

answer choices that contain Key Terms make very good guesses on questions for which you don't know the answer. Each word on the Key Terms List is followed by the part of speech and a brief definition for the word. Some of the words on this list may have other definitions as well, but the definitions we have given are the ones most likely to appear on the GRE.

We've broken the Key Terms List down into four groups of about 75 words each. Don't try to learn all four groups of words at once—work with one list at a time. Write the words and their definitions down in a notebook or on flash cards. It is very important to write them down yourself, because this will help you remember them. Just glancing through the lists printed in this book won't be nearly as effective. Before doing the exercises for each group, spend some time studying and learning the words first. Then use the exercises as a way to test yourself. Answers for the matching exercises appear in Part V of this book.

## Key Terms Group 1

<b>abscond</b> (verb)	to depart clandestinely; to steal off and hide
<b>aberrant</b> (adj.)	deviating from the norm (noun form: <i>aberration</i> )
<b>alacrity</b> (noun)	eager and enthusiastic willingness
<b>anomaly</b> (noun)	deviation from the normal order, form, or rule; abnormality (adj. form: <i>anomalous</i> )
<b>approbation</b> (noun)	an expression of approval or praise
<b>arduous</b> (adj.)	strenuous, taxing; requiring significant effort
<b>assuage</b> (verb)	to ease or lessen; to appease or pacify
<b>audacious</b> (adj.)	daring and fearless; recklessly bold (noun form: <i>audacity</i> )
<b>austere</b> (adj.)	without adornment; bare; severely simple; ascetic (noun form: <i>austerity</i> )
<b>axiomatic</b> (adj.)	taken as a given; possessing self-evident truth (noun form: <i>axiom</i> )
<b>canonical</b> (adj.)	following or in agreement with accepted, traditional standards (noun form: <i>canon</i> )
<b>capricious</b> (adj.)	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>convoluted</b> (adj.)	complex or complicated
<b>disabuse</b> (verb)	to undeceive; to set right
<b>discordant</b> (adj.)	conflicting; dissonant or harsh in sound
<b>disparate</b> (adj.)	fundamentally distinct or dissimilar
<b>effrontery</b> (noun)	extreme boldness; presumptuousness
<b>eloquent</b> (adj.)	well-spoken, expressive, articulate (noun form: <i>eloquence</i> )

<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 (adj. form: <i>equivocal</i> )
<b>erudite</b> (adj.)	very learned; scholarly (noun form: <i>erudition</i> )
<b>exculpate</b> (verb)	exonerate; to clear of blame
<b>exigent</b> (adj.)	urgent, pressing; requiring immediate action or attention
<b>extemporaneous</b> (adj.)	improvised; done without preparation
<b>filibuster</b> (noun)	intentional obstruction, esp. using prolonged speechmaking to delay legislative action
<b>fulminate</b> (verb)	to loudly attack or denounce
<b>ingenuous</b> (adj.)	artless; frank and candid; lacking in sophistication
<b>inured</b> (adj.)	accustomed to accepting something undesirable
<b>irascible</b> (adj.)	easily angered; prone to temperamental outbursts
<b>laud</b> (verb)	to praise highly (adj. form: <i>laudatory</i> )
<b>lucid</b> (adj.)	clear; easily understood
<b>magnanimity</b> (noun)	the quality of being generously noble in mind and heart, esp. in forgiving (adj. form: <i>magnanimous</i> )
<b>martial</b> (adj.)	associated with war and the armed forces
<b>mundane</b> (adj.)	of the world; typical of or concerned with the ordinary
<b>nascent</b> (adj.)	coming into being; in early developmental stages
<b>nebulous</b> (adj.)	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> (adj.)	harmful, injurious
<b>obtuse</b> (adj.)	lacking sharpness of intellect; not clear or precise in thought or expression
<b>obviate</b> (verb)	to anticipate and make unnecessary
<b>onerous</b> (adj.)	troubling; burdensome
<b>paeon</b> (noun)	a song or hymn of praise and thanksgiving
<b>parody</b> (noun)	a humorous imitation intended for ridicule or comic effect, esp. in literature and art
<b>perennial</b> (adj.)	recurrent through the year or many years; happening repeatedly
<b>perfidy</b> (noun)	intentional breach of faith; treachery (adj. form: <i>perfidious</i> )
<b>perfunctory</b> (adj.)	cursory; done without care or interest
<b>perspicacious</b> (adj.)	acutely perceptive; having keen discernment (noun form: <i>perspicacity</i> )

<b>prattle</b> (verb)	to babble meaninglessly; to talk in an empty and idle manner
<b>precipitate</b> (adj.)	acting with excessive haste or impulse
<b>precipitate</b> (verb)	to cause or happen before anticipated or required
<b>predilection</b> (noun)	a disposition in favor of something; preference
<b>prescience</b> (noun)	foreknowledge of events; knowing of events prior to their occurring (adj. form: <i>prescient</i> )
<b>prevaricate</b> (verb)	to deliberately avoid the truth; to mislead
<b>qualms</b> (noun)	misgivings; reservations; causes for hesitancy
<b>recant</b> (verb)	to retract, esp. a previously held belief
<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>reticent</b> (adj.)	quiet; reserved; reluctant to express thoughts and feelings
<b>solicitous</b> (adj.)	concerned and attentive; eager
<b>sordid</b> (adj.)	characterized by filth, grime, or squalor; foul
<b>sporadic</b> (adj.)	occurring only occasionally, or in scattered instances
<b>squander</b> (verb)	to waste by spending or using irresponsibly
<b>static</b> (adj.)	not moving, active, or in motion; at rest
<b>stupefy</b> (verb)	to stun, baffle, or amaze
<b>stymie</b> (verb)	to block; to thwart
<b>synthesis</b> (noun)	the combination of parts to make a whole (verb form: <i>synthesize</i> )
<b>torque</b> (noun)	a force that causes rotation
<b>tortuous</b> (adj.)	winding, twisting; excessively complicated
<b>truculent</b> (adj.)	fierce and cruel; eager to fight
<b>veracity</b> (noun)	truthfulness, honesty
<b>virulent</b> (adj.)	extremely harmful or poisonous; bitterly hostile or antagonistic
<b>voracious</b> (adj.)	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 1 Exercises

Match the following words to their definitions. Answers can be found in Part V.

- |                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. improvised; without preparation   | A. veracity       |
| 2. a newly coined word or expression | B. recant         |
| 3. a song of joy and praise          | C. extemporaneous |
| 4. to praise highly                  | D. stymie         |
| 5. truthfulness; honesty             | E. paean          |

6. artless; frank and candid
7. associated with war and the military
8. to retract a belief or statement
9. cursory; done without care or interest
10. troubling; burdensome
11. to criticize; to officially rebuke
12. winding; twisting; complicated
13. to block; to thwart
14. clear; easily understood

- F. lucid
- G. laud
- H. onerous
- I. tortuous
- J. neologism
- K. martial
- L. ingenuous
- M. censure
- N. perfunctory



### Hold Up and Break

Did you just tackle Hit Parade Group 1? Before you jump into Group 2, give yourself a break. Take a walk, get some air, eat a snack. Let the Group 1 words sink in before you dive into Group 2.

## Key Terms Group 2

<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> (adj.)	dealing with, appreciative of, or responsive to art or the beautiful
<b>ameliorate</b> (verb)	to make better or more tolerable
<b>ascetic</b> (noun)	one who practices rigid self-denial, esp. as an act of religious devotion
<b>avarice</b> (noun)	greed, esp. for wealth (adj. form: <i>avaricious</i> )
<b>axiom</b> (noun)	a universally recognized principle (adj. form: <i>axiomatic</i> )
<b>burgeon</b> (verb)	to grow rapidly or flourish
<b>bucolic</b> (adj.)	rustic and pastoral; characteristic of rural areas and their inhabitants
<b>cacophony</b> (noun)	harsh, jarring, discordant sound; dissonance (adj. form: <i>cacophonous</i> )
<b>canon</b> (noun)	an established set of principles or code of laws, often religious in nature (adj. form: <i>canonical</i> )
<b>castigation</b> (noun)	severe criticism or punishment (verb form: <i>castigate</i> )
<b>catalyst</b> (noun)	a substance that accelerates the rate of a chemical reaction without

	itself changing; a person or thing that causes change
<b>caustic</b> (adj.)	burning or stinging; causing corrosion
<b>chary</b> (adj.)	wary; cautious; sparing
<b>cogent</b> (adj.)	appealing forcibly to the mind or reason; convincing
<b>complaisance</b> (noun)	the willingness to comply with the wishes of others (adj. form: <i>complaisant</i> )
<b>contentious</b> (adj.)	argumentative; quarrelsome; causing controversy or disagreement
<b>contrite</b> (adj.)	regretful; penitent; seeking forgiveness (noun form: <i>contrition</i> )
<b>culpable</b> (adj.)	deserving blame (noun form: <i>culpability</i> )
<b>dearth</b> (noun)	smallness of quantity or number; scarcity; a lack
<b>demur</b> (verb)	to question or oppose
<b>didactic</b> (adj.)	intended to teach or instruct
<b>discretion</b> (noun)	cautious reserve in speech; ability to make responsible decisions (adj. form: <i>discreet</i> )
<b>disinterested</b> (adj.)	free of bias or self-interest; impartial
<b>dogmatic</b> (adj.)	expressing a rigid opinion based on unproved or improvable principles (noun form: <i>dogma</i> )
<b>ebullience</b> (noun)	the quality of lively or enthusiastic expression of thoughts and feelings (adj. form: <i>ebullient</i> )
<b>eclectic</b> (adj.)	composed of elements drawn from various sources
<b>elegy</b> (noun)	a mournful poem, esp. one lamenting the dead (adj. form: <i>elegiac</i> )
<b>emollient</b> (adj.)/(noun)	soothing, esp. to the skin; making less harsh; mollifying; an agent that softens or smoothes the skin
<b>empirical</b> (adj.)	based on observation or experiment
<b>enigmatic</b> (adj.)	mysterious; obscure; difficult to understand (noun form: <i>enigma</i> )
<b>ephemeral</b> (adj.)	brief; fleeting
<b>esoteric</b> (adj.)	intended for or understood by a small, specific group
<b>eulogy</b> (noun)	a speech honoring the dead (verb form: <i>eulogize</i> )
<b>exonerate</b> (verb)	to remove blame
<b>facetious</b> (adj.)	playful; humorous
<b>fallacy</b> (noun)	an invalid or incorrect notion; a mistaken belief (adj. form: <i>fallacious</i> )
<b>furtive</b> (adj.)	marked by stealth; covert; surreptitious
<b>gregarious</b> (adj.)	sociable; outgoing; enjoying the company of other people
<b>harangue</b> (verb)/(noun)	to deliver a forceful or angry speech; ranting speech or writing.
<b>heretical</b> (adj.)	violating accepted dogma or convention (noun form: <i>heresy</i> )

<b>hyperbole</b> (noun)	an exaggerated statement, often used as a figure of speech (adj. form: <i>hyperbolic</i> )
<b>impecunious</b> (adj.)	lacking funds; without money
<b>incipient</b> (adj.)	beginning to come into being or to become apparent
<b>inert</b> (adj.)	unmoving; lethargic; sluggish
<b>innocuous</b> (adj.)	harmless; causing no damage
<b>intransigent</b> (adj.)	refusing to compromise (noun form: <i>intransigence</i> )
<b>inveigle</b> (verb)	to obtain by deception or flattery
<b>morose</b> (adj.)	sad; sullen; melancholy
<b>odious</b> (adj.)	evoking intense aversion or dislike
<b>opaque</b> (adj.)	impenetrable by light; not reflecting light
<b>oscillation</b> (noun)	the act or state of swinging back and forth with a steady, uninterrupted rhythm (verb form: <i>oscillate</i> )
<b>penurious</b> (adj.)	penny-pinching; excessively thrifty; ungenerous
<b>pernicious</b> (adj.)	extremely harmful in a way that is not easily seen or noticed
<b>peruse</b> (verb)	to examine with great care (noun form: <i>perusal</i> )
<b>pious</b> (adj.)	extremely reverent or devout; showing strong religious devotion (noun form: <i>piety</i> )
<b>precursor</b> (noun)	one that precedes and indicates or announces another
<b>preen</b> (verb)	to dress up; to primp; to groom oneself with elaborate care
<b>prodigious</b> (adj.)	abundant in size, force, or extent; extraordinary
<b>prolific</b> (adj.)	producing large volumes or amounts; productive
<b>putrefy</b> (verb)	to rot; to decay and give off a foul odor (adj. form: <i>putrid</i> )
<b>quaff</b> (verb)	to drink deeply
<b>quiescence</b> (noun)	stillness; motionlessness; quality of being at rest (adj. form: <i>quiescent</i> )
<b>redoubtable</b> (adj.)	awe-inspiring; worthy of honor
<b>sanction</b> (noun)/(verb)	authoritative permission or approval; a penalty intended to enforce compliance; to give permission or authority
<b>satire</b> (noun)	a literary work that ridicules or criticizes a human vice through humor or derision (adj. form: <i>satirical</i> )
<b>squalid</b> (adj.)	sordid; wretched and dirty as from neglect (noun form: <i>squalor</i> )
<b>stoic</b> (adj.)	indifferent to or unaffected by pleasure or pain; steadfast (noun form: <i>stoicism</i> )
<b>supplant</b> (verb)	to take the place of; to supersede
<b>torpid</b> (adj.)	lethargic; sluggish; dormant (noun form: <i>torpor</i> )
<b>ubiquitous</b> (adj.)	existing everywhere at the same time; constantly encountered;

widespread

**urbane** (adj.)

sophisticated; refined; elegant (noun form: *urbanity*)

**vilify** (verb)

to defame; to characterize harshly

**viscous** (adj.)

thick; sticky (noun form: *viscosity*)

## Group 2 Exercises

Match the following words to their definitions. Answers can be found in Part V.

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1. brief; fleeting  | A. pernicious    |
| 2. a forceful or angry speech                             | B. ephemeral     |
| 3. arousing strong dislike or aversion                    | C. avarice       |
| 4. to free from blame or responsibility                   | D. quaff         |
| 5. arousing fear or awe; worthy of honor; formidable      | E. caustic       |
| 6. unexpectedly harmful                                   | F. odious        |
| 7. to drink deeply  | G. dearth        |
| 8. stinging; corrosive; sarcastic; biting                 | H. inert         |
| 9. impressively great in size, force, or extent; enormous | I. disinterested |
| 10. greed; hunger for money                               | J. exonerate     |
| 11. unmoving; lethargic                                   | K. inveigle      |
| 12. impartial; unbiased                                   | L. prodigious    |
| 13. lack; scarcity  | M. harangue      |
| 14. to win over by deception, coaxing or flattery         | N. redoubtable   |



### Break Time!

How did you do in Group 2? Take a moment to relax and let your mind rest before diving into Group 3. Remember to do this between each group of words so you don't overload your brain!

## Key Terms Group 3

**acumen** (noun)

keen, accurate judgment or insight

**adulterate** (verb)

to reduce purity by combining with inferior ingredients

**amalgamate** (verb)

to combine several elements into a whole (noun form: *amalgamation*)

<b>archaic</b> (adj.)	outdated; associated with an earlier, perhaps more primitive, time
<b>aver</b> (verb)	to state as a fact; to declare or assert
<b>bolster</b> (verb)	to provide support or reinforcement
<b>bombastic</b> (adj.)	pompous; grandiloquent (noun form: <i>bombast</i> )
<b>diatribe</b> (noun)	a harsh denunciation
<b>dissemble</b> (verb)	to disguise or conceal; to mislead
<b>eccentric</b> (adj.)	departing from norms or conventions
<b>endemic</b> (adj.)	characteristic of or often found in a particular locality, region, or people
<b>evanescent</b> (adj.)	tending to disappear like vapor; vanishing
<b>exacerbate</b> (verb)	to make worse or more severe
<b>fervent</b> (adj.)	greatly emotional or zealous (noun form: <i>fervor</i> )
<b>fortuitous</b> (adj.)	happening by accident or chance
<b>germane</b> (adj.)	relevant to the subject at hand; appropriate in subject matter
<b>grandiloquence</b> (noun)	pompous speech or expression (adj. form: <i>grandiloquent</i> )
<b>hackneyed</b> (adj.)	rendered trite or commonplace by frequent usage
<b>halcyon</b> (adj.)	calm and peaceful
<b>hedonism</b> (noun)	devotion to pleasurable pursuits, esp. to the pleasures of the senses (a <i>hedonist</i> is someone who pursues pleasure)
<b>hegemony</b> (noun)	the consistent dominance of one state or group over others
<b>iconoclast</b> (noun)	one who attacks or undermines traditional conventions or institutions
<b>idolatrous</b> (adj.)	given to intense or excessive devotion to something (noun form: <i>idolatry</i> )
<b>impassive</b> (adj.)	revealing no emotion
<b>imperturbable</b> (adj.)	marked by extreme calm, impassivity, and steadiness
<b>implacable</b> (adj.)	not capable of being appeased or significantly changed
<b>impunity</b> (noun)	immunity from punishment or penalty
<b>inchoate</b> (adj.)	in an initial stage; not fully formed
<b>infelicitous</b> (adj.)	unfortunate; inappropriate
<b>insipid</b> (adj.)	lacking in qualities that interest, stimulate, or challenge
<b>loquacious</b> (adj.)	extremely talkative (noun form: <i>loquacity</i> )
<b>luminous</b> (adj.)	characterized by brightness and the emission of light
<b>malevolent</b> (adj.)	having or showing often vicious ill will, spite, or hatred (noun form: <i>malevolence</i> )
<b>malleable</b> (adj.)	capable of being shaped or formed; tractable; pliable
<b>mendacity</b> (noun)	the condition of being untruthful; dishonesty (adj. form: <i>mendacious</i> )



<b>meticulous</b> (adj.)	characterized by extreme care and precision; attentive to detail
<b>misanthrope</b> (noun)	one who hates all other humans (adj. form: <i>misanthropic</i> )
<b>mitigate</b> (verb)	to make or become less severe or intense; to moderate
<b>obdurate</b> (adj.)	unyielding; hardhearted; intractable
<b>obsequious</b> (adj.)	exhibiting a fawning attentiveness
<b>occlude</b> (verb)	to obstruct or block
<b>opprobrium</b> (noun)	disgrace; contempt; scorn
<b>pedagogy</b> (noun)	the profession or principles of teaching, or instructing
<b>pedantic</b> (adj.)	overly concerned with the trivial details of learning or education; show-offish about one's knowledge
<b>penury</b> (noun)	poverty; destitution
<b>pervasive</b> (adj.)	having the tendency to permeate or spread throughout
<b>pine</b> (verb)	to yearn intensely; to languish; to lose vigor
<b>pirate</b> (verb)	to illegally use or reproduce
<b>pith</b> (noun)	the essential or central part
<b>pithy</b> (adj.)	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>polemical</b> (adj.)	controversial; argumentative
<b>prodigal</b> (adj.)	recklessly wasteful; extravagant; profuse; lavish
<b>profuse</b> (adj.)	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> (adj.)	prone to complaining or grumbling; peevish
<b>rancorous</b> (adj.)	characterized by bitter, long-lasting resentment (noun form: <i>rancor</i> )
<b>recalcitrant</b> (adj.)	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> (adj.)	marked by, feeling, or expressing a feeling of profound awe and respect (noun form: <i>reverence</i> )
<b>rhetoric</b> (noun)	the art or study of effective use of language for communication and persuasion
<b>salubrious</b> (adj.)	promoting health or well-being
<b>solvent</b> (adj.)	able to meet financial obligations; able to dissolve another substance

<b>specious</b> (adj.)	seeming true, but actually being fallacious; misleadingly attractive; plausible but false
<b>spurious</b> (adj.)	lacking authenticity or validity; false; counterfeit
<b>subpoena</b> (noun)	a court order requiring appearance and/or testimony
<b>succinct</b> (adj.)	brief; concise
<b>superfluous</b> (adj.)	exceeding what is sufficient or necessary
<b>surfeit</b> (verb)	an overabundant supply; excess; to feed or supply to excess (noun form: a <i>surfeit</i> of supplies)
<b>tenacity</b> (noun)	the quality of adherence or persistence to something valued; persistent determination (adj. form: <i>tenacious</i> )
<b>tenuous</b> (adj.)	having little substance or strength; flimsy; weak
<b>tirade</b> (noun)	a long and extremely critical speech; a harsh denunciation
<b>transient</b> (adj.)	fleeting; passing quickly; brief
<b>zealous</b> (adj.)	fervent; ardent; impassioned, devoted to a cause (a <i>zealot</i> is a zealous person)

## Group 3 Exercises

Match the following words to their definitions. Answers can be found in Part V.

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1. brief; concise; tersely cogent                      | A. hegemony   |
| 2. prone to complaining; whining                       | B. aver       |
| 3. fawning; ingratiating                               | C. insipid    |
| 4. marked by bitter, deep-seated resentment            | D. pithy      |
| 5. controversial; argumentative                        | E. placate    |
| 6. dominance of one state or group over others         | F. prodigal   |
| 7. uninteresting; tasteless; flat; dull                | G. querulous  |
| 8. thin; flimsy; of little substance                   | H. surfeit    |
| 9. excess; overindulgence                              | I. rancorous  |
| 10. wasteful; recklessly extravagant                   | J. bombastic  |
| 11. to appease; to pacify with concessions             | K. obsequious |
| 12. to assert; to declare; to allege; to state as fact | L. evanescent |
| 13. pompous; grandiloquent                             | M. polemical  |
| 14. tending to vanish like vapor                       | N. tenuous    |



### What's Your Strategy?

Do you find flashcards helpful? Or do you prefer word lists? Or smartphone apps? Figure out the

## Key Terms Group 4

<b>acerbic</b> (adj.)	having a sour or bitter taste or character; sharp; biting
<b>aggrandize</b> (verb)	to increase in intensity, power, influence, or prestige
<b>alchemy</b> (noun)	a medieval science aimed at the transmutation of metals, esp. base metals into gold (an <i>alchemist</i> is one who practices alchemy)
<b>amenable</b> (adj.)	agreeable; responsive to suggestion
<b>anachronism</b> (noun)	something or someone out of place in terms of historical or chronological context
<b>astringent</b> (adj.)	having a tightening effect on living tissue; harsh; severe; something with a tightening effect on tissue
<b>contiguous</b> (adj.)	sharing a border; touching; adjacent
<b>convention</b> (noun)	a generally agreed-upon practice or attitude
<b>credulous</b> (adj.)	tending to believe too readily; gullible (noun form: <i>credulity</i> )
<b>cynicism</b> (noun)	an attitude or quality of belief that all people are motivated by selfishness (adj. form: <i>cynical</i> )
<b>decorum</b> (noun)	polite or appropriate conduct or behavior (adj. form: <i>decorous</i> )
<b>derision</b> (noun)	scorn, ridicule, contemptuous treatment (adj. form: <i>derisive</i> ; verb form: <i>deride</i> )
<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>fawn</b> (verb)	to flatter or praise excessively
<b>flout</b> (verb)	to show contempt for, as in a rule or convention
<b>garrulous</b> (adj.)	pointlessly talkative; talking too much
<b>glib</b> (adj.)	marked by ease or informality; nonchalant; lacking in depth; superficial
<b>hubris</b> (noun)	overbearing presumption or pride; arrogance
<b>imminent</b> (adj.)	about to happen; impending
<b>immutable</b> (adj.)	not capable of change
<b>impetuous</b> (adj.)	hastily or rashly energetic; impulsive and vehement

<b>indifferent</b> (adj.)	having no interest or concern; showing no bias or prejudice
<b>inimical</b> (adj.)	damaging; harmful; injurious
<b>intractable</b> (adj.)	not easily managed or directed; stubborn; obstinate
<b>intrepid</b> (adj.)	steadfast and courageous
<b>laconic</b> (adj.)	using few words; terse
<b>maverick</b> (noun)	an independent individual who does not go along with a group or party
<b>mercurial</b> (adj.)	characterized by rapid and unpredictable change in mood
<b>mollify</b> (verb)	to calm or soothe; to reduce in emotional intensity
<b>neophyte</b> (noun)	a recent convert; a beginner; novice
<b>obfuscate</b> (verb)	to deliberately obscure; to make confusing
<b>obstinate</b> (adj.)	stubborn; hard-headed; uncompromising
<b>ostentatious</b> (adj.)	characterized by or given to pretentious display; showy
<b>pervade</b> (verb)	to permeate throughout (adj. form: <i>pervasive</i> )
<b>phlegmatic</b> (adj.)	calm; sluggish; unemotional
<b>plethora</b> (noun)	an overabundance; a surplus
<b>pragmatic</b> (adj.)	practical rather than idealistic
<b>presumptuous</b> (adj.)	overstepping due bounds (as of propriety or courtesy); taking liberties
<b>pristine</b> (adj.)	pure; uncorrupted; clean
<b>probity</b> (noun)	adherence to highest principles; complete and confirmed integrity; uprightness
<b>proclivity</b> (noun)	a natural predisposition or inclination
<b>profligate</b> (adj.)	excessively wasteful; recklessly extravagant (noun form: <i>profligacy</i> )
<b>propensity</b> (noun)	a natural inclination or tendency; penchant
<b>prosaic</b> (adj.)	dull; lacking in spirit or imagination
<b>pungent</b> (adj.)	characterized by a strong, sharp smell or taste
<b>quixotic</b> (adj.)	foolishly impractical; marked by lofty romantic ideals
<b>quotidian</b> (adj.)	occurring or recurring daily; commonplace
<b>rarefy</b> (verb)	to make or become thin, less dense; to refine
<b>recondite</b> (adj.)	hidden; concealed; difficult to understand; obscure
<b>refulgent</b> (adj.)	radiant; shiny; brilliant
<b>renege</b> (verb)	to fail to honor a commitment; to go back on a promise
<b>sedulous</b> (adj.)	diligent; persistent; hard-working
<b>shard</b> (noun)	a piece of broken pottery or glass
<b>soporific</b> (adj.)	causing drowsiness; tending to induce sleep

<b>sparse</b> (adj.)	thin; not dense; arranged at widely spaced intervals
<b>spendthrift</b> (noun)	one who spends money wastefully
<b>subtle</b> (adj.)	not obvious; elusive; difficult to discern
<b>tacit</b> (adj.)	implied; not explicitly stated
<b>terse</b> (adj.)	brief and concise in wording
<b>tout</b> (verb)	to publicly praise or promote
<b>trenchant</b> (adj.)	sharply perceptive; keen; penetrating
<b>unfeigned</b> (adj.)	genuine; not false or hypocritical
<b>untenable</b> (adj.)	indefensible; not viable; uninhabitable
<b>vacillate</b> (verb)	to waver indecisively between one course of action or opinion and another
<b>variegated</b> (adj.)	multicolored; characterized by a variety of patches of different color
<b>vexation</b> (noun)	annoyance; irritation (verb form: <i>vex</i> )
<b>vigilant</b> (adj.)	alertly watchful (noun form: <i>vigilance</i> )
<b>vituperate</b> (verb)	to use harsh condemnatory language; to abuse or censure severely or abusively; to berate
<b>volatile</b> (adj.)	readily changing to a vapor; changeable; fickle; explosive (noun form: <i>volatility</i> )

## Group 4 Exercises

Match the following words to their definitions. Answers can be found in Part V.

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. acid or biting; bitter in taste or tone             | A. anachronism |
| 2. sleep-inducing; causing drowsiness                  | B. contiguous  |
| 3. a surplus; an overabundance                         | C. dilettante  |
| 4. one with superficial interest in a subject          | D. intractable |
| 5. arrogance; overbearing pride                        | E. prosaic     |
| 6. sharing a border; touching; adjacent                | F. quixotic    |
| 7. talking too much; rambling                          | G. recondite   |
| 8. something out of place in history or chronology     | H. vituperate  |
| 9. difficult to understand; obscure; hidden            | I. acerbic     |
| 10. dull; unimaginative; ordinary                      | J. garrulous   |
| 11. unemotional; calm                                  | K. hubris      |
| 12. stubborn; obstinate; difficult to manage or govern | L. soporific   |
| 13. condemn with harsh, abusive words; berate          | M. phlegmatic  |
| 14. foolishly impractical; marked by lofty ideals      | N. plethora    |

# BEYOND THE KEY TERMS LIST

So you've finished the Key Terms List and you're now the master of many more words than you were before. What to do next? Why, go *beyond the Key Terms List* of course! The Key Terms List was just the beginning. To maximize your score on the GRE you must be relentless in increasing your vocabulary. Don't let up. Keep learning words until the day you sit down for the exam. The following lists of extra words don't have exercises, so just keep working with your notebook or flash cards and get your friends to quiz you. You are a vocabulary machine!

## Beyond the Key Terms Group 1

The following list contains some of those simple-sounding words with less common secondary meanings that ETS likes to test on the GRE.

<b>alloy</b> (verb)	to commingle; to debase by mixing with something inferior; <i>unalloyed</i> means pure
<b>appropriate</b> (verb)	to take for one's own use; to confiscate
<b>arrest, arresting</b> (verb)/(adj.)	to suspend; to engage; holding one's attention: as in arrested adolescence, an arresting portrait
<b>august</b> (adj.)	majestic, venerable
<b>bent</b> (noun)	leaning, inclination, proclivity, tendency
<b>broach</b> (verb)	to bring up; to announce; to begin to talk about
<b>brook</b> (verb)	to tolerate; to endure; to countenance
<b>cardinal</b> (adj.)	major, as in cardinal sin
<b>chauvinist</b> (noun)	a blindly devoted patriot
<b>color</b> (verb)	to change as if by dyeing, i.e., to distort, gloss, or affect (usually the first)
<b>consequential</b> (adj.)	pompous, self-important (primary definitions are: logically following; important)
<b>damp</b> (verb)	to diminish the intensity or check the vibration of a sound
<b>die</b> (noun)	a tool used for shaping, as in a tool-and-die shop
<b>essay</b> (verb)	to test or try; to attempt; to experiment
<b>exact</b> (verb)	to demand; to call for; to require; to take
<b>fell</b> (verb)	to cause to fall by striking
<b>fell</b> (adj.)	inhumanly cruel
<b>flag</b> (verb)	to sag or droop; to become spiritless; to decline
<b>flip</b> (adj.)	sarcastic, impertinent, as in flippant: a flip remark
<b>ford</b> (verb)	to wade across the shallow part of a river or stream

<b>grouse</b> (verb)	to complain or grumble
<b>guy</b> (noun)	a rope, cord, or cable attached to something as a brace or guide; to steady or reinforce using a guy: Think <i>guide</i> . (verb form: <i>guyed</i> , <i>guying</i> )
<b>intimate</b> (verb)	to imply, suggest, or insinuate
<b>list</b> (verb)	to tilt or lean to one side
<b>lumber</b> (verb)	to move heavily and clumsily
<b>meet</b> (adj.)	fitting, proper
<b>milk</b> (verb)	to exploit; to squeeze every last ounce of
<b>mince</b> (verb)	to pronounce or speak affectedly; to euphemize, to speak too carefully. Also, to take tiny steps; to tiptoe
<b>nice</b> (adj.)	exacting, fastidious, extremely precise
<b>occult</b> (adj.)	hidden, concealed, beyond comprehension
<b>pedestrian</b> (adj.)	commonplace, trite, unremarkable, quotidian
<b>pie</b> (adj.)	multicolored, usually in blotches
<b>pine</b> (verb)	to lose vigor (as through grief); to yearn
<b>plastic</b> (adj.)	moldable, pliable, not rigid
<b>pluck</b> (noun)	courage, spunk, fortitude
<b>prize</b> (verb)	to pry, to press or force with a lever; something taken by force, spoils
<b>rail</b> (verb)	to complain about bitterly
<b>rent</b> (verb)	torn (past tense of <i>rend</i> ); an opening or tear caused by such
<b>quail</b> (verb)	to lose courage; to turn frightened
<b>qualify</b> (verb)	to limit
<b>sap</b> (verb)	to enervate or weaken the vitality of
<b>sap</b> (noun)	a fool or nitwit
<b>scurvy</b> (adj.)	contemptible, despicable
<b>singular</b> (adj.)	exceptional, unusual, odd
<b>stand</b> (noun)	a group of trees
<b>steep</b> (verb)	to saturate or completely soak, as in to let a tea bag steep
<b>strut</b> (noun)	the supporting structural cross-part of a wing
<b>table</b> (verb)	to remove (as a parliamentary motion) from consideration
<b>tender</b> (verb)	to proffer or offer
<b>waffle</b> (verb)	to equivocate; to change one's position
<b>wag</b> (noun)	wit, joker

## Beyond the Key Terms Group 2

<b>abjure</b> (verb)	to renounce or reject solemnly; to recant; to avoid
<b>adumbrate</b> (verb)	to foreshadow vaguely or intimate; to suggest or outline sketchily; to obscure or overshadow
<b>anathema</b> (noun)	a solemn or ecclesiastical (religious) curse; accursed or thoroughly loathed person or thing
<b>anodyne</b> (adj.)/(noun)	soothing; something that assuages or allays pain or comforts
<b>apogee</b> (noun)	farthest or highest point; culmination; zenith
<b>apostate</b> (noun)	one who abandons long-held religious or political convictions
<b>apotheosis</b> (noun)	deification; glorification to godliness; an exalted example; a model of excellence or perfection
<b>asperity</b> (noun)	severity, rigor; roughness, harshness; acrimony, irritability
<b>asseverate</b> (verb)	to aver, allege, or assert
<b>assiduous</b> (adj.)	diligent, hard-working, sedulous
<b>augury</b> (noun)	omen, portent
<b>bellicose</b> (adj.)	belligerent, pugnacious, warlike
<b>calumniate</b> (verb)	to slander, to make a false accusation; <i>calumny</i> means slander, aspersion
<b>captious</b> (adj.)	disposed to point out trivial faults; calculated to confuse or entrap in argument
<b>cavil</b> (verb)	to find fault without good reason
<b>celerity</b> (noun)	speed, alacrity; think <i>accelerate</i>
<b>chimera</b> (noun)	an illusion; originally, an imaginary fire-breathing she-monster
<b>contumacious</b> (adj.)	insubordinate, rebellious; <i>contumely</i> means insult, scorn, aspersion
<b>debacle</b> (noun)	rout, fiasco, complete failure
<b>denouement</b> (noun)	an outcome or solution; the unraveling of a plot
<b>descry</b> (verb)	to catch sight of
<b>desuetude</b> (noun)	disuse
<b>desultory</b> (adj.)	random; aimless; marked by a lack of plan or purpose
<b>diaphanous</b> (adj.)	transparent, gauzy
<b>diffident</b> (adj.)	reserved, shy, unassuming; lacking in self-confidence
<b>dirge</b> (noun)	a song of grief or lamentation
<b>encomium</b> (noun)	glowing and enthusiastic praise; panegyric, tribute, eulogy
<b>eschew</b> (verb)	to shun or avoid
<b>excoriate</b> (verb)	to censure scathingly, to upbraid



<b>execrate</b> (verb)	to denounce, to feel loathing for, to curse, to declare to be evil
<b>exegesis</b> (noun)	critical examination, explication
<b>expiate</b> (verb)	to atone or make amends for
<b>extirpate</b> (verb)	to destroy, to exterminate, to cut out, to excise
<b>fatuous</b> (adj.)	silly, inanely foolish
<b>fractious</b> (adj.)	quarrelsome, rebellious, unruly, refractory, irritable
<b>gainsay</b> (verb)	to deny, to dispute, to contradict, to oppose
<b>heterodox</b> (adj.)	unorthodox, heretical, iconoclastic
<b>imbroglio</b> (noun)	difficult or embarrassing situation
<b>indefatigable</b> (adj.)	not easily exhaustible; tireless, dogged
<b>ineluctable</b> (adj.)	certain, inevitable
<b>inimitable</b> (adj.)	one of a kind, peerless
<b>insouciant</b> (adj.)	unconcerned, carefree, heedless
<b>inveterate</b> (adj.)	deep rooted, ingrained, habitual
<b>jejune</b> (adj.)	vapid, uninteresting, nugatory; childish, immature, puerile
<b>lubricious</b> (adj.)	lewd, wanton, greasy, slippery
<b>mendicant</b> (noun)	a beggar, supplicant
<b>meretricious</b> (adj.)	cheap, gaudy, tawdry, flashy, showy; attracting by false show
<b>minatory</b> (adj.)	menacing, threatening (reminds you of the Minotaur, a threatening creature indeed)
<b>nadir</b> (noun)	low point, perigee
<b>nonplussed</b> (adj.)	baffled, bewildered, at a loss for what to do or think
<b>obstreperous</b> (adj.)	noisily and stubbornly defiant, aggressively boisterous
<b>ossified</b> (adj.)	tending to become more rigid, conventional, sterile, and reactionary with age; literally, turned into bone
<b>palliate</b> (verb)	to make something seem less serious, to gloss over, to make less severe or intense
<b>panegyric</b> (noun)	formal praise, eulogy, encomium; <i>panegyric</i> means expressing elaborate praise
<b>parsimonious</b> (adj.)	cheap, miserly
<b>pellucid</b> (adj.)	transparent, easy to understand, limpid
<b>peroration</b> (noun)	the concluding part of a speech; flowery, rhetorical speech
<b>plangent</b> (adj.)	pounding, thundering, resounding
<b>prolix</b> (adj.)	long-winded, verbose; <i>prolixity</i> means verbosity
<b>propitiate</b> (verb)	to appease; to conciliate; <i>propitious</i> means auspicious, favorable
<b>puerile</b> (adj.)	childish, immature, jejune, nugatory

<b>puissance</b> (noun)	power, strength; <i>puissant</i> means powerful, strong
<b>pusillanimous</b> (adj.)	cowardly, craven
<b>remonstrate</b> (verb)	to protest, to object
<b>sagacious</b> (adj.)	having sound judgment; perceptive, wise; like a sage
<b>salacious</b> (adj.)	lustful, lascivious, bawdy
<b>salutary</b> (adj.)	remedial, wholesome, causing improvement
<b>sanguine</b> (adj.)	cheerful, confident, optimistic
<b>saturnine</b> (adj.)	gloomy, dark, sullen, morose
<b>sententious</b> (adj.)	aphoristic or moralistic; epigrammatic; tending to moralize excessively
<b>stentorian</b> (adj.)	extremely loud and powerful
<b>stygian</b> (adj.)	gloomy, dark
<b>sycophant</b> (noun)	toady, servile, self-seeking flatterer; parasite
<b>tendentious</b> (adj.)	biased; showing marked tendencies
<b>timorous</b> (adj.)	timid, fearful, diffident
<b>tyro</b> (noun)	novice, greenhorn, rank amateur
<b>vitiate</b> (verb)	to corrupt, to debase, to spoil, to make ineffective
<b>voluble</b> (adj.)	fluent, verbal, having easy use of spoken language