



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

GRE VOCABULARY

GRE Vocabulary: Nature, Science & the Physical World

110 focused words in Nature, Science & the Physical World

110

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 adrenal *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Relating to the adrenal glands, which produce hormones including adrenaline

The **adrenal** response to sudden danger can sharpen reflexes but impair long-term decision-making.

MEMORY CUE: Adrenal glands pour adrenaline into the body during sudden danger.

002 amalgamate *verb*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

To combine or unite to form one organization or structure

The two companies decided to **amalgamate** in order to compete more effectively in the global market.

MEMORY CUE: Amalgamate separate pieces by melting them into one unified structure.

003 anatomical *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Relating to the physical structure of a body or organism

Leonardo da Vinci's **anatomical** drawings reveal a scientific curiosity far ahead of his time.

MEMORY CUE: An anatomical chart maps the structures and parts of a body.

004 aquifer *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

A body of permeable rock that can contain or transmit groundwater

The massive **aquifer** beneath the Great Plains supplies drinking water to millions but is being depleted faster than it recharges.

MEMORY CUE: An aquifer is an underground rocky sponge storing and transmitting water.

005 archaeological *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Relating to the scientific study of material remains from past human cultures

Archaeological evidence suggests that the site was continuously inhabited for over six thousand years.

MEMORY CUE: Archaeological work reads past cultures through the material remains they left.

006 artifacts *noun (plural)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Objects made by humans, typically of historical or cultural interest

The **artifacts** recovered from the shipwreck provided an invaluable window into medieval maritime trade.

MEMORY CUE: Artifacts are human-made objects carrying evidence from another time or culture.

007 biodiversity *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat or in the world generally

The coral reef's extraordinary **biodiversity** makes it one of the most scientifically valuable ecosystems on the planet.

MEMORY CUE: Biodiversity fills one habitat with a broad variety of living species.

008 biogeography *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The branch of biology that deals with the geographical distribution of plants and animals

Biogeography helps explain why marsupials thrived in Australia but not on other continents.

MEMORY CUE: Biogeography maps where different forms of life live across Earth.

009 biosphere *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The regions of the earth's surface and atmosphere occupied by living organisms; the global ecological system

Human activity is altering the **biosphere** at a rate unprecedented in the geological record.

MEMORY CUE: The biosphere wraps Earth in every region where life exists.

010 bizarre *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Very strange or unusual, especially in a way that provokes unease

The artist's **bizarre** juxtaposition of industrial machinery and pastoral landscapes provoked both confusion and admiration.

MEMORY CUE: A bizarre sight bends ordinary expectations into something strangely unsettling.

011 brine *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Water saturated or strongly impregnated with salt

Life in the deep ocean **brine** pools has adapted to salinity levels that would kill most organisms.

MEMORY CUE: Brine is water so saturated with salt that crystals nearly form.

012 bucolic *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Relating to the pleasant aspects of the countryside and rural life

The painter was known for his **bucolic** landscapes depicting idyllic farm life.

MEMORY CUE: A bucolic painting shows peaceful fields, cottages, and pleasant country life.

013 carnivores *noun (plural)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Animals that feed on other animals; meat-eaters

Large **carnivores** play a critical role in regulating prey populations and maintaining ecosystem balance.

MEMORY CUE: Carnivores carve into meat because other animals are their food.

014 catalyst *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

A person or thing that precipitates an event or change

The economic downturn served as a **catalyst** for sweeping regulatory reform.

MEMORY CUE: A catalyst is the spark that starts change without becoming the final product.

015 clemency *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Mercy; lenience, especially toward an offender or enemy

The defense attorney pleaded for **clemency**, citing the defendant's age and lack of prior offenses.

MEMORY CUE: Clemency softens a deserved punishment by extending mercy and lenience.

016 coalesce *verb*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

To come together and form one mass or whole; to unite

Several grassroots movements **coalesced** into a single powerful political party.

MEMORY CUE: Separate droplets coalesce into one larger pool.

017 concomitant *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Naturally accompanying or associated; occurring together

Rapid industrialization and its **concomitant** environmental damage transformed the region.

MEMORY CUE: A concomitant shadow naturally travels beside the event it accompanies.

018 condense *verb*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

To change from a gas or vapor to a liquid; to become denser or more concentrated

Water vapor in the atmosphere will **condense** into droplets when it encounters cooler air at higher altitudes.

MEMORY CUE: Condense a long message by compressing it into a smaller, concentrated form.

019 congested *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Overcrowded; blocked or clogged with traffic

Congested urban highways have prompted city planners to invest heavily in public transit alternatives.

MEMORY CUE: A congested road is clogged until movement nearly stops.

020 consolidation *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The process of making something stronger or more solid; stabilization of memories

The **consolidation** of several small school districts into one large system promised efficiency but sacrificed community identity.

MEMORY CUE: Consolidation presses scattered pieces together into one stronger, stable unit.

021 converge *verb*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

To come together from different directions so as to meet; to tend toward a common result

Several lines of evidence **converge** to support the evolutionary hypothesis.

MEMORY CUE: Separate paths converge when they approach and meet at one point.

022 cratered *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Having craters (bowl-shaped depressions) on the surface

The **cratered** surface of the moon preserves a record of billions of years of asteroid impacts.

MEMORY CUE: A cratered moon wears bowl-shaped dents across its surface.

023 deleterious *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Causing harm or damage

The study demonstrated the **deleterious** effects of prolonged screen time on children's sleep.

MEMORY CUE: A deleterious substance leaves visible harm and damage behind.

024 desiccate *verb*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

To remove the moisture from something; to dry out completely

The prolonged drought **desiccated** the once-fertile farmland.

MEMORY CUE: Desiccate a leaf until all moisture leaves and it becomes dry and brittle.

025 distilled *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Purified by the process of evaporation and condensation

The author **distilled** decades of research into a slim volume accessible to any educated reader.

MEMORY CUE: Distilled liquid emerges purified after evaporation and condensation.

026 ecologically synchronized *adjective phrase*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Coordinated or harmonized in their environmental relationships and interactions

The migratory patterns of the birds are **ecologically synchronized** with the blooming cycle of the wildflowers they pollinate.

MEMORY CUE: Ecologically synchronized species keep their environmental rhythms on the same clock.

027 eradicate *verb*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

To destroy completely; to put an end to

The global campaign to **eradicate** polio has been one of public health's greatest successes.

MEMORY CUE: To eradicate weeds, pull out every root so none survives.

028 excavated *verb (past participle)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Systematically dug up for archaeological study

The team **excavated** a burial chamber containing jewelry, pottery, and tools dating to the third millennium BCE.

MEMORY CUE: Archaeologists excavated the site by carefully digging buried remains upward.

029 excretion *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The process of discharging waste matter from the body

The kidneys play a vital role in the **excretion** of metabolic waste products from the bloodstream.

MEMORY CUE: Excretion is the body's exit system for discharging waste.

030 exotic *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

(Of a species) introduced from another country or region; non-native

Exotic species introduced by trading ships have displaced native plants throughout the island's coastal ecosystems.

MEMORY CUE: An exotic species arrives from a foreign region rather than growing natively.

031 expedite *verb*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

To make an action or process happen sooner or be accomplished more quickly

The new software was designed to **expedite** the processing of insurance claims.

MEMORY CUE: An express lane expedites the process and brings the finish sooner.

032 fallow *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

(Of farmland) plowed and harrowed but left unsown for a period to restore its fertility

The farmer left the eastern fields **fallow** for a season, allowing the depleted soil to recover its nutrients.

MEMORY CUE: A fallow field rests unsown so its fertility can recover.

033 fauna *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The animals of a particular region, habitat, or geological period

The island's **fauna** includes several species found nowhere else on Earth, making it a priority for conservation.

MEMORY CUE: Fauna means the animal life found in a region or period.

034 faunal *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Relating to the animals of a particular region, habitat, or geological period

The **faunal** assemblage recovered from the site indicates a diverse ecosystem that supported both large predators and grazing herds.

MEMORY CUE: A faunal survey counts and describes a region's animals.

035 feasible *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Possible and practical to do easily or conveniently

The engineers determined that the bridge design was technically **feasible** but would require an unprecedented span.

MEMORY CUE: A feasible plan crosses both bridges marked POSSIBLE and PRACTICAL.

036 flotation *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The action of floating on or in a liquid; an experiment testing buoyancy

The engineers tested the raft's **flotation** capacity before allowing passengers aboard for the river crossing.

MEMORY CUE: Flotation tests whether an object can stay floating on liquid.

037 fragments *noun (plural)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Broken pieces; incomplete remnants of a larger object

Only **fragments** of the original manuscript survive, but they are enough to reconstruct the author's central argument.

MEMORY CUE: Fragments are broken pieces left after a larger whole shatters.

038 glaciers *noun (plural)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Massive, slow-moving bodies of ice formed from compacted snow on land

As **glaciers** retreat due to rising temperatures, they expose landscapes that have been buried under ice for millennia.

MEMORY CUE: Glaciers are immense rivers of compacted ice moving slowly across land.

039 gravitational *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Relating to the force of attraction between masses

The **gravitational** pull of Jupiter shields the inner planets from many asteroids that might otherwise strike Earth.

MEMORY CUE: Gravitational force pulls masses toward one another across space.

040 harbingers *noun (plural)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Things that foreshadow or announce what is coming; precursors

The early frost and unusually large acorn crop were **harbingers** of the brutal winter that followed.

MEMORY CUE: Harbingers arrive first, announcing or foreshadowing what will follow.

041 harmonized with *verb phrase*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

To be in agreement or accord with

The new wing of the museum was designed so that its modern lines **harmonized with** the original neoclassical facade.

MEMORY CUE: When two parts harmonized with each other, they agreed without discord.

042 harpooned *verb (past participle)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Struck with a barbed spear used for hunting large aquatic animals

Nineteenth-century whalers **harpooned** their prey from small boats launched from the decks of larger sailing vessels.

MEMORY CUE: The hunter harpooned the whale with a heavy barbed spear.

043 hearth *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The floor of a fireplace; a structure for containing fire

The ancient **hearth** at the center of the dwelling contained charcoal that could be radiocarbon dated.

MEMORY CUE: The hearth is the fire-holding floor at the heart of a home.

044 hearths *noun (plural)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Areas (usually pits or fireplaces) used for cooking or heating with fire

Stone-lined **hearth**s found at the excavation site suggest that the inhabitants used fire for both cooking and warmth.

MEMORY CUE: Ancient hearths are fire pits once used for cooking and warmth.

045 herbivores *noun (plural)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Animals that feed on plants

Large **herbivores** like elephants shape their environment by toppling trees and creating clearings that benefit other species.

MEMORY CUE: Herbivores browse herbs and other plants instead of eating animals.

046 heterogeneous *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Diverse in character or content; composed of different or dissimilar elements

The city's **heterogeneous** population, drawn from dozens of countries, made it a vibrant center of cultural exchange.

MEMORY CUE: A heterogeneous mixture visibly contains many different kinds of pieces.

047 induced *adjective/verb*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Brought about or stimulated; (in this context) traffic generated as a result of new road capacity

The new highway lanes, rather than reducing congestion, **induced** additional traffic that quickly filled the expanded road.

MEMORY CUE: An induced effect is brought about by a particular stimulus or change.

048 inert *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Lacking the power to move or act; having no effect

Noble gases are chemically **inert**, rarely reacting with other elements under normal conditions.

MEMORY CUE: An inert object remains still because it lacks the strength to move.

049 infrared *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Relating to electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths longer than visible light, perceived as heat

Infrared telescopes can detect heat signatures from celestial objects invisible to optical instruments.

MEMORY CUE: Infrared lies just beyond visible red and is commonly sensed as heat.

050 innovation *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

A new method, idea, product, or way of doing something

The printing press was an **innovation** that transformed not just publishing but the very structure of knowledge and power.

MEMORY CUE: Innovation opens a new door with an original method or idea.

051 innovative *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Introducing new ideas or methods; featuring new approaches; original and creative

The startup's **innovative** approach to recycling converts ocean plastic into durable building materials.

MEMORY CUE: An innovative workshop opens a NEW box filled with original methods and ideas.

052 interchangeable *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Able to be exchanged with each other; essentially identical

The parts were designed to be **interchangeable**, so that a broken component could be replaced without custom fabrication.

MEMORY CUE: Interchangeable parts trade places while the machine continues working the same way.

053 inverse *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Opposite in position, direction, order, or effect

The study revealed an **inverse** relationship between screen time and academic performance among adolescents.

MEMORY CUE: An inverse relationship points one arrow up as the other goes down.

054 inversion *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

A reversal of the normal order or arrangement

The temperature **inversion** trapped pollutants close to the ground, creating a thick smog over the city.

MEMORY CUE: Inversion flips the normal order upside down.

055 lulled *verb (past participle)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Calmed into a false sense of comfort or security; deceived into complacency

The years of calm had **lulled** residents into a false sense of security, leaving them unprepared for the earthquake.

MEMORY CUE: A soothing rhythm lulled the guard into unsafe comfort and complacency.

056 lures *verb*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Tempts or attracts (a person or animal) to do something

The promise of quick profits **lures** inexperienced investors into markets they do not fully understand.

MEMORY CUE: A bright lure attracts its target toward a hidden hook.

057 mediating *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Acting as an intervening mechanism between cause and effect

Sleep appears to play a **mediating** role between stress exposure and long-term health outcomes.

MEMORY CUE: A mediating variable stands in the middle connecting cause to effect.

058 mediator *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

A person who attempts to resolve a dispute between two or more parties

The retired judge served as a **mediator** between the two factions, earning the trust of both sides.

MEMORY CUE: A mediator stands between disputing parties and helps them find agreement.

059 metaphysics *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The branch of philosophy that deals with the fundamental nature of reality

The seminar on **metaphysics** explored questions about the nature of existence that science alone cannot answer.

MEMORY CUE: Metaphysics asks what reality ultimately is beneath physical appearances.

060 meteorology *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The scientific study of the atmosphere and weather

Advances in **meteorology** have dramatically improved the accuracy of weather forecasts over the past fifty years.

MEMORY CUE: Meteorology studies the atmosphere's weather, winds, clouds, and storms.

061 middens *noun (plural)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Archaeological term for refuse piles or ancient garbage heaps

Analysis of **middens** at the coastal settlement revealed a diet rich in shellfish, fish, and sea birds.

MEMORY CUE: Middens are ancient trash piles that become archaeological treasure chests.

062 milieu *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

A person's social environment; the physical or social setting in which something occurs

The novel vividly evokes the intellectual **milieu** of 1920s Paris, where artists and writers gathered in cramped cafes.

MEMORY CUE: A milieu is the social and physical environment surrounding a person.

063 mitigate *verb*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

To make less severe, serious, or painful

The government introduced new regulations to **mitigate** the environmental impact of industrial waste.

MEMORY CUE: Turn the severity dial downward to mitigate pain or seriousness.

064 naturalistic *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Depicting subjects as they appear in nature; true to life

The playwright's **naturalistic** dialogue captured the rhythms of everyday speech so faithfully that audiences felt they were eavesdropping.

MEMORY CUE: Naturalistic art mirrors subjects as they appear in real nature.

065 nebulous *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

In the form of a cloud or haze; vague, ill-defined, unclear

The company's plans for expansion remained **nebulous**, with no concrete timeline or budget attached.

MEMORY CUE: A nebulous idea floats as a vague cloud without defined edges.

066 offspring *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The young produced by an organism

The biologist tracked the **offspring** of the tagged wolves to study how behavioral traits are passed between generations.

MEMORY CUE: Offspring spring from their parents as the next generation.

067 omnivorous *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Feeding on food of both plant and animal origin; (figurative) having wide-ranging interests or tastes

The author was an **omnivorous** reader whose influences ranged from ancient Greek philosophy to modern comic books.

MEMORY CUE: An omnivorous eater's menu includes both plants and animals.

068 orbiting *verb (present participle)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Moving in a curved path around a celestial body

The satellite **orbiting** Mars has transmitted images that reveal ancient river channels on the planet's surface.

MEMORY CUE: An orbiting moon follows a curved path around its planet.

069 oscillate *verb*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

To move or swing back and forth; to waver between extremes

Public opinion seemed to **oscillate** between support for and opposition to the policy.

MEMORY CUE: A pendulum oscillates in a regular back-and-forth path.

070 overlying *adjective/participle*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Lying over or upon something

Geologists removed the **overlying** sediment to expose the fossil bed that had been sealed for millions of years.

MEMORY CUE: An overlying layer lies directly on top of what is beneath.

071 perforated *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Having a hole or holes pierced through it

The **perforated** limestone allowed groundwater to seep through, creating the network of caves beneath the hillside.

MEMORY CUE: Perforated paper contains a line of holes pierced through it.

072 pernicious *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or subtle way

The **pernicious** influence of misinformation undermined public trust in scientific institutions.

MEMORY CUE: A pernicious poison causes harmful damage that spreads quietly.

073 pervasive *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Spreading widely throughout an area or group; prevalent

The **pervasive** influence of social media has fundamentally altered how people communicate.

MEMORY CUE: A pervasive scent spreads until it is present throughout the room.

074 phylogeny *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The evolutionary development and history of a species or group of organisms

Advances in DNA sequencing have revolutionized the study of **phylogeny**, revealing evolutionary relationships invisible in the fossil record.

MEMORY CUE: A phylogeny is a branching family tree of evolutionary history.

075 phytoplankton *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Microscopic marine organisms that photosynthesize, forming the base of aquatic food chains

Phytoplankton produce roughly half of the world's oxygen through photosynthesis, making them essential to life on Earth.

MEMORY CUE: Phytoplankton are tiny floating plantlike organisms feeding aquatic food webs.

076 pigment *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

A substance used for coloring; the natural coloring matter of animal or plant tissue

The ancient Egyptians extracted blue **pigment** from lapis lazuli, a stone so rare it was valued more highly than gold.

MEMORY CUE: Pigment supplies the coloring matter in paint, skin, leaves, or fabric.

077 pinon *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

A small pine tree native to the southwestern U.S. that produces edible seeds (pinon nuts)

The **pinon** trees that dot the arid landscape provide food for birds, squirrels, and indigenous communities alike.

MEMORY CUE: A pinon is a small southwestern pine bearing edible nuts.

078 precarious *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Not securely held or in position; dependent on chance; dangerously likely to fall

The company's **precarious** financial position left it vulnerable to even minor market fluctuations.

MEMORY CUE: A cup balanced on an edge occupies a precarious position.

079 predation *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The act of one organism hunting and consuming another

The introduction of wolves into the ecosystem restored a natural cycle of **predation** that controlled the deer population.

MEMORY CUE: Predation is the hunt in which one organism consumes another.

080 quadrant *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

A section or quarter (here: a region of space)

The telescope was pointed toward a **quadrant** of the sky where astronomers expected to find the newly predicted comet.

MEMORY CUE: A quadrant is one quarter of a circle, plane, or region.

081 radiocarbon *noun/adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Relating to carbon-14 dating, a method of determining the age of organic materials

Radiocarbon dating placed the artifacts at approximately 3,000 years old, consistent with the Bronze Age settlement.

MEMORY CUE: Radiocarbon dating reads carbon-14's clock to estimate organic material's age.

082 respire *verb*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

To breathe; to release carbon dioxide through metabolic processes

All aerobic organisms **respire**, consuming oxygen and releasing carbon dioxide as they convert food into energy.

MEMORY CUE: To respire is to breathe and exchange gases through metabolism.

083 rugged *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Having a rough, uneven surface; wild and inhospitable

The **rugged** terrain of the Scottish Highlands has inspired poets and painters for centuries.

MEMORY CUE: Rugged land rises in rough, uneven ground difficult to cross.

084 salubrious *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Health-giving; healthy; conducive to well-being

The **salubrious** mountain climate attracted those seeking relief from chronic respiratory conditions.

MEMORY CUE: Salubrious air and clean water promote health and well-being.

085 seaworthy *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Fit and safe for a voyage on the sea

Inspectors declared the vessel **seaworthy** after verifying that all repairs met international maritime safety standards.

MEMORY CUE: A seaworthy vessel is fit and safe enough to face an ocean voyage.

086 sedimentary *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Relating to or formed from sediment (material deposited by water, wind, or glaciers)

Fossils are most commonly found in **sedimentary** rock, where layers of sand and mud preserved organisms over millennia.

MEMORY CUE: Sedimentary rock forms as deposited layers of sediment press together.

087 simultaneously *adverb*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

At the same time; concurrently

The orchestra's ability to play softly and intensely **simultaneously** created a tension that held the audience spellbound.

MEMORY CUE: Two clocks striking simultaneously sound at exactly the same time.

088 sophisticated *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Highly developed; complex and refined

The civilization developed a **sophisticated** irrigation system that sustained agriculture in an otherwise arid landscape.

MEMORY CUE: A sophisticated design combines polished refinement with highly developed inner machinery.

089 steeped *adjective / past participle*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Deeply immersed in or thoroughly familiar with a subject or activity

The professor, **steeped** in the classical tradition, could quote Virgil and Horace from memory.

MEMORY CUE: A scholar steeped in history is immersed in it like tea in water.

090 straddling *verb (present participle)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Extending across or being situated on both sides of; spanning

The ancient city, **straddling** the border between two modern nations, belongs fully to neither.

MEMORY CUE: A bridge straddling a river extends across both sides.

091 sulfur compounds *noun phrase*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Chemical substances containing sulfur combined with other elements

Volcanic emissions rich in **sulfur compounds** can lower global temperatures by reflecting sunlight back into space.

MEMORY CUE: Sulfur compounds join sulfur atoms chemically with other elements.

092 susceptible *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Open or receptive to; capable of being affected by

Coral reefs are especially **susceptible** to changes in ocean temperature, which can trigger widespread bleaching events.

MEMORY CUE: A susceptible plant has a thin shield and is easily affected by frost.

093 swaths *noun (plural)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Broad strips or areas of something

The wildfire burned through vast **swaths** of forest, destroying habitats that had taken centuries to mature.

MEMORY CUE: A mower cuts broad swaths, leaving wide strips behind.

094 synoptic *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Providing a general overview or summary; seeing the whole together

The textbook provides a **synoptic** overview of European history from the fall of Rome to the present day.

MEMORY CUE: A synoptic view gathers the whole scene into one concise overview.

095 temperate *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Relating to moderate climatic regions between the tropics and the poles

The **temperate** forests of the Pacific Northwest support some of the tallest trees and most diverse fungal communities on Earth.

MEMORY CUE: Temperate climates occupy the moderate zones between tropics and poles.

096 tempo *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The speed at which a passage of music is played

The conductor gradually increased the **tempo**, building the audience's anticipation toward the symphony's explosive finale.

MEMORY CUE: Tempo is the speedometer showing how quickly music moves.

097 tubers *noun (plural)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Thick underground parts of a plant stem (such as a potato) that serve as food storage

The earliest farmers in the Andes cultivated **tubers** like potatoes that could thrive at high altitudes.

MEMORY CUE: Tubers are swollen underground stems storing food, like potatoes.

098 unearthed *verb (past participle)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Dug up from the ground; discovered through excavation

Construction workers accidentally **unearthed** a cache of Roman coins buried beneath the foundation of a medieval church.

MEMORY CUE: Archaeologists unearthed the artifact by digging it out of the ground.

099 uniform *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Consistent throughout; not varying

The experiment required a **uniform** temperature across all samples to ensure that results were comparable.

MEMORY CUE: A uniform row repeats the same shape and color without change.

100 unsustainable *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Not able to be maintained or defended; not supportable

Current rates of groundwater extraction are **unsustainable** and will deplete the aquifer within two decades.

MEMORY CUE: An unsustainable pace exhausts the resources needed to keep it going.

101 unvegetated *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Having no vegetation; bare of plant life

The **unvegetated** slopes above the treeline are subject to severe erosion during heavy rainstorms.

MEMORY CUE: Unvegetated ground is bare soil with no plant cover.

102 valence *noun (used in testing/psychology sense)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The positive or negative quality/direction of something (e.g., positive valence = positive meaning)

The survey measured the emotional **valence** of participants' responses, distinguishing positive reactions from negative ones.

MEMORY CUE: Valence gives an idea its positive or negative emotional charge.

103 valuation *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The process of estimating the monetary worth of something

An independent **valuation** of the company placed its worth at considerably less than the asking price.

MEMORY CUE: Valuation attaches an estimated monetary price to an asset.

104 vasopressin *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

A hormone produced by the pituitary gland that regulates water retention and blood pressure; also called antidiuretic hormone

Researchers discovered that **vasopressin** plays a role in social bonding behavior, not just water regulation.

MEMORY CUE: Vasopressin presses the body to retain water and helps regulate blood pressure.

105 veinlike *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Resembling veins; branching and narrow in form

The **veinlike** channels carved into the Martian surface suggest that liquid water once flowed across the planet.

MEMORY CUE: A veinlike pattern branches into narrow channels like veins in a leaf.

106 vigorous *adjective*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Strong, active, and full of energy; characterized by forceful action

A **vigorous** debate erupted on the Senate floor as legislators clashed over the proposed tax reform.

MEMORY CUE: A vigorous body lifts a heavy weight with a full health battery.

107 virulence *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The severity or harmfulness of a disease or pathogen

The **virulence** of the new strain alarmed epidemiologists, who feared it could overwhelm hospital capacity.

MEMORY CUE: Virulence measures how severely a pathogen can harm its host.

108 warp *verb*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

To become or make bent or twisted out of shape

Extreme heat can **warp** metal rails, creating dangerous gaps that derail trains traveling at high speed.

MEMORY CUE: Heat can warp a board, bending it out of true shape.

109 wreaked *verb (past tense)*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Caused (a large amount of damage or harm)

The hurricane **wreaked** havoc across the coastline, destroying thousands of homes and displacing entire communities.

MEMORY CUE: The storm wreaked havoc, causing damage across the entire coast.

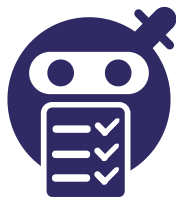
110 zooplankton *noun*

NATURE, SCIENCE & THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Tiny aquatic animals that drift in water bodies; a domain-specific ecological term

Zooplankton form a critical link in the marine food chain, feeding on phytoplankton and serving as prey for small fish.

MEMORY CUE: Zooplankton are tiny drifting animals suspended in aquatic food webs.



GRE VOCABULARY

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