



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

GRE VOCABULARY

GRE Vocabulary: Opposition & Conflict

69 focused words in Opposition & Conflict

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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 abjure *verb***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

To formally reject or renounce a belief, cause, or claim

After years of advocating for the policy, the senator publicly **abjured** his former position.

MEMORY CUE: Abjure a belief by formally tearing up its oath and renouncing it.

002 acrimony *noun***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

Bitterness or ill feeling; harsh and angry language or behavior

The **acrimony** between the two factions made any compromise impossible.

MEMORY CUE: Acrimony turns a disagreement into bitter, acid-tasting hostility.

003 adversarial *adjective***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

Involving conflict or opposition between parties

The **adversarial** nature of the two-party system often prevents meaningful legislative compromise.

MEMORY CUE: Adversarial parties face each other as adversaries, ready to oppose.

004 antinomian *adjective***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

Relating to the belief that moral law is not binding; opposing established rules or authorities

The **antinomian** faction within the colony rejected all civil authority, insisting that grace alone governed morality.

MEMORY CUE: An antinomian stands against established moral law and imposed rules.

005 antipathy *noun***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

A deep-seated feeling of dislike; aversion

His **antipathy** toward modern art was well known among his colleagues.

MEMORY CUE: Antipathy is an anti-feeling: deep dislike pushing someone away.

006 antithetical *adjective***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

Directly opposed or contrasted; mutually incompatible

The two philosophers held **antithetical** views on free will, yet their debates advanced the field enormously.

MEMORY CUE: Antithetical ideas stand at opposite ends of a seesaw.

007 at odds *idiomatic phrase*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

In conflict or disagreement

The committee's recommendations were **at odds** with the conclusions reached by the independent auditors.

MEMORY CUE: Two people at odds pull opposite ends of the same rope.

008 belies *verb (third person singular of "belie")*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Contradicts; gives a false impression of; misrepresents

The calm surface of the lake **belies** the powerful currents that have claimed several swimmers over the years.

MEMORY CUE: A cheerful mask belies the sadness concealed behind it.

009 bellicose *adjective*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Demonstrating aggression and willingness to fight

The ambassador's **bellicose** rhetoric alarmed neighboring nations.

MEMORY CUE: A bellicose figure approaches with armor and a clear willingness to fight.

010 besieged *verb (past participle)*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Surrounded and harassed; troubled persistently

Besieged by reporters after the verdict, the attorney offered only a brief statement before retreating indoors.

MEMORY CUE: A besieged castle is surrounded while attacks and pressure never stop.

011 capitulate *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To cease to resist an opponent or an unwelcome demand; to surrender

After months of negotiation, the company finally **capitulated** to the union's demands.

MEMORY CUE: Capitulate by dropping the shield and raising a surrender flag.

012 circumvents *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Finds a way around; avoids or bypasses

The new regulation **circumvents** the loophole that corporations had exploited to avoid paying taxes.

MEMORY CUE: When a route circumvents a rule or wall, it curves around the obstacle.

013 coerce *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To persuade someone to do something by using force or threats

The regime **coerced** citizens into signing loyalty pledges under threat of imprisonment.

MEMORY CUE: To coerce someone, replace free choice with force or threats.

014 collision *noun*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

A conflict between opposing ideas, interests, or forces

The **collision** between traditional farming practices and modern agribusiness reshaped the rural economy.

MEMORY CUE: A collision occurs when opposing forces or ideas crash together.

015 conciliatory *adjective*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Intended to placate or pacify; aimed at making peace

After days of heated debate, the leader struck a **conciliatory** tone in his closing remarks.

MEMORY CUE: A conciliatory gesture extends a peaceful hand to reduce hostility.

016 consensus *noun*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

General agreement among a group of people

After three days of debate, the committee reached a **consensus** that the endangered species deserved full legal protection.

MEMORY CUE: Consensus is a circle of different hands all pointing to the same checked answer.

017 contended *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Asserted or maintained as a position in an argument

The defense attorney **contended** that the prosecution's timeline was physically impossible given the distance involved.

MEMORY CUE: The debater contended, firmly maintaining a position against opposing claims.

018 contentious *adjective*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial

The **contentious** proposal to rezone the neighborhood divided the community.

MEMORY CUE: A contentious proposal becomes a tug-of-war rope because it is likely to provoke disagreement.

019 contravene *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To violate or go against (a law, treaty, or principle)

The proposed legislation would **contravene** several international treaties the country had signed decades earlier.

MEMORY CUE: To contravene a rule, move directly against and violate it.

020 counteracting *adjective***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

Working against; opposing and neutralizing an effect

The medication works by **counteracting** the inflammation that triggers the patient's chronic pain.

MEMORY CUE: Counteracting medicine pushes against a poison and neutralizes its effect.

021 counterproductive *adjective***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

Having the opposite of the desired effect; tending to hinder rather than help

Punishing employees for honest mistakes proved **counterproductive**, as it discouraged them from reporting errors.

MEMORY CUE: A counterproductive action walks backward from the very goal it seeks.

022 countervailing *adjective***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

Offsetting the effect of something; compensating

Countervailing economic pressures—rising wages on one hand, falling demand on the other—left businesses in a difficult position.

MEMORY CUE: A countervailing weight offsets the force pulling from the other side.

023 debunking *verb (present participle)***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

Exposing the falseness or hollowness of a myth, belief, or idea

The scientist devoted her career to **debunking** pseudoscientific claims about the healing powers of crystals.

MEMORY CUE: Debunking pops a false belief like an empty, overinflated balloon.

024 deflect *verb***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

To turn aside or cause to change direction; to divert

The spokesperson attempted to **deflect** attention from the scandal by emphasizing the company's charitable donations.

MEMORY CUE: A shield deflects an arrow by turning it aside.

025 demur *noun/verb***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

(noun) An objection; (verb) to raise doubts or objections; to show reluctance

When asked to endorse the proposal without reading it, the senator raised a firm **demur**.

MEMORY CUE: To demur is to pause, object, and resist giving agreement.

026 discomfit *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To make someone feel uneasy or embarrassed; to thwart or defeat

The unexpected question from the audience visibly **discomfited** the keynote speaker.

MEMORY CUE: An awkward public question can discomfit, leaving someone uneasy and embarrassed.

027 discordant *adjective*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Disagreeing or incongruous; characterized by conflict

The **discordant** views within the committee made it impossible to reach consensus.

MEMORY CUE: Discordant notes clash rather than agreeing in harmony.

028 discredited *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Caused to seem false or unreliable; undermined the good reputation of

The theory was thoroughly **discredited** after multiple laboratories failed to replicate the original results.

MEMORY CUE: Once discredited, a claim loses both trust and its good reputation.

029 discrediting *verb (present participle)*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Causing harm to the good reputation of; proving unworthy of trust

The leaked emails played a role in **discrediting** the organization's claims of political neutrality.

MEMORY CUE: Discrediting evidence punches holes in a source's reliability and reputation.

030 dispelled *verb (past tense)*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To cause to vanish; to drive away (a doubt, feeling, or belief)

The discovery of the fossil record **dispelled** the long-held belief that the species had originated on a different continent.

MEMORY CUE: Morning sunlight dispelled the fog, causing it to vanish.

031 disquieting *adjective*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Inducing feelings of anxiety or worry; unsettling

The report's **disquieting** conclusions about rising sea levels prompted calls for immediate policy action.

MEMORY CUE: A disquieting sound steals quiet by creating anxiety and unease.

032 **dissent** *noun*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

The expression or holding of opinions at variance with those previously held or officially sanctioned

The lone **dissent** on the court argued that the majority opinion fundamentally misread the constitutional provision.

MEMORY CUE: One opinion arrow pointing away from the majority shows dissent.

033 **dissimilar** *adjective*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Not alike; different

Although the two ecosystems appear **dissimilar** on the surface, they share remarkably similar food web structures.

MEMORY CUE: Dissimilar objects share no matching pattern and look clearly different.

034 **dissonance** *noun*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Lack of harmony or agreement; a tension between conflicting elements

The cognitive **dissonance** experienced by voters who supported contradictory policies was widely studied.

MEMORY CUE: Dissonance sounds like musical notes grinding without harmony or agreement.

035 **divergence** *noun*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

The process or state of separating or moving apart; difference of opinions

The **divergence** in economic performance between the two regions widened dramatically after the trade agreement took effect.

MEMORY CUE: At divergence, two paths separate and move farther apart.

036 **divergent** *adjective*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Tending to develop in different directions; differing from each other

The committee members held such **divergent** opinions that reaching a unanimous recommendation proved impossible.

MEMORY CUE: Divergent paths separate and develop in different directions.

037 **eschew** *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To deliberately avoid using; to abstain from

The author chose to **eschew** conventional narrative structure in favor of a fragmented approach.

MEMORY CUE: To eschew sweets, deliberately step around every dessert tray.

038 **flout** *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To openly disregard a rule, law, or convention

Corporations that **flout** environmental regulations risk not only fines but also lasting damage to their public image.

MEMORY CUE: To flout a rule, openly wave it aside with deliberate disregard.

039 **foment** *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To instigate or stir up an undesirable sentiment or course of action

The propaganda was designed to **foment** distrust among different ethnic groups.

MEMORY CUE: To foment unrest, fan small sparks until public trouble catches fire.

040 **forsake** *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To abandon or renounce; to give up or turn away from

The scientist refused to **forsake** her unpopular theory, and vindication came when new evidence proved her right.

MEMORY CUE: To forsake a cause, abandon it and turn away.

041 **fractious** *adjective*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Easily irritated; unruly and difficult to control

The **fractious** coalition threatened to splinter over disagreements about tax policy.

MEMORY CUE: A fractious child resists control and erupts into irritable quarrels.

042 **gainsay** *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To deny or contradict a fact or statement; to speak against

No one could **gainsay** the effectiveness of the new treatment, given the overwhelming evidence.

MEMORY CUE: To gainsay a claim, speak against it by denying or contradicting it.

043 **iconoclasm** *noun*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

The challenging or overthrowing of established beliefs, customs, or institutions

The movement's **iconoclasm** extended beyond art to challenge the political and religious establishments of the day.

MEMORY CUE: Iconoclasm swings a hammer at society's cherished beliefs and institutions.

044 iconoclastic *adjective***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

Attacking or challenging cherished beliefs or established institutions

The filmmaker's **iconoclastic** approach to the genre earned equal measures of praise and condemnation.

MEMORY CUE: An iconoclastic argument attacks a belief others treat as untouchable.

045 implacable *adjective***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

Unable to be placated or appeased; relentless

The **implacable** opposition of the conservative faction doomed the reform effort.

MEMORY CUE: An implacable enemy cannot be soothed, persuaded, or stopped.

046 impugn *verb***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

To dispute the truth, validity, or honesty of a statement or motive

The attorney sought to **impugn** the credibility of the key witness.

MEMORY CUE: To impugn testimony, attack its truthfulness, validity, or honesty.

047 infringe *verb***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

To actively break the terms of a law or agreement; to violate

The patent holder argued that the competitor's product would **infringe** on intellectual property rights worth millions.

MEMORY CUE: To infringe a right, cross its legal boundary and violate it.

048 inhibited *verb (past tense)***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

Hindered, restrained, or prevented (an action or process)

Fear of public ridicule **inhibited** many scientists from pursuing research on topics considered fringe.

MEMORY CUE: An inhibited performer freezes inside an invisible cage of self-consciousness.

049 inhibiting *verb***OPPOSITION & CONFLICT**

Hindering or restraining; preventing or holding back

The regulation had the unintended effect of **inhibiting** the very innovation it was supposed to promote.

MEMORY CUE: An inhibiting force acts like a brake, restraining movement or development.

050 inimical *adjective*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Tending to obstruct or cause harm; hostile; unfriendly

The invasive species proved **inimical** to the survival of native amphibians, outcompeting them for food and habitat.

MEMORY CUE: An inimical force blocks the path while sending hostile harm.

051 intolerance *noun*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Unwillingness to accept views, beliefs, or behavior that differ from one's own

The regime's **intolerance** of dissent extended even to the mildest criticism published in obscure academic journals.

MEMORY CUE: Intolerance closes the door on beliefs or behavior different from one's own.

052 intractable *adjective*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Hard to control or deal with; stubbornly resistant

The conflict proved **intractable**, resisting decades of peace negotiations and international intervention.

MEMORY CUE: An intractable problem fights every attempt to control or solve it.

053 intransigent *adjective*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Unwilling or refusing to change one's views or to agree; stubborn

The union's **intransigent** stance on wages left management with no choice but to bring in a federal mediator.

MEMORY CUE: An intransigent negotiator bolts their position down and refuses every compromise.

054 negate *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To make ineffective; to nullify; to deny the existence or truth of

One weak link in the chain of evidence was enough to **negate** the prosecution's entire argument.

MEMORY CUE: A large zero cancels the statement and negates its effect.

055 nullifies *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Makes legally void; renders ineffective or useless

A single constitutional objection, if sustained, **nullifies** the entire legislative package.

MEMORY CUE: A cancellation stamp nullifies a ticket, making it void and useless.

056 polemical *adjective*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Relating to a strong verbal or written attack; strongly critical or controversial

The pamphlet was **polemical** in tone, attacking the opposition with a ferocity that left no room for nuance.

MEMORY CUE: A polemical essay enters verbal combat with a strong controversial attack.

057 preclude *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To prevent; to make impossible in advance

A prior conviction does not automatically **preclude** a defendant from receiving a lenient sentence.

MEMORY CUE: A locked gate precludes entry by making it impossible beforehand.

058 prevailed over *verb phrase*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Proved more powerful than; triumphed over

Reason and evidence ultimately **prevailed over** superstition, though the process took the better part of a century.

MEMORY CUE: The stronger force prevailed over its opponent and ultimately triumphed.

059 proscribe *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To forbid, especially by law; to condemn or denounce

The new regulations **proscribe** the use of certain chemicals in food production.

MEMORY CUE: To proscribe an activity, place it outside the law by forbidding it.

060 rancor *noun*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Bitterness or resentfulness, especially long-standing

Despite the **rancor** of the election campaign, the two candidates shook hands and pledged to work together.

MEMORY CUE: Rancor stores old bitterness until resentment has become long-standing.

061 recalcitrant *adjective*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Having an obstinately uncooperative attitude; stubbornly resistant to authority or control

The **recalcitrant** student refused to follow the dress code, viewing it as an infringement on personal expression.

MEMORY CUE: A recalcitrant mule locks its feet and stubbornly resists every command.

062 recant *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To say that one no longer holds an opinion or belief, especially one considered heretical

Under enormous political pressure, the scientist **recanted** his controversial findings.

MEMORY CUE: Recant a belief by publicly crossing out and withdrawing the former claim.

063 reiterated *verb (past tense)*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Stated again or repeatedly, for emphasis or clarity

The health official **reiterated** the importance of vaccination, repeating the message at every press conference for weeks.

MEMORY CUE: Reiterated words return again for added emphasis or clarity.

064 repudiate *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To refuse to accept or be associated with; to deny the truth or validity of

The organization **repudiated** the extremist views expressed by its former member.

MEMORY CUE: Repudiate a claim by pushing it away and refusing association with it.

065 schism *noun*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

A split or division between strongly opposed sections or parties

The **schism** within the party left it unable to present a unified front in the general election.

MEMORY CUE: A schism cracks one group into strongly opposed sections.

066 stymie *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To prevent or hinder the progress of; to block or thwart

Bureaucratic obstacles continued to **stymie** efforts to reform the healthcare system.

MEMORY CUE: A wall dropped across a racetrack stymies progress by stopping it.

067 subversion *noun*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

The undermining of the power and authority of an established system

The novel's **subversion** of fairy-tale conventions challenges readers to question the stories they were raised on.

MEMORY CUE: Subversion quietly digs beneath an established system to undermine its authority.

068 **subvert** *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

To undermine the power and authority of; to overthrow

The satirist used humor to **subvert** the official narrative promoted by state media.

MEMORY CUE: To subvert a structure, weaken its foundations from below.

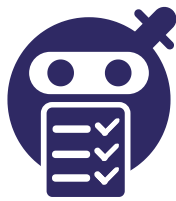
069 **undermines** *verb*

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

Weakens the foundation of; gradually erodes the strength of

Persistent corruption **undermines** public trust in institutions and discourages civic participation.

MEMORY CUE: Water undermines a wall by gradually weakening its hidden foundation.



GRE VOCABULARY

Keep building your edge.

Vocabulary grows through repeated exposure and deliberate use.
Revisit this list, write with the words, and practice recognizing their
meaning in context.

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