

GRE VOCABULARY

MASTER GUIDE

37+ Groups	1101 Words	4 Sections Each
Organized	Pronunciation + Meaning + Example + GRE Strategy	Zero Overlap

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

■ MEANING	Definition + part of speech
— ■ EXAMPLE	<i>Real-world example sentence</i>
■ GRE STRATEGY	TC/SE format + synonyms/antonyms

ABOUND*uh-BOWND***■ MEANING**

(v.) To exist in large numbers; to be plentiful

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE*Wildlife abounds in the Serengeti — lions, elephants, and zebras are visible at every turn.***■ GRE STRATEGY**

TC: 'Resources _____ in the fertile valley' → abound. Antonyms: scarce, deficient. Synonyms: teem, proliferate, overflow.

AMORPHOUS*uh-MOR-fus***■ MEANING**

(adj.) Without definite form or shape; vague and ill-organized

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE*The CEO's strategy was frustratingly amorphous — no timelines, no metrics, just broad aspirations.***■ GRE STRATEGY**

TC: 'The report was _____, offering no concrete recommendations' → amorphous. Antonyms: definite, structured, concrete.

AUSTERE*aw-STEER***■ MEANING**

(adj.) Severe; unadorned; practicing self-denial; harsh in manner or appearance

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE*The monastery's austere interior — bare stone walls and wooden benches — reflected the monks' devotion.***■ GRE STRATEGY**

TC/SE: Describes undecorated style or strict person. Contrast with: lavish, ornate, indulgent, extravagant.

BELIE*bih-LY***■ MEANING**

(v.) To give a false impression of; to contradict or disguise

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE*Her calm exterior belied the intense anxiety she felt before every public performance.***■ GRE STRATEGY**

KEY GRE word. TC: 'Her smile _____ her inner grief' → belied. Means to contradict/misrepresent. Antonym: reveal, confirm.

CAPRICIOUS

kuh-PRISH-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior; impulsive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The capricious weather ruined the outdoor festival — sunny at noon, storming by three.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ king changed laws on a whim' → capricious. Synonyms: whimsical, mercurial, fickle. Antonyms: steadfast, predictable.

CEREBRAL

seh-REE-brul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Intellectual rather than emotional; relating to the brain

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her cerebral approach to poetry focused on linguistic structure rather than raw emotion.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The professor's lectures were highly _____' → cerebral. Contrast with: emotional, gut-level, instinctive.

CONGENIAL

kun-JEEN-yul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Pleasant; agreeably suited; friendly and sociable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The new coworker had a congenial personality that made everyone feel immediately at ease.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ host made all guests feel welcome' → congenial. Synonyms: affable, amiable, cordial. Antonyms: disagreeable, hostile.

CONSPICUOUS

kun-SPIK-yoo-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Standing out so as to be clearly visible; attracting notice

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her bright red coat made her conspicuous in the crowd of grey-suited commuters.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His absence was _____ at the board meeting' → conspicuous. Antonym: inconspicuous, subtle. Phrase: 'conspicuous consumption'.

CURSORY

KUR-suh-ree

■ MEANING

(adj.) Hasty and without close attention to detail; superficial

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A cursory reading of the contract missed the hidden penalty clause buried in footnote 12.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'A _____ glance at the data revealed nothing' → cursory. Synonyms: superficial, perfunctory. Antonyms: thorough, meticulous.

DAUNTING

DAWN-ting

■ MEANING

(adj.) Seeming difficult to deal with in anticipation; intimidating

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Learning three languages simultaneously is a daunting task, yet she accomplished it in two years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ climb deterred most hikers' → daunting. Synonyms: intimidating, formidable. Antonyms: encouraging, manageable.

DEIFY

DEE-uh-fy

■ MEANING

(v.) To worship or regard as a god; to idealize excessively

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Fans deified the rock star, waiting outside his hotel for days just for a glimpse.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The cult _____ their leader, obeying his every command' → deified. Synonyms: idolize, worship, exalt. Antonym: condemn, vilify.

DIDACTIC

dy-DAK-tik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Intended to teach or instruct; excessively moralistic

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The didactic novel spelled out every moral lesson so plainly it felt preachy rather than literary.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ tone of the fable irritated adult readers' → didactic. Synonyms: instructive, preachy, moralistic. Antonym: entertaining, amoral.

DISSEMINATE

dih-SEM-uh-nayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To spread or scatter widely; to distribute information or knowledge

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Social media has made it easier than ever to disseminate misinformation across the globe instantly.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The organization _____ the findings to thousands of clinics' → disseminated. Synonyms: spread, broadcast, circulate. Antonym: withhold, suppress.

FEASIBLE

FEE-zuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Possible to do easily; practicable; likely; probable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Given the budget constraints, a manned Mars mission in five years seems barely feasible.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The plan is _____ only if funding is secured' → feasible. Synonyms: viable, practicable, achievable. Antonyms: impractical, impossible.

FLOUT

FLOWT

■ MEANING

(v.) To openly disregard or show contempt for a rule or convention

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The protester flouted city regulations by painting murals on government buildings without a permit.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She _____ every rule the school imposed' → flouted. Don't confuse with FLAUNT (to display proudly). Synonyms: defy, scoff at, disregard.

HOMOGENEOUS

hoh-muh-JEE-nee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Of the same kind; uniform in composition throughout

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The new CEO wanted to diversify the homogeneous workforce, which was 95% male and white.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The group was surprisingly _____, sharing identical views' → homogeneous. Antonyms: heterogeneous, diverse, varied.

HUMDRUM

HUM-drum

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lacking excitement; dull and monotonous

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After years of humdrum office work, she quit to sail across the Pacific Ocean solo.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ routine of daily commuting numbed his spirit' → humdrum. Synonyms: monotonous, mundane, banal. Antonyms: exciting, vibrant, stimulating.

INSIPID

in-SIP-id

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lacking flavor; lacking interest or excitement; dull

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The critic dismissed the film as insipid — a predictable plot with no character development.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ soup tasted of nothing but warm water' → insipid. Synonyms: bland, vapid, banal. Antonyms: piquant, stimulating, vibrant.

LOQUACIOUS

loh-KWAY-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Tending to talk a great deal; excessively talkative

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The loquacious professor spent 45 minutes answering a single yes-or-no question.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ guest monopolized every dinner conversation' → loquacious. Synonyms: garrulous, verbose, voluble. Antonyms: taciturn, laconic, reticent.

MISANTHROPIC

mis-un-THROP-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having a dislike of humankind; believing people are selfish and unpleasant

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The misanthropic hermit retreated to the forest, convinced society was irredeemably corrupt.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ worldview left him with no friends' → misanthropic. Antonym: philanthropic (love of humanity). Synonyms: cynical, antisocial.

MISNOMER

mis-NOH-mer

■ MEANING

(n.) A wrong or inaccurate name or designation; a misleading name

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

'Peanuts are nuts' is a misnomer — botanically, they are legumes, not true nuts.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Calling the policy 'reform' is a _____ — it actually restricts rights' → misnomer. Recognizing what the word MISNAMES is key on GRE.

NEGLIGENT

NEG-luh-jent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Failing to take proper care; characterized by lack of attention

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The negligent driver ran three red lights while texting, narrowly avoiding a collision each time.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ contractor left the project unfinished for months' → negligent. Synonyms: careless, remiss, lax. Antonyms: diligent, conscientious, meticulous.

OBSEQUIIOUS

ob-SEE-kwee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Excessively compliant or fawning; servile; too eager to please

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The obsequious assistant agreed with every decision the boss made, never offering critical feedback.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ employee laughed at every joke the CEO made' → obsequious. Synonyms: sycophantic, fawning, subservient. Antonyms: assertive, defiant.

PLACATE

PLAY-kayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To make someone less angry or hostile; to pacify

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The mayor tried to placate protesters by announcing a new task force on police reform.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The manager _____ the angry client by offering a full refund' → placated. Synonyms: appease, mollify, pacify. Antonyms: provoke, aggravate, inflame.

PROCLIVITY

proh-KLIV-uh-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) A natural tendency or inclination toward something, especially something undesirable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her proclivity for procrastination meant every deadline became a last-minute crisis.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ for risk-taking made him a bold but reckless investor' → proclivity. Synonyms: predilection, propensity, tendency. Antonym: aversion, disinclination.

PUERILE

PYOO-uh-ril

■ MEANING

(adj.) Childishly silly and immature

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The senator's puerile comments about his rival's appearance derailed what should have been a policy debate.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ behavior embarrassed everyone at the formal dinner' → puerile. Synonyms: immature, juvenile, infantile. Antonyms: mature, sophisticated, adult.

QUIXOTIC

kwik-SOT-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Exceedingly idealistic; unrealistic and impractical

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her quixotic plan to end world hunger in one year was admirable in spirit but naive in execution.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ inventor dreamed of free energy for all mankind' → quixotic. Synonyms: idealistic, impractical, utopian. Antonyms: pragmatic, realistic.

SPENDTHRIFT

SPEND-thrift

■ MEANING

(n./adj.) A person who spends money in an extravagant and irresponsible way; profligate

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Despite earning a six-figure salary, the spendthrift was always broke by the 20th of each month.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ heir squandered his inheritance in three years' → spendthrift. Synonyms: prodigal, profligate, wastrel. Antonyms: frugal, thrifty, parsimonious.

TACITURN

TAS-uh-turn

■ MEANING

(adj.) Reserved or uncommunicative; saying little; not talkative

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The taciturn detective answered every question with a single word and revealed nothing of her theories.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ scholar rarely spoke at conferences, preferring to let his writing do the talking' → taciturn. Synonyms: reserved, reticent, laconic. Antonyms: loquacious, garrulous, verbose.

WARY

WAIR-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Feeling or showing caution about possible dangers or problems

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Having been scammed before, she was wary of any investment promising guaranteed 20% annual returns.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Experienced traders are _____ of stocks with unusually high volatility' → wary. Synonyms: cautious, vigilant, circumspect. Antonyms: reckless, careless, heedless.

GROUP 2

30 words

ADULTERATE

uh-DUL-tuh-rayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To make impure by adding inferior or harmful substances

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The company adulterated its olive oil with cheaper vegetable oil, deceiving consumers for years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The drug was _____ with dangerous chemicals' → adulterated. Synonyms: contaminate, corrupt, dilute. Antonyms: purify, refine.

ADVOCATE

AD-vuh-kayt (v.) / AD-vuh-kit (n.)

■ MEANING

(v.) To publicly support; (n.) One who pleads on behalf of another

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The senator advocates for stricter environmental regulations at every opportunity.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'She _____ for equal pay throughout her career' → advocated. Synonyms: champion, espouse, promote. Antonyms: oppose, condemn, impugn.

AGGRANDIZE

uh-GRAN-dyz

■ MEANING

(v.) To increase power, status, or wealth; to make appear greater than it is

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The biography was criticized for aggrandizing the CEO's role in the company's success.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The politician used every interview to _____ his own accomplishments' → aggrandize. Synonyms: exalt, magnify, glorify. Antonyms: belittle, diminish, deprecate.

ALACRITY

uh-LAK-ruh-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) Brisk and cheerful readiness; eager willingness

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The volunteers accepted the emergency assignment with alacrity, showing up before dawn the next day.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'She accepted the challenge with _____, not hesitating for a moment' → alacrity. Synonyms: eagerness, readiness, zeal. Antonyms: reluctance, hesitation, sluggishness.

AMBIVALENT

am-BIV-uh-lent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She felt ambivalent about the promotion — excited about the prestige but dreading the workload.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ reaction surprised everyone — he neither celebrated nor protested' → ambivalent. Synonyms: conflicted, equivocal, undecided. Antonyms: certain, decisive, resolute.

AMELIORATE

uh-MEEL-yuh-rayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To make something bad or unsatisfactory better; to improve

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The new policy was designed to ameliorate the housing shortage by incentivizing developers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The medication _____ his symptoms considerably' → ameliorated. KEY GRE word. Synonyms: improve, alleviate, mitigate. Antonyms: worsen, exacerbate, aggravate.

AMENABLE

uh-MEE-nuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Open and responsive to suggestion; agreeable; willing to accept

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The union was amenable to compromise after months of difficult negotiations.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The CEO was _____ to new ideas, welcoming proposals from all staff levels' → amenable. Synonyms: agreeable, compliant, cooperative. Antonyms: resistant, intractable, stubborn.

ANACHRONISTIC

uh-nak-ruh-NIS-tik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Belonging or seeming to belong to a different, usually earlier time period

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The use of quill pens at the signing ceremony was charmingly anachronistic.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The film's _____ dialogue made medieval characters sound like modern teenagers' → anachronistic. Synonyms: outdated, archaic, antiquated. Antonyms: contemporary, current, modern.

AUDACIOUS

aw-DAY-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing bold disregard for conventional norms; daring; recklessly brave

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The audacious heist involved stealing the painting from a live auction in front of 200 witnesses.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ proposal to revamp the entire system surprised the board' → audacious. Synonyms: bold, daring, brazen. Antonyms: timid, cautious, meek.

AVARICIOUS

av-uh-RISH-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having an extreme desire for wealth; excessively greedy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The avaricious landlord raised rents every six months despite making no improvements to the property.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ banker accepted bribes without remorse' → avaricious. Synonyms: greedy, covetous, rapacious. Antonyms: generous, philanthropic, altruistic.

BANAL

buh-NAL / BAY-nul

■ MEANING

(adj.) So lacking in originality as to be obvious and boring; trite; commonplace

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The graduation speech was banal, recycling the same advice about following dreams and working hard.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ plot of the blockbuster disappointed viewers expecting originality' → banal. Synonyms: trite, hackneyed, clichéd. Antonyms: original, novel, fresh.

BENIGN

bih-NYN

■ MEANING

(adj.) Gentle and kindly; not harmful; (of a tumor) not malignant

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The doctor confirmed the tumor was benign and posed no health risk.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Despite his stern appearance, his intentions were entirely _____' → benign. Synonyms: gentle, harmless, innocuous. Antonyms: malign, malignant, harmful.

BRAZEN

BRAY-zen

■ MEANING

(adj.) Bold and without shame; shamelessly audacious; made of brass

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The politician's brazen lie — claiming he had never attended the event despite photographic proof — shocked everyone.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ disregard for the rules alienated his colleagues' → brazen. Synonyms: shameless, audacious, impudent. Antonyms: timid, modest, shamefaced.

CALUMNY

KAL-um-nee

■ MEANING

(n.) False and malicious statements about someone; slander

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The newspaper faced a lawsuit for publishing calumny about the scientist that derailed her career.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ spread by his enemies damaged his reputation permanently' → calumny. Synonyms: slander, defamation, libel. Antonyms: praise, commendation, eulogy.

CANDID

KAN-did

■ MEANING

(adj.) Truthful and straightforward; not hiding one's thoughts; frank

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The candid interview surprised readers — the actor admitted the film had been a creative failure.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ review praised the book's strengths and condemned its weaknesses honestly' → candid. Synonyms: frank, forthright, blunt. Antonyms: evasive, guarded, deceptive.

CASTIGATE

KAS-tuh-gayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To reprimand or criticize severely

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The editor castigated the junior reporter for submitting a story with three factual errors.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The general _____ the soldiers for their poor performance in the drill' → castigated. Synonyms: berate, rebuke, chastise, censure. Antonyms: praise, commend, laud.

CAUSTIC

KAW-stik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Sharply critical; sarcastic and cutting; able to burn or corrode

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her caustic wit made audiences laugh, though her targets often found her humor humiliating.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ review destroyed the author's confidence' → caustic. Synonyms: sardonic, biting, scathing, mordant. Antonyms: gentle, mild, complimentary.

CONSTRUE

kun-STROO

■ MEANING

(v.) To interpret (a word or action) in a particular way; to understand

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His silence was construed as agreement, though he had simply not understood the question.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her remark was _____ as an insult, though she intended it as a compliment' → construed. Synonyms: interpret, understand, read, parse.

CONTRITE

kun-TRYT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Feeling or expressing remorse and penitence; genuinely sorry

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The contrite politician issued a heartfelt apology, pledging to repay every dollar misappropriated.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ defendant apologized to the victims before sentencing' → contrite. Synonyms: remorseful, penitent, repentant. Antonyms: unrepentant, impenitent, brazen.

CONVOLUTED

KON-vuh-loo-ted

■ MEANING

(adj.) Extremely complex and difficult to follow; intricately twisted

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The convoluted tax code baffled even the most experienced accountants.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ instructions made the simple assembly task seem impossible' → convoluted. Synonyms: complex, intricate, tortuous. Antonyms: straightforward, simple, lucid.

COVET

KUV-it

■ MEANING

(v.) To yearn to possess something that belongs to someone else

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She coveted her neighbor's thriving garden and spent weekends studying their gardening techniques.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He secretly _____ his colleague's corner office and prestigious title' → coveted. Synonyms: envy, desire, crave. Antonyms: disdain, despise, renounce.

CRAVEN

KRAY-ven

■ MEANING

(adj.) Contemptibly lacking in courage; cowardly

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The craven politician reversed his stance the moment he sensed which way the voters were leaning.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ retreat from the battlefield cost his regiment dearly' → craven. Synonyms: cowardly, pusillanimous, timid. Antonyms: valiant, courageous, intrepid.

DECORUM

dih-KOR-um

■ MEANING

(n.) Behavior in keeping with good taste and propriety; proper behavior

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The judge reminded spectators that the courtroom required decorum and that outbursts would not be tolerated.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The delegates conducted themselves with _____, despite the heated debate' → decorum. Synonyms: propriety, dignity, etiquette. Antonyms: impropriety, rudeness, vulgarity.

DEFT

DEFT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Neatly skillful and quick; dexterous

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

With deft hands, the surgeon sutured the delicate tissue without leaving a visible scar.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ editor transformed the rough manuscript into a polished novel' → deft. Synonyms: adroit, nimble, skillful. Antonyms: clumsy, inept, awkward.

DEMUR

dih-MUR

■ MEANING

(v.) To object or show reluctance; to raise doubts or objections

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She demurred at first when asked to lead the committee but eventually accepted the role.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He _____ when asked to sign the contract without reading it' → demurred. Synonyms: object, hesitate, protest. Antonyms: acquiesce, comply, agree.

DERIVATIVE

dih-RIV-uh-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Imitative of the work of another; not original; (n.) something derived from another source

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Critics dismissed the novel as derivative — a pale imitation of Kafka with none of his depth.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ film added nothing new to the genre it borrowed from' → derivative. Synonyms: imitative, unoriginal, secondary. Antonyms: original, novel, inventive.

DESICCATE

DES-ih-kayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To dry out thoroughly; to preserve by drying; to make lifeless and dull

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The Saharan sun desiccated the landscape, leaving only cracked, pale earth as far as the eye could see.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Years in the desert had _____ the ancient scrolls beyond legibility' → desiccated. Synonyms: dry out, parch, dehydrate. Antonyms: moisten, saturate, hydrate.

DIATRIBE

DY-uh-tryb

■ MEANING

(n.) A forceful and bitter verbal attack against someone or something

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The senator launched into a diatribe against the media, accusing them of deliberate fabrication.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His speech quickly became a _____ against every policy of the previous administration' → diatribe. Synonyms: tirade, harangue, polemic. Antonyms: praise, eulogy, commendation.

INCRECULOUS

in-KREJ-uh-lus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not willing to believe something; skeptical; showing disbelief

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She gave an incredulous laugh when told her missing luggage had been delivered to the wrong continent.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The audience was _____, unable to believe the magician's trick was real' → incredulous. Synonyms: skeptical, disbelieving, dubious. Antonyms: credulous, naive, trusting.

INGENUOUS

in-JEN-yoo-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Innocent and unsuspecting; artlessly frank and open; naive

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her ingenuous trust in strangers led her into several difficult situations during her travels.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ young investor had no idea he was being defrauded' → ingenuous. Don't confuse with **INGENIOUS** (clever). Synonyms: naive, artless, guileless. Antonyms: cunning, scheming, devious.

GROUP 3

30 words

ABATE

uh-BAYT

■ MEANING

(v.) To become less intense; to reduce in strength or degree

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The storm abated overnight, leaving the streets calm and the sky clear by morning.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The noise _____ after midnight, allowing residents to sleep' → abated. Synonyms: subside, diminish, wane. Antonyms: intensify, escalate, increase.

ABJURE

ab-JOOR

■ MEANING

(v.) To formally renounce or reject a belief, claim, or cause

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Under pressure, the scientist abjured his controversial theory at the public hearing.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The cult member _____ his former beliefs after years of therapy' → abjured. Synonyms: renounce, recant, repudiate, forswear. Antonyms: affirm, uphold, embrace.

ANOMALOUS

uh-NOM-uh-lus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Deviating from what is standard, normal, or expected; irregular

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The anomalous temperature readings in January prompted scientists to re-examine their climate models.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ results did not fit the expected pattern and required further investigation' → anomalous. Synonyms: irregular, aberrant, atypical. Antonyms: normal, standard, typical.

ANTIPATHY

an-TIP-uh-thee

■ MEANING

(n.) A strong feeling of dislike; aversion; incompatibility

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her antipathy toward dishonest marketing made her a controversial but respected consumer advocate.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The rivals felt deep _____ for one another, rarely exchanging even polite words' → antipathy. Synonyms: aversion, hostility, animosity. Antonyms: affinity, sympathy, fondness.

ARCANE

ar-KAYN

■ MEANING

(adj.) Known to only a few; mysterious; secret; esoteric

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The professor's lecture was full of arcane terminology that even graduate students struggled to follow.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ ritual was understood only by the society's inner circle' → arcane. Synonyms: esoteric, obscure, recondite. Antonyms: common, familiar, widely known.

ARDUOUS

AR-joo-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The arduous climb to base camp took six days and tested every climber's physical and mental limits.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ task of translating ancient texts consumed three decades of her life' → arduous. Synonyms: laborious, grueling, strenuous. Antonyms: easy, effortless, trivial.

ARTLESS

ART-less

■ MEANING

(adj.) Without guile or deception; simple and natural; innocent

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The child's artless question — 'Why do people lie?' — silenced the entire room.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ charm won over skeptics who expected a calculated political performance' → artless. Synonyms: guileless, naive, ingenuous. Antonyms: cunning, artful, calculating.

ASCETIC

uh-SET-ik

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Practicing severe self-discipline; abstaining from all pleasures; one who practices asceticism

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The ascetic monk owned only a robe, a bowl, and a blanket — and seemed entirely at peace.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ lifestyle — no television, no alcohol, no luxuries — surprised his colleagues' → ascetic. Synonyms: austere, abstinent, self-denying. Antonyms: indulgent, hedonistic, sybaritic.

ASSUAGE

uh-SWAYJ

■ MEANING

(v.) To make an unpleasant feeling less intense; to soothe; to satisfy

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The doctor's reassuring words did little to assuage the patient's fear about the diagnosis.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word. TC: 'Soft music helped _____ her grief' → assuage. Synonyms: alleviate, mollify, pacify, mitigate. Antonyms: exacerbate, intensify, aggravate.

BETRAY

bih-TRAY

■ MEANING

(v.) To reveal or expose; to be disloyal; to unintentionally reveal

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A barely perceptible tremor in his voice betrayed the confidence he tried so hard to project.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her smile _____ her relief, despite her attempts to appear calm' → betrayed. In GRE context often means 'to reveal unintentionally'. Synonyms: reveal, expose, disclose.

BUCOLIC

byoo-KOL-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Relating to the pleasant aspects of the countryside; charmingly rural

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The bucolic landscape of rolling hills, grazing sheep, and stone cottages enchanted every visitor.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ setting of the novel contrasted sharply with its violent themes' → bucolic. Synonyms: pastoral, idyllic, rural. Antonyms: urban, metropolitan, industrial.

BURGEON

BUR-jun

■ MEANING

(v.) To begin to grow or increase rapidly; to flourish

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After the trade agreement, the city's tech sector burgeoned, adding 50,000 jobs in three years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Tourism _____ after the new airport opened' → burgeoned. Synonyms: flourish, proliferate, thrive. Antonyms: dwindle, wane, decline.

CACOPHONOUS

kuh-KOF-uh-nus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having an unpleasant or discordant sound; harsh and jarring

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The cacophonous construction noise outside made concentration in the open-plan office impossible.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ clashing of cymbals interrupted the delicate violin solo' → cacophonous. Synonyms: discordant, harsh, strident. Antonyms: melodious, harmonious, euphonious.

CANONIZE

KAN-uh-nyz

■ MEANING

(v.) To officially declare a saint; to treat as authoritative or beyond criticism

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Critics cautioned against canonizing the flawed founder and ignoring his documented ethical lapses.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'History has _____ him as a hero, overlooking the evidence of his cruelty' → canonized. Synonyms: idealize, sanctify, glorify, deify. Antonyms: condemn, vilify, critique.

CENSURE

SEN-shur

■ MEANING

(v./n.) To express severe disapproval, especially formally; harsh criticism

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The committee censured the member for her inappropriate remarks at the press conference.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The board _____ the executive for violating the company's ethical guidelines' → censured. Don't confuse with CENSOR (to suppress). Synonyms: condemn, reprimand, reproach.

CHICANERY

shih-KAY-nuh-ree

■ MEANING

(n.) Deception by means of clever tricks; trickery; manipulation

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The lawsuit revealed years of chicanery — falsified documents, bribed officials, and rigged audits.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The candidate won through _____, not merit' → chicanery. Synonyms: trickery, deception, duplicity. Antonyms: honesty, integrity, transparency.

COALESCE

koh-uh-LES

■ MEANING

(v.) To come together to form one group or mass; to unite; to merge

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The disparate protest groups eventually coalesced into a powerful unified movement.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Separate scientific disciplines _____ to form the new field of cognitive science' → coalesced. Synonyms: merge, unite, converge. Antonyms: diverge, separate, fragment.

COGENT

KOH-jent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Clear, logical, and convincing; compelling; forcefully convincing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her cogent argument dismantled every counterpoint before the panel had a chance to raise them.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The lawyer presented a _____ case that left the jury with little doubt' → cogent. Synonyms: compelling, persuasive, convincing, lucid. Antonyms: weak, flawed, unconvincing.

COMPELLING

kum-PEL-ing

■ MEANING

(adj.) Evoking interest or attention in a powerful way; not able to be resisted; convincing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The documentary offered a compelling account of climate change that moved audiences to action.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The evidence against him was so _____ that even his lawyer urged a guilty plea' → compelling. Synonyms: persuasive, gripping, forceful. Antonyms: unconvincing, weak, uninspiring.

CONTEND

kun-TEND

■ MEANING

(v.) To struggle in opposition; to assert or maintain; to compete

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The historian contends that the cause of WWI was primarily economic, not political.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She _____ that the new policy would harm low-income families most' → contended. Synonyms: argue, assert, maintain, claim. Antonym: concede, acquiesce.

COPIOUS

KOH-pee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Abundant in supply; plentiful; extensive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The researcher took copious notes during the lecture, filling three notebooks with dense handwriting.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The region receives _____ rainfall, making it ideal for agriculture' → copious. Synonyms: abundant, plentiful, profuse. Antonyms: sparse, scant, meager.

COSMOPOLITAN

koz-muh-POL-ih-tan

■ MEANING

(adj.) Familiar with many countries and cultures; worldly; sophisticated; inclusive of many cultures

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

New York is one of the most cosmopolitan cities on earth, with neighborhoods representing over 100 nationalities.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ traveler felt at home in any country' → cosmopolitan. Synonyms: sophisticated, worldly, international. Antonyms: parochial, provincial, insular.

DEFERENCE

DEF-er-ence

■ MEANING

(n.) Humble submission and respect; yielding to another's judgment

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Junior surgeons defer to their seniors as a matter of professional deference, not personal weakness.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'In _____ to the elder statesman, younger politicians waited to speak' → deference. Synonyms: respect, submission, reverence. Antonyms: defiance, disrespect, contempt.

DESULTORY

DES-ul-tor-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lacking a plan or purpose; going from one subject to another in a random way; unfocused

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The meeting was desultory — random topics arose, nothing was resolved, and no one left with clear tasks.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ approach to studying resulted in poor exam performance' → desultory. Synonyms: aimless, haphazard, random. Antonyms: focused, systematic, methodical.

DIFFIDENT

DIF-ih-dent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Modest or shy due to lack of self-confidence; timid

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Despite her brilliance, she was diffident at conferences — always sitting in the back and speaking softly.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ student rarely volunteered answers in class' → diffident. Synonyms: shy, timid, reserved, meek. Antonyms: confident, assertive, bold.

DILATORY

DIL-uh-tor-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Slow to act; intended to cause delay; tardy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The government's dilatory response to the crisis cost thousands of lives.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ tactics prolonged negotiations by months' → dilatory. Synonyms: slow, tardy, procrastinating. Antonyms: prompt, expeditious, immediate.

EQUIVOCATE

ih-KWIV-uh-kayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To use ambiguous language to avoid committing to a position; to speak evasively

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

When asked whether he would raise taxes, the candidate equivocated masterfully, satisfying no one.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Rather than answer directly, she _____, leaving everyone confused about her position' → equivocated. Synonyms: hedge, prevaricate, waffle. Antonyms: assert, be direct, commit.

POLARIZE

POH-luh-ryz

■ MEANING

(v.) To divide into two sharply contrasting groups or sets of opinions

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The immigration debate polarized the country into two camps with almost no room for moderate views.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The controversial film _____ critics — some called it genius, others called it offensive' → polarized. Synonyms: divide, split, cleave. Antonyms: unite, reconcile, unify.

PRODIGAL

PROD-ih-gul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Wastefully extravagant; recklessly spendthrift; (n.) a person who spends money wastefully

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The prodigal heir spent his inheritance on yachts and parties, going bankrupt within five years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ spending left him destitute by 40' → prodigal. From biblical 'Prodigal Son'. Synonyms: wasteful, extravagant, profligate. Antonyms: frugal, thrifty, economical.

VERBOSE

vur-BOSE

■ MEANING

(adj.) Using more words than necessary; wordy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The verbose report could have been a one-page memo; instead it ran to 87 pages of repetitive prose.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ essay buried its thesis in pages of unnecessary background' → verbose. Synonyms: wordy, long-winded, garrulous, loquacious. Antonyms: concise, terse, laconic.

ABSTAIN*ab-STAYN***■ MEANING**

(v.) To refrain from doing something; to choose not to participate

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Three board members abstained from the vote, unwilling to commit to either position.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He _____ from alcohol for a full year as part of his health plan' → abstained. Synonyms: refrain, forbear, desist. Antonyms: indulge, partake, participate.

APPROBATION*ap-ruh-BAY-shun***■ MEANING**

(n.) Official approval or praise; commendation

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The artist sought approbation from critics but found the public's enthusiasm more gratifying.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The committee gave its _____ to the new safety guidelines' → approbation. Synonyms: approval, commendation, endorsement. Antonyms: condemnation, disapproval, censure.

CHERISH*CHER-ish***■ MEANING**

(v.) To hold dear; to protect and care for lovingly; to keep a hope in mind

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She cherished her grandmother's letters, re-reading them whenever she felt disconnected from her heritage.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He _____ every moment with his children, knowing how quickly they grow up' → cherished. Synonyms: treasure, value, adore. Antonyms: neglect, disregard, scorn.

CORROBORATE

kuh-ROB-uh-rayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To confirm or give support to a statement or theory; to verify

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Three independent witnesses corroborated the defendant's alibi, and charges were dropped.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'New satellite data _____ the earlier ground-based observations' → corroborated. Synonyms: confirm, verify, substantiate. Antonyms: contradict, refute, undermine.

DISPARATE

DIS-puh-rit

■ MEANING

(adj.) Essentially different in kind; not allowing comparison; made up of very different elements

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The team comprised disparate talents — a physicist, a poet, a chef, and a military strategist.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The coalition united _____ groups around a single cause' → disparate. Synonyms: different, heterogeneous, diverse. Antonyms: similar, homogeneous, uniform.

EMULATE

EM-yuh-layt

■ MEANING

(v.) To match or surpass by imitation; to copy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Young entrepreneurs emulate Elon Musk, adopting his work ethic and first-principles thinking.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She tried to _____ her mentor's meticulous research methods' → emulate. Synonyms: imitate, mimic, model oneself on. Note: implies admiration and effort.

ENERVATE

EN-er-vayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To weaken physically or mentally; to drain of energy or vitality

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The relentless summer heat enervated the field workers, slowing their pace to a near-halt.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The long illness _____ him, leaving him unable to focus on even simple tasks' → enervated. Synonyms: weaken, debilitate, sap. Antonyms: invigorate, energize, strengthen.

EPHEMERAL

ih-FEM-er-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lasting for a very short time; transitory; fleeting

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Celebrity is often ephemeral — today's viral star is tomorrow's forgotten footnote.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word. TC/SE: 'The _____ beauty of cherry blossoms makes them all the more precious' → ephemeral. Synonyms: transient, fleeting, momentary. Antonyms: permanent, enduring, lasting.

FERVID

FUR-vid

■ MEANING

(adj.) Intensely enthusiastic or passionate; hot; burning

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her fervid defense of the accused convinced the jury that the prosecution's case was built on circumstantial evidence.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ reformer inspired thousands with her passionate speeches' → fervid. Synonyms: ardent, fervent, zealous. Antonyms: indifferent, apathetic, lukewarm.

GARRULOUS

GAR-uh-lus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The garrulous barber gave every customer a full account of his weekend before they could ask for a haircut.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ guest monopolized every conversation with irrelevant anecdotes' → garrulous. Synonyms: talkative, loquacious, verbose. Antonyms: taciturn, laconic, reticent.

INCENDIARY

in-SEN-dee-er-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Tending to stir up conflict; inflammatory; (of a device) designed to cause fires

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The newspaper refused to publish the incendiary editorial that falsely accused the mayor of corruption.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The politician's _____ remarks ignited weeks of protests' → incendiary. Synonyms: inflammatory, provocative, seditious. Antonyms: conciliatory, pacifying, calming.

INIMICAL

ih-NIM-ih-kul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Tending to obstruct or harm; hostile; unfriendly

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The cold climate is inimical to tropical crops, which require warmth and humidity to thrive.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The new regulations are _____ to small businesses, which lack the resources to comply' → inimical. Synonyms: hostile, adverse, harmful. Antonyms: favorable, conducive, beneficial.

INTIMATE

IN-tuh-mayt (v.) / IN-tuh-mit (adj./n.)

■ MEANING

(v.) To hint or imply; (adj.) closely acquainted; (n.) a close friend

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The memo intimated that layoffs were coming, though no formal announcement had been made.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His tone _____ disappointment, though he never said so directly' → intimated. As a verb (to hint) is the GRE sense. Synonyms: hint, suggest, imply.

INVIGORATE

in-VIG-uh-rayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To give strength and energy to; to make more lively

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The cold morning swim invigorated her, leaving her alert and energized for the rest of the day.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The new leadership _____ the demoralized team' → invigorated. Synonyms: energize, animate, revitalize. Antonyms: enervate, exhaust, debilitate.

MITIGATE

MIT-ih-gayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To make less severe, serious, or painful; to lessen

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The judge considered his confession and cooperation as mitigating factors when issuing a lighter sentence.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word. TC/SE: 'The new levees helped _____ the damage from seasonal flooding' → mitigate. Synonyms: alleviate, reduce, lessen. Antonyms: exacerbate, intensify, worsen.

OBSOLETE

OB-suh-leet

■ MEANING

(adj.) No longer produced or used; out of date; discarded

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Physical encyclopedias became obsolete almost overnight after Wikipedia went online.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The technology became _____ within a decade of its invention' → obsolete. Synonyms: outdated, antiquated, archaic. Antonyms: current, modern, contemporary.

OPAQUE

oh-PAYK

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not transparent; hard to understand; not clear or lucid

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The policy document was so opaque that even legal experts disagreed on what it actually mandated.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ prose in the contract confused even experienced lawyers' → opaque. Synonyms: unclear, impenetrable, obscure. Antonyms: transparent, lucid, clear.

PARADIGMATIC

par-uh-dig-MAT-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Serving as a typical example or model; representative of a pattern

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The moon landing is the paradigmatic achievement of 20th-century science — a benchmark for human capability.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The case became _____ of institutional failure at the highest level' → paradigmatic. Synonyms: exemplary, archetypal, representative.

PEDANTIC

puh-DAN-tik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Overly concerned with minor details or rules; showing off learning

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His pedantic corrections of colleagues' grammar made him universally disliked at editorial meetings.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ professor deducted marks for missing Oxford commas' → pedantic. Synonyms: fussy, nitpicking, doctrinaire. Antonyms: flexible, pragmatic, practical.

PLACID

PLAS-id

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not easily upset or excited; calm; peaceful

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The lake was placid at dawn, its mirrored surface reflecting the mountains perfectly.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ demeanor reassured patients even in tense situations' → placid. Synonyms: calm, serene, tranquil. Antonyms: agitated, turbulent, volatile.

POLEMICAL

puh-LEM-ih-kul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Of or involving strongly controversial argument; aggressively critical

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The professor's polemical essays on economic inequality provoked fierce debate across political circles.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ article attacked every pillar of the opposing theory' → polemical. Synonyms: contentious, controversial, disputatious. Antonyms: conciliatory, balanced, moderate.

PRECIPITATE

prih-SIP-ih-tayt (v.) / prih-SIP-ih-tet (adj.)

■ MEANING

(v.) To cause to happen suddenly; (adj.) done hastily and without deliberation; reckless

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His premature announcement precipitated a run on the bank that could have been avoided.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The crisis was _____ by a single poorly timed tweet' → precipitated. Synonyms: trigger, hasten, provoke. Antonym: delay, prevent.

PROFUNDITY

pruh-FUN-dih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) Great depth of knowledge, thought, or feeling; intellectual depth

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Readers were struck by the profundity of the poem — its few lines contained layers of meaning.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The lecture's _____ left students quietly reflecting for days afterward' → profundity. Synonyms: depth, wisdom, insight. Antonyms: shallowness, superficiality, triviality.

PROPHETIC

pruh-FET-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Accurately predicting future events; of or relating to prophecy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His 1999 warning about internet security vulnerabilities now seems uncannily prophetic.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The economist's _____ paper described the 2008 financial crisis seven years before it happened' → prophetic.
Synonyms: prescient, clairvoyant, predictive. Antonyms: uninformed, retrospective.

PRUDENT

PROO-dent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Acting with or showing care for the future; wise and careful

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The prudent investor diversifies her portfolio rather than betting everything on a single asset.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'It would be _____ to save at least three months of expenses before quitting your job' → prudent. Synonyms: wise, cautious, judicious. Antonyms: rash, imprudent, reckless.

PUNCTILIOUS

pungk-TIL-ee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Very attentive to detail or correct behavior; meticulous

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The punctilious accountant filed every receipt in alphabetical order within chronological folders.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ editor caught every misplaced comma and inconsistent font size' → punctilious. Synonyms: meticulous, precise, fastidious. Antonyms: careless, sloppy, negligent.

RECONDITE

REK-un-dyt

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not known by many; obscure; dealing with abstruse subjects

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His thesis on recondite medieval dialects impressed specialists but baffled everyone else.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ knowledge required for the exam discouraged all but the most dedicated students' → recondite.
Synonyms: obscure, esoteric, arcane. Antonyms: well-known, accessible, common.

SCRUPULOUS

SKROO-pyuh-lus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Diligent and careful; having moral integrity; precise about details

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The scrupulous journalist verified every claim with at least three independent sources before publishing.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ attention to accuracy made his reporting unimpeachable' → scrupulous. Synonyms: principled, meticulous, conscientious. Antonyms: unscrupulous, careless, corrupt.

TRANQUIL

TRANG-kwil

■ MEANING

(adj.) Free from disturbance; calm; peaceful

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After months in a chaotic city, the tranquil countryside retreat restored her spirit.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ pond reflected the peaceful morning sky like a perfect mirror' → tranquil. Synonyms: calm, serene, placid. Antonyms: turbulent, agitated, tumultuous.

VACILLATE

VAS-uh-layt

■ MEANING

(v.) To waver between different opinions or actions; to be indecisive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He vacillated between accepting the job offer and staying with his current employer for weeks.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She _____ so often that no one trusted her to make firm decisions' → vacillated. Synonyms: waver, hesitate, fluctuate. Antonyms: commit, decide, resolve.

GROUP 5

29 words

ALOOF

uh-LOOF

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not friendly; distant; not involved; apart

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The new student seemed aloof, eating lunch alone and avoiding eye contact with classmates.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The aristocrat remained _____ from the concerns of working people' → aloof. Synonyms: detached, distant, remote. Antonyms: engaged, warm, sociable.

CLANGOR

KLANG-er

■ MEANING

(n.) A loud, resonant ringing sound; a harsh, metallic sound

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The clangor of the factory — hammers on steel, machines grinding — made conversation impossible.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ of the church bells echoed through the valley at dawn' → clangor. Synonyms: din, racket, cacophony. Antonyms: silence, quiet, hush.

CONVENTIONAL

kun-VEN-shun-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Based on or conforming to accepted standards; ordinary; traditional

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her conventional approach to teaching produced good grades but inspired little genuine curiosity.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The artist rejected _____ techniques, inventing entirely new methods' → conventional. Synonyms: traditional, orthodox, customary. Antonyms: unconventional, radical, unorthodox.

DEBUNK

dih-BUNK

■ MEANING

(v.) To expose the falseness or hollow pretensions of; to disprove

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The scientist debunked the popular myth that humans only use 10% of their brains.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The study _____ the long-held assumption that multitasking improves productivity' → debunked. Synonyms: disprove, expose, discredit. Antonyms: validate, confirm, support.

DIMINUTIVE

dih-MIN-yuh-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Extremely or unusually small; tiny

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The diminutive athlete surprised everyone by outperforming opponents twice her size.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Despite her _____ frame, her presence commanded every room she entered' → diminutive. Synonyms: tiny, minuscule, petite. Antonyms: enormous, gigantic, colossal.

DISCERNIBLE

dih-ZUR-nuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Able to be perceived or recognized; visible; noticeable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After six months of practice, a discernible improvement in her piano technique was evident.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'There was no _____ difference between the two proposals' → discernible. Synonyms: perceptible, noticeable, detectable. Antonyms: imperceptible, indistinguishable, invisible.

ENIGMATIC

en-ig-MAT-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Difficult to understand; mysterious; puzzling

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The CEO gave an enigmatic smile but refused to confirm or deny the merger rumors.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ silence left everyone guessing about her true intentions' → enigmatic. Synonyms: mysterious, cryptic, inscrutable. Antonyms: transparent, obvious, clear.

ESTRANGED

ih-STRAYN-jd

■ MEANING

(adj.) No longer close or affectionate; alienated from someone or something

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After the bitter inheritance dispute, the three siblings became estranged and did not speak for years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He felt _____ from the colleagues he had once considered close friends' → estranged. Synonyms: alienated, distanced, separated. Antonyms: reconciled, united, close.

EXTRAVAGANT

ik-STRAV-uh-gant

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lacking restraint in spending; exceeding reasonable limits; excessive

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His extravagant lifestyle — private jets, five-star hotels, designer clothes — made headlines regularly.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ proposal required three times the allocated budget' → extravagant. Synonyms: excessive, lavish, profligate. Antonyms: frugal, modest, restrained.

FANCIFUL

FAN-suh-ful

■ MEANING

(adj.) Over-imaginative; not based in reality; playfully inventive

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The architect's fanciful designs — buildings shaped like clouds and rivers — won awards but rarely got built.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ theory had no experimental support' → fanciful. Synonyms: whimsical, fantastical, unrealistic. Antonyms: realistic, practical, grounded.

FRIVOLOUS

FRIV-uh-lus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not having any serious purpose; carefree; treating serious issues with inappropriate levity

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The judge dismissed the frivolous lawsuit, noting it lacked any legal merit.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The manager rejected _____ complaints that wasted everyone's time' → frivolous. Synonyms: trivial, silly, flippant. Antonyms: serious, significant, weighty.

HETEROGENEOUS

het-er-uh-JEE-nee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Diverse in character; composed of different elements; mixed

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The classroom was delightfully heterogeneous — students from 14 countries speaking 9 different languages.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ population made crafting a single policy for all regions extremely difficult' → heterogeneous. Synonyms: diverse, varied, mixed. Antonyms: homogeneous, uniform, alike.

IMPERIOUS

im-PEER-ee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Assuming power or authority without justification; domineering; arrogant

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The imperious manager issued orders without explanation and expected immediate, unquestioning compliance.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ manner alienated staff who expected collaboration, not commands' → imperious. Synonyms: domineering, overbearing, autocratic. Antonyms: humble, deferential, meek.

IMPERTINENT

im-PUR-tuh-nent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not showing proper respect; rude; not relevant or applicable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The journalist asked an impertinent question about the senator's personal finances during a policy briefing.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The student's _____ remark about the professor's competence shocked the class' → impertinent. Synonyms: rude, insolent, impudent. Antonyms: respectful, deferential, relevant.

INVASIVE

in-VAY-siv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Tending to spread beyond acceptable boundaries; intrusive; (of species) non-native and harmful

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The invasive kudzu vine covered entire hillsides in the American South, choking native plants.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The surveillance program was criticized as _____, collecting data well beyond its stated scope' → invasive. Synonyms: intrusive, encroaching, pervasive. Antonyms: contained, non-intrusive.

IRRESOLUTE

ih-REZ-uh-loot

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing or feeling hesitancy; uncertain how to act; indecisive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The irresolute general delayed his decision for so long that the tactical advantage was lost.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ leadership during the crisis frustrated his advisors' → irresolute. Synonyms: indecisive, vacillating, hesitant. Antonyms: resolute, decisive, determined.

LAUDABLE

LAW-duh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Deserving praise and commendation; praiseworthy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her laudable dedication to public health led to a significant reduction in preventable childhood diseases.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The initiative was _____ in theory but poorly executed in practice' → laudable. Synonyms: praiseworthy, commendable, admirable. Antonyms: blameworthy, reprehensible, contemptible.

LAX

LAKS

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not strict or severe; careless; slack

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The lax enforcement of building codes allowed contractors to cut corners that later caused structural failures.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ oversight allowed the fraud to go undetected for years' → lax. Synonyms: negligent, loose, lenient. Antonyms: strict, rigorous, stringent.

MARGINALIZE

MAR-jih-nuh-lyz

■ MEANING

(v.) To treat as insignificant or peripheral; to push to the edges of society

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The new curriculum marginalized indigenous history by covering it in a single paragraph.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The policy _____ rural communities, prioritizing urban needs' → marginalized. Synonyms: sideline, exclude, minimize. Antonyms: include, center, prioritize.

PANACHE

puh-NASH

■ MEANING

(n.) Flamboyant confidence of style; flair; dash

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She delivered the speech with such panache that even her critics applauded at the end.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The chef cooked with _____, turning simple ingredients into a spectacular feast' → panache. Synonyms: flair, élan, style, verve. Antonyms: dullness, awkwardness, timidity.

PLODDING

PLOD-ing

■ MEANING

(adj.) Moving slowly and heavily; tediously slow; laborious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The plodding bureaucratic process took 18 months to approve what should have been a two-week permit.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ narrative lost readers a third of the way through the novel' → plodding. Synonyms: slow, tedious, laborious. Antonyms: brisk, lively, energetic.

PROSAIC

proh-ZAY-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having the style of prose; commonplace; unimaginative; dull

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her prosaic account of the adventure drained all the excitement from what should have been a thrilling story.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ explanation robbed the mystery of all its charm' → prosaic. Synonyms: mundane, dull, unimaginative. Antonyms: poetic, vivid, imaginative.

REMEDIAL

rih-MEE-dee-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Intended to correct or improve; relating to the teaching of students who need extra help

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The factory instituted remedial safety training after the accident revealed dangerous knowledge gaps.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ course was designed for students who had failed the basic exam' → remedial. Synonyms: corrective, restorative, rehabilitative.

RESTIVE

RES-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Unable to keep still; restless; reluctant to accept authority

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The restive students fidgeted and whispered during the lengthy assembly speech.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ crowd grew impatient after a two-hour delay' → restive. Don't confuse with 'restful'. Synonyms: restless, fidgety, agitated. Antonyms: calm, placid, patient.

SPORADIC

spuh-RAD-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Occurring at irregular intervals; not continuous or regular

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Sporadic rain showers made the outdoor wedding an exercise in anxiety management.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The violence was _____, flaring up without warning before dying down again' → sporadic. Synonyms: intermittent, irregular, occasional. Antonyms: consistent, regular, continuous.

STIGMATIZE

STIG-muh-tyz

■ MEANING

(v.) To regard or describe as worthy of disgrace; to mark with stigma

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Mental illness is still stigmatized in many cultures, preventing people from seeking help.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The media _____ those who asked for government assistance, calling them lazy' → stigmatized. Synonyms: brand, shame, ostracize. Antonyms: destigmatize, praise, honor.

UNDERMINE

un-der-MYN

■ MEANING

(v.) To erode the base of; to weaken or damage gradually; to subvert

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The constant criticism from her manager undermined her confidence to the point she quit.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Leaked documents _____ the government's credibility' → undermined. Synonyms: weaken, subvert, erode. Antonyms: strengthen, fortify, bolster.

WEARY

WEER-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Feeling or showing extreme tiredness; lacking enthusiasm after a long struggle

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After 14 hours of negotiations, the weary diplomats agreed to resume talks in the morning.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ traveler collapsed into bed without even removing her shoes' → weary. Synonyms: exhausted, fatigued, spent. Antonyms: energized, refreshed, invigorated.

ZEALOUS

ZEL-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having great energy or enthusiasm for a cause; fervent

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The zealous environmental lawyer filed 23 lawsuits in a single year targeting polluters.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ prosecution of corruption earned him powerful enemies' → zealous. Synonyms: fervent, ardent, enthusiastic. Antonyms: apathetic, indifferent, halfhearted.

GROUP 6

28 words

ADMONISH

ad-MON-ish

■ MEANING

(v.) To warn or reprimand gently but firmly

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The coach admonished the players for their lack of focus during practice, warning that better preparation was expected.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The professor _____ students who repeatedly arrived late to class' → admonished. Synonyms: rebuke, caution, reprove. Antonyms: praise, commend, encourage.

AESTHETIC

es-THET-ik

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Concerned with beauty and the nature of art; a set of principles underlying a work

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The museum's aesthetic was minimalist — white walls, sparse displays, natural light through skylights.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The film's _____ — muted colors and slow pacing — reflected its somber themes' → aesthetic. Synonyms: artistic, stylistic, visual.

AFFECTATION

af-ek-TAY-shun

■ MEANING

(n.) An artificial manner of behavior designed to impress others; a pretense

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His Oxford accent was pure affectation — he had grown up in suburban Ohio.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her extravagant gestures struck colleagues as mere _____, not genuine expression' → affectation. Synonyms: pretense, artifice, pose. Antonyms: sincerity, naturalness, authenticity.

ALLEVIATE

uh-LEE-vee-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To make suffering or a problem less severe; to reduce the intensity of

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Aspirin alleviates headaches but does not cure the underlying cause.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word. TC/SE: 'The new drug _____ pain in 90% of trial participants' → alleviated. Synonyms: mitigate, relieve, assuage. Antonyms: exacerbate, intensify, worsen.

ANALOGOUS

uh-NAL-uh-gus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Comparable in certain respects; similar in function but not structure

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The human eye is analogous to a camera — both capture light and form images, using different mechanisms.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The relationship between a manager and employees is _____ to that of a captain and a crew' → analogous. Synonyms: comparable, similar, parallel. Antonyms: dissimilar, different, incomparable.

BOLSTER

BOHL-ster

■ MEANING

(v.) To strengthen or support; to reinforce

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The general bolstered the front-line troops with fresh reserves and additional ammunition.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word. TC/SE: 'The new statistics _____ her argument considerably' → bolstered. Synonyms: reinforce, strengthen, fortify. Antonyms: undermine, weaken, erode.

CHAUVINISTIC

shoh-vin-IS-tik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Displaying excessive or prejudiced loyalty to a cause; aggressively patriotic; sexist

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The chauvinistic policy assumed that women were unsuited to positions of military leadership.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ remarks about female scientists drew widespread condemnation' → chauvinistic. Synonyms: prejudiced, biased, jingoistic. Antonyms: open-minded, fair, egalitarian.

CONNOISSEUR

kon-uh-SUR

■ MEANING

(n.) An expert judge in matters of taste; a person with refined knowledge of a subject

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

As a connoisseur of fine wine, she could identify the grape variety, region, and vintage by taste alone.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Only a true _____ would appreciate the subtle variations in these early Renaissance engravings' → connoisseur. Synonyms: expert, aficionado, authority. Antonyms: novice, layperson, ignoramus.

DISSEMBLE

dih-SEM-bul

■ MEANING

(v.) To conceal one's true feelings or motives; to feign

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The spy dissembled perfectly, presenting himself as a mild-mannered accountant for years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Rather than admit guilt, she _____, claiming ignorance of the policy' → dissembled. Don't confuse with DISASSEMBLE (to take apart). Synonyms: conceal, feign, pretend.

DOGGED

DAW-ged

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing tenacity and grim persistence

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her dogged pursuit of the story — despite threats, obstacles, and dead ends — eventually broke the scandal.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ refusal to surrender inspired troops who wanted to retreat' → dogged. Synonyms: persistent, tenacious, determined. Antonyms: halfhearted, vacillating, giving up.

DUPE

DOOP

■ MEANING

(v.) To deceive; to trick into doing something; (n.) a victim of deception

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The phishing email duped hundreds of employees into revealing their passwords.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The investor was _____ into buying worthless bonds through an elaborate scheme' → duped. Synonyms: deceive, trick, fool, delude. Antonyms: enlighten, disabuse.

EMPIRICAL

em-PIR-ih-kul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Based on observation or experience rather than theory; verifiable by experiment

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The claim needs empirical support — anecdotes and personal testimony are not enough.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Without _____ evidence, the hypothesis remains speculation' → empirical. Synonyms: observational, experimental, factual. Antonyms: theoretical, speculative, a priori.

ENGENDER

en-JEN-der

■ MEANING

(v.) To cause or give rise to; to produce

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Early success can engender overconfidence, which sometimes leads to later failure.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The speech was designed to _____ enthusiasm for the reform program' → engender. Synonyms: generate, produce, cause, foster. Antonyms: extinguish, prevent, suppress.

ENTITLED

en-TY-teld

■ MEANING

(adj.) Believing oneself to be inherently deserving of privileges; having a right to

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The entitled executive expected first-class upgrades, reserved parking, and immediate responses to all requests.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ attitude — assuming he deserved the promotion without earning it — irritated colleagues' → entitled. Synonyms: privileged, presumptuous. Antonyms: humble, modest, grateful.

PERTINACIOUS

pur-tuh-NAY-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Holding firmly to an opinion or course of action; stubbornly persistent

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The pertinacious journalist refused to drop the story despite pressure from advertisers and editors.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ advocacy for the bill finally won the necessary votes after three years' → pertinacious. Synonyms: tenacious, persistent, obstinate. Antonyms: irresolute, vacillating, giving up.

PRESUMPTUOUS

prih-ZUMP-choo-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Failing to observe the limits of what is permitted; overly bold

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

It was presumptuous of him to assume he'd be promoted without even applying for the position.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The intern's _____ demand for an executive salary on day one shocked HR' → presumptuous. Synonyms: arrogant, audacious, forward. Antonyms: modest, humble, deferential.

PROBITY

PROH-bih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) The quality of having strong moral principles; complete honesty and integrity

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The judge's reputation for probity made her the unanimous choice to head the ethics commission.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The candidate's _____ was never questioned, even by political opponents' → probity. Synonyms: integrity, honesty, rectitude. Antonyms: dishonesty, corruption, duplicity.

PROLIFERATE

pruh-LIF-er-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To grow or produce rapidly; to multiply; to increase in numbers

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Fake news proliferated faster than fact-checkers could track it during the election season.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Startups _____ in the tech hub, launching at a rate of three per week' → proliferated. Synonyms: multiply, burgeon, spread. Antonyms: dwindle, decline, decrease.

SPECIOUS

SPEE-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Superficially plausible but actually wrong; misleadingly attractive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The lawyer's specious argument sounded convincing on the surface but collapsed under scrutiny.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word. TC/SE: 'Her _____ reasoning fooled the audience but not the panel' → specious. Synonyms: deceptive, fallacious, misleading. Antonyms: valid, sound, genuine.

SPURIOUS

SPYUR-ee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not genuine; false or fake; based on false reasoning

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The document was found to be spurious — a forgery created to support a false insurance claim.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ connection between vaccines and autism has been thoroughly debunked' → spurious. Synonyms: false, counterfeit, bogus. Antonyms: genuine, authentic, valid.

SUBJECTIVE

sub-JEK-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Based on personal feelings or opinions rather than facts; not objective

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Beauty is subjective — one person's treasure is another's eyesore.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The reviewer's assessment was entirely _____, reflecting her personal taste' → subjective. Synonyms: personal, biased, partial. Antonyms: objective, impartial, empirical.

SUBVERT

sub-VURT

■ MEANING

(v.) To undermine the power or authority of; to corrupt; to overthrow

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The whistleblower risked everything to subvert the culture of secrecy that had enabled the fraud.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The opposition attempted to _____ the election by spreading misinformation' → subvert. Synonyms: undermine, corrupt, sabotage. Antonyms: support, uphold, reinforce.

TIMOROUS

TIM-ur-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing or suffering from nervousness; lacking courage; timid

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The timorous new employee hesitated to voice opinions in any meeting that included senior managers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ response to the crisis disappointed those hoping for bold leadership' → timorous. Synonyms: timid, fearful, cowardly. Antonyms: bold, courageous, intrepid.

TORTUOUS

TOR-choo-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Full of twists and turns; unnecessarily long and complex; devious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The tortuous mountain road wound through 40 switchbacks before reaching the summit.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ legal process confused even experienced lawyers' → tortuous. Don't confuse with TORTUROUS (causing pain). Synonyms: winding, convoluted, intricate. Antonyms: straight, direct, simple.

TRACTABLE

TRAK-tuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Easy to control or influence; docile; easy to manage

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The tractable student followed instructions precisely, rarely questioning the curriculum.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The disease proved surprisingly _____ once the correct antibiotic was identified' → tractable. Synonyms: manageable, compliant, docile. Antonyms: intractable, stubborn, unruly.

UNDERScore

un-der-SKOR

■ MEANING

(v.) To emphasize; to draw a line under; to highlight

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The avalanche underscored the danger of ignoring weather warnings before alpine expeditions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The finding _____ the need for stricter food safety regulations' → underscored. Synonyms: emphasize, highlight, accentuate. Antonyms: downplay, minimize, obscure.

VENAL

VEE-nul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing or motivated by susceptibility to bribery; corrupt

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The venal official accepted payments from developers in exchange for zoning approvals.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ politician sold his vote to the highest bidder' → venal. Don't confuse with VENIAL (pardonable). Synonyms: corrupt, bribable, mercenary. Antonyms: incorruptible, honest, principled.

VENERATE

VEN-er-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To regard with great respect; to revere

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Students venerated the professor, hanging on her every word and fighting for space in her seminars.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The sculpture was _____ by the villagers, who believed it brought protection' → venerated. Synonyms: revere, worship, idolize. Antonyms: disrespect, disdain, disparage.

GROUP 7

30 words

APPEASE

uh-PEEZ

■ MEANING

(v.) To relieve or satisfy; to pacify by making concessions

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The government tried to appease protesters by promising an independent inquiry into police conduct.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The policy was designed to _____ critics without actually changing the status quo' → appease. Synonyms: placate, mollify, pacify. Antonyms: provoke, aggravate, inflame.

ARBITRARY

AR-bih-trer-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Based on random choice; without rational basis; capricious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The teacher's arbitrary grading — no rubric, no explanation — frustrated and confused students.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ selection process gave wealthy applicants an unfair advantage' → arbitrary. Synonyms: random, capricious, whimsical. Antonyms: systematic, principled, justified.

ARCHAIC

ar-KAY-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Very old or old-fashioned; belonging to an earlier period

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The law banning women from wearing pants in public was an archaic remnant of the 19th century.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ tax code still referenced industries that had ceased to exist 50 years earlier' → archaic. Synonyms: antiquated, anachronistic, obsolete. Antonyms: modern, current, contemporary.

CLAMOROUS

KLAM-er-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Making a loud and confused noise; vehemently demanding

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The clamorous crowd outside the stadium cheered so loudly the coach couldn't hear his own instructions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ demands from shareholders forced an emergency board meeting' → clamorous. Synonyms: noisy, vociferous, insistent. Antonyms: quiet, subdued, silent.

DEARTH

DURTH

■ MEANING

(n.) A scarcity or lack of something

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

There is a dearth of qualified engineers in the region, driving up salaries and delaying projects.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word. TC/SE: 'A _____ of evidence meant the case could not proceed to trial' → dearth. Synonyms: scarcity, shortage, deficit. Antonyms: abundance, surplus, plethora.

EXPLICABLE

EK-splik-uh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Able to be accounted for and understood; explainable

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her sudden disappearance was not easily explicable — all logical reasons seemed to contradict each other.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The anomaly was only _____ if one assumed a measurement error' → explicable. Synonyms: understandable, accountable. Antonyms: inexplicable, mysterious, inscrutable.

HYPERBOLE

hy-PUR-buh-lee

■ MEANING

(n.) Exaggerated statements not meant to be taken literally; extreme exaggeration

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Saying 'I've told you a million times' is classic hyperbole — an exaggeration to stress repetition.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The politician's speech was full of _____ — no policy could deliver results as dramatic as promised' → hyperbole. Synonyms: exaggeration, overstatement. Antonyms: understatement, litotes.

IMMUTABLE

ih-MYOO-tuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Unchanging over time; unable to be changed

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The laws of physics are immutable — they apply equally on Earth and at the edge of the universe.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ principles of the constitution have guided the nation for 230 years' → immutable. Synonyms: fixed, permanent, invariable. Antonyms: mutable, changeable, flexible.

INDEFATIGABLE

in-dih-FAT-ih-guh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Persisting tirelessly; never showing fatigue

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The indefatigable researcher worked 16-hour days for five years to complete the landmark study.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ campaigning covered every district, logging 50,000 miles in six months' → indefatigable. Synonyms: tireless, inexhaustible, untiring. Antonyms: exhausted, weary, lethargic.

INDOLENT

IN-duh-lent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Wanting to avoid activity; habitually lazy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The indolent student barely opened a book until the night before exams, relying entirely on natural ability.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ employee took three-hour lunches and left early every Friday' → indolent. Synonyms: lazy, slothful, lethargic. Antonyms: diligent, industrious, assiduous.

INSULAR

IN-syuh-ler

■ MEANING

(adj.) Ignorant of or uninterested in other cultures; narrow-minded; isolated

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The insular community had no contact with the outside world for generations, developing unique customs.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ perspective of the editorial board ignored important international context' → insular. Synonyms: parochial, narrow-minded, provincial. Antonyms: cosmopolitan, worldly, open-minded.

INTRANSIGENT

in-TRAN-suh-jent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Refusing to compromise; uncompromising; inflexible

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The intransigent negotiator refused to budge on a single demand, causing talks to collapse.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Both sides remained _____, and the negotiations ended in failure' → intransigent. Synonyms: stubborn, obdurate, inflexible. Antonyms: flexible, amenable, conciliatory.

INTREPID

in-TREP-id

■ MEANING

(adj.) Fearless; adventurous; brave in the face of danger

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The intrepid explorer crossed the Antarctic alone with minimal supplies, breaking three world records.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ journalist embedded himself with rebel fighters to report from the front lines' → intrepid. Synonyms: courageous, bold, valiant. Antonyms: timid, cowardly, craven.

IRREVERENT

ih-REV-er-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing a lack of respect for things generally held sacred; disrespectful

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The comedian's irreverent jokes about political figures offended half the audience and delighted the other half.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ treatment of national symbols shocked traditionalists' → irreverent. Synonyms: disrespectful, impertinent, flippant. Antonyms: reverent, respectful, deferential.

LOATHE

LOTH

■ MEANING

(v.) To feel intense dislike or disgust for; to abhor

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She loathed dishonest advertising so deeply that she resigned from the agency over a single misleading campaign.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'He _____ confrontation, always finding subtle ways to avoid direct disagreement' → loathed. Synonyms: detest, abhor, despise. Antonyms: adore, cherish, relish.

MALIGN

muh-LYN

■ MEANING

(v.) To speak about someone in a harmful way; to slander; (adj.) evil in nature; harmful

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The article maligned the scientist unfairly, attributing conclusions to her that her paper never stated.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The candidate was _____ by his opponents, who fabricated scandals about him' → maligned. Synonyms: slander, defame, vilify. Antonyms: praise, extol, commend.

MALLEABLE

MAL-ee-uh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Easily shaped or bent; easily influenced; adaptable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Young children are malleable — they absorb language, attitudes, and habits with remarkable speed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ policy could be adjusted as conditions changed' → malleable. Synonyms: flexible, pliable, adaptable. Antonyms: rigid, inflexible, stubborn.

NEOPHYTE

NEE-uh-fyt

■ MEANING

(n.) A person who is new to a subject or activity; a beginner

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

As a neophyte investor, she made predictable mistakes that a seasoned trader would have avoided.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ was surprised to discover how much she didn't know after three months of study' → neophyte. Synonyms: novice, beginner, tyro. Antonyms: expert, veteran, master.

PLASTIC

PLAS-tik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Easily shaped or molded; adaptable; able to change; (derogatory) artificial

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The human brain exhibits remarkable plastic qualities — forming new pathways throughout life.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The brain is surprisingly _____, capable of rewiring itself after injury' → plastic. In GRE context usually means 'adaptable/moldable', not the material. Synonyms: pliable, malleable, flexible.

PLATITUDE

PLAT-ih-tood

■ MEANING

(n.) A statement or remark that is overused and lacking in originality; a cliché

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The graduation speaker offered nothing but platitudes about following your dreams and never giving up.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ 'be the change you wish to see' appeared in every campaign speech' → platitude. Synonyms: cliché, truism, banality. Antonyms: insight, originality, profundity.

PRESCIENT

PRES-ee-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having knowledge of events before they occur; prophetic; remarkably accurate about the future

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her prescient 2003 paper predicted the exact vulnerabilities that hackers would exploit 15 years later.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ investor had already sold his position before the market crashed' → prescient. Synonyms: prophetic, clairvoyant, farsighted. Antonyms: shortsighted, uninformed, oblivious.

PRISTINE

PRIS-teen

■ MEANING

(adj.) In its original, perfectly clean condition; unspoiled

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The pristine forest had never been logged — every tree was centuries old and towering.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The museum returned the painting in _____ condition, exactly as it had been delivered' → pristine. Synonyms: immaculate, spotless, unspoiled. Antonyms: contaminated, soiled, tarnished.

REPROACH

rih-PROHCH

■ MEANING

(v./n.) To express disapproval or disappointment; a source of blame

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her reproachful look — without a word — communicated more disappointment than any speech could have.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His behavior was above _____ — no one could find fault with a single action' → reproach. Synonyms: rebuke, censure, blame. Antonyms: praise, commend, approve.

ROBUST

roh-BUST

■ MEANING

(adj.) Strong and healthy; vigorous; sturdy; able to withstand adverse conditions

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The robust economy added 300,000 jobs per month for three consecutive years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ evidence in favor of evolution is based on fossil records, genetics, and direct observation' → robust. Synonyms: strong, sturdy, vigorous. Antonyms: weak, fragile, feeble.

SALUBRIOUS

suh-LOO-bree-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Health-giving; conducive to good health; pleasant and wholesome

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Doctors recommended the salubrious mountain air for patients recovering from respiratory illnesses.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ climate of the Swiss Alps has long attracted those seeking rest cures' → salubrious. Synonyms: wholesome, healthy, beneficial. Antonyms: unhealthy, toxic, harmful.

SANCTION

SANGK-shun

■ MEANING

(v.) To give official approval; to authorize; (n.) a penalty for disobeying a rule; official approval

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The UN voted to sanction the country for its nuclear weapons program.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word: sanction is a CONTRONYM — it means BOTH to approve AND to penalize. TC: Context determines meaning. 'The body _____ the new policy' = approved. 'Economic _____ crippled the regime' = penalties.

SEDULOUS

SEJ-uh-lus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing dedication and diligence; perseverant; assiduous

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The sedulous intern arrived before anyone else and stayed after everyone had gone for months.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ preparation for the bar exam paid off when she scored in the top percentile' → sedulous. Synonyms: diligent, assiduous, industrious. Antonyms: lazy, idle, negligent.

SOPORIFIC

sop-uh-RIF-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Tending to induce sleep; drowsy; (n.) a drug causing sleep

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The soporific lecture on actuarial tables had half the class asleep within 20 minutes.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ effect of the medication required patients to avoid driving' → soporific. Synonyms: sleep-inducing, boring, tedious. Antonyms: stimulating, invigorating, captivating.

STERN

STURN

■ MEANING

(adj.) Serious and firm; unrelenting; strict

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The stern judge reminded the courtroom that he would tolerate no outbursts during testimony.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ warning was enough to restore silence in the unruly classroom' → stern. Synonyms: severe, strict, austere. Antonyms: lenient, gentle, indulgent.

TENDENTIOUS

ten-DEN-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Promoting a particular point of view; biased; not impartial

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The documentary was tendentious, presenting only evidence that supported the director's predetermined conclusion.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ reporting of the newspaper reflected the political views of its owner' → tendentious. Synonyms: biased, partisan, slanted. Antonyms: impartial, objective, balanced.

GROUP 8

30 words

ACCENTUATE

ak-SEN-choo-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To make more noticeable; to emphasize; to heighten

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The stark lighting accentuated every line on the actor's face, making him look a decade older.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The new policy _____ the inequalities that already existed' → accentuated. Synonyms: highlight, emphasize, amplify. Antonyms: downplay, minimize, obscure.

CONJECTURAL

kun-JEK-chur-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Based on conjecture; uncertain; speculative

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The historian's account of prehistoric trade routes was necessarily conjectural, with no written records to consult.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The findings were entirely _____ — no direct evidence supported them' → conjectural. Synonyms: speculative, hypothetical, uncertain. Antonyms: confirmed, proven, factual.

CONVIVIAL

kun-VIV-ee-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Fond of feasting and good company; cheerful and friendly; lively

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The convivial host kept glasses full, music playing, and conversations flowing all evening.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ atmosphere of the party made strangers feel like old friends' → convivial. Synonyms: sociable, jovial, festive. Antonyms: somber, reserved, unfriendly.

DECADENT

DEK-uh-dent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Characterized by moral or cultural decline; self-indulgently luxurious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Critics described the late Roman Empire as decadent — obsessed with luxury while borders crumbled.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ lifestyle of the elite stood in stark contrast to the poverty outside their gates' → decadent. Synonyms: self-indulgent, immoral, sybaritic. Antonyms: ascetic, austere, moral.

EGREGIOUS

ih-GREE-jus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Outstandingly bad; shockingly wrong or evil

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The CEO's egregious misuse of company funds — spending \$1 million on personal vacations — led to his arrest.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word. TC/SE: 'The _____ error in the report led to the entire project being scrapped' → egregious. Synonyms: flagrant, glaring, outrageous. Antonyms: minor, trivial, insignificant.

EVANESCENT

ev-uh-NES-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Quickly fading or disappearing; ephemeral

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Morning mist is evanescent — beautiful at 6 AM, entirely gone by 8.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her fame proved _____, lasting just one week before the next story took over' → evanescent. Synonyms: fleeting, transitory, ephemeral. Antonyms: enduring, permanent, lasting.

FLAMBOYANT

flam-BOY-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Tending to attract attention due to exuberance; showy; ostentatious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The flamboyant designer arrived at Fashion Week in a suit made entirely of peacock feathers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ personality — loud laughter, dramatic gestures — polarized opinion' → flamboyant. Synonyms: ostentatious, extravagant, showy. Antonyms: understated, modest, reserved.

FORESTALL

for-STAWL

■ MEANING

(v.) To prevent or obstruct by taking advance action; to preempt

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The police set up checkpoints to forestall any attempt to bring weapons into the stadium.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The government released a statement to _____ the inevitable media speculation' → forestall. Synonyms: preempt, prevent, thwart. Antonyms: enable, facilitate, encourage.

GAINSAY

GAYN-say

■ MEANING

(v.) To deny or contradict; to speak against or oppose

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

No one could gainsay his expertise in molecular biology — the evidence he presented was overwhelming.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'It is difficult to _____ the findings of a study endorsed by 200 independent scientists' → gainsay. Synonyms: deny, contradict, dispute. Antonyms: confirm, affirm, agree.

GALVANIZE

GAL-vuh-nyz

■ MEANING

(v.) To shock into action; to excite into sudden activity

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The photograph of a child refugee galvanized millions of citizens to donate to relief efforts.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The speech _____ the crowd into action within hours of delivery' → galvanized. Synonyms: energize, motivate, rouse. Antonyms: discourage, demoralize, pacify.

INDISCRIMINATE

in-dih-SKRIM-ih-net

■ MEANING

(adj.) Done at random; not making fine distinctions; haphazard

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The indiscriminate bombing of civilian areas drew condemnation from the international community.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ reading habits meant he absorbed everything from philosophy to celebrity gossip' → indiscriminate. Synonyms: random, haphazard, wholesale. Antonyms: selective, discriminating, careful.

INNOCUOUS

ih-NOK-yoo-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not harmful or offensive; innocent

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

What seemed like an innocuous question — 'How do you find the work pace here?' — revealed major dissatisfaction.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ comment was misinterpreted as a personal attack' → innocuous. Synonyms: harmless, inoffensive, benign. Antonyms: harmful, dangerous, offensive.

MOMENTARY

MOH-men-ter-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lasting only for a moment; brief; transient

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A momentary lapse in attention on the highway can have permanent and fatal consequences.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ hesitation cost him the match' → momentary. Synonyms: fleeting, brief, transient. Antonyms: lasting, permanent, enduring.

MUNDANE

mun-DAYN

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lacking interest or excitement; dull; of this earthly world rather than a heavenly one

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After years of exotic travel, she found the mundane routine of office life almost unbearable.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ tasks of filing and data entry consumed most of her day' → mundane. Synonyms: ordinary, banal, humdrum. Antonyms: extraordinary, exciting, transcendent.

NETTLESOME

NET-ul-sum

■ MEANING

(adj.) Causing annoyance or difficulty; irritating

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The nettlesome requirement to reapply every six months frustrated users of the benefits program.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ bureaucratic hurdles discouraging small businesses from expansion' → nettlesome. Synonyms: irritating, vexing, bothersome. Antonyms: pleasant, smooth, easy.

NULLIFY

NUL-uh-fy

■ MEANING

(v.) To make legally null and void; to counteract; to cancel out

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The appeals court nullified the lower court ruling, ordering a new trial on all charges.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The new law _____ any gains made by the previous regulation' → nullified. Synonyms: cancel, void, invalidate. Antonyms: uphold, validate, enforce.

OBVIATE

OB-vee-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To remove a need or obstacle; to prevent or anticipate and dispose of

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The new software obviated the need for manual data entry, saving 40 hours of work per week.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Thorough preparation _____ many of the problems that plagued earlier expeditions' → obviated. Synonyms: prevent, preclude, avert. Antonyms: necessitate, cause, create.

OMNIPRESENT

om-nih-PREZ-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Present everywhere at the same time; seeming to be everywhere

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Smartphones have made social media an omnipresent force in modern life.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The brand has become _____ in American culture — its logo appears on every street corner' → omnipresent. Synonyms: ubiquitous, pervasive, universal. Antonyms: rare, scarce, absent.

OUST

OWST

■ MEANING

(v.) To drive out or expel; to remove from power by force

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A no-confidence vote ousted the prime minister after the scandal consumed her government.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The board _____ the CEO after the financial irregularities came to light' → ousted. Synonyms: expel, remove, depose. Antonyms: install, appoint, reinstate.

PALPABLE

PAL-puh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Able to be felt; clearly perceived; tangible; obvious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The tension between the two rivals was palpable — the entire room fell silent when they entered together.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ relief in the audience when the verdict was read was unmistakable' → palpable. Synonyms: perceptible, tangible, obvious. Antonyms: imperceptible, subtle, intangible.

PERFIDY

PUR-fih-dee

■ MEANING

(n.) Deceitfulness; untrustworthiness; an act of deliberate betrayal

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His perfidy — informing the rival faction of the rebel's plans — cost six soldiers their lives.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The general was executed for _____ after evidence of his cooperation with the enemy was found' → perfidy. Synonyms: treachery, betrayal, duplicity. Antonyms: loyalty, fidelity, integrity.

PROFUSE

pruh-FYOOS

■ MEANING

(adj.) Excessively abundant; given freely and abundantly

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The garden produced a profuse harvest — more tomatoes, squash, and herbs than the family could eat.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'He offered _____ apologies for arriving late to such an important meeting' → profuse. Synonyms: abundant, copious, lavish. Antonyms: sparse, scant, meager.

PUGNACIOUS

pug-NAY-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Eager to argue or fight; combative; aggressive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The pugnacious debater attacked every aspect of his opponent's argument with relentless energy.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ personality made collaboration almost impossible' → pugnacious. Synonyms: belligerent, combative, aggressive. Antonyms: peaceful, conciliatory, amicable.

SAGACIOUS

suh-GAY-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having good judgment; wise; showing keen insight

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The sagacious investor ignored short-term market swings, focusing on 20-year trends instead.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ general anticipated every enemy move before it was made' → sagacious. Synonyms: wise, astute, discerning. Antonyms: foolish, unwise, shortsighted.

SANGUINE

SANG-gwin

■ MEANING

(adj.) Optimistic, especially in difficult situations; cheerfully confident

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Despite three failed prototypes, the inventor remained sanguine, convinced success was close.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ prediction about the economy proved too optimistic by half' → sanguine. Synonyms: optimistic, positive, hopeful. Antonyms: pessimistic, despondent, gloomy.

SCANT

SKANT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Barely sufficient; insufficient; meager

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

With scant evidence, the prosecutor could not build a convincing case for conviction.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The report paid _____ attention to environmental concerns' → scant. Synonyms: meager, insufficient, sparse. Antonyms: ample, abundant, plentiful.

SKULLDUGGERY

skul-DUG-er-ee

■ MEANING

(n.) Underhanded, devious behavior; trickery or deception

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The audit revealed years of financial skullduggery — forged invoices, ghost employees, and embezzlement.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The election result was disputed due to alleged _____ by both sides' → skullduggery. Synonyms: trickery, deception, chicanery. Antonyms: honesty, transparency, integrity.

TRIVIAL

TRIV-ee-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Of little value or importance; insignificant

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The committee wasted hours on trivial details while the fundamental disagreements remained unresolved.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ errors did not affect the study's core conclusions' → trivial. Synonyms: insignificant, minor, petty. Antonyms: significant, critical, fundamental.

UTILITARIAN

yoo-til-ih-TAIR-ee-un

■ MEANING

(adj.) Designed to be useful rather than attractive; practical; prioritizing usefulness

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The utilitarian aesthetic of the factory — no decorative elements, pure function — gave it a stark beauty.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ design prioritized durability over elegance' → utilitarian. Synonyms: practical, functional, pragmatic. Antonyms: ornamental, decorative, impractical.

VAPID

VAP-id

■ MEANING

(adj.) Offering nothing that is stimulating or challenging; dull; insipid

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The celebrity interview was vapid — nothing but softball questions and empty anecdotes.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ plot of the reality show insulted viewers' intelligence' → vapid. Synonyms: insipid, empty, banal. Antonyms: stimulating, engaging, profound.

BOORISH*BOOR-ish*

■ MEANING

(adj.) Rough, bad-mannered, and unpleasant in behavior; uncouth

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The boorish guest belched loudly, interrupted conversations, and made offensive jokes throughout dinner.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ behavior at the formal event embarrassed his entire delegation' → boorish. Synonyms: uncouth, rude, coarse. Antonyms: refined, polished, cultivated.

BROOK*BROOK*

■ MEANING

(v.) To tolerate or allow; (n.) a small stream

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The general brooked no insubordination — any officer who questioned orders was immediately reassigned.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The principal would not _____ any disruption during the final exams' → brook. Synonyms: tolerate, allow, permit. Antonyms: forbid, prohibit, prevent.

CIRCUMSPECT*SUR-kum-spekt*

■ MEANING

(adj.) Wary and unwilling to take risks; cautious about all aspects

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A circumspect approach to investment — evaluating every risk before committing — protected her from the crash.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ diplomat chose every word carefully, knowing any slip could derail negotiations' → circumspect. Synonyms: cautious, prudent, wary. Antonyms: reckless, careless, impulsive.

COMITY

KOM-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) Courtesy and considerate behavior toward others; social harmony

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

International comity — mutual respect among nations — underpins the entire system of diplomatic relations.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ of the neighborhood was tested when a factory was proposed for the local park' → comity. Synonyms: courtesy, goodwill, harmony. Antonyms: hostility, discord, animosity.

COMMENSURATE

kuh-MEN-ser-it

■ MEANING

(adj.) Corresponding in size or degree; proportionate; equal in measure

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her salary was commensurate with her experience — senior staff earned nearly double what juniors received.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The punishment should be _____ with the severity of the offense' → commensurate. Synonyms: proportional, equivalent, appropriate. Antonyms: disproportionate, unequal, excessive.

CORDIAL

KOR-dee-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Warm and friendly; heartfelt; stimulating

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Despite their political differences, the two diplomats maintained a cordial relationship built on mutual respect.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ welcome from the host put even the most nervous guests immediately at ease' → cordial. Synonyms: warm, affable, congenial. Antonyms: hostile, cold, unfriendly.

DELETERIOUS

del-uh-TEER-ee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Causing harm or damage; injurious

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The deleterious effects of prolonged stress on the immune system are well-documented in medical literature.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ effects of pesticide runoff on the local water supply were documented for decades' → deleterious. Synonyms: harmful, injurious, detrimental. Antonyms: beneficial, salubrious, healthful.

DICHOTOMY

dy-KOT-uh-mee

■ MEANING

(n.) A division or contrast between two things that are opposed or entirely different

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The film explored the dichotomy between public virtue and private vice in the lives of politicians.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word. TC: 'The _____ between his public generosity and private cruelty confused all who knew him' → dichotomy. Synonyms: division, split, opposition. Antonyms: unity, harmony, continuity.

EDIFY

ED-ih-fy

■ MEANING

(v.) To instruct or improve morally or intellectually

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Great literature edifies its readers — it doesn't just entertain but leaves them wiser and more empathetic.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The museum's exhibits were designed to _____ visitors, not merely dazzle them' → edify. Synonyms: enlighten, instruct, educate. Antonyms: mislead, corrupt, debase.

ELICIT

ih-LIS-it

■ MEANING

(v.) To evoke or draw out a response; to extract information

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Skillful questioning elicited a confession that hours of aggressive interrogation had failed to produce.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The study was designed to _____ honest opinions, not socially acceptable answers' → elicit. Don't confuse with ILLICIT (illegal). Synonyms: evoke, extract, draw out.

ERUDITE

ER-yuh-dyt

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing extensive knowledge; learned; scholarly

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The erudite professor could quote freely from Latin, Greek, and Sanskrit texts without consulting notes.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ lecture covered references from 15 different fields of study' → erudite. Synonyms: learned, scholarly, knowledgeable. Antonyms: ignorant, uneducated, unlearned.

FECUND

FEE-kund

■ MEANING

(adj.) Producing abundant fruit or offspring; intellectually productive; fertile

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The fecund soil of the river delta supported three crop cycles a year.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ imagination of the author produced over 50 novels in 30 years' → fecund. Synonyms: fertile, productive, prolific. Antonyms: barren, sterile, infertile.

FEEBLE

FEE-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lacking physical or mental strength; weak; faint; unconvincing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The company's feeble defense — that it had never received the complaint — was disproven by email timestamps.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ argument failed to address the central objection' → feeble. Synonyms: weak, ineffective, frail. Antonyms: robust, strong, compelling.

FELICITOUS

fuh-LIS-ih-tus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Well-chosen for the occasion; apt; pleasantly suitable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her felicitous choice of words — warm but not maudlin — made the eulogy one everyone remembered.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ metaphor in the poem captured precisely what pages of prose could not' → felicitous. Synonyms: apt, fitting, appropriate. Antonyms: inapt, clumsy, infelicitous.

FORBEAR

for-BAIR

■ MEANING

(v.) To politely or patiently refrain from doing something; to abstain

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She forbore from commenting on his mistake, choosing kindness over correctness.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He _____ from responding to the insult, knowing that silence was the wiser choice' → forbore. Synonyms: refrain, abstain, hold back. Don't confuse with FOREBEAR (ancestor).

HAPHAZARD

hap-HAZ-erd

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lacking any obvious principle of organization; random; unsystematic

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The haphazard filing system meant finding any document took at least 30 minutes.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ approach to the investigation allowed critical evidence to go unexamined' → haphazard. Synonyms: random, disorganized, unsystematic. Antonyms: systematic, methodical, organized.

HODGEPODGE

HOJ-poj

■ MEANING

(n.) A confused mixture of things; a jumble; a medley

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The curriculum was a hodgepodge of ideas from different pedagogical theories that didn't cohere into a unified approach.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The museum's collection was a _____ of medieval armor, 19th-century furniture, and modern abstract paintings' → hodgepodge. Synonyms: jumble, mishmash, mixture.

IMPEDE

im-PEED

■ MEANING

(v.) To delay or block the progress of; to obstruct

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The bureaucratic approval process impeded the humanitarian organization's ability to deliver aid quickly.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The fallen bridge _____ relief efforts for three critical days' → impeded. Synonyms: obstruct, hinder, hamper. Antonyms: facilitate, expedite, assist.

IMPETUOUS

im-PECH-oo-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Acting or done quickly without thought or care; impulsive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His impetuous decision to quit his job without a backup plan left him financially vulnerable.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ reply to the email, sent in anger, damaged an important business relationship' → impetuous. Synonyms: rash, hasty, impulsive. Antonyms: deliberate, cautious, measured.

IRASCIBLE

ih-RAS-ih-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Easily made angry; bad-tempered

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The irascible director threw tantrums on set when actors were late, earning a reputation for volatility.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ boss responded to minor mistakes with explosive anger that demoralized staff' → irascible. Synonyms: choleric, irritable, hot-tempered. Antonyms: calm, equable, even-tempered.

MERCENARY

MUR-suh-ner-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Primarily concerned with financial reward; motivated by money alone; (n.) a soldier hired for pay

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Critics called the company mercenary for raising insulin prices while executives received record bonuses.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ motives — purely financial, with no concern for the cause — alienated genuine believers' → mercenary. Synonyms: greedy, venal, avaricious. Antonyms: selfless, altruistic, philanthropic.

METICULOUS

muh-TIK-yuh-lus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The meticulous watchmaker spent three hours on each mechanism, testing every component by hand.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ study documented every variable with extraordinary precision' → meticulous. Synonyms: careful, precise, thorough. Antonyms: careless, sloppy, negligent.

MORDANT

MOR-dent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having a sharp, biting quality; sarcastically critical; caustic

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His mordant wit found the absurdity in every sacred institution — nothing was too solemn to mock.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ critique of the film was hilarious but devastating to the director's reputation' → mordant. Synonyms: caustic, cutting, biting. Antonyms: gentle, kind, flattering.

OUTSTRIP

owt-STRIP

■ MEANING

(v.) To exceed; to leave behind; to surpass

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Demand for the vaccine quickly outstripped supply, creating shortages in every country.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her performance consistently _____ that of her peers by measurable margins' → outstripped. Synonyms: surpass, exceed, outpace. Antonyms: lag, fall behind, underperform.

PRECARIOUS

prih-KAIR-ee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Uncertain; dependent on chance; not safe or secure

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Their precarious position on the cliff face required every climber's full concentration.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The company's _____ finances left it one bad quarter away from bankruptcy' → precarious. Synonyms: unstable, uncertain, risky. Antonyms: stable, secure, certain.

QUIRKY

KWUR-kee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having unusual or unexpected traits; pleasantly eccentric

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her quirky sense of humor — a blend of absurdism and political satire — delighted audiences who tired of conventional comedy.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ design of the building — a cube balanced on a single point — became a landmark' → quirky. Synonyms: eccentric, unconventional, idiosyncratic.

REPUDIATE

rih-PYOO-dee-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To refuse to accept; to deny the truth of; to disown

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The senator repudiated the remarks made by his campaign manager, calling them inappropriate and factually wrong.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The scientist _____ the theory she had championed for a decade once new data emerged' → repudiated. Synonyms: reject, renounce, disown. Antonyms: accept, endorse, affirm.

TACT

TAKT

■ MEANING

(n.) The ability to deal with sensitive issues without causing offense; diplomacy

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Breaking bad news requires tact — the wrong word in the wrong moment can cause lasting harm.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ in navigating the conflict prevented a permanent rupture between the two colleagues' → tact. Synonyms: diplomacy, sensitivity, discretion. Antonyms: tactlessness, bluntness, insensitivity.

TURBULENT

TUR-byuh-lent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Characterized by conflict, disorder, or confusion; violently agitated

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The turbulent 1960s — assassinations, protests, and social upheaval — reshaped American identity permanently.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The airline warned of _____ conditions and advised passengers to remain seated' → turbulent. Synonyms: stormy, chaotic, tempestuous. Antonyms: calm, peaceful, tranquil.

GROUP 10

30 words

ACUMEN

AK-yuh-men

■ MEANING

(n.) The ability to make good judgments and quick decisions; sharpness

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her financial acumen — developed over 30 years on Wall Street — made her an invaluable board member.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The CEO's business _____ allowed him to identify opportunities competitors consistently missed' → acumen. Synonyms: shrewdness, astuteness, insight. Antonyms: obtuseness, stupidity, dullness.

ANTITHESIS

an-TITH-ih-sis

■ MEANING

(n.) A person or thing that is the direct opposite; a direct contrast

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The minimalist design philosophy was the antithesis of the ornate Victorian aesthetic it replaced.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The dictator's actions were the _____ of the democratic values he claimed to uphold' → antithesis. Synonyms: opposite, contrast, inverse. Antonyms: complement, embodiment.

ASCRIBE

uh-SKRYB

■ MEANING

(v.) To attribute to a specified cause, source, or origin; to credit

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Historians ascribe the fall of Rome to a combination of overextension, economic instability, and external pressure.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The improvement in patient outcomes was _____ to the new treatment protocol' → ascribed. Synonyms: attribute, credit, assign. Antonyms: dissociate, disavow.

BEFUDDLED

bih-FUD-uld

■ MEANING

(adj.) Confused or bewildered; unable to think clearly

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The befuddled tourist stood in the metro station for 20 minutes before realizing she was on the wrong line.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ students stared at the equation as if it were written in another language' → befuddled. Synonyms: confused, perplexed, baffled. Antonyms: clear-headed, lucid, oriented.

ESCHEW

es-CHOO

■ MEANING

(v.) To deliberately avoid using; to abstain from; to shun

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The strict vegetarian eschewed not only meat but also leather goods, honey, and dairy products.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The novelist _____ conventional narrative structure in favor of fragmented, non-linear storytelling' → eschewed. Synonyms: avoid, shun, abstain from. Antonyms: embrace, seek, pursue.

ESOTERIC

es-uh-TER-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Intended for or understood by only a small group with specialized knowledge

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The journal published esoteric papers that only the 50 leading experts in the field could fully evaluate.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The lecture was too _____ for a general audience; it required years of specialist training' → esoteric. Synonyms: arcane, recondite, obscure. Antonyms: accessible, common, well-known.

EVASIVE

ih-VAY-siv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Tending to avoid commitment or questions; ambiguous; elusive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The politician's evasive answers on the budget raised more questions than they answered.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ response — vague generalities instead of direct facts — frustrated the committee' → evasive. Synonyms: elusive, equivocal, elusory. Antonyms: direct, candid, forthright.

EXCULPATE

EK-skul-payt

■ MEANING

(v.) To show or declare that someone is not guilty of wrongdoing; to absolve

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

New DNA evidence exculpated the prisoner who had served 12 years for a crime he did not commit.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The security footage _____ the suspect, showing he was elsewhere at the time' → exculpated. Synonyms: absolve, vindicate, clear. Antonyms: incriminate, condemn, indict.

EXPEDITE

EK-spuh-dyt

■ MEANING

(v.) To make an action happen sooner; to process more quickly

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The senator requested that the relief agency expedite its response to the flood victims.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The new software _____ visa processing from six weeks to 48 hours' → expedited. Synonyms: hasten, accelerate, facilitate. Antonyms: delay, impede, hinder.

FASTIDIOUS

fas-TID-ee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Very attentive to accuracy and detail; having high standards; hard to please

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The fastidious chef returned three dishes to the kitchen for tiny imperfections that no guest would have noticed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ approach to data ensured that every decimal point was correct' → fastidious. Synonyms: meticulous, precise, particular. Antonyms: careless, lax, sloppy.

FEIGN

FAYN

■ MEANING

(v.) To pretend to have or feel something; to simulate; to fake

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The child feigned illness to avoid going to school the day of the spelling test.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She _____ surprise at the party, though the plan had been leaked to her weeks earlier' → feigned. Synonyms: pretend, simulate, fake. Antonyms: be genuine, actually feel.

FURTIVE

FUR-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Attempting to avoid notice; secretive; stealthy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The furtive glance he cast over his shoulder before entering the building made security suspicious.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ behavior of the suspect — avoiding cameras and using back exits — raised alarms' → furtive. Synonyms: secretive, stealthy, surreptitious. Antonyms: open, conspicuous, overt.

HAMPER

HAM-per

■ MEANING

(v.) To hinder or impede the movement or progress of; to obstruct

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Heavy snow hampered rescue operations in the mountains, limiting access to roads.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Poor communication _____ the team's ability to coordinate effectively' → hampered. Synonyms: hinder, obstruct, impede. Antonyms: assist, facilitate, expedite.

INDISPENSABLE

in-dih-SPEN-suh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Absolutely necessary; essential; impossible to do without

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Clean water is indispensable for human survival — no technology can replace it.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The program has become _____ to the functioning of the public health system' → indispensable. Synonyms: essential, necessary, vital. Antonyms: dispensable, unnecessary, expendable.

LAMENT

luh-MENT

■ MEANING

(v.) To express grief, regret, or sorrow; (n.) an expression of sorrow

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The retired teacher lamented the decline of critical thinking in modern classrooms.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'She _____ the loss of the forest, which had been cleared for a parking lot' → lamented. Synonyms: mourn, grieve, bemoan. Antonyms: celebrate, rejoice, applaud.

MYOPIC

my-OP-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Shortsighted; lacking foresight; unable to see long-term consequences

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The company's myopic focus on quarterly profits came at the expense of long-term investment.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'A _____ approach to policy ignores consequences beyond the next election cycle' → myopic. Synonyms: shortsighted, narrow-minded, shortsighted. Antonyms: farsighted, visionary, prescient.

NONCHALANT

non-shuh-LANT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Feeling or appearing casually calm; not anxious or enthusiastic; coolly unconcerned

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He accepted the award with a nonchalant shrug, as though winning it were the most natural thing in the world.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ demeanor in the crisis situation impressed those who expected panic' → nonchalant. Synonyms: casual, cool, unconcerned. Antonyms: anxious, excitable, agitated.

PARTIAL

PAR-shul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Favoring one side unfairly; biased; incomplete; having a liking for

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The judge was found to be partial and was removed from the case for a conflict of interest.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The analysis was _____ — it considered only half the relevant data' → partial. Synonyms: biased, incomplete, prejudiced. Antonyms: impartial, complete, unbiased.

PENSIVE

PEN-siv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Engaged in deep, serious thought; thoughtful with some sadness

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She sat by the window in a pensive mood, reflecting on the choices that had brought her to this moment.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ philosopher stared out the window for an hour before answering' → pensive. Synonyms: contemplative, reflective, meditative. Antonyms: thoughtless, frivolous, carefree.

PORTEND

por-TEND

■ MEANING

(v.) To be a sign or warning that something is about to happen; to presage

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The ominous silence of the birds in the forest portended the coming earthquake.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Dark clouds on the horizon _____ the storm that would arrive within hours' → portended. Synonyms: presage, forebode, foreshadow. Antonyms: follow, come after.

PROVINCIAL

pruh-VIN-shul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Of limited outlook; unsophisticated; relating to a province

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His provincial attitude — dismissing any idea that originated outside his hometown — frustrated his urbane colleagues.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ perspective of the editorial board ignored important international context' → provincial. Synonyms: parochial, narrow-minded, insular. Antonyms: cosmopolitan, worldly, sophisticated.

RUDIMENTARY

roo-duh-MEN-tuh-ree

■ MEANING

(adj.) Involving basic principles; underdeveloped; elementary; at an early stage

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A rudimentary knowledge of coding is now considered essential in many non-technical careers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ safety protocols in place were insufficient to prevent the accident' → rudimentary. Synonyms: basic, elementary, primitive. Antonyms: advanced, sophisticated, developed.

SALUTARY

SAL-yuh-ter-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Producing a good effect; beneficial; wholesome; promoting health

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The defeat proved salutary — it exposed every weakness in the team's strategy and forced a complete rebuild.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ effect of the setback forced them to re-examine assumptions that had gone unquestioned' → salutary. Synonyms: beneficial, wholesome, instructive. Antonyms: harmful, detrimental, damaging.

SEVER

SEV-er

■ MEANING

(v.) To cut off; to break off or end; to divide; to separate

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The company severed ties with the supplier after evidence of labor violations was uncovered.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The relationship was _____ beyond repair after the betrayal' → severed. Synonyms: cut off, end, terminate. Antonyms: join, connect, maintain.

SLIGHT

SLYT

■ MEANING

(v./n.) To treat with disrespect; an insult; (adj.) small in degree or extent; slim

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He felt slighted when he wasn't invited to the meeting, interpreting the omission as deliberate.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The remark was interpreted as a _____ — an intentional snub of the junior staff' → slight. Synonyms: insult, snub, offense. Antonyms: compliment, honor, esteem.

SOMNOLENT

SOM-nuh-lent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Sleepy; causing sleepiness; drowsy

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The somnolent lecture caused even the front-row students to nod off within the first fifteen minutes.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ tone of the documentary — quiet music, soft narration — was better suited to a bedtime story' → somnolent. Synonyms: sleepy, drowsy, soporific. Antonyms: alert, lively, stimulating.

STOIC

STOH-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Enduring pain and hardship without complaint; unemotional; impassive

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The stoic soldier showed no reaction to news of his injury, calmly asking about the mission status.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ response to the verdict revealed nothing of the turmoil she must have felt' → stoic. Synonyms: impassive, unemotional, stoical. Antonyms: emotional, demonstrative, volatile.

SUPERSEDE

soo-per-SEED

■ MEANING

(v.) To take the place of; to replace; to displace

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The digital camera superseded film photography within a single decade.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The new regulation _____ all previous guidelines, requiring full compliance by January' → superseded. Synonyms: replace, displace, supplant. Antonyms: precede, restore.

TOUT

TOWT

■ MEANING

(v.) To promote or advertise enthusiastically; to recommend insistently

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The media touted the drug as a breakthrough even before clinical trials were complete.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The company _____ its new product as the most revolutionary in the industry's history' → touted. Synonyms: promote, advertise, champion. Antonyms: criticize, disparage, condemn.

WANE

WAYN

■ MEANING

(v.) To decrease in strength or intensity; to decline; (of the moon) to decrease in visible illumination

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The movement's influence began to wane as its founding generation aged and younger members lost interest.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The king's power began to _____ as regional lords grew more independent' → wane. Synonyms: diminish, decline, ebb. Antonyms: wax, grow, increase.

GROUP 11

30 words

ABHOR

ab-HOR

■ MEANING

(v.) To regard with disgust and hatred; to detest deeply

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She abhorred violence of any kind and refused to watch films that glorified it.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'He _____ dishonesty so deeply he couldn't remain in a profession built on spin' → abhorred. Synonyms: detest, loathe, despise. Antonyms: adore, cherish, relish.

BOISTEROUS

BOY-ster-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Noisy, energetic, and cheerful; rough and stormy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The boisterous crowd at the stadium drowned out the referee's whistle completely.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ celebration continued well into the night, disturbing neighbors three blocks away' → boisterous. Synonyms: rowdy, noisy, exuberant. Antonyms: quiet, subdued, restrained.

CHIVALROUS

SHIV-ul-rus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Courteous and gallant, especially toward women; having the qualities of a medieval knight

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His chivalrous gesture — giving up his seat to the elderly passenger — impressed everyone on the train.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ knight put the welfare of others above his own comfort and safety' → chivalrous. Synonyms: gallant, courteous, noble. Antonyms: rude, selfish, discourteous.

CHURLISH

CHUR-ish

■ MEANING

(adj.) Rude in a mean-spirited way; boorish; sullen and unfriendly

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

It seemed churlish to refuse the gift, even though it was entirely impractical.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ refusal to acknowledge colleagues' contributions made him universally disliked' → churlish. Synonyms: rude, boorish, ungracious. Antonyms: gracious, courteous, generous.

CLANDESTINE

klan-DES-tin

■ MEANING

(adj.) Kept secret or done secretly, especially because it is illicit

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The clandestine meetings between the rivals were unknown to their respective companies for years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ operation was known only to three people in the entire government' → clandestine. Synonyms: secret, covert, furtive. Antonyms: open, overt, public.

COMPLACENT

kum-PLAY-sent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing smug or uncritical satisfaction with one's achievements; failing to notice danger

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The champion's complacent attitude going into the final cost her the title she had held for three years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Success made them _____, and they stopped innovating until a competitor overtook them' → complacent. Synonyms: self-satisfied, smug, complacent. Antonyms: vigilant, ambitious, restless.

CUMBERSOME

KUM-ber-sum

■ MEANING

(adj.) Large or heavy and difficult to carry; slow or complicated and inefficient

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The cumbersome approval process required 14 signatures before any decision could be implemented.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ regulations made it nearly impossible for small businesses to compete' → cumbersome. Synonyms: unwieldy, burdensome, inefficient. Antonyms: streamlined, efficient, simple.

DEBILITATING

dih-BIL-ih-tay-ting

■ MEANING

(adj.) Making someone very weak and infirm; severely impairing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The debilitating migraine left her unable to work for three days each month.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ effects of the disease made even simple tasks exhausting' → debilitating. Synonyms: incapacitating, weakening, crippling. Antonyms: invigorating, strengthening, energizing.

DELIBERATE

dih-LIB-er-it (adj.) / dih-LIB-er-ayt (v.)

■ MEANING

(adj.) Done consciously and intentionally; careful and unhurried; (v.) to consider carefully

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His deliberate pacing of the argument — building evidence slowly — proved devastatingly persuasive.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The insult was clearly _____, designed to wound' → deliberate. As adj: intentional. As verb: to think carefully. Synonyms: intentional, premeditated, measured.

DROLL

DROHL

■ MEANING

(adj.) Amusing in an odd or whimsical way; having a dry sense of humor

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His droll observation that the fire alarm was the most exciting thing to happen in years made everyone laugh despite the situation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The comedian had a _____ style — dry, deadpan, and unexpectedly funny' → droll. Synonyms: whimsical, wry, quirky. Antonyms: serious, humorless, solemn.

ECCENTRIC

ik-SEN-trik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Unconventional and slightly strange; deviating from recognized norms

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The eccentric physicist wore mismatched socks and rode a unicycle to the lab, but his research was brilliant.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ habits — sleeping in a hammock, eating only blue foods — puzzled colleagues' → eccentric. Synonyms: unconventional, odd, idiosyncratic. Antonyms: conventional, ordinary, normal.

FRACTIOUS

FRAK-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Easily irritated; unruly; tending to make trouble; quarrelsome

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The fractious toddler refused every meal, threw two toys, and screamed for an hour straight.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ coalition fell apart when members couldn't agree on a single policy position' → fractious. Synonyms: quarrelsome, irritable, contentious. Antonyms: cooperative, agreeable, placid.

LIMPID

LIM-pid

■ MEANING

(adj.) Clear and transparent; (of writing) easily understood; lucid

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The limpid water of the mountain lake was so clear you could see individual pebbles 20 feet below.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ prose explained complex quantum mechanics without sacrificing accuracy' → limpid. Synonyms: clear, transparent, lucid. Antonyms: murky, opaque, turbid.

MAWKISH

MAW-kish

■ MEANING

(adj.) Sentimental in a feeble or sickly way; excessively and falsely emotional

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The mawkish holiday commercial — with soft music, tearful reunions, and slow-motion hugs — manipulated viewers shamelessly.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ ending of the film, with its forced reconciliation, felt dishonest' → mawkish. Synonyms: sentimental, saccharine, cloying. Antonyms: unsentimental, objective, harsh.

OBEISANCE

oh-BAY-sents

■ MEANING

(n.) Deferential respect; a gesture of respect such as a bow or curtsy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The courtiers paid obeisance to the new king, kneeling and lowering their heads in unison.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The delegation's _____ to the powerful elder statesman revealed the hierarchy clearly' → obeisance. Synonyms: deference, homage, reverence. Antonyms: defiance, disrespect, contempt.

OSTENTATIOUS

os-ten-TAY-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Characterized by a display designed to impress; showy; pretentious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The ostentatious wedding — 500 guests, a live orchestra, and a 12-tier cake — became a tabloid sensation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ mansion with its gold-plated fixtures struck visitors as tasteless' → ostentatious. Synonyms: showy, flamboyant, pretentious. Antonyms: modest, understated, unassuming.

PANACEA

pan-uh-SEE-uh

■ MEANING

(n.) A solution or remedy for all difficulties; a cure-all

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Technology is often touted as a panacea, but it introduces new problems even as it solves old ones.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Microfinance was promoted as a _____ for poverty, but evidence shows mixed results' → panacea. Synonyms: cure-all, universal remedy, elixir. Antonym: intractable problem.

PERFUNCTORY

per-FUNGK-tuh-ree

■ MEANING

(adj.) Carried out with minimal effort; done as routine duty without care

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The perfunctory safety inspection lasted 10 minutes for a facility that required 3 hours to assess properly.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ apology — no eye contact, flat tone, two sentences — convinced no one' → perfunctory. Synonyms: cursory, superficial, mechanical. Antonyms: thorough, painstaking, diligent.

PERILOUS

PER-ih-lus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Full of danger; hazardous; risky

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The perilous crossing of the ice field in a blizzard tested even the most seasoned Arctic explorer.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ mountain path was closed after three climbers fell to their deaths' → perilous. Synonyms: dangerous, hazardous, treacherous. Antonyms: safe, secure, risk-free.

PERVASIVE

per-VAY-siv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Spreading through every part; present throughout; ubiquitous

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The pervasive smell of smoke from the wildfire reached cities 200 miles from the blaze.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Corruption was so _____ in the institution that reform seemed nearly impossible' → pervasive. Synonyms: widespread, ubiquitous, omnipresent. Antonyms: rare, limited, isolated.

PRECLUDE

prih-KLOOD

■ MEANING

(v.) To prevent something from happening; to make impossible

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The injury precluded any chance of his participating in the championship he had trained years to enter.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Budget constraints _____ the possibility of hiring additional staff this year' → precluded. Synonyms: prevent, inhibit, rule out. Antonyms: allow, enable, facilitate.

PREDILECTION

pred-ih-LEK-shun

■ MEANING

(n.) A preference or special liking for something; a bias in favor of something

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her predilection for historical fiction shaped both her writing and her worldview profoundly.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ for underdog candidates made him a contrarian force in national politics' → predilection. Synonyms: preference, proclivity, penchant. Antonyms: aversion, distaste, dislike.

RAPACIOUS

ruh-PAY-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Aggressively greedy; excessively grasping; predatory

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The rapacious corporation bought up competitors, suppressed wages, and lobbied against regulation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ developer acquired every piece of land in the region regardless of its historical significance' → rapacious. Synonyms: greedy, predatory, avaricious. Antonyms: generous, selfless, altruistic.

RELISH

REL-ish

■ MEANING

(v.) To enjoy greatly; to take pleasure in; (n.) great enjoyment or pleasure

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She relished the challenge of a difficult case, diving into research with visible excitement.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The veteran lawyer _____ complex arguments that overwhelmed younger colleagues' → relished. Synonyms: enjoy, savor, delight in. Antonyms: dread, loathe, dislike.

SATIRICAL

suh-TIR-ih-kul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Using humor, irony, or exaggeration to expose and criticize; mocking

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The satirical magazine skewered politicians so effectively that several resigned rather than endure another cover story.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ essay mocked the hypocrisy of the reform movement with surgical precision' → satirical. Synonyms: ironic, mocking, sardonic. Antonyms: earnest, sincere, literal.

SHAM

SHAM

■ MEANING

(n./adj.) A person or thing that is not what it is claimed to be; a fraud; fake

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The environmental award turned out to be a sham — the company behind it had no genuine green initiatives.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The auditors declared the financial statements a _____, fabricated to deceive investors' → sham. Synonyms: fake, fraud, pretense. Antonyms: genuine, authentic, legitimate.

SKIRT

SKURT

■ MEANING

(v.) To go around the edge of; to avoid dealing with directly; to evade

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The candidate skirted the question about tax hikes, pivoting to healthcare without missing a beat.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The report _____ the most controversial findings by burying them in footnotes' → skirted. Synonyms: evade, circumvent, avoid. Antonyms: confront, address, tackle.

SLUGGISH

SLUG-ish

■ MEANING

(adj.) Slow-moving; lacking energy; inactive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Economic growth remained sluggish for the third consecutive quarter, prompting calls for stimulus measures.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ pace of reform frustrated advocates who had expected rapid change' → sluggish. Synonyms: slow, lethargic, torpid. Antonyms: brisk, energetic, dynamic.

SPARTAN

SPAR-ten

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing or characterized by austerity and simplicity; lacking comfort or luxury

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The athlete's spartan lifestyle — no alcohol, no social media, nine hours of sleep — was legendary in the sport.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ apartment contained only a bed, a desk, and a single lamp' → spartan. Synonyms: austere, ascetic, bare. Antonyms: luxurious, lavish, opulent.

TRUCULENT

TRUK-yuh-lent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Eager or quick to argue or fight; aggressively defiant

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The truculent witness challenged every question, accused the prosecutor of bias, and refused to give direct answers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ response to mild criticism shocked everyone in the room' → truculent. Synonyms: belligerent, combative, pugnacious. Antonyms: peaceable, docile, conciliatory.

ACRIMONIOUS*ak-rih-MOH-nee-us***■ MEANING**

(adj.) Angry and bitter in manner or speech; filled with sharp resentment

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The acrimonious divorce left both parties financially drained and emotionally scarred.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ debate deteriorated into personal attacks within the first ten minutes' → acrimonious. Synonyms: bitter, hostile, caustic. Antonyms: cordial, amicable, friendly.

BELLIGERENT*buh-LIJ-er-ent***■ MEANING**

(adj.) Hostile and aggressive; inclined to quarrel or fight

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The belligerent fan was ejected after threatening opposing supporters for the third time.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ negotiator refused every concession, poisoning any chance of a deal' → belligerent. Synonyms: aggressive, combative, antagonistic. Antonyms: peaceful, cooperative, amicable.

BENEFICENT*buh-NEF-ih-sent***■ MEANING**

(adj.) Generous or doing good; resulting in good; charitable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The beneficent donor funded 200 college scholarships for first-generation university students.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ legislation extended healthcare to 10 million uninsured citizens' → beneficent. Synonyms: charitable, generous, benevolent. Antonyms: malicious, harmful, selfish.

CANNY

KAN-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing shrewdness and good judgment; clever; astute

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The canny investor shorted the housing market in 2006, making a fortune when it collapsed two years later.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ politician anticipated the backlash and preemptively addressed the controversy' → canny. Synonyms: shrewd, astute, sagacious. Antonyms: naive, obtuse, unwise.

CAVALIER

kav-uh-LEER

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing a lack of proper concern; dismissive; offhand

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His cavalier attitude toward safety protocols — ignoring them entirely — led directly to the accident.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The doctor's _____ dismissal of her symptoms without examination was inexcusable' → cavalier. Synonyms: dismissive, offhand, haughty. Antonyms: careful, attentive, respectful.

DISTRESSED

dis-TREST

■ MEANING

(adj.) Suffering from extreme anxiety, sorrow, or pain; in a state of danger or urgent need

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The distressed community appealed to the government for emergency aid after the hurricane destroyed their homes.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ cries of the trapped miners could be heard through the shaft walls' → distressed. Synonyms: troubled, anguished, distraught. Antonyms: calm, content, untroubled.

DWINDLING

DWIN-dling

■ MEANING

(adj.) Gradually diminishing in size, amount, or strength

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The dwindling population of the small town prompted the closure of its only school.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The organization's _____ membership made it financially unviable within two years' → dwindling. Synonyms: diminishing, shrinking, declining. Antonyms: growing, expanding, increasing.

ECLIPSE

ih-KLIPS

■ MEANING

(v.) To deprive of importance by being superior; to overshadow; (n.) a blocking of light

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her second novel eclipsed her debut in both critical acclaim and commercial success.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The younger player's performance _____ that of the veteran star' → eclipsed. Synonyms: overshadow, surpass, outshine. Antonyms: be surpassed by, fall behind.

ENCYCLOPEDIA

en-sy-kluh-PEE-dik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Comprehensively covering many subjects; having wide knowledge

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His encyclopedic knowledge of military history allowed him to answer any question without consulting notes.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ reference manual covered every aspect of the field in exhaustive detail' → encyclopedic. Synonyms: comprehensive, exhaustive, vast. Antonyms: limited, superficial, narrow.

EXACERBATE

ig-ZAS-er-bayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To make a problem or bad situation worse

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Cutting aid during the crisis only exacerbated the suffering of those already most vulnerable.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word. TC/SE: 'The new policy _____ the very inequalities it was meant to address' → exacerbated. Synonyms: worsen, aggravate, intensify. Antonyms: alleviate, mitigate, improve.

EXASPERATED

ig-ZAS-per-ay-ted

■ MEANING

(adj.) Intensely irritated and frustrated; worn out with annoyance

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The exasperated teacher repeated the instruction for the fifth time, barely concealing her frustration.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'After hours of delays, the _____ travelers demanded an explanation from airline staff' → exasperated. Synonyms: frustrated, irritated, infuriated. Antonyms: patient, calm, serene.

FUNGIBLE

FUN-jih-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Interchangeable; able to replace or be replaced by something equivalent

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

In modern markets, oil is treated as a fungible commodity — one barrel is identical to any other.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Money is _____ — a dollar spent in one account can be offset by a dollar gained elsewhere' → fungible. Synonyms: interchangeable, replaceable, exchangeable. Antonyms: unique, non-substitutable, irreplaceable.

HACKNEYED

HAK-need

■ MEANING

(adj.) Overused and lacking originality; trite; clichéd

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The hackneyed opening line — 'It was a dark and stormy night' — triggered groans from every writing workshop.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ metaphors in his speech suggested he hadn't read anything written after 1985' → hackneyed. Synonyms: trite, clichéd, banal. Antonyms: original, fresh, novel.

INCONGRUOUS

in-KONG-groo-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not in harmony; out of place; incompatible

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The ultramodern glass tower looked incongruous beside the medieval cathedral it had been built next to.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her formal ball gown at the casual beach party was _____ to say the least' → incongruous. Synonyms: inconsistent, incompatible, inappropriate. Antonyms: appropriate, fitting, consistent.

INTERCHANGEABLE

in-ter-CHAYN-juh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Able to be exchanged or replaced without significant difference; equivalent

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The two terms are often used as if interchangeable, though they have subtly different meanings.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The report treated the two theories as _____, ignoring their fundamental differences' → interchangeable. Synonyms: equivalent, fungible, synonymous. Antonyms: distinct, unique, non-equivalent.

LACONIC

luh-KON-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Using very few words; brief and concise in speech or expression

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her laconic reply — 'No.' — ended the negotiation instantly.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ general issued a single-sentence order rather than a lengthy directive' → laconic. Synonyms: terse, concise, succinct. Antonyms: verbose, loquacious, garrulous.

LUCRATIVE

LOO-kruh-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The licensing deal proved lucrative — within five years it had generated \$40 million in royalties.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He quit teaching for the more _____ world of corporate consulting' → lucrative. Synonyms: profitable, remunerative, rewarding. Antonyms: unprofitable, costly, ruinous.

MAGISTERIAL

maj-ih-STEER-ee-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing great authority; domineering; relating to a magistrate

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His magisterial tone made clear that debate was over and decisions had been made.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ biography ran to 1,200 pages and covered every aspect of the subject's life' → magisterial. Synonyms: authoritative, commanding, imperious. Antonyms: tentative, modest, deferential.

ONEROUS

ON-er-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Involving a great deal of effort, trouble, or difficulty; burdensome

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The onerous reporting requirements consumed more staff time than the actual work they were meant to document.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ compliance procedures deterred small firms from entering the market' → onerous. Synonyms: burdensome, cumbersome, taxing. Antonyms: easy, light, undemanding.

OPPROBRIUM

uh-PROH-bree-um

■ MEANING

(n.) Harsh criticism or censure; public disgrace arising from shameful conduct

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The CEO faced opprobrium from shareholders, employees, and the public after the scandal broke.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The senator's vote drew _____ from both sides of the political spectrum' → opprobrium. Synonyms: disgrace, condemnation, infamy. Antonyms: praise, honor, acclaim.

PARSIMONIOUS

par-suh-MOH-nee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Extremely unwilling to spend money; excessively frugal; stingy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The parsimonious billionaire flew economy class and reused every paper clip, despite his vast fortune.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ budget offered to the research team was insufficient to run even basic experiments' → parsimonious. Synonyms: miserly, stingy, penurious. Antonyms: generous, lavish, extravagant.

PERIPHERAL

puh-RIF-er-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Relating to the outer edge; of secondary importance; marginal

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The new policy addressed peripheral concerns while ignoring the central structural problems.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Immigration was a _____ issue in this election — healthcare dominated every debate' → peripheral. Synonyms: marginal, secondary, tangential. Antonyms: central, fundamental, core.

PROVOCATIVE

pruh-VOK-uh-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Causing annoyance, anger, or another strong reaction; stimulating discussion or thought

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her provocative essay argued that universities had become factories for conformist thinking.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ headline was designed to generate clicks, not illuminate facts' → provocative. Synonyms: inflammatory, stimulating, contentious. Antonyms: soothing, inoffensive, bland.

RENOUNCE

rih-NOWNS

■ MEANING

(v.) To formally give up or refuse a right, title, or claim; to disown

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He renounced his citizenship in protest against the government's foreign policy decisions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The activist _____ her membership in the organization after its ethical violations became public' → renounced. Synonyms: relinquish, abdicate, abjure. Antonyms: claim, embrace, accept.

TEMPESTUOUS

tem-PES-choo-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Very stormy; characterized by strong, turbulent emotion; violently agitated

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Their tempestuous relationship — alternating between passionate reconciliation and explosive argument — exhausted everyone who knew them.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ political climate made any consensus impossible' → tempestuous. Synonyms: turbulent, stormy, volatile. Antonyms: calm, peaceful, tranquil.

TENABLE

TEN-uh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Able to be maintained or defended against objection; reasonable; defensible

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

In light of the new evidence, the original hypothesis was no longer tenable.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The theory is not _____ given the contradicting findings from three independent labs' → tenable. Synonyms: defensible, reasonable, viable. Antonyms: untenable, indefensible, unreasonable.

TRANSGRESSION

trans-GRESH-un

■ MEANING

(n.) An act that goes against a law, rule, or code of conduct; an offense

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The minor transgression — arriving five minutes late — was treated as though he had committed a serious crime.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Every _____ was documented and used against him at the performance review' → transgression. Synonyms: offense, violation, infraction. Antonyms: compliance, observance, adherence.

URBANE

ur-BAYN

■ MEANING

(adj.) Suave, courteous, and sophisticated in manner; having polished manners

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The urbane diplomat handled every awkward social situation with perfect grace and subtle wit.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ manner — impeccable clothing, easy conversation, cultured references — charmed every room' → urbane. Synonyms: sophisticated, suave, refined. Antonyms: boorish, uncouth, provincial.

VERISIMILITUDE

ver-ih-sih-MIL-ih-tood

■ MEANING

(n.) The appearance of being true or real; believability; plausibility

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The historical novel's verisimilitude — accurate costumes, period slang, real locations — made it feel like a documentary.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The simulator's _____ was so high that pilots trained in it performed as well as those with real flight hours' → verisimilitude. Synonyms: realism, plausibility, authenticity. Antonyms: implausibility, artificiality.

VITiate

VISH-ee-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To impair the quality or efficiency of; to destroy or weaken; to make legally void

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The single flaw in the methodology vitiated the entire study's conclusions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The tainted evidence _____ the prosecution's case entirely' → vitiated. Synonyms: impair, undermine, invalidate. Antonyms: strengthen, uphold, validate.

GROUP 13

29 words

AFFINITY

uh-FIN-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) A natural liking or attraction; a similarity of characteristics; a close relationship

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She felt an immediate affinity with the painter's work — it seemed to capture emotions she had no words for.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The two scientists developed a natural _____ based on shared research interests and compatible temperaments' → affinity. Synonyms: liking, attraction, kinship. Antonyms: antipathy, aversion, repulsion.

ALTRUISTIC

al-troo-IS-tik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her altruistic decision to donate her kidney to a stranger profoundly moved the medical community.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ motives were evident — he never sought personal recognition for his charitable work' → altruistic. Synonyms: selfless, philanthropic, benevolent. Antonyms: selfish, self-interested, mercenary.

BAROQUE

buh-ROKE

■ MEANING

(adj.) Elaborately ornamented; extravagantly complex; relating to the baroque art period

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His baroque prose style — endless sub-clauses, ornate metaphors, and classical allusions — exhausted most readers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ architecture of the palace, with its gilded ceilings and carved columns, overwhelmed the senses' → baroque. Synonyms: ornate, elaborate, flamboyant. Antonyms: plain, austere, minimalist.

BYZANTINE

BIZ-en-teen

■ MEANING

(adj.) Excessively complicated; involving intricate scheming; characteristic of elaborate complexity

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The byzantine tax code was so complex that even professional accountants routinely made errors.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ rules governing health insurance claims discouraged many eligible people from applying' → byzantine. Synonyms: complex, convoluted, intricate. Antonyms: simple, transparent, straightforward.

COMPROMISE

KOM-pruh-myz

■ MEANING

(v./n.) To settle by mutual concession; to expose to risk; a middle-ground agreement

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Both sides eventually compromised, each yielding on one key demand to preserve the broader deal.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The investigation _____ the security of the entire network' → compromised (endangered). Note: GRE uses both senses: settle by agreement AND weaken/endanger.

CONCILIATORY

kun-SIL-ee-uh-tor-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Intended to placate or make less hostile; intended to end disagreement

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The conciliatory tone of his second letter — warm, apologetic, and flexible — opened the door to reconciliation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ approach during the negotiations prevented a complete breakdown' → conciliatory. Synonyms: placating, appeasing, pacific. Antonyms: antagonistic, combative, hostile.

COUNTENANCE

KOWN-tuh-nens

■ MEANING

(v.) To admit as acceptable; to permit or tolerate; (n.) a person's face or facial expression

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The administration refused to countenance any discussion of immigration reform during the first term.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She could not _____ the mistreatment of employees and immediately reported it to HR' → countenance. Synonyms: tolerate, permit, endorse. Antonyms: prohibit, forbid, condemn.

COVERT

KOH-vert

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not openly acknowledged or displayed; secret; hidden

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The covert operation ran for five years before a single agent was aware other cells existed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ surveillance program collected data on millions of citizens without their knowledge' → covert. Synonyms: secret, clandestine, hidden. Antonyms: overt, open, public.

CREDIBLE

KRED-ih-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Able to be believed; trustworthy; convincing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Without a credible witness or physical evidence, the case would not survive cross-examination.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The scientist presented a _____ alternative theory backed by three independent datasets' → credible. Synonyms: believable, plausible, trustworthy. Antonyms: implausible, dubious, untrustworthy.

DIFFUSE

dih-FYOOOS (adj.) / dih-FYOOZ (v.)

■ MEANING

(adj.) Spread out over a large area; not clearly focused; (v.) to spread widely

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The diffuse lighting in the studio eliminated harsh shadows and created a flattering effect.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The argument was so _____ it was hard to identify a central thesis' → diffuse. Synonyms: spread out, scattered, unfocused. Antonyms: concentrated, focused, dense.

DOCUMENTARY

dok-yuh-MEN-tuh-ree

■ MEANING

(adj.) Based on or consisting of official documents; factual rather than fictional

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The documentary evidence — invoices, emails, and contracts — established the fraud beyond reasonable doubt.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ record of the negotiations was incomplete, with key meetings unminuted' → documentary. Synonyms: factual, recorded, evidential. Antonyms: fictional, fabricated, anecdotal.

EXHAUSTIVE

ig-ZAW-stiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Including or considering all elements; thorough; comprehensive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The exhaustive review of 5,000 clinical trials took three years and produced a definitive meta-analysis.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Despite an _____ search of the archive, no record of the meeting was found' → exhaustive. Synonyms: comprehensive, thorough, complete. Antonyms: cursory, superficial, incomplete.

EXTRANEOUS

ek-STRAY-nee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Irrelevant or unrelated to the matter at hand; not belonging to a thing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The editor removed several extraneous paragraphs that interesting though they were, disrupted the essay's argument.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ details in the report obscured rather than supported the central finding' → extraneous. Synonyms: irrelevant, superfluous, tangential. Antonyms: relevant, essential, pertinent.

FERVOR

FUR-ver

■ MEANING

(n.) Intense and passionate feeling; ardor; zeal

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The crowd cheered with a fervor that rattled the windows of buildings three streets away.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ for social justice was evident in every speech and every policy she championed' → fervor. Synonyms: passion, ardor, zeal. Antonyms: indifference, apathy, coolness.

FUTILE

FYOO-til

■ MEANING

(adj.) Producing no useful result; pointless; incapable of producing success

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Every attempt to restart the engine proved futile — the battery was completely dead.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ effort to negotiate with the intractable regime was eventually abandoned' → futile. Synonyms: useless, pointless, fruitless. Antonyms: effective, productive, fruitful.

ILLUSORY

ih-LOO-suh-ree

■ MEANING

(adj.) Based on illusion; not what it seems; deceptive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The profits were illusory — the company had been borrowing to fund operations and disguising debt.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The sense of security offered by the policy was entirely _____' → illusory. Synonyms: deceptive, false, misleading. Antonyms: genuine, real, actual.

INVIDIOUS

in-VID-ee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Likely to cause resentment or anger; unfairly discriminating; offensive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Making invidious comparisons between siblings — naming one the smart one and the other the funny one — creates lasting damage.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The award process made _____ distinctions that demoralized teams that weren't selected' → invidious. Synonyms: unfair, discriminatory, offensive. Antonyms: fair, impartial, inoffensive.

LETHARGIC

luh-THAR-jik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Affected by lethargy; sluggish and apathetic; lacking energy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After three nights of poor sleep, she felt lethargic all day, unable to concentrate on even simple tasks.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ economy showed none of the dynamism that had characterized it a decade earlier' → lethargic. Synonyms: sluggish, listless, torpid. Antonyms: energetic, vibrant, dynamic.

METAPHORICAL

met-uh-FOR-ih-kul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not literally true but using a figure of speech to describe something

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

When she said the meeting was 'pulling teeth,' her complaint was entirely metaphorical — just very tedious.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His description of the market as a 'living organism' was _____, not biological' → metaphorical. Synonyms: figurative, symbolic, allegorical. Antonyms: literal, direct, explicit.

MIMIC

MIM-ik

■ MEANING

(v.) To imitate closely; to copy; (n.) one who imitates

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The young actor mimicked the star's mannerisms so perfectly that audiences laughed at every gesture.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The software was designed to _____ human speech patterns well enough to fool a casual listener' → mimic. Synonyms: imitate, ape, emulate. Antonyms: originate, create, innovate.

NUMINOUS

NOO-muh-nus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having a mysterious, spiritual quality; evoking a sense of the divine or the sublime

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The cathedral's numinous interior — vast, dark, and filled with candlelight — produced a feeling of awe.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ landscape of the Himalayas inspired the kind of reverence usually reserved for cathedrals' → numinous. Synonyms: spiritual, transcendent, sublime. Antonyms: mundane, ordinary, profane.

OBSCURE

ob-SKYOOR

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not discovered or known about; hard to understand; unclear; (v.) to make unclear

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His brilliant early films were obscure outside academic circles until a retrospective brought them new attention.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The technical jargon _____ rather than clarified the author's argument' → obscured. Synonyms: unknown, unclear, vague. Antonyms: well-known, clear, prominent.

OVERT

oh-VURT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Done openly; not concealed or secret; manifest

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The overt hostility between the two delegations made productive negotiations unlikely from the outset.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The bias was not _____ — it operated through subtle assumptions, not explicit statements' → overt. Synonyms: open, obvious, explicit. Antonyms: covert, hidden, concealed.

PELLUCID

puh-LOO-sid

■ MEANING

(adj.) Translucently clear; easily understood; lucid

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her pellucid explanation of the theory made it accessible to first-year students without sacrificing depth.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ prose of the essay guided readers through complex ideas without a moment of confusion' → pellucid. Synonyms: clear, lucid, transparent. Antonyms: murky, opaque, confused.

PERPETUATE

per-PECH-oo-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To cause to continue indefinitely; to make permanent; to preserve

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Stereotypes perpetuate inequality by shaping expectations before individuals even get to demonstrate their abilities.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The system _____ poverty by denying opportunities to those born in the wrong zip code' → perpetuated. Synonyms: maintain, sustain, preserve. Antonyms: end, stop, eliminate.

RATIONAL

RASH-un-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Based on reason and logic; having sound judgment; sensible

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A rational analysis of the data suggests the policy will have the opposite of its intended effect.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ decision was to wait for more evidence before committing resources' → rational. Synonyms: logical, reasonable, sensible. Antonyms: irrational, illogical, impulsive.

SCATHING

SKAY-thing

■ MEANING

(adj.) Severely critical; withering; bitterly harsh

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The scathing review called the novel 'a monument to wasted potential' and 'a chore from first page to last.'

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ editorial accused the government of deliberate deception at every level' → scathing. Synonyms: withering, caustic, devastating. Antonyms: complimentary, gentle, praising.

SUBTLE

SUT-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) So delicate or precise as to be difficult to analyze; making fine distinctions; not obvious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The subtle shift in her tone — barely perceptible — signaled that the negotiation had entered a new phase.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ irony of the poem rewards careful reading but escapes those seeking obvious effects' → subtle. Synonyms: understated, refined, nuanced. Antonyms: obvious, blunt, blatant.

SUPERFICIAL

soo-per-FISH-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Appearing to be true but not necessarily so; existing only at the surface; shallow

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A superficial reading of the policy misses the important exceptions buried in the appendices.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ resemblance between the two theories concealed fundamental differences in assumption' → superficial. Synonyms: shallow, cursory, surface-level. Antonyms: thorough, profound, deep.

GROUP 14

29 words

ACQUIESCE

ak-wee-ES

■ MEANING

(v.) To accept without protest; to agree or comply passively

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Rather than argue with the powerful board, she acquiesced to changes she privately believed were wrong.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'He _____ to the demands rather than endure another round of confrontation' → acquiesced. Synonyms: comply, consent, yield. Antonyms: resist, refuse, defy.

ADROIT

uh-DROYT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Clever or skillful in using one's hands or mind; dexterous; expert

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The adroit negotiator had secured the best possible terms for the client without the other side realizing they had conceded so much.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ handling of the crisis prevented a minor incident from becoming a major scandal' → adroit. Synonyms: skillful, deft, dexterous. Antonyms: clumsy, inept, awkward.

AMEND

uh-MEND

■ MEANING

(v.) To make minor changes to improve or correct; to alter formally

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Congress voted to amend the constitution for the first time in 35 years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The committee _____ the bill to include greater protections for low-income families' → amended. Synonyms: revise, modify, correct. Antonyms: maintain, retain, leave unchanged.

ANIMUS

AN-ih-mus

■ MEANING

(n.) Hostility or ill feeling; a strong dislike or enmity

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her animus toward the rival department was evident in every meeting where their budgets were discussed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The long-standing _____ between the families made the merger deeply uncomfortable for both sides' → animus. Synonyms: hostility, antagonism, ill will. Antonyms: goodwill, affection, amity.

APOLOGIST

uh-POL-uh-jist

■ MEANING

(n.) A person who defends or justifies a controversial position; one who argues in defense of something

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He had become an apologist for the regime, rationalizing its abuses as necessary for stability.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The columnist served as an _____ for policies that even their authors struggled to defend' → apologist. Synonyms: defender, advocate, champion. Antonyms: critic, opponent, detractor.

ASTRINGENT

uh-STRIN-jent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Severe or harsh; causing a strong or shrinking sensation; sharply critical

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The astringent review praised the book's ambition but mercilessly catalogued every structural failure.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ wit left audiences simultaneously laughing and stinging' → astringent. Synonyms: harsh, caustic, severe. Antonyms: mild, gentle, soothing.

COLLABORATE

kuh-LAB-uh-rayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To work jointly with others; to cooperate in producing something

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The two labs collaborated across three continents to produce the most comprehensive climate model ever built.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The departments were encouraged to _____ rather than compete for the same research budget' → collaborate. Synonyms: cooperate, partner, work jointly. Antonyms: compete, work independently.

COMPETENT

KOM-puh-tent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having the necessary ability; adequate for the purpose; meeting requirements

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The engineer was highly competent — reliable, methodical, and skilled in exactly the areas the project needed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'A _____ reviewer would catch such errors immediately' → competent. Synonyms: capable, proficient, skilled. Antonyms: incompetent, inept, unqualified.

CORRELATE

KOR-uh-layt

■ MEANING

(v.) To have a mutual relationship; to establish a causal or complementary relationship

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The study found that test scores correlated closely with household income, raising questions of equity.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Higher exercise frequency _____ with lower rates of depression in the study population' → correlated. Synonyms: relate, correspond, associate. Antonyms: be unrelated, diverge.

DERIDE

dih-RYD

■ MEANING

(v.) To express contempt for; to ridicule or mock

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Critics derided the novel as pretentious and self-indulgent, though the public bought three million copies.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The plan was _____ by experts who considered it naive and politically unworkable' → derided. Synonyms: mock, ridicule, scoff. Antonyms: praise, applaud, commend.

DICTATE

DIK-tayt (v.) / DIK-tayt (n.)

■ MEANING

(v.) To control; to lay down authoritatively; to speak for transcription; (n.) an order

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Circumstances dictated a change in strategy — the original plan was simply unworkable.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Market conditions _____ that the company must cut costs or face bankruptcy' → dictated. Synonyms: command, prescribe, control. Antonyms: suggest, request, defer.

DISCREET

dih-SKREET

■ MEANING

(adj.) Careful and circumspect in speech or actions; showing good judgment; tactful

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The lawyer's discreet handling of the sensitive matter ensured no information reached the press.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'A _____ inquiry confirmed the rumor without alerting the parties involved' → discreet. Don't confuse with DISCRETE (separate, distinct). Synonyms: tactful, judicious, prudent. Antonyms: indiscreet, tactless, rash.

DIVORCED

dih-VORST

■ MEANING

(adj.) Separated or distanced from; having no connection to; isolated from

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The government's policy appeared divorced from the economic reality faced by ordinary workers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His theoretical model was entirely _____ from the empirical data gathered in the field' → divorced. Synonyms: detached, separated, disconnected. Antonyms: connected, integrated, aligned.

ELITIST

ih-LEE-tist

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Believing in or favoring a society governed by a select group; dismissive of others as inferior

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The admissions policy was criticized as elitist — consistently favoring applicants from private schools.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ attitude of the cultural establishment excluded working-class voices from serious critical discourse' → elitist. Synonyms: exclusive, snobbish, privileged. Antonyms: egalitarian, inclusive, democratic.

EXACTING

ig-ZAK-ting

■ MEANING

(adj.) Making great demands; requiring precise detail and great care; rigorous

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her exacting standards meant every manuscript was revised at least six times before submission.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ requirements of the certification process deterred all but the most committed candidates' → exacting. Synonyms: demanding, rigorous, meticulous. Antonyms: lenient, lax, undemanding.

FLUMMOXED

FLUM-uxt

■ MEANING

(adj.) Bewildered or perplexed; utterly confused

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The flummoxed student stared at the equation for 10 minutes before admitting she had no idea where to begin.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ committee had no idea how to respond to the unprecedented request' → flummoxed. Synonyms: bewildered, perplexed, baffled. Antonyms: confident, certain, clear-headed.

FRUITFUL

FROOT-ful

■ MEANING

(adj.) Producing good results; productive; profitable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Their collaboration proved fruitful — together they published 12 papers in three years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The long negotiation was finally _____, resulting in a landmark trade agreement' → fruitful. Synonyms: productive, profitable, rewarding. Antonyms: futile, fruitless, unproductive.

INBORN

IN-born

■ MEANING

(adj.) Existing from birth; innate; natural

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Whether talent is inborn or developed through practice is a question that divides educators and researchers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ aptitude for language meant she was fluent in four by age 12' → inborn. Synonyms: innate, natural, inherent. Antonyms: acquired, learned, cultivated.

POLYMATH

POL-ee-math

■ MEANING

(n.) A person of wide knowledge or learning; one expert in many fields

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Leonardo da Vinci remains history's most celebrated polymath — artist, scientist, engineer, and anatomist.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ contributed to physics, philosophy, and economics with equal distinction' → polymath. Synonyms: Renaissance person, generalist, polyhistor. Antonyms: specialist, expert in one field.

RETICENT

RET-ih-sent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not revealing one's thoughts or feelings readily; reserved; restrained

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The reticent witness answered every question with the minimum number of words possible.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The scientist was _____ about making predictions, preferring to wait for more data' → reticent. Synonyms: reserved, taciturn, uncommunicative. Antonyms: forthcoming, garrulous, communicative.

STRINGENT

STRIN-jent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Strict, precise, and demanding; requiring strict compliance

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The stringent testing protocol ensured that no product reached the market without passing 22 separate checks.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ safety regulations required monthly inspections and quarterly audits' → stringent. Synonyms: rigorous, strict, severe. Antonyms: lax, lenient, permissive.

SUBSERVIENT

sub-SUR-vee-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Prepared to obey others unquestioningly; servile; less important; subordinate

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The subservient assistant agreed with every opinion the partner expressed, never offering independent analysis.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The press became _____ to political power, abandoning its role as critic' → subservient. Synonyms: servile, obsequious, subordinate. Antonyms: assertive, dominant, independent.

SURREPTITIOUS

sur-up-TISH-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Kept secret, especially because it would not be approved of; stealthy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The journalist's surreptitious recording of the private meeting became the centerpiece of her expose.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ transfer of funds went undetected for three years' → surreptitious. Synonyms: covert, clandestine, furtive. Antonyms: overt, open, transparent.

TANTALIZING

TAN-tuh-lyz-ing

■ MEANING

(adj.) Exciting desire or interest without satisfying it; temptingly within reach but just out of grasp

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The tantalizing aroma from the bakery drew passersby in off the street despite their best intentions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The manuscript offered _____ glimpses of the author's full theory, but never revealed it completely' → tantalizing. Synonyms: teasing, enticing, tempting. Antonyms: repellent, unsatisfying, disappointing.

TANTAMOUNT

TAN-tuh-mownt

■ MEANING

(adj.) Equivalent in seriousness to; amounting to the same thing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

In his view, any compromise on the issue was tantamount to admitting defeat.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Silence in this context is _____ to consent' → tantamount. Synonyms: equivalent to, equal to, comparable to. Antonyms: different from, unrelated to.

TORPOR

TOR-per

■ MEANING

(n.) A state of physical or mental inactivity; lethargy; sluggishness

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The torpor of the long winter months was broken dramatically when a new opportunity arrived in March.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The economy remained in a state of _____, with growth flat and unemployment stubbornly high' → torpor. Synonyms: lethargy, apathy, sluggishness. Antonyms: energy, vigor, dynamism.

TRENCHANT

TREN-chent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Vigorous or incisive in expression; sharp; penetrating; clear-cut

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His trenchant criticism of the policy identified its flaws so precisely that its authors couldn't mount a coherent defense.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ editorial demolished the government's economic argument in three succinct paragraphs' → trenchant.
Synonyms: incisive, cutting, penetrating. Antonyms: vague, weak, equivocal.

VERSATILE

VUR-suh-til

■ MEANING

(adj.) Able to adapt to many different functions; having many uses or abilities

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A versatile midfielder who could play four different positions made her one of the most valuable players on the team.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ material can be used in construction, medicine, and electronics' → versatile. Synonyms: adaptable, multifaceted, flexible. Antonyms: limited, specialized, rigid.

WAYWARD

WAY-werd

■ MEANING

(adj.) Difficult to control due to unpredictable behavior; going one's own way against advice

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The wayward student ignored all guidance, cutting classes and pursuing an unsanctioned research project that eventually won a national prize.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ behavior — unpredictable, self-directed, and indifferent to rules — alarmed his supervisors' → wayward.
Synonyms: erratic, unruly, headstrong. Antonyms: obedient, compliant, predictable.

GROUP 15

30 words

ALIENATE

AY-lee-uh-nayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To make someone feel isolated or estranged; to lose goodwill or support of

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His blunt management style alienated his most creative team members, all of whom resigned within a year.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The policy _____ the very voters it was supposed to win over' → alienated. Synonyms: estrange, isolate, distance. Antonyms: attract, endear, reconcile.

APATHY

AP-uh-thee

■ MEANING

(n.) Lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern; indifference

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Voter apathy reached record levels when turnout fell below 30% in the local elections.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Public _____ toward the corruption scandal was more troubling than outrage would have been' → apathy. Synonyms: indifference, lethargy, disinterest. Antonyms: enthusiasm, passion, concern.

APROPOS

ap-ruh-POH

■ MEANING

(adj./adv.) Very appropriate to a particular situation; with reference to; (prep.) regarding

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her comment about the importance of listening was particularly apropos given that no one had been doing so.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The anecdote was entirely _____ — it perfectly illustrated the point the speaker was making' → apropos. Synonyms: appropriate, fitting, pertinent. Antonyms: irrelevant, inapt, inappropriate.

APT

APT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Appropriate or suitable in the circumstances; quick to learn; likely or liable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her apt choice of metaphor — war as a chess game — crystallized the entire argument in one image.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ description captured the mood of the era more precisely than a lengthy historical account' → apt. Synonyms: appropriate, fitting, suitable. Antonyms: inapt, inappropriate, unsuitable.

CLOAK

KLOHK

■ MEANING

(v.) To hide or disguise; to conceal; (n.) something used for concealment

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The bureaucratic language of the report cloaked the severity of the funding cuts.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His cheerful exterior _____ a deep anxiety about the upcoming trial' → cloaked. Synonyms: conceal, disguise, mask. Antonyms: reveal, expose, uncover.

CONSENSUS

kun-SEN-sus

■ MEANING

(n.) General agreement among a group; collective opinion

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Scientists have reached a strong consensus that the planet is warming due to human activity.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Building _____ among the fractious committee required months of private negotiations' → consensus. Synonyms: agreement, accord, unanimity. Antonyms: disagreement, discord, dissent.

DISTORT

dih-STORT

■ MEANING

(v.) To give a misleading account of; to pull out of shape; to misrepresent

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The editorial board was accused of distorting the statistics to support a predetermined conclusion.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The lens _____ the image, making the subject appear wider than he actually was' → distorted. Synonyms: misrepresent, warp, falsify. Antonyms: clarify, accurately represent, correct.

DIVERGENT

dih-VUR-jent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Tending to be different or to develop in a different direction; deviating

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The two experts offered divergent interpretations of the same data, underscoring how contested the field remains.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Their _____ views on taxation made a coalition government extremely difficult' → divergent. Synonyms: different, conflicting, varying. Antonyms: convergent, aligned, similar.

ELATED

ih-LAY-ted

■ MEANING

(adj.) Ecstatically happy; in high spirits; overjoyed

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was elated when she received the acceptance letter — years of effort had finally paid off.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The team was _____ by the unexpected victory that put them in the finals' → elated. Synonyms: overjoyed, ecstatic, euphoric. Antonyms: despondent, dejected, crestfallen.

ENCHANT

en-CHANT

■ MEANING

(v.) To fill with great delight; to attract irresistibly; to cast a spell on

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The Venetian city enchanted every first-time visitor with its canals, ancient buildings, and complete absence of cars.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The music _____ the audience, transporting them into a world of pure feeling' → enchanted. Synonyms: captivate, charm, enthrall. Antonyms: repel, bore, disenchant.

ENTRENCHED

en-TRENCHT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Firmly established and difficult to change; protected by trenches in warfare

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Gender bias in hiring is so entrenched that even organizations genuinely committed to change struggle to address it.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ bureaucracy resisted every reform proposed over 30 years' → entrenched. Synonyms: established, ingrained, deep-rooted. Antonyms: new, flexible, malleable.

EXOTIC

ig-ZOT-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Originating from a distant foreign country; unusual; attractively strange

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The market was filled with exotic spices and textiles that she had never seen in any domestic shop.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ landscape of the volcanic island was unlike anything the tourists had imagined' → exotic. Synonyms: foreign, unusual, unfamiliar. Antonyms: familiar, local, ordinary.

EXPLOITATIVE

ik-SPLOY-tuh-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Using someone unfairly for one's own advantage; taking advantage of others

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The exploitative employment contracts offered zero hours and no benefits, with all risk shifted to workers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ pricing structure charged the most vulnerable users the highest rates' → exploitative. Synonyms: predatory, opportunistic, abusive. Antonyms: fair, equitable, generous.

FORESEEABLE

for-SEE-uh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Able to be predicted or anticipated; visible in advance

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

For the foreseeable future, remote work will remain a standard option in most knowledge industries.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The consequences of the decision were entirely _____ — anyone paying attention could have predicted them' → foreseeable. Synonyms: predictable, anticipated, expected. Antonyms: unforeseeable, unpredictable, unexpected.

FORSAKE

for-SAYK

■ MEANING

(v.) To abandon; to give up or renounce; to desert

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She forsook the career in finance to pursue the photography she had loved since childhood.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He _____ his principles for personal gain, a decision that haunted him for decades' → forsook. Synonyms: abandon, desert, renounce. Antonyms: uphold, maintain, cling to.

GRATIFY

GRAT-ih-fy

■ MEANING

(v.) To give pleasure to; to satisfy a desire; to please

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The standing ovation gratified the composer, whose work had been neglected for most of his career.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'It _____ her to see the student she had mentored become a leading expert in the field' → gratified. Synonyms: please, satisfy, delight. Antonyms: disappoint, displease, frustrate.

HEED

HEED

■ MEANING

(v.) To pay careful attention to; to take notice of; (n.) careful attention

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She failed to heed the warning signs and drove the car despite the check-engine light flashing.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He paid no _____ to the advice of his lawyers and proceeded anyway' → heed. Synonyms: attend to, regard, consider. Antonyms: ignore, disregard, overlook.

JUDICIOUS

joo-DISH-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing good judgment; prudent; sensible

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The judicious investor waited three months before committing, correctly predicting that the price would fall further.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'A _____ allocation of resources — prioritizing essentials over luxuries — kept the project solvent' → judicious. Synonyms: wise, prudent, discerning. Antonyms: rash, unwise, imprudent.

LUCID

LOO-sid

■ MEANING

(adj.) Expressed clearly; easy to understand; mentally clear; rational

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Even at 90, her mind remained lucid — she could recount events from 70 years ago with precision.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ explanation made the most complex aspects of quantum theory comprehensible to non-specialists' → lucid. Synonyms: clear, intelligible, transparent. Antonyms: confused, opaque, murky.

PERTINENT

PUR-tuh-nent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Relevant or applicable to a particular matter; appropriate

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The attorney raised a pertinent objection that the prosecution had not anticipated.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Only _____ evidence was admitted; tangential material was excluded from the record' → pertinent. Synonyms: relevant, applicable, germane. Antonyms: irrelevant, extraneous, immaterial.

PROPRIETY

pruh-PRY-uh-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) Conformity to accepted standards of behavior; correctness; appropriateness

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The diplomat questioned the propriety of holding the summit in a country with an ongoing human rights crisis.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He conducted himself with impeccable _____, never once stepping outside the bounds of formal protocol' → propriety. Synonyms: decorum, etiquette, correctness. Antonyms: impropriety, vulgarity, indecency.

SCINTILLATING

SIN-tuh-lay-ting

■ MEANING

(adj.) Sparkling; brilliantly clever; impressively vivid and dazzling

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her scintillating performance — witty, precise, and devastatingly original — electrified the audience.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ debate was one of the most intellectually stimulating events in the university's history' → scintillating. Synonyms: brilliant, sparkling, dazzling. Antonyms: dull, tedious, banal.

SENSATIONAL

sen-SAY-shun-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Causing great public interest or excitement; presenting information in a dramatic way; exaggerated

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The sensational headline overstated the findings of a modest study into coffee's effects on concentration.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ coverage of the trial prioritized drama over accuracy' → sensational. Synonyms: dramatic, exaggerated, lurid. Antonyms: understated, sober, measured.

SOPHISTICATED

suh-FIS-tuh-kay-ted

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having a refined knowledge of the world; complex; developed to a high degree

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The algorithm was sophisticated enough to detect fraud patterns invisible to human analysts.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ argument required readers to hold several complex ideas simultaneously' → sophisticated. Synonyms: complex, refined, nuanced. Antonyms: naive, simple, crude.

STRIFE

STRYF

■ MEANING

(n.) Bitter, often violent conflict or disagreement; angry or violent struggle

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Years of political strife had left the country economically stagnant and its institutions discredited.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The region was torn by _____ as ethnic groups competed for diminishing resources' → strife. Synonyms: conflict, discord, turmoil. Antonyms: peace, harmony, concord.

UNDERSTATED

un-der-STAY-ted

■ MEANING

(adj.) Expressed or presented with less than the real truth; not exaggerated; subtly effective

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her understated delivery — quiet, measured, unhurried — made the devastating punchline all the more powerful.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ design of the museum let the art speak without competing for attention' → understated. Synonyms: subtle, restrained, muted. Antonyms: exaggerated, ostentatious, flamboyant.

UNSCRUPULOUS

un-SKROO-pyuh-lus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing no moral principles; not honest; devious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The unscrupulous broker sold his clients investments he knew were worthless, taking substantial commissions on each.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ contractor used substandard materials and falsified the inspection records' → unscrupulous. Synonyms: dishonest, unprincipled, corrupt. Antonyms: principled, honest, ethical.

VERACITY

vuh-RAS-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) Habitual observance of truth; truthfulness; accuracy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The reporter's veracity was above question — she had never published an unverified claim.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ of the witness was crucial — if she lied, the entire case collapsed' → veracity. Synonyms: truthfulness, honesty, accuracy. Antonyms: dishonesty, mendacity, falsehood.

VIRULENT

VIR-yuh-lent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Extremely severe or harmful; bitterly hostile; intensely infectious

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The virulent strain spread across three continents within weeks, overwhelming health systems globally.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ criticism of the policy was so extreme it undermined the legitimate concerns it raised' → virulent.
Synonyms: aggressive, toxic, caustic. Antonyms: mild, benign, moderate.

VOLATILE

VOL-uh-til

■ MEANING

(adj.) Liable to change rapidly and unpredictably; explosive; evaporating quickly

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The volatile political situation made long-term investment in the region extremely risky.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ relationship — passionate one day, hostile the next — exhausted everyone involved' → volatile.
Synonyms: unpredictable, unstable, mercurial. Antonyms: stable, predictable, consistent.

GROUP 16

30 words

ANTEDATE

AN-tee-dayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To precede in time; to assign a date earlier than the actual date

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Cave paintings in the region antedate any known written language by 20,000 years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The inscription _____ the known founding of the city, challenging the accepted historical timeline' → antedates.
Synonyms: precede, predate, come before. Antonyms: follow, postdate, come after.

BANISH

BAN-ish

■ MEANING

(v.) To send away from a country or place as punishment; to drive away; to dismiss

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After the coup, dozens of artists were banished for their political sympathies.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The new management sought to _____ the culture of complacency that had set in over years' → banish. Synonyms: exile, expel, ostracize. Antonyms: welcome, accept, restore.

BRIDLE

BRY-dul

■ MEANING

(v.) To show one's resentment; to control or restrain; (n.) the headgear of a horse

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She bridled at the suggestion that her research was derivative, defending it with quiet intensity.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He _____ at being treated as a subordinate after years of independent leadership' → bridled. Synonyms: bristle, restrain, check. Antonyms: accept calmly, ignore, suppress reaction.

COMPLY

kum-PLY

■ MEANING

(v.) To act in accordance with a wish, command, or rule; to obey

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

All employees were required to comply with the new data security protocol within 30 days.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Failure to _____ with the regulation within the deadline would result in a fine' → comply. Synonyms: conform, obey, adhere. Antonyms: defy, disobey, resist.

CURTAIL

kur-TAYL

■ MEANING

(v.) To reduce in extent or quantity; to impose a restriction on; to cut short

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Budget cuts forced the organization to curtail its most ambitious international programs.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The curfew was designed to _____ the violence that had been occurring after midnight' → curtail. Synonyms: reduce, restrict, limit. Antonyms: expand, extend, increase.

ELUCIDATE

ih-LOO-suh-dayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To make clear; to explain; to shed light on

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The professor elucidated the paradox with such clarity that students wondered how it had ever seemed confusing.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The diagram helped to _____ the relationship between the variables' → elucidate. Synonyms: clarify, explain, illuminate. Antonyms: obscure, confuse, obfuscate.

EVADE

ih-VAYD

■ MEANING

(v.) To avoid or escape by cunning; to fail to address directly; to elude

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The official evaded every direct question, deflecting to statistics and abstract principles.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She _____ the most important question in the interview by pivoting to an unrelated issue' → evaded. Synonyms: avoid, circumvent, dodge. Antonyms: confront, address, face.

FECKLESS

FEK-les

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lacking initiative or strength of character; irresponsible; ineffective

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The feckless bureaucracy watched the crisis unfold for months before issuing a single directive.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ response to the emergency — vague memos and committee meetings — cost lives' → feckless. Synonyms: ineffectual, irresponsible, helpless. Antonyms: effective, capable, resolute.

FESTER

FES-ter

■ MEANING

(v.) To become worse or more intense over time; to become infected; to cause bitterness

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The unresolved dispute festered for years until it exploded into a full corporate crisis.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Resentments that are not addressed tend to _____ over time' → fester. Synonyms: rankle, worsen, smolder. Antonyms: heal, resolve, dissipate.

ICONOCLASTIC

y-kon-uh-KLAS-tik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Attacking cherished beliefs or revered institutions; challenging established norms

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His iconoclastic theory — that the pyramids were built as grain silos — drew ridicule from mainstream archaeologists.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ filmmaker rejected every convention of narrative cinema in her debut feature' → iconoclastic. Synonyms: radical, unorthodox, nonconformist. Antonyms: orthodox, traditional, conventional.

IMMURE

ih-MYOOR

■ MEANING

(v.) To enclose within walls; to imprison; to shut off from the world

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The reclusive author immured herself in her study for six months to finish the final draft.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The monks had _____ themselves in the remote monastery, cutting off contact with the outside world' → immured. Synonyms: confine, imprison, seclude. Antonyms: free, release, liberate.

IMPROVISE

IM-pruh-vyz

■ MEANING

(v.) To create or perform without preparation; to make from available materials

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

When the speaker's notes were lost, she improvised a presentation that colleagues later called the best of her career.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'With no plan and shrinking resources, the team had to _____ constantly' → improvise. Synonyms: extemporize, ad-lib, invent on the spot.

INHIBIT

in-HIB-it

■ MEANING

(v.) To hinder or restrain; to prevent or prohibit; to slow or suppress

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Fear of failure inhibits creativity — people stop experimenting when mistakes are treated as catastrophes.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'High taxes _____ investment by reducing the return on capital' → inhibit. Synonyms: hinder, restrain, suppress. Antonyms: encourage, facilitate, promote.

INSCRUTABLE

in-SKROO-tuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Impossible to understand or interpret; impenetrable; mysterious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The judge maintained an inscrutable expression throughout the trial, revealing nothing of her thinking.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The diplomat's _____ response gave no hint of his country's actual position' → inscrutable. Synonyms: mysterious, enigmatic, unfathomable. Antonyms: transparent, obvious, clear.

LIONIZE

LY-uh-nyz

■ MEANING

(v.) To treat as a celebrity; to give great prominence to; to idolize

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The media lionized the young scientist after her discovery, making her a household name overnight.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The literary world _____ the author after his debut novel won every major prize' → lionized. Synonyms: celebrate, idolize, venerate. Antonyms: vilify, ignore, disparage.

MONOTONOUS

muh-NOT-uh-nus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Dull and lacking variety; tediously uniform in tone or sound

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The monotonous factory work — the same motion repeated thousands of times daily — numbed the mind.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ lecture in a flat tone managed to make even a fascinating topic boring' → monotonous. Synonyms: tedious, repetitive, humdrum. Antonyms: varied, stimulating, lively.

PECULIAR

pih-KYOOL-yur

■ MEANING

(adj.) Strange or odd; particular to a specific person, place, or thing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The region has a peculiar microclimate — fog every morning, sunshine every afternoon, regardless of season.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The behavior was _____ to this population — it had not been observed anywhere else' → peculiar. Synonyms: odd, distinctive, specific. Antonyms: common, ordinary, universal.

PREMEDITATE

prih-MED-ih-tayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To think out or plan an action beforehand; to consider in advance

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The prosecution argued the crime was premeditated — the accused had planned it meticulously over weeks.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ nature of the attack — timed, executed, and covered up — indicated a sophisticated perpetrator' → premeditated. Synonyms: plan, scheme, prearrange. Antonyms: act spontaneously, improvise.

PROFLIGATE

PROF-luh-git

■ MEANING

(adj.) Recklessly extravagant; licentious; dissolute; (n.) a person who spends wastefully

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His profligate spending on private jets and luxury properties while laying off workers drew public outrage.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ use of public funds was condemned in the independent audit' → profligate. Synonyms: wasteful, dissolute, extravagant. Antonyms: frugal, thrifty, virtuous.

RECONCILE

REK-un-syl

■ MEANING

(v.) To restore friendly relations between; to make consistent or compatible; to accept

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

It took decades for the two countries to reconcile after the war, but tourism and trade eventually healed the rift.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'It is difficult to _____ his public generosity with his private cruelty' → reconcile. Synonyms: resolve, harmonize, make compatible. Antonyms: alienate, estrange, conflict.

REFINE

rih-FYN

■ MEANING

(v.) To remove impurities from; to improve by making small changes; to make more elegant

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She refined the argument over three drafts, tightening every paragraph until the logic was airtight.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The scientist _____ her model based on the new data from the most recent expedition' → refined. Synonyms: improve, purify, perfect. Antonyms: coarsen, corrupt, deteriorate.

RELINQUISH

rih-LING-kwish

■ MEANING

(v.) To voluntarily give up; to cease to have or keep; to surrender

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The CEO relinquished control of the company she had founded when her health deteriorated.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He _____ his claim to the inheritance to prevent a family dispute' → relinquished. Synonyms: surrender, abandon, yield. Antonyms: retain, maintain, hold onto.

RUMINATE

ROO-muh-nayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To think deeply and at length about something; to ponder; (of ruminants) to chew cud

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She ruminated for weeks on the decision, turning over every possibility before finally choosing.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He _____ on the failure for months, analyzing every step in the project that had gone wrong' → ruminated. Synonyms: ponder, contemplate, muse. Antonyms: dismiss, ignore, act impulsively.

SKITTISH

SKIT-ish

■ MEANING

(adj.) Easily frightened; nervous and not calm; unpredictable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The skittish market reacted to every news headline, rising or falling by 3% on even minor announcements.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ horse bolted at the slightest sound during the parade' → skittish. Synonyms: nervous, jumpy, unpredictable. Antonyms: calm, steady, placid.

SUPERFLUOUS

soo-PUR-floo-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Unnecessary; more than what is needed; redundant

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The 20-page report contained useful information — but 12 of those pages were superfluous repetition.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ footnotes distracted from rather than supported the central argument' → superfluous. Synonyms: unnecessary, excessive, redundant. Antonyms: essential, necessary, indispensable.

SYNOPTIC

sih-NOP-tik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Forming a general summary or overview; of the same viewpoint

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The synoptic review covered all major findings from the past decade without getting lost in technical detail.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ chart gave managers a bird's-eye view of all active projects simultaneously' → synoptic. Synonyms: summary, comprehensive, overview. Antonyms: detailed, narrow, specialized.

THOROUGH

THUR-oh

■ MEANING

(adj.) Complete with regard to every detail; comprehensive; extremely careful and conscientious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A thorough investigation — interviewing 80 witnesses and reviewing 4,000 documents — took 18 months.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'A _____ analysis of the data revealed patterns that the preliminary report had completely overlooked' → thorough. Synonyms: exhaustive, complete, meticulous. Antonyms: superficial, incomplete, cursory.

UPBRAID

up-BRAYD

■ MEANING

(v.) To find fault with and scold someone; to reproach severely

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The general upbraided the officers publicly for their failure to hold the strategic hill.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She _____ him for recklessness that had endangered not just himself but the entire team' → upbraided. Synonyms: rebuke, reprimand, castigate. Antonyms: praise, commend, applaud.

VISIONARY

VIZH-uh-ner-ee

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Thinking about the future with imagination and wisdom; one with original ideas about the future

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The visionary architect had imagined the green city 30 years before anyone else recognized its importance.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ leadership transformed a struggling startup into a dominant global platform' → visionary. Synonyms: innovative, farsighted, imaginative. Antonyms: shortsighted, unimaginative, conventional.

VOCIFEROUS

voh-SIF-er-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Expressing opinions or feelings loudly and forcibly; clamorous; strident

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Vociferous protests outside the courthouse continued for the entire duration of the trial.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ minority made so much noise that the silent majority was overshadowed' → vociferous. Synonyms: loud, clamorous, strident. Antonyms: quiet, subdued, restrained.

GROUP 17

29 words

ACCLAIM

uh-KLAYM

■ MEANING

(v./n.) To praise enthusiastically and publicly; loud and enthusiastic approval

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The debut novel was acclaimed by critics across the political spectrum for its nuanced portrayal of working-class life.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The architect received international _____ for her innovative design of the new cultural center' → acclaim. Synonyms: praise, applaud, celebrate. Antonyms: criticize, condemn, denounce.

ASCERTAIN

as-er-TAYN

■ MEANING

(v.) To find out for certain; to determine with certainty; to discover

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Investigators worked for months to ascertain the exact cause of the structural failure.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The team sought to _____ whether the medication was effective in a wider population' → ascertain. Synonyms: determine, discover, establish. Antonyms: guess, assume, speculate.

ASSERTIVE

uh-SUR-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing a confident and forceful personality; able to state opinions clearly

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The assertive negotiator secured every concession on the list without raising her voice once.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'An _____ response to the offer — clear, confident, and firm — prevented misunderstanding' → assertive.
Synonyms: confident, forceful, self-assured. Antonyms: timid, passive, diffident.

BOGUS

BOH-gus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not genuine or true; false; counterfeit

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The certificate was bogus — the institution listed on it had never existed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ charity collected millions while providing almost nothing to the causes it claimed to support' → bogus.
Synonyms: fake, fraudulent, spurious. Antonyms: genuine, authentic, legitimate.

CATAclysmic

kat-uh-KLIZ-mik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Of the nature of a sudden and violent upheaval; catastrophic; devastating

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The cataclysmic earthquake leveled entire neighborhoods and left millions homeless overnight.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ collapse of the financial system in 2008 reshaped global economics for a decade' → cataclysmic.
Synonyms: catastrophic, devastating, apocalyptic. Antonyms: minor, inconsequential, beneficial.

CIRCUMSCRIBE

SUR-kum-skryb

■ MEANING

(v.) To restrict within limits; to confine; to draw a line around

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His power was circumscribed by a constitution that required legislative approval for all major decisions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ role of the inspector general limited its ability to investigate the most powerful officials' → circumscribed.
Synonyms: restrict, limit, confine. Antonyms: expand, liberate, broaden.

COMPLEMENTARY

kom-pluh-MEN-tuh-ree

■ MEANING

(adj.) Completing or enhancing each other; working together well; supplying each other's lack

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Their complementary skills made them an ideal partnership — she brought strategy, he brought execution.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The two studies were _____, each addressing the limitations of the other' → complementary. Don't confuse with COMPLIMENTARY (praising or free). Synonyms: completing, compatible, harmonious.

CONTENTIOUS

kun-TEN-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Causing or likely to cause controversy; given to arguing; quarrelsome

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Capital punishment remains the most contentious issue in the country's political debate.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ committee meetings — three members resigned in the first month — delayed every decision' → contentious. Synonyms: controversial, disputatious, combative. Antonyms: uncontroversial, peaceful, agreeable.

DISINGENUOUS

dis-in-JEN-yoo-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not candid or sincere; pretending to know less than one does; insincere

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The company's disingenuous claim to have been unaware of the risks was contradicted by internal memos.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ surprise at the criticism — she had been warned repeatedly — convinced no one' → disingenuous. Synonyms: insincere, deceitful, dishonest. Antonyms: sincere, candid, ingenuous.

DIVULGE

dih-VULJ

■ MEANING

(v.) To make known; to disclose; to reveal private information

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The informant agreed to divulge the names of all contacts in exchange for witness protection.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The journalist refused to _____ her source even under threat of imprisonment' → divulge. Synonyms: disclose, reveal, expose. Antonyms: conceal, withhold, suppress.

DOGMATIC

dog-MAT-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Inclined to lay down principles as incontrovertibly true; rigidly certain; authoritarian

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His dogmatic insistence that only one approach to the problem was valid alienated researchers exploring other avenues.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ adherence to outdated methods prevented the department from adopting new techniques' → dogmatic. Synonyms: rigid, doctrinaire, inflexible. Antonyms: open-minded, flexible, questioning.

FALLACIOUS

fuh-LAY-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Based on a mistaken belief; logically unsound; deceptive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The argument that correlation equals causation is fallacious — it has misled scientists across many fields.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ reasoning of the editorial was exposed by a single counterexample' → fallacious. Synonyms: erroneous, misleading, unsound. Antonyms: valid, sound, logical.

FOOLHARDY

FOOL-har-dee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Recklessly bold or rash; taking risks without considering consequences

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The foolhardy mountaineer ignored the weather warnings and set out alone into the approaching blizzard.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ investment — putting all funds in a single volatile asset — resulted in total loss' → foolhardy. Synonyms: reckless, rash, impetuous. Antonyms: cautious, prudent, circumspect.

HINDER

HIN-der

■ MEANING

(v.) To obstruct or delay the progress of; to impede

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Bureaucratic red tape hindered the relief effort for weeks after the disaster struck.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The regulation _____ innovation by requiring approval for even minor product modifications' → hindered. Synonyms: impede, obstruct, hamper. Antonyms: facilitate, assist, expedite.

IMPAIR

im-PAIR

■ MEANING

(v.) To weaken or damage; to make less effective; to diminish in function

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Alcohol impairs judgment at concentrations well below the legal driving limit.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The injury _____ her ability to perform at the level expected by the national team' → impaired. Synonyms: damage, weaken, diminish. Antonyms: enhance, strengthen, improve.

IMPUGN

im-PYON

■ MEANING

(v.) To dispute the truth, validity, or honesty of something; to call into question

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Defense attorneys sought to impugn the credibility of every witness the prosecution called.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'To _____ a finding this well-supported requires extraordinary counter-evidence' → impugn. Synonyms: challenge, dispute, contradict. Antonyms: confirm, support, affirm.

INCESSANT

in-SES-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Never stopping; continuing without pause or interruption; unceasing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The incessant rain for three weeks flooded basements and overwhelmed storm drains across the city.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ demands from shareholders for short-term returns undermined long-term investment' → incessant. Synonyms: continuous, unrelenting, relentless. Antonyms: intermittent, occasional, sporadic.

INCLINED

in-KLYND

■ MEANING

(adj.) Leaning toward; having a tendency toward; disposed

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was inclined to trust the new proposal but wanted to review the data before committing.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He was _____ to optimism by temperament, often seeing the best in difficult situations' → inclined. Synonyms: disposed, prone, tending toward. Antonyms: averse, disinclined, reluctant.

INVETERATE

in-VET-er-it

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having a habit or practice that is deeply established; firmly settled; confirmed

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The inveterate gambler lost his third fortune with the same reckless optimism as the first two.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'An _____ procrastinator, he had never met a single deadline in 20 years of work' → inveterate. Synonyms: habitual, confirmed, deep-seated. Antonyms: new, reformed, occasional.

MISERLY

MY-zer-lee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Reluctant to spend money; excessively frugal; avaricious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The miserly heir refused to heat the mansion, instead wearing a coat indoors throughout the winter.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ budget allocation — barely enough for basic supplies — showed contempt for the research team' → miserly. Synonyms: stingy, parsimonious, penurious. Antonyms: generous, lavish, munificent.

PATENT

PAY-tent (adj.) / PAT-ent (n.)

■ MEANING

(adj.) Obvious; clearly apparent; plain; (n.) government license for an invention

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The candidate's contradictory answers revealed a patent disregard for factual consistency.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ dishonesty of the response — contradicting documented evidence — ended the debate' → patent. Synonyms: obvious, evident, clear. Antonyms: hidden, subtle, obscure.

PETULANT

PECH-uh-lent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Childishly sulky or bad-tempered; peevish

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The petulant executive stormed out of the meeting when his proposal was questioned.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ response to mild criticism embarrassed his supporters' → petulant. Synonyms: irritable, sulky, querulous. Antonyms: patient, even-tempered, gracious.

PITHY

PITH-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Concise and forcefully expressive; terse but full of substance

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her pithy observation — 'Power is just organized loneliness' — became the most-quoted line of the decade.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ summary captured the essence of the 500-page report in three sentences' → pithy. Synonyms: concise, terse, succinct. Antonyms: verbose, wordy, long-winded.

PLIANT

PLY-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Easily bent or shaped; yielding readily; easily influenced

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The pliant negotiator agreed to every demand, returning home with a contract entirely unfavorable to his side.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ student adopted the views of whoever taught her most recently' → pliant. Synonyms: flexible, malleable, yielding. Antonyms: rigid, stubborn, intractable.

SANCTIMONIOUS

sangk-tuh-MOH-nee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Making a show of being morally superior; self-righteously pious

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His sanctimonious lectures about honesty were undermined by his own record of deception.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ editorial condemned everyone but the publication's own advertisers' → sanctimonious. Synonyms: self-righteous, preachy, smug. Antonyms: humble, sincere, unpretentious.

SOUND

SOWND

■ MEANING

(adj.) Based on valid reasoning; thorough; competent; (v.) to make a noise; (n.) a noise

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The audit confirmed the organization's finances were completely sound — no irregularities anywhere.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The argument is logically _____ — it follows from its premises without error' → sound. In GRE: 'sound reasoning' = valid, reliable, well-founded. Synonyms: valid, reliable, sensible.

TARNISH

TAR-nish

■ MEANING

(v.) To make less bright or lustrous; to damage the reputation of; to sully

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A single poorly handled scandal can tarnish a reputation built over decades.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The revelation _____ his legacy, overshadowing genuine achievements with a final scandal' → tarnished. Synonyms: sully, damage, blemish. Antonyms: polish, enhance, burnish.

TEPID

TEP-id

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lukewarm; showing little enthusiasm; halfhearted

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The tepid applause at the end of his speech suggested the audience remained unconvinced.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ reception from critics — not negative, but unenthusiastic — boded poorly for sales' → tepid. Synonyms: lukewarm, halfhearted, unenthusiastic. Antonyms: enthusiastic, passionate, fervent.

VEXATION

vek-SAY-shun

■ MEANING

(n.) The state of being annoyed or frustrated; something causing irritation

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The constant interruptions caused her visible vexation, which she struggled to conceal during the meeting.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The endless paperwork was a source of _____ for practitioners who felt it pulled them from patient care' → vexation. Synonyms: irritation, annoyance, frustration. Antonyms: satisfaction, pleasure, contentment.

GROUP 18

30 words

ABET

uh-BET

■ MEANING

(v.) To encourage or assist someone to do something wrong; to help in a wrongdoing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The accountant was charged with abetting tax fraud by falsifying the company's financial records.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Knowingly providing tools for the crime makes one liable for _____ the offense' → abetting. Synonyms: assist, facilitate, encourage (in wrongdoing). Antonyms: prevent, obstruct, hinder.

ACCESSIBLE

ak-SES-uh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Easy to approach or reach; easy to understand or use; obtainable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The museum's accessible design — ramps, large print guides, audio tours — welcomed all visitors equally.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The professor's _____ writing style brought difficult philosophical ideas to a general audience' → accessible. Synonyms: approachable, available, understandable. Antonyms: inaccessible, obscure, exclusive.

ACQUISITIVE

uh-KWIZ-ih-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Eager to acquire possessions; materialistic; grasping

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The acquisitive collector purchased every major work at the auction regardless of the price.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ nature led him to accumulate property he had no time to use or enjoy' → acquisitive. Synonyms: greedy, materialistic, covetous. Antonyms: generous, ascetic, indifferent.

AMALGAMATE

uh-MAL-guh-mayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To combine or unite; to merge companies or ideas

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The two failing hospitals amalgamated into a single institution, pooling resources and staff.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The three departments were _____ to eliminate duplication and reduce costs' → amalgamated. Synonyms: merge, combine, consolidate. Antonyms: separate, divide, fragment.

ATTENUATE

uh-TEN-yoo-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To reduce in force, effect, or value; to weaken; to make thin

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Distance and time attenuated the grief, though it never entirely disappeared.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The new treatment _____ the symptoms significantly without eliminating them entirely' → attenuated. Synonyms: weaken, diminish, reduce. Antonyms: amplify, strengthen, intensify.

AUGMENT

awg-MENT

■ MEANING

(v.) To make greater in size or extent; to increase; to supplement

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She augmented her income by teaching evening workshops in addition to her day job.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The grant _____ the laboratory's existing budget by nearly 40%' → augmented. Synonyms: increase, enhance, supplement. Antonyms: reduce, diminish, decrease.

AVERSION

uh-VUR-zhun

■ MEANING

(n.) A strong dislike or disinclination; a feeling of repugnance

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her aversion to conflict made it difficult for her to deliver critical feedback to underperforming employees.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ to risk made him a cautious investor who never lost money but never made a fortune either' → aversion. Synonyms: dislike, repugnance, antipathy. Antonyms: affinity, liking, preference.

BLITHE

BLYTH

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing a casual and cheerful indifference; happy-go-lucky; carefree

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His blithe dismissal of the safety concerns — 'It'll be fine' — unnerved everyone in the room.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ disregard for the consequences of his actions eventually caught up with him' → blithe. Synonyms: carefree, indifferent, nonchalant. Antonyms: anxious, serious, concerned.

CONTEMPT

kun-TEMPT

■ MEANING

(n.) The feeling that a person or thing is beneath regard; disrespect; scorn

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The CEO treated her employees with contempt, publicly humiliating managers who missed targets.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She made no effort to conceal her _____ for the rival firm's shoddy methodology' → contempt. Synonyms: disdain, scorn, disrespect. Antonyms: respect, admiration, reverence.

DAWDLE

DAW-dul

■ MEANING

(v.) To move or act slowly; to take more time than necessary; to waste time

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

They dawdled over breakfast until 11 AM, knowing there was nowhere urgent to be.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He _____ so persistently that every simple task took three times as long as it should' → dawdled. Synonyms: linger, loiter, procrastinate. Antonyms: hurry, speed, rush.

DEFLECT

dih-FLEKT

■ MEANING

(v.) To cause to change direction; to turn aside; to avert attention

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The politician deflected every question about the scandal by praising the work of frontline workers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She skillfully _____ attention from her own shortcomings by focusing on her rival's' → deflected. Synonyms: redirect, divert, avert. Antonyms: confront, address, face.

DISCOUNT

DIS-kownt (v./n.)

■ MEANING

(v.) To regard as unimportant; to reduce the importance of; to deduct from the price

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Scientists caution against discounting data that doesn't fit the prevailing theory.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Critics _____ her early work, later recognizing it as the foundation of her greatest achievements' → discounted. Synonyms: minimize, dismiss, overlook. Antonyms: value, emphasize, consider.

DISSIDENT

DIS-ih-dent

■ MEANING

(n./adj.) A person who opposes official policy; one in disagreement with authority; dissenting

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The dissident writer published her critique of the regime under a pseudonym to avoid arrest.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The regime imprisoned every _____ voice it could identify, silencing legitimate opposition' → dissident. Synonyms: dissenter, rebel, nonconformist. Antonyms: conformist, loyalist, supporter.

EFFICACIOUS

ef-ih-KAY-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Successful in producing a desired or intended result; effective

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The new vaccine proved highly efficacious — 97% of participants developed immunity within two weeks.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The treatment was surprisingly _____, delivering results that exceeded every initial projection' → efficacious. Synonyms: effective, successful, potent. Antonyms: ineffective, futile, useless.

EQUITABLE

EK-wuh-tuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Fair and impartial; treating everyone with equal fairness

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

An equitable distribution of resources would consider need, not just equal per-capita allocation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ solution gave each party what it needed most, even if the total shares differed' → equitable. Synonyms: fair, just, impartial. Antonyms: unfair, biased, discriminatory.

ERRATIC

ih-RAT-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not consistent or regular; unpredictable; eccentric

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her erratic attendance — present three days, absent four, present two — made her unreliable as a team member.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ performance of the stock made it unsuitable for risk-averse investors' → erratic. Synonyms: unpredictable, inconsistent, capricious. Antonyms: consistent, predictable, steady.

INDUSTRIOUS

in-DUS-tree-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Diligent and hard-working; working with care and persistence

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The industrious student completed every assignment early, reviewed all notes before bed, and never missed a class.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ intern outperformed employees twice her age simply through consistent effort' → industrious. Synonyms: diligent, assiduous, hardworking. Antonyms: lazy, indolent, slothful.

INFORM

in-FORM

■ MEANING

(v.) To give facts; to animate or inspire; to pervade and influence

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A deep respect for privacy informs every design decision in the organization's data policy.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His research was _____ by decades of fieldwork that gave his theory empirical grounding' → informed (shaped/guided). GRE often tests 'inform' as meaning 'to shape or animate'.

IRKSOME

URK-sum

■ MEANING

(adj.) Irritating; annoying; tedious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The irksome process of filling out the same information on three separate forms frustrated every applicant.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ delays — always due to bureaucratic inefficiency — cost the team vital momentum' → irksome. Synonyms: irritating, annoying, vexing. Antonyms: pleasant, satisfying, rewarding.

MANACLE

MAN-uh-kul

■ MEANING

(v./n.) To restrain with shackles; to restrict or constrain; handcuffs

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Excessive debt manacled the company's growth — every dollar of profit went to interest payments.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The regulations _____ the firm's ability to respond quickly to market changes' → manacled. Synonyms: shackle, bind, constrain. Antonyms: free, liberate, release.

MODEST

MOD-ist

■ MEANING

(adj.) Unassuming in the estimation of one's abilities; humble; not large or showy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Despite her extraordinary achievements, she remained modest — deflecting praise to her team.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ proposal asked only for what was essential, making it hard to refuse' → modest. Synonyms: humble, unassuming, restrained. Antonyms: arrogant, boastful, extravagant.

NOXIOUS

NOK-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Harmful, poisonous, or very unpleasant; injurious to health

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The factory's noxious emissions contributed to elevated cancer rates in the surrounding community.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ fumes from the industrial plant made residents ill even at low exposure levels' → noxious. Synonyms: toxic, harmful, deleterious. Antonyms: harmless, wholesome, salubrious.

PERNICIOUS

per-NISH-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having a harmful effect, especially gradually; deadly; insidious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The pernicious myth that hard work always leads to success ignores the role of privilege and circumstance.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ influence of propaganda, working over years, reshaped the entire culture' → pernicious. Synonyms: harmful, insidious, deadly. Antonyms: beneficial, harmless, benign.

PREDICAMENT

prih-DIK-uh-ment

■ MEANING

(n.) A difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation; a dilemma

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The government found itself in a predicament — any decision it made would alienate a large constituency.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The negotiator's _____ was impossible — conceding on one point opened vulnerabilities on three others' → predicament. Synonyms: dilemma, bind, quandary. Antonyms: advantage, opportunity, ideal position.

PROFICIENT

pruh-FISH-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Competent or skilled in doing something; expert

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She became proficient in Mandarin in 18 months through full immersion and daily conversation practice.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'A _____ user of the software can perform tasks in minutes that take novices an hour' → proficient. Synonyms: skilled, competent, adept. Antonyms: incompetent, unskilled, inept.

PROLIX

PROH-likes

■ MEANING

(adj.) Using or containing too many words; tediously long; verbose

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The prolix report could have been condensed from 80 pages to 8 without losing a single essential point.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ contract buried its key terms in pages of redundant legal language' → prolix. Synonyms: verbose, wordy, long-winded. Antonyms: concise, terse, pithy.

SCORN

SKORN

■ MEANING

(v./n.) To feel or express contempt for; to reject with disdain; contemptuous mockery

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She scorned the easy path, choosing instead the one that offered genuine challenge and growth.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He _____ any assistance, insisting on solving every problem alone regardless of the cost' → scorned. Synonyms: disdain, despise, rebuff. Antonyms: admire, respect, embrace.

SUBORDINATE

sub-OR-duh-nit

■ MEANING

(adj./n./v.) Lower in rank; of less importance; to treat as less important

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Personal ambition should be subordinated to the needs of the team during a critical project.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'In this framework, individual rights are _____ to collective welfare' → subordinated. Synonyms: inferior, secondary, subject. Antonyms: superior, primary, dominant.

UNSEEMLY

un-SEEM-lee

■ MEANING

(adj.) (Of behavior or appearance) not proper or appropriate; indecent; in poor taste

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The heated argument at the funeral was widely considered unseemly given the occasion.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ display of wealth at a charity gala prompted criticism from guests' → unseemly. Synonyms: improper, indecorous, inappropriate. Antonyms: appropriate, seemly, proper.

VERITABLE

VER-ih-tuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Used for emphasis, often humorously; real; actual; genuine

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The tiny apartment was a veritable maze — 12 rooms packed into 500 square feet.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The event was a _____ catastrophe — everything that could go wrong did' → veritable. Synonyms: genuine, true, authentic. Antonyms: fake, apparent, seeming.

GROUP 19

30 words

ACOLYTE

AK-uh-lyt

■ MEANING

(n.) A devoted follower or assistant; one who assists in religious ceremonies

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The philosopher surrounded himself with acolytes who never questioned his ideas, to the detriment of the work.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The young researchers in the lab were _____ of the professor, repeating her theories without question' → acolytes. Synonyms: follower, disciple, devotee. Antonyms: critic, skeptic, rival.

ANOINT

uh-NOYNT

■ MEANING

(v.) To smear with oil as part of a ritual; to designate as successor; to choose informally

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The industry anointed her as the most important voice in the field before she turned 30.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The outgoing director effectively _____ her deputy as the next leader' → anointed. Synonyms: designate, appoint, consecrate. Antonyms: reject, demote, overlook.

BASE

BAYS

■ MEANING

(adj.) Without moral principles; ignoble; cowardly; despicable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The base betrayal of his colleagues — selling their secrets for personal gain — ended his career.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The critic dismissed the work as an exercise in _____ commercialism with no artistic merit' → base. Synonyms: ignoble, dishonorable, contemptible. Antonyms: noble, honorable, virtuous.

COERCION

koh-UR-zhun

■ MEANING

(n.) The act of using force or threats to make someone do something; compulsion

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The confession was thrown out because the court found evidence of coercion during the interrogation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Compliance obtained through _____ is neither genuine nor sustainable' → coercion. Synonyms: compulsion, duress, intimidation. Antonyms: consent, persuasion, voluntary agreement.

COIN

KOYN

■ MEANING

(v.) To invent a new word or phrase; to make coins; (n.) money in the form of metal pieces

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The term 'surfing the internet' was coined in 1992 and became universal within a decade.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She _____ the phrase that defined the entire movement' → coined. In GRE: 'coin a term/phrase' = to invent or originate. Synonyms: create, invent, originate.

CUNNING

KUN-ing

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing skill in achieving goals through indirect means; crafty; artful

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The cunning negotiator appeared to make concessions while actually securing everything she needed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ strategist anticipated every counterargument and prepared responses months in advance' → cunning. Synonyms: crafty, artful, shrewd. Antonyms: naive, guileless, straightforward.

DISCOMFIT

dis-KUM-fit

■ MEANING

(v.) To make uneasy or embarrassed; to thwart; to disconcert

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The unexpected question clearly discomfited the normally poised executive, who stumbled through a halting answer.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The auditor's pointed questions _____ the finance team, which had no good answers' → discomfited. Synonyms: embarrass, disconcert, unsettle. Antonyms: reassure, comfort, put at ease.

DISSENT

dih-SENT

■ MEANING

(n./v.) Holding or expressing opinions different from those prevailing; disagreement

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The lone dissent from the committee — a single detailed objection — later proved more accurate than the majority view.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She _____ from the consensus, arguing that the data supported a completely different conclusion' → dissented. Synonyms: disagreement, objection, opposition. Antonyms: agreement, consensus, assent.

DISTILL

dih-STIL

■ MEANING

(v.) To extract or refine; to remove the most important aspects; to purify by heating

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The journalist's skill lay in her ability to distill complex legislation into plain language that readers could act on.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The essay _____ three centuries of philosophical debate into 10 focused, accessible pages' → distilled. Synonyms: extract, refine, purify. Antonyms: dilute, complicate, expand.

DUBIOUS

DOO-bee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Hesitating or doubting; of questionable value or quality; suspect

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The research was based on dubious methodology — small sample sizes and self-reported data from interested parties.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She was _____ about the claim that the product could reverse aging in 30 days' → dubious. Synonyms: skeptical, doubtful, questionable. Antonyms: certain, credible, reliable.

EBULLIENT

ih-BUL-yent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Cheerful and full of energy; exuberantly enthusiastic

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The ebullient coach lifted the team's spirits after a difficult loss with humor and genuine belief in their potential.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ personality transformed the culture of an office that had been somber for years' → ebullient. Synonyms: enthusiastic, exuberant, effervescent. Antonyms: despondent, gloomy, subdued.

FACETIOUS

fuh-SEE-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Treating serious issues with inappropriate humor; flippantly humorous

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His facetious response to the urgent budget crisis — 'just print more money' — infuriated his finance team.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ remark at a solemn ceremony struck many as deeply disrespectful' → facetious. Synonyms: flippant, glib, frivolous. Antonyms: serious, sincere, earnest.

FALLIBLE

FAL-ih-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Capable of making mistakes or being wrong; imperfect; liable to error

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The most experienced judges are fallible — no human judgment is ever entirely free from error.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Even the most sophisticated AI systems are _____ and require oversight' → fallible. Synonyms: imperfect, flawed, unreliable. Antonyms: infallible, perfect, unerring.

FLORID

FLOR-id

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having a red or flushed complexion; elaborately ornate; excessively complicated

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His florid prose — full of extended metaphors and ornate sub-clauses — exhausted readers within three pages.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ decorative style of the palace was in stark contrast to the austerity of the government buildings' → florid.
Synonyms: ornate, elaborate, flowery. Antonyms: plain, austere, sparse.

GAWKY

GAW-kee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Awkward, clumsy, or ungainly; lacking grace

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The gawky teenager who couldn't get through a room without bumping something grew into a graceful professional dancer.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ movements of the robot in early trials gave way to smooth, coordinated motion after refinement' → gawky.
Synonyms: clumsy, awkward, ungainly. Antonyms: graceful, poised, elegant.

INVEIGLE

in-VAY-gul

■ MEANING

(v.) To persuade someone to do something by means of flattery or deception; to entice

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The salesperson inveigled the elderly couple into buying a warranty they would never need.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She _____ the hesitant investor into the deal with promises that were never fulfilled' → inveigled. Synonyms: coax, lure, manipulate. Antonyms: repel, discourage, deter.

JETTISON

JET-ih-sun

■ MEANING

(v.) To throw or drop overboard; to abandon or discard

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The campaign jettisoned its original economic message after polling showed it was resonating with no one.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'To succeed, the team had to _____ the strategies that had worked in easier times' → jettison. Synonyms: discard, abandon, cast off. Antonyms: retain, keep, maintain.

MENDACITY

men-DAS-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) The tendency to be dishonest; untruthfulness; a lie

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The commission documented a culture of mendacity — systematic falsification of records at every level.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The candidate's _____ — documented in 11 fact-checked claims — ultimately cost him the election' → mendacity. Synonyms: dishonesty, deception, untruthfulness. Antonyms: honesty, veracity, integrity.

MUNIFICENT

myoo-NIF-ih-sent

■ MEANING

(adj.) More generous than is usual or necessary; lavishly generous

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The munificent donor gave \$50 million to the hospital anonymously, asking for nothing in return.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ patron funded three entire university departments for a decade' → munificent. Synonyms: generous, lavish, bountiful. Antonyms: stingy, miserly, parsimonious.

NAIVE

ny-EEV

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lacking experience, wisdom, or judgment; innocent; showing a lack of sophistication

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

In retrospect, the naive assumption that growth would continue indefinitely seems obviously flawed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ trust that all would be fair without formal protections left her vulnerable' → naive. Synonyms: credulous, ingenuous, unsophisticated. Antonyms: shrewd, worldly, cynical.

NOBLE

NOH-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing fine personal qualities; of high moral character; admirable

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her noble decision to share the prize money with research assistants who had done much of the work won universal respect.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ sacrifice he made — giving up the promotion so a colleague could have it — was widely admired' → noble. Synonyms: honorable, admirable, virtuous. Antonyms: ignoble, base, dishonorable.

PAROCHIAL

puh-ROH-kee-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having a limited or narrow outlook; concerned only with local matters; provincial

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The parochial perspective of the committee failed to consider how the decision would affect international partners.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'A _____ view of education ignores the global skills students need to compete in the modern economy' → parochial.
Synonyms: narrow-minded, provincial, insular. Antonyms: cosmopolitan, broad-minded, global.

PEDESTRIAN

puh-DES-tree-un

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lacking imagination; dull and uninspired; ordinary; of or relating to walking

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The pedestrian writing in the report communicated the facts but inspired no enthusiasm for the program.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ design of the building disappointed those who had expected something more ambitious' → pedestrian.
Synonyms: ordinary, uninspired, mediocre. Antonyms: inspired, original, exceptional.

PREVARICATE

prih-VAIR-ih-kayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To speak or act evasively; to avoid giving a direct answer; to lie

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Rather than admit the mistake, the official prevaricated — offering partial truths and misleading context.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'When pressed for a direct answer, he _____ skillfully, giving no one anything actionable' → prevaricated. Synonyms: equivocate, hedge, evade. Antonyms: be direct, assert, state plainly.

PRIME

PRYM

■ MEANING

(adj.) Of first importance; main; most excellent; (v.) to prepare; (n.) the best stage

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The city's prime real estate — the riverfront district — was monopolized by a handful of developers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The research was of _____ importance — it would determine the direction of the field for a decade' → prime.
Synonyms: chief, primary, foremost. Antonyms: secondary, minor, peripheral.

RADICAL

RAD-ih-kul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Relating to fundamental change; revolutionary; departing from tradition; thorough

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The radical redesign of the product eliminated every feature users had complained about for years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ nature of her proposal — complete elimination of the existing system — shocked conservatives' → radical. Synonyms: revolutionary, fundamental, extreme. Antonyms: conservative, moderate, conventional.

RECRUDESCENT

ree-kroo-DES-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Breaking out again after a period of abatement; recurring; reviving

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The recrudescient conflict — thought ended by a peace treaty — resumed with greater intensity than before.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ violence in the region shattered hopes that the ceasefire had created a lasting peace' → recrudescient. Synonyms: recurring, reviving, resurgent. Antonyms: declining, extinguished, finished.

TEMPORAL

TEM-per-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Relating to worldly as opposed to spiritual affairs; of or relating to time; temporary

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The monk sought to separate temporal concerns — money, status, power — from his spiritual practice.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The bishop carefully separated _____ authority from ecclesiastical matters' → temporal. Synonyms: worldly, secular, earthly. Antonyms: spiritual, eternal, sacred.

TRANSITORY

TRAN-suh-tor-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not permanent; lasting only for a short time; transient

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Fame, like most things in the entertainment industry, proved transitory — today's star forgotten in three years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ nature of the alliance became apparent when shared interests diverged' → transitory. Synonyms: temporary, ephemeral, fleeting. Antonyms: permanent, lasting, enduring.

VIABLE

VY-uh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Capable of working successfully; feasible; able to survive or exist

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The only viable solution to the housing shortage is a combination of new construction and zoning reform.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The proposal was technically _____ but politically impossible' → viable. Synonyms: feasible, practicable, workable. Antonyms: unworkable, impractical, impossible.

GROUP 20

30 words

ABREAST

uh-BREST

■ MEANING

(adj./adv.) Side by side; up to date with current information

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Good scientists stay abreast of developments in adjacent fields that might affect their own research.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Keeping _____ of legislative changes is essential for compliance officers' → abreast. Phrase: 'keep abreast of' = stay informed. Synonyms: informed, current, up to date.

CONFOUND

kun-FOWND

■ MEANING

(v.) To cause surprise or confusion; to mix up; to fail to distinguish

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The unexpected results confounded researchers who had predicted an entirely different outcome.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The study was _____ by several variables the researchers had not controlled for' → confounded. Synonyms: confuse, perplex, mix up. Antonyms: clarify, distinguish, resolve.

DIGRESSION

dy-GRESH-un

■ MEANING

(n.) A departure from the main subject; a temporary excursion in writing or speaking

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His lectures were full of entertaining digressions that students loved but that added 20 minutes to each class.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The essay was weakened by constant _____ — fascinating tangents that distracted from the argument' → digression. Synonyms: tangent, deviation, aside. Antonyms: focus, progression, adherence.

DISCREPANCY

dih-SKREP-en-see

■ MEANING

(n.) A lack of compatibility between facts, figures, or accounts; an inconsistency

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The auditors discovered a significant discrepancy between the reported revenue and the actual bank deposits.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ between the two accounts of the same event raised serious questions' → discrepancy. Synonyms: inconsistency, difference, contradiction. Antonyms: consistency, agreement, alignment.

DUPLICITOUS

doo-PLIS-ih-tus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Deceitful; given to double-dealing; characterized by duplicity

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The duplicitous negotiator made identical promises to both sides, knowing he could only keep one.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ nature — charming in public, calculating in private — made her both effective and dangerous' → duplicitous. Synonyms: deceitful, two-faced, dishonest. Antonyms: honest, transparent, sincere.

EXPEDIENT

ik-SPEE-dee-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Convenient and practical despite being improper; advantageous rather than fair

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The expedient solution — quietly firing the whistleblower — avoided the controversy but damaged the organization's integrity.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ compromise satisfied no one fully but prevented immediate collapse' → expedient. Synonyms: convenient, practical, advantageous. Antonyms: principled, inconvenient, impractical.

FABRICATE

FAB-rih-kayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To invent or create; to construct; to make up for deceptive purposes

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The journalist fabricated quotes that he attributed to real public figures, ending his career overnight.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The entire story had been _____ — not one verifiable fact could be found in it' → fabricated. Synonyms: invent, concoct, falsify. Antonyms: discover, reveal, report accurately.

GLUM

GLUM

■ MEANING

(adj.) Looking or feeling dejected; gloomy; morose

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The players sat glum in the locker room, unable to process a loss that had seemed impossible going into the final quarter.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ expression as she read the letter told us the news before she spoke a word' → glum. Synonyms: dejected, gloomy, downcast. Antonyms: cheerful, elated, buoyant.

HARBINGER

HAR-bin-jer

■ MEANING

(n.) A person or thing that signals or foreshadows something to come; a forerunner

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The first robin of spring is a harbinger of the warmth that winter-weary residents have been awaiting.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The early market declines proved to be a _____ of the recession that followed two years later' → harbinger. Synonyms: forerunner, omen, precursor. Antonyms: culmination, result, aftermath.

INTRINSIC

in-TRIN-sik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Belonging naturally; essential; inherent; existing within something as a fundamental quality

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The intrinsic value of honesty — apart from its practical benefits — is the foundation of a functional society.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ appeal of the design came from its proportions, not its materials or ornamentation' → intrinsic. Synonyms: inherent, essential, innate. Antonyms: extrinsic, external, acquired.

LARGESSE

lar-JES

■ MEANING

(n.) Generosity in giving gifts or money; generosity of spirit

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The patron's largesse funded not just the building but three decades of programming within it.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The billionaire's _____ endowed a hospital wing, a research fund, and 100 scholarships' → largesse. Synonyms: generosity, munificence, benevolence. Antonyms: stinginess, parsimony, miserliness.

LIBERTINE

LIB-er-teen

■ MEANING

(n./adj.) A person who freely indulges in sensual pleasures; dissolute; unrestrained

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His reputation as a libertine — parties every weekend, no stable relationships, expensive indulgences — contrasted with his monastic work habits.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ lifestyle he had led in his youth gave way to a surprisingly disciplined old age' → libertine. Synonyms: hedonist, profligate, dissolute person. Antonyms: ascetic, prude, conservative.

MALFEASANCE

mal-FEE-zents

■ MEANING

(n.) Wrongdoing, especially by a public official; illegal conduct

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The official was charged with malfeasance for awarding contracts to companies owned by his family.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The audit uncovered years of financial _____ involving falsified invoices and diverted funds' → malfeasance. Synonyms: misconduct, wrongdoing, corruption. Antonyms: integrity, probity, lawfulness.

MANIFEST

MAN-ih-fest

■ MEANING

(adj.) Clear and obvious; (v.) to show or demonstrate clearly; (n.) a list of cargo or passengers

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His discomfort manifested in subtle ways — shorter answers, avoided eye contact, restless hands.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The problem first _____ as a minor technical glitch before escalating into a full system failure' → manifested. Synonyms: appear, reveal, demonstrate. Antonyms: conceal, hide, suppress.

MINUTE

my-NOOT (adj.)

■ MEANING

(adj.) Extremely small; so small as to verge on insignificance; (n./v.) = a unit of time

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The difference between the two samples was minute — only a trained analyst would notice it at all.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ distinction between the two theories mattered only to specialists' → minute (my-NOOT). Synonyms: tiny, minuscule, negligible. Antonyms: enormous, significant, substantial.

MODISH

MOH-dish

■ MEANING

(adj.) Conforming to or following what is currently fashionable; trendy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The restaurant's modish interior — exposed brick, Edison bulbs, reclaimed wood — felt dated within three years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ jargon of the management report reflected current business fashion rather than substance' → modish. Synonyms: fashionable, trendy, stylish. Antonyms: dated, unfashionable, timeless.

NASCENT

NAY-sent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Just coming into existence; beginning to develop; emergent

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The nascent industry attracted 50 startups in its first year, though only three would survive the decade.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ democracy struggled with institutions that had not yet developed the strength to resist corruption' → nascent. Synonyms: emerging, developing, budding. Antonyms: mature, established, entrenched.

PERENNIAL

per-EN-ee-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lasting for a long time; recurring; long-lasting; (in botany) a plant that lives more than two years

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Corruption remains a perennial challenge in political systems — it recurs in every generation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ debate over school funding has never been resolved despite decades of reform' → perennial. Synonyms: recurring, persistent, enduring. Antonyms: temporary, short-lived, transient.

PIOUS

PY-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Devoutly religious; showing reverence; making a hypocritical display of virtue

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His pious remarks about charity contrasted sharply with his actual giving, which was negligible.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ declaration of commitment to justice was not matched by her voting record' → pious. Synonyms: devout, sanctimonious, righteous. Antonyms: irreverent, impious, secular.

PROVIDENTIAL

prov-ih-DEN-shul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Occurring at a favorable time; appearing to be a fortunate intervention

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The providential arrival of the rescue team — 20 minutes before the storm hit — saved every climber.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ discovery of the document, just as the trial began, changed the entire case' → providential. Synonyms: fortunate, timely, fortuitous. Antonyms: unfortunate, untimely, ill-timed.

PROWESS

PROW-es

■ MEANING

(n.) Skill or expertise in an area; bravery in battle; exceptional ability

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her mathematical prowess — solving problems faster than any faculty member — earned her a scholarship at age 16.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The general's military _____ was legend — he had never lost a major engagement in 40 years of command' → prowess. Synonyms: expertise, mastery, skill. Antonyms: incompetence, ineptitude, weakness.

SCHISM

SIZ-um

■ MEANING

(n.) A split or division between strongly opposed groups; a formal division of a religious organization

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The schism within the party — economic moderates vs. progressive activists — proved irreconcilable.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The theological disagreement caused a permanent _____ in the denomination' → schism. Synonyms: division, split, rift. Antonyms: unity, reconciliation, consensus.

SLANDER

SLAN-der

■ MEANING

(v./n.) To make false spoken statements about someone that damage their reputation; defamation

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The politician sued for slander after his opponent falsely accused him of taking bribes on live television.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The lawsuit alleged that the broadcast _____ the CEO with fabricated quotes' → slandered. Synonyms: defame, libel, malign. Antonyms: praise, compliment, vindicate.

STALWART

STAWL-wert

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Loyal, reliable, and hard-working; a committed supporter; physically strong

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was a stalwart advocate for the policy through 15 years of political opposition.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ supporter had volunteered for every campaign since the party's founding' → stalwart. Synonyms: loyal, committed, steadfast. Antonyms: disloyal, wavering, fair-weather.

SUPPLICATE

SUP-lih-kayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To ask humbly and earnestly; to petition submissively; to beg

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She supplicated the committee for a second chance, acknowledging every mistake and promising reform.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The prisoner _____ the court for clemency, citing his clean record and genuine remorse' → supplicated. Synonyms: entreat, implore, beseech. Antonyms: demand, command, order.

TERSE

TURS

■ MEANING

(adj.) Sparing in the use of words; brief and concise; sometimes to the point of rudeness

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His terse reply — 'No.' — provided no guidance on what else he wanted.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ response gave no indication of whether the proposal would be reconsidered' → terse. Synonyms: brief, curt, laconic. Antonyms: verbose, garrulous, expansive.

TIRADE

TY-rayd

■ MEANING

(n.) A long, angry speech of criticism or accusation; a diatribe

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The manager launched into a tirade about the missed deadline that lasted 20 minutes and solved nothing.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ against the media left even supporters uncomfortable' → tirade. Synonyms: diatribe, harangue, rant. Antonyms: compliment, praise, encomium.

UNIVERSAL

yoo-nih-VUR-sul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Of, affecting, or done by all; applicable to everyone; present everywhere

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Mathematics has often been described as a universal language — its truths hold regardless of culture or nationality.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ appeal of the novel crossed national, generational, and cultural boundaries' → universal. Synonyms: widespread, ubiquitous, global. Antonyms: limited, particular, regional.

VANQUISH

VANG-kwish

■ MEANING

(v.) To defeat thoroughly; to overcome; to conquer

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The underdog team vanquished the champions in a performance no analyst had predicted possible.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The reformers _____ every obstacle until the legislation finally passed after seven years of effort' → vanquished. Synonyms: defeat, conquer, overcome. Antonyms: lose, surrender, yield.

WOEFUL

WOH-ful

■ MEANING

(adj.) Characterized by grief or sorrow; very bad; causing distress

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The company's woeful performance — losses in every quarter — finally prompted the board to demand a leadership change.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The team's _____ record — two wins in 20 games — made them odds-on favorites for relegation' → woeful. Synonyms: terrible, dreadful, appalling. Antonyms: excellent, admirable, impressive.

ABJECT

AB-jekt

■ MEANING

(adj.) Experienced or present to the maximum degree; utterly hopeless; completely without pride

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The refugees lived in abject poverty — no shelter, no food, no medical care.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ failure of the program left thousands without the support they had been promised' → abject. Synonyms: utter, complete, degrading. Antonyms: admirable, dignified, triumphant.

AMICABLE

AM-ih-kuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having a spirit of friendliness; done in a friendly way; peaceable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Despite their divorce, they maintained an amicable relationship for the sake of their children.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The dispute was resolved through _____ negotiation, without litigation' → amicable. Synonyms: friendly, cordial, peaceable. Antonyms: hostile, acrimonious, adversarial.

ANIMOSITY

an-ih-MOS-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) Strong hostility; active ill will; a feeling of hatred

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The animosity between the two departments had festered for years before management finally intervened.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ between the rivals was evident even when they shook hands for the cameras' → animosity. Synonyms: hostility, hatred, antagonism. Antonyms: goodwill, affection, amity.

AVER

uh-VUR

■ MEANING

(v.) To state or assert positively; to affirm with confidence

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The defendant averred his innocence throughout the trial, never wavering under cross-examination.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She _____ that the evidence had been misinterpreted and demanded a full retrial' → averred. Synonyms: assert, affirm, declare. Antonyms: deny, refute, question.

BARRAGE

buh-RAHZH

■ MEANING

(n.) An overwhelming outpouring; a concentrated artillery attack; a rapid succession

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The press conference became a barrage of hostile questions that the minister was unprepared to answer.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The company faced a _____ of criticism from consumers after the product recall' → barrage. Synonyms: deluge, torrent, volley. Antonyms: trickle, silence, calm.

CATHARTIC

kuh-THAR-tik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Providing psychological relief through the open expression of strong emotion; purging

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The documentary was cathartic for survivors — seeing their experiences acknowledged publicly helped them heal.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Writing the letter, even without sending it, proved _____ — releasing years of bottled anger' → cathartic. Synonyms: purging, therapeutic, cleansing. Antonyms: suppressive, repressive, stifling.

DECIPHER

dih-SY-fer

■ MEANING

(v.) To convert from code; to succeed in understanding something difficult

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Historians spent decades trying to decipher the inscription before a new translation method finally cracked it.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'It was nearly impossible to _____ his handwriting — every letter looked identical' → decipher. Synonyms: decode, interpret, unravel. Antonyms: encode, obscure, confuse.

DELUSION

dih-LOO-zhun

■ MEANING

(n.) An idiosyncratic belief that is firmly maintained despite being contradicted by evidence; a false belief

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His delusion that everyone was conspiring against him isolated him from colleagues who genuinely wished him well.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The management team was operating under the _____ that its strategy was working' → delusion. Synonyms: illusion, fallacy, misconception. Antonyms: reality, truth, fact.

DISPENSE

dih-SPENS

■ MEANING

(v.) To distribute or provide a service; to waive or exempt from

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The pharmacist refused to dispense the medication without a valid prescription.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The judge was empowered to _____ with certain formalities in emergency circumstances' → dispense (with) = exempt/waive. Synonyms: distribute, administer, exempt. Antonyms: withhold, collect, require.

ELOQUENT

EL-uh-kwent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Fluent and persuasive in speech or writing; clearly expressing or indicating something

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her eloquent speech moved the committee to tears and secured unanimous support for the funding.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ defense of civil liberties was widely reprinted and became a classic text' → eloquent. Synonyms: articulate, persuasive, expressive. Antonyms: inarticulate, stammering, unclear.

ENTHRALL

en-THRAWL

■ MEANING

(v.) To capture the fascinated attention of; to enslave; to enchant

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The magician's performance enthralled the children so completely that none noticed the two-hour show end.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The lecture _____ students who had expected another dry academic presentation' → enthralled. Synonyms: captivate, mesmerize, enchant. Antonyms: bore, repel, disengage.

ERADICATE

ih-RAD-ih-kayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To destroy completely; to put an end to; to eliminate entirely

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The WHO campaign eradicated smallpox by 1980 — the first disease ever eliminated through human effort.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'No society has fully _____ corruption; the best hope is to contain and punish it consistently' → eradicated.

Synonyms: eliminate, abolish, extirpate. Antonyms: create, foster, promote.

FLEDGLING

FLEJ-ling

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) New and inexperienced; an organization or person that is immature or undeveloped; a young bird

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The fledgling startup had only 12 employees and \$200,000 in funding when it took on its first major client.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ democracy faced threats from entrenched interests that had thrived under the previous regime' → fledgling.

Synonyms: emerging, nascent, new. Antonyms: established, mature, veteran.

FORTITUDE

FOR-tuh-tood

■ MEANING

(n.) Courage in pain or adversity; mental strength enabling one to endure difficult conditions

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her fortitude during three years of illness — never complaining, always seeking solutions — inspired her entire team.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The climber's _____ kept her moving forward even when every instinct urged retreat' → fortitude. Synonyms:

courage, resilience, endurance. Antonyms: cowardice, weakness, timidity.

FORTUITOUS

for-TYOO-ih-tus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Happening by chance; lucky; occurring accidentally but happily

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Their fortuitous meeting at an airport delay led to a business partnership that generated \$40 million in revenue.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The discovery of penicillin was entirely _____ — Fleming had left a petri dish unattended' → fortuitous. Synonyms:

lucky, accidental, serendipitous. Antonyms: planned, inevitable, unfortunate.

GOAD

GOHD

■ MEANING

(v.) To stimulate or provoke into action; to irritate; (n.) a stick for driving cattle

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her rivals tried to goad her into an angry response that would play badly in the media.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The persistent criticism seemed designed to _____ him into making a rash decision' → goad. Synonyms: provoke, spur, incite. Antonyms: discourage, restrain, pacify.

IMMINENT

IM-ih-nent

■ MEANING

(adj.) About to happen; looming; impending

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

With the storm imminent, the coastal evacuation order was extended to three additional counties.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ collapse of the firm was predicted by analysts six months before it occurred' → imminent. Synonyms: impending, approaching, forthcoming. Antonyms: distant, remote, unlikely.

INCONTROVERTIBLE

in-kon-truh-VUR-tuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not able to be denied or disputed; indisputable; unquestionable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The DNA evidence was incontrovertible — it placed the defendant at the scene beyond any reasonable doubt.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word. TC/SE: 'The _____ evidence of human-caused climate change is accepted by 97% of climate scientists' → incontrovertible. Synonyms: undeniable, indisputable, irrefutable. Antonyms: questionable, debatable, contestable.

ITINERANT

y-TIN-er-ent

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Traveling from place to place; a person who travels from place to place

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The itinerant musician spent three years touring small venues before recording his breakthrough album.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ judge served six different counties, traveling a circuit of 500 miles each month' → itinerant. Synonyms: nomadic, wandering, traveling. Antonyms: settled, stationary, sedentary.

MAGNANIMOUS

mag-NAN-ih-mus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Very generous or forgiving; noble-minded; not petty

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The champion was magnanimous in victory, praising her opponent's performance and offering training tips.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ decision to drop the lawsuit surprised those expecting prolonged litigation' → magnanimous. Synonyms: generous, noble, charitable. Antonyms: petty, vindictive, small-minded.

MERITORIOUS

mer-ih-TOR-ee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Deserving reward or praise; commendable; worthy

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The meritorious service of the nurse — 40 years of dedicated care — was recognized with a national award.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The scholarship was awarded to the most _____ candidate, regardless of financial need' → meritorious. Synonyms: commendable, praiseworthy, deserving. Antonyms: undeserving, contemptible, worthless.

MUTINY

MYOO-tuh-nee

■ MEANING

(n./v.) An open rebellion against authority; refusal to obey orders; to rebel

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The crew's mutiny — refusing to proceed into the storm — saved the ship but ended their naval careers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The stockholders' _____ — voting out the entire board — signaled complete loss of confidence in management' → mutiny. Synonyms: rebellion, uprising, revolt. Antonyms: obedience, compliance, deference.

PARADOXICAL

par-uh-DOK-sih-kul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Seemingly contradictory but actually true; self-contradictory

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

It is paradoxical that the countries with the most natural resources often have the lowest living standards.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ finding — that more choice leads to less satisfaction — challenged basic economic assumptions' → paradoxical. Synonyms: contradictory, ironic, counterintuitive. Antonyms: logical, straightforward, consistent.

PERSEVERANCE

pur-suh-VEER-ents

■ MEANING

(n.) Continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulty; persistence

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her perseverance through six rejections before publication shows that talent without persistence rarely succeeds.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The scientist's _____ — repeating the experiment 400 times before the breakthrough — became legendary' → perseverance. Synonyms: persistence, tenacity, determination. Antonyms: giving up, inconstancy, vacillation.

RENDER

REN-der

■ MEANING

(v.) To provide or give; to represent or depict; to cause to become; to submit officially

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The architect rendered the building in three dimensions so the client could visualize the final design.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The new information _____ the original hypothesis completely obsolete' → rendered. Synonyms: make, cause to become, provide. Antonyms: withhold, preserve, maintain.

REPertoire

REP-er-twahr

■ MEANING

(n.) A stock of skills, works, or techniques that a person is able to perform; a range

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her diplomatic repertoire — mediation, persuasion, strategic silence — had been built over 30 years in the field.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'A scientist with a broad _____ of methods can approach problems from multiple angles' → repertoire. Synonyms: range, stock, arsenal. Antonyms: limitation, narrow focus, single approach.

RESILIENT

rih-ZIL-yent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions; elastic; tough

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The resilient community rebuilt its infrastructure within two years of the devastating flood.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Markets proved more _____ than economists expected, recovering within six months of the crash' → resilient. Synonyms: tough, adaptable, durable. Antonyms: fragile, weak, vulnerable.

RESOLUTE

REZ-uh-loot

■ MEANING

(adj.) Admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering; firmly committed

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Despite threats, the resolute journalist refused to reveal her source and served two weeks in jail.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ leader refused to abandon the policy despite falling poll numbers' → resolute. Synonyms: determined, steadfast, unwavering. Antonyms: vacillating, irresolute, wavering.

SUPPLE

SUP-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Bending and moving easily; not stiff; adaptable; yielding

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Decades of yoga practice kept her spine supple and her movements fluid well into her seventies.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'A _____ mind adapts to new information without abandoning core principles' → supple. Synonyms: flexible, lithe, adaptable. Antonyms: rigid, stiff, inflexible.

VALOR

VAL-er

■ MEANING

(n.) Great courage in the face of danger, especially in battle; bravery

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The soldier received the nation's highest honor for valor in rescuing six comrades under direct fire.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Acts of _____ in dangerous situations often reflect training more than individual heroism' → valor. Synonyms: courage, bravery, heroism. Antonyms: cowardice, timidity, fear.

GROUP 22

29 words

ARRESTING

uh-REST-ing

■ MEANING

(adj.) Strikingly impressive; attracting and holding attention

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The landscape was arresting — mile upon mile of crimson desert broken only by occasional outcrops of white rock.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ opening image of the film established its visual language immediately' → arresting. Synonyms: striking, captivating, compelling. Antonyms: ordinary, dull, forgettable.

CHASTISE

chas-TYZ

■ MEANING

(v.) To rebuke or reprimand severely; to punish physically; to scold

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The coach chastised the players for their lack of discipline in the second half that cost them the game.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The editorial _____ the government for prioritizing party loyalty over national interest' → chastised. Synonyms: rebuke, scold, reprimand. Antonyms: praise, commend, reward.

ECONOMY

ih-KON-uh-mee

■ MEANING

(n.) Careful management of available resources; frugality; efficient use; a system of trade

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She wrote with remarkable economy — not a word wasted, not a sentence longer than it needed to be.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The writer's _____ of language — using ten words where others used a hundred — was his greatest strength' → economy. In GRE context: efficiency/frugality in use. Synonyms: frugality, efficiency, thrift.

ELEMENTARY

el-uh-MEN-tuh-ree

■ MEANING

(adj.) Relating to the most basic aspects; straightforward and uncomplicated; primary

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The solution was elementary once you realized the problem was not as complex as it first appeared.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'For an expert, the calculation was _____ — completed in seconds mentally' → elementary. Synonyms: basic, fundamental, rudimentary. Antonyms: complex, advanced, sophisticated.

EMBELLISH

em-BEL-ish

■ MEANING

(v.) To make more attractive by adding decorative details; to enhance by adding often inaccurate details

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He embellished his resume with achievements that were either exaggerated or entirely fabricated.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She tended to _____ every story, adding details that made good events sound miraculous' → embellish. Synonyms: exaggerate, adorn, embroider. Antonyms: understate, simplify, strip bare.

EUPHORIC

yoo-FOR-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Feeling intense happiness and excitement; elated

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The team was euphoric after winning the championship — the players barely slept for two days.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ response to the policy announcement was short-lived once the implementation problems emerged' → euphoric. Synonyms: ecstatic, elated, overjoyed. Antonyms: despondent, devastated, miserable.

EXONERATE

ig-ZON-er-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To absolve someone from blame or responsibility; to officially clear of a charge

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The DNA evidence exonerated the prisoner, who had served 14 years for a crime he did not commit.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'New testimony _____ the accused of all charges and the case was immediately dismissed' → exonerated. Synonyms: absolve, acquit, vindicate. Antonyms: condemn, incriminate, convict.

EXTRAPOLATE

ik-STRAP-uh-layt

■ MEANING

(v.) To extend the application of a method to unknown data by assuming existing trends continue

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

From the early trial data, researchers extrapolated that the drug would reduce mortality by 40% in the full population.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'It is dangerous to _____ from a small sample to an entire population without accounting for bias' → extrapolate. Synonyms: infer, project, extend. Antonyms: observe directly, measure, confirm.

FALTER

FAWL-ter

■ MEANING

(v.) To lose strength; to move unsteadily; to waver in determination

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her composure never faltered during the eight-hour deposition, despite relentless hostile questioning.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The reform movement began to _____ when its most charismatic leaders were arrested' → falter. Synonyms: hesitate, waver, stumble. Antonyms: persevere, strengthen, advance.

FERVENT

FUR-vent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing great warmth and intensity of feeling; ardent; passionate

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was a fervent advocate for children's literacy, spending every weekend at community reading programs.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ belief in the cause inspired volunteers who had grown disillusioned with the movement' → fervent. Synonyms: passionate, ardent, zealous. Antonyms: indifferent, apathetic, lukewarm.

FOMENT

foh-MENT

■ MEANING

(v.) To instigate or stir up undesirable sentiments or actions; to incite

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The propaganda was designed to foment ethnic tension by exaggerating historical grievances.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The agitators sought to _____ rebellion by spreading stories of government atrocities' → foment. Synonyms: incite, provoke, instigate. Antonyms: suppress, pacify, quell.

GAFFE

GAF

■ MEANING

(n.) An unintentional act or remark that causes embarrassment; a social blunder

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His gaffe — calling the foreign minister by the wrong name during the televised summit — dominated headlines.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The diplomatic _____ almost derailed months of careful negotiation' → gaffe. Synonyms: blunder, faux pas, slip. Antonyms: tactful remark, graceful move, success.

HETERODOX

HET-er-uh-doks

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not conforming to established or accepted doctrines; unorthodox; contrary to established belief

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His heterodox economic theory was dismissed by mainstream economists but later proved remarkably predictive.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ approach to the research question attracted both harsh criticism and intense admiration' → heterodox. Synonyms: unorthodox, unconventional, heretical. Antonyms: orthodox, conventional, mainstream.

HISTRIONIC

his-tree-ON-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Overly dramatic; excessively theatrical; melodramatic; of or relating to actors

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her histrionic response — tears, dramatic declarations, collapsed on the sofa — seemed designed for maximum effect.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ performance at the press conference struck observers as calculated rather than genuine' → histrionic. Synonyms: melodramatic, theatrical, overdramatic. Antonyms: understated, restrained, genuine.

IMPLICIT

im-PLIS-it

■ MEANING

(adj.) Suggested though not directly expressed; contained in the nature of something; unquestioning

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His implicit condemnation of the policy — through silence and careful word choice — was understood by everyone.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ assumption behind the argument was never examined' → implicit. Synonyms: implied, unstated, inherent. Antonyms: explicit, stated, direct.

INVIOULATE

in-VY-uh-lit

■ MEANING

(adj.) Free from injury or violation; not interfered with; never broken

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The private correspondence between attorney and client must remain inviolate to preserve the justice system.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The principle that no one is above the law must be _____ for democracy to function' → inviolate. Synonyms: sacrosanct, untouchable, inviolable. Antonyms: violated, compromised, broken.

LIABILITY

ly-uh-BIL-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) A person or thing that is a hindrance; legal responsibility; money owed

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His unpredictable temper had become a liability — clients were requesting different account managers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The outdated software was a _____ — more resources went to maintaining it than to new projects' → liability. Synonyms: burden, disadvantage, hindrance. Antonyms: asset, advantage, benefit.

OBSTINATE

OB-stuh-nit

■ MEANING

(adj.) Stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or action; inflexible

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The obstinate official refused to reconsider the decision despite new evidence that undermined its basis.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ refusal to negotiate made a peaceful resolution almost impossible' → obstinate. Synonyms: stubborn, obdurate, intransigent. Antonyms: flexible, amenable, conciliatory.

PAINSTAKING

PAYNZ-tay-king

■ MEANING

(adj.) Done with great care and thoroughness; requiring or showing great care

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The painstaking restoration of the fresco took six years and involved more than 200 separate interventions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ audit confirmed every transaction over a five-year period' → painstaking. Synonyms: meticulous, thorough, careful. Antonyms: careless, cursory, sloppy.

PHLEGMATIC

fleg-MAT-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having an unemotional, calm, or stoic disposition; not easily excited

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His phlegmatic response to the news — a slight nod — suggested he had already anticipated the outcome.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ investor didn't panic during the crash, buying more shares while others sold at a loss' → phlegmatic. Synonyms: calm, stoic, unemotional. Antonyms: excitable, emotional, volatile.

PRODIGIOUS

pruh-DIJ-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Remarkably great in extent, size, or degree; impressively large or extensive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Mozart's prodigious output — 626 compositions by the time he died at 35 — staggers musicologists.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She had a _____ memory, recalling details of conversations held years earlier' → prodigious. Synonyms: remarkable, extraordinary, enormous. Antonyms: modest, ordinary, unremarkable.

PROPENSITY

pruh-PEN-sih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) An inclination or natural tendency to behave in a particular way

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His propensity for taking on more projects than he could manage led to consistent underdelivery.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ for understatement meant that 'fairly good' usually signified extraordinary quality' → propensity. Synonyms: tendency, proclivity, predilection. Antonyms: aversion, disinclination, avoidance.

QUALM

KWAHM

■ MEANING

(n.) An uneasy feeling of doubt, worry, or fear; a misgiving; a scruple

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She had no qualms about reporting the irregularity — it was not just her right but her responsibility.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He proceeded without _____, ignoring the warnings from every person whose judgment he trusted' → qualms. Synonyms: misgiving, scruple, hesitation. Antonyms: confidence, certainty, resolve.

RENEGE

rih-NEG

■ MEANING

(v.) To go back on a promise or agreement; to fail to honor a commitment

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The contractor reneged on the timeline, delivering three months late without warning or penalty.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'When they _____ on the deal, the partnership dissolved immediately' → reneged. Synonyms: break a promise, backtrack, retract. Antonyms: honor, fulfill, keep.

STINTING

STIN-ting

■ MEANING

(adj.) Restricting the amount; sparing; ungenerous; (v.) to be frugal

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was stinting in her praise — a compliment from her meant more than effusive approval from anyone else.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The report was _____ in its acknowledgement of the staff's contribution' → stinting. Synonyms: sparing, restrained, ungenerous. Antonyms: lavish, generous, unstinting.

TEMPER

TEM-per

■ MEANING

(v.) To moderate or restrain; to make less extreme; to harden by heating and cooling; (n.) disposition

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The good news was tempered by the realization that the problem had only been deferred, not solved.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The optimism of the early results was _____ by subsequent data showing the effect was short-lived' → tempered. Synonyms: moderate, restrain, soften. Antonyms: intensify, exacerbate, inflame.

TENTATIVE

TEN-tuh-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not certain or fixed; provisional; done with hesitation; cautious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The tentative peace agreement — with several key issues still unresolved — was better than no agreement at all.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ conclusion drawn from the data requires validation by further studies' → tentative. Synonyms: provisional, hesitant, uncertain. Antonyms: definite, confident, assured.

UNPRECEDENTED

un-PRES-ih-den-ted

■ MEANING

(adj.) Never done or known before; without previous example

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The stock market achieved an unprecedented eight consecutive years of growth before the correction.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ scale of the operation — 50,000 personnel across 20 countries — had never been attempted before' → unprecedented. Synonyms: unparalleled, novel, unmatched. Antonyms: common, ordinary, preceded.

VIVACIOUS

vih-VAY-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Attractively lively and animated; full of energy and spirit

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her vivacious personality transformed every room she entered — conversations became livelier, laughter more frequent.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ performer commanded attention without effort, dominating the stage with pure energy' → vivacious. Synonyms: lively, animated, ebullient. Antonyms: dull, lethargic, subdued.

GROUP 23

30 words

ALLUSIVE

uh-LOO-siv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Working by suggestion or implication; containing many allusions; indirect

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His allusive style — full of literary and historical references — rewarded well-read audiences and alienated others.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ poetry requires familiarity with classical mythology to be fully appreciated' → allusive. Synonyms: indirect, suggestive, referential. Antonyms: direct, explicit, literal.

ASTUTE

uh-STOOT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having an ability to accurately assess situations; shrewd; clever

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The astute analyst predicted the company's collapse six months before the first warning signs appeared publicly.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'An _____ reader will notice that the narrator's account contradicts the physical evidence' → astute. Synonyms: shrewd, sharp, perceptive. Antonyms: obtuse, naive, unperceptive.

COMMENCE

kuh-MENS

■ MEANING

(v.) To begin or start; to come into being

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The trial is set to commence on Monday, following two years of pretrial motions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Work on the project will _____ as soon as the funding is confirmed' → commence. Synonyms: begin, start, initiate. Antonyms: end, conclude, terminate.

CONVALESCENT

kon-vuh-LES-ent

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Recovering from illness or injury; a person who is recovering

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The convalescent patient was encouraged to take short walks as part of her rehabilitation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'In his _____ state, he needed others to handle even routine correspondence' → convalescent. Synonyms: recovering, recuperating, healing. Antonyms: ill, deteriorating, afflicted.

CURB

KURB

■ MEANING

(v.) To restrain or limit; to control; (n.) a restraint or limit; the edge of a sidewalk

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The central bank raised interest rates to curb inflation before it became entrenched.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The legislation was designed to _____ the most predatory practices of the financial industry' → curb. Synonyms: restrain, limit, check. Antonyms: encourage, allow, promote.

DECRY

dih-KRY

■ MEANING

(v.) To publicly denounce; to condemn; to express strong disapproval of

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Scientists decried the misrepresentation of their findings in the press release.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Economists _____ the policy as inflationary without providing any constructive alternatives' → decried. Synonyms: denounce, condemn, criticize. Antonyms: praise, applaud, support.

DURESS

dyoo-RES

■ MEANING

(n.) Threats, violence, or constraints used to force someone to do something; compulsion

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The contract was signed under duress and was therefore legally void.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her confession was obtained through _____ and was immediately challenged by her defense team' → duress. Synonyms: compulsion, coercion, pressure. Antonyms: free will, consent, voluntarily.

EVOKE

ih-VOHK

■ MEANING

(v.) To bring or recall to the conscious mind; to call up or produce a response

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The smell of rain on warm earth evokes childhood summers with a clarity that photographs cannot match.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The film _____ nostalgia in viewers who had grown up in the era it depicted' → evoked. Synonyms: summon, elicit, conjure. Antonyms: suppress, extinguish, prevent.

FAWN

FAWN

■ MEANING

(v.) To seek favor through flattery; to show servile admiration; to cringe

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The junior associates fawned over the senior partner, laughing at her weak jokes and praising her mediocre decisions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His tendency to _____ over authority figures made him effective at networking but contemptible to peers' → fawn. Synonyms: flatter, grovel, toady. Antonyms: criticize, confront, be direct.

FRET

FRET

■ MEANING

(v.) To be constantly or visibly worried; to feel distress; to gnaw; (n.) a ridge on a guitar

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She fretted over every minor decision until her therapist helped her distinguish between real and imagined risks.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Rather than _____ over obstacles he couldn't control, he focused entirely on what he could' → fret. Synonyms: worry, agonize, stress. Antonyms: accept, relax, be indifferent.

GLIB

GLIB

■ MEANING

(adj.) Fluent but insincere; superficially smooth; too easy to be convincing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her glib reassurance that everything would be fine convinced no one who had seen the balance sheets.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ response avoided every difficult question without actually answering any' → glib. Synonyms: slick, facile, superficial. Antonyms: sincere, thoughtful, substantive.

HEADSTRONG

HED-strong

■ MEANING

(adj.) Energetically willful and determined; obstinately self-willed; ungovernable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The headstrong CEO ignored the board's unanimous recommendation and proceeded with the failed acquisition.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ refusal to consider alternatives limited the team's options from the outset' → headstrong. Synonyms: stubborn, willful, obstinate. Antonyms: flexible, compliant, open-minded.

INTERMITTENT

in-ter-MIT-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Occurring at irregular intervals; not continuous or steady

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The intermittent power outages disrupted production enough to delay delivery by three weeks.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ nature of the symptoms made diagnosis extremely difficult' → intermittent. Synonyms: irregular, sporadic, periodic. Antonyms: continuous, constant, steady.

IRE

YR

■ MEANING

(n.) Anger; wrath; (v.) to anger or irritate

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The decision to eliminate pension benefits irked employees but the elimination of vacation days incited outright ire.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The policy change drew the _____ of the entire workforce, not just the union leadership' → ire. Synonyms: anger, wrath, fury. Antonyms: pleasure, approval, delight.

LANGUID

LANG-gwid

■ MEANING

(adj.) Displaying or having a disinclination for physical exertion; slow and relaxed

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The languid afternoon on the Venetian canal — drifting, watching, barely moving — was the best day of the trip.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ delivery — slow, quiet, unhurried — created a hypnotic effect on the audience' → languid. Synonyms: leisurely, sluggish, relaxed. Antonyms: energetic, vigorous, brisk.

LULL

LUL

■ MEANING

(v./n.) To calm or send to sleep; a temporary period of quiet in the middle of something active

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The brief lull in fighting gave humanitarian workers a window to deliver supplies to the besieged city.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The apparent _____ in tensions was deceptive — both sides were regrouping' → lull. Synonyms: pause, respite, calm. Antonyms: intensification, escalation, turbulence.

METTLESOME

MET-ul-sum

■ MEANING

(adj.) Full of spirit; courageous; vigorous; determined

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The mettlesome young attorney took on a case every senior partner had refused, and won.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ recruits outperformed veterans in the crisis simulation' → mettlesome. Synonyms: spirited, courageous, plucky. Antonyms: timid, cowardly, spiritless.

MOLLIFY

MOL-ih-fy

■ MEANING

(v.) To appease the anger or anxiety of someone; to soften

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The company tried to mollify outraged consumers with a full refund offer and a public apology from the CEO.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The concession was intended to _____ critics, though it fell far short of what they demanded' → mollify. Synonyms: placate, appease, pacify. Antonyms: aggravate, inflame, provoke.

NEUTRALIZE

NOO-truh-lyz

■ MEANING

(v.) To render ineffective by applying opposite force; to cancel out; to counterbalance

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The antidote was designed to neutralize the toxin before it reached the central nervous system.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The antibiotics _____ the infection within 48 hours of the first dose' → neutralized. Synonyms: counteract, negate, cancel. Antonyms: intensify, enhance, amplify.

NONPLUSSED

non-PLUST

■ MEANING

(adj.) Surprised and confused; so surprised as to be at a loss for words; bewildered

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The candidate was nonplussed by the question — it was not one she had prepared for and she could not hide her confusion.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ manager had no idea how to respond to the resignation of her entire team simultaneously' → nonplussed. Synonyms: baffled, bewildered, perplexed. Antonyms: composed, unfazed, unruffled.

PRECIPITOUS

prih-SIP-ih-tus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Dangerously high or steep; done suddenly and without careful consideration

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The precipitous drop in share price — 40% in three hours — triggered automatic circuit breakers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ decision to cut the entire research budget was reversed after protests from every department' → precipitous. Synonyms: steep, sudden, hasty. Antonyms: gradual, cautious, measured.

PRETENTIOUS

prih-TEN-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Attempting to impress by affecting greater importance than is actually possessed; pompous

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The pretentious menu described water as 'an alpine hydration experience sourced from pristine glacial reserves.'

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ prose — full of unnecessary complexity — obscured a fairly simple argument' → pretentious. Synonyms: pompous, affected, ostentatious. Antonyms: modest, unpretentious, sincere.

PROFOUND

pruh-FOWND

■ MEANING

(adj.) Very great or intense; showing great knowledge or insight; deep

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her study of grief produced a profound understanding of how loss reshapes identity over time.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The discovery had _____ implications for our understanding of the universe's origins' → profound. Synonyms: deep, significant, insightful. Antonyms: shallow, superficial, trivial.

PROPAGATE

PROP-uh-gayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To spread and promote widely; to breed and produce; to transmit

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Social media algorithms propagate false information faster than fact-checkers can respond to it.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The organization sought to _____ its values through education programs in 40 countries' → propagate. Synonyms: spread, disseminate, promote. Antonyms: suppress, contain, stifle.

RECOURSE

REE-kors

■ MEANING

(n.) A source of help in a difficult situation; the right to demand compensation

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

With all diplomatic options exhausted, military action appeared to be the only remaining recourse.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Without legal _____, the consumers had no way to recover funds lost to the fraudulent scheme' → recourse. Synonyms: resort, alternative, option. Antonyms: hopelessness, dead end.

REFUTE

rih-FYOOT

■ MEANING

(v.) To prove to be wrong by argument or evidence; to deny; to rebut

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The paper was designed to refute the dominant theory by presenting contradictory experimental data.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'No published evidence has ever fully _____ the core findings of the 1983 study' → refuted. Synonyms: disprove, rebut, contradict. Antonyms: confirm, support, validate.

REGRESS

rih-GRES

■ MEANING

(v.) To return to an earlier or less advanced state; to move backward

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Under stress, he seemed to regress to adolescent behavior — impulsive, defensive, and unreflective.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'After years of progress, the political situation began to _____ toward authoritarianism' → regress. Synonyms: retreat, revert, decline. Antonyms: progress, advance, develop.

REPERCUSSION

ree-per-KUS-un

■ MEANING

(n.) An unintended consequence of an action, especially an unwelcome one; an after-effect

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The trade war had economic repercussions far beyond the industries it was designed to protect.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Cutting the program will have _____ throughout the entire supply chain' → repercussions. Synonyms: consequence, aftermath, effect. Antonyms: cause, origin, antecedent.

REPLENISH

rih-PLEN-ish

■ MEANING

(v.) To fill something up again; to restore to former level or condition

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Emergency shipments were dispatched to replenish the stockpile that the epidemic had exhausted in two weeks.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The aquifer was replenished by two consecutive winters of heavy rainfall after years of drought' → replenished. Synonyms: restore, refill, restock. Antonyms: deplete, exhaust, empty.

VIGILANT

VIJ-ih-lent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties; alert

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Security teams must remain vigilant even when no immediate threat is visible — complacency invites attack.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ oversight committee caught the discrepancy before it became a full-scale fraud' → vigilant. Synonyms: watchful, alert, attentive. Antonyms: negligent, careless, inattentive.

ASSAIL

uh-SAYL

■ MEANING

(v.) To attack violently; to bombard with criticism; to trouble or disturb

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The candidate was assailed from both sides — progressives calling her too moderate, conservatives calling her too radical.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The article _____ the policy from every angle, leaving no aspect unquestioned' → assailed. Synonyms: attack, bombard, criticize. Antonyms: defend, support, protect.

BENEVOLENT

buh-NEV-uh-lent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Well-meaning and kindly; generous; charitable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The benevolent foundation donated 90% of its assets to eliminate river blindness in sub-Saharan Africa.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ intentions were not in question — only his judgment in how he pursued them' → benevolent. Synonyms: kind, generous, charitable. Antonyms: malevolent, cruel, selfish.

BERATE

bih-RAYT

■ MEANING

(v.) To scold or criticize someone angrily and at length

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She berated the contractor for three weeks before finally canceling the contract over the unfinished work.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The supervisor _____ the team publicly, which destroyed morale rather than improving performance' → berated. Synonyms: scold, reprimand, upbraid. Antonyms: praise, commend, encourage.

BUOYANT

BOY-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Able to stay afloat; tending to rise; cheerful and optimistic

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Despite early setbacks, the team remained buoyant — convinced that the fundamentals of their strategy were sound.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ market reflected investor confidence despite mixed economic data' → buoyant. Synonyms: optimistic, cheerful, resilient. Antonyms: despondent, gloomy, pessimistic.

BUTTRESS

BUT-res

■ MEANING

(v.) To increase the strength of; to support; (n.) a projecting structure that strengthens a wall

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The new data buttressed the original hypothesis that had faced significant skepticism.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The historical evidence _____ the sociological theory rather than contradicting it' → buttressed. Synonyms: support, reinforce, strengthen. Antonyms: undermine, weaken, contradict.

CONDONE

kun-DOHN

■ MEANING

(v.) To accept and allow behavior that is considered morally wrong; to overlook an offense

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The school could not condone cheating, even once, without destroying the integrity of every examination.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Silence in the face of injustice is tantamount to condoning it' → condoning. Synonyms: tolerate, overlook, excuse. Antonyms: condemn, prohibit, censure.

CONTRAENE

kon-truh-VEEN

■ MEANING

(v.) To violate; to conflict with a right or principle; to go against an established law

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The new regulation contravened several provisions of the existing treaty, creating immediate legal challenges.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The decision was seen as _____ the spirit of the original agreement, if not its letter' → contravening. Synonyms: violate, infringe, transgress. Antonyms: uphold, observe, comply with.

DENOUNCE

dih-NOWNS

■ MEANING

(v.) To publicly declare wrong or evil; to condemn formally; to inform against

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Twelve former board members denounced the CEO in an open letter to the financial press.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The senator _____ the policy as economically reckless and morally bankrupt' → denounced. Synonyms: condemn, censure, decry. Antonyms: praise, endorse, support.

DESPOTIC

deh-SPOT-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Of, relating to, or typical of a despot; tyrannical; exercising absolute power

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The despotic manager made every decision unilaterally, dismissing any input as insubordination.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ regime controlled all media and prosecuted any form of political opposition' → despotic. Synonyms: tyrannical, autocratic, authoritarian. Antonyms: democratic, liberal, consultative.

DEVIATE

DEE-vee-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To depart from an established course; to diverge from a norm or standard

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She never deviated from the protocol, which is exactly why her results were reproducible.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The experiment _____ from standard procedure in one small but crucial respect' → deviated. Synonyms: diverge, stray, depart. Antonyms: conform, adhere, follow.

DISINTERESTED

dis-IN-ter-ested

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not influenced by considerations of personal advantage; impartial; objective

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The arbitrator must be completely disinterested — any personal stake in the outcome disqualifies her.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word. TC: 'A _____ observer — with no stake in the outcome — is better placed to evaluate evidence fairly' → disinterested. DOES NOT MEAN 'uninterested'. Synonyms: impartial, unbiased, objective. Antonyms: biased, partial, self-interested.

ESCALATE

ES-kuh-layt

■ MEANING

(v.) To increase rapidly; to become more intense or serious; to make more serious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

What began as a minor dispute over parking escalated into a two-year neighborhood war.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The skirmish _____ into a full military confrontation within 48 hours' → escalated. Synonyms: intensify, increase, magnify. Antonyms: de-escalate, reduce, calm.

EXORCISE

EK-sor-syz

■ MEANING

(v.) To drive out an evil spirit; to rid oneself of a troubling memory or influence

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The documentary was her attempt to exorcise the trauma of her childhood by making it visible and understood.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Writing the memoir helped her _____ the demons that had haunted her for 30 years' → exorcise. Synonyms: expel, purge, drive out. Antonyms: summon, harbor, retain.

FINICKY

FIN-ih-kee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing too much concern about detail or quality; fussy; excessively particular

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The finicky food critic sent back the risotto because the cheese had been added 30 seconds too early.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ standards for sourcing ingredients made her restaurant both excellent and expensive to run' → finicky. Synonyms: fussy, fastidious, particular. Antonyms: easygoing, tolerant, undemanding.

FOIL

FOYL

■ MEANING

(v.) To prevent the success of; to thwart; (n.) a contrast that enhances another's qualities

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The security upgrade foiled the intrusion attempt that had breached three layers of existing protection.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The informant's tip _____ the plot before it could be executed' → foiled. Synonyms: thwart, prevent, obstruct. Antonyms: assist, enable, facilitate.

FRAILITY

FRAYL-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) The condition of being weak and delicate; a weakness of character; a failing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The novel explored the frailty of human memory — how it distorts, invents, and selectively recalls.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The policy was designed to account for the _____ of human judgment in high-pressure situations' → frailty. Synonyms: weakness, vulnerability, flaw. Antonyms: strength, resilience, fortitude.

GRIEVANCE

GREE-vents

■ MEANING

(n.) A real or imagined wrong causing resentment; a formal complaint

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The workers filed a grievance after management unilaterally cut their break time without consultation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The revolution drew support not just from those with legitimate _____ but from those seeking power' → grievances. Synonyms: complaint, injustice, resentment. Antonyms: satisfaction, contentment, gratitude.

INUNDATE

IN-un-dayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To overwhelm with a flood; to overwhelm with things to be dealt with

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The helpline was inundated with calls after the product recall, far exceeding its capacity.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The office was _____ with applications within hours of the announcement' → inundated. Synonyms: overwhelm, flood, swamp. Antonyms: trickle, underprovide, spare.

IRONCLAD

Y-ern-klad

■ MEANING

(adj.) Impossible to contradict or change; binding; impervious to attack

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The defense team demanded ironclad guarantees before advising their client to accept the plea deal.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ contract left no room for renegotiation under any circumstances' → ironclad. Synonyms: unbreakable, airtight, binding. Antonyms: weak, flexible, negotiable.

JEOPARDIZE

JEP-er-dyz

■ MEANING

(v.) To put in danger; to risk harm or loss to

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Sharing the classified document would jeopardize the mission and expose every operative involved.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The scandal threatened to _____ months of diplomatic progress' → jeopardize. Synonyms: endanger, threaten, risk. Antonyms: protect, secure, safeguard.

MERCURIAL

mer-KYOOOR-ee-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Subject to sudden or unpredictable changes of mood; volatile; relating to mercury

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His mercurial temperament — brilliant and generous one hour, cold and critical the next — made him difficult to work with.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ markets swung wildly in response to every rumor' → mercurial. Synonyms: volatile, unpredictable, capricious. Antonyms: stable, predictable, even-tempered.

OBLIVIOUS

uh-BLIV-ee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not aware of or not concerned about what is happening around one; unmindful

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was oblivious to the growing resentment among her staff until three people resigned the same week.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He seemed utterly _____ to the damage his decisions were causing' → oblivious. Synonyms: unaware, heedless, inattentive. Antonyms: aware, attentive, conscious.

PERPETRATE

PUR-puh-trayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To carry out or commit an action that is harmful or illegal

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The investigation aimed to identify who had perpetrated the cyberattack and what vulnerabilities were exploited.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Those who _____ financial fraud rarely appreciate the breadth of harm they cause' → perpetrate. Synonyms: commit, carry out, execute. Antonyms: prevent, stop, refrain from.

PLAINTIVE

PLAYN-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Sounding sad and mournful; expressing sorrow

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The plaintive melody of the cello — slow, minor, unresolved — perfectly captured the documentary's mood of mourning.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ account of displacement and loss moved even the most hardened delegates to tears' → plaintive. Synonyms: mournful, sorrowful, melancholic. Antonyms: joyful, cheerful, celebratory.

POIGNANT

POY-nyent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret; deeply moving; painfully affecting

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The final scene — an old man revisiting the house he had grown up in — was almost unbearably poignant.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The farewell speech was _____, acknowledging both what had been achieved and what had been sacrificed' → poignant. Synonyms: moving, touching, affecting. Antonyms: unmoving, flat, banal.

QUIESCENT

kwy-ES-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) In a state of quiet inactivity; dormant; not active

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The volcano had been quiescent for 400 years, which made the sudden eruption all the more shocking.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The disease was _____ for months before symptoms reappeared suddenly and severely' → quiescent. Synonyms: dormant, inactive, still. Antonyms: active, erupting, dynamic.

REITERATE

ree-IT-er-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To say something again or a number of times, typically for emphasis or clarity

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The CEO reiterated the company's commitment to transparency despite mounting evidence to the contrary.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She _____ her position clearly — the proposal was not acceptable under any conditions' → reiterated. Synonyms: repeat, restate, emphasize. Antonyms: retract, abandon, withdraw.

SUBSUME

sub-SOOM

■ MEANING

(v.) To include or absorb something within a larger whole; to classify under a broader category

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The smaller agencies were subsumed into the new department, losing their independent budgets and staffing.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Individual concerns were _____ under the broader framework of national security' → subsumed. Synonyms: absorb, encompass, incorporate. Antonyms: separate, isolate, exclude.

SURMOUNT

sur-MOWNT

■ MEANING

(v.) To overcome a difficulty or obstacle; to get over; to be placed on top of

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She surmounted every obstacle her detractors placed in her path, ultimately prevailing over the most intractable opposition.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The team _____ considerable technical challenges to deliver the project six months early' → surmounted. Synonyms: overcome, conquer, transcend. Antonyms: surrender, fail, succumb.

TANGENTIAL

tan-JEN-shul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Relating to a tangent; diverging from a previous course; only peripherally relevant

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His tangential remarks about ancient Rome were interesting but pulled the seminar off course for 20 minutes.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The report was weakened by _____ material that distracted readers from the central finding' → tangential. Synonyms: peripheral, irrelevant, digressive. Antonyms: central, relevant, pertinent.

GROUP 25

28 words

ADEPT

uh-DEPT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Highly skilled or proficient; expert

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was adept at reading the emotional temperature of a room and adjusting her message accordingly.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ diplomat navigated the contradictory demands of all parties without conceding ground on any' → adept. Synonyms: skilled, proficient, expert. Antonyms: inept, unskilled, clumsy.

ADVERSE

AD-vers

■ MEANING

(adj.) Preventing success; harmful; unfavorable; opposed

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The drug showed no adverse side effects in any of the 3,000 trial participants.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Despite _____ conditions — extreme cold, equipment failure, and limited supplies — the mission succeeded' → adverse. Synonyms: unfavorable, harmful, opposing. Antonyms: favorable, beneficial, conducive.

APPROPRIATE

uh-PROH-pree-ayt (v.)

■ MEANING

(v.) To take for one's own use, typically without permission; to set apart for a purpose

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The colonial government appropriated indigenous lands without consent, compensation, or legal process.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Executives were accused of _____ company funds for personal enrichment' → appropriating. As verb = to take/seize. Synonyms: seize, commandeer, take over. Antonyms: relinquish, return, cede.

ARCHETYPE

AR-kih-typ

■ MEANING

(n.) A very typical example of a class; an original pattern from which copies are made; a prototype

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The mentor figure in literature — wise, experienced, self-sacrificing — is an archetype found in cultures worldwide.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The detective novel _____ — a brilliant outsider who solves what police cannot — has been adapted endlessly' → archetype. Synonyms: prototype, model, quintessential example. Antonyms: copy, imitation, derivative.

ARTICULATE

ar-TIK-yuh-lit (adj.) / ar-TIK-yuh-layt (v.)

■ MEANING

(adj.) Able to speak fluently and coherently; (v.) to express an idea clearly and coherently

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She could articulate the most complex policy implications in language that a ten-year-old could understand.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'A truly _____ argument makes the logical chain from premise to conclusion impossible to miss' → articulate. Synonyms: eloquent, clear, expressive. Antonyms: inarticulate, vague, unclear.

AUSPICIOUS

aw-SPISH-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Conducive to success; favorable; giving a sign of future success

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Winning the industry award in their first year of operation was an auspicious start for the new firm.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ conditions — a willing partner, available funding, and favorable regulations — made success likely' → auspicious. Synonyms: favorable, promising, propitious. Antonyms: inauspicious, unfavorable, ominous.

BEREFT

bih-REFT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lacking something; deprived of; deeply unhappy and lonely

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She felt bereft after her mentor's death — no one else had believed in her so completely or guided her so wisely.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The argument was entirely _____ of supporting evidence' → bereft. Synonyms: devoid, deprived, lacking. Antonyms: full of, rich in, abundant with.

CAPTIOUS

KAP-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Overly critical; finding fault unnecessarily; making petty objections

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The captious reviewer found something wrong with every chapter, including the dedication page.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ editor obsessed over details that no reader would ever notice' → captious. Synonyms: faultfinding, nitpicking, carping. Antonyms: appreciative, generous, fair.

CONCLUSIVE

kun-KLOO-siv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Serving to prove a case; putting an end to doubt; decisive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The fingerprint evidence was conclusive — it was her hand, her pressure, her unique pattern.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'No single study provides _____ evidence; science advances through accumulated weight of consistent findings' → conclusive. Synonyms: definitive, decisive, indisputable. Antonyms: inconclusive, ambiguous, uncertain.

CONSPIRE

kun-SPYR

■ MEANING

(v.) To plan secretly with others for a harmful purpose; to act in combination to cause harm

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The executives conspired to conceal the safety defect from regulators for three years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Events seemed to _____ against her — every plan she made was undone by bad timing' → conspire. Synonyms: scheme, plot, collude. Antonyms: act openly, act independently.

DELINEATE

dih-LIN-ee-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To describe or portray precisely; to indicate the exact limits of; to outline

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The contract clearly delineated the responsibilities of each party, leaving nothing open to interpretation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'A good organizational chart _____ the chain of command and eliminates ambiguity' → delineates. Synonyms: outline, define, specify. Antonyms: obscure, confuse, blur.

DISENTANGLE

dis-en-TANG-gul

■ MEANING

(v.) To free from complications; to separate out from a complex or confusing situation

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

It took two attorneys three months to disentangle the legal obligations the company had accumulated.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The historian worked carefully to _____ cause from coincidence in the events leading to the war' → disentangle. Synonyms: unravel, separate, clarify. Antonyms: complicate, entangle, confuse.

EXHORT

ig-ZORT

■ MEANING

(v.) To strongly encourage or urge to do something; to advise earnestly

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The coach exhorted her team to treat every practice session as if it were a championship final.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The speech _____ citizens to participate in the democratic process and vote in record numbers' → exhorted. Synonyms: urge, implore, encourage. Antonyms: discourage, dissuade, deter.

HARANGUE

huh-RANG

■ MEANING

(n./v.) A lengthy, passionate speech attacking others; to lecture at length in an aggressive manner

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The manager's harangue about productivity — 40 minutes with no solutions — left the team demoralized.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'He _____ his staff for an hour rather than acknowledge his own role in the failure' → harangued. Synonyms: lecture, rant, tirade. Antonyms: praise, encourage, brief.

PLOY

PLOY

■ MEANING

(n.) A cunning plan to gain an advantage; a stratagem; a trick

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Announcing a competing offer was a classic negotiating ploy to increase leverage at the table.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The apparent concession was a _____ designed to get the other side to lower their guard' → ploy. Synonyms: stratagem, trick, maneuver. Antonyms: honest deal, straightforward approach.

POISE

POYZ

■ MEANING

(n.) Graceful and elegant bearing; composure; (v.) to be balanced or suspended

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her poise under intense questioning — calm, precise, unhurried — impressed even hostile journalists.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The leader's _____ in the crisis — steady voice, clear thinking, measured responses — reassured the public' → poise. Synonyms: composure, grace, balance. Antonyms: agitation, awkwardness, panic.

POMPOSITIVITY

pom-POS-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) The quality of being pompous; self-important behavior or language

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The pomposity of his lecture — full of unnecessary jargon and condescending asides — alienated even sympathetic audiences.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ made genuine communication impossible — everything was a performance' → pomposity. Synonyms: arrogance, self-importance, pretension. Antonyms: humility, modesty, unpretentiousness.

PROXY

PROK-see

■ MEANING

(n.) A substitute; a person authorized to represent another; something serving as an indicator

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Voter turnout is often used as a proxy for political engagement, though it is an imperfect measure.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The investment fund bought a _____ stake to influence board decisions without owning a controlling interest' → proxy. Synonyms: substitute, representative, surrogate. Antonyms: principal, direct actor.

RELENT

rih-LENT

■ MEANING

(v.) To soften in feeling, temper, or determination; to yield under pressure

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After three weeks of negotiation, the holdout finally relented and signed the agreement.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The authorities _____ when they saw the scale of public opposition to the policy' → relented. Synonyms: yield, soften, capitulate. Antonyms: persist, remain firm, hold out.

RHETORIC

RET-er-ik

■ MEANING

(n.) The art of effective or persuasive speaking; language designed to persuade; empty or insincere language

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The political speeches were full of inspirational rhetoric but offered nothing in the way of concrete policy.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ of national unity contrasted sharply with the divisive policies being implemented' → rhetoric. Synonyms: oratory, language, discourse. Note: GRE often tests rhetoric negatively (empty/insincere talk).

RIGOR

RIG-er

■ MEANING

(n.) The quality of being extremely thorough; strictness; demanding; harsh conditions

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Scientific rigor — controlled experiments, peer review, replication — is what separates evidence from anecdote.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ of the program prepared students for the demands of doctoral research' → rigor. Synonyms: thoroughness, precision, stringency. Antonyms: laxness, sloppiness, carelessness.

SPARSE

SPARS

■ MEANING

(adj.) Thinly dispersed; not thick or dense; meager in content or quantity

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Evidence for the theory is sparse — three anecdotal cases and one unpublished pilot study.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ population of the remote province made building schools economically prohibitive' → sparse. Synonyms: scanty, meager, scant. Antonyms: abundant, dense, plentiful.

STEADFAST

STED-fast

■ MEANING

(adj.) Resolutely firm and unwavering; loyal and committed

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her steadfast support of the accused throughout the trial — when even allies abandoned him — later proved justified.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ researcher refused to modify her conclusions despite intense pressure from funders' → steadfast. Synonyms: resolute, unwavering, determined. Antonyms: vacillating, wavering, faithless.

SUSPECT

SUS-pekt (adj./n.) / sus-PEKT (v.)

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not to be relied upon; doubtful; (v.) to believe guilty; (n.) one believed to be guilty

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The data in the retracted paper was suspect — the error bars were implausibly small for such a variable process.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His motives were entirely _____ — he stood to gain financially from the decision he was advocating' → suspect. Synonyms: doubtful, questionable, dubious. Antonyms: trustworthy, reliable, credible.

TEDIOUS

TEE-dee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Too long, slow, or dull; boringly repetitive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The tedious form required the same information in three different formats across seven separate pages.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ compliance process deterred all but the most committed applicants' → tedious. Synonyms: boring, monotonous, wearisome. Antonyms: stimulating, engaging, interesting.

VITALITY

vy-TAL-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) The state of being strong and active; energy; the quality that distinguishes the living from the dead

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The documentary captured the vitality of the street market — noise, color, negotiation, and constant motion.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The injection of new talent restored the _____ the organization had lost after years of stagnation' → vitality. Synonyms: energy, liveliness, vigor. Antonyms: lethargy, stagnation, lifelessness.

WHIMSICAL

HWIM-zih-kul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Playfully quaint or fanciful; unpredictably changeable; delightfully unusual

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The whimsical illustrations — animated spoons arguing with teacups — delighted children and baffled their parents.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ design of the clock, with its marching figurines and musical chimes, was impractical but charming' → whimsical. Synonyms: fanciful, playful, quixotic. Antonyms: serious, predictable, conventional.

YIELD

YEELD

■ MEANING

(v.) To produce or provide; to give way under pressure; to concede; (n.) the amount produced

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She refused to yield on the core terms, though she made significant concessions on procedural matters.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The investment _____ a 12% annual return over the ten-year period' → yielded. Multiple meanings: produce, surrender, concede. Context determines GRE sense.

APPREHENSION

ap-rih-HEN-shun

■ MEANING

(n.) Anxiety or fear that something unpleasant will happen; understanding; arrest

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She approached the first public performance with a mix of apprehension and excitement that she found difficult to separate.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ felt by investors ahead of the earnings announcement was reflected in increased volatility' → apprehension. Synonyms: anxiety, dread, foreboding. Antonyms: confidence, calm, reassurance.

ARDENT

AR-dent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Very enthusiastic or passionate; burning; fervent

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

An ardent advocate for prison reform, she visited facilities in 30 states before writing her landmark report.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ support for the cause never wavered even during the years when it was politically toxic' → ardent. Synonyms: passionate, fervent, zealous. Antonyms: apathetic, indifferent, lukewarm.

AXIOMATIC

ak-see-uh-MAT-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Self-evidently true; taken as a given; of or relating to axioms

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

It is axiomatic in physics that energy cannot be created or destroyed, only transformed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'It became _____ in the field that results obtained without proper controls cannot be trusted' → axiomatic. Synonyms: self-evident, obvious, indisputable. Antonyms: debatable, questionable, controversial.

CEASE

SEES

■ MEANING

(v.) To come to an end; to stop; to discontinue

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The factory ceased production after the safety violation was discovered during inspection.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'All operations were ordered to _____ immediately until the safety review was completed' → cease. Synonyms: stop, end, discontinue. Antonyms: continue, begin, persist.

CONDUCTIVE

kun-DOO-siv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Making a certain situation or outcome likely; favorable; contributing to

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The library's quiet environment is conducive to deep work, which is why so many writers spend mornings there.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'An atmosphere _____ to honest communication is a prerequisite for effective teamwork' → conducive. Synonyms: favorable, helpful, instrumental. Antonyms: detrimental, harmful, unfavorable.

CORPOREAL

kor-POR-ee-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having a physical, material existence; of or relating to the body

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The philosopher argued that ideas have as much reality as corporeal objects — perhaps more.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The novel explored the boundary between the _____ and the spiritual' → corporeal. Synonyms: physical, tangible, bodily. Antonyms: spiritual, incorporeal, intangible.

DOCTRINAIRE

dok-truh-NAIR

■ MEANING

(adj.) Seeking to impose a doctrine in all circumstances without regard for practical considerations; dogmatic

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His doctrinaire application of free-market principles ignored the specific market failures in healthcare.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ approach failed when theory met the complexity of real human behavior' → doctrinaire. Synonyms: dogmatic, rigid, ideological. Antonyms: pragmatic, flexible, adaptable.

ECLECTIC

ih-KLEK-tik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Deriving ideas from a diverse range of sources; not following one style; varied

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her eclectic taste — jazz, folk, electronic, classical — made her playlists unpredictable and fascinating.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ curriculum drew from philosophy, literature, science, and the arts simultaneously' → eclectic. Synonyms: diverse, varied, mixed. Antonyms: uniform, narrow, homogeneous.

EQUANIMITY

ee-kwuh-NIM-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) Mental calmness and composure, especially in difficult situations; serenity

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She accepted the devastating diagnosis with remarkable equanimity, immediately asking what the treatment options were.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word. TC/SE: 'Her _____ in the face of repeated setbacks inspired colleagues who would have given up' → equanimity. Synonyms: composure, serenity, calm. Antonyms: agitation, panic, turbulence.

EXORBITANT

ig-ZOR-bih-tent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Unreasonably high in price; beyond what is usual or proper; excessive

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The exorbitant legal fees consumed 40% of the settlement before a single plaintiff received anything.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ cost of housing forced young workers to commute two hours each way' → exorbitant. Synonyms: excessive, extortionate, unreasonable. Antonyms: reasonable, modest, affordable.

FICKLE

FIK-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Changing frequently, especially as regards loyalty or affection; inconsistent

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Public opinion is fickle — the same policy can be popular one month and deeply unpopular the next.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ electorate had supported four different parties in consecutive elections' → fickle. Synonyms: inconsistent, capricious, unreliable. Antonyms: steadfast, loyal, consistent.

FIGURATIVE

FIG-yuh-ruh-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Departing from literal use of words; metaphorical; not literal

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

When she said the presentation was 'a disaster,' she meant it figuratively — it was merely disappointing.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The poem's power lies in its _____ language — every object stands for something beyond itself' → figurative. Synonyms: metaphorical, symbolic, non-literal. Antonyms: literal, direct, explicit.

FLUSTERED

FLUS-terd

■ MEANING

(adj.) Agitated and confused; in a state of hurried disorder

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The flustered waiter dropped the check, apologized twice for the wrong table, and forgot to bring the dessert menu.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The unexpected question _____ the candidate, who had prepared for everything except this' → flustered. Synonyms: agitated, flustered, confused. Antonyms: calm, composed, collected.

GULLIBLE

GUL-ih-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Easily persuaded to believe something; credulous; naive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The gullible investor believed every promise made by the smooth-talking broker, losing his entire savings.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The scam relied on _____ victims who failed to verify claims before transferring money' → gullible. Synonyms: credulous, naive, susceptible. Antonyms: skeptical, astute, suspicious.

IDIOSYNCRATIC

id-ee-oh-sin-KRAT-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Relating to a peculiarity of constitution or temperament; individual; characteristic

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His idiosyncratic filing system — organized by color, not by date or subject — baffled every new assistant.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ investment strategy made sense only in terms of his personal philosophy' → idiosyncratic. Synonyms: peculiar, individual, eccentric. Antonyms: conventional, standard, typical.

INCIDENTAL

in-sih-DEN-tul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Occurring by chance in connection with something else; minor or casual; subsidiary

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The incidental discovery of the manuscript — found in a box of unrelated documents — was among the decade's greatest literary finds.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The environmental benefit was _____ to the primary economic goal, not the reason for the policy' → incidental.
Synonyms: accidental, secondary, peripheral. Antonyms: deliberate, central, intentional.

INGRAINED

in-GRAYN D

■ MEANING

(adj.) Firmly established; difficult to change; deeply rooted

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Ingrained assumptions about gender roles prevented the organization from seeing the talent it was overlooking.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ bias in the hiring process persisted despite every formal attempt at reform' → ingrained. Synonyms: deep-rooted, entrenched, fixed. Antonyms: superficial, new, easily changed.

INSOLENT

IN-suh-lent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing a rude and arrogant lack of respect; disrespectful; overbearing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The insolent student dismissed the professor's feedback as irrelevant without having read it.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ dismissal of the committee's findings insulted everyone who had spent months compiling them' → insolent.
Synonyms: rude, arrogant, impertinent. Antonyms: respectful, deferential, polite.

LAMPOON

lam-POON

■ MEANING

(v./n.) To publicly criticize by using ridicule, irony, or sarcasm; a satirical attack

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The sketch lampooned the minister's pompous speaking style so effectively that even his supporters laughed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The satirical magazine has _____ every administration for 50 years without fear or favor' → lampooned. Synonyms: satirize, ridicule, mock. Antonyms: praise, eulogize, celebrate.

LAVISH

LAV-ish

■ MEANING

(adj.) Sumptuously rich; spending freely; (v.) to bestow in large amounts

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The lavish party — imported champagne, live orchestra, catered by a Michelin-starred chef — cost three times the budget.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'She _____ attention on her students, spending hours outside class to support their progress' → lavished.
Synonyms: extravagant, generous, profuse. Antonyms: frugal, sparing, meager.

LUGUBRIOUS

loo-GOO-bree-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Looking or sounding sad and dismal; mournful; excessively gloomy

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His lugubrious expression at the joyous occasion confused everyone who didn't know about his personal difficulties.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ tone of the report — full of dire predictions — contrasted with the modest scale of the problem' → lugubrious. Synonyms: mournful, gloomy, dismal. Antonyms: cheerful, bright, joyous.

MACABRE

muh-KAH-bruh

■ MEANING

(adj.) Disturbing and horrifying because of involvement with death; gruesome

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The macabre exhibit — featuring Victorian mourning objects and death masks — drew larger crowds than any other show.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The novelist's _____ humor — finding comedy in mortality — disturbed some readers and delighted others' → macabre. Synonyms: gruesome, morbid, ghoulish. Antonyms: lighthearted, cheerful, pleasant.

MOROSE

muh-ROHS

■ MEANING

(adj.) Sullen and ill-tempered; gloomy and unsociable

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After the rejection, he became morose for weeks — barely speaking, canceling plans, and sitting in the dark.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ protagonist's refusal to engage with any of the people around him alienated even sympathetic readers' → morose. Synonyms: gloomy, sullen, despondent. Antonyms: cheerful, sociable, jolly.

OFFICIOUS

uh-FISH-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Asserting authority in an annoyingly domineering way; intrusively eager to offer help

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The officious clerk demanded three forms of ID for a transaction that required none.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ supervisor micromanaged every task, undermining the team's confidence and efficiency' → officious. Synonyms: overbearing, meddlesome, bossy. Antonyms: unassuming, deferential, helpful.

RAMIFICATION

ram-ih-fih-KAY-shun

■ MEANING

(n.) A consequence arising from an action or decision; a subdivision of a complex structure

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The treaty's ramifications extended far beyond trade — it reshaped military alliances for a generation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The board failed to consider the legal _____ of the decision before announcing it publicly' → ramifications. Synonyms: consequence, implication, result. Antonyms: cause, origin, antecedent.

SERENE

suh-REEN

■ MEANING

(adj.) Calm and peaceful; untroubled; tranquil

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The serene lake reflected the mountains perfectly in the early morning before the wind arrived.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She maintained a _____ composure throughout the trial, showing no sign of the turmoil she described in her memoir' → serene. Synonyms: calm, tranquil, placid. Antonyms: agitated, troubled, turbulent.

SUPPLANT

suh-PLANT

■ MEANING

(v.) To supersede and replace; to take the place of; to oust

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Digital photography supplanted film so rapidly that Kodak went from iconic brand to bankrupt in 15 years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The new algorithm _____ the older method, reducing processing time by 80%' → supplanted. Synonyms: replace, displace, supersede. Antonyms: restore, maintain, precede.

TACIT

TAS-it

■ MEANING

(adj.) Understood or implied without being stated; unspoken; silent

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

There was a tacit agreement among the group that certain topics would not be raised in front of the press.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The contract included a _____ assumption that both parties understood the industry standard' → tacit. Synonyms: implied, unspoken, unstated. Antonyms: explicit, stated, direct.

TRANSCEND

tran-SEND

■ MEANING

(v.) To be or go beyond the range of normal limits; to surpass; to exist above and beyond

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Great art transcends its historical moment, speaking to audiences centuries after it was created.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The film's theme _____ political differences — audiences of every persuasion were moved by it' → transcended. Synonyms: surpass, exceed, rise above. Antonyms: remain within, fall below, be limited to.

TREATISE

TREE-tis

■ MEANING

(n.) A written work dealing formally and systematically with a subject; a formal written work

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His 800-page treatise on international law became the standard reference for scholars and practitioners worldwide.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ addressed every aspect of the topic with the thoroughness of a doctoral dissertation' → treatise. Synonyms: study, paper, dissertation. Antonyms: summary, note, informal account.

GROUP 27

30 words

ANTAGONIZE

an-TAG-uh-nyz

■ MEANING

(v.) To cause someone to become hostile; to irritate; to act in opposition to

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His habit of dismissing colleagues' work antagonized the entire department, making cooperation impossible.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The policy was designed to _____ critics rather than address their concerns' → antagonize. Synonyms: provoke, alienate, irritate. Antonyms: placate, win over, endear.

BARREN

BAR-en

■ MEANING

(adj.) Too poor to produce crops; unproductive; devoid of meaning; unable to conceive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The volcanic soil, barren for a century after the eruption, gradually became fertile through natural processes.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ landscape of the debate — no new ideas, no genuine engagement — disappointed observers' → barren. Synonyms: unproductive, fruitless, sterile. Antonyms: fertile, productive, rich.

BOMBASTIC

bom-BAS-tik

■ MEANING

(adj.) High-sounding language with little meaning; inflated; pompous

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His bombastic speeches were full of grand promises and impressive-sounding phrases that meant nothing specific.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ prose of the manifesto obscured what was actually a fairly conventional set of proposals' → bombastic. Synonyms: pompous, grandiose, inflated. Antonyms: understated, modest, direct.

CAJOLE

kuh-JOHL

■ MEANING

(v.) To persuade someone to do something by sustained coaxing or flattery

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She cajoled the reluctant witness into testifying by spending three hours explaining the importance of his evidence.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Rather than ordering compliance, the effective manager _____ cooperation through genuine persuasion' → cajoled. Synonyms: coax, wheedle, persuade. Antonyms: order, threaten, coerce.

CHARY

CHAIR-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Cautiously reluctant; wary; slow to give or do; sparing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was chary of making promises, knowing how expectations, once raised, are difficult to walk back.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The experienced diplomat was _____ of any commitment that might create future obligations' → chary. Synonyms: cautious, wary, sparing. Antonyms: reckless, generous, forthcoming.

CURMUDGEON

kur-MUJ-un

■ MEANING

(n.) A bad-tempered person who is easily annoyed; a grumpy old person; a miser

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The curmudgeon next door complained about every neighborhood event, from summer barbecues to children playing.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The famous critic's reputation as a _____ masked a genuine love of the art he seemed perpetually to condemn' → curmudgeon. Synonyms: grouch, crank, grumbler. Antonyms: optimist, enthusiast, agreeable person.

DIRGE

DURJ

■ MEANING

(n.) A lament for the dead; a mournful song or piece of music; anything that is mournful

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The slow, minor-key composition played at the funeral was a traditional dirge dating back 400 years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'What should have been a joyful celebration became a _____ for the lost opportunities of the past decade' → dirge. Synonyms: lament, elegy, requiem. Antonyms: celebration, hymn of praise, anthem.

ESTIMABLE

ES-tuh-muh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Worthy of great respect; admirable; capable of being estimated

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her estimable career — spanning 40 years of public service without a single ethical blemish — set the standard.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The judge was an _____ person of high principle whose decisions reflected her character' → estimable. Synonyms: admirable, respected, worthy. Antonyms: contemptible, disreputable, dishonorable.

EUPHEMISM

YOO-fuh-miz-um

■ MEANING

(n.) A mild or indirect word substituted for one considered too harsh or blunt

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

'Passed away' is a euphemism for 'died'; 'downsizing' is a euphemism for mass layoffs.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The government's use of _____ — calling civilian deaths 'collateral damage' — angered rights organizations' → euphemism. Synonyms: indirect expression, understatement, polite term. Antonyms: blunt term, direct language, dysphemism.

EXCORIATE

ek-SKOR-ee-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To criticize harshly and at length; to damage or remove the skin from

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The report excoriated the regulatory agency for failing to act on six years of warnings about the fraud.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The editorial board _____ the decision as a reckless abandonment of fiduciary responsibility' → excoriated. Synonyms: condemn, flay, censure. Antonyms: praise, commend, laud.

EXIGENT

EK-suh-jent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Pressing; demanding immediate action or attention; exacting

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The exigent circumstances of the flood relief operation required decisions within minutes, not weeks.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'In _____ situations, even normally rigid protocols must yield to practical necessity' → exigent. Synonyms: urgent, pressing, demanding. Antonyms: unhurried, non-urgent, relaxed.

HAUGHTY

HAW-tee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Arrogantly superior and disdainful; condescendingly proud

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her haughty treatment of service staff — not making eye contact, issuing commands — revealed her character more than any interview.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ manner in which he dismissed junior staff suggestions created a culture of silent resentment' → haughty. Synonyms: arrogant, disdainful, supercilious. Antonyms: humble, modest, respectful.

HEADY

HED-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Potent; producing an exhilarating effect; impetuous

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The heady success of the first product launch created expectations that the second could not meet.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ atmosphere of the early startup days — anything seemed possible — gave way to practical constraints' → heady. Synonyms: exhilarating, intoxicating, powerful. Antonyms: sobering, deflating, ordinary.

IMPERTURBABLE

im-per-TUR-buh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Unable to be upset or excited; calm; serene under all conditions

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His imperturbable manner in every crisis — natural disaster, organizational collapse, personal loss — became almost unsettling.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ negotiator showed no reaction regardless of the pressure or provocation applied' → imperturbable. Synonyms: calm, unflappable, composed. Antonyms: excitable, volatile, nervous.

IMPLACABLE

im-PLAK-uh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Unable to be appeased or pacified; relentless; inflexible in opposition

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She faced the implacable opposition of the entire establishment but refused to abandon the campaign.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ critic rejected every revision as inadequate, making approval effectively impossible' → implacable. Synonyms: relentless, unappeasable, inexorable. Antonyms: placable, lenient, conciliatory.

LAMBASTE

lam-BAYST

■ MEANING

(v.) To criticize severely; to beat; to thrash

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The opposition lambasted the minister's handling of the crisis as 'incompetent, dishonest, and dangerous.'

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The review _____ every aspect of the production, from the script to the set design' → lambasted. Synonyms: criticize harshly, excoriate, flay. Antonyms: praise, commend, applaud.

MISCREANT

MIS-kree-ent

■ MEANING

(n.) A person who behaves badly or unlawfully; a villain; a wrongdoer

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The security footage identified the miscreant as someone with authorized access — an inside job.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The editorial called for stronger penalties for corporate _____ who treated fines as operating costs' → miscreants. Synonyms: wrongdoer, villain, criminal. Antonyms: upright citizen, law-abider, hero.

PECCADILLO

pek-uh-DIL-oh

■ MEANING

(n.) A minor offense or sin; a small fault or weakness

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The politician's early peccadillos — a parking violation, a small unreported gift — were used disproportionately against him.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The biographer distinguished between the man's significant achievements and his personal _____' → peccadillos. Synonyms: minor fault, indiscretion, transgression. Antonyms: serious crime, major offense.

PHILISTINE

FIL-ih-steen

■ MEANING

(n./adj.) A person hostile or indifferent to culture and the arts; uncultured; crudely materialistic

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He was called a philistine for his preference for commercial entertainment over serious art — an unfair characterization.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The funding committee was accused of being _____, cutting arts budgets while expanding sports facilities' → philistines. Synonyms: uncultured, barbaric, boorish. Antonyms: cultured, refined, sophisticated.

RELEGATE

REL-uh-gayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To assign to an inferior rank; to banish to a less prominent position; to demote

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After the controversy, she was relegated from head of the department to a subordinate advisory role.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Environmental concerns were consistently _____ to the bottom of the agenda' → relegated. Synonyms: demote, downgrade, banish. Antonyms: promote, elevate, prioritize.

REPUGNANT

rih-PUG-nent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Extremely distasteful; unacceptable; conflicting; in opposition

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The practice was repugnant to every member of the ethics committee who reviewed the trial protocol.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The proposal was _____ to the values of every organization that reviewed it' → repugnant. Synonyms: revolting, abhorrent, offensive. Antonyms: appealing, acceptable, agreeable.

SENTIMENTAL

sen-tuh-MEN-tul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Excessively emotional in a self-indulgent way; prompted by feelings rather than reason

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The sentimental attachment to an unsuccessful business prevented the founders from making a rational exit.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'A _____ reading of the historical record glosses over evidence that complicates the preferred narrative' → sentimental. Synonyms: nostalgic, mawkish, emotional. Antonyms: rational, unsentimental, objective.

SQUANDER

SKWON-der

■ MEANING

(v.) To waste in a reckless or foolish manner; to lose by mismanagement

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The country squandered its oil windfall on prestige projects, leaving nothing for education or healthcare.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The company _____ its dominant market position through years of underinvestment and complacency' → squandered. Synonyms: waste, misuse, fritter. Antonyms: preserve, utilize, invest.

SWINDLE

SWIN-dul

■ MEANING

(v./n.) To use deception to obtain money dishonestly; a fraudulent scheme

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The Ponzi scheme swindled investors out of \$400 million before the auditors discovered the fraud.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The elaborate _____ involved fake charities, forged documents, and complicit bank officials' → swindle. Synonyms: defraud, cheat, con. Antonyms: pay fairly, reimburse, compensate.

TANGIBLE

TAN-jih-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Perceptible by touch; clear and definite; real

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The policy produced tangible results within a year — measurable reductions in unemployment and poverty rates.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Investors wanted _____ evidence of progress, not vague promises of future growth' → tangible. Synonyms: concrete, real, perceptible. Antonyms: intangible, abstract, vague.

TURPITUDE

TUR-pih-tood

■ MEANING

(n.) Wickedness; depravity; corrupt or shameful conduct

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The committee found multiple instances of moral turpitude — bribery, blackmail, and falsification of records.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Convicted of moral _____, he was disbarred and permanently excluded from practicing law' → turpitude. Synonyms: depravity, wickedness, corruption. Antonyms: virtue, integrity, rectitude.

UNALLOYED

un-uh-LOYD

■ MEANING

(adj.) Pure; without qualification; not mixed; complete

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her joy at the news was unalloyed — nothing tempered it, nothing complicated it.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The review offered _____ praise, finding nothing to criticize in a production it called "perfect"' → unalloyed. Synonyms: pure, complete, unadulterated. Antonyms: mixed, qualified, tempered.

UNDERCUT

un-der-KUT

■ MEANING

(v.) To weaken or undermine; to sell at a lower price than a competitor; to cut away from below

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The leaked memo undercut the official version of events by revealing a completely different internal discussion.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The second study _____ the credibility of the first by showing its methodology was flawed' → undercut. Synonyms: undermine, weaken, sabotage. Antonyms: reinforce, strengthen, support.

WHEEDLE

HWEE-dul

■ MEANING

(v.) To persuade through flattery or coaxing; to obtain by such means

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She wheedled an invitation to the exclusive event by praising the host extravagantly for weeks beforehand.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He _____ the committee into extending his deadline by appealing to their sympathy' → wheedled. Synonyms: coax, cajole, flatter. Antonyms: order, demand, threaten.

XENOPHOBIC

zen-uh-FOH-bik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having intense dislike or fear of people from other countries or cultures

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The xenophobic rhetoric of the campaign targeted immigrants as the cause of economic problems they had not created.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ policy restricted immigration from certain countries based on national origin alone' → xenophobic. Synonyms: nativist, bigoted, intolerant. Antonyms: cosmopolitan, open, tolerant.

GROUP 28

30 words

ABEYANCE

uh-BAY-ents

■ MEANING

(n.) A state of temporary disuse or suspension; temporary inactivity

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The negotiations were held in abeyance while both sides waited for new leadership to take office.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The project was placed in _____ pending a full review of the funding arrangements' → abeyance. Phrase: 'in abeyance' = suspended. Synonyms: suspension, dormancy, postponement. Antonyms: activation, resumption, progress.

ABSTRACT

AB-strakt (adj./n.) / ab-STRAKT (v.)

■ MEANING

(adj.) Existing in thought or concept; not concrete; theoretical; (v.) to remove or extract; (n.) a summary

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The concept of justice is abstract — it exists as an idea, not as a physical object anyone can point to.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The researcher was adept at making _____ principles concrete through vivid real-world examples' → abstract.
Synonyms: theoretical, conceptual, intangible. Antonyms: concrete, tangible, practical.

AFFRONT

uh-FRUNT

■ MEANING

(n.) An action or remark that causes outrage or offense; (v.) to offend the modesty or values of

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The senator called the decision an affront to democracy and vowed to challenge it in court.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The dismissive response was an _____ to the thousands who had spent years working on the proposal' → affront.
Synonyms: insult, offense, indignity. Antonyms: compliment, honor, tribute.

AGITATE

AJ-ih-tayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To campaign for change; to disturb; to stir up; to make anxious or nervous

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Labor organizers agitated for better conditions for decades before the first comprehensive workplace safety law was passed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The revelation _____ the public to such a degree that protests began within hours' → agitated. Synonyms: disturb, stir up, provoke. Antonyms: calm, pacify, soothe.

AUGUST

aw-GUST

■ MEANING

(adj.) Respected and impressive; venerable; inspiring reverence

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The august institution had trained prime ministers, Nobel laureates, and supreme court justices for 200 years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Even the most _____ scholars admitted the question remained unresolved' → august. Synonyms: respected, venerable, distinguished. Antonyms: disreputable, undistinguished, ordinary.

BURNISH

BUR-nish

■ MEANING

(v.) To polish by rubbing; to enhance the reputation of; to make smoother and brighter

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The PR campaign was designed to burnish the CEO's reputation after the scandal, with limited success.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His performance in the final debate _____ his image as a thoughtful and competent candidate' → burnished.
Synonyms: polish, enhance, improve. Antonyms: tarnish, damage, diminish.

COY

KOY

■ MEANING

(adj.) Making a pretense of shyness or reticence; reluctant to reveal information; artfully playful

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

When asked about her future plans, she was deliberately coy — smiling but giving nothing away.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The spokesperson was _____ about the acquisition rumors, neither confirming nor denying them' → coy.
Synonyms: evasive, reticent, playfully shy. Antonyms: forthright, candid, direct.

DEPRECATE

DEP-ruh-kayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To express disapproval of; to belittle; to seek to avert by prayer

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He had a habit of deprecating his own contributions, which made it hard for others to assess his actual value.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The committee _____ the proposal as premature and inadequately researched' → deprecated. Synonyms: disparage, belittle, disapprove. Antonyms: praise, commend, endorse.

DISDAIN

dis-DAYN

■ MEANING

(n./v.) A feeling that someone is unworthy; to regard as unworthy; contempt

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She made no effort to conceal her disdain for the committee's superficial questions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His barely concealed _____ for routine administrative tasks affected his performance in the role' → disdain.
Synonyms: contempt, scorn, derision. Antonyms: admiration, respect, esteem.

DISPERSE

dih-SPURS

■ MEANING

(v.) To scatter in different directions; to distribute widely; to cause to separate and move apart

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The police dispersed the crowd with warning announcements before resorting to water cannons.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'When the lecture ended, the audience _____ quickly, leaving no one to discuss the ideas that had just been presented' → dispersed. Synonyms: scatter, distribute, spread. Antonyms: gather, concentrate, assemble.

DISTEND

dih-STEND

■ MEANING

(v.) To swell or stretch to unnatural proportions; to expand under pressure

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Years of corporate expansion had distended the company's bureaucracy to the point of dysfunction.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ budget had grown to three times its original size without any increase in actual output' → distended. Synonyms: swell, expand, inflate. Antonyms: contract, shrink, compress.

ENDEMIC

en-DEM-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Regularly found among particular people or in a certain area; native; widespread in a region

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Corruption was so endemic in the system that reformers couldn't identify where to begin.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The disease was _____ to the tropical region and rarely seen elsewhere' → endemic. Synonyms: prevalent, indigenous, widespread. Antonyms: rare, foreign, introduced.

ENMITY

EN-mih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) A state of deep-seated ill will; active opposition; hostility

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The two families had nursed an enmity that had lasted three generations, stemming from a land dispute.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ between the two factions made coalition governance effectively impossible' → enmity. Synonyms: hostility, hatred, antagonism. Antonyms: goodwill, friendship, harmony.

GAUCHE

GOHSH

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lacking social grace or experience; awkward or unsophisticated

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His gauche remark about his hostess's weight ended the dinner party forty minutes early.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ handling of the delicate negotiation reflected a complete absence of diplomatic training' → gauche.
Synonyms: tactless, awkward, graceless. Antonyms: tactful, sophisticated, graceful.

HYSTERICAL

hih-STAIR-ih-kul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Deriving from uncontrolled extreme emotion; wildly funny; irrationally fearful

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The media coverage was hysterical — presenting a minor increase in crime rates as a complete breakdown of social order.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ response to the news was out of all proportion to what the evidence actually showed' → hysterical.
Synonyms: overwrought, frantic, irrational. Antonyms: calm, measured, rational.

IMPUDENT

IM-pyuh-dent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not showing due respect; bold in an offensive way; insolent

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The impudent intern interrupted the CEO's presentation to correct what he believed was a factual error.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ response to the established professor's question showed a complete disregard for professional norms' → impudent. Synonyms: insolent, disrespectful, audacious. Antonyms: respectful, deferential, polite.

INCHOATE

in-KOH-it

■ MEANING

(adj.) Just begun and not fully formed; undeveloped; rudimentary; incoherent

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The inchoate plan had energy and direction but lacked the operational detail needed for execution.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ proposal was promising in concept but required months of development before it was actionable' → inchoate. Synonyms: undeveloped, nascent, embryonic. Antonyms: fully formed, mature, developed.

PENCHANT

PEN-chent

■ MEANING

(n.) A strong or habitual liking; an inclination toward something

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her penchant for understatement meant that 'not bad' was her highest possible praise.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ for risk-taking made him a natural entrepreneur but a terrible employee' → penchant. Synonyms: liking, tendency, proclivity. Antonyms: aversion, dislike, disinclination.

QUANDARY

KWON-duh-ree

■ MEANING

(n.) A state of uncertainty about what to do; a practical dilemma

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was in a quandary — the ethical choice would cost her the client, but the commercial choice would compromise her integrity.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The negotiator faced a _____ — any concession would signal weakness, but refusal would end the talks' → quandary. Synonyms: dilemma, predicament, impasse. Antonyms: certainty, resolution, clarity.

QUARANTINE

KWOR-en-teen

■ MEANING

(v./n.) To isolate to prevent spread of disease; a period of isolation

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

All passengers on the affected flight were quarantined for 14 days while authorities assessed the risk.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The infected device was immediately _____ from the network to prevent the malware from spreading' → quarantined. Synonyms: isolate, segregate, contain. Antonyms: release, integrate, expose.

QUASH

KWOSH

■ MEANING

(v.) To put an end to; to suppress; to reject or void a decision

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The court of appeals quashed the lower court ruling, finding three procedural errors.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The government _____ the rebellion before it could gain momentum' → quashed. Synonyms: suppress, crush, invalidate. Antonyms: encourage, support, uphold.

QUIBBLE

KWIB-ul

■ MEANING

(v./n.) To make petty objections; a trivial objection or criticism

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She had no quibble with the substance of the proposal but objected to the presentation timeline.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'He _____ over minor wording while the fundamental disagreement went unaddressed' → quibbled. Synonyms: nitpick, cavil, carp. Antonyms: accept, agree, overlook.

RAVAGE

RAV-ij

■ MEANING

(v./n.) To cause severe and extensive damage; devastation; damage caused by something destructive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The wildfire ravaged 50,000 acres and destroyed 300 homes in three days.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Disease _____ the population, reducing it by a third within a single decade' → ravaged. Synonyms: devastate, destroy, wreak havoc. Antonyms: preserve, protect, restore.

RECAT

rih-KANT

■ MEANING

(v.) To withdraw or disavow a previously held statement; to repudiate

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Under pressure, she recanted her accusation — though many suspected the recantation was made under duress.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The scientist _____ the theory he had championed for a decade after new data emerged' → recanted. Synonyms: retract, disavow, repudiate. Antonyms: affirm, maintain, uphold.

REDOUBTABLE

rih-DOWT-uh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Formidable, especially as an opponent; inspiring respect through being impressive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The redoubtable defense attorney had not lost a capital case in 25 years of practice.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Facing the _____ champion, most opponents conceded before the competition had even begun' → redoubtable. Synonyms: formidable, fearsome, impressive. Antonyms: weak, insignificant, unimpressive.

RETIRING

rih-TY-ring

■ MEANING

(adj.) Tending to avoid attention; shy; modest; unassuming

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The retiring scientist preferred to publish in obscure journals rather than present at high-profile conferences.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ personality made her easy to overlook, which was a significant mistake that rivals made consistently' → retiring. Synonyms: shy, modest, unassuming. Antonyms: assertive, outgoing, attention-seeking.

SHRILL

SHRIL

■ MEANING

(adj.) High-pitched and piercing; expressing complaint or protest in an excessively intense way

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The shrill demands of the advocacy group — threatening, absolutist, and non-negotiable — alienated potential allies.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ criticism, far exceeding the scale of the actual problem, undermined the credibility of the critics' → shrill. Synonyms: strident, piercing, harsh. Antonyms: moderate, measured, reasonable.

SOPHISTRY

SOF-ih-stree

■ MEANING

(n.) Plausible but misleading reasoning; clever but fallacious argumentation

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The defense lawyer's sophistry convinced the jury despite the overwhelming physical evidence.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The argument was later exposed as _____ — it sounded compelling but rested on a false premise' → sophistry. Synonyms: specious reasoning, fallacy, deception. Antonyms: sound reasoning, logic, truth.

SUBSTANTIATE

sub-STAN-shee-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To provide evidence to prove or support a claim; to verify; to confirm

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The whistleblower substantiated every claim with internal documents that proved the fraud was systemic.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She could not _____ the assertion — no documents, no witnesses, no data supported it' → substantiate. Synonyms: verify, confirm, corroborate. Antonyms: disprove, refute, undermine.

WILY

WY-lee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Skilled at gaining an advantage by using clever and devious means; cunning

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The wily negotiator appeared to make concessions while carefully securing everything on his private list.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ politician had survived every scandal by mastering the art of strategic ambiguity' → wily. Synonyms: cunning, shrewd, crafty. Antonyms: naive, guileless, straightforward.

GROUP 29

30 words

ABSCOND

ab-SKOND

■ MEANING

(v.) To leave hurriedly and secretly to avoid detection; to escape

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The treasurer absconded with the organization's entire reserve fund the night before the annual audit.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The accused _____ before the warrant was issued, making arrest much harder' → absconded. Synonyms: flee, escape, run away. Antonyms: remain, surrender, turn oneself in.

APOGEE

AP-uh-jee

■ MEANING

(n.) The highest point in the development of something; the farthest point from Earth in an orbit

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The Renaissance represented the apogee of Florentine cultural achievement — every art form reached its peak simultaneously.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The company's _____ — 40% market share in 15 countries — came just before the dramatic reversal' → apogee. Synonyms: peak, zenith, pinnacle. Antonyms: nadir, lowest point, beginning.

ASPERSION

uh-SPUR-zhun

■ MEANING

(n.) An attack on the reputation or integrity of someone; a false charge or imputation

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He cast aspersions on her research methodology without providing a single example of how it had failed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'To cast _____ on someone's integrity without evidence is itself a moral failing' → aspersions. Synonyms: slur, slander, defamation. Antonyms: praise, commendation, vindication.

BAWDY

BAW-dee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Dealing with sexual matters in a humorous or frank way; ribald

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The Elizabethan theater welcomed bawdy humor that would shock modern audiences — it was considered family entertainment.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ humor of the medieval tale was intended to entertain rural audiences who appreciated earthy comedy' → bawdy. Synonyms: ribald, risqué, vulgar. Antonyms: refined, decorous, prudish.

CHAGRIN

shuh-GRIN

■ MEANING

(n.) Distress or embarrassment at having failed or been humiliated; (v.) to feel this

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

To her great chagrin, she mispronounced the guest of honor's name in front of 500 people.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The lawyer's _____ at losing a case she had considered certain was evident in every line of her face' → chagrin. Synonyms: mortification, embarrassment, disappointment. Antonyms: delight, pride, satisfaction.

COLLUDE

kuh-LOOD

■ MEANING

(v.) To conspire together secretly for fraudulent or deceitful purposes

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The companies colluded on pricing for years, collectively defrauding consumers of billions of dollars.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Evidence emerged that competing bidders had _____ to fix prices, violating antitrust law' → colluded. Synonyms: conspire, scheme, cooperate secretly. Antonyms: compete, act independently, disclose.

COMMISERATE

kuh-MIZ-er-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To express or feel sympathy or pity; to condole

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Colleagues commiserated with her after the rejection, sharing their own stories of similar setbacks.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Rather than _____ with colleagues about their shared difficulties, she preferred to focus on solutions' → commiserate. Synonyms: sympathize, console, empathize. Antonyms: celebrate, mock, ignore.

CONFLAGRATION

kon-fluh-GRAY-shun

■ MEANING

(n.) An extensive fire; a large and destructive conflict or controversy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The political conflagration ignited by the leaked memo consumed the administration for six months.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'What began as a minor dispute _____ into a full institutional crisis within weeks' → conflagration. Synonyms: blaze, inferno, catastrophe. Antonyms: spark, ember, minor dispute.

CONTEMPTE

KON-truh-tahn

■ MEANING

(n.) An unexpected and unfortunate occurrence; a minor dispute or conflict

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The contretemps at the state dinner — a spilled wine, a cutting remark — was resolved with practiced diplomatic grace.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ between the two allies — over intelligence sharing — was resolved privately before the press discovered it' → contretemps. Synonyms: mishap, difficulty, squabble. Antonyms: smooth event, harmony.

CONVICTION

kun-VIK-shun

■ MEANING

(n.) A firmly held belief; the state of being found guilty; certainty

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She spoke with such conviction that even skeptics found themselves reconsidering their objections.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ that science would eventually solve the problem sustained him through years of failed experiments' → conviction. Synonyms: belief, certainty, determination. Antonyms: doubt, uncertainty, ambivalence.

CROON

KROON

■ MEANING

(v.) To hum or sing softly; to make soothing sounds; to say sycophantically

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The singer crooned the lullaby so gently that the audience barely noticed the performance ending.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He _____ praises about the new leader's vision, though few believed his enthusiasm was genuine' → crooned.
Synonyms: sing softly, murmur, hum. Note: GRE tests its figurative sense of saying something in a soft, flattering way.

DEPOSE

dih-POHZ

■ MEANING

(v.) To remove from power; to testify under oath; to dethrone

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The coup deposed the elected president and installed a military junta overnight.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Three witnesses were _____ before the trial, providing sworn testimony that contradicted the official account' → deposed. Synonyms: remove, overthrow, dethrone. Antonyms: install, appoint, crown.

DETENTE

day-TAHNT

■ MEANING

(n.) The easing of hostility between nations; a relaxation of strained relations

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The Cold War détente of the 1970s allowed both superpowers to pursue trade without the threat of immediate war.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The summit represented a period of _____ after years of confrontation between the two powers' → détente.
Synonyms: relaxation, rapprochement, easing. Antonyms: escalation, confrontation, hostility.

DOWDY

DOW-dee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Unfashionable; dull in appearance; lacking elegance

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The dowdy decor — beige walls, tired carpet, fluorescent lighting — conveyed an institution that had stopped caring.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ appearance of the website — unchanged since 2008 — undermined confidence in the organization's competence' → dowdy. Synonyms: unfashionable, drab, frumpy. Antonyms: stylish, elegant, fashionable.

ECHELON

ESH-uh-lon

■ MEANING

(n.) A level or rank in an organization or system; a particular formation in military units

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The cultural shift needed to start at the highest echelon — no change would work if senior leaders didn't model it.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Policy decisions made in the upper _____ rarely reflect the reality experienced at the operational level' → echelon.
Synonyms: level, rank, tier. Antonyms: whole, undifferentiated group.

ENNUI

on-WEE

■ MEANING

(n.) A feeling of listlessness and dissatisfaction arising from a lack of occupation or excitement

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After years of repetitive success, she felt a profound ennui that no new project seemed able to relieve.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ that characterized the affluent characters in the novel contrasted with the desperate vitality of the poor ones' → ennui. Synonyms: boredom, listlessness, disillusionment. Antonyms: enthusiasm, excitement, engagement.

EXPATiate

ek-SPAY-shee-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To speak or write at length or in detail; to elaborate

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Given the opportunity, he would expatiate for hours on the history of aviation without needing prompting.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She _____ on her theory for 40 minutes before the moderator gently moved the discussion forward' → expatiated.
Synonyms: elaborate, expand on, discourse at length. Antonyms: summarize, abbreviate, condense.

FRAUGHT

FRAWT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Filled with or likely to result in something undesirable; causing anxiety

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The negotiation was fraught with risk — one wrong word could collapse months of careful preparation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The relationship between the two countries was _____ with historical grievances that no single treaty could resolve' → fraught. Synonyms: filled with, laden, tense. Antonyms: free from, straightforward, uncomplicated.

FULCRUM

FUL-krum

■ MEANING

(n.) The point on which a lever rests; the key element in a situation; a pivot

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The swing state was the fulcrum of the election — whoever won it would win the presidency.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The new technology became the _____ around which the entire industry reorganized itself' → fulcrum. Synonyms: pivot, crux, lynchpin. Antonyms: peripheral element, minor factor.

IMBROGLIO

im-BROHL-yoh

■ MEANING

(n.) An extremely confused or complicated situation; an embarrassing misunderstanding

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The diplomatic imbroglio — involving a misdelivered cable and a mistranslated speech — took two months to resolve.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'What should have been a routine meeting became an _____ when opposing parties arrived with incompatible agendas' → imbroglio. Synonyms: complication, entanglement, muddle. Antonyms: clarity, simple situation, resolution.

JOCUND

JOK-und

■ MEANING

(adj.) Cheerful and light-hearted; full of joy; merry

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His jocund greeting — warm handshake, immediate smile, genuine interest — put every new acquaintance at ease.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ atmosphere of the village festival contrasted with the tension that had characterized the preceding weeks' → jocund. Synonyms: cheerful, merry, jovial. Antonyms: gloomy, morose, somber.

LANGUISH

LANG-gwish

■ MEANING

(v.) To lose strength gradually; to suffer from neglect; to be in unpleasant conditions

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The initiative languished for three years, unfunded and unimplemented, until a new administration prioritized it.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The talented scientist _____ in an underfunded lab for years before her work received the attention it deserved' → languished. Synonyms: deteriorate, wither, stagnate. Antonyms: flourish, thrive, prosper.

NADIR

NAY-dir

■ MEANING

(n.) The lowest point in fortune or condition; the lowest point of a celestial body's orbit

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The company reached its nadir in 2009 — negative cash flow, departing executives, and a stock price below \$1.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ of the relationship came when public trust fell below 10% for the first time' → nadir. Synonyms: lowest point, rock bottom, trough. Antonyms: zenith, apogee, peak.

NIMBLE

NIM-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Quick and light in movement; clever and quick in action or thought; agile

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The nimble startup responded to market changes within weeks, while the corporate giant took 18 months.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ attorney adapted her strategy in real-time as testimony revealed unexpected information' → nimble. Synonyms: agile, quick, adroit. Antonyms: clumsy, slow, ponderous.

OMINOUS

OM-ih-nus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Giving the impression that something bad is about to happen; threatening

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The ominous silence from the usually vocal regulator was more alarming than any formal warning could have been.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ signs — falling revenue, departing executives, silence from leadership — preceded the collapse by months' → ominous. Synonyms: threatening, foreboding, sinister. Antonyms: reassuring, auspicious, promising.

OUTLANDISH

owt-LAN-dish

■ MEANING

(adj.) Bizarre; strange; looking or sounding bizarre or unfamiliar

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His outlandish theory — that ancient Rome had contact with the Americas — was dismissed by mainstream historians.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ proposal seemed absurd to everyone in the room, yet it was precisely what the crisis required' → outlandish. Synonyms: bizarre, eccentric, fantastic. Antonyms: conventional, ordinary, sensible.

PROFITIOUS

pruh-PISH-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Giving or indicating a good chance of success; favorable; auspicious

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The propitious conditions — low interest rates, growing demand, and willing partners — made the launch timing ideal.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ alignment of political and economic factors made this the best moment in a decade to act' → propitious. Synonyms: favorable, auspicious, promising. Antonyms: inauspicious, unfavorable, ominous.

PRURIENT

PROOR-ee-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having an excessive interest in sexual matters; arousing such interest

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The tabloid's prurient coverage of the celebrity scandal drove record readership while offending critical observers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ attention given to private lives distracted readers from the genuinely important public interest questions' → prurient. Synonyms: lascivious, voyeuristic, salacious. Antonyms: prudish, modest, discreet.

SADISTIC

suh-DIS-tik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Deriving pleasure from inflicting pain or humiliation on others

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The sadistic supervisor made public examples of every small error, enjoying the fear and humiliation it produced.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ humor of the satire — at the expense of the most vulnerable — crossed a line that most readers found unacceptable' → sadistic. Synonyms: cruel, brutal, vicious. Antonyms: kind, compassionate, humane.

ZENITH

ZEE-nith

■ MEANING

(n.) The highest point reached by a celestial body; the time at which something is most powerful

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The empire reached its zenith under the third dynasty — largest territory, greatest prosperity, most stable governance.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'At the _____ of his career, he commanded the world stage and was sought by every major institution' → zenith. Synonyms: peak, apex, pinnacle. Antonyms: nadir, lowest point, decline.

ABERRANT*uh-BER-ent***■ MEANING**

(adj.) Departing from an accepted standard; abnormal; not typical

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The aberrant result — four standard deviations from the mean — required retesting before any conclusion could be drawn.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ behavior of the market during the crisis period could not be explained by standard models' → aberrant. Synonyms: abnormal, deviant, atypical. Antonyms: normal, typical, standard.

ABIDE*uh-BYD***■ MEANING**

(v.) To accept or tolerate; to comply with; to remain; to dwell

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She refused to abide by rules she considered unjust, even when the cost of resistance was high.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He could not _____ the culture of deception that had become normalized in the organization' → abide. Synonyms: tolerate, accept, endure. Antonyms: reject, defy, resist.

BRAVADO*bruH-VAH-doh***■ MEANING**

(n.) A bold manner or a show of boldness intended to impress; false bravery

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His bravado in front of the cameras masked a deep uncertainty about whether the mission would succeed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ of the negotiation team concealed their awareness that their position was fundamentally weak' → bravado. Synonyms: swagger, false courage, bluster. Antonyms: genuine courage, humility, modesty.

CALLOW

KAL-oh

■ MEANING

(adj.) Inexperienced and immature; without adult sophistication

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The callow intern's overconfidence — claiming expertise in technologies she had only read about — alienated senior engineers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ assumptions about how simple the problem would be reflected inexperience, not incompetence' → callow. Synonyms: inexperienced, naive, immature. Antonyms: experienced, seasoned, sophisticated.

CAPITULATE

kuh-PICH-uh-layt

■ MEANING

(v.) To cease to resist; to surrender under terms; to yield

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After three weeks of resistance, the union capitulated and accepted terms very close to management's original offer.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The administration _____ to public pressure and reversed the policy within 48 hours' → capitulated. Synonyms: surrender, yield, concede. Antonyms: resist, persist, stand firm.

COGITATE

KOJ-ih-tayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To think deeply about something; to meditate or ponder

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She spent two weeks cogitating over the ethical implications before deciding how to proceed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The philosopher _____ for hours before forming a response that addressed the paradox directly' → cogitated. Synonyms: ponder, reflect, deliberate. Antonyms: act impulsively, react, ignore.

DEPORTMENT

dih-PORT-ment

■ MEANING

(n.) A person's behavior or manners; bearing; demeanor

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The school emphasized not just academic achievement but deportment — how students carried themselves in all situations.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her impeccable _____ — composed, courteous, and measured — made her the obvious choice to represent the team' → deportment. Synonyms: bearing, conduct, demeanor. Antonyms: impropriety, rudeness, misconduct.

EXTEMPORIZE

ek-STEM-puh-ryz

■ MEANING

(v.) To compose or perform without preparation; to improvise

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

When the PowerPoint failed, she extemporized a presentation that everyone agreed was better than the prepared version.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Forced to _____ when her notes were lost, she delivered one of the most memorable speeches of the conference' → extemporize. Synonyms: improvise, ad-lib, wing it. Antonyms: prepare, rehearse, plan.

FACTIOUS

FAK-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Relating to or inclined to dissension; creating faction; divisive

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The factious committee — split into three irreconcilable blocs — could not agree on anything, even procedural matters.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ nature of the political coalition made stable governance nearly impossible' → factious. Synonyms: divisive, quarrelsome, contentious. Antonyms: harmonious, unified, cooperative.

FALLOW

FAL-oh

■ MEANING

(adj.) Uncultivated; (of land) left for a period without crops; inactive; dormant

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The years he spent traveling were not wasted — they were fallow years that replenished his creative reserves.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The untested market remained _____, waiting for a company bold enough to develop it' → fallow. Synonyms: unused, dormant, inactive. Antonyms: cultivated, active, productive.

FEINT

FAYNT

■ MEANING

(n./v.) A deceptive movement intended to mislead; to make a deceptive action

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The general's apparent retreat was a feint — designed to draw the enemy forward into prepared defenses.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The offer to negotiate was merely a _____ to buy time while preparations were completed elsewhere' → feint. Synonyms: ruse, bluff, deception. Antonyms: genuine action, honest move.

FLAGRANT

FLAY-grent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Conspicuously or obviously offensive; shamelessly obvious; glaring

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The flagrant violation of the ceasefire — tanks crossing the agreed border in broad daylight — shocked international observers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ disregard for safety protocols was documented in the inspector's report' → flagrant. Synonyms: blatant, egregious, obvious. Antonyms: subtle, hidden, minor.

GRATUITOUS

gruh-TYOO-ih-tus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Uncalled for; lacking good reason; unnecessary; given without charge

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The gratuitous violence in the film added nothing to the story and seemed designed purely for shock value.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ insult — unprompted and cruel — ended what had been a productive negotiation' → gratuitous. Synonyms: unnecessary, unwarranted, unjustified. Antonyms: necessary, warranted, relevant.

GROVEL

GROV-ul

■ MEANING

(v.) To act in an obsequious manner to gain favor; to lie face down in humility or fear

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He refused to grovel before the committee despite enormous pressure to apologize for a decision he still believed was right.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ apology — full of self-abasement and pleading — struck observers as less honest than a simple admission' → groveling. Synonyms: fawn, cower, crawl. Antonyms: stand firm, resist, hold one's ground.

INDECOROUS

in-DEK-er-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not in keeping with accepted standards of good conduct; improper; unseemly

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His indecorous comments about opposing counsel in the courtroom earned him a formal rebuke from the judge.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ conduct of the delegate — interrupting, sighing loudly, checking his phone — embarrassed his entire delegation' → indecorous. Synonyms: improper, unseemly, inappropriate. Antonyms: decorous, proper, seemly.

INTRIGUE

IN-treeg (n.) / in-TREEG (v.)

■ MEANING

(n.) Secret scheming and plotting; (v.) to arouse curiosity; to plot

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The novel's central intrigue — who had access to the vault and why — kept readers guessing until the final chapter.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The anomalous data _____ the researchers enough to redirect their entire research program' → intrigued. Synonyms: fascinate, captivate, scheme. Antonyms: bore, disinterest, dissuade.

NOMINAL

NOM-ih-nul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Existing in name only; very small; so small as to be insignificant

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The fee was nominal — \$5 for a service that cost the organization \$500 to provide.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He was the _____ head of the department, but real authority rested entirely with his deputy' → nominal. Synonyms: token, minimal, in name only. Antonyms: actual, substantial, real.

OBDURATE

OB-dyoo-rit

■ MEANING

(adj.) Stubbornly refusing to change; hardened against moral influence; unyielding

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The obdurate negotiator refused every concession for six days before an unexpected personal appeal shifted his position.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ opposition to the reform made compromise essentially impossible' → obdurate. Synonyms: stubborn, inflexible, intransigent. Antonyms: flexible, amenable, responsive.

OBSTREPEROUS

ob-STREP-er-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Noisy and difficult to control; unruly; boisterously resistant

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The obstreperous defendant interrupted the proceedings four times before the judge threatened to have him removed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ crowd outside could be heard through the walls of the courtroom despite soundproofing' → obstreperous. Synonyms: noisy, unruly, rowdy. Antonyms: quiet, cooperative, well-behaved.

ODIOUS

OH-dee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Extremely unpleasant; repulsive; deserving hatred

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The odious practice of price-gouging medication during a public health crisis drew bipartisan condemnation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ comparison drew immediate protests from those who considered it both false and deeply offensive' → odious. Synonyms: repulsive, contemptible, abhorrent. Antonyms: admirable, pleasant, agreeable.

PLUCKY

PLUK-ee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing determined courage in the face of difficulties; spirited

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The plucky young journalist pursued the story despite threats, obstruction, and multiple attempts to discredit her.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ underdog won despite being outmatched on every measurable dimension' → plucky. Synonyms: courageous, spirited, determined. Antonyms: timid, cowardly, faint-hearted.

PRECOCIOUS

prih-KOH-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having developed abilities at an earlier age than normal; forward; premature

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The precocious child had read every book in the school library by age eight and was begging for more complex material.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ talent for mathematics had been recognized at age ten by a professor who offered her private tuition' → precocious. Synonyms: advanced, gifted, ahead of one's years. Antonyms: late-developing, slow, behind.

REMUNERATION

rih-myoo-nuh-RAY-shun

■ MEANING

(n.) Money paid for work or a service; compensation; reward

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The remuneration package — salary, equity, and bonus — was competitive enough to attract candidates from the top firms.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ offered was well below market rate, explaining why qualified candidates kept declining the role' → remuneration. Synonyms: pay, compensation, salary. Antonyms: unpaid, volunteer, free.

SLOVENLY

SLOV-en-lee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Messy and dirty; careless in work or appearance; untidy

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The slovenly report — full of formatting errors, factual mistakes, and unclear writing — reflected poorly on the department.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ approach to data collection meant that the study's findings could not be replicated' → slovenly.
Synonyms: careless, messy, sloppy. Antonyms: meticulous, neat, careful.

SOLILOQUY

suh-LIL-uh-kwee

■ MEANING

(n.) A speech made to oneself; a dramatic speech where an actor speaks thoughts aloud alone on stage

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The play's most famous soliloquy — a seven-minute meditation on the nature of justice — is still performed in law school orientations.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The manager's long _____ in the meeting — speaking as if thinking aloud — confused staff who expected instructions' → soliloquy. Synonyms: monologue, self-address. Antonyms: dialogue, conversation.

SPURN

SPURN

■ MEANING

(v.) To reject with contempt; to rebuff; to turn away with scorn

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She spurned every offer of help, insisting on solving the problem entirely through her own resources.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He _____ the generous offer, dismissing it as inadequate without consideration of its full terms' → spurned.
Synonyms: reject, rebuff, scorn. Antonyms: accept, embrace, welcome.

STOLID

STOL-id

■ MEANING

(adj.) Calm, dependable, and showing little emotion; impassive; unemotional

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The stolid official absorbed every piece of bad news with the same expression and immediately moved to solutions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ manager never celebrated victories or mourned failures — she simply identified the next task' → stolid.
Synonyms: phlegmatic, impassive, unemotional. Antonyms: excitable, emotional, expressive.

TEMERITY

tuh-MER-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) Excessive confidence or boldness; reckless audacity

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She had the temerity to challenge the most eminent scholar in the field at his own lecture — and proved him wrong.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He had the _____ to demand a higher salary at the interview, having been fired from his previous job' → temerity.
Synonyms: audacity, boldness, nerve. Antonyms: timidity, caution, prudence.

TENUOUS

TEN-yoo-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Very weak or slight; thin; lacking substance or strength

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The connection between the two events was tenuous — built on coincidence of timing rather than any causal mechanism.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The argument rested on _____ evidence — one study with a small sample from a non-representative population' → tenuous. Synonyms: weak, flimsy, fragile. Antonyms: strong, solid, substantiated.

VERVE

VURV

■ MEANING

(n.) Enthusiasm and vitality; spirit; vigor in artistic work

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She approached every project with verve — diving in, generating ideas, energizing everyone around her.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The performance was delivered with such _____ that even critics who disliked the material applauded the execution' → verve. Synonyms: energy, vigor, zeal. Antonyms: lethargy, apathy, dullness.

GROUP 31

30 words

ABROGATE

AB-ruh-gayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To repeal or do away with a law, treaty, or agreement; to treat as nonexistent

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The government abrogated the treaty without consulting its allies, triggering a diplomatic crisis.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Congress voted to _____ the outdated legislation that had never been enforced' → abrogate. Synonyms: repeal, abolish, annul. Antonyms: uphold, ratify, enforce.

AGHAST

uh-GAST

■ MEANING

(adj.) Filled with horror or shock; shocked and dismayed

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The auditors were aghast when the investigation revealed that every record had been altered.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She was _____ at the damage caused — an outcome she had specifically warned against for months' → aghast. Synonyms: horrified, shocked, appalled. Antonyms: delighted, unsurprised, indifferent.

APPRISE

uh-PRYZ

■ MEANING

(v.) To inform or tell someone; to give notice to; to update on facts

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The attorney apprised her client of every development, ensuring he could make informed decisions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'I must _____ you of the new information before you proceed any further' → apprise. Synonyms: inform, notify, update. Antonyms: conceal, withhold, deceive.

BEGUILE

bih-GYL

■ MEANING

(v.) To charm or enchant; to trick or deceive; to help time pass pleasantly

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The charismatic speaker beguiled the audience with stories that were entertaining but entirely beside the point.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The seemingly generous offer _____ inexperienced negotiators into accepting terms that favored the other side' → beguiled. Synonyms: charm, deceive, enchant. Antonyms: repel, alert, disillusion.

BOON

BOON

■ MEANING

(n.) A thing that is helpful or beneficial; a blessing; (adj.) intimate, close (archaic)

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The remote work policy proved a genuine boon for employees with long commutes.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The discovery of the new material was a _____ for the aerospace industry, reducing weight by 40%' → boon. Synonyms: benefit, blessing, windfall. Antonyms: burden, curse, hindrance.

CALLOUS

KAL-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing or having an insensitive or cruel disregard for others; hardened

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His callous dismissal of employee concerns — 'They should be grateful to have jobs' — triggered a mass resignation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ attitude of the insurance company — denying claims on technicalities — drew public outrage' → callous. Synonyms: unfeeling, heartless, indifferent. Antonyms: compassionate, empathetic, considerate.

CODDLE

KOD-ul

■ MEANING

(v.) To treat too carefully; to overprotect; to pamper

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The professor refused to coddle students — she assigned difficult problems and expected independent problem-solving.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Critics argued that the curriculum _____ students by rewarding effort over achievement' → coddled. Synonyms: pamper, overprotect, indulge. Antonyms: challenge, toughen, discipline.

CRESCENDO

kruh-SHEN-doh

■ MEANING

(n.) A gradual increase in loudness; the peak of a gradual increase; a climax

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The speech built to a crescendo as the speaker laid out the final evidence — the audience was on its feet before he finished.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The tension built to a _____ in the final chapter, when every concealed secret was simultaneously revealed' → crescendo. Synonyms: peak, climax, high point. Antonyms: nadir, diminuendo, anti-climax.

EXTENUATING

ek-STEN-yoo-ay-ting

■ MEANING

(adj.) Making something less serious by partially excusing it; serving to lessen the seriousness

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The judge acknowledged extenuating circumstances — poverty, abuse, and untreated mental illness — in determining the sentence.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The committee found _____ factors that justified leniency in this particular case' → extenuating. Synonyms: mitigating, exonerating, lessening. Antonyms: aggravating, incriminating, worsening.

FRENETIC

fruh-NET-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Fast and energetic in a rather wild or uncontrolled way; frantic

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The frenetic pace of the startup — everything urgent, nothing documented, sleep optional — was exciting but unsustainable.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ activity in the trading room — screens flashing, phones ringing, people shouting — reflected the market's volatility' → frenetic. Synonyms: frantic, hectic, chaotic. Antonyms: calm, measured, deliberate.

FRINGE

FRINJ

■ MEANING

(n./adj.) An outer edge; marginal part; a group with extreme views outside the mainstream

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The theory, once a fringe idea, has entered mainstream discourse as evidence has accumulated.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The movement began as a _____ ideology but gained mainstream acceptance within a decade' → fringe. Synonyms: marginal, extremist, peripheral. Antonyms: mainstream, central, orthodox.

HAPLESS

HAP-lēs

■ MEANING

(adj.) Unfortunate; unlucky; deserving pity

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The hapless intern managed to send the confidential memo to the entire company on his first day.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Every scheme the _____ entrepreneur tried failed through no fault he could identify' → hapless. Synonyms: unlucky, unfortunate, ill-fated. Antonyms: fortunate, lucky, favored.

IMMACULATE

ih-MAK-yuh-lit

■ MEANING

(adj.) Perfectly clean; free from flaws; impeccably neat; without a blemish

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her record was immaculate — 20 years of public service without a single ethics complaint.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ reasoning of the paper — no flawed premises, no logical gaps — made it almost impossible to challenge' → immaculate. Synonyms: spotless, flawless, perfect. Antonyms: flawed, blemished, soiled.

OBFUSCATE

OB-fuh-skayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To make unclear or confusing; to obscure or muddy the clarity of

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The dense jargon was designed to obfuscate rather than communicate, making the contract effectively incomprehensible.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The lengthy qualifications _____ what should have been a simple message' → obfuscated. Synonyms: confuse, obscure, muddy. Antonyms: clarify, illuminate, elucidate.

OSSIFY

OS-ih-fy

■ MEANING

(v.) To turn into bone; to become rigid and set in one's ways; to become no longer open to change

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Without new talent, the organization began to ossify — the same ideas recycled every year, no genuine innovation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Institutions that fail to adapt _____ over time, eventually becoming irrelevant' → ossify. Synonyms: harden, rigidify, calcify. Antonyms: adapt, evolve, remain flexible.

PASTICHE

pas-TEESH

■ MEANING

(n.) An artistic work imitating the style of another; a work composed of material from various sources

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The film was a pastiche of 1970s noir — deliberately imitating its lighting, dialogue, and moral ambiguity.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Critics debate whether the novel is a clever _____ of Victorian fiction or merely derivative' → pastiche. Synonyms: imitation, parody, medley. Antonyms: original, innovative, pioneering.

PERSPICACIOUS

pur-spih-KAY-shus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having a ready insight into things; shrewd; having keen mental perception

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her perspicacious analysis predicted the political outcome six months before any other commentator had noticed the trend.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ investor saw the opportunity that every other analyst had overlooked' → perspicacious. Synonyms: shrewd, astute, discerning. Antonyms: obtuse, unperceptive, unobservant.

PONDEROUS

PON-der-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Slow and clumsy because of great weight; laborious; dull or tedious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The ponderous bureaucratic machinery required 18 months to approve a two-page policy change.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ prose — loaded with qualifications, digressions, and passive constructions — exhausted readers' → ponderous. Synonyms: heavy, laborious, clunky. Antonyms: nimble, light, efficient.

RECLUSE

REK-loos

■ MEANING

(n.) A person who lives a solitary life, especially for religious reasons; a hermit

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After his retirement, he became a recluse — declining all invitations and communicating only through letters.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ author produced brilliant work for three decades while never attending a literary event' → recluse. Synonyms: hermit, solitary, loner. Antonyms: socialite, extrovert, public figure.

RETALIATE

rih-TAL-ee-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To make an attack in return for a similar attack; to repay in kind

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The company retaliated against the whistleblower by reassigning him, reducing his status, and eliminating his team.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'When the candidate _____ against the leak with a counterattack, the story dominated news for another week' → retaliated. Synonyms: strike back, repay, reciprocate. Antonyms: ignore, absorb, forgive.

RHAPSODY

RAP-suh-dee

■ MEANING

(n.) An ecstatic expression of feeling; an enthusiastic composition; a state of ecstasy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The film critic went into a rhapsody about the cinematography, calling it the most beautiful she had seen in a decade.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The travel writer's _____ about the island's beauty attracted 50,000 visitors the following summer' → rhapsody.
Synonyms: ecstatic praise, effusion, rapture. Antonyms: criticism, condemnation, denunciation.

SERENDIPITOUS

ser-en-DIP-ih-tus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Occurring or discovered by chance in a happy or beneficial way; fortunate

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The serendipitous meeting at a conference led to a collaboration that changed both researchers' careers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ discovery of the new compound was made while researchers were testing a completely unrelated hypothesis' → serendipitous. Synonyms: fortunate, accidental, fortuitous. Antonyms: planned, deliberate, unfortunate.

SHIRK

SHURK

■ MEANING

(v.) To avoid work or a duty; to evade responsibility

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He never shirked difficult assignments, taking on the most complex cases even when easier options were available.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Leaders who _____ accountability when things go wrong cannot credibly claim credit when they go right' → shirk.
Synonyms: avoid, neglect, evade. Antonyms: fulfill, embrace, accept.

SINECURE

SY-nih-kyoor

■ MEANING

(n.) A position requiring little or no work but providing a salary; an easy job with little responsibility

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The advisory board role was a sinecure — a title, an honorarium, and attendance at two lunches per year.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The former minister was given a _____ in the state-owned enterprise as a reward for his loyalty' → sinecure.
Synonyms: easy job, gravy train, cushy position. Antonyms: demanding position, real responsibility.

SINUOUS

SIN-yoo-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having many curves and turns; gracefully lithe; devious; serpentine

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The river followed a sinuous path through the valley, doubling back on itself three times before reaching the sea.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ argument — full of qualifications and redirections — eventually led to the same conclusion the speaker had started with' → sinuous. Synonyms: winding, serpentine, meandering. Antonyms: straight, direct, linear.

SORDID

SOR-did

■ MEANING

(adj.) Involving dishonorable actions; dirty or squalid; mercenary; grasping

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The sordid details of the scandal — bribery, coverup, and exploitation — drove the official from office.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ history of the practice — exploitation, cruelty, and deception — was carefully omitted from the official account' → sordid. Synonyms: base, corrupt, disreputable. Antonyms: honorable, clean, dignified.

STANCH

STONCH or STANCH

■ MEANING

(v.) To stop the flow of blood; to stop something unwanted flowing

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The new policy was designed to stanch the outflow of talent to competitors offering higher salaries.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Emergency measures were deployed to _____ the financial bleeding before it became irreversible' → stanch. Synonyms: stop, halt, stem. Antonyms: open, release, allow.

SURFEIT

SUR-fit

■ MEANING

(n.) An excessive amount of something; an overabundance; (v.) to cause someone to desire no more through excess

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

After a surfeit of meetings with no decisions, the team began to question whether the process was working.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'A _____ of data without adequate analytical tools leaves researchers overwhelmed rather than informed' → surfeit. Synonyms: excess, overabundance, glut. Antonyms: scarcity, dearth, shortage.

ULTERIOR

ul-TEER-ee-er

■ MEANING

(adj.) Existing beyond what is obvious or admitted; hidden; beyond what is expressed

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The offer appeared generous until the ulterior motive — gaining access to proprietary data — became apparent.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She suspected _____ motives behind the seemingly selfless proposal' → ulterior. Synonyms: hidden, covert, undisclosed. Antonyms: obvious, stated, transparent.

VOLUBLE

VOL-yuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Speaking easily and at length; talkative; characterized by easy, fluent speech

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The voluble guide narrated the entire museum tour without pausing for questions — or for breath.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The normally _____ spokesperson had nothing to say — a silence more alarming than anything she might have stated' → voluble. Synonyms: talkative, garrulous, loquacious. Antonyms: taciturn, reticent, silent.

GROUP 32

30 words

ABSTRUSE

ab-STROOS

■ MEANING

(adj.) Difficult to understand; obscure; esoteric

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The abstruse philosophical argument required three readings before even the professor was confident she understood it.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ nature of the proof made it accessible only to specialists in the field' → abstruse. Synonyms: obscure, esoteric, arcane. Antonyms: clear, lucid, accessible.

AUXILIARY

awg-ZIL-yuh-ree

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Providing supplementary help; additional; secondary; a helper or reserve force

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The hospital hired auxiliary staff to handle administrative tasks, freeing nurses for patient care.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The main database failed, but _____ servers kept the system running without interruption' → auxiliary. Synonyms: supplementary, secondary, backup. Antonyms: primary, main, essential.

CARICATURE

KAIR-ih-kuh-chur

■ MEANING

(n./v.) A picture or description exaggerating certain features for comic effect; to make such a depiction

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The political cartoon was a brilliant caricature — the minister's one distinctive habit magnified to absurdity.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The portrayal was so _____ that it revealed nothing true about the actual person' → caricatured. Synonyms: parody, exaggeration, distortion. Antonyms: accurate portrait, faithful representation.

DEPRAVITY

dih-PRAV-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) Moral corruption; wickedness; a depraved act

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The trial exposed the depravity of the scheme — calculated cruelty exercised over years against the most vulnerable.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ documented in the investigation shocked even prosecutors hardened by years in the field' → depravity. Synonyms: corruption, wickedness, immorality. Antonyms: virtue, integrity, righteousness.

DILETTANTE

DIL-uh-tant

■ MEANING

(n./adj.) A person who cultivates an area of interest superficially; an amateur; a dabbler

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He was dismissed as a dilettante — flitting between fields, never developing sufficient depth in any of them.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ had enough knowledge to discuss the subject confidently but not enough to practice it reliably' → dilettante. Synonyms: amateur, dabbler, trifle. Antonyms: expert, specialist, devotee.

EFFRONTERY

ih-FRUN-ter-ee

■ MEANING

(n.) Insolent or impertinent behavior; audacious lack of respect

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He had the effrontery to ask for a bonus the same month he missed every deadline.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The sheer _____ of the demand — after failing to deliver on every commitment — left the committee speechless' → effrontery. Synonyms: audacity, nerve, impudence. Antonyms: humility, modesty, deference.

ENCROACH

en-KROHCH

■ MEANING

(v.) To gradually intrude on territory or rights; to advance beyond proper limits

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Urban sprawl had encroached so far into the wetland that 30% of the protected habitat was irretrievably lost.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The database's scope _____ on areas that had previously been protected by privacy law' → encroached. Synonyms: intrude, infringe, trespass. Antonyms: retreat, respect, stay within bounds.

ENDOW

en-DOW

■ MEANING

(v.) To provide with a quality, ability, or asset; to fund with a permanent income; to furnish

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was endowed with the rare ability to make complex ideas simple without distorting them.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The donor _____ the university with \$20 million to fund research in renewable energy' → endowed. Synonyms: bestow, furnish, provide. Antonyms: deprive, strip, withhold.

ENTREAT

en-TREET

■ MEANING

(v.) To ask someone earnestly or emotionally; to plead with

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The ambassador entreated the warring factions to accept the ceasefire terms and allow aid convoys through.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'She _____ her colleagues to reconsider before voting — the decision could not be reversed' → entreated. Synonyms: implore, beseech, plead. Antonyms: order, demand, command.

GREGARIOUS

grih-GAIR-ee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Fond of company; sociable; living in flocks or herds

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her gregarious nature made her a natural salesperson — she genuinely enjoyed meeting new people.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ professor ran an open-door policy and treated every student visit as a welcome interruption' → gregarious.
Synonyms: sociable, outgoing, convivial. Antonyms: solitary, reserved, antisocial.

INDICTMENT

in-DYT-ment

■ MEANING

(n.) A formal charge or accusation; a thing that serves to show a serious fault in a system

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The report was a damning indictment of the regulatory system that had failed to catch the fraud.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The independent audit served as an _____ of every level of the organization's financial management' → indictment.
Synonyms: charge, accusation, condemnation. Antonyms: exoneration, praise, vindication.

INDIGNANT

in-DIG-nent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Feeling or showing anger or annoyance at what is perceived as unfair treatment

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The scientist was indignant when her paper was rejected without review — she had been a peer reviewer for the same journal.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The community was _____ at the decision to close the library without any prior consultation' → indignant.
Synonyms: outraged, resentful, affronted. Antonyms: pleased, grateful, accepting.

INELUCTABLE

in-ih-LUK-tuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Unable to be resisted or avoided; inescapable; inevitable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The ineluctable logic of compound interest means that even small debts grow into crushing burdens if unpaid.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ conclusion of the analysis was that the company could not survive another quarter without new funding' → ineluctable. Synonyms: inevitable, inescapable, unavoidable. Antonyms: avoidable, preventable, escapable.

INQUISITIVE

in-KWIZ-ih-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing an interest in learning; curious; inclined to ask questions

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her inquisitive mind — always asking 'why' — made her one of the most productive scientists of her generation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ student's questions consistently pushed discussions beyond the textbook' → inquisitive. Synonyms: curious, questioning, inquiring. Antonyms: incurious, disinterested, apathetic.

LATITUDE

LAT-ih-tood

■ MEANING

(n.) Freedom from normal limitations; scope for action; geographic distance from equator

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was given considerable latitude in her methods, provided she achieved the objectives within budget.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The new manager allowed staff greater _____ in how they organized their work days' → latitude. Synonyms: freedom, discretion, flexibility. Antonyms: constraint, restriction, limitation.

LEVITY

LEV-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) Treating serious matters with humor or lack of appropriate respect; lightness

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her unexpected levity at the board meeting — a well-timed joke about the dismal figures — broke the tension and allowed a productive discussion.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'A moment of _____ helped relieve the tension in what had been a grueling nine-hour session' → levity. Synonyms: humor, lightness, frivolity. Antonyms: gravity, seriousness, solemnity.

MALEVOLENT

muh-LEV-uh-lent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing a wish to do evil to others; malicious

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The malevolent algorithm amplified the most extreme and harmful content to maximize engagement.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ intent behind the rumors — designed to destroy rather than inform — was evident from their timing and specificity' → malevolent. Synonyms: malicious, hostile, wicked. Antonyms: benevolent, kind, well-meaning.

MEDIATE

MEE-dee-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To intervene between parties in a dispute; to bring about by mediation; to act as an intermediary

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The UN mediator worked for six months to mediate between parties whose positions had seemed irreconcilable.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'An independent arbitrator was appointed to _____ the dispute and reach a binding decision' → mediate. Synonyms: arbitrate, negotiate, intervene. Antonyms: escalate, inflame, exacerbate.

OCCLUDE

uh-KLOOD

■ MEANING

(v.) To stop something from passing; to block; to shut in or out

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Clouds occluded the sun for three days, dropping temperatures across the region.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The arterial blockage _____ blood flow sufficiently to require immediate surgical intervention' → occluded. Synonyms: block, obstruct, close off. Antonyms: open, allow, facilitate.

PACIFY

PAS-ih-fy

■ MEANING

(v.) To bring peace to; to soothe or calm; to quell the resistance of

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The CEO's personal appearance at the factory was intended to pacify workers angry about the announced wage freeze.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Rather than addressing the grievances, the manager tried to _____ employees with small symbolic gestures' → pacify. Synonyms: calm, appease, soothe. Antonyms: provoke, agitate, inflame.

PARAGON

PAR-uh-gon

■ MEANING

(n.) A person or thing regarded as a perfect example of a particular quality; a model

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She is widely regarded as a paragon of academic integrity — her students know she would never compromise her standards.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The judge was a _____ of impartiality — applying the same standard regardless of the litigant's wealth or status' → paragon. Synonyms: model, exemplar, ideal. Antonyms: poor example, failure, disappointment.

PATRONIZE

PAY-truh-nyz

■ MEANING

(v.) To treat with apparent kindness that shows superiority; to act as a patron to; to frequent as a customer

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was frustrated by the way her supervisor patronized her — explaining basic concepts she had mastered years ago.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The well-intentioned but _____ approach made employees feel incompetent rather than supported' → patronizing. Synonyms: condescend, demean, talk down to. Antonyms: respect, treat as equal, empower.

PENURIOUS

puh-NYOOR-ee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Extremely poor; poverty-stricken; excessively unwilling to spend; stingy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The penurious budget for public schools contrasted sharply with the lavish funding for the new sports complex.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ allocation of resources made quality research essentially impossible' → penurious. Synonyms: destitute, miserly, stingy. Antonyms: wealthy, generous, lavish.

PIQUANT

PEE-kunt

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having a pleasantly sharp, spicy taste; pleasantly stimulating; interesting and clever

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The piquant commentary — sharp, irreverent, and surprising — was exactly what the staid debate needed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ detail — a single unexpected fact — transformed a dull presentation into a memorable one' → piquant. Synonyms: sharp, stimulating, provocative. Antonyms: bland, dull, insipid.

RAMPANT

RAM-pent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Flourishing or spreading in an uncontrolled way; unchecked

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Rampant speculation in the housing market had created a bubble that economists warned was unsustainable.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Misinformation was _____, spreading faster than any fact-checker could respond' → rampant. Synonyms: uncontrolled, widespread, unchecked. Antonyms: controlled, limited, contained.

REMOTE

rih-MOHT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Far away; distant; unlikely; having very little connection

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The probability of a complete system failure was remote but not impossible, and backup protocols were required.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ connection between the two findings was noted but not sufficient to support a causal claim' → remote.
Synonyms: distant, unlikely, tenuous. Antonyms: likely, close, probable.

REPROBATE

REP-roh-bayt

■ MEANING

(n./adj.) An unprincipled person; one morally rejected; abandoned to sin; depraved

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The reprobate spent his considerable inheritance on vice and returned to his family after three years without a dollar.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The committee refused to endorse the _____ for public office despite his official qualifications' → reprobate.
Synonyms: scoundrel, wretch, degenerate. Antonyms: person of integrity, upright individual.

TURBID

TUR-bid

■ MEANING

(adj.) Muddy; not clear; confused or obscure; cloudy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The turbid river water after the flood made water treatment more expensive and less effective.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ reasoning in the memo left readers uncertain about what action was actually being recommended' → turbid. Synonyms: murky, cloudy, confused. Antonyms: clear, transparent, lucid.

TURGID

TUR-jid

■ MEANING

(adj.) Swollen and inflated; pompous; excessively elaborate in language; bombastic

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The turgid prose of the legal brief — sentences spanning entire pages — concealed a simple argument in unnecessary complexity.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ academic writing was widely mocked for using 200 words to express what ten could convey' → turgid.
Synonyms: pompous, inflated, grandiose. Antonyms: concise, lucid, clear.

VACUOUS

VAK-yoo-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing a lack of thought or intelligence; empty; inane

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The vacuous speech — platitudes, non-sequiturs, and recycled campaign slogans — was a masterclass in saying nothing.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ response showed the spokesperson had no real information and no willingness to engage substantively' → vacuous. Synonyms: empty, mindless, inane. Antonyms: thoughtful, substantive, meaningful.

GROUP 33

29 words

AFFLUENT

AF-loo-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having a great deal of money; wealthy; prosperous

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The affluent suburb voted against the tax that would have funded schools in the poorer districts it bordered.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Even among the most _____ communities, access to mental health care remains inadequate' → affluent. Synonyms: wealthy, prosperous, opulent. Antonyms: poor, destitute, impoverished.

ALLEGORICAL

al-uh-GOR-ih-kul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Containing a symbolic or hidden meaning; relating to allegory

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Orwell's allegorical novel uses a farm to represent the Soviet state and its power dynamics.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ reading of the poem reveals a critique of industrialization beneath its pastoral surface' → allegorical. Synonyms: symbolic, figurative, metaphorical. Antonyms: literal, direct, explicit.

ALLUDE

uh-LOOD

■ MEANING

(v.) To make an indirect reference to something; to hint at; to suggest

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Without naming names, the report alluded to several 'senior officials' who had authorized the payments.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She _____ to the scandal without stating the details directly — enough to signal the meaning' → alluded. Synonyms: hint, suggest, imply. Antonyms: state directly, name explicitly, specify.

AMPLIFY

AM-pluh-fy

■ MEANING

(v.) To make louder; to increase the strength or effect of; to expand on

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Social media amplified the minor error into a major scandal that dominated coverage for a week.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The second study _____ the findings of the first, extending them to a larger and more diverse population' → amplified. Synonyms: intensify, increase, expand. Antonyms: diminish, reduce, downplay.

CATASTROPHIC

kat-uh-STROF-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Involving or causing sudden great damage; extremely harmful

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A single degree of warming sounds modest, but its effects on glaciers and sea levels are catastrophic.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The failure of the levee system had _____ consequences for the entire region' → catastrophic. Synonyms: disastrous, devastating, ruinous. Antonyms: minor, beneficial, negligible.

CONTEMPORARY

kun-TEM-puh-rer-ee

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Living or occurring at the same time; belonging to the present; a person living at the same time

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Contemporary research methods have transformed archaeology from a largely intuitive discipline to a rigorous science.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The composer's works were not appreciated by _____ critics but are now considered canonical' → contemporary (of the same era). Synonyms: modern, current, coeval. Antonyms: historical, ancient, outdated.

CONUNDRUM

kuh-NUN-drum

■ MEANING

(n.) A confusing and difficult problem; a riddle; a question with a pun-based answer

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The ethical conundrum — whether to reveal information that would help some but harm others — had no clean solution.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ facing climate negotiators is that the solutions require sacrifices that no government wants to impose' → conundrum. Synonyms: dilemma, puzzle, problem. Antonyms: clear solution, simple question.

DEFAME

dih-FAYM

■ MEANING

(v.) To damage the reputation of someone; to attack the good name of

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The anonymous review defamed the researcher by falsely attributing data fabrication without evidence.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The lawsuit alleged that the broadcast _____ the politician with deliberately false statements' → defamed. Synonyms: slander, libel, malign. Antonyms: praise, vindicate, exonerate.

DETRACT

dih-TRAKT

■ MEANING

(v.) To reduce the value, quality, or impact of something; to take away from

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The minor factual error in the introduction detracted from an otherwise impeccable piece of research.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The unnecessary prologue _____ from what was otherwise a powerful opening chapter' → detracted. Synonyms: diminish, reduce, take away from. Antonyms: enhance, add to, improve.

DETRIMENTAL

det-ruh-MEN-tul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Tending to cause harm; harmful; damaging

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The study found that prolonged social media use was detrimental to sleep quality and mental health in adolescents.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The new policy proved _____ to small businesses that lacked the resources to comply' → detrimental. Synonyms: harmful, damaging, injurious. Antonyms: beneficial, helpful, salutary.

DEVIOUS

DEE-vee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing a skillful use of underhanded tactics; not straightforward; winding

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His devious strategy — appearing cooperative while undermining every proposal privately — took months to expose.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ route taken by the argument made it hard to identify what was actually being claimed' → devious. Synonyms: cunning, underhand, sly. Antonyms: straightforward, honest, direct.

DORMANT

DOR-ment

■ MEANING

(adj.) Temporarily inactive; in a state of reduced activity; sleeping

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The dormant volcano had not erupted in 300 years, but seismic data suggested it was becoming active.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ talent for mathematics reawakened when she returned to study at 45' → dormant. Synonyms: inactive, sleeping, latent. Antonyms: active, awake, functioning.

DRACONIAN

druh-KOH-nee-un

■ MEANING

(adj.) Excessively harsh; rigorous; cruel laws or restrictions

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The draconian restrictions on public assembly — a \$10,000 fine for any unauthorized gathering — drew international condemnation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Critics condemned the _____ sentence as disproportionate to the minor regulatory violation it addressed' → draconian. Synonyms: severe, harsh, oppressive. Antonyms: lenient, mild, merciful.

EGALITARIAN

ih-gal-ih-TAIR-ee-un

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Believing in or based on the principle that all people are equal; supporting equal rights

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The egalitarian policy — same pay for the same work regardless of seniority — was both popular and unprecedented.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ distribution of resources gave each participant an equal starting point regardless of background' → egalitarian. Synonyms: equal, fair, democratic. Antonyms: hierarchical, elitist, unequal.

ELUSIVE

ih-LOO-siv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Difficult to find, catch, or achieve; tending to evade; hard to understand

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A definitive cure for Alzheimer's remains elusive despite decades of intensive research.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The exact mechanism by which the drug works has remained _____ despite 20 years of study' → elusive. Synonyms: fleeting, hard to grasp, evasive. Antonyms: accessible, obtainable, clear.

ERSTWHILE

URST-hwyl

■ MEANING

(adj./adv.) Former; in the past; what was once the case

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her erstwhile ally became her most vocal critic after the policy dispute drove them apart.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ champion who had dominated the sport for a decade was now struggling to qualify' → erstwhile. Synonyms: former, previous, one-time. Antonyms: current, present, ongoing.

GLOAT

GLOHT

■ MEANING

(v.) To contemplate with triumph or smug satisfaction; to exult maliciously

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He gloated over the competitor's product recall, publicly celebrating a setback he had predicted for years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'It is considered poor form to _____ over a rival's misfortune even when you predicted it' → gloat. Synonyms: revel, exult, crow. Antonyms: empathize, commiserate, show restraint.

HARROWING

HAR-oh-ing

■ MEANING

(adj.) Causing distress; disturbing; acutely painful to experience

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The documentary's harrowing footage of the war's civilian casualties was difficult to watch but impossible to dismiss.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ account of the survivors' experiences moved every juror to tears' → harrowing. Synonyms: distressing, traumatic, agonizing. Antonyms: pleasant, comforting, reassuring.

INDEFINITE

in-DEF-ih-nit

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lasting for an unknown or unstated length of time; not clearly defined; vague

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The project was put on indefinite hold after the funding fell through.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ timeline — 'sometime in the next few years' — made planning essentially impossible' → indefinite. Synonyms: vague, unspecified, uncertain. Antonyms: definite, specific, determined.

INGENIOUS

in-JEE-nee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Clever, original, and inventive; showing great skill in design; resourceful

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The ingenious solution — using existing infrastructure in an unexpected way — cost a tenth of the standard approach.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ design solved three problems simultaneously that had previously required separate solutions' → ingenious. Don't confuse with INGENUOUS (naïve). Synonyms: clever, inventive, resourceful. Antonyms: unimaginative, obvious, unoriginal.

KEEN

KEEN

■ MEANING

(adj.) Eager; very interested; sharp; (of the wind) piercingly cold

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was keen to begin her research and arrived at the lab two hours before her start date.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ analyst spotted the discrepancy in the fourth row of the spreadsheet that everyone else had overlooked' → keen. Synonyms: eager, sharp, astute. Antonyms: apathetic, dull, uninterested.

MULTIFACETED

mul-tee-FAS-ih-ted

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having many aspects or sides; complex; many-sided

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The multifaceted problem required input from economists, ecologists, sociologists, and engineers simultaneously.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ nature of poverty makes single-intervention solutions consistently inadequate' → multifaceted. Synonyms: complex, varied, diverse. Antonyms: simple, one-dimensional, straightforward.

OMNISCIENT

om-NISH-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Knowing everything; having unlimited knowledge

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The omniscient narrator of the novel knows every character's thoughts, dreams, and secrets.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'No manager can be _____ — good systems of information are the substitute for total personal knowledge' → omniscient. Synonyms: all-knowing, infinitely wise. Antonyms: ignorant, limited, uninformed.

REMARKABLE

rih-MAR-kuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Worthy of attention; striking; extraordinary

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her recovery from the injury was remarkable — she competed again six months before the predicted return date.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ consistency of results across all three laboratories removed any doubt about the finding' → remarkable. Synonyms: extraordinary, notable, exceptional. Antonyms: ordinary, unremarkable, commonplace.

SOBER

SOH-ber

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not drunk; serious and careful in thought; without distortion

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A sober assessment of the data — not the optimistic projections — revealed a very different picture.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'After the _____ analysis, the committee reduced its growth projections by 40%' → sober. Synonyms: serious, realistic, measured. Antonyms: drunk, exaggerated, distorted.

SUBDUED

sub-DYOOD

■ MEANING

(adj.) Quiet and rather reflective; lacking intensity; muted

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The mood was subdued at the farewell party — nobody could quite celebrate when leaving felt like a loss.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ response to the announcement revealed that stakeholders had already heard the news through informal channels' → subdued. Synonyms: muted, restrained, quiet. Antonyms: exuberant, intense, animated.

TOKEN

TOH-ken

■ MEANING

(adj.) Done as a gesture rather than substantively; nominal; symbolic

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The company's token inclusion effort — one photograph — changed nothing about the hiring process.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ gesture — a small public display with no real resource commitment — satisfied no one' → token.
Synonyms: nominal, symbolic, perfunctory. Antonyms: genuine, meaningful, substantive.

UNRAVEL

un-RAV-el

■ MEANING

(v.) To investigate and solve; to begin to fall apart; to separate threads

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The detective spent four years unraveling a conspiracy that involved three government agencies.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'As investigators _____ the scheme, they discovered it had been operating for 15 years undetected' → unraveled.
Synonyms: solve, untangle, disintegrate. Antonyms: tangle, complicate, obscure.

WITHSTAND

with-STAND

■ MEANING

(v.) To remain undamaged or unaffected by; to offer strong resistance to

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The structure was designed to withstand winds of 250 mph — well beyond any recorded hurricane.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The argument cannot _____ even basic scrutiny — its central premise is demonstrably false' → withstand.
Synonyms: endure, resist, survive. Antonyms: succumb, yield, collapse under.

GROUP 34

30 words

ABRASIVE

uh-BRAY-siv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing little concern for the feelings of others; harsh; (of a material) capable of polishing by rubbing

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her abrasive management style — blunt to the point of cruelty — drove away talented people she couldn't afford to lose.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'His _____ interpersonal style was effective at cutting through organizational inertia but ruinous to team morale' → abrasive. Synonyms: harsh, caustic, rough. Antonyms: gentle, diplomatic, considerate.

ARTFUL

ART-ful

■ MEANING

(adj.) Clever or skillful; cunning; showing art or skill

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The artful negotiator extracted a 15% price reduction while leaving the other party feeling it had won the negotiation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ evasion of the direct question would have been impressive had the press not noticed what hadn't been said' → artful. Synonyms: cunning, skillful, crafty. Antonyms: clumsy, guileless, straightforward.

AVERT

uh-VURT

■ MEANING

(v.) To turn away; to prevent something undesirable from happening; to ward off

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Swift action averted the disaster that a delayed response would have made inevitable.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Early intervention could have _____ the crisis before it became impossible to manage' → averted. Synonyms: prevent, ward off, forestall. Antonyms: cause, allow, enable.

AVID

AV-id

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having an eager desire for something; ardent; enthusiastic

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

An avid reader since childhood, she had consumed over 300 books by the time she turned 15.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ researchers worked 80-hour weeks for three years before achieving the breakthrough' → avid. Synonyms: eager, passionate, enthusiastic. Antonyms: indifferent, apathetic, reluctant.

BREVITY

BREV-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) Conciseness and exactness of expression; shortness of duration

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The memo was praised for its brevity — three paragraphs conveying what would normally require three pages.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The report's _____ was its greatest virtue — it cut directly to conclusions without unnecessary context' → brevity. Synonyms: conciseness, succinctness, terseness. Antonyms: verbosity, prolixity, length.

BROMIDE

BROH-myd

■ MEANING

(n.) A trite and unoriginal statement; a platitude; a compound used as a sedative

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The graduation speech was full of bromides about hard work and following dreams that no one would remember.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The policy statement relied on _____ rather than evidence — well-worn phrases in place of actual analysis' → bromides. Synonyms: cliché, platitude, truism. Antonyms: original thought, insight, fresh perspective.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL

sur-kum-STAN-shul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Based on indirect evidence; relating to circumstances; dependent on context

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The prosecution's case was entirely circumstantial — no direct evidence placed the defendant at the scene.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The theory rested on _____ evidence — plausible but not verifiable' → circumstantial. Synonyms: indirect, inferential, secondary. Antonyms: direct, definitive, conclusive.

CLOYING

KLOY-ing

■ MEANING

(adj.) Excessively sweet or sentimental; so excessive as to cause disgust

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The cloying sentimentality of the advertisement — soft music, slow-motion children, crying grandparents — felt manipulative.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ praise lavished on every minor contribution made genuine recognition meaningless' → cloying. Synonyms: sickly, saccharine, excessive. Antonyms: restrained, unsentimental, understated.

COUNTERFEIT

KOWN-ter-fit

■ MEANING

(adj./n./v.) Not genuine; imitation with intent to deceive; a forgery; to forge

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The customs officer identified the counterfeit documents by inconsistencies in typeface and paper quality.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ currency was sophisticated enough to fool most cashiers but failed under UV light' → counterfeit.
Synonyms: fake, fraudulent, forged. Antonyms: genuine, authentic, real.

DENIGRATE

DEN-ih-grayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To criticize unfairly; to disparage; to make less worthy

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He denigrated his predecessor's achievements to make his own contributions look more significant.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The editorial _____ the research without engaging with its actual findings' → denigrated. Synonyms: belittle, disparage, malign. Antonyms: praise, commend, exalt.

DISCIPLE

dih-SY-pul

■ MEANING

(n.) A follower of a teacher or leader; an advocate of a school of thought

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

As a disciple of the Keynesian school, she advocated for government spending during recessions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The professor's _____ carried his methodology to universities across the world' → disciples. Synonyms: follower, adherent, devotee. Antonyms: critic, opponent, detractor.

EXTOL

ek-STOHL

■ MEANING

(v.) To praise enthusiastically; to laud; to glorify

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The review extolled the chef's mastery of minimalist cooking — achieving complexity through restraint.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Every early reviewer _____ the novel as a masterpiece, creating expectations the book struggled to meet' → extolled. Synonyms: praise, exalt, glorify. Antonyms: condemn, criticize, disparage.

FOREBODE

for-BOHD

■ MEANING

(v.) To act as a warning sign of something bad; to have a feeling that danger is ahead

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The silence from the advance team foreboded trouble — no communication usually meant something had gone seriously wrong.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The early warning signs _____ the crisis that arrived six months later' → foreboded. Synonyms: presage, portend, foreshadow. Antonyms: promise, augur well, reassure.

IDEOLOGUE

ID-ee-uh-log

■ MEANING

(n.) An adherent of an ideology, especially one who is uncompromising; a dogmatist

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

As an ideologue, she applied the same rigid framework to every policy question regardless of its complexity.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The debate between _____ on both sides left no room for the pragmatic middle ground that policy requires' → ideologues. Synonyms: dogmatist, zealot, true believer. Antonyms: pragmatist, moderate, empiricist.

IMPEDIMENT

im-PED-ih-ment

■ MEANING

(n.) A hindrance or obstruction; a defect in speech

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Bureaucratic impediments delayed the aid distribution for three weeks after the disaster.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The primary _____ to reform was not lack of will but lack of institutional capacity' → impediment. Synonyms: obstacle, barrier, hindrance. Antonyms: aid, facilitation, asset.

IMPERATIVE

im-PER-uh-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Of vital importance; crucial; an essential duty or requirement; expressing command

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

It is imperative that the board makes a decision before the deadline expires.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Addressing the funding gap is _____ — without it, the project collapses entirely' → imperative. Synonyms: essential, necessary, critical. Antonyms: optional, unnecessary, unimportant.

IMPULSIVE

im-PUL-siv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Acting or done without forethought; driven by sudden urges

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His impulsive decision to resign was regretted within a week when the job market proved unfavorable.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'An _____ response to provocation can undo months of careful diplomatic work in seconds' → impulsive. Synonyms: hasty, rash, precipitate. Antonyms: deliberate, cautious, considered.

INTUITIVE

in-TYOO-ih-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Using or based on what one feels to be true even without conscious reasoning; instinctive

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The interface was intuitive — users needed no instruction to navigate all its features from the first session.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Her _____ grasp of what audiences wanted preceded formal market research by three years' → intuitive. Synonyms: instinctive, innate, spontaneous. Antonyms: deliberate, analytical, learned.

INTERMINABLE

in-TUR-mih-nuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or seeming to have no end; endless; tediously prolonged

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The interminable meeting — seven hours with no decisions — became the defining symbol of organizational dysfunction.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ approval process consumed so much time that the opportunity had passed before authorization was granted' → interminable. Synonyms: endless, unceasing, tedious. Antonyms: brief, short, concise.

LASSITUDE

LAS-ih-tood

■ MEANING

(n.) Physical or mental weariness; lack of energy; a state of listlessness

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The oppressive heat produced a lassitude that made even simple tasks feel exhausting.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The years of unsuccessful reform had produced a _____ in the organization that made new initiatives very difficult to launch' → lassitude. Synonyms: weariness, lethargy, torpor. Antonyms: energy, vigor, dynamism.

OMIT

oh-MIT

■ MEANING

(v.) To leave out; to fail to include; to neglect to do

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The report omitted the most damaging finding, which was discovered only when the raw data was independently reviewed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The survey intentionally _____ questions that would have revealed the program's limitations' → omitted. Synonyms: exclude, leave out, neglect. Antonyms: include, incorporate, address.

ORNATE

or-NAYT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Elaborately decorated; highly ornamented; baroque in style

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The ornate Victorian ceiling — with its gilded plasterwork and painted panels — overwhelmed the minimalist furniture.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ language of the contract did not conceal its fundamentally simple and unfavorable terms' → ornate. Synonyms: elaborate, decorative, florid. Antonyms: plain, austere, simple.

PALTRY

PAWL-tree

■ MEANING

(adj.) Small or meager; not worth considering; inferior

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The paltry compensation offered to communities affected by industrial pollution insulted rather than addressed the harm.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ evidence provided — one anecdotal case — cannot support the sweeping conclusion drawn' → paltry. Synonyms: meager, trivial, insignificant. Antonyms: substantial, significant, ample.

PEJORATIVE

pih-JOR-uh-tiv

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Expressing contempt or disapproval; a word with negative connotations

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

'Bureaucrat' has become a pejorative in popular discourse, though civil servants perform essential functions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ use of the word 'elite' in political rhetoric reflects how any status marker can be weaponized' → pejorative. Synonyms: disparaging, derogatory, derisive. Antonyms: complimentary, laudatory, positive.

PREFIGURE

PREE-fig-yur

■ MEANING

(v.) To be an early sign or version of; to foreshadow; to represent in advance

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The stylistic experiments in his first novel prefigured the techniques that would define his mature work.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The economic tensions of the 1920s _____ the depression that arrived a decade later' → prefigured. Synonyms: foreshadow, anticipate, presage. Antonyms: follow, come after, result from.

PRESAGE

PRES-ij (n.) / prih-SAYJ (v.)

■ MEANING

(n.) A sign of things to come; (v.) to be a sign of something to come

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The unusually warm December presaged a disruptive spring that caught farmers unprepared.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The early warning indicators _____ the financial collapse that followed two years later' → presaged. Synonyms: foretell, foreshadow, portend. Antonyms: follow, result from, be caused by.

PRESCRIBE

prih-SKRYB

■ MEANING

(v.) To authoritatively recommend; to lay down as a rule; to order medication

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The constitution prescribes exactly how laws shall be passed, amended, and repealed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The protocol _____ a specific sequence of steps that must be followed exactly' → prescribes. Synonyms: dictate, specify, mandate. Antonyms: suggest, permit, allow discretion.

PREVAIL

prih-VAYL

■ MEANING

(v.) To prove more powerful; to win; to be widespread; to persuade

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Despite intense opposition, the reform movement eventually prevailed after a decade of sustained campaigning.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Reason should _____ over prejudice, though history shows this is rarely automatic' → prevail. Synonyms: win, succeed, triumph. Antonyms: fail, lose, succumb.

PROPITIATE

pruh-PISH-ee-ayt

■ MEANING

(v.) To win the favor of; to appease; to make peace with by giving something

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The management tried to propitiate angry shareholders with a special dividend that addressed none of the structural problems.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The company _____ regulators with voluntary compliance measures that cost far less than formal fines would have' → propitiated. Synonyms: appease, placate, pacify. Antonyms: antagonize, provoke, alienate.

RECAPITULATE

ree-kuh-PICH-uh-layt

■ MEANING

(v.) To summarize and restate the main points of; to repeat in concise form

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She recapitulated the key findings at the start of each chapter for readers who needed a refresher.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Rather than introducing new material, the final chapter merely _____ points already established at length' → recapitulates. Synonyms: summarize, recap, restate. Antonyms: expand, introduce, elaborate.

GROUP 35

30 words

APLOMB

uh-PLOM

■ MEANING

(n.) Self-confidence or assurance, especially in demanding situations; composure

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She handled the heckler with remarkable aplomb, turning his interruption into a moment that strengthened her argument.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The negotiator's _____ in the face of hostile questioning impressed even opposing counsel' → aplomb. Synonyms: composure, poise, self-assurance. Antonyms: nervousness, flustered state, agitation.

APPOSITE

AP-uh-zit

■ MEANING

(adj.) Apt in the circumstances; well-chosen; appropriate; pertinent

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The historical analogy she drew was apposite — it illuminated the current situation precisely.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The quotation was so _____ that the audience assumed she had prepared it specifically for this moment' → apposite. Synonyms: apt, fitting, appropriate. Antonyms: inapt, irrelevant, inappropriate.

BEHOLDEN

bih-HOHL-den

■ MEANING

(adj.) Owing thanks or having a duty to someone in return for help or favor; obligated

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Having accepted the large donation, the candidate was beholden to the donor in ways that compromised her independence.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'A regulator that is _____ to the industry it regulates cannot perform its function honestly' → beholden. Synonyms: indebted, obligated, answerable. Antonyms: independent, free, unobligated.

BELITTLE

bih-LIT-ul

■ MEANING

(v.) To make someone or something seem unimportant; to disparage; to diminish

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The senior researcher belittled every suggestion from junior colleagues, systematically undermining their confidence.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'To _____ the contribution of early researchers who laid the groundwork is both unfair and historically inaccurate' → belittle. Synonyms: disparage, diminish, denigrate. Antonyms: exalt, praise, celebrate.

CLUSTER

KLUS-ter

■ MEANING

(n./v.) A group of similar things growing or held together; to gather or form into a cluster

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The data clustered around two distinct values, suggesting the sample contained two separate populations.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Cancer cases _____ in the downwind communities at a rate significantly higher than in unaffected areas' → clustered. Synonyms: group, congregate, bunch. Antonyms: scatter, disperse, separate.

COHERENT

koh-HEER-ent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Logical and consistent; forming a unified whole; able to speak clearly

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The first draft was a collection of observations; the revision transformed them into a coherent argument.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Without a _____ framework, the data points remain disconnected and resist interpretation' → coherent. Synonyms: logical, consistent, unified. Antonyms: incoherent, fragmented, contradictory.

CONTEMPLATE

KON-tem-playt

■ MEANING

(v.) To look at thoughtfully; to think carefully about; to consider as a possibility

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She spent a month contemplating the offer before declining it in favor of the less lucrative but more meaningful role.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'To _____ the problem fully, one must consider its historical, economic, and cultural dimensions simultaneously' → contemplate. Synonyms: consider, ponder, reflect on. Antonyms: ignore, act impulsively, dismiss.

CRAFTY

KRAF-tee

■ MEANING

(adj.) Clever at achieving one's aims through indirect or deceitful means; cunning

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The crafty negotiator secured concessions on every minor point, each setting a precedent for the major ones.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ politician used her opponents' attacks as evidence of the establishment's fear of her' → crafty. Synonyms: cunning, wily, sly. Antonyms: naive, guileless, straightforward.

DISMANTLE

dis-MAN-tul

■ MEANING

(v.) To take apart; to destroy the structure or organization of; to demolish methodically

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The new CEO dismantled the legacy bureaucracy that had prevented agile decision-making for decades.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The investigation _____ the narrative that had been carefully constructed by the defendants over years' → dismantled. Synonyms: disassemble, demolish, break down. Antonyms: construct, assemble, build.

ELABORATE

ih-LAB-er-it (adj.) / ih-LAB-er-ayt (v.)

■ MEANING

(adj.) Involving many details; intricate; developed in detail; (v.) to develop or add detail to

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Could you elaborate on that point? The connection between the two findings isn't entirely clear.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'She was asked to _____ on the methodology before the committee would approve the study' → elaborate. Synonyms: expand, detail, develop. Antonyms: summarize, simplify, condense.

EXEGESIS

ek-suh-JEE-sis

■ MEANING

(n.) Critical explanation or analysis of a text; an interpretation

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The biblical exegesis examined not just the text itself but its translation history across five languages.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The scholar's careful _____ revealed layers of meaning that casual readers had consistently overlooked' → exegesis. Synonyms: interpretation, analysis, commentary. Antonyms: superficial reading, paraphrase.

FORGO

for-GOH

■ MEANING

(v.) To abstain from; to go without; to relinquish

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She chose to forgo the higher-paying offer to join the organization whose values she genuinely shared.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He was willing to _____ profit in the short term to build market share that would pay off later' → forgo. Synonyms: give up, relinquish, do without. Antonyms: pursue, accept, embrace.

IMPENETRABLE

im-PEN-ih-truh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Impossible to enter or pass through; impossible to understand

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The impenetrable legalese of the terms of service ensured that almost no one would read or understand it.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ prose served the author's purpose by exhausting readers before they reached the troubling conclusions' → impenetrable. Synonyms: incomprehensible, dense, opaque. Antonyms: clear, transparent, accessible.

IMPERVIOUS

im-PUR-vee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not allowing passage through; not affected by; unable to be influenced

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

He seemed impervious to criticism — no amount of negative feedback caused him to reconsider.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'She was entirely _____ to flattery — only substantive arguments moved her' → impervious. Synonyms: unaffected, immune, resistant. Antonyms: susceptible, influenced, permeable.

INALIENABLE

in-AY-lee-uh-nuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Unable to be taken away or given away; inherent; absolute

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The declaration asserted that all people possess inalienable rights that no government can legitimately remove.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Access to justice should be an _____ right, not a privilege determined by ability to pay' → inalienable. Synonyms: inherent, inviolable, absolute. Antonyms: conditional, removable, negotiable.

INEPT

in-EPT

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing no skill; incompetent; clumsy

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The inept handling of the crisis — delayed responses, contradictory messaging, and misallocated resources — made everything worse.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ execution of an otherwise sound strategy undermined three years of careful planning' → inept. Synonyms: incompetent, clumsy, unskilled. Antonyms: adept, competent, proficient.

MARTINET

mar-tuh-NET

■ MEANING

(n.) A strict disciplinarian; a person who demands rigid conformity to rules and forms

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The new general was a notorious martinet — any deviation from protocol, however minor, resulted in formal punishment.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Under the _____ director, creativity withered as staff spent energy on procedural compliance' → martinet. Synonyms: disciplinarian, tyrant, stickler. Antonyms: permissive leader, flexible manager.

NARCISSISM

NAR-sih-siz-um

■ MEANING

(n.) Excessive interest in or admiration of oneself; extreme self-centeredness

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His narcissism made collaboration impossible — every group project became a vehicle for his self-promotion.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ that characterized the regime's leadership prevented the honest feedback needed for good decisions' → narcissism. Synonyms: egotism, self-absorption, vanity. Antonyms: humility, altruism, empathy.

OBJURGATION

ob-jur-GAY-shun

■ MEANING

(n.) Severe and sharp rebuke or criticism; a harsh scolding

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The CEO's objurgation of the product team before the entire company was remembered as the worst example of his leadership.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The editorial's _____ of the policy went beyond criticism into personal attack' → objurgation. Synonyms: rebuke, reprimand, harsh criticism. Antonyms: praise, commendation, approval.

PASSABLE

PAS-uh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Acceptable but not exceptional; adequate; (of a road) able to be traveled

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The restaurant's food was passable — nothing remarkable but nothing that would drive you away.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The repairs were _____ — functional for normal use but insufficient for heavy traffic' → passable. Synonyms: adequate, acceptable, mediocre. Antonyms: excellent, inadequate, impassable.

PENETRATING

PEN-uh-tray-ting

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing deep understanding; sharp and clear; able to make way into something

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her penetrating analysis of the failure identified the root cause that every previous review had missed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ question exposed the flaw in the entire argument in a single sentence' → penetrating. Synonyms: insightful, sharp, incisive. Antonyms: superficial, obtuse, shallow.

PICTURESQUE

pik-chuh-RESK

■ MEANING

(adj.) Visually attractive, especially in a quaint or charming way; vividly descriptive

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The picturesque village — cobblestone streets, flower boxes, and a medieval church — attracted painters and photographers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ description of the setting established an atmosphere that the plot immediately undermined' → picturesque. Synonyms: charming, scenic, quaint. Antonyms: ugly, bleak, unremarkable.

REFLECT

rih-FLEKT

■ MEANING

(v.) To throw back light or an image; to think deeply; to be a sign of; to cast credit or discredit

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her rapid promotion reflected both her exceptional competence and the organization's urgent need for leadership.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The data _____ a consistent pattern of systemic underinvestment in preventive measures' → reflects. Synonyms: indicate, demonstrate, show. Antonyms: conceal, misrepresent, obscure.

RESOURCEFUL

rih-SORS-ful

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having the ability to find creative solutions; inventive; capable in difficult situations

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The resourceful team completed the project with half the budget by finding innovative workarounds for each constraint.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ manager improvised solutions that kept the project moving despite the funding collapse' → resourceful. Synonyms: inventive, creative, ingenious. Antonyms: helpless, unimaginative, dependent.

RETRENCH

rih-TRENCH

■ MEANING

(v.) To reduce costs or spending; to cut back on activities; to reduce staff

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Facing declining revenue, the company retrenched — cutting 20% of its workforce and eliminating all discretionary spending.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The organization was forced to _____ after years of over-expansion left it financially exposed' → retrench. Synonyms: cut back, reduce, economize. Antonyms: expand, invest, grow.

SELF-INDULGENT

SELF-in-DUL-jent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Characterized by doing whatever one wants; gratifying one's own desires without restraint

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The self-indulgent director spent 40 minutes of screen time on a subplot that contributed nothing to the film.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ prose — extended tangents, personal anecdotes, and unsubstantiated opinions — undermined the study's credibility' → self-indulgent. Synonyms: indulgent, undisciplined, excessive. Antonyms: restrained, disciplined, focused.

SPECULATE

SPEK-yuh-layt

■ MEANING

(v.) To form a theory without firm evidence; to invest in risky assets for potentially high returns

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

It is tempting to speculate about causes before the evidence is in, but premature conclusions often mislead.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Without more data, researchers can only _____ about the mechanism underlying the observed effect' → speculate. Synonyms: conjecture, theorize, guess. Antonyms: confirm, verify, demonstrate.

STAIID

STAYD

■ MEANING

(adj.) Respectable and unadventurous; sedate; fixed and resistant to change

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The staid investment bank was slow to adopt new technologies, losing market share to nimbler competitors.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ editorial policy — no first-person, no humor, no unconventional formats — dated the journal considerably' → staid. Synonyms: sedate, conventional, sober. Antonyms: adventurous, unconventional, dynamic.

SUPPRESS

suh-PRES

■ MEANING

(v.) To put an end to; to prevent from being known or expressed; to subdue

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The government was accused of suppressing evidence that contradicted its official account of the events.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The instinct to _____ inconvenient data is understandable but ultimately undermines scientific credibility' → suppress. Synonyms: conceal, stifle, quash. Antonyms: reveal, publicize, encourage.

VESTIGIAL

ves-TIJ-ee-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Forming a small remnant of something that was once greater; surviving but no longer functional

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The regulatory body retained only vestigial authority after successive legislation stripped its enforcement powers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ remains of the old system persisted even after the formal transition, slowing the new regime's operation' → vestigial. Synonyms: remnant, residual, surviving but obsolete. Antonyms: thriving, functional, dominant.

GROUP 36

29 words

ACCORD

uh-KORD

■ MEANING

(n./v.) An official agreement; (v.) to give or grant; to be in agreement with

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The peace accord signed after years of mediation ended a conflict that had claimed 80,000 lives.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The findings _____ with the predictions of the model, providing confirmation of its core assumptions' → accord. Synonyms: agreement, harmony, grant. Antonyms: discord, disagreement, conflict.

AD HOC

ad HOK

■ MEANING

(adj./adv.) Created for a particular purpose; impromptu; not planned in advance

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The committee was formed on an ad hoc basis to handle the crisis and dissolved once the emergency had passed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ solution worked for the immediate crisis but could not be scaled to handle routine operations' → ad hoc. Synonyms: impromptu, improvised, one-off. Antonyms: systematic, planned, permanent.

ADHERE

ad-HEER

■ MEANING

(v.) To stick firmly; to believe in and follow the practice of; to follow closely

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The scientist adhered strictly to the protocol, ensuring that her results would be reproducible by any other lab.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The contractor failed to _____ to the agreed timeline, triggering the penalty clause' → adhere. Synonyms: follow, comply with, stick to. Antonyms: deviate, violate, disregard.

APHORISM

AF-uh-riz-um

■ MEANING

(n.) A pithy observation that contains a general truth; a maxim; an epigram

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

'Fortune favors the bold' is an aphorism whose popularity has outlasted the culture that coined it.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The speech was built around a single _____ that the speaker returned to at each transition' → aphorism. Synonyms: maxim, proverb, saying. Antonyms: extended argument, nuanced position.

BENCHMARK

BENCH-mark

■ MEANING

(n.) A standard or point of reference for evaluating performance; (v.) to test against a standard

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The new treatment was benchmarked against the current standard of care in a 5,000-patient randomized trial.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Without a clear _____, it is impossible to assess whether any improvement has actually occurred' → benchmark. Synonyms: standard, measure, yardstick. Antonyms: vague goal, unspecified target.

BLIGHTED

BLY-ted

■ MEANING

(adj.) Affected by blight; suffering great damage; ruined

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The blighted neighborhood — abandoned storefronts, boarded windows, cracked sidewalks — had been declining for 30 years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The region's _____ prospects were tied directly to the collapse of its single major industry' → blighted. Synonyms: damaged, ruined, ravaged. Antonyms: thriving, flourishing, prosperous.

CONTENT

kun-TENT (adj.) / KON-tent (n.)

■ MEANING

(adj.) Satisfied; at peace; (v.) to satisfy someone; (n.) what is contained; subject matter

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was content with her modest achievements — they were entirely her own and had required no compromise.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'He _____ himself with smaller victories while building toward the larger goal' → contented. As verb: to satisfy. Synonyms: satisfied, pleased, accepting. Antonyms: discontented, restless, dissatisfied.

DEBASE

dih-BAYS

■ MEANING

(v.) To reduce the quality or value of something; to degrade; to lower in status

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Years of overuse had debased the term 'innovation' until it meant nothing more specific than 'new.'

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Constant political compromise _____ the original principles until they were unrecognizable' → debased. Synonyms: degrade, corrupt, cheapen. Antonyms: elevate, enhance, dignify.

DISCONCERTING

dis-kun-SUR-ting

■ MEANING

(adj.) Causing anxiety; unsettling; disturbing composure

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His disconcerting habit of staring without expression during presentations unnerved even the most confident speakers.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ similarity between the two cases — which should have been unrelated — implied a common cause' → disconcerting. Synonyms: unsettling, alarming, troubling. Antonyms: reassuring, comforting, calming.

EXTANT

EK-stant

■ MEANING

(adj.) Still in existence; surviving; not extinct or destroyed

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Only three extant manuscripts of the original text survived, all held in the same archive.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The most _____ copy of the original charter is held in the National Archive under climate-controlled conditions' → extant. Synonyms: existing, surviving, current. Antonyms: extinct, lost, destroyed.

FACILITY

fuh-SIL-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) Ease in doing something; an aptitude; a place for a specific purpose

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her facility with numbers — rapid calculation, pattern recognition — made her the most valuable analyst on the team.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ with languages allowed him to conduct research in four countries without interpreters' → facility. Synonyms: ease, aptitude, skill. Antonyms: difficulty, inability, awkwardness.

FITFUL

FIT-ful

■ MEANING

(adj.) Active or occurring irregularly; not sustained; intermittent

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Her fitful sleep — waking every hour — left her exhausted despite spending nine hours in bed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Progress on the project was _____ — intense activity for weeks followed by complete stagnation' → fitful. Synonyms: intermittent, irregular, sporadic. Antonyms: steady, consistent, regular.

INCITE

in-SYT

■ MEANING

(v.) To encourage or stir up violent or unlawful behavior; to provoke; to urge on

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The prosecution argued that the speech was designed to incite violence by portraying the group as an existential threat.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The pamphlet was found to _____ civil unrest through deliberate misrepresentation of facts' → incite. Synonyms: provoke, instigate, foment. Antonyms: calm, pacify, suppress.

INDUCE

in-DOOS

■ MEANING

(v.) To succeed in persuading someone to do something; to bring about; to infer by reasoning

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Financial incentives were introduced to induce manufacturers to retool their factories for clean energy production.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The policy was designed to _____ behavioral change through positive reinforcement rather than penalties' → induce. Synonyms: persuade, cause, prompt. Antonyms: prevent, deter, discourage.

INFELICITY

in-fuh-LIS-ih-tee

■ MEANING

(n.) The quality of being infelicitous; an unfortunate or inappropriate choice of expression or behavior

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The speaker's infelicity — confusing two countries' flags in front of their ambassadors — required a formal apology.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The report was marred by numerous _____ — awkward phrasing, inapt examples, and tone-deaf observations' → infelicities. Synonyms: inappropriate remark, gaffe, blunder. Antonyms: felicity, apt expression, appropriate choice.

INTELLIGIBLE

in-TEL-ih-jih-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Able to be understood; comprehensible; clear

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The legal document was not intelligible to the non-specialist — it required a lawyer to explain each clause.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The explanation was barely _____ — technical jargon without definition blocked comprehension at every turn' → intelligible. Synonyms: understandable, comprehensible, clear. Antonyms: unintelligible, obscure, incomprehensible.

MAKESHIFT

MAYK-shift

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Temporary and adequate for immediate needs; using whatever is available

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The makeshift bridge — planks across oil drums — held for the six weeks needed before the permanent structure was built.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ solution addressed the immediate emergency but created new problems that required another round of improvisation' → makeshift. Synonyms: temporary, improvised, stopgap. Antonyms: permanent, proper, purpose-built.

ONETIME

WUN-tym

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having been at some earlier time; former; one-time

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The onetime champion, now retired from competition, channeled his energy into coaching the next generation.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ allies became bitter rivals after the conflict over resources revealed incompatible interests' → onetime. Synonyms: former, erstwhile, previous. Antonyms: current, present, ongoing.

OPPORTUNISTIC

op-er-tyoo-NIS-tik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Exploiting opportunities with little regard for principle; taking advantage of circumstances

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The opportunistic acquisition — swooping in during the target company's financial crisis — was legal but widely criticized.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ coalition formed only when each party stood to benefit — there was no shared principle involved' → opportunistic. Synonyms: exploitative, self-serving, expedient. Antonyms: principled, idealistic, disinterested.

PLAUSIBLE

PLAW-zuh-bul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Seeming reasonable or probable; apparently valid; superficially convincing

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The alibi was plausible on first hearing but collapsed when the CCTV footage contradicted two key details.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The hypothesis is _____ given the available data, though more evidence is needed before it can be accepted' → plausible. Synonyms: credible, convincing, reasonable. Antonyms: implausible, unconvincing, far-fetched.

POSTURING

POS-chur-ing

■ MEANING

(n.) Behavior that is intended to impress or mislead; adopting a position for effect rather than sincerity

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The tough talk before negotiations was pure posturing — both sides had privately agreed to major concessions.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The aggressive rhetoric was seen as political _____ rather than a genuine policy position' → posturing. Synonyms: pretense, bluster, performance. Antonyms: genuine position, sincere statement.

POTENT

POH-tent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having great power, influence, or effect; strong; convincing

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The most potent argument for reform was not abstract principle but the documented human cost of the status quo.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ combination of compelling evidence and skilled presentation made the case unanswerable' → potent. Synonyms: powerful, effective, compelling. Antonyms: weak, ineffective, unconvincing.

REDUNDANT

rih-DUN-dent

■ MEANING

(adj.) Not needed; superfluous; no longer needed in a job; using more words than necessary

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The redundant paragraphs in the report repeated information already clearly stated in the executive summary.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Three of the four committee members were effectively _____ — their views were always identical to the chair's' → redundant. Synonyms: superfluous, unnecessary, repetitive. Antonyms: necessary, essential, unique.

SACROSANCT

SAK-roh-sangkt

■ MEANING

(adj.) Too important or respected to be interfered with; treated as sacred and untouchable

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The editorial board's independence was sacrosanct — no advertiser had ever succeeded in influencing coverage.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ tradition was honored by every administration even when practical considerations argued against it' → sacrosanct. Synonyms: inviolable, untouchable, sacred. Antonyms: violable, negotiable, challengeable.

SHREWD

SHROOD

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having sharp powers of judgment; astute; clever in practical affairs

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The shrewd investor recognized that the market's panic response to the news was disproportionate and bought heavily.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'A _____ observer would have noticed the discrepancy in the numbers six months before the collapse' → shrewd. Synonyms: astute, clever, perceptive. Antonyms: naive, obtuse, unperceptive.

UNADORNED

un-uh-DORND

■ MEANING

(adj.) Without decoration or embellishment; plain; simple

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The unadorned presentation — no slides, no animation, just clear argument and evidence — was more persuasive than any flashy alternative.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ truth was more powerful than any embellishment could have been' → unadorned. Synonyms: plain, simple, unembellished. Antonyms: ornate, elaborate, decorated.

VALEDICTORY

val-uh-DIK-tuh-ree

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Serving as a farewell; relating to departure; a farewell address

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The outgoing director delivered a valedictory speech that reviewed 20 years of achievement with characteristic modesty.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ address was widely seen as a final attempt to shape how history would remember the administration' → valedictory. Synonyms: farewell, departing, final. Antonyms: inaugural, welcoming, opening.

WARRANTED

WOR-en-ted

■ MEANING

(adj.) Authorized; justified; legally sanctioned

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The criticism of the study's methodology was warranted — the sample size was genuinely too small for the conclusions drawn.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The additional scrutiny was entirely _____ given the inconsistencies found in the preliminary report' → warranted. Synonyms: justified, appropriate, authorized. Antonyms: unwarranted, unjustified, undeserved.

WISTFUL

WIST-ful

■ MEANING

(adj.) Having or showing a feeling of vague longing or regret; pensively sad

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She gave the old building a wistful last look before the demolition crew moved in.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'His _____ description of the era before digital distraction suggested more nostalgia than accurate historical recall' → wistful. Synonyms: nostalgic, longing, melancholy. Antonyms: cheerful, forward-looking, content.

GROUP 37

30 words

ATTRIBUTE

uh-TRIB-yoot (v.) / AT-rih-byoot (n.)

■ MEANING

(v.) To regard as belonging to or caused by; (n.) a quality or characteristic

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Success cannot be entirely attributed to hard work — timing, luck, and network play undeniable roles.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The improvement was _____ to the new protocol rather than to any change in patient demographics' → attributed.
Synonyms: ascribe, credit, assign. Antonyms: dissociate, deny, refuse to credit.

CALAMITOUS

kuh-LAM-ih-tus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Involving great damage or distress; catastrophic; causing great suffering

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The calamitous decision to invade without adequate planning produced consequences that lasted for two decades.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'What began as a minor policy error became _____ when it was compounded by inaction' → calamitous.
Synonyms: disastrous, catastrophic, devastating. Antonyms: fortunate, beneficial, successful.

CENSOR

SEN-ser

■ MEANING

(v.) To examine and suppress unacceptable parts; (n.) an official who censors

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The platform was accused of censoring political content that violated no specific policy.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Rather than publish the findings, the department chose to _____ data that contradicted official policy' → censor. Don't confuse with CENSURE (to criticize). Synonyms: suppress, prohibit, expurgate. Antonyms: publish, allow, release.

CHAMPION

CHAM-pee-un

■ MEANING

(v.) To vigorously support or defend; (n.) a person who fights for a cause; a winner

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She championed workers' rights throughout a career spanning four decades, never compromising on core principles.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'He _____ the policy when it was unpopular and was vindicated when events proved him right' → championed.
Synonyms: advocate, support, defend. Antonyms: oppose, abandon, undermine.

COMPOUND

KOM-pownd (n./adj.) / kum-POWND (v.)

■ MEANING

(v.) To make worse by adding to; to combine; (n.) an enclosed area; a mixture; (adj.) made up of parts

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The economic crisis was compounded by the government's failure to respond with any coherent fiscal policy.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The delays _____ the original problem, creating secondary difficulties that required separate solutions' → compounded. Synonyms: worsen, add to, exacerbate. Antonyms: alleviate, simplify, mitigate.

DETER

dih-TUR

■ MEANING

(v.) To discourage from acting through fear or doubt; to prevent; to inhibit

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Harsh penalties were intended to deter corporate fraud, but the probability of detection remained too low to be effective.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'High licensing costs _____ qualified individuals from entering the profession, worsening the shortage' → deterred. Synonyms: discourage, prevent, dissuade. Antonyms: encourage, entice, motivate.

DEXTEROUS

DEK-ster-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing or having skill, especially with one's hands; mentally adroit

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The dexterous surgeon performed the delicate microsurgery through an incision smaller than a centimeter.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ politician handled the hostile press conference with skill that transformed a crisis into an opportunity' → dexterous. Synonyms: skillful, adroit, nimble. Antonyms: clumsy, inept, awkward.

DICTUM

DIK-tum

■ MEANING

(n.) A formal pronouncement; a popular saying; an established principle

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The judge cited the dictum that 'justice must not only be done, but be seen to be done.'

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The department operated on the _____ that no decision should be made without at least three independent data points' → dictum. Synonyms: pronouncement, maxim, decree. Antonyms: suggestion, informal opinion.

DUTIFUL

DOO-tuh-ful

■ MEANING

(adj.) Motivated by duty; conscientiously carrying out one's obligations; obedient

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The dutiful employee worked overtime without complaint throughout the busiest period, asking for nothing in return.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Her _____ service to the organization over three decades was recognized with the highest institutional honor' → dutiful. Synonyms: conscientious, obedient, responsible. Antonyms: negligent, irresponsible, derelict.

EMPATHETIC

em-puh-THET-ik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Showing an ability to understand and share the feelings of another; compassionate

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The most effective leaders are empathetic — they understand how their decisions affect people at every level of the organization.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ physician took time to understand each patient's experience, not just their physical symptoms' → empathetic. Synonyms: compassionate, understanding, sensitive. Antonyms: indifferent, callous, unsympathetic.

ENSUE

en-SYOO

■ MEANING

(v.) To happen afterward or as a result; to follow

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The policy announcement was followed by silence; then confusion ensued as journalists struggled to parse what had been said.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Predictably, _____ from the announcement was a significant drop in the company's share price' → ensuing. Synonyms: follow, result, occur afterward. Antonyms: precede, cause, initiate.

FATHOM

FATH-um

■ MEANING

(v.) To understand after much thought; to measure the depth of; (n.) a unit of depth

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She could not fathom how the error had persisted through three rounds of peer review without detection.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The committee struggled to _____ the long-term implications of such an unprecedented decision' → fathom. Synonyms: comprehend, understand, grasp. Antonyms: misunderstand, be confused by, fail to comprehend.

FRANK

FRANK

■ MEANING

(adj.) Direct and outspoken; without concealment; forthright

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She was frank about the project's limitations — listing exactly what it could and could not deliver.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ assessment of the merger's risks provided a useful counterweight to the optimistic projections' → frank. Synonyms: candid, direct, forthright. Antonyms: evasive, indirect, guarded.

GERMANE

jur-MAYN

■ MEANING

(adj.) Relevant to a subject under consideration; pertinent; fitting

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The historical comparison was germane — the current situation mirrored the earlier one in every material respect.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The committee asked that speakers limit themselves to comments _____ to the specific item on the agenda' → germane. Synonyms: relevant, pertinent, apposite. Antonyms: irrelevant, extraneous, tangential.

GRUMBLE

GRUM-bul

■ MEANING

(v.) To complain in a low, irritable voice; to mutter; (n.) a low complaint

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Staff grumbled about the new policy but complied — the benefits were clear even if the process was frustrating.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'Despite _____ from some members, the proposal passed with a substantial majority' → grumbling. Synonyms: complain, mutter, grouse. Antonyms: praise, accept gladly, applaud.

HIDEBOUND

HYD-bownd

■ MEANING

(adj.) Unwilling to change because of tradition or convention; narrow-minded; restricted

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The hidebound academic department rejected every interdisciplinary proposal as outside its traditional scope.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ institution changed procedures only when external regulation forced it to — never voluntarily' → hidebound. Synonyms: conservative, narrow-minded, rigid. Antonyms: progressive, open-minded, flexible.

HYPOCRITE

HIP-uh-krit

■ MEANING

(n.) A person who claims to have moral standards but behaves inconsistently with them

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The politician was called a hypocrite after voting against the law he had publicly championed for three years.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ advocated austerity for others while living lavishly on public funds' → hypocrite. Synonyms: dissembler, pretender, fraud. Antonyms: person of integrity, sincere person.

IMPOLITIC

im-POL-ih-tik

■ MEANING

(adj.) Failing to have a prudent regard for political consequences; unwise; injudicious

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His impolitic remarks about the ally's domestic policy created a diplomatic incident that required weeks to resolve.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ decision to publicly criticize the regulator while under investigation was widely considered self-destructive' → impolitic. Synonyms: unwise, injudicious, imprudent. Antonyms: judicious, diplomatic, prudent.

INSIDIOUS

in-SID-ee-us

■ MEANING

(adj.) Proceeding gradually and harmfully; treacherous and stealthy in a subtle way

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The insidious effect of chronic stress — imperceptible day to day but devastating over years — went unrecognized until serious harm was done.

■ GRE STRATEGY

KEY GRE word. TC/SE: 'The _____ erosion of institutional norms proceeded so gradually that each step seemed minor' → insidious. Synonyms: subtle, treacherous, stealthy. Antonyms: obvious, transparent, direct.

INTERMEDIARY

in-ter-MEE-dee-er-ee

■ MEANING

(n./adj.) A person who acts as a link between people; a mediator; an agent between parties

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The law firm served as intermediary between the two governments, conveying messages neither side could officially send.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'An independent _____ was appointed to prevent either side from directly influencing the evidence review' → intermediary. Synonyms: mediator, go-between, broker. Antonyms: direct party, principal.

PASSIVE

PAS-iv

■ MEANING

(adj.) Accepting or allowing without active response; not active; receiving; submissive

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His passive response to the injustice — witnessing but not intervening — made him morally complicit in the outcome.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ investment strategy — tracking an index without active management — consistently outperformed active funds' → passive. Synonyms: inactive, submissive, receptive. Antonyms: active, assertive, proactive.

RAILLERY

RAYL-er-ee

■ MEANING

(n.) Good-humored teasing; light-hearted banter; playful ridicule

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The veterans' raillery with the recruits was affectionate rather than cruel — a form of initiation through laughter.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ between the two colleagues — always witty, never unkind — was the highlight of every team meeting' → raillery. Synonyms: banter, teasing, wit. Antonyms: earnest discussion, harsh criticism, seriousness.

RAMBLE

RAM-bul

■ MEANING

(v.) To walk without direction; to speak or write at length in a disorganized way; to grow irregularly

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His conference presentations tended to ramble — moving from point to point without ever reaching a clear conclusion.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The lecture _____ through 12 topics in 45 minutes, leaving students with no coherent takeaway' → rambled. Synonyms: wander, digress, meander. Antonyms: focus, be concise, stay on topic.

RESENT

rih-ZENT

■ MEANING

(v.) To feel bitter or indignant about treatment or a circumstance; to begrudge

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

She resented the assumption that her success had been granted rather than earned through sustained effort.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Employees _____ the new policy because it was imposed without consultation rather than for its actual substance' → resented. Synonyms: begrudge, feel bitter about, object to. Antonyms: accept, appreciate, be grateful for.

RESIDUAL

rih-ZIJ-oo-ul

■ MEANING

(adj.) Remaining after the greater part has gone; leftover; surviving

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

A residual skepticism about the new management team persisted even after they had delivered two years of strong results.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ effects of the medication were still detectable 72 hours after the last dose' → residual. Synonyms: remaining, leftover, surviving. Antonyms: initial, primary, complete.

RESOLVE

rih-ZOLV

■ MEANING

(n./v.) Firm determination; to decide firmly; to solve; to find an answer to

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The team's resolve hardened in the face of adversity — each setback only increased their determination to succeed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'Their _____ to complete the project despite the obstacles was the defining characteristic of the team' → resolve. Synonyms: determination, commitment, decide. Antonyms: vacillation, surrender, irresolute.

SURROGATE

SUR-uh-git

■ MEANING

(n./adj.) A substitute; acting as a substitute; a deputy

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Animal models serve as surrogates for human subjects in research where direct human testing would be unethical.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The focus group data served as a _____ for consumer response in the absence of real market testing' → surrogate. Synonyms: substitute, proxy, replacement. Antonyms: original, actual, primary.

VILIFY

VIL-ih-fy

■ MEANING

(v.) To speak or write about in an abusively disparaging manner; to defame

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The whistleblower was vilified by the organization she exposed — called a traitor and a liar by officials she had documented.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The media _____ the dissidents, portraying them as criminals rather than political prisoners' → vilified. Synonyms: defame, slander, demonize. Antonyms: praise, vindicate, celebrate.

WANTING

WONT-ing

■ MEANING

(adj.) Lacking; absent; not up to required standard; deficient

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The security arrangements were found wanting — gaps that no responsible audit should have missed.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The argument was found _____ in both evidence and logical structure' → wanting. Synonyms: lacking, deficient, inadequate. Antonyms: sufficient, complete, adequate.

WILLFUL

WIL-ful

■ MEANING

(adj.) Intentional; deliberate; stubbornly self-determined; having one's own way

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The court found willful negligence — the company had known about the risk and chosen not to act.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ destruction of evidence was a far more serious offense than the original wrongdoing' → willful. Synonyms: deliberate, intentional, stubborn. Antonyms: accidental, unintentional, compliant.

GROUP 38

3 words

QUERULOUS

KWER-uh-lus

■ MEANING

(adj.) Complaining in a petulant or whining manner; habitually fretful

— ■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

The querulous patient called the nursing station four times in an hour with minor complaints.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC/SE: 'The _____ memo from the department head listed grievances accumulated over years of perceived slights' → querulous. Synonyms: complaining, whining, fretful. Antonyms: content, agreeable, stoic.

PHONY

FOH-nee

■ MEANING

(adj./n.) Not genuine; insincere; a fraud or fake person

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

His apology struck everyone present as phony — the tone was wrong, the words rehearsed, and the eyes unconvincing.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The _____ credentials impressed naive investors who never thought to verify the most basic claims' → phony. Synonyms: fake, counterfeit, insincere. Antonyms: genuine, authentic, sincere.

CHECK

CHEK

■ MEANING

(v.) To slow or restrain; to verify; to control; (n.) a restraint; a form of verification

—■ EXAMPLE SENTENCE

Term limits were introduced as a check on the accumulation of political power by long-serving officials.

■ GRE STRATEGY

TC: 'The constitutional provision served as a _____ on executive overreach for over two centuries' → check. Synonyms: restraint, limit, control. Antonyms: license, freedom, unconstrained authority.