



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

GRE VOCABULARY

GRE Vocabulary: Quantity, Degree & Scale

94 focused words in Quantity, Degree & Scale

94

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 abound *verb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Exist in great numbers; be plentiful

Theories **abound** about the cause of the mass extinction, but few are supported by fossil evidence.

MEMORY CUE: When rabbits abound, they seem to bounce everywhere in great numbers.

002 abundant *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Existing in large quantities; plentiful

Archaeological sites in the region are **abundant**, suggesting a thriving civilization once inhabited the valley.

MEMORY CUE: An abundant harvest fills many baskets and still leaves more.

003 acreage *noun*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

An area of land, typically measured in acres

The disputed **acreage** along the border became the flashpoint for a decades-long territorial conflict.

MEMORY CUE: Acreage measures how many acre-sized squares cover a piece of land.

004 aggrandize *verb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

To increase the power, status, or wealth of; to make appear greater

The dictator sought to **aggrandize** himself through elaborate public monuments.

MEMORY CUE: To aggrandize someone, enlarge their status until they look grand.

005 all-encompassing *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Including or covering everything or everyone; comprehensive to the highest degree

The historian's **all-encompassing** study of the Roman Empire spans politics, economics, religion, and daily life.

MEMORY CUE: An all-encompassing circle stretches around everything, leaving nothing outside.

006 alleviate *verb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

To make a problem or suffering less severe; to relieve

International aid organizations rushed supplies to the region in an effort to **alleviate** the famine's worst effects.

MEMORY CUE: A lever lifting a burden makes its weight lighter: alleviate.

007 amorphous *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Without a clearly defined shape or form; vague and unorganized

The committee's goals remained **amorphous**, lacking any concrete plan of action.

MEMORY CUE: An amorphous blob has no clearly defined shape.

008 arduous *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Involving or requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring

The **arduous** trek through the mountain pass tested even the most experienced members of the expedition.

MEMORY CUE: Pushing a boulder uphill is arduous: difficult, tiring, and demanding great effort.

009 astounding *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Surprisingly impressive or notable; shocking

The telescope revealed an **astounding** number of previously unknown galaxies in a single patch of sky.

MEMORY CUE: Astounding news makes you stop, stare, and stand stunned.

010 attainment *noun*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

The act of achieving or reaching a goal or level

Her **attainment** of fluency in four languages by age twenty opened doors in the diplomatic corps.

MEMORY CUE: Attainment is reaching up and finally touching the chosen goal.

011 attenuation *noun*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

The process of reducing the force, effect, or value of something; weakening

The **attenuation** of the radio signal at greater distances limited the probe's ability to transmit data back to Earth.

MEMORY CUE: Attenuation turns a strong signal's thick line progressively thinner and weaker.

012 augmented *verb (past participle)*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Made greater in size, extent, or quality; supplemented

The orchestra's sound was **augmented** by a chorus of sixty voices for the finale of the symphony.

MEMORY CUE: An augmented orchestra grows greater when extra musicians join it.

013 bolster *verb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

To support, strengthen, or reinforce

The senator cited three new studies to **bolster** her argument for increased funding in early childhood education.

MEMORY CUE: Bolster a weak wall by adding a thick supporting beam.

014 bolstered *verb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Supported or strengthened; propped up

The discovery of additional fossils **bolstered** the hypothesis that the species had migrated across the land bridge.

MEMORY CUE: Extra braces bolstered the weak wall by strengthening its support.

015 buttress *verb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

To strengthen or support (an argument, idea, or structure)

New archaeological findings **buttress** the theory that trade routes connected the two ancient civilizations.

MEMORY CUE: A stone buttress braces a cathedral wall, supporting and strengthening it.

016 buttresses *noun*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Projecting supports built against a wall to reinforce or brace it

The cathedral's massive stone **buttresses** transfer the weight of the vaulted ceiling outward to the ground.

MEMORY CUE: Stone buttresses lean against a wall to brace and reinforce it.

017 circumscribed *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Restricted in scope or range; limited; bounded

The monarch's authority was **circumscribed** by a constitution that granted considerable power to the parliament.

MEMORY CUE: A circumscribed activity stays inside a tightly drawn boundary circle.

018 commensurate *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Corresponding in size or degree; in proportion

The salary offered was not **commensurate** with the level of experience required for the position.

MEMORY CUE: Commensurate scales balance because reward corresponds proportionally to effort.

019 comparable *adjective***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

Similar in size, degree, or nature; able to be compared

No **comparable** study has been conducted on this scale, making the findings difficult to validate independently.

MEMORY CUE: Comparable items can stand side by side on the same scale because they are sufficiently similar.

020 complementary *adjective***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

Combining in such a way as to enhance or improve each other; completing

The two researchers brought **complementary** skills to the project—one excelled in theory, the other in laboratory technique.

MEMORY CUE: Complementary puzzle pieces are different, but fit together to improve and complete the picture.

021 complemented *verb (past tense)***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

Added to in a way that enhances or improves

The historian's archival research was **complemented** by extensive fieldwork at the archaeological site.

MEMORY CUE: The right frame complemented the painting by enhancing what was already there.

022 component *adjective / noun***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

A constituent part; one of the individual parts that make up a larger whole

Trust is a critical **component** of any successful negotiation between parties with a history of conflict.

MEMORY CUE: A component is one piece fitted into a larger working whole.

023 consequential *adjective***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

Following as a result or effect; important, significant

The ruling was the most **consequential** Supreme Court decision on privacy rights in over a decade.

MEMORY CUE: A consequential choice sends important effects cascading into the future.

024 constrained *verb (past tense)***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

Severely restricted the scope, extent, or activity of; compelled or forced

Limited funding **constrained** the researchers to a much smaller sample size than they had originally planned.

MEMORY CUE: Constrained movement strains against tight limits that restrict its range.

025 copious *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Abundant in supply or quantity; plentiful

The biographer drew on **copious** correspondence between the two writers to reconstruct their intellectual friendship.

MEMORY CUE: A copious supply overflows every available container.

026 curtailed *verb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Reduced in extent or quantity; cut short

Civil liberties were **curtailed** during the wartime emergency, a decision that historians continue to debate.

MEMORY CUE: Scissors cut a long ribbon short; its length or extent has been curtailed.

027 dearth *noun*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

A scarcity or lack of something

The **dearth** of qualified applicants forced the university to extend its hiring deadline.

MEMORY CUE: A dearth leaves the supply shelf nearly bare.

028 decisive *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Settling an issue; producing a definite result; conclusive

The battle proved **decisive**, ending a conflict that had dragged on for nearly a decade.

MEMORY CUE: A decisive gavel quickly ends debate and produces one definite result.

029 detrimental *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Tending to cause harm; damaging

Chronic sleep deprivation has been shown to be **detrimental** to both cognitive function and cardiovascular health.

MEMORY CUE: A detrimental chemical visibly damages the plant it touches.

030 devastating *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Highly destructive; causing severe shock, distress, or damage

The hurricane's **devastating** impact on the coastal communities took years and billions of dollars to repair.

MEMORY CUE: A devastating blow leaves severe destruction and emotional shock behind.

031 disparate *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Essentially different in kind; markedly distinct

The study attempted to synthesize findings from **disparate** fields, including neuroscience, linguistics, and anthropology.

MEMORY CUE: Disparate objects belong in separate boxes because they differ essentially in kind.

032 egregious *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Outstandingly bad; shocking; remarkably terrible

The report highlighted the most **egregious** violations of environmental regulations.

MEMORY CUE: An egregious error flashes an alarm because it is shockingly bad.

033 eminent *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Famous and respected within a particular sphere or profession; outstanding

The conference attracted **eminent** scholars from universities around the world.

MEMORY CUE: An eminent scholar stands out through respected, outstanding achievement.

034 exacerbate *verb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

To make a problem, situation, or feeling worse

Cutting the budget for flood defenses would only **exacerbate** the damage caused by increasingly severe storms.

MEMORY CUE: Exacerbate a crack by widening it and turning the damage dial upward.

035 exacerbated *verb (past participle)*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Made a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling worse; aggravated

The housing crisis was **exacerbated** by speculative investment that drove prices far beyond what local families could afford.

MEMORY CUE: Scratching exacerbated the rash by making an already bad condition worse.

036 exacting *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Making great demands on one's skill, attention, or resources; rigorously precise

Restoring a Renaissance fresco is an **exacting** process that demands years of specialized training.

MEMORY CUE: An exacting task demands exact attention, skill, and precision.

037 exaggeration *noun*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

A statement that represents something as better or worse than it really is

To say the discovery revolutionized the field would be an **exaggeration**, but it certainly opened promising new avenues.

MEMORY CUE: Exaggeration stretches a small fish into a legendary sea monster.

038 exceedingly *adverb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

To a very great degree; extremely

The enzyme is **exceedingly** sensitive to temperature changes, losing its catalytic function above forty degrees.

MEMORY CUE: Exceedingly means the degree has raced far beyond ordinary limits.

039 exigent *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Pressing; demanding immediate attention or action

The **exigent** circumstances of the flood required an immediate evacuation order.

MEMORY CUE: An exigent alarm demands immediate attention rather than later action.

040 exponentially *adverb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

At an increasingly rapid rate; by a very large amount

Data storage costs have decreased **exponentially** over the past three decades, transforming entire industries.

MEMORY CUE: Exponential growth climbs faster each step, multiplying instead of adding.

041 extraneous *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Irrelevant or unrelated to the subject being dealt with; not essential

The editor stripped the manuscript of **extraneous** detail, leaving only the passages that advanced the central argument.

MEMORY CUE: An extraneous puzzle piece sits outside the picture because it is unrelated and unnecessary.

042 extravagance *noun*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Excessive or unnecessary spending; lack of restraint in expenditure

The palace's **extravagance** stood in stark contrast to the poverty visible in the streets surrounding it.

MEMORY CUE: Extravagance opens the spending faucet far beyond necessity or restraint.

043 fecund *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Producing or capable of producing an abundance; highly fertile; intellectually productive

The **fecund** imagination of the novelist produced over thirty books in as many years.

MEMORY CUE: Fecund soil produces abundant crops; a fecund mind produces abundant ideas.

044 frugality *noun*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

The quality of being economical with money or food; careful management of resources

Her **frugality** during the lean years enabled the family to weather economic downturns that ruined their neighbors.

MEMORY CUE: Frugality guards resources carefully and spends only what is necessary.

045 grave *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Giving cause for alarm; serious; weighty

The inspector issued a **grave** warning about the bridge's structural integrity, recommending its immediate closure.

MEMORY CUE: A grave situation carries serious weight and gives cause for alarm.

046 impeccable *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

In accordance with the highest standards of propriety; faultless

Her **impeccable** credentials made her the obvious choice for the position.

MEMORY CUE: An impeccable surface passes inspection without a single fault mark.

047 imperceptibly *adverb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

In a way that is so slight, gradual, or subtle as to be impossible to perceive

The glacier moves **imperceptibly**, advancing only a few inches each day, yet its cumulative force reshapes entire valleys.

MEMORY CUE: The shadow moved imperceptibly, too gradually for the eye to notice.

048 inadequate *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Lacking the quality or quantity required; insufficient; not good enough

The city's **inadequate** sewage system could not handle the volume of water produced by the unprecedented rainfall.

MEMORY CUE: An inadequate supply falls below the bright line marked ENOUGH.

049 incidental *adjective***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

Accompanying but not a major part of; occurring by chance in connection with something else

The composer's **incidental** music for the play became more famous than the drama it was written to accompany.

MEMORY CUE: An incidental effect appears as a small side branch of the main event.

050 inconsequential *adjective***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

Not important or significant; trivial

What seemed like an **inconsequential** decision at the time—choosing one route over another—altered the course of the expedition.

MEMORY CUE: An inconsequential speck is swept aside because it has no meaningful importance.

051 inflation *noun***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

Exaggeration; the act of expanding something beyond reasonable or accurate limits

The politician's **inflation** of the threat level was designed to justify increased military spending.

MEMORY CUE: Inflation pumps a claim larger than accurate proportions allow.

052 innocuous *adjective***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

Not harmful or offensive; harmless

The seemingly **innocuous** email attachment contained malware that compromised the entire network.

MEMORY CUE: An innocuous object touches a flower without damaging a single petal.

053 inordinately *adverb***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

To an unusually or disproportionately large degree; excessively

The project consumed an **inordinately** large share of the department's budget, leaving other initiatives underfunded.

MEMORY CUE: Inordinately stretches beyond ordinary proportion into an excessive degree.

054 intensification *noun***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

The act of making something stronger or more extreme

The **intensification** of the conflict along the border prompted the United Nations to deploy additional peacekeepers.

MEMORY CUE: Intensification turns the volume upward, making something stronger or more extreme.

055 intrinsic *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Belonging naturally; essential; inherent

The gemstone's **intrinsic** value lies not in its size but in the rarity of its deep blue color.

MEMORY CUE: Intrinsic value is woven into the thing itself, not added outside.

056 inundate *verb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

To overwhelm someone with things to be dealt with; to flood

After the announcement, the office was **inundated** with phone calls from concerned citizens.

MEMORY CUE: To inundate an inbox, flood it with more messages than manageable.

057 magnify *verb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

To increase the apparent size or importance of

The media's tendency to **magnify** minor disagreements into full-blown crises distorts the public's understanding of politics.

MEMORY CUE: A magnifying lens makes an object appear larger and more important.

058 mitigated *verb (past tense)*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Made less severe, serious, or painful; lessened

The flood damage was **mitigated** by the levee system, though some low-lying areas were still inundated.

MEMORY CUE: Shade mitigated the heat by making its severity less intense.

059 modicum *noun*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

A small quantity of a particular thing, especially something desirable

Even a **modicum** of preparation would have prevented the embarrassing errors in the public presentation.

MEMORY CUE: A modicum is a modest little spoonful of something desirable.

060 negligible *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

So small or unimportant as to be not worth considering; insignificant

The difference in cost between the two options was **negligible**, so the committee chose the more sustainable one.

MEMORY CUE: A negligible amount shrinks into a speck too small to matter.

061 onerous *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Involving an amount of effort and difficulty that is oppressively burdensome

The **onerous** regulatory requirements discouraged small businesses from entering the market.

MEMORY CUE: An onerous duty is a heavy obligation strapped across the shoulders.

062 overstate *verb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

To state or represent something more strongly or emphatically than is warranted

It would be difficult to **overstate** the impact the printing press had on the spread of knowledge in Europe.

MEMORY CUE: To overstate a result, inflate the claim beyond what evidence warrants.

063 penurious *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Extremely poor; poverty-stricken; unwilling to spend money; miserly

The **penurious** conditions in the mining town drove many families to seek better opportunities elsewhere.

MEMORY CUE: A penurious purse is painfully empty because of extreme poverty.

064 peripheral *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Of secondary or minor importance; marginal; on the edge

The study focused on the central nervous system, treating the **peripheral** nervous system as outside its scope.

MEMORY CUE: Peripheral items sit at the edge of the circle, outside the main center.

065 plethora *noun*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

An excess of something; a large or excessive amount

The researcher was overwhelmed by the **plethora** of data generated by the new instrument.

MEMORY CUE: A plethora is such an excessive pile that it spills beyond what is useful.

066 preternatural *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Beyond what is normal or natural; extraordinary; surpassing the ordinary

The violinist's **preternatural** ability to sight-read the most complex scores left audiences and fellow musicians in awe.

MEMORY CUE: Preternatural ability seems to step beyond the ordinary limits of nature.

067 primacy *noun*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

The state of being first in rank, importance, or authority

The debate over the **primacy** of nature versus nurture in shaping human behavior continues to animate the social sciences.

MEMORY CUE: Primacy places something first in rank, importance, or authority.

068 prodigious *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Remarkably great in extent, size, or degree; impressively large

The **prodigious** output of the Victorian novelists remains unmatched in literary history.

MEMORY CUE: A prodigious total climbs to a remarkably great size.

069 profound *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Very great or intense; having or showing great knowledge or insight; going to a great depth

The discovery had a **profound** impact on the field, overturning assumptions that had stood for more than a century.

MEMORY CUE: A profound idea descends far below the surface into deep insight.

070 prolific *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Producing a great quantity of something, especially creative work

The **prolific** author published over forty novels in a career spanning five decades.

MEMORY CUE: A prolific tree produces basket after basket of fruit.

071 prominence *noun*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

The state of being important or famous; the quality of projecting or standing out

The theory rose to **prominence** in the 1980s and has remained the dominant framework in the field ever since.

MEMORY CUE: Prominence projects outward, making something stand out in fame or importance.

072 proportion *noun*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

The relative size or share of a part compared to the whole

A disproportionately large **proportion** of the budget was allocated to defense, leaving education and healthcare underfunded.

MEMORY CUE: Proportion compares one part's size or share with the whole.

073 rarefied *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Distant from the lives of ordinary people; exclusive

The **rarefied** world of haute couture seemed utterly disconnected from everyday fashion.

MEMORY CUE: A rarefied circle is elevated, exclusive, and distant from ordinary life.

074 replete *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Filled or well-supplied with something; abundantly provided

The museum's archives were **replete** with unpublished letters from the Civil War era.

MEMORY CUE: A replete shelf is filled edge to edge and well supplied.

075 requisite *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Made necessary by particular circumstances or regulations; required

The applicant possessed all the **requisite** qualifications but lacked the industry connections that might have secured the position.

MEMORY CUE: A requisite is the required ticket demanded before entry.

076 rife *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Widespread; filled with; abundant (especially of something undesirable)

The industry was **rife** with corruption, a fact that successive investigations had documented but failed to remedy.

MEMORY CUE: A garden rife with weeds is filled with them everywhere.

077 robust *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Strong and healthy; vigorous; able to withstand adverse conditions

The economy showed **robust** growth in the third quarter, exceeding even the most optimistic forecasts.

MEMORY CUE: A robust oak stays strong and healthy through harsh weather.

078 ruinous *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Disastrous or destructive; bringing ruin

The **ruinous** cost of the prolonged war drained the treasury and left the nation's infrastructure in disrepair.

MEMORY CUE: A ruinous decision leaves disaster and destruction in its wake.

079 scant *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Barely sufficient or adequate; meager

Scant evidence supports the popular belief that reading in dim light permanently damages eyesight.

MEMORY CUE: A scant supply barely touches the minimum line and may be inadequate.

080 scarce *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Insufficient in quantity; in short supply

Clean drinking water is **scarce** in the region, forcing residents to walk miles to the nearest safe source.

MEMORY CUE: A scarce resource sits nearly alone on an otherwise empty shelf.

081 shore up *phrasal verb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

To reinforce, strengthen, or support something that is weakening

The central bank intervened to **shore up** the currency after it lost fifteen percent of its value in a single week.

MEMORY CUE: Wooden braces shore up a weakening wall by reinforcing its support.

082 soporific *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Tending to induce drowsiness or sleep; tediously boring

The **soporific** lecture on tax code amendments put half the audience to sleep.

MEMORY CUE: A soporific lecture acts like verbal sleeping medicine.

083 sparseness *noun*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

The quality of being thinly scattered, meager, or scanty

The **sparseness** of the archaeological record in the region makes it difficult to draw firm conclusions about early settlement patterns.

MEMORY CUE: Sparseness leaves wide empty spaces between a few scattered items.

084 superfluous *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Unnecessary; more than what is needed or wanted

The editor cut two entire chapters as **superfluous**, arguing that they repeated arguments made more effectively elsewhere.

MEMORY CUE: A superfluous piece remains after every need is already met.

085 surfeit *noun/verb*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

An excessive amount of something; to cause someone to desire no more of something

A **surfeit** of options paradoxically made the decision more difficult rather than easier.

MEMORY CUE: A surfeit is an excessive heap that continues after every need is satisfied.

086 tenuous *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Very weak or slight; insubstantial; thin and fragile

The connection between the two events is **tenuous** at best, resting on coincidence rather than demonstrated causation.

MEMORY CUE: A tenuous connection hangs from one thin, fraying thread.

087 thorny *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Causing difficulty or disagreement; problematic; hard to deal with

Immigration policy remains one of the **thorniest** issues in contemporary politics, defying easy solutions.

MEMORY CUE: A thorny problem pricks anyone trying to handle its difficult details.

088 thoroughgoing *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Complete in every respect; absolute; thorough

The audit revealed the need for a **thoroughgoing** overhaul of the agency's record-keeping practices.

MEMORY CUE: Thoroughgoing change reaches completely through every part of the system.

089 trifling *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Unimportant or trivial; of little value or significance

The fine imposed was so **trifling** that it did nothing to deter the corporation from repeating the violation.

MEMORY CUE: A trifling concern is too small and unimportant to carry weight.

090 trivial *adjective*

QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE

Of little value or importance; commonplace

What may appear **trivial** to an outsider—a single misplaced comma—can entirely change the meaning of a legal contract.

MEMORY CUE: A trivial speck is too small in value or importance to deserve the spotlight.

091 understate *verb***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

To describe or represent something as being smaller, worse, or less important than it really is

To **understate** the difficulty of the expedition would be a disservice to the courage of those who undertook it.

MEMORY CUE: To understate a crisis, describe it as smaller than reality.

094 zenith *noun***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

The time at which something is most powerful or successful; the highest point

The empire reached its **zenith** in the sixteenth century before beginning its long decline.

MEMORY CUE: At its zenith, a star or career reaches its highest point.

092 uneconomical *adjective***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

Not profitable or efficient; wasteful of money or other resources

The factory's **uneconomical** use of raw materials was not only wasteful but also environmentally damaging.

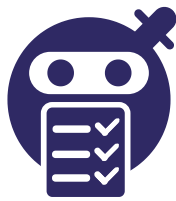
MEMORY CUE: An uneconomical machine wastes more resources than its output justifies.

093 unwieldy *adjective***QUANTITY, DEGREE & SCALE**

Difficult to manage or handle because of size, shape, or complexity

The bureaucratic process for approving new medications had become so **unwieldy** that promising treatments were delayed by years.

MEMORY CUE: An unwieldy package resists handling because of size or awkward complexity.



GRE VOCABULARY

Keep building your edge.

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Revisit this list, write with the words, and practice recognizing their
meaning in context.

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