TIPS FOR ANTONYMS

➢ The verbal section of your GRE will contain around 9 antonym items.

➢ If you have a big vocabulary, you’ll do well on antonyms. If you have a limited vocabulary, you’ll have trouble. Techniques can help, but the size and strength of your GRE vocabulary is the main factor in antonyms. Get to work on it.

➢ You must never mark an answer without reading all the choices.

➢ Pay attention to the question word’s part of speech. Words on one side of the colon will all be the same part of speech. On the other side of the colon, they will all be the same. Across the colon, they may be different, however.

➢ Easy antonyms have easy answers. Don’t fret over difficult choices on the questions you know are easy questions. But beware: hard antonyms often have easy answers, too.

➢ You may have to work backward, turning the answers into their opposites to see if they might be synonyms of the question word.

➢ If you don’t know the meaning of the word in capital letters but do have some sense of whether it has positive connotations or negative connotations, you can eliminate similarly positive or negative words among the choices.

➢ Eliminate words that have no clear opposite.

➢ Beware of pseudo-roots!

➢ On questions you know are hard, if three or more choices have the same ending as the word in capital letters, you should select your answer from among those choices.

➢ Don’t spin your wheels on the hard antonyms. If you run out of ideas, guess and go on.