THE HIT PARADE

You should start your vocabulary work by studying the Hit Parade, which is a list we’ve compiled of some of the most frequently tested words on the GRE. We put together this list by analyzing released GREs and keeping tabs on the test to make sure that these words are still popular with ETS. At the very least, answer choices that contain Hit Parade words make very good guesses on questions for which you don’t know the answer. Each word on the Hit Parade 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 Hit Parade 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.

Hit Parade Group 1

Abscond (verb) to depart clandestinely; to steal off and hide
Aberrant (adj.) deviating from the norm (noun form: aberration)
Alacrity (noun) eager and enthusiastic willingness
Anomaly (noun) deviation from the normal order, form, or rule; abnormality (adj. form: anomalous)
Approval (noun) an expression of approval or praise
Arduous (adj.) strenuous, taxing; requiring significant effort
Assuage (verb) to ease or lessen; to appease or pacify
Audacious (adj.) daring and fearless; recklessly bold (noun form: audacity)
Austere (adj.) without adornment; bare; severely simple; ascetic (noun form: austerity)
Axiomatic (adj.) taken as a given; possessing self-evident truth (noun form: axiom)
Canonical (adj.) following or in agreement with accepted, traditional standards (noun form: canon)
Capricious (adj.) inclined to change one’s mind impulsively; erratic, unpredictable
Censure (verb) to criticize severely; to officially rebuke
Chicanery (noun) trickery or subterfuge
Connoisseur (noun) an informed and astute judge in matters of
taste; expert
Convoluted (adj.) complex or complicated
Disabuse (verb) to undeceive; to set right
Discordant (adj.) conflicting; dissonant or harsh in sound
Disparate (adj.) fundamentally distinct or dissimilar
Effrontery (noun) extreme boldness; presumptuousness
Eloquent (adj.) well-spoken, expressive, articulate (noun
form: eloquence)
Enervate (verb) to weaken; to reduce in vitality
Ennui (noun) dissatisfaction and restlessness resulting
from boredom or apathy
Equivocate (verb) to use ambiguous language with a deceptive
intent (adj. form: equivocal)
Erudite (adj.) very learned; scholarly (noun form:
erudition)
Exculpate (verb) exonerate; to clear of blame
Exigent (adj.) urgent, pressing; requiring immediate action
or attention
Extemporaneous (adj.) improvised; done without preparation
Filibuster (noun) intentional obstruction, esp. using pro-
longed speechmaking to delay legislative
action
Fulminate (verb) to loudly attack or denounce
Ingenuous (adj.) artless; frank and candid; lacking in
sophistication
Inured (adj.) accustomed to accepting something
undesirable
Irascible (adj.) easily angered; prone to temperamental
outbursts
Laud (verb) to praise highly (adj. form: laudatory)
Lucid (adj.) clear; easily understood
Magnanimity (noun) the quality of being generously noble in
mind and heart, esp. in forgiving (adj. form:
magnanimous)
Martial (adj.) associated with war and the armed forces
of the world; typical of or concerned with
the ordinary
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nascent (adj.)</td>
<td>coming into being; in early developmental stages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebulous (adj.)</td>
<td>vague; cloudy; lacking clearly defined form</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neologism (noun)</td>
<td>a new word, expression, or usage; the creation or use of new words or senses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noxious (adj.)</td>
<td>harmful, injurious</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obtuse (adj.)</td>
<td>lacking sharpness of intellect; not clear or precise in thought or expression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obviate (verb)</td>
<td>to anticipate and make unnecessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onerous (adj.)</td>
<td>troubling; burdensome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paean (noun)</td>
<td>a song or hymn of praise and thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parody (noun)</td>
<td>a humorous imitation intended for ridicule or comic effect, esp. in literature and art</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perennial (adj.)</td>
<td>recurrent through the year or many years; happening repeatedly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perfidy (noun)</td>
<td>intentional breach of faith; treachery (adj., form: perfidious)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perfunctory (adj.)</td>
<td>cursory; done without care or interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perspicacious (adj.)</td>
<td>acutely perceptive; having keen discernment (noun form: perspicacity)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prattle (verb)</td>
<td>to babble meaninglessly; to talk in an empty and idle manner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Precipitate (adj.)</td>
<td>acting with excessive haste or impulse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Precipitate (verb)</td>
<td>to cause or happen before anticipated or required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Predilection (noun)</td>
<td>a disposition in favor of something; preference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prescience (noun)</td>
<td>foreknowledge of events; knowing of events prior to their occurring (adj., form: prescient)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevaricate (verb)</td>
<td>to deliberately avoid the truth; to mislead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualms (noun)</td>
<td>misgivings; reservations; causes for hesitancy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recant (verb)</td>
<td>to retract, esp. a previously held belief</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refute (verb)</td>
<td>to disprove; to successfully argue against</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relegate (verb)</td>
<td>to forcibly assign, esp. to a lower place or position</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reticent (adj.)</td>
<td>quiet; reserved; reluctant to express thoughts and feelings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solicitous (adj.)</td>
<td>concerned and attentive; eager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sordid (adj.)</td>
<td>characterized by filth, grime, or squalor; foul</td>
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142 | Cracking the GRE
Sporadic (adj.) occurring only occasionally, or in scattered instances
Squander (verb) to waste by spending or using irresponsibly
Static (adj.) not moving, active, or in motion; at rest
Stupefy (verb) to stun, baffle, or amaze
Stymie (verb) to block; to thwart
Synthesis (noun) the combination of parts to make a whole (verb form: synthesize)
Torque (noun) a force that causes rotation
Tortuous (adj.) winding, twisting; excessively complicated
Truculent (adj.) fierce and cruel; eager to fight
Veracity (noun) truthfulness, honesty
Virulent (adj.) extremely harmful or poisonous; bitterly hostile or antagonistic
Voracious (adj.) having an insatiable appetite for an activity or pursuit; ravenous
Waver (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
2. A newly coined word or expression
3. A song of joy and praise
4. To praise highly
5. Truthfulness; honesty
6. 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

A. Veracity
B. Recant
C. Extemporaneous
D. Stymie
E. Paean
F. Lucid
G. Laud
H. Onerous
I. Tortuous
J. Neologism
K. Martial
L. Ingenious
M. Censure
N. Perfunctory
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abate (verb)</td>
<td>to lessen in intensity or degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accolade (noun)</td>
<td>an expression of praise</td>
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<td>Adulation (noun)</td>
<td>excessive praise; intense adoration</td>
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<td>Aesthetic (adj.)</td>
<td>dealing with, appreciative of, or responsive to art or the beautiful</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ameliorate (verb)</td>
<td>to make better or more tolerable</td>
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<td>Ascetic (noun)</td>
<td>one who practices rigid self-denial, esp. as an act of religious devotion</td>
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<td>Avarice (noun)</td>
<td>greed, esp. for wealth (adj. form: avaricious)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Axiom (noun)</td>
<td>a universally recognized principle (adj. form: axiomatic)</td>
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<td>Burgeon (verb)</td>
<td>to grow rapidly or flourish</td>
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<td>Bucolic (adj.)</td>
<td>rustic and pastoral; characteristic of rural areas and their inhabitants</td>
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<td>Cacophony (noun)</td>
<td>harsh, jarring, discordant sound; dissonance (adj. form: cacophonous)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canon (noun)</td>
<td>an established set of principles or code of laws, often religious in nature (adj. form: canonical)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Castigation (noun)</td>
<td>severe criticism or punishment (verb form: castigate)</td>
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<td>Catalyst (noun)</td>
<td>a substance that accelerates the rate of a chemical reaction without itself changing; a person or thing that causes change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caustic (adj.)</td>
<td>burning or stinging; causing corrosion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chary (adj.)</td>
<td>wary; cautious; sparing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cogent (adj.)</td>
<td>appealing forcibly to the mind or reason; convincing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complaisance (noun)</td>
<td>the willingness to comply with the wishes of others                      (adj. form: complaisant)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contentious (adj.)</td>
<td>argumentative; quarrelsome; causing controversy or disagreement</td>
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<td>Contrite (adj.)</td>
<td>regretful; penitent; seeking forgiveness (noun form: contrition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culpable (adj.)</td>
<td>deserving blame (noun form: culpability)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearth (noun)</td>
<td>smallness of quantity or number; scarcity; a lack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demur (verb)</td>
<td>to question or oppose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Didactic (adj.)</td>
<td>intended to teach or instruct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discretion (noun)</td>
<td>cautious reserve in speech; ability to make responsible decisions (adj. form: discrete)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disinterested (adj.)</td>
<td>free of bias or self-interest; impartial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dogmatic (adj.) expressing a rigid opinion based on unproved or improvable principles (noun form: dogma)

Ebullience (noun) the quality of lively or enthusiastic expression of thoughts and feelings (adj. form: ebullient)

Eclectic (adj.) composed of elements drawn from various sources

Elegy (noun) a mournful poem, esp. one lamenting the dead (adj. form: elegiac)

Emollient (adj.)/ (noun) soothing, esp. to the skin; making less harsh; mollifying; an agent that softens or smoothes the skin

Empirical (adj.) based on observation or experiment

Enigmatic (adj.) mysterious; obscure; difficult to understand (noun form: enigma)

Ephemeral (adj.) brief; fleeting

Esoteric (adj.) intended for or understood by a small, specific group

Eulogy (noun) a speech honoring the dead (verb form: eulogize)

Exonerate (verb) to remove blame

Facetious (adj.) playful; humorous

Fallacy (noun) an invalid or incorrect notion; a mistaken belief (adj. form: fallacious)

Furtive (adj.) marked by stealth; covert; surreptitious

Gregarious (adj.) sociable; outgoing; enjoying the company of other people

Harangue (verb)/ (noun) to deliver a pompous speech or tirade; a long, pompous speech

Heretical (adj.) violating accepted dogma or convention (noun form: heresy)

Hyperbole (noun) an exaggerated statement, often used as a figure of speech (adj. form: hyperbolic)

Impecunious (adj.) lacking funds; without money

Incipient (adj.) beginning to come into being or to become apparent

Inert (adj.) unmoving; lethargic; sluggish

Innocuous (adj.) harmless; causing no damage

Intransigent (adj.) refusing to compromise (noun form: intransigence)

Inveigle (verb) to obtain by deception or flattery

Morose (adj.) sad; sullen; melancholy

Odious (adj.) evoking intense aversion or dislike

Opaque (adj.) impenetrable by light; not reflecting light

Oscillation (noun) the act or state of swinging back and forth with a steady, uninterrupted rhythm (verb form: oscillate)

Penurious (adj.) penny-pinching; excessively thrifty; ungenerous
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Pernicious</strong> (adj.)</th>
<th>extremely harmful; potentially causing death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peruse</strong> (verb)</td>
<td>to examine with great care (noun form: <em>perusal</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pious</strong> (adj.)</td>
<td>extremely reverent or devout; showing strong religious devotion (noun form: <em>piety</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Precursor</strong> (noun)</td>
<td>one that precedes and indicates or announces another</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preen</strong> (verb)</td>
<td>to dress up; to primp; to groom oneself with elaborate care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prodigious</strong> (adj.)</td>
<td>abundant in size, force, or extent; extraordinary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prolific</strong> (adj.)</td>
<td>producing large volumes or amounts; productive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Putrefy</strong> (verb)</td>
<td>to rot; to decay and give off a foul odor (adj. form: <em>putrid</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quaff</strong> (verb)</td>
<td>to drink deeply</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Quiescence</strong> (noun)</td>
<td>stillness; motionlessness; quality of being at rest (adj. form: <em>quiescent</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Redoubtable</strong> (adj.)</td>
<td>awe-inspiring; worthy of honor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanction</strong> (noun)/(verb)</td>
<td>authoritative permission or approval; a penalty intended to enforce compliance; to give permission or authority to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Satire</strong> (noun)</td>
<td>a literary work that ridicules or criticizes a human vice through humor or derision (adj. form: <em>satirical</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Squalid</strong> (adj.)</td>
<td>sordid; wretched and dirty as from neglect (noun form: <em>squalor</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stoic</strong> (adj.)</td>
<td>indifferent to or unaffected by pleasure or pain; steadfast (noun form: <em>stoicism</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Supplant</strong> (verb)</td>
<td>to take the place of; to supersede</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Torpid</strong> (adj.)</td>
<td>lethargic; sluggish; dormant (noun form: <em>torpor</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ubiquitous</strong> (adj.)</td>
<td>existing everywhere at the same time; constantly encountered; widespread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Urbane</strong> (adj.)</td>
<td>sophisticated; refined; elegant (noun form: <em>urbanity</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vilify</strong> (verb)</td>
<td>to defame; to characterize harshly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Viscous</strong> (adj.)</td>
<td>thick; sticky (noun form: <em>viscosity</em>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Group 2 Exercises
Match the following words to their definitions. Answers can be found in Part V.

1. Brief; fleeting  
2. A long, pompous speech  
3. Arousing strong dislike or aversion  
4. To free from blame or responsibility  
5. Arousing fear or awe; worthy of honor; formidable  
6. Very harmful; deadly  
7. To drink deeply  
8. Stinging; corrosive; sarcastic; biting  
9. Impressively great in size, force, or extent; enormous  
10. Greed; hunger for money  
11. Unmoving; lethargic  
12. Impartial; unbiased  
13. Lack; scarcity  
14. To win over by deception, coxing or flattery  

A. Pernicious  
B. Ephemeral  
C. Avarice  
D. Quaff  
E. Caustic  
F. Odious  
G. Dearth  
H. Inert  
I. Disinterested  
J. Exonerate  
K. Inveigle  
L. Prodigious  
M. Harangue  
N. Redoubtable

Hit Parade 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)

Archaic (adj.)  
outdated; associated with an earlier, perhaps more primitive, time

Aver (verb)  
to state as a fact; to declare or assert

Bolster (verb)  
to provide support or reinforcement

Bombastic (adj.)  
pompous; grandiloquent (noun form: bombast)

Diatribes (noun)  
a harsh denunciation

Dissemble (verb)  
to disguise or conceal; to mislead

Eccentric (adj.)  
departing from norms or conventions

Endemic (adj.)  
characteristic of or often found in a particular locality, region, or people

Evanescent (adj.)  
tending to disappear like vapor; vanishing

Exacerbate (verb)  
to make worse or more severe

Fervent (adj.)  
greatly emotional or zealous (noun form: fervor)

Fortuitous (adj.)  
happening by accident or chance
Germane (adj.) relevant to the subject at hand; appropriate in subject matter
Grandiloquence (noun) pompous speech or expression (adj. form: grandiloquent)
Hackneyed (adj.) rendered trite or commonplace by frequent usage
Halcyon (adj.) calm and peaceful
devotion to pleasurable pursuits, esp. to the pleasures of the senses (a hedonist is someone who pursues pleasure)
Hedonism (noun) the consistent dominance of one state or ideology over others
Hegemony (noun) one who attacks or undermines traditional conventions or institutions
Iconoclast (noun) given to intense or excessive devotion to something (noun form: idolatry)
Idolatrous (adj.) revealing no emotion
Impassive (adj.) marked by extreme calm, impassivity, and steadiness
Imperturbable (adj.) not capable of being appeased or significantly changed
Impunity (noun) immunity from punishment or penalty
Inchoate (adj.) in an initial stage; not fully formed
Infelicitous (adj.) unfortunate; inappropriate
Insipid (adj.) without taste or flavor; lacking in spirit; bland
Loquacious (adj.) extremely talkative (noun form: loquacity)
Luminous (adj.) characterized by brightness and the emission of light
Malevolent (adj.) having or showing often vicious ill will, spite, or hatred (noun form: malevolence)
Malleable (adj.) capable of being shaped or formed; tractable; pliable
Mendacity (noun) the condition of being untruthful; dishonesty (adj. form: mendacious)
Meticulous (adj.) characterized by extreme care and precision; attentive to detail
Misanthrope (noun) one who hates all other humans (adj. form: misanthropic)
Mitigate (verb) to make or become less severe or intense; to moderate
Obdurate (adj.) unyielding; hardhearted; intractable
Obsequious (adj.) exhibiting a fawning attentiveness
Oclude (verb) to obstruct or block
Opprobrium (noun) disgrace; contempt; scorn
Pedagogy (noun) the profession or principles of teaching, or instructing
| **Pedantic** (adj.) | overly concerned with the trivial details of learning or education; show-offish about one’s knowledge |
| **Penury** (noun) | poverty; destitution |
| **Pervasive** (adj.) | having the tendency to permeate or spread throughout |
| **Pine** (verb) | to yearn intensely; to languish; to lose vigor |
| **Pirate** (verb) | to illegally use or reproduce |
| **Pith** (noun) | the essential or central part |
| **Pithy** (adj.) | precise and brief |
| **Placate** (verb) | to appease; to calm by making concessions |
| **Platitude** (noun) | a superficial remark, esp. one offered as meaningful |
| **Plummet** (verb) | to plunge or drop straight down |
| ** Polemical** (adj.) | controversial; argumentative |
| **Prodigal** (adj.) | recklessly wasteful; extravagant; profuse; lavish |
| **Profuse** (adj.) | given or coming forth abundantly; extravagant |
| **Proliferate** (verb) | to grow or increase swiftly and abundantly |
| **Queries** (noun) | questions; inquiries; doubts in the mind; reservations |
| **Querulous** (adj.) | prone to complaining or grumbling; peevish |
| **Rancorous** (adj.) | characterized by bitter, long-lasting resentment (noun form: rancor) |
| **Recalcitrant** (adj.) | obstinately defiant of authority; difficult to manage |
| **Repudiate** (verb) | to refuse to have anything to do with; to disown |
| **Rescind** (verb) | to invalidate; to repeal; to retract |
| **Reverent** (adj.) | marked by, feeling, or expressing a feeling of profound awe and respect (noun form: reverence) |
| **Rhetoric** (noun) | the art or study of effective use of language for communication and persuasion |
| **Salubrious** (adj.) | promoting health or well-being |
| **Solvent** (adj.) | able to meet financial obligations; able to dissolve another substance |
| **Specious** (adj.) | seeming true, but actually being fallacious; misleadingly attractive; plausible but false |
| **Spurious** (adj.) | lacking authenticity or validity; false; counterfeit |
| **Subpoena** (noun) | a court order requiring appearance and/or testimony |
| **Succinct** (adj.) | brief; concise |
| **Superfluous** (adj.) | exceeding what is sufficient or necessary |
| **Surfeit** (verb) | an overabundant supply; excess; to feed or supply to excess |
| **Tenacity** (noun) | the quality of adherence or persistence to something valued; persistent determination (adj. form: tenacious) |
Tenuous (adj.)  having little substance or strength; flimsy; weak
Tirade (noun)  a long and extremely critical speech; a harsh denunciation
Transient (adj.)  fleeting; passing quickly; brief
Zealous (adj.)  fervent; ardent; impassioned, devoted to a cause (a zealot 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 ideology 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. Obscuous
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

Hit Parade Group 4
Acerbic (adj.)  having a sour or bitter taste or character; sharp; biting
Aggrandize (verb)  to increase in intensity, power, influence, or prestige
Alchemy (noun)  a medieval science aimed at the transmutation of metals, esp. base metals into gold (an alchemist is one who practices alchemy)
Amenable (adj.)  agreeable; responsive to suggestion
Anachronism (noun)  something or someone out of place in terms of historical or chronological context
Astringent (adj.)  having a tightening effect on living tissue; harsh; severe; something with a tightening effect on tissue
Contiguous (adj.)  sharing a border; touching; adjacent
Convention (noun)  a generally agreed-upon practice or attitude
Credulous (adj.)  tending to believe too readily; gullible (noun form: credulity)
Cynicism (noun): an attitude or quality of belief that all people are motivated by selfishness (adj. form: cynical)

Decorum (noun): polite or appropriate conduct or behavior (adj. form: decorous)

Derision (noun): scorn, ridicule, contemptuous treatment (adj. form: derisive; verb form: deride)

Desiccate (verb): to dry out or dehydrate; to make dry or dull

Dilettante (noun): one with an amateurish or superficial interest in the arts or a branch of knowledge

Disparage (verb): to slight or belittle

Divulge (verb): to disclose something secret

Fawn (verb): to flatter or praise excessively

Flout (verb): to show contempt for, as in a rule or convention

Garrulous (adj.): pointlessly talkative; talking too much

Glib (adj.): marked by ease or informality; nonchalant; lacking in depth; superficial

Hubris (noun): overbearing presumption or pride; arrogance

Imminent (adj.): about to happen; impending

Immutable (adj.): not capable of change

Impetuous (adj.): hastily or rashly energetic; impulsive and vehement

Indifferent (adj.): having no interest or concern; showing no bias or prejudice

Inimical (adj.): damaging; harmful; injurious

Intractable (adj.): not easily managed or directed; stubborn; obstinate

Intrepid (adj.): steadfast and courageous

Laconic (adj.): using few words; terse

Maverick (noun): an independent individual who does not go along with a group or party

Mercurial (adj.): characterized by rapid and unpredictable change in mood

Mollify (verb): to calm or soothe; to reduce in emotional intensity

Neophyte (noun): a recent convert; a beginner; novice

Obfuscate (verb): to deliberately obscure; to make confusing

Obstinate (adj.): stubborn; hard-headed; uncompromising

Ostentatious (adj.): characterized by or given to pretentious display; showy

Pervade (verb): to permeate throughout (adj. form: pervasive)

Phlegmatic (adj.): calm; sluggish; unemotional

Plethora (noun): an overabundance; a surplus

Pragmatic (adj.): practical rather than idealistic
Presumptuous (adj.)  
overstepping due bounds (as of propriety or courtesy);  
taking liberties

Pristine (adj.)  
pure; uncorrupted; clean

Probit (noun)  
adherence to highest principles; complete and  
confirmed integrity; uprightness

Proclivity (noun)  
a natural predisposition or inclination

Profligate (adj.)  
excessively wasteful; recklessly extravagant (noun form:  
profligacy)

Propensity (noun)  
a natural inclination or tendency; penchant

Prosaic (adj.)  
dull; lacking in spirit or imagination

Pungent (adj.)  
characterized by a strong, sharp smell or taste

Quixotic (adj.)  
foolishly impractical; marked by lofty romantic ideals

Quotidian (adj.)  
occuring or recurring daily; commonplace

Rarefy (verb)  
to make or become thin, less dense; to refine

Recondite (adj.)  
hidden; concealed; difficult to understand; obscure

Refulgent (adj.)  
radiant; shiny; brilliant

Reneg (verb)  
to fail to honor a commitment; to go back on a  
promise

Sedulous (adj.)  
diligent; persistent; hard-working

Shard (noun)  
a piece of broken pottery or glass

Soporific (adj.)  
causing drowsiness; tending to induce sleep

Sparse (adj.)  
thin; not dense; arranged at widely spaced intervals

Spendthrift (noun)  
one who spends money wastefully

Subtle (adj.)  
not obvious; elusive; difficult to discern

Tact (adj.)  
IMPLIED; not explicitly stated

Terse (adj.)  
brief and concise in wording

Tout (verb)  
to publicly praise or promote

Trenchant (adj.)  
sharply perceptive; keen; penetrating

Unfeigned (adj.)  
genuine; not false or hypocritical

Untenable (adj.)  
indefensible; not viable; uninhabitable

Vacillate (verb)  
to waver indecisively between one course of action or  
opinion and another

Variegated (adj.)  
multicolored; characterized by a variety of patches of  
different color

Vexation (noun)  
annoyance; irritation (noun form: vex)

Vigilant (adj.)  
alertly watchful (noun form: vigilance)

Vituperate (verb)  
to use harsh condemnatory language; to abuse or  
censure severely or abusively; to berate

Volatile (adj.)  
readily changing to a vapor; changeable; fickle;  
explosive (noun form: volatility)