion
contentious	argumentative
conundrum	puzzle, riddle
corroborate	confirm, back up with evidence
cower	shrink
debacle	violent, <u>sudden</u> breakdown/overthrow
debauchery	intemperance, wild living
decorous	in good taste, proper
deleterious (baleful)	harmful, menacing
despondent	desperate, hopeless
dire	disastrous, horrible, ill-omened, extreme
dirge	chant/song of sorrow/mourning, rites for the dead
disavow	deny
discourse	formal discussion
disparage	detract
disparaging	depreciatory, derogatory, detraction
dispassionate	passionless, impartial, neutral
divergent	differing, deviating
doggerel	loose, unskillful verse
dogma (doctrine)	authoritative tenet, established opinion
dubious	doubtful, questionable
eclectic	drawn from many sources
edict	decree, mandate, law, writ, command
edifice	structure, building
effluvium	escaping gas, noxious vapors
emaciation	waste away, become thin/weak
emanate	originate from
emollient	balm, salve, softening, soothing
enigma	problem, puzzle, mystery
enmity (animosity)	antagonism, hatred, antipathy
epicure	one interested in fine foods
epithet	descriptive
equivocal	ambiguous, intentionally confusing
erratic (eccentric, fitful)	inconsistent, unpredictable, aimless, spasmodic, unusual, capricious
erudite	scholarly, deeply learned
escrow	legal agreement handled by 3rd party until conditions fulfilled
euphemism	use of nice words in place of distasteful ones
evanescent	vanishing, fading, scarcely perceptible
exigent	urgent
exonerate	completely free from blame
exorbitant	extravagant, immoderate
exploit	milk, drain, exhaust
exposition (explication)	setting forth meaning, explanation
extol	celebrate, glorify [antonym - lambaste]
extricate	loosen, release [antonym - intricate]
exuberant	extremely joyful, vigorous, profuse in growth
facetious	humorous, joking

faddish (fad)	passing (fashion, craze)
fallow	left unplanted, idle
feckless	careless
feeble	weak, inefficient
fester	blister, inflame, cancer
fickle	deceitful, inconstant
fission	splitting into parts
fissure	narrow slit, crack, cleft
flag	weaken, slow down
flippant	shallow, disrespectful
flout	disregard because of disrespect
flux	in a state of change; substance aiding fusion
foolhardy	careless, hasty
forbear	refrain from, abstain
frenetic	frantic, frenzied
frivolous	flimsy, trivial, lacking seriousness
frugal (thrifty)	economical
fulminate	strike, send forth invectives, akin to lightning
fulsome	disgusting, morally offensive
fumble	handle clumsily, fail to catch
gainsay	deny, speak against
garish (gaudy)	flashy, excessively colorful
garner	gather, collect
garrulous (loquacious)	extremely talkative, wordy
gavel (mallet)	wooden hammer
genial	helpful, cheerful, pleasant
genre	distinctive category/class (especially in literature)
goad	urge forcefully, to prod
gouge	chisel with curved blade
gouging	force out
guile	deceit, cheating
hapless	unlucky
hold	place where cargo is kept
hone	sharpen
imperturbable	calm
impervious	impermeable
implement	carry out
improvident (lavish)	wasteful, careless
impudent	bold, impertinent, discourteous
impugn	attack, especially the truth/integrity of something
impute	ascribe to, refer to, attribution
inchoate	unformed, just beginning
incursion	hostile invasion
indifference	detachment, lack of interest/concern
indignant	angry (as result of unfairness)
indulgent	lenient, yielding to desire
ineluctable	inevitable, unavoidable

inept	clumsy, incompetent
infatuation	love [antonym - odium]
ingenuous	free from deceit/disguise
insolvent	unable to pay one's bills
intrinsic	inherent
invective	insulting/abusive speech
laconic	using few words (to the point of rudeness)
lambaste	scold, beat [antonym - extol]
laudatory (approbative)	applaudive, approving
lax	slack, careless, negligent, not strict
levee	embankment to prevent overflowing of river
lode	a vein, ore imbedded in a rock fissure
loquacious (garrulous)	extremely talkative/wordy
maverick (rebel)	nonconformist
mellifluous	sweetly flowing
minatory	threatening
misanthrope	one who hates people
mitigated	softened
mitis	soft
munificent (lavish)	very generous
neophyte	beginner
noisome	bad-smelling
obdurate (intractable)	stubborn, inflexible
odium	hate, disgust [antonym - infatuation]
offense	wrongdoing
oscillate (fluctuate)	swing back and forth
ossify	harden, turn to bone, become rigid
ostentatious	conspicuous, showing off
palliate	excuse, cause to seem less serious
palpable	touchable, obvious
panegyric	lofty praise
partisan	who supports a particular idea ...
peccadillo	slight fault
pedagogue	pedantic/dogmatic person, teacher
penchant	inclination
penchant	strong liking/leaning
petulant	ill-tempered, rude, cranky
piquant	spicy, pleasantly pungent
placate (propitiate)	conciliate, pacify, appease, calm, soothe
placid	calm, peaceful
plumb	measure the depth of
polemic	powerful argument in refutation of something
pragmatic	practical
precarious	uncertain, dangerous
precipice	very steep, overhanging place, hazardous situation
precipitate	cause to happen abruptly
presumptuous	arrogant

prevarication	lie
pristine	pure, uncorrupted, unspoiled
probity	integrity, honesty
prodigy	extraordinary
promulgate (proclaim)	declare, put in force/law
propinquity	kinship, nearness
propitiate (placate)	conciliate, pacify, appease, calm, soothe
proscription	restriction/ban/restraint imposed
proselytize	convert, recruit converts
pundit	expert
pungent	sharp/biting to taste/smell
qualify	modify, restrict
rampart	fortification, defense
ravenous	very eager/greedy for food, gratification, satisfaction
reciprocal	mutual, shared, interchangeable (<u>but not in math!</u>)
recondite (abstruse)	obscure, concealed, deep, difficult to comprehend
rectitude	righteousness, moral integrity
reprobate	depraved, wicked, corrupt, degenerate, vicious
repugnant	offensive, distasteful
resolute (intransigent)	determined, unyielding
reticent (tacit)	quiet, dumb, reserved, silent, reluctant
ribald	indecent, coarse
rivet	attract and hold attention
sagacious	wise (from experience)
salubrious	promoting good health
sanction	ratify, confirm, authorize, approve
saturnine	gloomy/sullen/dismal in temperament
savor	relish, enjoy
sedulous	zealous, persevering [antonym - careless]
serene	tranquil, clear, untroubled, calm
sinuous	winding, intricate
spendthrift	wasteful, extravagant
spurious	bogus, false
squalid	filthy, repulsive, wretched, degraded
subjugate	enslave, subdue, dominate
substantive	solid, substantial
succinct	concise, precisely expressed
sullen	gloomy, dismal
superficial	shallow, unimportant, external, without profundity
superfluous	extra, unnecessary
surreptitious	secret, sneaky
tacit	implicit, understood
taunt	insult, ridicule
temerity (audacity)	recklessness, foolish boldness
tiff	argument
timbre	quality of sound independent of pitch/loudness
tout	give a tip, spy, or to praise

transitory	temporary
trepidation	fear, nervousness
truculent	savage, fierce
turbid	muddy, foul with sediments
turpitude (depravity)	shameful wickedness
untoward (awkward)	unfavorable, unruly
usurer	money lender charging high interest
vacuous	stupid
veracity	truthfulness
vex	annoy, pester, confuse
vindicate	clear from blame/suspicion
viscid	sticky, viscous
viscous	thick and sticky
visionary	dreamer (with impractical goals/ideas about future)
vituperation (malediction)	abusive language
welter (turmoil)	confused mass
xenophobe	one who hates strangers