



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

GRE VOCABULARY

GRE Vocabulary: Knowledge & Reasoning

111 focused words in Knowledge & Reasoning

111

UNIQUE WORDS

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CATEGORIES

GRE

EXAM FOCUS



About this study guide

This vocabulary guide was prepared and published by Test Ninjas as an independent study resource. It is designed to help students build the precise word knowledge needed for demanding academic reading and reasoning.

How to use this guide

Study in short, repeated sessions. Read each definition, say the word aloud, and use the example to understand how the word functions in context. Return to unfamiliar words until you can explain them without looking at the definition.

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001 abstruse *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Difficult to understand; obscure

The philosopher's **abstruse** arguments about consciousness left even his colleagues struggling to follow.

MEMORY CUE: An abstruse text hides its meaning behind a high wall of difficult ideas.

002 acumen *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

The ability to make good judgments and quick decisions; keen insight

The CEO's financial **acumen** allowed her to navigate the company through three consecutive recessions.

MEMORY CUE: Acumen is a sharp mental blade that cuts quickly to a good judgment.

003 anomaly *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected

The star's unusual brightness was dismissed as an **anomaly** until a second telescope confirmed the observation.

MEMORY CUE: One red apple in a perfect row of green apples is an anomaly: it breaks the expected pattern.

004 arbitrary *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Based on random choice or personal whim, rather than reason or system

The grading system appeared **arbitrary**, with identical essays receiving wildly different marks from different reviewers.

MEMORY CUE: A blindfolded dart chooses the answer arbitrarily: by chance rather than reason.

005 arcane *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Understood by few; mysterious or secret

The professor's lectures on **arcane** mathematical theories attracted only the most dedicated students.

MEMORY CUE: An arcane book is locked in a secret room and understood by only a few.

006 ascertained *verb (past participle)*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Found out for certain; determined with confidence through investigation

The detective **ascertained** the suspect's alibi through a painstaking review of security camera footage.

MEMORY CUE: Once investigators ascertained the fact, uncertainty snapped into certainty.

007 attribution *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

The act of ascribing a work or remark to a particular author or source

The painting's **attribution** to Rembrandt has been questioned by several art historians who point to inconsistencies in technique.

MEMORY CUE: Attribution attaches a quotation or artwork to its claimed source.

008 bibliographical *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Relating to the systematic description of books and other published works

The appendix contains a comprehensive **bibliographical** survey of every major study on the topic since 1950.

MEMORY CUE: Bibliographical notes systematically identify books, editions, authors, and publication details.

009 caveat *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

A warning or proviso; a qualification or limitation

The study's authors included an important **caveat**: the results may not generalize to populations outside the sample.

MEMORY CUE: A caveat is a yellow warning sign attached to a claim.

010 comprehensive *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Including or dealing with all or nearly all elements or aspects of something; thorough

The report offers a **comprehensive** analysis of the economic, social, and environmental costs of the proposed dam.

MEMORY CUE: A comprehensive net catches nearly every aspect instead of a narrow sample.

011 conceivably *adverb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

In a way that is imaginable or possible

The mutation could **conceivably** confer an advantage in environments where temperatures fluctuate dramatically.

MEMORY CUE: If you can conceive it as possible, it could conceivably happen.

012 conflate *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To combine two or more ideas, texts, or sets of information, often erroneously treating distinct things as identical

Critics argue that the study **conflates** correlation with causation, a common error in epidemiological research.

MEMORY CUE: Conflate two separate files and their distinct contents blur into one.

013 confounding *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Acting as a hidden variable that distorts the apparent relationship between other variables

Age was a **confounding** variable that the researchers failed to control for in their analysis of health outcomes.

MEMORY CUE: A confounding variable secretly tangles the apparent cause-and-effect relationship.

014 conjecture *noun/verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

An opinion formed on the basis of incomplete information; to form such an opinion

Without hard evidence, any explanation at this point is merely **conjecture**.

MEMORY CUE: Conjecture sketches a conclusion in pencil because the evidence is incomplete.

015 conundrum *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

A confusing and difficult problem or question

The energy crisis presents a **conundrum**: how to maintain growth while reducing emissions.

MEMORY CUE: A conundrum locks a difficult question inside a confusing puzzle box.

016 correlation *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

A mutual relationship or connection between two or more things, especially a statistical one

The study found a strong **correlation** between childhood reading habits and academic performance in college.

MEMORY CUE: Correlation ties two changing measures together without proving one caused another.

017 corroborated *verb (past tense)*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Confirmed or gave support to (a statement, theory, or finding)

Eyewitness testimony **corroborated** the forensic evidence, strengthening the prosecution's case considerably.

MEMORY CUE: A second witness corroborated the story by adding independent support.

018 corroborating *verb (present participle)*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Confirming or giving support to a statement, theory, or finding

The newly discovered letters provide **corroborating** evidence for the historian's controversial thesis.

MEMORY CUE: Corroborating evidence acts like an extra brace supporting the same claim.

019 counterexample *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

An example that disproves or contradicts a general claim

A single **counterexample** is sufficient to disprove a universal claim in formal logic.

MEMORY CUE: One black swan is a counterexample disproving “all swans are white.”

020 counterintuitive *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Contrary to what common sense or intuition would suggest

The finding that wider highways can increase congestion is **counterintuitive** but well supported by traffic research.

MEMORY CUE: A counterintuitive result walks opposite the direction common sense predicts.

021 cursory *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Hasty and therefore not thorough or detailed

Even a **cursory** examination of the data revealed significant flaws in the methodology.

MEMORY CUE: A cursory glance races over the surface and misses important detail.

022 definitive *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Done or reached decisively and with authority; providing a final, authoritative answer

Her biography of the composer is widely regarded as the **definitive** account of his life and work.

MEMORY CUE: A definitive answer stamps the question FINAL with decisive authority.

023 delineate *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To describe or portray precisely; to outline or sketch

The treaty attempted to **delineate** the boundary between the two nations along the mountain ridge.

MEMORY CUE: Delineate by drawing a precise outline and defining every boundary.

024 demarcate *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To set the boundaries or limits of; to distinguish

Stone walls built centuries ago still **demarcate** the ancient property lines visible in aerial photographs.

MEMORY CUE: A painted line demarcates exactly where one territory ends.

025 derivable *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Capable of being obtained or deduced from a source

The equation's key insight is that the entire system's behavior is **derivable** from just three initial conditions.

MEMORY CUE: A derivable result can be logically drawn from its source.

026 determinate *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Having exact and discernible limits or form; precisely fixed

The contract's language was deliberately **determinate**, leaving no ambiguity about each party's obligations.

MEMORY CUE: Determinate borders are fixed sharply enough to identify exact limits.

027 diagnose *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To identify the nature of a problem or condition through examination

Early efforts to **diagnose** the disease were hampered by the similarity of its symptoms to several common infections.

MEMORY CUE: To diagnose a malfunction, examine symptoms and identify its true nature.

028 dichotomies *noun (plural)*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Divisions or contrasts between two things that are represented as being opposed or different

The philosopher argued that the rigid **dichotomies** between nature and culture, mind and body, were fundamentally misleading.

MEMORY CUE: Dichotomies split complex fields into pairs presented as opposites.

029 dichotomy *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

A division or contrast between two things represented as being opposed or entirely different

The **dichotomy** between rural and urban values has long shaped political discourse.

MEMORY CUE: A dichotomy draws one dividing line between two supposedly opposed sides.

030 disabuse *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To persuade someone that an idea or belief is mistaken

The professor sought to **disabuse** her students of the common misconception about evolutionary theory.

MEMORY CUE: To disabuse someone, remove the false belief they have been using.

031 **discern** *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Perceive or recognize clearly; distinguish with difficulty

Only a trained eye can **discern** the subtle differences between the genuine artifact and the forgery.

MEMORY CUE: Use a magnifying glass in fog to discern the faint shape with effort.

032 **discernible** *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Able to be perceived or recognized; distinguishable

No **discernible** pattern emerged from the data, suggesting that the phenomenon may be genuinely random.

MEMORY CUE: A faint outline becomes discernible when it can finally be recognized through the fog.

033 **discerning** *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Having or showing good judgment; perceptive

The **discerning** reader will notice subtle allusions to classical mythology throughout the novel.

MEMORY CUE: A discerning judge separates the excellent choice from nearly identical alternatives.

034 **discrepancy** *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

A lack of agreement or consistency between facts or claims

The **discrepancy** between the official statistics and the independent survey raised questions about data collection methods.

MEMORY CUE: A discrepancy appears when two supposedly matching facts fail to line up.

035 **disentanglement** *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

The act of freeing from complication or difficulty

The **disentanglement** of the author's personal beliefs from her fictional characters' views remains a challenge for scholars.

MEMORY CUE: Disentanglement patiently frees each thread from a complicated knot.

036 **efficacy** *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

The ability to produce a desired or intended result; effectiveness

Clinical trials are required to demonstrate the **efficacy** of a new drug before it can be approved.

MEMORY CUE: Efficacy asks one practical question: did it produce the intended result?

037 empirical *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Based on observation or experience rather than theory or pure logic

The hypothesis, however elegant, must be supported by **empirical** evidence before it can be accepted as theory.

MEMORY CUE: Empirical knowledge wears muddy field boots because it comes from observation and experience, not theory alone.

038 equivalence *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

The condition of being equal or interchangeable in value, function, or meaning

The mathematician proved the **equivalence** of the two theorems, showing that each could be derived from the other.

MEMORY CUE: Equivalence places two things on equal, interchangeable sides of a balance.

039 equivocal *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Open to more than one interpretation; ambiguous; uncertain or questionable

The results of the experiment were **equivocal**, supporting neither hypothesis definitively.

MEMORY CUE: An equivocal sign points in two directions and permits multiple meanings.

040 erroneous *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Wrong; incorrect; based on error

The map was based on **erroneous** survey data, placing the mountain range nearly fifty miles from its actual location.

MEMORY CUE: An erroneous answer grows from an error and is therefore wrong.

041 erudite *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Having or showing great knowledge or learning

The **erudite** professor could lecture on topics ranging from Renaissance art to quantum physics.

MEMORY CUE: An erudite scholar's library glows with deep, extensive knowledge.

042 esoteric *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Intended for or understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge

The journal publishes articles on topics so **esoteric** that its readership numbers in the low hundreds.

MEMORY CUE: An esoteric book opens only for the few people holding its specialized key.

043 establish *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To demonstrate or prove the existence of

The prosecution must **establish** beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant was present at the scene.

MEMORY CUE: To establish a fact, plant it firmly with convincing proof.

044 experiential *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Based on or derived from experience rather than theory

The program emphasizes **experiential** learning, placing students in real-world settings rather than traditional classrooms.

MEMORY CUE: Experiential knowledge comes from doing and experiencing, not merely theorizing.

045 extrapolation *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

The act of extending known data or reasoning beyond what is directly observed or stated

The report's conclusions rely on an **extrapolation** from limited data that some experts consider overly optimistic.

MEMORY CUE: Extrapolation extends a known trend line beyond the observed data.

046 fallacious *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Based on a mistaken belief; embodying a fallacy; logically unsound

The argument that correlation implies causation is a classic example of **fallacious** reasoning.

MEMORY CUE: A fallacious argument contains a logical fall and cannot support its conclusion.

047 fathom *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To understand (a difficult problem or enigmatic person) after much thought

Economists still struggle to **fathom** how the obscure financial instrument triggered a worldwide recession.

MEMORY CUE: Lower a thinking line into a deep idea until its meaning is fully fathomed.

048 germane *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Relevant to a subject under consideration; pertinent

The judge ruled that the evidence was not **germane** to the case and could not be admitted.

MEMORY CUE: A germane point fits squarely inside the current subject.

049 **heed** *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To pay attention to; to take notice of

Investors who failed to **heed** the economist's warnings about the housing bubble suffered catastrophic losses.

MEMORY CUE: To heed a warning, pay attention and act on its message.

050 **hypotheses** *noun (plural)*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Proposed explanations or assumptions made on the basis of limited evidence, to be tested further

Several competing **hypotheses** have been proposed to explain the sudden disappearance of the Mayan civilization.

MEMORY CUE: Hypotheses are provisional explanations waiting for evidence to test them.

051 **hypothetical** *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Supposed but not necessarily true; based on or serving as a hypothesis

The philosopher posed a **hypothetical** scenario involving a runaway trolley to illustrate competing ethical frameworks.

MEMORY CUE: A hypothetical situation floats inside an IF thought bubble rather than reality.

052 **hypothetically** *adverb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

As a supposition; in theory, for the sake of argument

Even **hypothetically**, the scenario raises difficult questions about the limits of individual liberty in a pandemic.

MEMORY CUE: Hypothetically opens an imaginary case for argument rather than asserting reality.

053 **illuminate** *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To light up; to clarify or make understandable

The newly translated documents **illuminate** aspects of medieval life that were previously understood only through speculation.

MEMORY CUE: A lamp can illuminate a room; an explanation can illuminate an idea.

054 **illuminated** *verb (past participle)*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To clarify, explain, or shed light on a subject

The discovery of the private diaries **illuminated** the writer's creative process in ways her published work never could.

MEMORY CUE: The evidence illuminated the mystery by casting clarifying light on it.

055 in retrospect *adverbial phrase*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

When looking back on a past event or situation; with hindsight

In **retrospect**, the warning signs of the financial crisis were abundant, but few analysts connected the dots at the time.

MEMORY CUE: In retrospect, turn around mentally and inspect the past with hindsight.

056 incisive *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Intelligently analytical and clear-thinking; sharp and penetrating

Her **incisive** critique of the study revealed several methodological flaws.

MEMORY CUE: An incisive mind cuts through confusion with sharp, penetrating analysis.

057 inconclusive *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Not leading to a firm conclusion; not decisive

The autopsy results were **inconclusive**, leaving investigators without a definitive cause of death.

MEMORY CUE: Inconclusive evidence ends with a question mark instead of a final verdict.

058 incongruous *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Not in harmony or keeping with the surroundings; inconsistent or out of place

The sleek modern skyscraper looked **incongruous** among the centuries-old stone buildings of the historic district.

MEMORY CUE: An incongruous piece clashes with its surroundings and will not fit.

059 inferring *verb (present participle)*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Deducing or concluding from evidence and reasoning rather than from explicit statements

By **inferring** the author's intent from contextual clues, the scholar reconstructed the likely meaning of the damaged passage.

MEMORY CUE: Inferring means building an unstated conclusion from clues and reasoning.

060 innate *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Inborn; natural; existing from birth rather than acquired

The debate over whether musical ability is **innate** or acquired has persisted for centuries without a definitive answer.

MEMORY CUE: An innate ability arrives at birth rather than through later training.

061 instinctive *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Relating to or prompted by instinct; done without conscious thought; innate

The goalkeeper's **instinctive** dive to the left saved what would have been the winning goal.

MEMORY CUE: An instinctive reaction fires before conscious thought can begin.

062 intuition *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Knowledge or insight gained without conscious reasoning; instinctive understanding

The detective's **intuition** told her something was wrong with the alibi, long before the evidence confirmed it.

MEMORY CUE: Intuition reaches an insight without showing the steps of conscious reasoning.

063 invalidated *verb (past participle)*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To make something legally or factually void; to prove wrong or unfounded

A procedural error **invalidated** the election results, forcing the district to hold a costly second vote.

MEMORY CUE: Contrary evidence invalidated the claim, stamping it no longer valid.

064 juxtaposition *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

The act of placing two things side by side for comparison or contrast

The exhibition's **juxtaposition** of Renaissance portraits with contemporary selfies invited viewers to reflect on how self-presentation has evolved.

MEMORY CUE: Juxtaposition places unlike objects shoulder to shoulder so contrast becomes visible.

065 meta-analyses *noun (plural)*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Statistical analyses that combine the results of multiple scientific studies

Several **meta-analyses** combining data from hundreds of studies have confirmed the treatment's effectiveness.

MEMORY CUE: Meta-analyses gather many studies and statistically combine their results.

066 misconception *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

A view or opinion that is incorrect because it is based on faulty thinking or understanding

A common **misconception** about evolution is that it implies a progression from 'lower' to 'higher' organisms.

MEMORY CUE: A misconception is understanding aimed in the wrong direction.

067 nuances *noun (plural)***KNOWLEDGE & REASONING**

Subtle differences or distinctions in meaning, expression, or tone

The translator captured not just the words but the cultural **nuances** that gave the original text its richness.

MEMORY CUE: Nuances are fine shades of difference visible only through close attention.

068 paired *verb (past participle)***KNOWLEDGE & REASONING**

Placed together; associated with

The exhibit **paired** each historical photograph with a contemporary image of the same location, revealing dramatic changes.

MEMORY CUE: Paired objects are joined as a deliberate set of two.

069 panacea *noun***KNOWLEDGE & REASONING**

A solution or remedy for all difficulties or diseases; a cure-all

Technology is often presented as a **panacea**, but it cannot solve every social problem.

MEMORY CUE: A panacea promises one magical cure for every possible problem.

070 paradigm *noun***KNOWLEDGE & REASONING**

A typical example or pattern of something; a model or framework

The discovery forced scientists to adopt an entirely new **paradigm** for understanding the phenomenon.

MEMORY CUE: A paradigm is the model pattern through which others understand a field.

071 paradox *noun***KNOWLEDGE & REASONING**

A seemingly contradictory or absurd statement or situation that may nonetheless be true

The **paradox** of thrift—that saving more individually can harm the economy collectively—puzzled economists for decades.

MEMORY CUE: A paradox looks self-contradictory yet may conceal a genuine truth.

072 parameters *noun (plural)***KNOWLEDGE & REASONING**

Measurable factors or variables that define a system or set the conditions of its operation

The experiment's **parameters** were carefully controlled to isolate the effect of a single variable.

MEMORY CUE: Parameters draw the measurable boundaries within which a system operates.

073 peculiarity *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

An unusual or distinctive feature or quality; oddity

One **peculiarity** of the local dialect is the use of a double negative to express emphasis rather than negation.

MEMORY CUE: A peculiarity is the odd feature that makes something distinctively unusual.

074 pedantic *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Excessively concerned with minor details or rules; overly academic

The **pedantic** lecturer insisted on correcting every minor grammatical error in students' papers.

MEMORY CUE: A pedantic speaker magnifies tiny rules while displaying a pile of learning.

075 perspicacious *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Having keen mental perception and understanding; discerning

The **perspicacious** analyst detected the accounting irregularity that three previous auditors had missed.

MEMORY CUE: Perspicacious eyes look through complexity and immediately see the key insight.

076 pertaining *verb (present participle)*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Relating to; having relevance to

All documents **pertaining** to the acquisition must be submitted to the regulatory agency within thirty days.

MEMORY CUE: A fact pertaining to the case directly relates to it.

077 phenomena *noun (plural)*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Observable events or occurrences, especially ones whose causes are in question

The aurora borealis is one of nature's most spectacular **phenomena**, produced by charged particles striking the atmosphere.

MEMORY CUE: Phenomena are observable events waiting for explanation.

078 plausibility *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

The quality of seeming reasonable or probable; credibility

The theory gained **plausibility** when independent researchers replicated the original experiment with consistent results.

MEMORY CUE: Plausibility makes an explanation seem reasonable enough to be true.

079 practicable *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Able to be done or put into practice successfully; feasible

The committee asked engineers to determine whether the proposal was **practicable** given current technology and budget constraints.

MEMORY CUE: A practicable plan can actually be put into successful practice.

080 pragmatism *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

A practical approach to problems and affairs rather than ideological

The president's **pragmatism** allowed her to forge unlikely alliances that advanced her legislative agenda.

MEMORY CUE: Pragmatism reaches for what works in practice, not ideological purity.

081 premise *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

A proposition from which another is inferred or follows as a conclusion; the basis of an argument

The entire argument rests on a **premise** that the author never actually defends—that human nature is fundamentally selfish.

MEMORY CUE: A premise is the starting platform from which an argument's conclusion rises.

082 premises *noun (plural)*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Propositions from which a conclusion is drawn; foundational statements in an argument

If the **premises** of the syllogism are accepted, the conclusion follows with logical necessity.

MEMORY CUE: Premises are foundation stones supporting the conclusion built above them.

083 presumed verifiable *adjective phrase*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Assumed to be capable of being confirmed as true

The claims in the report are **presumed verifiable**, pending the release of the underlying data by the research team.

MEMORY CUE: Presumed verifiable means assumed capable of being checked and confirmed.

084 presumption *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

A belief accepted as true without proof; an assumption

The legal system operates on the **presumption** that a defendant is innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

MEMORY CUE: A presumption takes a belief as true before proof arrives.

085 presumptive *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Based on reasonable inference or probability rather than certainty

The **presumptive** diagnosis, based on initial symptoms, was confirmed by laboratory tests three days later.

MEMORY CUE: Presumptive evidence supports a likely inference but stops short of certainty.

086 prophetic *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Accurately predicting or foretelling the future

The ecologist's warnings about deforestation, dismissed as alarmist in the 1970s, now seem grimly **prophetic**.

MEMORY CUE: A prophetic statement accurately sees an event before the future arrives.

087 provably *adverb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

In a way that can be demonstrated or proven

The claim is **provably** false, as anyone who checks the publicly available records can confirm.

MEMORY CUE: A provably true claim comes with a demonstration others can verify.

088 qualify *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To make a statement less absolute; to limit or restrict in meaning

The author was careful to **qualify** her claims, noting that the findings applied only to the specific population studied.

MEMORY CUE: To qualify a claim, add limits so it becomes less absolute.

089 reconcile *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To make compatible; to bring into harmony; to settle or resolve

The historian struggled to **reconcile** the conflicting eyewitness accounts of the battle into a single coherent narrative.

MEMORY CUE: Reconcile two former rivals by repairing their broken handshake.

090 reconciles *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Brings into agreement; makes two apparently conflicting things compatible

The new model **reconciles** quantum mechanics and general relativity in ways that previous theories could not.

MEMORY CUE: A good explanation reconciles conflicting facts by bringing them into agreement.

091 recondite *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Little known; obscure; dealing with abstruse or profound subject matter

The philosopher's **recondite** treatise on modal logic was admired by specialists but inaccessible to a general audience.

MEMORY CUE: A recondite volume sits in the obscure back corner of a specialist's library.

092 redundant *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Not or no longer needed or useful; superfluous

The editor removed several **redundant** paragraphs that restated points already made more effectively earlier in the essay.

MEMORY CUE: A redundant piece remains after the puzzle is complete, extra and no longer useful.

093 refute *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To prove a statement or theory to be wrong or false

The archaeologist presented compelling evidence to **refute** the long-standing claim that the site was a ceremonial center.

MEMORY CUE: Refute a false claim by striking it with decisive contrary evidence.

094 replicable *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Capable of being exactly copied or reproduced

For a scientific finding to be taken seriously, the experiment that produced it must be **replicable** by independent labs.

MEMORY CUE: A replicable result can be copied exactly by repeating the same procedure.

095 retrospective *adjective/noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Looking back on or dealing with past events; an exhibition showing an artist's lifetime work

The museum's **retrospective** of the painter's work revealed an artistic evolution that spanned six distinct periods.

MEMORY CUE: A retrospective turns its gallery lights backward onto past work or events.

096 scholarship *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Academic study or research; the body of published work on a subject

Her **scholarship** on the Ottoman Empire is regarded as essential reading for anyone entering the field.

MEMORY CUE: Scholarship builds knowledge through rigorous academic study and published research.

097 scope *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

The extent of the area or subject matter that something deals with; range

The **scope** of the investigation expanded as new evidence implicated officials at the highest levels of government.

MEMORY CUE: Scope is the boundary showing how far a subject or project reaches.

098 scrutinized *verb (past participle)*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Examined or inspected closely and thoroughly

The contract was **scrutinized** by three different law firms before the board of directors approved the deal.

MEMORY CUE: The object was scrutinized beneath a magnifying glass that checked every detail.

099 specious *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Superficially plausible but actually wrong; misleading in appearance

The **specious** argument sounded convincing at first but crumbled under rigorous analysis.

MEMORY CUE: A specious argument has a polished surface concealing faulty reasoning.

100 speculation *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

The forming of theories or conjectures without firm evidence

The theory remains in the realm of **speculation** until experiments can be designed to test its predictions.

MEMORY CUE: Speculation constructs theories above ground that firm evidence has not supported.

101 speculative *adjective*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Based on conjecture or theory rather than firm evidence; tentative

The final chapter ventures into **speculative** territory, imagining how the technology might evolve over the next century.

MEMORY CUE: A speculative claim is penciled in because evidence remains uncertain.

102 substantiate *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To provide evidence to support or prove the truth of

The journalist spent months gathering documents to **substantiate** allegations of fraud within the charity.

MEMORY CUE: Substantiate a claim by stacking strong evidence bricks underneath it.

103 substantiation *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

The action of providing evidence to support or prove the truth of something

Without **substantiation**, the claims amounted to little more than rumor and were excluded from the final report.

MEMORY CUE: Substantiation places solid evidence beneath a claim to support its truth.

104 superstition *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

A widely held but irrational belief in supernatural influences

The scientist's mission was to replace **superstition** with evidence-based understanding in public health practices.

MEMORY CUE: Superstition treats an irrational supernatural belief as a rule of reality.

105 synthesis *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

The combination of separate elements into a coherent whole

The book is a masterful **synthesis** of economics, sociology, and political science applied to the problem of inequality.

MEMORY CUE: Synthesis weaves separate strands into one coherent fabric.

106 synthesize *verb*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

To combine separate elements or ideas into a coherent whole

The review article attempts to **synthesize** findings from over two hundred studies into a coherent theoretical framework.

MEMORY CUE: To synthesize ideas, combine them into a new coherent whole.

107 testimony *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

Formal statements or evidence given, especially by witnesses or experts

The survivor's **testimony** provided the most compelling account of conditions inside the camp.

MEMORY CUE: Testimony places a witness's formal statement into the evidence record.

108 thesis *noun*

KNOWLEDGE & REASONING

A proposition or central claim advanced and maintained by argument

The dissertation's central **thesis**—that economic inequality drives political instability—is supported by extensive historical data.

MEMORY CUE: A thesis is the central claim an argument works to defend.

109 underlie *verb***KNOWLEDGE & REASONING**

To be the cause or basis of; to lie beneath

Deep structural inequalities **underlie** the disparities in health outcomes observed between wealthy and impoverished communities.

MEMORY CUE: Foundations underlie a building; basic causes similarly lie beneath events.

110 unsound *adjective***KNOWLEDGE & REASONING**

Not based on valid reasoning or good judgment; unreliable

The bridge was declared structurally **unsound** after engineers discovered extensive corrosion in its steel supports.

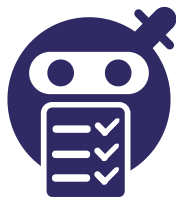
MEMORY CUE: An unsound bridge or argument lacks a reliable supporting structure.

111 untenable *adjective***KNOWLEDGE & REASONING**

Not able to be maintained or defended against attack or objection

New evidence rendered the prosecution's theory **untenable**.

MEMORY CUE: An untenable position cannot be defended when objections attack.



GRE VOCABULARY

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