Almost the Same

SAT & GRE Vocabulary

A Meaning-Family Approach

Learn words in families. Tell them apart.

Physics First Series

Physics First Foundation

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The vocabulary sets in this book are original works; example sentences and practice items were written for this volume.

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First edition.

How to Use This Book

The fastest way to grow a test-ready vocabulary is *not* to memorize words one at a time. It is to learn them in **meaning families**—clusters of near-synonyms studied together—and then to train the *differences within a family*. The SAT and GRE rarely ask whether you have seen a word; they ask whether you can tell it apart from three or four words that mean almost the same thing. That skill is what this book builds.

The method, in three moves.

1. **Learn the family.** Read a cluster in Part I; fix the shared idea and each word's gloss.
2. **Feel the difference.** Ask what separates the near-synonyms—register, intensity, connotation.
3. **Test yourself.** Work the words-in-context items in Part III; on every miss, name *why* the wrong choice tempted you.

How the book is organized.

- **Part I — Words in Meaning Families.** The core clusters: a shared idea, its member words with glosses, and a wider ring of synonyms that carry the same sense.
- **Part II — The Complete Word Bank.** Every word in this volume, grouped by theme, as a quick-reference glossary.
- **Part III — Practice & Answer Key.** Original words-in-context questions, with an answer key that names the *trap* each wrong choice represents.
- **Part IV — GRE Vocabulary.** The graduate-level tier: a themed

word bank of higher-frequency GRE words with glosses, plus five-choice GRE practice and its answer key.

A companion tutor. Every set here is also drilled adaptively at `quantumtutoring.ai`, which tracks which near-synonym confusions you fall for and fades the support as you improve.

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Part I

Words in Meaning Families

CHAPTER 1

Meaning-Family Clusters

Each cluster gathers words that circle one idea. Learn the shared core first—each word is shown *in a sentence* so you can see it work—then study the wider ring of synonyms. After every ten clusters, a short **True or False** review checks your recall.

1. The idea of *serious*

- **earnest** (*adj.*) — serious and intentional
  His earnest plea for forgiveness, delivered without a trace of sarcasm, moved even the skeptical judge.
- **solemn** (*adj.*) — serious, formal, and grave
  The soldiers stood in solemn silence at the memorial, no one smiling or speaking above a whisper.

Widen the cluster: other words for *serious* — zealous, sober, momentous.

2. The idea of *respectful*

- **deferential** (*adj.*) — showing respect toward others who are superior to you in any way
  The new intern spoke in a deferential tone to the surgeon, nodding and stepping aside whenever she passed.
- **revere** (*v.*) — to deeply respect and worship; to be in awe of

Villagers still revere the old healer, bowing whenever she passes and naming their children after her.

Widen the cluster: other words for *respectful* — regardful, yielding, exalted.

3. The idea of *kind*

- **benevolent** (*adj.*) — well-meaning and charitable
  The benevolent landlord forgave months of rent for tenants who had lost their jobs in the flood.
- **endearing** (*adj.*) — adorable; inspiring love and affection
  Her endearing habit of humming while she worked made even the grumpiest coworkers smile.

Widen the cluster: other words for *kind* — altruistic, benign, compassionate.

4. The idea of *spiteful*

- **sinister** (*adj.*) — bad or evil
  A sinister smile crossed his face as he slipped the poison into her tea when no one looked.
- **malice** (*n.*) — the desire to harm others; deep ill will
  There was real malice in the letter—every line was written to wound, not to inform.
- **malignant** (*adj.*) — deeply harmful; evil and spreading in its effect
  The rumor was malignant, spreading through the office and poisoning every friendship it touched.
- **malicious** (*adj.*) — intended to do harm; deliberately spiteful
  The malicious prank was designed purely to humiliate her in front of the entire class.
- **malevolent** (*adj.*) — wishing evil or harm to others; ill-

disposed
He fixed the newcomer with a malevolent stare, as if he genuinely wished him harm.

Widen the cluster: other words for *spiteful* — malign, pernicious, noxious.

5. The idea of *sincere*

- **genuine** (*adj.*) — true, real, or heartfelt
  Her genuine surprise, wide-eyed and unrehearsed, told them the party had truly caught her off guard.
- **candid** (*adj.*) — frank, honest, or straightforward
  Instead of flattering the manuscript, the editor gave a candid critique, listing every weak chapter by name.
- **authentic** (*adj.*) — traditional; undisturbed by novelty; based on facts; pure and honest
  The chef insisted on authentic recipes, refusing to swap the imported spices for cheaper substitutes.
- **virtuous** (*adj.*) — having or exhibiting morality; morally excellent, righteous
  Even when no one was watching, she returned the extra change, a virtuous habit her grandmother had instilled in her.

Widen the cluster: other words for *sincere* — ardent, unfeigned.

6. The idea of *fake*

- **hoax** (*n.*) — deception of a malicious or humorous manner
  The viral video claiming aliens had landed turned out to be an elaborate hoax staged by film students.
- **disguise** (*v.*) — to obscure the truth or appearance
  He tried to disguise his nervousness behind a wide grin, but his shaking hands gave him away.

- **deception** (*n.*) — the act of deceiving
  The con artist's entire fortune was built on deception, convincing investors to fund a company that never existed.
- **fabricate** (*v.*) — to make up from thin air
  Unable to find real evidence, the tabloid decided to fabricate quotes and attribute them to the senator.
- **complacent** (*adj.*) — marked by a fake satisfaction or happiness with the current state of things
  After years of easy wins, the champion grew complacent, skipping practice because he assumed victory was guaranteed.

Widen the cluster: other words for *fake* — counterfeit, fraudulent, phony.

7. The idea of *vague*

- **ambivalent** (*adj.*) — the state of having conflicting feelings
  She felt ambivalent about the promotion, thrilled by the raise but dreading the extra hours it demanded.
- **ambiguous** (*adj.*) — unclear or obscure
  His ambiguous answer left the jury unsure whether he meant yes or no.
- **equivocal** (*adj.*) — unclear; open to more than one interpretation
  The senator's equivocal statement on the bill let both supporters and opponents claim him as an ally.
- **dubious** (*adj.*) — arguable, questionable, or debatable
  The salesman's dubious claim that the pills cured every illness made the doctor raise an eyebrow.
- **enigmatic** (*adj.*) — difficult to interpret
  The old man's enigmatic smile gave no hint of whether he had won or lost the bet.

Widen the cluster: other words for *vague* — obscure, nebulous.

8. The idea of *complain*

- **denounce** (*v.*) — to condemn; complain about publicly
  The committee moved quickly to denounce the scandal, issuing a public statement condemning the leaked emails.
- **lament** (*v.*) — to mourn a person's death or complain about something unsatisfactory
  Neighbors lament the closing of the corner bakery, still walking past to sigh at its dark windows.
- **condemn** (*v.*) — to express utter and complete disapproval
  World leaders condemned the attack within hours, calling it an unforgivable act of violence.
- **deplore** (*v.*) — [used in context example only; no standalone definition printed]
  Historians deplore the destruction of the ancient library, mourning knowledge that vanished forever in the fire.

Widen the cluster: other words for *complain* — bemoan, bewail, deplore.

9. The idea of *recollect*

- **muse** (*v.*) — to think about deeply
  Staring at the old photograph, she began to muse about what her grandmother's life had truly been like.
- **reflect** (*v.*) — to think about carefully
  Before signing the contract, he took a week to reflect on whether the risky venture was truly worth it.
- **reminisce** (*v.*) — to indulge in the recollection of past events
  Over coffee, the old classmates would reminisce, retelling stories from their freshman year they hadn't recalled in decades.
- **nostalgic** (*adj.*) — feeling warmly sentimental about the past
  The smell of chalk dust made him nostalgic, flooding him with warm memories of his first classroom decades ago.

Widen the cluster: other words for *recollect* — ponder, ruminate.

10. The idea of *worried*

- **apprehensive** (*adj.*) — fearful that something bad might happen
  Waiting outside the principal's office, she grew apprehensive, certain some punishment was about to fall on her.
- **restless** (*adj.*) — perpetually worried about something; unable to mentally relax
  Even after the test ended, he stayed restless, pacing the hallway and unable to think of anything else.
- **agitated** (*adj.*) — worried and nervous
  The pilot's calm voice couldn't hide how agitated the passengers had become after the second bout of turbulence.
- **queasy** (*adj.*) — worried and nervous to the point of being nauseous; troubled
  The thought of speaking in front of five hundred people left her queasy, her stomach churning with dread.

Widen the cluster: other words for *worried* — anxious, flustered.

Review 1 — True or False *clusters 1–10*

Does each statement give the word's *correct* meaning? Mark T or F; answers follow.

1. **nostalgic** means "bad or evil."
2. **queasy** means "worried and nervous to the point of being nauseous; troubled."
3. **ambiguous** means "unclear or obscure."
4. **muse** means "wishing evil or harm to others; ill-disposed."
5. **reflect** means "showing respect toward others who are superior to you in any way."
6. **denounce** means "to condemn; complain about publicly."

7. **virtuous** means "having or exhibiting morality; morally excellent, righteous."
8. **restless** means "perpetually worried about something; unable to mentally relax."
9. **malicious** means "to make up from thin air."
10. **deferential** means "true, real, or heartfelt."
11. **deception** means "the act of deceiving."
12. **malignant** means "to express utter and complete disapproval."
13. **benevolent** means "serious and intentional."
14. **condemn** means "to express utter and complete disapproval."
15. **malice** means "to think about carefully."
16. **authentic** means "traditional; undisturbed by novelty; based on facts; pure and honest."

Answers: **1.** F **2.** T **3.** T **4.** F **5.** F **6.** T **7.** T **8.** T **9.** F **10.** F **11.** T **12.** F **13.** F **14.** T **15.** F **16.** T.
Corrections (the false ones): **1** *nostalgic* = feeling warmly sentimental about the past; **4** *muse* = to think about deeply; **5** *reflect* = to think about carefully; **9** *malicious* = intended to do harm; deliberately spiteful; **10** *deferential* = showing respect toward others who are superior to you in any way; **12** *malignant* = deeply harmful; evil and spreading in its effect; **13** *benevolent* = well-meaning and charitable; **15** *malice* = the desire to harm others; deep ill will.

11. The idea of *agree*

- **concede** (*v.*) — to reluctantly or unwillingly agree
  Only after the recount confirmed the numbers did the candidate concede, admitting defeat despite hoping until the last minute.
- **condone** (*v.*) — to allow something to continue happening
  The coach refused to condone the players' trash talk, insisting he would not let such disrespect continue unchecked.
- **concur** (*v.*) — to agree and be of the same opinion
  The two rival scientists rarely agreed on anything, yet both

concur that the data pointed to the same conclusion.

Widen the cluster: other words for *agree* — consent, acquiesce.

12. The idea of *flourish*

- **proliferate** (*v.*) — to multiply and increase rapidly in number
  Once the city allowed food trucks downtown, they began to proliferate, multiplying from three vendors to over fifty within a year.
- **ubiquitous** (*adj.*) — appearing to be everywhere
  Smartphones have become so ubiquitous that it's rare to find a coffee shop where no one is staring at a screen.
- **lucrative** (*adj.*) — profitable
  Selling handmade candles started as a hobby, but it soon became so lucrative that she quit her office job.

Widen the cluster: other words for *flourish* — burgeon, snowball (v.), mushroom (v.).

13. The idea of *sad*

- **poignant** (*adj.*) — evoking keen sadness
  The old soldier's poignant farewell letter, found decades later, brought his grandchildren to tears with its quiet sorrow.
- **despondent** (*adj.*) — sad or disheartened
  After failing the bar exam three times, he grew despondent, convinced he would never become a lawyer.
- **dejected** (*adj.*) — sad and low-spirited
  The team trudged off the field dejected, heads down after blowing a ten-point lead in the final minute.

Widen the cluster: other words for *sad* — melancholy, crestfallen.

14. The idea of *oppose*

- **violate** (*v.*) — to break; to disregard
  Parking in the ambulance bay might save you a minute, but it will violate hospital rules and earn a hefty fine.
- **defy** (*v.*) — to go against; to refuse to obey
  Despite the curfew, the teenagers chose to defy their parents and sneak out to watch the meteor shower.
- **refute** (*v.*) — to prove wrong
  The scientist's new data seemed to refute the old theory, proving that the supposed cause had nothing to do with the effect.
- **negate** (*v.*) — to invalidate; nullify
  One careless comment can negate months of careful diplomacy, undoing all the trust the two sides had built.

Widen the cluster: other words for *oppose* — scoff (at), confront, withstand.

15. The idea of *make less perfect*

- **mar** (*v.*) — to impair and therefore make less than perfect
  A single crack across the canvas was enough to mar what had otherwise been a flawless painting.
- **disfigure** (*v.*) — to spoil the appearance of
  The fire's scars disfigure the old barn's front wall, twisting the once-straight beams into blackened ruins.

Widen the cluster: other words for *make less perfect* — sully, impair, contaminate.

16. The idea of *come to an end*

- **cease** (*v.*) — to stop existing or stop doing
  When the referee's whistle blew, both teams had to cease playing immediately, no matter how close they were to scoring.
- **terminate** (*v.*) — to interrupt
  A single missed deadline was enough for the client to terminate the contract and hire a different firm.
- **finite** (*adj.*) — having an end or a final count
  Unlike the myth of endless resources, the island's freshwater supply is finite, and it drops lower every dry season.

Widen the cluster: other words for *come to an end* — discontinue, quit.

17. The idea of *unstoppable*

- **tenacious** (*adj.*) — determined and committed
  Even after three rejections, the tenacious inventor refused to abandon her design and kept pitching it to new investors.
- **relentless** (*adj.*) — inflexible and incessant in intensity
  The coach's relentless drills never let up, pushing the team through drizzle, heat, and exhaustion without a single break.
- **inexorable** (*adj.*) — unstoppable or impossible to prevent
  The glacier's advance was inexorable, grinding forward inch by inch no matter how the engineers tried to divert it.
- **inevitable** (*adj.*) — unavoidable
  Once the dam cracked, the flood downstream became inevitable, and no last-minute repair could have stopped it.

Widen the cluster: other words for *unstoppable* — persevere, unceasing.

18. The idea of *friendly*

- **ally** (*n.*) — one that supports another in an ongoing effort
  Facing budget cuts alone, the principal found an ally in the librarian, who lobbied alongside her at every school board meeting.
- **confidant** (*n.*) — one you can trust and share secrets with
  She told no one about the diagnosis except her sister, her lifelong confidant who kept every secret safe.
- **amiable** (*adj.*) — friendly; displaying a positive and supportive attitude
  The new neighbor was so amiable, greeting everyone by name and offering to help carry groceries up the stairs.

Widen the cluster: other words for *friendly* — amicable, gregarious.

19. The idea of *dislike*

- **disdain** (*n.*) — an intense dislike
  He curled his lip in disdain at the fast-food menu, muttering that he'd never eat something so beneath him.
- **contempt** (*n.*) — a feeling of dislike for something you consider inferior
  The critic reviewed the film with open contempt, dismissing it as amateurish trash unworthy of a second glance.
- **reproach** (*v.*) — to express disapproval
  Her mother reproached her for missing curfew again, her sharp words making clear just how disappointed she was.

Widen the cluster: other words for *dislike* — rebuke, censure.

20. The idea of *origin*

- **provenance** (*n.*) — origin
  The museum traced the vase's provenance back through five owners to a workshop in ancient Corinth.
- **genesis** (*n.*) — the origin or mode of formation
  The startup's genesis was a napkin sketch drawn during a late-night conversation between two roommates.
- **inception** (*n.*) — the starting point of existence
  Since its inception a decade ago, the charity has grown from a single food pantry into a nationwide network.
- **advent** (*n.*) — an emergence or arrival of something
  The advent of the smartphone changed how people navigated cities, replacing folded paper maps almost overnight.

Widen the cluster: other words for *origin* — derivation, commencement.

Review 2 — True or False *clusters 11–20*

Does each statement give the word's *correct* meaning? Mark T or F; answers follow.

1. **disdain** means "an intense dislike."
2. **inevitable** means "to multiply and increase rapidly in number."
3. **refute** means "to impair and therefore make less than perfect."
4. **amiable** means "friendly; displaying a positive and supportive attitude."
5. **concede** means "to interrupt."
6. **ally** means "an intense dislike."
7. **defy** means "the origin or mode of formation."
8. **negate** means "to invalidate; nullify."
9. **disfigure** means "to spoil the appearance of."

10. **finite** means "one that supports another in an ongoing effort."
11. **advent** means "to agree and be of the same opinion."
12. **violate** means "to break; to disregard."
13. **poignant** means "evoking keen sadness."
14. **proliferate** means "an intense dislike."
15. **confidant** means "one you can trust and share secrets with."
16. **lucrative** means "profitable."

Answers: **1.** T **2.** F **3.** F **4.** T **5.** F **6.** F **7.** F **8.** T **9.** T **10.** F **11.** F **12.** T **13.** T **14.** F **15.** T **16.** T.

Corrections (the false ones): **2** *inevitable* = unavoidable; **3** *refute* = to prove wrong; **5** *concede* = to reluctantly or unwillingly agree; **6** *ally* = one that supports another in an ongoing effort; **7** *defy* = to go against; to refuse to obey; **10** *finite* = having an end or a final count; **11** *advent* = an emergence or arrival of something; **14** *proliferate* = to multiply and increase rapidly in number.

21. The idea of *desire*

- **aspiration** (*n.*) — a desire to achieve something
  Her aspiration to become a surgeon kept her studying long after her classmates had gone to bed.
- **yearning** (*n.*) — a feeling of intense desire for something usually out of reach
  Decades after emigrating, he still felt a quiet yearning for the narrow streets and smells of his childhood village.
- **fervor** (*n.*) — intense feelings of passion
  The volunteers organized the food drive with such fervor that donations tripled within a single week.

Widen the cluster: other words for *desire* — longing, craving.

22. The idea of *no punishment*

- **impunity** (*n.*) — immunity from punishment for a wrongdoing
  Because no one ever reported him, the landlord ignored the safety codes with impunity for years.
- **exoneration** (*n.*) — the act of showing that someone is not guilty
  New DNA evidence led to his exoneration after twelve years in prison for a crime he never committed.
- **exemption** (*n.*) — freedom from doing something
  Students with documented disabilities were granted an exemption from the timed portion of the exam.

Widen the cluster: other words for *no punishment* — vindication, acquittal.

23. The idea of *subject to influence*

- **susceptible** (*adj.*) — easily influenced
  Sleep-deprived and stressed, he became susceptible to every rumor his coworkers whispered in the break room.
- **naive** (*adj.*) — unaffected and innocent
  It was naive of her to assume the contract was fair without ever asking a lawyer to review it.
- **impressionable** (*adj.*) — easily affected; inexperienced
  At twelve, impressionable and eager to fit in, he adopted every slang term his older cousin used.
- **vulnerable** (*adj.*) — open to being affected emotionally or physically
  Standing alone on stage without notes, she felt vulnerable, as if the whole audience could see her hands shake.
- **malleable** (*adj.*) — capable of being influenced
  Young children are remarkably malleable, absorbing the accents and habits of whatever household raises them.

Widen the cluster: other words for *subject to influence* — exposed, credulous.

24. The idea of *tough tasks*

- **onerous** (*adj.*) — something difficult to carry out
  Filing the merged company's tax paperwork proved so onerous that the accountants worked through two straight weekends.
- **arduous** (*adj.*) — difficult and tiring
  The arduous hike up the ridge left every climber gasping, muscles burning, long before they reached the summit.
- **formidable** (*adj.*) — fear-inspiring due to size
  Standing nearly seven feet tall, the formidable linebacker made even seasoned quarterbacks hesitate before calling a play.
- **hurdle** (*n.*) — a light, upright frame placed on the ground for runners or horses to leap over during a race; obstacles and hardships
  Losing her funding midway through the project was a hurdle she had to clear before construction could resume.

Widen the cluster: other words for *tough tasks* — burdensome, laborious.

25. The idea of *out-of-date*

- **obsolete** (*adj.*) — no longer used
  Once fax machines became obsolete, offices quietly replaced them with scanners nobody ever needed to warm up.
- **supersede** (*v.*) — to become outdated; to be replaced
  The updated safety code superseded the decades-old regulations, rendering every prior guideline legally meaningless overnight.
- **dated** (*adj.*) — out-of-date or old-fashioned
  His slang felt dated, the kind of phrase your grandparents might use unironically at a dinner party.

Widen the cluster: other words for *out-of-date* — anachronistic, antiquated.

26. The idea of *domination*

- **subjugate** (*v.*) — to defeat or conquer
  The empire sought to subjugate the neighboring tribes, forcing them to pay tribute and abandon self-rule.
- **vanquish** (*v.*) — to defeat and conquer, especially in a war
  After years of siege, the general finally vanquished the rebel army, ending the war in a single decisive battle.
- **subordinate** (*adj.*) — of inferior power and importance
  As a subordinate clerk, she needed her supervisor's signature before any decision she made could take effect.

Widen the cluster: other words for *domination* — quell, supremacy.

27. The idea of *thinking about the results*

- **speculate** (*v.*) — to form a theory without any firm evidence
  Without any data to go on, analysts could only speculate about why the stock had suddenly crashed.
- **consider** (*v.*) — to think about carefully
  Before signing the lease, she took a week to consider whether the commute was truly worth the savings.
- **consideration/reconsideration** (*n.*) — careful thought over a period of time
  The board gave the merger careful consideration for months, weighing every financial detail before finally voting.
- **evaluate** (*v.*) — to form an idea
  The committee met to evaluate each proposal, ranking them by cost, feasibility, and long-term community impact.

- **ascertain** (*v.*) — to find out for certain
  Detectives interviewed every witness twice, hoping to ascertain exactly where the suspect had been that night.

Widen the cluster: other words for *thinking about the results* — deduce, surmise.

28. The idea of *disagreement*

- **contention** (*n.*) — a heated disagreement
  The inheritance sparked bitter contention among the siblings, each convinced the will favored someone else unfairly.
- **misconception** (*n.*) — a misunderstanding
  Many students share the misconception that bats are blind, when in fact most see quite well.
- **impugn** (*v.*) — to dispute validity
  The lawyer tried to impugn the witness's testimony, suggesting her memory of the night was unreliable.
- **incongruous** (*adj.*) — out of harmony
  The clown's cheerful grin looked incongruous beside the grim headlines scrolling across the newsroom television.

Widen the cluster: other words for *disagreement* — belligerency, controversy.

29. The idea of *beyond argument*

- **irreproachable** (*adj.*) — perfect; blameless
  Her irreproachable conduct during the audit left even her harshest critics unable to find a single fault.
- **immaculate** (*adj.*) — clean; neat; pure
  The kitchen was immaculate, every counter gleaming and not a single crumb left on the floor.
- **uncontaminated** (*adj.*) — not compromised

Scientists sealed the sample in a sterile chamber to keep it uncontaminated by outside bacteria.

- **exemplary** (*adj.*) — very good; serving as a model
  Her exemplary attendance record, without a single absence in four years, earned her the principal's award.

Widen the cluster: other words for *beyond argument* — pristine, indisputable.

30. The idea of *practical*

- **pragmatic** (*adj.*) — dealing with things in a sensible and realistic way
  Rather than chase an ideal solution, the manager took a pragmatic approach, choosing whatever actually worked within budget.

- **viable** (*adj.*) — doable; sustainable; able to germinate or grow
  After three failed drafts, only one business plan seemed viable enough to attract real investors.

- **feasible** (*adj.*) — capable of being done
  Building a bridge across the canyon was technically feasible, but the cost made it politically impossible.

- **sound** (*adj.*) — showing good judgment
  Her sound judgment during the crisis, calm and clear-headed, kept the whole team from panicking.

Widen the cluster: other words for *practical* — cogent, attainable.

Review 3 — True or False *clusters 21–30*

Does each statement give the word's *correct* meaning? Mark T or F; answers follow.

1. **formidable** means "fear-inspiring due to size."
2. **impressionable** means "out of harmony."
3. **susceptible** means "easily influenced."
4. **impunity** means "something difficult to carry out."
5. **exoneration** means "the act of showing that someone is not guilty."
6. **onerous** means "out of harmony."
7. **subordinate** means "out-of-date or old-fashioned."
8. **feasible** means "to form an idea."
9. **dated** means "out-of-date or old-fashioned."
10. **exemption** means "freedom from doing something."
11. **speculate** means "to form a theory without any firm evidence."
12. **naive** means "not compromised."
13. **vanquish** means "to defeat and conquer, especially in a war."
14. **irreproachable** means "perfect; blameless."
15. **sound** means "to become outdated; to be replaced."
16. **ascertain** means "immunity from punishment for a wrongdoing."

Answers: **1.** T **2.** F **3.** T **4.** F **5.** T **6.** F **7.** F **8.** F **9.** T **10.** T **11.** T **12.** F **13.** T **14.** T **15.** F **16.** F.

Corrections (the false ones): **2** *impressionable* = easily affected; inexperienced; **4** *impunity* = immunity from punishment for a wrongdoing; **6** *onerous* = something difficult to carry out; **7** *subordinate* = of inferior power and importance; **8** *feasible* = capable of being done; **12** *naive* = unaffected and innocent; **15** *sound* = showing good judgment; **16** *ascertain* = to find out for certain.

31. The idea of *not practical*

- **impractical** (*adj.*) — not likely or wise to be carried out
  Wearing high heels on the muddy hiking trail proved impractical, since she kept sinking and stumbling with every step.
- **unreasonable** (*adj.*) — not subject to reason
  Demanding a full refund for a shirt worn and washed ten times seemed unreasonable to the store manager.
- **unsound** (*adj.*) — not logical; invalid
  The bridge's design was structurally unsound, its rusted beams unable to bear even a fraction of the promised weight.
- **inconsequential** (*adj.*) — illogical; not yielding effective consequences
  Compared to the factory's massive emissions, one family's decision to skip a single car trip felt inconsequential.

Widen the cluster: other words for *not practical* — inefficacious, negligible.

32. The idea of *not clearly seen*

- **inconspicuous** (*adj.*) — not easily noticeable
  Dressed in gray and seated in the back row, the detective remained inconspicuous, unnoticed by anyone in the crowded room.
- **subtle** (*adj.*) — not obvious
  Her disapproval was subtle, just a slight tightening of the lips, not the shouted objection everyone expected.
- **clandestine** (*adj.*) — secretive and hidden; hard to see
  The rebels met in a clandestine cellar, sneaking in one by one after midnight so no informer would spot them.
- **underground** (*adj.*) — conducted in secret
  Long before it hit the mainstream, the band built a loyal following through underground shows in basements and warehouses.

Widen the cluster: other words for *not clearly seen* — surreptitious, concealed.

33. The idea of *in practice*

- **empirical** (*adj.*) — based on experiment
  Rather than trust his gut feeling, the chemist insisted on empirical proof, gathered through dozens of repeated experiments.
- **data-driven** (*adj.*) — based on data or real information
  The marketing team abandoned hunches for a data-driven strategy, testing every ad against thousands of customer clicks before committing.
- **irrefutable** (*adj.*) — beyond any doubt
  The security footage offered irrefutable evidence of the theft, leaving the defendant's lawyer with no argument left to make.

Widen the cluster: other words for *in practice* — categorical, emphatic.

34. The idea of *never ending*

- **perennial** (*adj.*) — lasting for a long time; enduring
  Unlike the tulips that bloomed once and died, the lavender was perennial, returning to the garden every single spring.
- **everlasting** (*adj.*) — lasting forever
  The old oak seemed everlasting, its gnarled trunk having outlived five generations of the family that planted it.
- **perpetual** (*adj.*) — not ending or changing; continuing forever
  Trapped in perpetual twilight, the deep-sea cave never once saw a beam of sunlight reach its floor.
- **eternal** (*adj.*) — seeming to last and persist forever
  The lovers carved their initials into the tree, vowing an eternal devotion that would outlast even the ancient trunk.

Widen the cluster: other words for *never ending* — ceaseless, imperishable.

35. The idea of *without proof*

- **unfounded** (*adj.*) — having no empirical support
  Rumors that the water was poisoned turned out to be unfounded once the lab tests came back perfectly clean.
- **unwarranted** (*adj.*) — not justified or authorized
  The coach's harsh benching of the rookie after one missed shot struck the fans as unwarranted and overly severe.
- **baseless** (*adj.*) — not grounded in fact
  His accusation that she had cheated on the exam proved baseless once the security camera confirmed her seat was empty.

Widen the cluster: other words for *without proof* — ill-founded, idle.

36. The idea of *changing*

- **diversify** (*v.*) — to change or alter; to create variety
  To avoid losing everything in one crash, the investor chose to diversify, spreading her savings across stocks, bonds, and real estate.
- **fluctuate** (*v.*) — to change often
  Mountain temperatures fluctuate wildly, plunging below freezing at night after soaring past eighty degrees by noon.
- **permutation** (*n.*) — variation
  Every permutation of the three ingredients produced a slightly different flavor, from sweet-first to spicy-first to sour-first.

Widen the cluster: other words for *changing* — altering, permutating, undulating.

37. The idea of *unchanging*

- **unvarying** (*adj.*) — unchanging
  Day after day the prisoner ate the same unvarying meal of gray porridge, never a single ingredient changed.

- **uniform** (*adj.*) — same; alike
  Every brick in the wall was uniform, cut to the exact same size so none stood out from the rest.

- **homogenous** (*adj.*) — being of a similar kind or nature
  The suburb felt strangely homogenous, every house painted the same beige with identical lawns and matching mailboxes.

Widen the cluster: other words for *unchanging* — systematic, rigid.

38. The idea of *random*

- **haphazard** (*adj.*) — random; disorganized
  He tossed the papers into the box in a haphazard pile, with no folders, labels, or order of any kind.

- **arbitrary** (*adj.*) — based on random choice or personal preference
  The judge's arbitrary ruling seemed to rest on nothing but his own mood that morning, not on any actual law.

- **erratic** (*adj.*) — uneven; unpredictable in nature
  The old radio's reception was erratic, crisp one moment and drowned in static the next.

Widen the cluster: other words for *random* — volatile, desultory.

39. The idea of *without resolution*

- **irreconcilable** (*adj.*) — incapable of being solved
  Their views on the inheritance were irreconcilable, and no amount of mediation could bring the siblings to agreement.

- **uncompromising** (*adj.*) — unwilling to concede or make compromises; stubborn
  The coach was uncompromising about curfew, refusing to bend the rule even for the team's star player.

Widen the cluster: other words for *without resolution* — inflexible, unbending, adamant.

40. The idea of *produce*

- **yield** (*v.*) — to generate or produce
  The orchard's new irrigation system caused the trees to yield twice as much fruit as the previous year.

- **yield** (*v.*) — to generate or produce
  The orchard's new irrigation system caused the trees to yield twice as much fruit as the previous year.

- **accrue** (*v.*) — to grow by accumulation
  Interest on the unpaid loan continued to accrue, so the debt grew larger every month even though he made no new purchases.

Widen the cluster: other words for *produce* — amass, bring forth.

Review 4 — True or False *clusters 31–40*

Does each statement give the word's *correct* meaning? Mark T or F; answers follow.

1. **arbitrary** means "based on random choice or personal preference."
2. **uncompromising** means "having no empirical support."
3. **empirical** means "based on experiment."
4. **underground** means "not ending or changing; continuing forever."
5. **eternal** means "not subject to reason."
6. **perpetual** means "not ending or changing; continuing forever."
7. **irreconcilable** means "incapable of being solved."
8. **unfounded** means "having no empirical support."
9. **data-driven** means "based on data or real information."
10. **impractical** means "to grow by accumulation."
11. **yield** means "illogical; not yielding effective consequences."
12. **diversify** means "illogical; not yielding effective consequences."
13. **yield** means "not ending or changing; continuing forever."
14. **everlasting** means "incapable of being solved."
15. **haphazard** means "random; disorganized."
16. **subtle** means "not obvious."

Answers: **1.** T **2.** F **3.** T **4.** F **5.** F **6.** T **7.** T **8.** T **9.** T **10.** F **11.** F **12.** F **13.** F **14.** F **15.** T **16.** T.

Corrections (the false ones): **2** *uncompromising* = unwilling to concede or make compromises; stubborn; **4** *underground* = conducted in secret; **5** *eternal* = seeming to last and persist forever; **10** *impractical* = not likely or wise to be carried out; **11** *yield* = to generate or produce; **12** *diversify* = to change or alter; to create variety; **13** *yield* = to generate or produce; **14** *everlasting* = lasting forever.

41. The idea of *obstruct*

- **impede** (*v.*) — to stop, prevent, or delay progress
  Heavy fog impeded the rescue team's progress, forcing them to crawl forward at half their normal pace.
- **hinder** (*v.*) — to create obstacles that result in poor performance
  A sprained ankle hindered her performance in the final sprint, and she finished well behind the leaders.
- **thwart** (*v.*) — to prevent from accomplishing
  A sudden downpour thwarted their plans for an outdoor wedding, sending guests scrambling indoors.
- **inhibit** (*v.*) — to prevent
  Stage fright inhibited him from speaking clearly, so his rehearsed lines came out as a stammer.

Widen the cluster: other words for *obstruct* — hamper, deter.

42. The idea of *space*

- **celestial** (*adj.*) — related to the sky
  Ancient sailors read celestial bodies like stars and planets to navigate open water long before compasses existed.
- **interstellar** (*adj.*) — occurring between the stars
  The probe's interstellar journey would take it past the edge of the solar system and into the vast space between stars.
- **pseudo star** (*n.*) — not a genuine star
  Astronomers classified the object as a pseudo star, a dim, failed body that glowed faintly without ever igniting true nuclear fusion.
- **gravity** (*n.*) — the force that pulls toward the center of the Earth
  Drop a pen and gravity pulls it straight to the floor, the same invisible force that keeps the moon in orbit.

Widen the cluster: other words for *space* — stellar, extraterres-

trial.

43. The idea of *to overfill*

- **inundate** (*v.*) — to overwhelm or flood
  After the storm, the coastal town was inundated with water, its streets submerged under three feet of seawater.
- **glut** (*v.*) — to overfill or satisfy fully
  Cheap imports glutted the domestic market, leaving warehouses so overstocked that prices collapsed.
- **saturate** (*v.*) — to fill
  The sponge was so saturated with water that a single squeeze sent a stream pouring onto the counter.

Widen the cluster: other words for *to overfill* — deluge, swamp.

44. The idea of *mention*

- **broach** (*v.*) — to bring up a subject in conversation
  She waited until dessert to broach the subject of the overdue rent, easing gently into an awkward topic.
- **moot** (*v.*) — to raise a question
  The committee chair mooted the idea of a four-day workweek, inviting debate before any formal proposal was drafted.
- **advance** (*v.*) — to bring up an idea or argument
  The lawyer advanced a novel theory of the case, arguing that the contract had never been legally binding.

Widen the cluster: other words for *mention* — foster, plug.

45. The idea of *be understanding*

- **empathize** (*v.*) — to understand someone's feelings
  Having lost her own job the year before, she could easily empathize with his fear of the layoffs.
- **sympathize** (*v.*) — to share someone's feelings
  Friends gathered to sympathize with the grieving widow, sharing in her sorrow rather than merely acknowledging it.
- **compassionate** (*adj.*) — caring; understanding
  The compassionate nurse stayed past her shift, holding the frightened patient's hand until the anesthesia took hold.
- **relate** (*v.*) — to identify with
  Even readers who had never sailed could relate to the castaway's loneliness, having felt isolated themselves at some point.

Widen the cluster: other words for *be understanding* — solicitous, forbearing.

Review 5 — True or False *clusters 41–45*

Does each statement give the word's *correct* meaning? Mark T or F; answers follow.

1. **broach** means "to overfill or satisfy fully."
2. **relate** means "to identify with."
3. **thwart** means "to prevent from accomplishing."
4. **advance** means "to stop, prevent, or delay progress."
5. **inundate** means "to stop, prevent, or delay progress."
6. **pseudo star** means "not a genuine star."
7. **interstellar** means "occurring between the stars."
8. **celestial** means "to overwhelm or flood."
9. **glut** means "to share someone's feelings."
10. **impede** means "to stop, prevent, or delay progress."
11. **saturate** means "to fill."

12. **compassionate** means “to fill.”
13. **gravity** means “caring; understanding.”
14. **inhibit** means “to understand someone’s feelings.”
15. **hinder** means “to create obstacles that result in poor performance.”
16. **empathize** means “to understand someone’s feelings.”

Answers: **1.** F **2.** T **3.** T **4.** F **5.** F **6.** T **7.** T **8.** F **9.** F **10.** T **11.** T **12.** F **13.** F **14.** F **15.** T **16.** T.

Corrections (the false ones): **1** *broach* = to bring up a subject in conversation; **4** *advance* = to bring up an idea or argument; **5** *inundate* = to overwhelm or flood; **8** *celestial* = related to the sky; **9** *glut* = to overfill or satisfy fully; **12** *compassionate* = caring; understanding; **13** *gravity* = the force that pulls toward the center of the Earth; **14** *inhibit* = to prevent.

Part II

The Complete Word Bank

CHAPTER 2

Word Bank by Theme

Every word in this volume, grouped by the theme it was learned under. Use it as a quick reference and a self-test: cover the glosses and recall each definition.

SERIOUS

earnest (*adj.*)
serious and intentional

solemn (*adj.*)
serious, formal, and grave

RESPECTFUL

deferential (*adj.*)
showing respect toward others who are superior to you in any way

revere (*v.*)
to deeply respect and worship; to be in awe of

KIND

benevolent (*adj.*)
well-meaning and charitable

endearing (*adj.*)
adorable; inspiring love and affection

SPITEFUL

sinister (*adj.*)
bad or evil
malice (*n.*)
the desire to harm others; deep ill will
malignant (*adj.*)
deeply harmful; evil and spreading in its effect
malicious (*adj.*)
intended to do harm; deliberately spiteful
malevolent (*adj.*)
wishing evil or harm to others; ill-disposed

SINCERE

genuine (*adj.*)
true, real, or heartfelt
candid (*adj.*)
frank, honest, or straightforward
authentic (*adj.*)
traditional; undisturbed by novelty; based on facts; pure and honest
virtuous (*adj.*)
having or exhibiting morality; morally excellent, righteous

FAKE

hoax (*n.*)
deception of a malicious or humorous manner
disguise (*v.*)
to obscure the truth or appearance
deception (*n.*)
the act of deceiving
fabricate (*v.*)
to make up from thin air
complacent (*adj.*)
marked by a fake satisfaction or happiness with the current state of things

VAGUE

ambivalent (*adj.*)
the state of having conflicting feelings
ambiguous (*adj.*)
unclear or obscure
equivocal (*adj.*)
unclear; open to more than one interpretation
dubious (*adj.*)
arguable, questionable, or debatable
enigmatic (*adj.*)
difficult to interpret

COMPLAIN

denounce (*v.*)
to condemn; complain about publicly
lament (*v.*)
to mourn a person's death or complain about something unsatisfactory
condemn (*v.*)
to express utter and complete disapproval
deplore (*v.*)
[used in context example only; no standalone definition printed]

RECOLLECT

muse (*v.*)
to think about deeply
reflect (*v.*)
to think about carefully
reminisce (*v.*)
to indulge in the recollection of past events
nostalgic (*adj.*)
feeling warmly sentimental about the past

WORRY

apprehensive (*adj.*)
fearful that something bad might happen
restless (*adj.*)
perpetually worried about something; unable to mentally relax
agitated (*adj.*)
worried and nervous
queasy (*adj.*)
worried and nervous to the point of being nauseous; troubled

AGREE

concede (*v.*)
to reluctantly or unwillingly agree
condone (*v.*)
to allow something to continue happening
concur (*v.*)
to agree and be of the same opinion

FLOURISH

proliferate (*v.*)
to multiply and increase rapidly in number

ubiquitous (*adj.*)
appearing to be everywhere

lucrative (*adj.*)
profitable

MOURN

poignant (*adj.*)
evoking keen sadness

despondent (*adj.*)
sad or disheartened

dejected (*adj.*)
sad and low-spirited

OPPOSE

violate (*v.*)
to break; to disregard

defy (*v.*)
to go against; to refuse to obey

refute (*v.*)
to prove wrong

negate (*v.*)
to invalidate; nullify

MAKE LESS PERFECT

mar (*v.*)
to impair and therefore make less than perfect

disfigure (*v.*)
to spoil the appearance of

COME TO AN END

cease (*v.*)
to stop existing or stop doing

terminate (*v.*)
to interrupt

finite (*adj.*)
having an end or a final count

UNSTOPPABLE / UNPREVENTABLE

tenacious (*adj.*)
determined and committed
relentless (*adj.*)
inflexible and incessant in intensity
inexorable (*adj.*)
unstoppable or impossible to prevent
inevitable (*adj.*)
unavoidable

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

adversary (*n.*)
an opponent or enemy
rival (*n.*)
an opponent competing for the same goal
perpetrator (*n.*)
one carrying out an act of wrongdoing
antagonist (*n.*)
one who actively opposes the main figure, the protagonist
contender (*n.*)
a contestant or candidate

KNOW YOUR FRIENDS

ally (*n.*)
one that supports another in an ongoing effort
confidant (*n.*)
one you can trust and share secrets with
amiable (*adj.*)
friendly; displaying a positive and supportive attitude

DISLIKE

disdain (*n.*)
an intense dislike
contempt (*n.*)
a feeling of dislike for something you consider inferior
reproach (*v.*)
to express disapproval

ORIGINS

provenance (*n.*)
origin
genesis (*n.*)
the origin or mode of formation
inception (*n.*)
the starting point of existence
advent (*n.*)
an emergence or arrival of something

REQUESTS

implore (*v.*)
to beg
entreat (*v.*)
to ask earnestly
beseech (*v.*)
to ask with enthusiasm
decree (*v.*)
to order formally; to command
badger (*v.*)
to put pressure on someone by asking repeatedly
plea (*n.*)
a request from an authority

DESIRES

aspiration (*n.*)
a desire to achieve something
yearning (*n.*)
a feeling of intense desire for something usually out of reach
fervor (*n.*)
intense feelings of passion

NOT GUILTY

impunity (*n.*)
immunity from punishment for a wrongdoing
exoneration (*n.*)
the act of showing that someone is not guilty
exemption (*n.*)
freedom from doing something

SUBJECT TO INFLUENCE

susceptible (*adj.*)
easily influenced
naive (*adj.*)
unaffected and innocent
impressionable (*adj.*)
easily affected; inexperienced
vulnerable (*adj.*)
open to being affected emotionally or physically
malleable (*adj.*)
capable of being influenced

TOUGH TASKS

onerous (*adj.*)
something difficult to carry out
arduous (*adj.*)
difficult and tiring
formidable (*adj.*)
fear-inspiring due to size
hurdle (*n.*)
a light, upright frame placed on the ground for runners or horses to leap over during a race; obstacles and hardships

OUT-OF-DATE

obsolete (*adj.*)
no longer used
supersede (*v.*)
to become outdated; to be replaced
dated (*adj.*)
out-of-date or old-fashioned

DOMINATION

subjugate (*v.*)
to defeat or conquer
vanquish (*v.*)
to defeat and conquer, especially in a war
subordinate (*adj.*)
of inferior power and importance

BATTLE OF THE SEXES

suffrage (*n.*)
the right to vote in political elections
enfranchisement (*n.*)
granting of a right or privilege; becoming free from political subjugation
patriarchal (*adj.*)
regarding a social system in which men play the dominant role
domestic (*adj.*)
having to do with home or household affairs
dominion (*n.*)
dominance

OTHER HISTORY PASSAGE TERMS

abate (*v.*)
to become less strong; to subside
annexation (*n.*)
the act of taking control of a country or region, especially by force; the act of joining a larger mass so as to increase in size overall
station (*n.*)
position or rank
sovereignty (*n.*)
autonomy
entrenched (*adj.*)
deeply established
peculiar (*adj.*)
odd or weird
populist (*n.*)
someone or something siding with the majority of the population

CONSIDER THE EXPERIMENT

speculate (*v.*)
to form a theory without any firm evidence
consider (*v.*)
to think about carefully
consideration/reconsideration (*n.*)
careful thought over a period of time
evaluate (*v.*)
to form an idea
ascertain (*v.*)
to find out for certain

AGREEMENT

consensus (*n.*)
general agreement
consent (*n.*)
agreement to do something

doctrine/dogma (*n.*)
a set of beliefs usually proclaimed by an institution like a church or a political party

DISAGREEMENT

contention (*n.*)
a heated disagreement
misconception (*n.*)
a misunderstanding

impugn (*v.*)
to dispute validity
incongruous (*adj.*)
out of harmony

BEYOND ARGUMENT

irreproachable (*adj.*)
perfect; blameless
immaculate (*adj.*)
clean; neat; pure

uncontaminated (*adj.*)
not compromised
exemplary (*adj.*)
very good; serving as a model

PRACTICAL

pragmatic (*adj.*)
dealing with things in a sensible and realistic way
viable (*adj.*)
doable; sustainable; able to germinate or grow
feasible (*adj.*)
capable of being done
sound (*adj.*)
showing good judgment

NOT PRACTICAL

impractical (*adj.*)
not likely or wise to be carried out
unreasonable (*adj.*)
not subject to reason

unsound (*adj.*)
not logical; invalid
inconsequential (*adj.*)
illogical; not yielding effective consequences

CLEARLY SEEN

conspicuous (*adj.*)
obvious
flagrant (*adj.*)
clearly offensive
blatant (*adj.*)
completely obvious

substantial (*adj.*)
considerable importance or grand size
audacious (*adj.*)
bold; openly showing a desire to take risks

NOT CLEARLY SEEN

inconspicuous (*adj.*)
not easily noticeable
subtle (*adj.*)
not obvious

clandestine (*adj.*)
secretive and hidden; hard to see
underground (*adj.*)
conducted in secret

IN PRACTICE

empirical (*adj.*)
based on experiment
data-driven (*adj.*)
based on data or real information

irrefutable (*adj.*)
beyond any doubt

IN THEORY

hypothetical (*adj.*)
based on an idea or hypothesis
theoretical (*adj.*)
based on theory

contingent (*adj.*)
dependent on something else

NEVER ENDING

perennial (*adj.*)
lasting for a long time; enduring
everlasting (*adj.*)
lasting forever

perpetual (*adj.*)
not ending or changing; continuing forever
eternal (*adj.*)
seeming to last and persist forever

TEMPORARY

transient (*adj.*)
impermanent; lasting only a short time

ephemeral (*adj.*)
lasting a very short time
evanescent (*adj.*)
quickly leaving sight or memory

WITHOUT PROOF

unfounded (*adj.*)
having no empirical support
unwarranted (*adj.*)
not justified or authorized

baseless (*adj.*)
not grounded in fact

CHANGING

diversify (*v.*)
to change or alter; to create variety

fluctuate (*v.*)
to change often
permutation (*n.*)
variation

UNCHANGING

unvarying (*adj.*)
unchanging
uniform (*adj.*)
same; alike

homogenous (*adj.*)
being of a similar kind or nature

RANDOM

haphazard (*adj.*)
random; disorganized
arbitrary (*adj.*)
based on random choice or personal preference
erratic (*adj.*)
uneven; unpredictable in nature

WITHOUT RESOLUTION

irreconcilable (*adj.*)
incapable of being solved

uncompromising (*adj.*)
unwilling to concede or make compromises; stubborn

PRODUCE

yield (*v.*)
to generate or produce

accrue (*v.*)
to grow by accumulation

OBSTRUCT

impede (*v.*)
to stop, prevent, or delay progress
hinder (*v.*)
to create obstacles that result in poor performance

thwart (*v.*)
to prevent from accomplishing
inhibit (*v.*)
to prevent

HARMFUL

detrimental (*adj.*)
harmful
pernicious (*adj.*)
creating enormous harm, especially when done gradually or unnoticed
adverse (*adj.*)
unfavorable; hostile

SPACE TERMINOLOGY

celestial (*adj.*)
related to the sky
interstellar (*adj.*)
occurring between the stars

pseudo star (*n.*)
not a genuine star
gravity (*n.*)
the force that pulls toward the center of the Earth

OVERFILL

inundate (*v.*)
to overwhelm or flood
glut (*v.*)
to overfill or satisfy fully

saturate (*v.*)
to fill

MANAGEMENT

stewardship (*n.*)
leadership; management

conservancy (*n.*)
a public agency concerned with nature preservation

MENTION

broach (*v.*)
to bring up a subject in conversation

moot (*v.*)
to raise a question
advance (*v.*)
to bring up an idea or argument

BE UNDERSTANDING

empathize (*v.*)
to understand someone's feelings
sympathize (*v.*)
to share someone's feelings

compassionate (*adj.*)
caring; understanding
relate (*v.*)
to identify with

EXTRAORDINARY

phenomenon (*n.*)
a remarkable event or person
quirk (*n.*)
an extraordinary feature
paradox (*n.*)
a contradiction

BRAIN TERMINOLOGY

cognitive (*adj.*)
pertaining to the brain
cognition (*n.*)
thinking and other mental processes
neural (*adj.*)
related to the physical aspects of the brain and nervous system
neuron (*n.*)
a brain cell that transmits nerve impulses
synapse (*n.*)
a connection in the brain that allows a neuron to pass an electrical or chemical signal to other brain cells

DATA VOCABULARY

raw data (*n.*)
a collection of information not yet processed or organized
proxy (*n.*)
an agent or a representative
aggregate (*n.*)
a whole created by combining distinct parts
correlation (*n.*)
a connection between two or more things
causation (*n.*)
the initiation of a causal relationship between things

MONEY TERMINOLOGY

fiscal (*adj.*)
pertaining to money, taxes, and government revenue
prosperous (*adj.*)
wealthy; abundant
squanderer (*n.*)
a spender; someone who likes wasting money or resources
squander (*v.*)
to waste money or resources
affluent (*adj.*)
having a lot of money and wealth

ADDITIONAL WORDS FROM SCIENCE PASSAGES

compound (*n.*)
a mixture
remnant (*n.*)
a surviving trace
surge (*n.*)
a sudden, powerful movement
analogous (*adj.*)
similar or comparable in a limited way
rampant (*adj.*)
actively growing; in an extravagant fashion

COMMON HOUSEHOLD NOUNS USED AS VERBS

couch (*v.*)
to be expressed in a particular way — Usually, the verb couch is used to hide something from plain sight and make it less conspicuous. When you couch an issue, you express it obscurely and indirectly.
shelve (*v.*)
to decide not to proceed with a proposal or idea
handle (*v.*)
to overcome; to withstand
hamper (*v.*)
to get in the way
table (*v.*)
to put aside for future consideration

MOOD AND CHARACTER WORDS

air (*n.*)
demeanor or mood
nature (*n.*)
character; disposition
natural (*n.*)
a person for whom a skill is inherent or innate

MEDICAL TERMS

doctor (*v.*)
to alter or modify in order to deceive
prescribed (*adj.*)
given or ordered
plastic (*adj.*)
changeable; malleable
stomach (*v.*)
to approve of; to be able to enjoy

WORDS THAT MEAN PRETEND

affect (*v.*)
to pretend or simulate

embroider (*v.*)
to elaborate, embellish, or exaggerate

REAL ESTATE TERMS

facility (*n.*)
a talent or innate ability; aptitude

foundation (*n.*)
underpinnings; basis

store (*n.*)
a reserve kept for future use

in store (*idiom*)
coming in the future, about to happen

maintain (*v.*)
to remain unchanged

BANKING TERMS

account (*n.*)
a detailed explanation

bank on (*v.*)
to rely on

bank (*v.*)
to pile up high; to accumulate

LAW ENFORCEMENT TERMS

arrest (*v.*)
to put a stop to

commit (*v.*)
to promise to carry out in earnest

conviction (*n.*)
a strong belief

ELECTRICITY TERMS

plug (*n.*)
promoting an event or product

pull the plug (*v.*)
to discontinue; to put to an end

fuse (*v.*)
to merge to form something uniform

beam (*v.*)
to smile fully, from cheek to cheek

MONEY TERMS

coin (*v.*)
to invent

currency (*n.*)
acceptance of an idea

exchange (*n.*)
conversation

credit (*n.*)
praise

RESTAURANT TERMS

host (*n.*)
myriad

check (*v.*)
to control; to stop from proliferating

to check yourself (*v.*)
to stop yourself

reservations (*n.*)
doubts

reserve (*v.*)
to hold off; to postpone

COOKING TERMS

foil (*n.*)
a background that amplifies contrast

raw (*adj.*)
not yet organized

scale (*n.*)
a relative size, extent, or degree

grill (*v.*)
to question intensely

mint (*n.*)
a large amount of money

milk (*v.*)
to obtain in a dishonest way

GEOMETRY TERMS

draw (*v.*)
to attract
distant (*adj.*)
aloof; emotionally uninvolved

broad (*adj.*)
having variety; worldly
steep (*adj.*)
high; big; sudden

CHEMISTRY TERMS

matter (*n.*)
issue; affair; problem
magnitude (*n.*)
strength

sap (*v.*)
to drain or deplete
solvent (*adj.*)
able to pay all debts

MATH TERMS

value (*n.*)
a principle or belief
fair (*adj.*)
acceptable; appropriate

independent (*adj.*)
separate or distinct
term (*n.*)
the end of a particular period of time

PHYSICS TERMS

static (*adj.*)
unchanging or fixed

observe (*v.*)
to follow

GEOGRAPHY TERMS

state (*n.*)
a condition or stage in the physical being of something
harbor (*v.*)
to hold persistently in mind

flag (*v.*)
to lose energy; to tire
pine (*v.*)
to long for intensely and persistently

ARTISTIC TERMS

style (*v.*)
to cultivate a specific set of attributes
impression (*n.*)
an appearance
scrap (*v.*)
to eliminate or replace
sheer (*adj.*)
pure

SPORTS TERMS

train (*v.*)
to fixate on
track (*v.*)
to follow
bent (*n.*)
a strong liking or inclination
qualify (*v.*)
to provide more information or a greater degree of detail
unqualified (*adj.*)
absolute; utmost
weight (*n.*)
importance; significance

LEGAL TERMS

constitution (*n.*)
an individual's physical makeup
fine (*adj.*)
well-developed; exceptional
discriminating (*adj.*)
able to judge and discern
patent (*adj.*)
glaringly obvious

WORDS BEGINNING WITH RE-

represent (*v.*)
to constitute
relay/relate (*v.*)
to pass on information; to give an account of a story
regular (*adj.*)
even
reconcile (*v.*)
to bring together
realize (*v.*)
to achieve a goal

COMMON VERBS WITH DOUBLE MEANINGS

appreciate (*v.*)
to increase in value
appropriate (*v.*)
to set aside for a specific purpose
hobble (*v.*)
to prevent; to impede
release (*v.*)
to liberate
source (*v.*)
to obtain from a particular place
flush (*v.*)
to force something out into the open
temper (*v.*)
to soften the effect of

ACADEMIC TERMS

margin (*n.*)
an amount above the minimum required
suspend (*v.*)
to intentionally stop for a time; to defer
wax (*v.*)
to increase in size

YOGA TERMS

bind (*v.*)
to put under an obligation
core (*adj.*)
essential
tender (*v.*)
to offer up, usually something formal

CLOTHING TERMS

buckle (*v.*)
to bend and give way under pressure or strain
casual (*adj.*)
without much thought or care
fleece (*v.*)
to cheat or swindle

TERMS OF GRIEF

wake (*n.*)
aftermath
grief (*n.*)
annoyance

subdued (*adj.*)
unusually quiet; less active

COMMON ADJECTIVES WITH DOUBLE MEANINGS

becoming (*adj.*)
suitable; appropriate; (regarding clothing) attractive or flattering
critical (*adj.*)
essential or important

minute (*adj.*)
tiny
modest (*adj.*)
minor; insignificant; unexceptional
telling (*adj.*)
revealing

EASILY CONFUSED WORDS

sedulous (*adj.*)
hardworking and attentive
restive (*adj.*)
restless; agitated

peruse (*v.*)
to read carefully

HOT! WORDS

intimate (*adj.*)
very detailed; thorough
want (*n.*)
lack; deficiency
for want of
because of the lack of

wanting (*n.*)
lacking
passion (*n.*)
enthusiasm

TRANSPORTATION TERMS

pedestrian (*adj.*)
lacking wit and imagination
rail against (*v.*)
to criticize severely
ford (*v.*)
to cross a river at a shallow place

ACCEPT VS. EXCEPT / ACCESS VS. EXCESS / AFFECT VS. EFFECT

accept (*v.*)
to receive something; to deem something as suitable
except (*prep.*)
apart from
access (*n.*)
the right to enter
excess (*n.*)
beyond the necessary amount; overindulgence
effect (*n.*)
the result or consequence of (a cause or event)

ADHERE VS. ADHESIVE / ADHERE VS. COHERE / ADVERSE VS. AVERSE

adhere (*v.*)
to stick firmly
adhesive (*adj.*)
able to stick
cohere (*v.*)
to share a clear logical connection; to work well together
averse (*adj.*)
not wanting to do something

ADVICE VS. ADVISE / ASCENT VS. ACCENT / ASCENT VS. ASSENT

advice (*n.*)
a suggestion about a correct course of action
advise (*v.*)
to offer a suggestion
ascent (*n.*)
the process of rising or going upward
accent (*n.*)
a distinctive manner of expression, such as an English or German accent
assent (*n.*)
agreement or concurrence

AFFLICT VS. INFLICT / A LOT VS. ALLOT

afflict (*v.*)
to affect in an unpleasant way
inflict (*v.*)
to make someone suffer

a lot (*n.*)
a great deal
allot (*v.*)
to give or apportion as a share

ALLUDE VS. ELUDE / ALLUSION VS. ILLUSION

allude (*v.*)
to mention indirectly
elude (*v.*)
to evade or escape

allusion (*n.*)
an indirect hint or reference
illusion (*n.*)
a false idea or belief

AMONG VS. BETWEEN / ANECDOTE VS. ANTIDOTE

among (*prep.*)
dealing with a group or company of three or more
between (*prep.*)
referring to distinct subjects

anecdote (*n.*)
a short story
antidote (*n.*)
something that relieves or counteracts

ANYONE VS. ANY ONE / APPRAISE VS. APPRISE / ASSURE VS. INSURE VS. ENSURE

anyone (*pron.*)
anybody at all
any one (*adj.*)
any single member of a group (of either people or things)
appraise (*v.*)
to assess the value of

apprise (*v.*)
to inform
assure (*v.*)
to inform positively
ensure (*v.*)
to make sure; to make certain
insure (*v.*)
to protect financially

CENSOR VS. CENSURE / CITE VS. SITE

censor (***v.***)
to remove offensive or inappropriate parts

censure (***v.***)
to express severe disapproval; to punish

cite (***v.***)
to quote evidence to support an argument

site (***n.***)
a location

CLIMACTIC VS. CLIMATIC / COLLABORATE VS. CORROBORATE

climactic (***adj.***)
related to a climax; the high point or most exciting part

climatic (***adj.***)
related to the climate

collaborate (***v.***)
to work with; to work together

corroborate (***v.***)
to confirm; to make certain

COMPLIMENT VS. COMPLEMENT / CONCEDE VS. CONFESS

compliment (***v.***)
to express esteem, respect, affection, or admiration

complement (***v.***)
to complete or enhance by adding something

confess (***v.***)
to acknowledge

DECEASED VS. DISEASED / DESCENT VS. DISSENT

deceased (***adj.***)
dead; no longer living

diseased (***adj.***)
affected by a disease

descent (***n.***)
the action of coming down

dissent (***n.***)
difference of opinion

DIFFUSE VS. DEFUSE / DISCREET VS. DISCRETE

defuse (*v.*)
to make a situation less dangerous or tense
diffuse (*v.*)
to spread or distribute over a large area
discreet (*adj.*)
careful; reserved; not easily noticed
discrete (*adj.*)
separate and distinct

ELICIT VS. ILLICIT / EMINENT VS. IMMINENT / ENLARGE VS. EXACERBATE

elicit (*v.*)
to get or draw out (information or a reaction)
illicit (*adj.*)
not allowed by law
eminent (*adj.*)
famous and respected
imminent (*adj.*)
likely to happen very soon
enlarge (*v.*)
to make something bigger
exacerbate (*v.*)
to make something worse; to aggravate

EMIGRATE VS. IMMIGRATE / EXPRESSIVE VS. DRAMATIC

emigrate (*v.*)
to permanently move away from your home country to another
immigrate (*v.*)
to enter another country to live permanently
expressive (*adj.*)
effectively communicating thoughts and feelings
dramatic (*adj.*)
sudden; substantial

FAIR VS. FARE / FEWER VS. LESS / FORMER VS. LATTER

fare (*v.*)
to get along; to succeed
fewer (*pron.*)
not as many
less (*adj.*)
not as much
former (*adj.*)
refers to the first of two persons or

things

latter (*adj.*)
refers to the second of two persons or things

FARTHER VS. FURTHER / FORMALLY VS. FORMERLY

farther (*adv.*)
at a great distance
further (*v.*)
to develop or make successful

formally (*adj.*)
officially; in refined manner
formerly (*adv.*)
previously

FORBIDDING VS. FOREBODING / FOREGOING VS. FORGOING / FOREWORD VS. FORWARD

forbidding (*adj.*)
grim; menacing
foreboding (*n.*)
fearful apprehension
foregoing (*adj.*)
going or coming before something else

forgoing (*v.*)
to give up or do without
foreword (*n.*)
an introductory section at the beginning of a book
forward (*directional adv.*)
toward what is ahead

IMPLICIT VS. COMPLICIT VS. EXPLICIT / INGENIOUS VS. INGENUOUS

implicit (*adj.*)
suggested without being directly expressed
complicit (*adj.*)
involved in illegal activity
explicit (*adj.*)
clear and easy to understand

ingenious (*adj.*)
very creative and inventive
ingenuous (*adj.*)
honest; innocent; willing to trust people

IMPLY VS. INFER / INTO VS. IN TO / IT'S VS. ITS

imply (*v.*)
to suggest without saying directly
infer (*v.*)
to deduce; to decide based on available information
into (*prep.*)
position in or inside something
in to (*prep. phrase*)
to enter or to do something
it's (*contraction*)
it is; it has
its (*possessive pron.*)
of or relating to itself as possessor

LADDER VS. LATTER / LIFE'S VS. LIVES / LOOSE VS. LOSE VS. LOOSEN

ladder (*n.*)
a device with rungs that can be climbed to reach high places
life's (*possessive noun*)
belonging to life
lives (*plural noun*)
more than one life
loose (*adj.*)
not firmly fixed; free from restraint
lose (*v.*)
to miss from one's possession; to fail to win; to fail to find something
loosen (*v.*)
to make less firm

LAID VS. LAY VS. LIE / LOATH VS. LOATHE

laid (*v.*)
to place in a resting position
lay (*v.*)
to put something down
lie (*v.*)
to recline; to be in a flat position while resting
loath (*adj.*)
reluctant; not eager
loathe (*v.*)
to feel strong dislike or disgust

PASSED VS. PAST / PHENOMENON VS. PHENOMENA / PLAIN VS. PLANE

passed (*v.*)
to go by
past (*adv.*)
from one side to the other
phenomena (*plural noun*)
a number of significant facts or events
plain (*adj.*)
easily seen
plane (*adj.*)
completely flat

PERSECUTE VS. PROSECUTE / PRECEDE VS. PROCEED / PRINCIPAL VS. PRINCIPLE

persecute (*v.*)
to treat in a cruel and unfair way, especially based on race, religion, or political beliefs
prosecute (*v.*)
to officially charge someone in court of committing a crime or violating a law
precede (*v.*)
to happen or come before
proceed (*v.*)
to continue after a pause or interruption
principal (*n.*)
main; most important of all
principle (*n.*)
a moral rule or strong belief

PEAK VS. PEEK VS. PIQUE

peak (*n.*)
a pointed extremity
peek (*v.*)
to glance quickly
pique (*v.*)
to provoke or arouse

SORE VS. SOAR / STATIONARY VS. STATIONERY / SUMMERY VS. SUMMARY

sore (*adj.*)
painful; aching
soar (*v.*)
to rise quickly
stationery (*n.*)
materials used for writing on
stationary (*adj.*)
fixed; immobile; not changing in condition

summery (*adj.*)
resembling or suitable for summer

summary (*n.*)
a short statement containing main points

THAN VS. THEN / THERE VS. THEIR VS. THEY'RE

than (*conj.*)
used to introduce the second part of a comparison

then (*adv.*)
at that time; next in time or order; additionally; in that case; accordingly

there (*adv.*)
at that place

their (*possessive adj.*)
belongs to them

they're (*contraction*)
they are

THROUGH VS. THREW / THOROUGH VS. THOUGH

through (*prep.*)
into or out of; by means of; finished

threw (*v.*)
to throw

thorough (*adj.*)
careful or complete

though (*conj.*)
however; nevertheless

VAIN VS. VEIN

vain (*adj.*)
feeling a high level of self-importance; conceited

vein (*n.*)
a tubular vessel that transports blood through the body

WELL VS. GOOD / WARY VS. WEARY

well (*adv.*)
in a good manner

good (*adj.*)
favorable

wary (*adj.*)
cautious

weary (*adj.*)
very tired

WHERE VS. WERE VS. WEAR / WEATHER VS. WHETHER

where (***adv./conj./pron.***)
relating to directions: in, at, or to what place

were (***v.***)
the past tense of to be

wear (***v.***)
to relate either to clothing or fatigue

weather (***n.***)
a condition of the atmosphere

whether (***conj.***)
part of the paired conjunction whether . . . or

WHO VS. WHOM / WHOSE VS. WHO'S

who (***pron.***)
points to the person completing a sentence's action

whom (***pron.***)
the object of a sentence; the person receiving an action

whose (***possessive pron.***)
used when asking (or telling) whom something belongs to

who's (***contraction***)
contraction of who is

SIMILARLY / LIKEWISE / BY THE SAME TOKEN

similarly (***adv.***)
continuing the argument by making a comparison to something alike

likewise (***adv.***)
in addition, also, or equally

by the same token (***idiom***)
in a similar fashion; for the same reason

IN ADDITION / ALSO / MOREOVER / FURTHERMORE / BESIDES

in addition (***transition***)
no separate dictionary-style definition printed; usage illustrated in intro/examples

moreover (***transition***)
no separate dictionary-style definition printed; usage illustrated in examples

furthermore (*transition*)
no separate dictionary-style definition printed; usage illustrated in examples
also (*transition*)
listed in lesson title; no separate definition or example sentence printed
besides (*transition*)
listed in lesson title; no separate definition or example sentence printed

SUBSEQUENTLY / NEXT / THEN / ULTIMATELY / FINALLY

subsequently (*adv.*)
at a later time
next (*adv.*)
at that time; at the time in question
ultimately (*adv.*)
finally, especially after a long and often complicated series of events
finally
listed in lesson title; no separate definition or example sentence visible on the legible portion of this page

IN FACT / INDEED / IN PARTICULAR

in fact (*n.*)
in truth. This discourse marker adds more detailed information to what has just been said.
indeed (*adv.*)
as expected; as it happened; undeniably
in particular (*n.*)
in distinction. Instead of simply adding a parallel idea, in particular builds on and substantiates the previous statement.

CONVERSELY / IN CONTRAST / ON THE OTHER HAND

conversely (*adv.*)
in an opposite way
in contrast (*idiom*)
in a different way. In contrast introduces an opposite point or idea.
on the other hand (*idiom*)
presents opposing factors

DESPITE / NONETHELESS / NEVERTHELESS / NOTWITHSTANDING

despite (*adv.*)
not affected by; in spite of
nonetheless (*adv.*)
nevertheless
nevertheless (*adv.*)
in spite of; however
notwithstanding (*adv.*)
nevertheless; nonetheless. Notwithstanding has a more formal connotation than nevertheless and nonetheless.

HOWEVER / ALTHOUGH

however (*adv.*)
used to add a contradicting idea, similar to the conjunction but. However is one of the most frequently used prepositions on the SAT and in the English language.
although (*adv.*)
in spite of the fact. However is usually followed by a main clause or idea, while the adverb although functions as a modifier.

ALTERNATIVELY / INSTEAD

alternatively (*adv.*)
signals a presentation of a different choice
instead (*adv.*)
in place of something. Instead is used to introduce something in substitute of something else. It has been a wrong answer more frequently than it has been a right answer on the SAT—very seldom is it the correct choice.

MEANWHILE / WHEREAS / RATHER / STILL

meanwhile (*adv.*)
on the other hand. This adverb is used to introduce a contradicting idea or theory that happened at the same time.
whereas (*adv.*)
to introduce a comparison, usually to a contradicting idea
rather (*adv.*)
to introduce an idea that is

different or opposite to the one stated previously

still (*adv.*)
to introduce something counter to what was stated. Still is often used with despite.

YET / BUT

yet (*adv.*)
in spite of; nevertheless
but (*conj.*)
to introduce a statement that adds to a previous statement while contrasting with it in some way. But is often used to connect two statements with opposite meanings.

ACCORDINGLY / AS A RESULT / AS SUCH

accordingly (*adv.*)
indicates that the following thought is logically appropriate to a given circumstance

as a result (*idiom*)
indicates a result of a previous statement
as such (*adv.*)
as that; therefore; thus

CONSEQUENTLY / HENCE / TO THESE ENDS

consequently (*adv.*)
as a result
hence (*adv.*)
as a consequence; for this reason

to these ends (*n.*)
for that reason

THEREBY / THUS / THEREFORE

thereby (*adv.*)
as a result of
thus (*adv.*)
as a result of; because of something just mentioned
therefore (*adv.*)
introduces the logical result of something just stated

SINCE / SO / SO THAT / BECAUSE

since (*conjugation*)
because; as
so (*conjugation*)
showing the result of something
so that (*conjugation*)
show the result or purpose of something
because (*conjugation*)
demonstrate the reason for something

IDIOMS WITH ABOUT

be curious about (—)
to express interest
be particular about (—)
fussy; careful
bring about (—)
to make happen; to cause
come about (—)
to happen
complain about (—)
to say that something annoys you
set about (—)
to start doing
think about (—)
to contemplate
wonder about (—)
to consider or think about with curiosity and doubt
worry about (—)
to think and anticipate possible negative outcomes

IDIOMS WITH FROM

across from (*idiom*)
opposite
apparent from (*idiom*)
easy to see and understand
defend from/against (*idiom*)
to protect
differ from (*idiom*)
to be different
protect from (*idiom*)
to shield from harm
refrain from (*idiom*)
to stop yourself

IDIOMS WITH BY

accompanied by (*idiom*)
taken place or appeared in association with
confused by (*idiom*)
made unable to see clearly; thrown off by
encouraged by (*idiom*)
inspired
obscured by (*idiom*)
made difficult to see and understand
outraged by (*idiom*)
to be shocked or angry
stunned by (*idiom*)
to be very surprised or shocked
perplexed by (*idiom*)
to be confused
puzzled by (*idiom*)
uncertain; unable to understand

IDIOMS WITH FOR

celebrated for (*idiom*)
admired for
compensate for (*idiom*)
to make up for
endure for (*idiom*)
to remain in existence; to last
famous for (*idiom*)
known for; celebrated for
named for/after (*idiom*)
given a name for
necessary for (*idiom*)
needed; essential; required
recognized for (*idiom*)
acknowledged
strive for (*idiom*)
to attempt to reach

IDIOMS WITH IN

adept in (*idiom*)
skilled at
confident in (*idiom*)
to feel secure in ability
engage in (*idiom*)
to get involved with
interested in (*idiom*)
genuinely curious about
involved in (*idiom*)
to be a part of
succeed in (*idiom*)
to be accomplished at
take pride in (*idiom*)
to be proud of; to take care of

IDIOMS WITH OF

a native of (*idiom*)
a person born to a particular place
appreciation of (*idiom*)
gratitude and admiration for; increase in value
command of (*idiom*)
knowledge of; aptitude for use
composed of (*idiom*)
made of, consists of
devoid of (*idiom*)
lacking something
incapable of (*idiom*)
unable to do something
mastery of (*idiom*)
deep knowledge or skill

IDIOMS WITH ON

based on (*idiom*)
formed using a particular foundation
depend on (*idiom*)
to be affected by something
draw on (*idiom*)
to use as a supply
dwell on (*idiom*)
to ruminate; to think about for a long time
focus on (*idiom*)
to pay attention to; to concentrate on
insist on (*idiom*)
to demand something
reflect on (*idiom*)
to think about deeply
rely on (*idiom*)
to depend on

IDIOMS USING WITH

contrast with (*idiom*)
a difference clearly seen
correlate with (*idiom*)
to have a mutual or reciprocal relationship
identify with (*idiom*)
to share the identity of
consistent/inconsistent with (*idiom*)
compatible or incompatible with
preoccupied with (*idiom*)
lost in thought about
sympathize with (*idiom*)
to share a sentiment with
unfamiliar/familiar with (*idiom*)
uninformed or informed about

IDIOMS WITH TO

manage to (*idiom*)
to find a way to
offer to (*idiom*)
to propose to
prepare to (*idiom*)
to get ready to
promise to (*idiom*)
to make a promise
refuse to (*idiom*)
to decline to
reluctant to (*idiom*)
to be unwilling to
strive to (*idiom*)
to have a strong desire to

IDIOMS USING OTHER PREPOSITIONS

in itself (*idiom*)
separate from others; on its own
power over (*idiom*)
control; the right of the last word
enter into (*idiom*)
to come; to gain admission into a group
insight into (*idiom*)
the result of understanding something deeply
biased toward (*idiom*)
favorable to
have a tendency toward (*idiom*)
to have an inclination for
recognized as (*idiom*)
acknowledgment of a particular role, status, position, event, etc.

Part III

Practice & Answer Key

CHAPTER 3

Words-in-Context Practice

For each item, decide the meaning the sentence builds, predict a word, then choose the option that matches most precisely. Answers and the trap each wrong choice represents follow at the end of the chapter.

Practice Set 1

1. *Though her classmates treated the fundraiser as a joke, Maria's effort to organize every detail showed she took the cause seriously.*

   (A) flippant
   (B) obsessive
   (C) eager
   (D) earnest

2. *The judge's _____ expression, devoid of any hint of levity, signaled that today's sentencing would be no ordinary courtroom proceeding.*

   (A) gloomy
   (B) stern
   (C) cheerful
   (D) solemn

3. *New interns often adopt a _____ tone with senior partners, nodding along and rarely voicing disagreement in meetings.*

   (A) arrogant
   (B) obsequious

(C) deferential
(D) timid

4. *Villagers still _____ the old healer, bowing their heads whenever she passes and naming their children after her.*

(A) envy
(B) notice
(C) tolerate
(D) revere

5. *The anonymous donor's _____ gift covered tuition for a dozen students who otherwise could not have afforded it.*

(A) calculating
(B) lavish
(C) benevolent
(D) indulgent

6. *Despite his clumsy attempts at humor, the new coworker had an quality that made everyone want to include him.*

(A) irritating
(B) flattering
(C) endearing
(D) awkward

7. *A _____ silence fell over the house the moment the lights flickered, as though something malevolent were watching from the dark.*

(A) pleasant
(B) sinister
(C) chaotic
(D) mysterious

8. *The prosecutor argued that the vandalism sprang not from mere carelessness but from deliberate _____ toward the shop's owner.*

(A) ambition
(B) carelessness

(C) annoyance
(D) malice

9. *What began as a small, contained rumor grew into a _____ force within the office, quietly destroying reputations and turning colleagues against one another.*

(A) aggressive
(B) chronic
(C) harmless
(D) malignant

10. *The prank crossed a line when it stopped being playful and became , designed solely to humiliate a classmate in front of the whole school.*

(A) accidental
(B) ambitious
(C) malicious
(D) teasing

11. *Behind his polite smile lurked a _____ streak; coworkers who crossed him found their projects mysteriously sabotaged.*

(A) malevolent
(B) competitive
(C) moody
(D) friendly

12. *Unlike the scripted apologies from PR teams, the coach's _____ regret was clear in his shaking voice and refusal to make excuses.*

(A) rehearsed
(B) adequate
(C) genuine
(D) passionate

Practice Set 2

1. *Unlike the boundless expanse of space that captivated the astronomer, the water supply on the small island was strictly _____, forcing residents to ration every drop.*

   (A) scarce
   (B) finite
   (C) infinite
   (D) definite

2. *Despite failing the bar exam three times, the _____ law student studied even harder before her fourth attempt instead of giving up.*

   (A) tenacious
   (B) diligent
   (C) stubborn
   (D) indifferent

3. *The coach's _____ criticism never let up for a moment, continuing without pause through every practice, every meal, and every bus ride home.*

   (A) relentless
   (B) severe
   (C) sporadic
   (D) frequent

4. *No treaty, no protest, and no plea could halt the army's _____ advance toward the capital.*

   (A) steady
   (B) faltering
   (C) aggressive
   (D) inexorable

5. *Once the dam's cracks widened past repair, engineers agreed that its collapse was _____, only a matter of when, not if.*

   (A) imminent

(B) avoidable
(C) likely
(D) inevitable

6. *The senator refused to shake hands with the man who had spent a decade blocking every bill she proposed, glaring instead at her longtime* _____.

(A) ally
(B) adversary
(C) critic
(D) opposition

7. *Both bakeries, which opened on the same block in the same month, watched each other's window displays and undercut each other's prices to win the very same customers, each having become the other's fiercest* _____.

(A) adversary
(B) match
(C) rival
(D) partner

8. *Detectives traced the fingerprints on the shattered window to the actual* _____ *of the burglary, not merely a bystander who happened to be nearby.*

(A) suspect
(B) victim
(C) perpetrator
(D) witness

9. *In the novel's final chapters, the mysterious figure who spent three hundred pages sabotaging the hero's every plan was revealed to be the story's true* _____.

(A) protagonist
(B) antagonist
(C) narrator
(D) villain

10. *After winning six straight matches, the young boxer was no longer an underdog but a legitimate _____ for the championship belt.*

    (A) underdog
    (B) champion
    (C) contender
    (D) veteran

11. *When every other senator abandoned the bill, only she stood beside him on the floor, his sole remaining _____ in a chamber full of opponents.*

    (A) sponsor
    (B) acquaintance
    (C) ally
    (D) opponent

12. *She told no one else about her diagnosis, but she confided every fear to her childhood friend, the one _____ she trusted never to repeat a word.*

    (A) gossip
    (B) companion
    (C) confidant
    (D) counselor

Practice Set 3

1. *Though the fledgling nation controlled little beyond its capital, its rulers spoke as if they held _____ over the entire continent.*

    (A) tyranny
    (B) deference
    (C) dominion
    (D) influence

2. *The storm raged for three days before finally beginning to _____, its winds dropping from ninety miles per hour to a gentle breeze.*

(A) abate
(B) intensify
(C) collapse
(D) shift

3. *Diplomats condemned the _____ as an illegal seizure of territory, noting that the region's residents had never voted to join the neighboring empire.*

(A) negotiation
(B) federation
(C) annexation
(D) liberation

4. *Born into a family of modest means, she rose through diligence alone to a _____ few had imagined, eventually advising the very ministers who had once ignored her.*

(A) station
(B) obscurity
(C) location
(D) destination

5. *The treaty guaranteed the island nation full _____, meaning no foreign power could dictate its laws or station troops on its soil without consent.*

(A) sovereignty
(B) dependency
(C) jurisdiction
(D) prosperity

6. *Despite decades of reform efforts, the corruption remained so _____ within the ministry that new officials simply adopted the same old habits within weeks of taking office.*

(A) suspected
(B) noticeable
(C) entrenched

(D) fleeting

7. *The old lighthouse keeper had a _____ habit of greeting every ship by name, even those he had never seen before.*

(A) endearing
(B) peculiar
(C) foreign
(D) routine

8. *Critics dismissed him as a mere _____, arguing that his promises to lower taxes and expand town meetings were designed only to win over the crowd rather than reflect careful policy.*

(A) politician
(B) populist
(C) spokesperson
(D) technocrat

9. *With no data yet released, reporters could only _____ about the cause of the outage, offering guesses ranging from a software bug to a cyberattack.*

(A) investigate
(B) confirm
(C) speculate
(D) report

10. *Before signing the contract, she took a full week to _____ every clause, weighing the risks against the potential rewards.*

(A) memorize
(B) consider
(C) sign
(D) skim

11. *After months of _____, the committee finally reversed its earlier decision, having weighed new evidence from every angle.*

(A) announcement

(B) negligence
(C) debate
(D) consideration

12. *The judges were asked to _____ each dish on presentation, flavor, and originality before assigning a final score.*

(A) taste
(B) prepare
(C) evaluate
(D) ignore

Practice Set 4

1. *Though the tent city seemed like a fully functioning town, aid workers reminded new arrivals that the settlement was only _____: within a few months the camp would be dismantled and the families relocated.*

(A) permanent
(B) transient
(C) portable
(D) fluid

2. *Critics dismissed the viral dance trend as _____, certain that within a week no one would remember it had ever existed.*

(A) notorious
(B) obscure
(C) ephemeral
(D) enduring

3. *The soap bubble held its rainbow shimmer for only an instant before popping, an _____ flash of color that vanished as soon as the eye caught it.*

(A) vivid
(B) evanescent
(C) translucent
(D) indelible

4. *The scientist refused to publish the claim, noting that it was entirely : no experiment, data set, or peer-reviewed study had ever supported it.*

   (A) controversial
   (B) verified
   (C) unclear
   (D) unfounded

5. *The coach's ejection from the game struck most fans as _____, since the referee could point to no rule the coach had actually broken.*

   (A) unwarranted
   (B) unexpected
   (C) unlicensed
   (D) justified

6. *The rumor spread through the office for days, yet when anyone traced it back, there was no email, memo, or witness behind it — the story was completely _____.*

   (A) exaggerated
   (B) harmless
   (C) baseless
   (D) documented

7. *Worried that a single crop could be wiped out by one bad season, the farmer began to _____ the fields, planting corn, soybeans, and wheat side by side instead of relying on one crop alone.*

   (A) convert
   (B) diversify
   (C) standardize
   (D) expand

8. *Because the region's weather could swing from sweltering to freezing within the same week, farmers learned to expect that temperatures would _____ rather than settle into a predictable pattern.*

   (A) shift

(B) deteriorate
(C) fluctuate
(D) stabilize

9. *The chef tried a dozen _____ of the same three ingredients—swapping proportions and cooking times—before settling on the version that tasted best.*

(A) portion
(B) permutation
(C) repetition
(D) duplicate

10. *Visitors found the desert monastery's schedule almost hypnotic: the same prayers at the same hours, day after day, in a routine that was utterly _____.*

(A) quiet
(B) unvarying
(C) fixed
(D) erratic

11. *From the highway, the rows of factory-built houses looked _____, each one identical in color, size, and layout down to the placement of the mailbox.*

(A) uniform
(B) orderly
(C) varied
(D) monotonous

12. *Unlike the sprawling, multiethnic capital, the small mountain village was remarkably _____: nearly every family shared the same language, customs, and ancestry.*

(A) isolated
(B) homogenous
(C) diverse
(D) concentrated

Practice Set 5

1. *Unable to attend the shareholders' meeting in person, the retiring CEO appointed his chief financial officer as his _____, empowering her to cast his vote exactly as he would have.*

   (A) witness
   (B) puppet
   (C) proxy
   (D) opponent

2. *Rather than report each store's sales separately, the company published the _____, a single figure formed by adding every branch's numbers together.*

   (A) fragment
   (B) surplus
   (C) estimate
   (D) aggregate

3. *The researchers noted a _____ between ice cream sales and drowning rates, though they were careful to add that neither trend actually causes the other.*

   (A) correlation
   (B) disparity
   (C) pattern
   (D) coincidence

4. *The professor warned that showing two trends move together is not the same as proving _____ — that one event actually brings about the other.*

   (A) correlation
   (B) coincidence
   (C) prevention
   (D) causation

5. *The senator's speech focused entirely on _____ policy, covering federal tax rates and how government revenue should be collected and spent.*

(A) generous
(B) fiscal
(C) physical
(D) social

6. *After the harvest tripled and the marketplace overflowed with goods, the once-struggling village became remarkably* _____.

(A) barren
(B) stingy
(C) crowded
(D) prosperous

7. *His grandmother called him a* _____ *after watching him blow his entire paycheck on lottery tickets within a single afternoon.*

(A) philanthropist
(B) investor
(C) miser
(D) squanderer

8. *Instead of saving any of his inheritance, he chose to* _____ *it during a single reckless weekend at the casino.*

(A) spend
(B) donate
(C) invest
(D) squander

9. *Their new neighborhood, lined with mansions and luxury cars, was clearly an* _____ *one.*

(A) modest
(B) affluent
(C) eccentric
(D) crowded

10. *The chemist combined the two pure elements to create an entirely new , one whose properties differed from either starting substance.*

(A) compound
(B) compartment
(C) remainder
(D) extract

11. *Only a single crumbling wall remained standing amid the ruins, a lonely _____ of the once-great fortress.*

(A) blueprint
(B) remnant
(C) monument
(D) replica

12. *When the dam broke, a _____ of water flooded the valley within minutes, overwhelming everything in its path.*

(A) trickle
(B) current
(C) surge
(D) drought

Practice Set 6

1. *The committee decided to _____ its final decision until all the survey data had arrived, unwilling to commit prematurely.*

(A) finalize
(B) consider
(C) reserve
(D) check

2. *In the play, the boastful, reckless sidekick serves as a _____ to the cautious hero, his impulsiveness making her restraint all the more striking.*

(A) echo
(B) foil
(C) shadow
(D) mirror

3. *The interview transcripts were still _____ — a jumble of half-formed thoughts that the editor would need to arrange into a coherent narrative before publication.*

   (A) raw
   (B) sparse
   (C) polished
   (D) lengthy

4. *Investors were unprepared for the _____ of the losses; what began as a minor shortfall had grown into a crisis touching every branch of the company.*

   (A) modesty
   (B) speed
   (C) balance
   (D) scale

5. *After the mix-up at the border, security agents proceeded to _____ the traveler for nearly an hour, demanding explanations for every stamp in his passport.*

   (A) ask
   (B) consult
   (C) reassure
   (D) grill

6. *By flipping vintage sneakers online, the teenager quietly made a , far more than her part-time job ever paid.*

   (A) pittance
   (B) profit
   (C) mint
   (D) name

7. *The contractor was accused of trying to _____ the elderly homeowner, padding the invoice with repairs that were never actually performed.*

   (A) compensate
   (B) charge

(C) pursue
(D) milk

8. *The half-price opening sale was designed to _____ crowds who might otherwise never have set foot in the shop.*

(A) draw
(B) repel
(C) summon
(D) inform

9. *Even at her own birthday party, she seemed strangely _____, answering questions in monosyllables and avoiding anyone's eyes.*

(A) shy
(B) distant
(C) critical
(D) affectionate

10. *Having lived on four continents and worked in a dozen industries, he brought a _____ perspective to problems that his more sheltered colleagues tended to see narrowly.*

(A) loud
(B) technical
(C) broad
(D) narrow

11. *Shoppers balked at the _____ price increase, which nearly doubled the cost of the medication overnight.*

(A) noticeable
(B) rugged
(C) gradual
(D) steep

12. *The dispute over the property line was a delicate _____ that the neighbors preferred to settle quietly rather than drag into court.*

(A) substance

(B) triumph
(C) argument
(D) matter

Practice Set 7

1. *The engineers built the bridge to support far more weight than expected, giving it a wide _____ that let it withstand unusually heavy traffic without strain.*

   (A) margin
   (B) deficit
   (C) border
   (D) excess

2. *Rather than canceling the tournament outright, the organizers decided to _____ play until the storm passed, planning to resume as soon as conditions improved.*

   (A) abandon
   (B) suspend
   (C) cancel
   (D) interrupt

3. *As the harvest season approached, the moon appeared to _____ each night, growing from a thin crescent into a full, luminous circle.*

   (A) polish
   (B) wane
   (C) expand
   (D) wax

4. *By signing the contract, both companies agreed to terms that would them to deliver the shipment on schedule, regardless of rising costs.*

   (A) attach
   (B) connect
   (C) release
   (D) bind

5. *While elective courses vary widely, the _____ requirements-math, science, and English-remain the same for every student in the district.*

   (A) general
   (B) core
   (C) optional
   (D) trivial

6. *After the scandal became public, the embattled minister chose to her resignation rather than wait to be dismissed.*

   (A) surrender
   (B) give
   (C) withdraw
   (D) tender

7. *Under the weight of the record snowfall, the old barn roof began to , its beams groaning until they finally cracked.*

   (A) shake
   (B) strengthen
   (C) buckle
   (D) fasten

8. *He gave the report only a _____ glance before signing off on it, missing the error that a careful review would have caught.*

   (A) thorough
   (B) casual
   (C) informal
   (D) quick

9. *The con artist would _____ elderly homeowners by charging outrageous prices for repairs their roofs never needed.*

   (A) shear
   (B) fleece
   (C) overcharge
   (D) reimburse

10. *In the _____ of the factory closure, dozens of small businesses that depended on its workers also shut their doors.*

    (A) anticipation
    (B) vigil
    (C) wake
    (D) period

11. *His younger brother constantly gave him _____ about his outdated phone, teasing him every chance he got.*

    (A) praise
    (B) sorrow
    (C) trouble
    (D) grief

12. *Normally the loudest person at any gathering, she seemed strangely at the party, speaking only when spoken to.*

    (A) shy
    (B) boisterous
    (C) subdued
    (D) tired

Practice Set 8

1. *The treaty was negotiated _____ the two rival nations, each side sending a single delegate to the table.*

    (A) against
    (B) among
    (C) through
    (D) between

2. *To illustrate her point about resilience, the coach shared a brief about a swimmer who nearly quit before winning nationals.*

    (A) statistic
    (B) antidote

(C) rebuttal
(D) anecdote

3. *Doctors rushed to administer the _____ before the venom could spread further through the boy's bloodstream.*

(A) supplement
(B) anecdote
(C) antidote
(D) toxin

4. _____ *who wanted to join the club simply had to show up; no application or approval was required.*

(A) No one
(B) Any one
(C) Anyone
(D) Someone

5. *The committee stressed that _____ of the five finalists could win the scholarship, since each application was equally strong.*

(A) every
(B) none
(C) any one
(D) anyone

6. *Before listing the house, the couple hired a professional to _____ the property and determine its current market value.*

(A) apprise
(B) inspect
(C) appraise
(D) overlook

7. *The manager promised to _____ the staff of any changes to the merger as soon as details were finalized.*

(A) apprise
(B) warn

(C) appraise
(D) conceal

8. *The airline released a statement meant to _____ passengers that the delayed flight posed no safety risk.*

(A) insure
(B) assure
(C) alarm
(D) ensure

9. *To _____ that the bridge could withstand the storm, engineers reinforced every support beam months in advance.*

(A) insure
(B) jeopardize
(C) assure
(D) ensure

10. *The jeweler advised her to _____ the diamond necklace against theft or loss before the trip.*

(A) ensure
(B) abandon
(C) insure
(D) assure

11. *The editor decided to _____ the film's most graphic scenes before it aired on network television.*

(A) publicize
(B) edit
(C) censure
(D) censor

12. *The senate voted to _____ the official publicly for violating ethics rules, though it stopped short of removing him from office.*

(A) commend
(B) criticize

(C) censure
(D) censor

Practice Set 9

1. *Though her budget was tight, she found herself _____ dessert every night, choosing to skip a small pleasure now so she could save for the trip.*

   (A) forgoing
   (B) resenting
   (C) savoring
   (D) postponing

2. *Before the novel's first chapter even began, a brief _____ from the author explained why she had waited twenty years to tell this story.*

   (A) foreword
   (B) dedication
   (C) footnote
   (D) afterword

3. *Rather than glancing back at old mistakes, the coach urged the team to keep looking _____, toward next season's opening game.*

   (A) backward
   (B) forward
   (C) sideways
   (D) inward

4. *The manager never stated the rule outright, yet everyone understood the _____ expectation that emails be answered within an hour.*

   (A) implicit
   (B) explicit
   (C) ambiguous
   (D) doubtful

5. *By quietly signing the falsified report without objection, the accountant became _____ in the company's fraud.*

(A) diligent
(B) innocent
(C) complicit
(D) skeptical

6. *Unlike the coach's earlier vague hints, the new instructions were , spelling out each step in exact detail.*

(A) implicit
(B) explicit
(C) harsh
(D) lengthy

7. *Engineers praised the intern's _____ fix, a clever repurposing of a paperclip and a rubber band that solved a problem the whole team had been stuck on for days.*

(A) simple
(B) reckless
(C) ingenious
(D) naive

8. *The child's _____ question, asked without a hint of suspicion, made the room of hardened negotiators smile.*

(A) cynical
(B) ingenuous
(C) rude
(D) ingenious

9. *The professor didn't say the exam would be easy, but her relaxed tone seemed to _____ that students had little to worry about.*

(A) infer
(B) declare
(C) doubt
(D) imply

10. *From the wet umbrellas piled by the door, she could _____ that it had rained while she was in the meeting.*

(A) guess
(B) ignore
(C) infer
(D) imply

11. *The hikers walked _____ the dense forest, disappearing beneath the canopy within minutes.*

(A) unto
(B) into
(C) out of
(D) onto

12. *After running from the scene for three days, the suspect finally turned himself _____ the police, ending the citywide manhunt.*

(A) onto
(B) in to
(C) away
(D) into

Practice Set 10

1. *Furious after the umpire's call, the batter slammed down his helmet and _____ his bat toward the dugout in one violent motion.*

(A) caught
(B) balanced
(C) threw
(D) dropped

2. *Before certifying the bridge safe, the inspector checked every bolt, weld, and support beam, leaving no component of her _____ review unexamined.*

(A) diligent
(B) cursory
(C) thorough
(D) harsh

3. *The novel's opening chapters move at a crawl; the final fifty pages, , deliver a twist so sharp that readers forgive the slow start.*

   (A) therefore
   (B) moreover
   (C) though
   (D) meanwhile

4. *Convinced that no photograph could do his face justice, he angled every mirror in the apartment toward himself, so _____ that he barely noticed the guests arriving.*

   (A) meticulous
   (B) anxious
   (C) vain
   (D) modest

5. *The phlebotomist tapped the inside of his elbow, searching for a large enough to hold the needle steady.*

   (A) bruise
   (B) vein
   (C) nerve
   (D) muscle

6. *Despite three weeks without a single rehearsal, the understudy performed so _____ on opening night that the director offered her the role permanently.*

   (A) loudly
   (B) well
   (C) quickly
   (D) poorly

7. *The reviews called the restaurant's tasting menu _____, praising every course and awarding it the city's highest rating.*

   (A) elaborate
   (B) adequate
   (C) questionable

(D) good

8. *After being fooled twice by the same salesman's promises, she grew _____ of anyone offering a deal that sounded too easy.*

(A) curious
(B) furious
(C) trusting
(D) wary

9. *After the third consecutive night shift with no sleep between them, the nurses moved through the ward slowly, their steps _____ and their eyes half-closed.*

(A) eager
(B) clumsy
(C) wary
(D) weary

10. *The detective returned again and again to the question of _____ the missing painting had last been seen, certain the answer to the location would unlock the case.*

(A) how
(B) why
(C) were
(D) where

11. *Twenty years ago, the fields behind the school _____ still farmland, long before the houses and the mall replaced them.*

(A) where
(B) wear
(C) were
(D) are

12. *By the fourth hour of the hike in the July sun, the heat began to _____ on the youngest campers, who lagged farther behind with every mile.*

(A) where

(B) invigorate
(C) linger
(D) wear

Practice Set 11

1. *Heavy rains had washed out the only road into town; _____, the volunteers had to fly in supplies by helicopter.*

   (A) as a result
   (B) furthermore
   (C) meanwhile
   (D) nevertheless

2. *The committee ruled that the document was never signed and, _____, could not be treated as a binding contract.*

   (A) nonetheless
   (B) previously
   (C) likewise
   (D) as such

3. *The factory had ignored three separate safety warnings; _____, inspectors shut down the entire production line.*

   (A) admittedly
   (B) conversely
   (C) consequently
   (D) eventually

4. *The witness had already given three contradictory accounts of the accident; _____, the jury discounted her testimony entirely.*

   (A) ironically
   (B) meanwhile
   (C) yet
   (D) hence

5. *The foundation wanted every rural clinic to have reliable electricity; , it spent a decade installing solar panels on remote health posts.*

   (A) afterward
   (B) reportedly
   (C) to these ends
   (D) regardless

6. *The new bypass diverted trucks away from downtown, _____ cutting the number of accidents on Main Street in half.*

   (A) thereby
   (B) unfortunately
   (C) meanwhile
   (D) however

7. *The old pier had rotted through in several places and could no longer bear any weight; _____, the town council voted to demolish it.*

   (A) nevertheless
   (B) surprisingly
   (C) thus
   (D) meanwhile

8. *Every witness placed the defendant at the concert that night; _____, the alibi could not reasonably be dismissed.*

   (A) regardless
   (B) allegedly
   (C) similarly
   (D) therefore

9. _____ *the ferry had already left, the tourists had no choice but to wait until morning for the next one.*

   (A) Whereas
   (B) Although
   (C) When
   (D) Since

10. *The last bus had already pulled away from the curb, _____ Maria decided to walk the two miles home.*

    (A) meanwhile
    (B) regrettably
    (C) so
    (D) yet

11. *The librarian reorganized the reference shelves _____ students could find the atlases without asking for help.*

    (A) even though
    (B) provided that
    (C) so that
    (D) unless

12. *The hikers turned back before reaching the summit _____ the storm clouds were gathering faster than anyone had predicted.*

    (A) although
    (B) whereas
    (C) while
    (D) because

CHAPTER 4

Answer Key

Each entry gives the correct choice and, in italics, the trap category each distractor represents.

Practice Set 1

Q1
(D) earnest *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-connotation word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q2
(D) solemn *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-connotation word; (C) contradicts-context word.*

Q3
(C) deferential *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-connotation word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q4
(D) revere *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) contradicts-context word.*

Q5
(C) benevolent *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-connotation word.*

Q6
(C) endearing *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q7
(B) sinister *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q8
(D) malice *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-connotation word.*

Q9
(D) malignant *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-sense word; (C) contradicts-context word.*

Q10
(C) malicious *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-connotation word.*

Q11
(A) malevolent *Traps: (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q12
(C) genuine *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Practice Set 2

Q1
(B) finite *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) contradicts-context word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q2
(A) tenacious *Traps: (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) wrong-connotation word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q3
(A) relentless *Traps: (B) wrong-sense word; (C) contradicts-context word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q4
(D) inexorable *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-connotation word.*

Q5
(D) inevitable *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) contradicts-context word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q6
(B) adversary *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q7
(C) rival *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-sense word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q8
(C) perpetrator *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) contradicts-context word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q9
(B) antagonist *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q10
(C) contender *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q11
(C) ally *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q12
(C) confidant *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Practice Set 3

Q1
(C) dominion *Traps: (A) wrong-connotation word; (B) contradicts-context word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q2
(A) abate *Traps: (B) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-connotation word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q3
(C) annexation *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-sense word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q4
(A) station *Traps: (B) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q5
(A) sovereignty *Traps: (B) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q6
(C) entrenched *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q7
(B) peculiar *Traps: (A) wrong-connotation word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q8
(B) populist *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q9
(C) speculate *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) contradicts-context word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q10
(B) consider *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q11
(D) consideration *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) contradicts-context word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q12
(C) evaluate *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Practice Set 4

Q1
(B) transient *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q2
(C) ephemeral *Traps: (A) wrong-connotation word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q3
(B) evanescent *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q4
(D) unfounded *Traps: (A) wrong-connotation word; (B) contradicts-context word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q5
(A) unwarranted *Traps: (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q6
(C) baseless *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-connotation word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q7
(B) diversify *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (C) contradicts-context word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q8
(C) fluctuate *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-connotation word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q9
(B) permutation *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q10
(B) unvarying *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q11
(A) uniform *Traps: (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) contradicts-context word; (D) wrong-connotation word.*

Q12
(B) homogenous *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) contradicts-context word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Practice Set 5

Q1
(C) proxy *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-connotation word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q2
(D) aggregate *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-sense word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q3
(A) correlation *Traps: (B) contradicts-context word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q4
(D) causation *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-sense word; (C) contradicts-context word.*

Q5
(B) fiscal *Traps: (A) wrong-connotation word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q6
(D) prosperous *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-connotation word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q7
(D) squanderer *Traps: (A) wrong-connotation word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) contradicts-context word.*

Q8
(D) squander *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-connotation word; (C) contradicts-context word.*

Q9
(B) affluent *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q10
(A) compound *Traps: (B) wrong-sense word; (C) contradicts-context word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q11
(B) remnant *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-connotation word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q12
(C) surge *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Practice Set 6

Q1
(C) reserve *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q2
(B) foil *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q3
(A) raw *Traps: (B) wrong-sense word; (C) contradicts-context word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q4
(D) scale *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) wrong-sense word.*

Q5
(D) grill *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-sense word; (C) contradicts-context word.*

Q6
(C) mint *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q7
(D) milk *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) wrong-sense word.*

Q8
(A) draw *Traps: (B) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q9
(B) distant *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q10
(C) broad *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q11
(D) steep *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-sense word; (C) contradicts-context word.*

Q12
(D) matter *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) contradicts-context word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Practice Set 7

Q1
(A) margin *Traps: (B) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) wrong-connotation word.*

Q2
(B) suspend *Traps: (A) wrong-connotation word; (C) contradicts-context word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q3
(D) wax *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) contradicts-context word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q4
(D) bind *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) contradicts-context word.*

Q5
(B) core *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) contradicts-context word; (D) wrong-connotation word.*

Q6
(D) tender *Traps: (A) wrong-connotation word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) contradicts-context word.*

Q7
(C) buckle *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) contradicts-context word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q8
(B) casual *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q9
(B) fleece *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q10
(C) wake *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q11
(D) grief *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-sense word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q12
(C) subdued *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) contradicts-context word; (D)*

imprecise/loosely-related word.

Practice Set 8

Q1
(D) between *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-sense word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q2
(D) anecdote *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-sense word; (C) contradicts-context word.*

Q3
(C) antidote *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-sense word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q4
(C) Anyone *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q5
(C) any one *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) contradicts-context word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q6
(C) appraise *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q7
(A) apprise *Traps: (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q8
(B) assure *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) contradicts-context word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q9
(D) ensure *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-sense word.*

Q10
(C) insure *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) contradicts-context word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q11
(D) censor *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) wrong-sense word.*

Q12
(C) censure *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Practice Set 9

Q1
(A) forgoing *Traps: (B) wrong-connotation word; (C) contradicts-context word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q2
(A) foreword *Traps: (B) wrong-sense word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q3
(B) forward *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q4
(A) implicit *Traps: (B) contradicts-context word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-connotation word.*

Q5
(C) complicit *Traps: (A) wrong-connotation word; (B) contradicts-context word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q6
(B) explicit *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-connotation word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q7
(C) ingenious *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) contradicts-context word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q8
(B) ingenuous *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-connotation word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q9
(D) imply *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) contradicts-context word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q10
(C) infer *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) contradicts-context word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q11
(B) into *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (C) contradicts-context word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q12
(B) in to *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) contradicts-context word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Practice Set 10

Q1
(C) threw *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q2
(C) thorough *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) contradicts-context word; (D) wrong-connotation word.*

Q3
(C) though *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q4
(C) vain *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-sense word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q5
(B) vein *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q6
(B) well *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q7
(D) good *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) contradicts-context word.*

Q8
(D) wary *Traps: (A) wrong-connotation word; (B) wrong-sense word; (C) contradicts-context word.*

Q9
(D) weary *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) wrong-sense word.*

Q10
(D) where *Traps: (A) wrong-connotation word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) wrong-sense word.*

Q11
(C) were *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q12
(D) wear *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) contradicts-context word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Practice Set 11

Q1
(A) as a result *Traps: (B) wrong-sense word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q2
(D) as such *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-sense word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q3
(C) consequently *Traps: (A) wrong-connotation word; (B) contradicts-context word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q4
(D) hence *Traps: (A) wrong-connotation word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) contradicts-context word.*

Q5
(C) to these ends *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-sense word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q6
(A) thereby *Traps: (B) wrong-connotation word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q7
(C) thus *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-connotation word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q8
(D) therefore *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-sense word; (C) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q9
(D) Since *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) contradicts-context word; (C) wrong-sense word.*

Q10
(C) so *Traps: (A) imprecise/loosely-related word; (B) wrong-connotation word; (D) contradicts-context word.*

Q11
(C) so that *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) wrong-sense word; (D) imprecise/loosely-related word.*

Q12
(D) because *Traps: (A) contradicts-context word; (B) imprecise/loosely-related word; (C) wrong-sense word.*

Part IV

GRE Vocabulary

CHAPTER 5

GRE Word Bank by Theme

The graduate-level tier. These higher-frequency GRE words are grouped by the meaning family they belong to, each with a plain gloss. They extend the shared SAT/GRE core into the vocabulary the GRE draws on most.

high-frequency GRE words

laconic
using very few words; terse
sanguine
cheerfully optimistic; confident of a good outcome
obfuscate
to make unclear or obscure; to muddle
phlegmatic
calm and unexcitable; even-tempered
mercurial
given to sudden, unpredictable changes of mood; volatile
obsequious
excessively eager to please; fawning and servile
mendacious
given to lying; deliberately untruthful
pellucid
perfectly clear and easy to understand
truculent
aggressively defiant and belligerent

ephemeral
lasting only a very short time; fleeting
disabuse
to free from a mistaken belief
inchoate
just begun; not yet fully developed
venerate
to regard with deep respect; revere
castigated
criticized or rebuked severely
garrulous
excessively talkative, especially about trifles
quixotic
idealistic and hopelessly impractical
perfidious
treacherous; deliberately disloyal
salubrious
promoting health; wholesome
prosaic
dull, ordinary, and unimaginative
tortuous
full of twists and turns; convoluted

connotation and register

obsequious
a strongly negative judgment: fawning, servile flattery
venerate
a positive attitude of deep, reverent respect
castigates
a strongly negative act: severe, harsh criticism
salubrious
a positive, somewhat formal word meaning health-giving and wholesome
quixotic
an affectionately mixed charge: admiring the idealism while conceding the impracticality
meticulous
a positive judgment: admirably careful and exacting attention to detail

truculent
a strongly negative judgment: hostile and aggressively defiant
magnanimous
a positive judgment: noble generosity of spirit
perfunctory
a negative judgment: cursory and careless, done as a mere formality
unctuous
a strongly negative judgment: oily, insincere, ingratiating flattery
indefatigable
a positive, somewhat formal word meaning tireless and untiring in effort
byzantine
a negative judgment: excessively and frustratingly complicated
audacious
an admiring-yet-critical mixed charge: awed by the boldness while condemning the recklessness
sanctimonious
a negative judgment: hypocritically self-righteous moralizing
parsimonious
a negative, somewhat formal word meaning excessively stingy and miserly
winsome
a positive judgment: charming and engagingly appealing
notorious
a negative judgment: widely known for something bad, infamous
pyrrhic
a mixed charge: a nominal victory that, given its ruinous cost, amounts to a defeat
sagacious
a positive, somewhat formal word meaning deeply wise and discerning in judgment
mawkish
a negative judgment: cloyingly and excessively sentimental

brevity vs. verbosity

prolix
tediously wordy
succinct
briefly and clearly stated
pithy
brief and full of meaning
sesquipedalian
given to long words
pleonastic
redundantly wordy
compendious
concise but comprehensive
periphrastic
roundabout, using extra words
sententious
given to pompous moralizing
loquacious
very talkative
voluble
fluently talkative
expatiate
to speak at great length
terse
curtly brief
epigrammatic
concise, witty and pointed
gnomic
terse and enigmatic
discursive
rambling and digressive
verbiage
an excess of useless words
circumlocution
roundabout, evasive speech
aphoristic
expressed in terse maxims

curt
rudely brief
circumlocutory
roundabout and wordy

clarity vs. obscurity of expression

lucid
clear and easy to understand
abstruse
hard to understand
perspicuous
clearly expressed
recondite
obscure; known to few
arcane
mysterious; known to few
opaque
hard to understand
limpid
clear and transparent
turgid
pompously inflated and obscure
convoluted
extremely complicated and twisted
cryptic
mysterious and puzzling
esoteric
understood by only a few
impenetrable
impossible to understand
nebulous
vague and ill-defined
inscrutable
impossible to interpret
hermetic
obscure; sealed from outsiders

elucidate
to make clear; explain
explicate
to explain in detail
perspicuity
clarity of expression
labyrinthine
intricate and bewildering
manifest
clearly evident; obvious

praise & flattery

laud
to praise highly
extol
to praise enthusiastically
adulation
excessive praise or admiration
eulogize
to praise highly
panegyric
a speech of elaborate praise
encomium
a formal expression of praise
fawn
to flatter servilely
sycophant
a self-serving flatterer
paean
a song of praise
plaudit
an expression of praise
blandishment
flattery meant to persuade
cajole
to coax by flattery

wheedle
to coax by flattery
toady
a servile flatterer
lionize
to treat as a celebrity
exalt
to praise or glorify highly
fulsome
excessive and insincere (of praise)
grovel
to behave with abject submission
hagiography
an idealizing, worshipful biography
apotheosis
elevation to divine status; glorification

criticism, censure & rebuke

animadvert
to criticize or censure
rebuke
to reprimand sharply
reprove
to correct or scold mildly
fustigate
to criticize harshly
admonish
to warn or reprimand firmly
upbraid
to scold severely
excoriate
to criticize severely
lambaste
to attack or criticize harshly
vituperate
to abuse with bitter words

reprimand
a formal rebuke
chide
to scold mildly
denigrate
to belittle; run down
disparage
to speak of as inferior
vilify
to defame; speak abusively of
inveigh
to protest or rail against
objurgate
to rebuke harshly
fulminate
to denounce vehemently
opprobrium
harsh public scorn; disgrace
diatribe
a bitter, abusive tirade
invective
abusive, insulting language

eloquence & persuasion

cogent
clear and convincing
eloquent
fluent and persuasive in speech
grandiloquent
pompous and lofty in language
bombastic
pompous and inflated in speech
mellifluous
sweet and smooth-sounding
peroration
the closing part of a speech

declaim
to speak rhetorically and dramatically
oratory
the art of eloquent public speaking
sonorous
deep and richly resonant
trenchant
sharp and incisive
incisive
sharply clear and penetrating
facile
superficially fluent; shallow
glib
fluent but insincere
specious
seemingly valid but actually false
sophistry
plausible but fallacious reasoning
dulcet
sweet and soothing (of sound)
equivocate
to speak ambiguously to mislead
orotund
full and pompously grand (of voice)
tendentious
biased toward a viewpoint
rhetorician
a skilled persuasive speaker

composure versus turmoil

equanimity
calmness under stress
placidity
calm stillness
imperturbable
unable to be upset
sangfroid
composure under danger
aplomb
assured poise
quiescent
inactive and still
halcyon
calm and happy
repose
restful calm
unflappable
not easily upset
stolid
showing no emotion
unruffled
calm and untroubled
sedate
calm and unhurried
turmoil
violent disorder
perturbation
anxious disturbance
tumult
loud commotion
disquiet
uneasy anxiety
discomposure
loss of calm
ferment
excited agitation

maelstrom
turbulent uproar
welter
confused jumble

intrepidity versus diffidence

intrepid
fearless and bold
dauntless
not discouraged by danger
temerity
rash boldness
effrontery
shameless boldness
hardihood
daring boldness
mettle
spirited courage
doughty
brave and resolute
venturesome
eager to take risks
brazen
boldly shameless
valor
great courage
diffidence
shy self-doubt
pusillanimous
cowardly and timid
timorous
nervously fearful
craven
cowardly
poltroon
an utter coward

trepidation
fearful apprehension
tremulous
trembling and timid
chary
cautiously wary
milquetoast
a timid, spineless person
faint-hearted
lacking courage

buoyancy versus despondency

buoyancy
cheerful resilience
ebullience
bubbling enthusiasm
effervescence
lively high spirits
blithe
carefree and merry
jocund
merry and cheerful
exuberance
unrestrained joy
mirth
merry laughter
vivacious
lively and spirited
jubilant
triumphantly joyful
felicity
great happiness
despondency
hopeless dejection
doleful
mournfully sad

saturnine
gloomy and sullen
lugubrious
exaggeratedly mournful
morose
sullen and gloomy
dour
stern and gloomy
woebegone
sorrowful in appearance
disconsolate
beyond comforting
funereal
gloomy and mournful
crestfallen
dejected and dispirited

wrath, choler, and asperity

wrath
intense fury
petulance
peevish irritability
asperity
harshness of tone
choler
irritable anger
ire
anger
rancor
bitter resentment
dudgeon
indignant resentment
umbrage
offense or resentment
apoplectic
overcome with rage

splenetic
bad-tempered and spiteful
irascible
easily angered
bilious
ill-tempered
peevish
irritably fretful
querulous
given to complaining
fractious
quarrelsome and irritable
waspish
sharply spiteful
testy
short-tempered
choleric
hot-tempered
ireful
full of anger
vitriolic
bitterly caustic

hauteur versus meekness

haughtiness
arrogant superiority
hauteur
haughty superiority
supercilious
contemptuously superior
imperious
domineering and commanding
disdainful
scornfully contemptuous
overweening
excessively arrogant

vainglory
boastful vanity
hubris
overweening pride
pomposity
self-important pretension
insolent
rudely disrespectful
condescension
patronizing superiority
presumptuous
overstepping proper bounds
lordly
arrogantly superior
modesty
humble self-regard
meekness
submissive humility
deference
respectful yielding
self-effacing
modestly retiring
unassuming
modest and unpretentious
demure
modestly reserved
lowliness
humble low station

frankness vs. duplicity

candor
frankness; open honesty
forthright
direct and straightforward
veracious
truthful and honest
dissemble
conceal one's true feelings
duplicity
double-dealing deceit
guile
cunning deceit; craftiness
artifice
cunning trickery; contrivance
veracity
truthfulness; accuracy
disingenuous
insincere; falsely innocent
prevaricate
speak evasively to mislead
unfeigned
sincere and genuine
chicanery
trickery; underhanded deception
subterfuge
a deceptive stratagem
feign
pretend; fake
guileful
cunningly deceitful
dissimulate
hide one's true feelings or intentions
aboveboard
open and honest
underhanded
secretly deceitful

wile
a cunning trick or ruse
guileless
free of deceit; innocent

munificence vs. avarice

munificence
great generosity in giving
avarice
extreme greed for wealth
niggardly
stingy; meanly ungenerous
largesse
generous giving of gifts
cupidity
greed for money or possessions
penurious
excessively stingy
miserly
hoarding; extremely stingy
bounteous
abundant; plentiful and giving
rapacity
grasping greed; plunder
covetous
enviously desirous of others' things
beneficence
active kindness; doing good
prodigal
wastefully extravagant
liberality
generosity; free giving
mercenary
motivated only by money
profligate
recklessly wasteful

eleemosynary
charitable; relating to alms
grasping
greedily acquisitive
stinting
sparing; giving grudgingly little
benefactor
a generous giver of aid
openhanded
generous; freely giving

probity vs. venality

probity
unshakable honesty; integrity
venality
openness to bribery; corruptibility
turpitude
wicked depravity; baseness
rectitude
moral uprightness
depravity
extreme moral corruption
iniquity
gross injustice; wickedness
unimpeachable
beyond question or reproach
licentious
morally unrestrained; dissolute
dissolute
morally loose; debauched
malfeasance
wrongdoing by an official
peculation
embezzlement of funds
suborn
bribe someone to do wrong

scruples
moral qualms; ethical hesitations
reprobate
an unprincipled scoundrel
debauchery
excessive indulgence in vice
incorruptible
impossible to bribe or corrupt
sordid
morally squalid; base
venal
open to bribery; corruptible
dissipation
wasteful indulgence in pleasure
degeneracy
moral decline; corruption

assiduity vs. indolence

assiduity
persistent diligence
indolence
habitual laziness
lassitude
weary lack of energy
assiduous
diligent and hardworking
sloth
laziness; aversion to effort
torpor
sluggish inactivity
alacrity
eager, prompt willingness
zealous
fervently devoted; ardent
shiftless
lazy and unmotivated

listless
lacking energy or interest
languid
slow and lacking vigor
enervate
drain of energy; weaken
dilatory
slow; inclined to delay
otiose
useless; serving no purpose
punctilious
attentive to fine details
ardor
burning enthusiasm; zeal
lackadaisical
lacking care or enthusiasm
supine
passively submissive; inert
somnolent
drowsy; inducing sleep
industrious
hardworking; diligent

intransigence vs. tractability

intransigence
refusal to compromise
tractable
easily managed; obedient
acquiesce
agree reluctantly; give in
obdurate
stubbornly unyielding
recalcitrant
defiantly resistant to authority
docile
easily led; submissive

pliant
easily bent; flexible
intractable
impossible to manage or resolve
refractory
stubbornly disobedient; unruly
amenable
open and agreeable; willing
compliant
readily yielding to others
pertinacious
stubbornly persistent
contumacious
willfully defiant of authority
biddable
obedient; easily directed
adamantine
unyielding and inflexible
complaisant
eager to please
capitulate
surrender; give in completely
mulish
stubborn; obstinate
adamant
utterly unyielding; firm
willful
headstrong; bent on one's own way

wisdom and discernment against folly

sagacity
keen practical wisdom
acumen
sharp practical insight
astute
shrewdly perceptive
shrewd
sharp in practical judgment
judicious
showing sound judgment
circumspect
cautious and watchful
discernment
keen judgment of quality
prudence
careful good sense
sapient
wise and intelligent
percipient
keenly perceptive
canny
shrewd and clever
fatuity
smug foolishness
imprudence
unwise recklessness
injudicious
showing poor judgment
obtuse
slow to understand
asinine
utterly stupid
vacuous
empty of meaning
puerile
childishly immature

feckless
ineffective and irresponsible
hebetude
mental dullness or lethargy

erudition and curiosity against ignorance

erudite
deeply learned
erudition
extensive scholarly knowledge
polymath
person skilled in many disciplines
autodidact
a self-taught person
cognoscente
a knowledgeable expert
unlettered
uneducated and illiterate
cerebral
intellectual rather than emotional
inquisitive
eagerly curious
philomath
a lover of learning
encyclopedic
comprehensive in knowledge
bibliophile
a lover of books
philistinism
hostility or indifference to culture
benighted
intellectually unenlightened
benightedness
a state of ignorance
nescience
lack of knowledge

philistine
a person indifferent to culture
vulgarian
a crass, tasteless person
parochial
narrowly provincial
insular
narrow and closed-off
untutored
lacking formal instruction

clarity of understanding against confusion

perspicacity
keenness of insight
perspicacious
sharply discerning
lucidity
clearness of mind or expression
discerning
keenly perceptive
clear-sighted
seeing a situation clearly
penetrating
sharply insightful
addled
mentally muddled
muzzy
hazy and dull-witted
crystalline
perfectly clear
luminous
brilliantly clear
nebulousness
vagueness or lack of definition
befuddled
thoroughly confused

opacity
impossibility of being understood
bemused
puzzled and bewildered
amorphous
shapeless and undefined
discombobulated
disoriented and confused
turbid
confused and muddled
woolly
vague and muddled
befogged
clouded and obscured
muddled
confused and jumbled

originality against convention and imitation

iconoclast
an attacker of tradition
iconoclastic
attacking cherished conventions
seminal
highly original and influential
avant-garde
boldly ahead of convention
inventive
creatively original
ingenuity
clever inventiveness
unprecedented
never done before
novel
new and original
sui generis
unique, in a class of its own

hackneyed
overused to the point of staleness
derivative
imitative and unoriginal
trite
dull from overuse
banal
dull and commonplace
platitudinous
full of stale truisms
hidebound
rigidly conventional
mimetic
imitative, copying
epigone
an imitative follower
pastiche
an imitative patchwork of styles
formulaic
following a predictable set pattern
imitative
copying rather than original

skepticism and doubt against credulity

incredulity
unwillingness to believe
incredulous
unwilling to believe
skeptic
a habitual doubter
dubiety
a feeling of doubt
pyrrhonism
radical philosophical skepticism
mistrustful
distrustful and doubting

leery
warily suspicious
quizzical
skeptical and questioning
cynical
distrustful of others' motives
jaundiced
prejudiced by bitterness and distrust
misgiving
a feeling of doubt or unease
credulity
readiness to believe too easily
credulous
too ready to believe
gullible
easily deceived
gullibility
readiness to be duped
naivety
innocent lack of experience
credent
readily believing, credulous
artless
guilelessly natural
callow
immature and inexperienced
credence
acceptance as true; belief

abundance and excess vs. scarcity and lack

profusion
abundant quantity
surfeit
an excessive amount
dearth
a scarcity
paucity
a small amount
plethora
an overabundance
exiguous
scanty, meager
penury
extreme poverty
plenteous
abundant and plentiful
superfluity
excess, more than needed
cornucopia
an abundant supply
superabundant
excessively plentiful
plenitude
abundance, fullness
modicum
a small amount
spate
a sudden rush or large number
copious
abundant, plentiful
opulence
lavish wealth, luxuriousness
indigence
extreme poverty, neediness
pittance
a very small sum

scanty
meager and insufficient
abound
to exist in great numbers

harmony and concord vs. discord and strife

accord
an agreement
dissension
sharp disagreement
entente
friendly understanding or accord
concord
harmony, agreement
amity
friendly relations
rapprochement
a renewal of friendly relations
enmity
deep hostility
comity
mutual courtesy and respect
acrimony
bitter harshness of feeling
consonance
agreement, harmony
detente
an easing of tensions
animus
hostility, ill will
schism
a split or division
contentious
prone to arguing
conciliate
to appease, win over

acrimonious
bitter and hostile
internecine
mutually destructive
amicable
friendly, good-natured
discordant
clashing, conflicting
strife
bitter conflict

growth and flourishing vs. decline and decay

efflorescence
a flourishing, blossoming
atrophy
to waste away
desuetude
a state of disuse
burgeon
to grow rapidly
moribund
dying, near death
burgeoning
rapidly growing
wane
to decrease, diminish
luxuriant
lush, abundantly growing
decrepitude
a state of decay from age
senescence
the process of aging
verdant
green with vegetation
wither
to shrivel and dry up

germinate
to sprout, begin to grow
dilapidation
a ruined, run-down condition
putrefaction
the process of rotting
fecund
highly fertile, productive
putrefy
to rot and decay
degeneration
decline, deterioration
quicken
to come to life, revive
senescent
aging and declining

secrecy and concealment vs. openness and disclosure

stealthy
quietly secretive
overt
open, undisguised
cloaked
hidden from view
surreptitious
done secretly, stealthy
furtive
secretive, sneaky
covert
hidden, secret
divulge
to reveal, disclose
veiled
partly concealed
cagey
guardedly secretive

occult
hidden, secret
conceal
hide or keep secret
undisguised
openly shown
incognito
with identity concealed
unveil
reveal or disclose
avowed
openly declared
disclose
make known publicly
forthcoming
openly informative
secrete
to hide, conceal
sequester
to hide away, isolate
cloak
to hide, disguise

respect and reverence vs. contempt and scorn

veneration
deep reverence
derision
mockery, ridicule
esteem
high regard
hallow
make holy; honor as sacred
reverence
deep respect
obeisance
a deferential gesture of respect

homage
public honor and respect
contumely
insolent, contemptuous abuse
adore
worship or revere deeply
approbation
approval, praise
reverent
showing deep respect
ignominy
public disgrace, shame
deride
ridicule or mock
revile
to abuse with harsh language
scorn
open contempt
spurn
reject with contempt
contemn
despise or scorn
derogate
disparage or belittle
belittle
make seem unimportant
scoff
to mock, jeer at

CHAPTER 6

GRE Words-in-Context Practice

Same method as before: read for the clue, predict a paraphrase, then match. GRE items carry five options. Answers and the trap each wrong choice represents follow at the end of the chapter.

GRE Practice Set 1

1. *The veteran pilot's radio calls were famously laconic: even as the storm closed in, she answered the tower with a single clipped word and nothing more.*

   (A) long-winded and rambling
   (B) rude and dismissive
   (C) relaxed and unhurried
   (D) careless and lazy
   (E) using very few words; terse

2. *Even as the quarterly losses mounted, the founder remained sanguine, assuring the anxious staff that the company's best years still lay ahead of them.*

   (A) blood-red or ruddy in color
   (B) bloodthirsty and violent
   (C) recklessly indifferent to danger
   (D) gloomy and despairing

(E) cheerfully optimistic; confident of a good outcome

3. *Rather than clarify the budget, the consultant's jargon-laden report seemed designed to obfuscate it, burying the single relevant figure beneath pages of qualification.*

(A) to stubbornly refuse or obstruct
(B) to make unclear or obscure; to muddle
(C) to falsify or fabricate
(D) to explain plainly; to clarify
(E) to shorten by leaving out detail

4. *Where his co-anchor grew frantic as the disaster unfolded on air, Devlin stayed phlegmatic, reading each grim bulletin in the same even, unhurried tone.*

(A) calm and unexcitable; even-tempered
(B) lazy and unwilling to work
(C) sickly and prone to congestion
(D) gloomy and melancholy
(E) easily excited and highly emotional

5. *The director was notoriously mercurial: a set he adored on Monday he would order torn down by Wednesday, and no one on the crew could predict which mood the morning would bring.*

(A) steady and unchanging in temperament
(B) made of or relating to the metal mercury
(C) given to sudden, unpredictable changes of mood; volatile
(D) quick-witted and clever
(E) greedy for money; mercenary

6. *The new clerk was so obsequious toward the partners that he would leap to pull out their chairs and laugh a beat too loudly at even their dullest jokes.*

(A) excessively eager to please; fawning and servile
(B) faithfully dutiful and devoted
(C) solemn and fitting for a funeral

(D) proudly independent and disdainful of authority
(E) genuinely courteous and considerate

7. *The witness proved thoroughly mendacious, contradicting under oath the very statements he had signed the week before.*

(A) given to lying; deliberately untruthful
(B) poor and reduced to begging
(C) scrupulously truthful and honest
(D) forgetful and prone to honest mistakes
(E) boastful and given to wild exaggeration

8. *Her lecture was pellucid throughout: even the thorniest proof came across so plainly that first-year students followed every step.*

(A) perfectly clear and easy to understand
(B) oversimplified to the point of being shallow
(C) murky and hard to follow
(D) iridescent, shimmering with shifting colors
(E) brightly shining; dazzling

9. *Rather than concede a single point, the truculent negotiator met each proposal with a sneer and a fresh threat to walk out.*

(A) readily yielding and submissive
(B) savagely cruel and destructive
(C) merely impatient and a little irritable
(D) mild-mannered and easily won over
(E) aggressively defiant and belligerent

10. *The fashion proved utterly ephemeral, everywhere one season and forgotten by the next.*

(A) trivial and unimportant
(B) returning at intervals; recurring
(C) delicate and airy; otherworldly
(D) lasting only a very short time; fleeting
(E) lasting indefinitely; enduring

GRE Practice Set 2

1. *The glacier's advance was _____: slow, impersonal, and utterly indifferent to the villages in its path.*

   (A) inevitable
   (B) tenacious
   (C) relentless
   (D) volatile
   (E) inexorable

2. *Auction houses prize a manuscript whose _____ is unbroken—each owner recorded from the author's desk to the present sale.*

   (A) advent
   (B) inception
   (C) provenance
   (D) destination
   (E) genesis

3. *Shielded by powerful patrons, the official flouted the rules with complete _____, never once facing discipline.*

   (A) exemption
   (B) impunity
   (C) vindication
   (D) accountability
   (E) exoneration

4. *So _____ was the new investor that he wired money to anyone with a confident pitch and a glossy brochure.*

   (A) skeptical
   (B) naive
   (C) impressionable
   (D) malleable
   (E) credulous

5. *The senator's _____ reply pleased both camps precisely because each could read its careful phrasing as agreement.*

(A) ambiguous
(B) enigmatic
(C) ambivalent
(D) unequivocal
(E) equivocal

6. *A single unproven rumor was enough to _____ a reputation she had spent decades building.*

(A) impair
(B) disfigure
(C) contaminate
(D) sully
(E) burnish

7. *Reinforcements arrived in time to _____ the uprising before it could spread beyond the capital.*

(A) incite
(B) subjugate
(C) quell
(D) subordinate
(E) vanquish

8. *The new reporting rules imposed such _____ paperwork that small clinics hired staff solely to keep up with it.*

(A) trifling
(B) tedious
(C) formidable
(D) arduous
(E) onerous

9. *Auditors combed through thirty years of filings and found his conduct _____—not a single entry they could fault.*

(A) immaculate
(B) pristine
(C) irreproachable

(D) exemplary
(E) culpable

10. *With a _____ glance at his notes—so quick the proctor never noticed—he checked the formula and kept writing.*

(A) conspicuous
(B) clandestine
(C) inconspicuous
(D) subtle
(E) surreptitious

GRE Practice Set 3

1. *After the third rejection he stopped applying altogether, convinced that no effort of his would ever succeed and that the future held nothing for him.*

(A) poignant
(B) elated
(C) melancholy
(D) despondent
(E) dejected

2. *The new dataset did not merely raise doubts about the old theory; it produced precise measurements that showed the theory's central claim to be false.*

(A) confront
(B) negate
(C) corroborate
(D) defy
(E) refute

3. *Citing repeated breaches of its terms, the company moved to bring the contract to a formal and deliberate end well before its scheduled expiry.*

(A) initiate

(B) finite
(C) discontinue
(D) terminate
(E) cease

4. *The new neighbor greeted everyone on the street warmly, quick with a smile and never short a kind word for a passing stranger.*

(A) amiable
(B) amicable
(C) surly
(D) affable
(E) gregarious

5. *She would not so much as glance at the tabloid, treating its gossip as beneath the notice of any serious mind and unworthy of a moment's attention.*

(A) admiration
(B) reproach
(C) contempt
(D) censure
(E) disdain

6. *Living abroad for years, she felt a constant, tender ache for the sound of her mother's language and the streets of the town where she grew up.*

(A) yearning
(B) craving
(C) aspiration
(D) indifference
(E) longing

7. *Once cloud storage became standard, the office's rows of old tape drives sat unused, unable to connect to any current system or serve any present purpose.*

(A) dated

(B) cutting-edge
(C) obsolete
(D) anachronistic
(E) antiquated

8. *The instrument's readings were incomplete, but from the faint pattern that survived the technician tentatively guessed that the reaction had already begun.*

(A) speculate
(B) evaluate
(C) verify
(D) surmise
(E) deduce

9. *After months of study, the engineers concluded that the bridge could indeed be built within the given budget and difficult terrain, ambitious as the design was.*

(A) pragmatic
(B) feasible
(C) unattainable
(D) viable
(E) sound

10. *The proposal collapsed under scrutiny: its central assumption turned out to be false, so every conclusion drawn from that faulty premise failed with it.*

(A) impractical
(B) unreasonable
(C) unsound
(D) inefficacious
(E) valid

GRE Practice Set 4

1. *The referee's report was so prolix that a single objection sprawled across nine dense pages, burying the point in endless words.*

   (A) eloquent and stirring
   (B) admirably brief and to the point
   (C) carelessly disorganized
   (D) tediously wordy
   (E) highly technical and specialized

2. *Her memo was succinct: three sentences that settled the matter no reader could misread.*

   (A) abrupt to the point of rudeness
   (B) given as a summary at the very end
   (C) briefly and clearly stated
   (D) rich and abundant
   (E) rambling and long-winded

3. *His pithy retorts packed a whole argument into a half-dozen memorable words.*

   (A) made of soft spongy plant tissue
   (B) arousing sympathy
   (C) witty and humorous
   (D) brief and full of meaning
   (E) long-winded and diffuse

4. *A sesquipedalian lecturer, he never used one syllable where ten would do, favoring monstrous words like 'antidisestablishmentarian.'*

   (A) given to long words
   (B) using plain, short words
   (C) measuring a foot and a half long
   (D) relating to walking or feet
   (E) using foreign or borrowed words

5. *Phrases like 'a free gift' and 'ATM machine' are pleonastic, cramming in words that merely repeat what is already meant.*

(A) excessively ornate
(B) abundant and generous
(C) grammatically incorrect
(D) economical with words
(E) redundantly wordy

6. *The compendious handbook squeezed the whole of anatomy into a hundred lucid pages, comprehensive yet remarkably brief.*

(A) merely a short summary
(B) generously rewarding
(C) arranged in alphabetical order
(D) sprawling and exhaustive in length
(E) concise but comprehensive

7. *Rather than say 'died,' the periphrastic obituary spoke of one who had 'passed beyond the veil to his eternal reward.'*

(A) expressed with several words rather than one inflected form
(B) wandering from place to place
(C) blunt and direct
(D) roundabout, using extra words
(E) euphemistic and polite

8. *The sententious old judge could not pass the salt without delivering a solemn maxim on the virtue of moderation.*

(A) relating to judicial punishment
(B) playfully irreverent
(C) given to pompous moralizing
(D) wise and genuinely insightful
(E) concise and full of pithy sayings

9. *So loquacious was our host that a simple 'good evening' unleashed a forty-minute monologue.*

(A) fond of argument
(B) very talkative
(C) reserved and silent

(D) mentally unstable
(E) eloquent and persuasive

10. *A voluble guide, she kept up an easy, unbroken stream of talk for the entire three-hour tour.*

(A) loud and boisterous
(B) of great worth
(C) sparing of words
(D) fluently talkative
(E) twining or rotating readily

GRE Practice Set 5

1. *Critics laud her debut as a triumph, heaping praise on nearly every page.*

(A) to praise highly
(B) to thank politely
(C) to promote to a higher rank
(D) to recite morning church prayers
(E) to condemn

2. *Reviewers extol the chef's inventiveness, praising his dishes as the finest in the entire city.*

(A) to praise enthusiastically
(B) to recommend mildly
(C) to urge someone onward
(D) to demand payment by force
(E) to belittle

3. *The pop star basked in the crowd's adulation, an outpouring of worshipful, almost excessive praise.*

(A) corruption by adding impurities
(B) a public celebration
(C) sincere, measured respect

(D) harsh contempt
(E) excessive praise or admiration

4. *At the retirement dinner, colleague after colleague rose to eulogize her, praising a career of quiet brilliance.*

(A) to deliver a funeral oration for the dead
(B) to express regret for a fault
(C) to mourn sorrowfully
(D) to criticize openly
(E) to praise highly

5. *His speech was a pure panegyric, a lavish oration devoted entirely to the founder's virtues.*

(A) a wide-ranging survey
(B) a modest, heartfelt tribute
(C) a widespread outbreak of fear
(D) a speech of elaborate praise
(E) a bitter denunciation

6. *The tribute volume opened with a warm encomium celebrating the professor's fifty years of scholarship.*

(A) a jointly owned apartment
(B) a brief thank-you note
(C) a closing summary
(D) a formal accusation
(E) a formal expression of praise

7. *The courtiers would fawn over the prince, flattering his every whim to win his favor.*

(A) to flatter servilely
(B) to admire genuinely
(C) to defy openly
(D) a young deer
(E) to open the mouth from tiredness

8. *Surrounded by every sycophant on the payroll, the boss never heard an honest word, only flattery.*

   (A) a loyal supporter
   (B) a self-serving flatterer
   (C) a mentally ill person
   (D) a large shade tree
   (E) a blunt truth-teller

9. *The final movement swells into a paean, a jubilant song of praise and thanksgiving.*

   (A) a song of praise
   (B) a hymn of thanksgiving to a god
   (C) a mournful lament
   (D) a lowly laborer
   (E) a call to battle

10. *The performance earned the year's loudest plaudits, a storm of praise from press and public alike.*

    (A) an expression of praise
    (B) a wave of jeers
    (C) a burst of hand-clapping
    (D) a formal financial inspection
    (E) a mere polite nod

GRE Practice Set 6

1. *Her cogent argument, each point following irresistibly from the last, convinced even the skeptics on the panel.*

   (A) fully aware and informed
   (B) clear and convincing
   (C) closely relevant; to the point
   (D) weak and unconvincing
   (E) loudly forceful

2. *So eloquent was her plea that the courtroom fell silent, moved by the grace and power of every phrase.*

   (A) vividly expressive though wordless
   (B) extremely honest
   (C) gracefully stylish in appearance
   (D) fluent and persuasive in speech
   (E) halting and inarticulate

3. *His grandiloquent speech, swollen with lofty phrases and grand gestures, impressed no one with its empty pomp.*

   (A) genuinely inspiring
   (B) generous and grand in spending
   (C) plain and unpretentious
   (D) pompous and lofty in language
   (E) one who throws his voice

4. *The coach's bombastic pep talk was all inflated bluster, high-sounding words with little real substance.*

   (A) modest and understated
   (B) pompous and inflated in speech
   (C) stuffed with cotton padding
   (D) aggressively rude
   (E) explosively destructive

5. *Her mellifluous voice, smooth and sweet as flowing honey, made even the weather report a pleasure to hear.*

   (A) sweet and smooth-sounding
   (B) harsh and grating
   (C) slow and drowsy
   (D) loud and resonant
   (E) intending harm

6. *He built to a stirring peroration, the grand closing passage in which the whole speech gathered its emotional force.*

   (A) a rehearsal of a speech

(B) the closing part of a speech
(C) the opening remarks
(D) a row of punched holes
(E) a persuasive argument

7. *The actor loved to declaim, reciting his lines in ringing, theatrical tones to the very back of the hall.*

(A) to argue in a debate
(B) to speak rhetorically and dramatically
(C) to deny responsibility for
(D) to mumble inaudibly
(E) to speak passionately against something

8. *Trained in classical oratory, she could sway a crowd of thousands with the sheer eloquence of her delivery.*

(A) a small chapel for private prayer
(B) the art of eloquent public speaking
(C) a large sacred musical work
(D) the habit of nervous silence
(E) loud, forceful shouting

9. *The bishop's sonorous voice, deep and richly resonant, filled the cathedral to its farthest corner.*

(A) deep and richly resonant
(B) high-flown and grandiose in wording
(C) thin and tinny
(D) pleasantly sweet
(E) drowsy and sleep-inducing

10. *Her trenchant analysis cut straight to the flaw in the plan, sharp and incisive where others were vague.*

(A) sharp and incisive
(B) harshly cruel
(C) having a sharp cutting edge
(D) dull and vague
(E) a long ditch dug for defense

GRE Practice Set 7

1. *The intrepid explorer pressed on into the blizzard alone, undaunted by the cold that had turned back every other member of the party.*

   (A) physically tireless
   (B) quick and rapid
   (C) fearless and bold
   (D) fearful and hesitant
   (E) recklessly foolhardy

2. *Outnumbered ten to one, the dauntless defenders refused to yield, their spirit unbroken by the hopeless odds.*

   (A) tireless and unflagging
   (B) dull and cheerless
   (C) easily intimidated
   (D) grimly stubborn
   (E) not discouraged by danger

3. *He had the temerity to correct the professor in front of the whole lecture hall, a boldness that left the room gasping.*

   (A) quiet self-assurance
   (B) nervous fearfulness
   (C) boldness that soon fades
   (D) prudent caution
   (E) rash boldness

4. *After lying to her face, he had the effrontery to ask her for a loan, shameless nerve that astonished everyone.*

   (A) the front or forward part of something
   (B) a public insult to one's honor
   (C) honest directness
   (D) bashful reticence
   (E) shameless boldness

5. *It took real hardihood to sail an open boat across the Atlantic; lesser sailors called the plan suicidal.*

(A) a hardened, callous heart
(B) daring boldness
(C) hardiness against harsh climate
(D) faint-hearted caution
(E) physical toughness

6. *The championship match tested the young boxer's mettle, and he proved his courage by rising from the canvas again and again.*

(A) a hard, shiny metal
(B) raw physical strength
(C) a bad temper
(D) spirited courage
(E) cowardly weakness

7. *The doughty little tugboat pushed the great liner free of the sandbar, braving the storm no larger vessel would face.*

(A) merely stubborn
(B) soft, like dough
(C) timid and feeble
(D) brave and resolute
(E) sturdily built and thickset

8. *Too venturesome for a desk job, she quit to kayak uncharted rivers, always seeking the next risk.*

(A) eager to take risks
(B) coming soon, forthcoming
(C) restlessly bored
(D) risk-averse and cautious
(E) commercially speculative

9. *In a brazen theft, the burglar strolled out the front door in daylight, utterly unashamed of who might see.*

(A) meekly discreet
(B) openly honest
(C) boldly shameless

(D) burning hot and searing
(E) made of brass; brass-colored

10. *The medal honored his valor: unarmed, he shielded two wounded comrades from enemy fire until help arrived.*

(A) physical strength
(B) worth or value
(C) craven cowardice
(D) great courage
(E) loud boasting

GRE Practice Set 8

1. *The tyrant's wrath was terrible; a single misplaced word could send him into a rage that leveled whole villages.*

(A) intense fury
(B) a woven garland
(C) gentle forgiveness
(D) cold resentment
(E) swift retribution

2. *His petulance over the smallest delays, sulking, snapping, and slamming doors, made him seem more like a spoiled child than a manager.*

(A) explosive rage
(B) even-tempered patience
(C) peevish irritability
(D) smallness or pettiness
(E) boldness or insolence

3. *She reprimanded them with such asperity that the harshness of her tone stung worse than the words themselves.*

(A) roughness of a physical surface
(B) harshness of tone
(C) gentle mildness

(D) cold indifference
(E) bitterness of taste

4. *A man of quick choler, the colonel would flush red and bellow at the least provocation before his temper cooled.*

(A) a deadly epidemic disease
(B) placid good humor
(C) lasting bitterness
(D) irritable anger
(E) yellow bile, the bodily humor

5. *Nothing roused the editor's ire like a misplaced comma; such errors made him seethe for the rest of the day.*

(A) anger
(B) mild annoyance
(C) settled, long-held hatred
(D) a strand of metal wire
(E) calm approval

6. *Long after the lawsuit ended, rancor festered between the brothers; neither could mention the other without bitterness.*

(A) open hostility and fighting
(B) warm goodwill
(C) bitter resentment
(D) the staleness of spoiled food
(E) sudden outrage

7. *In high dudgeon, she stormed out of the meeting, slamming the door at what she took to be a deliberate insult.*

(A) indignant resentment
(B) cheerful acceptance
(C) the haft or hilt of a dagger
(D) a dungeon or cellar
(E) mild puzzlement

8. *He took umbrage at the joke, convinced it was a jab at him, and refused to speak for the rest of the evening.*

   (A) shade cast by trees
   (B) open fury
   (C) flattered delight
   (D) offense or resentment
   (E) an umbrella or covering

9. *When he saw the vandalized car he turned apoplectic, red-faced and sputtering, too enraged to form a coherent sentence.*

   (A) apologetic and contrite
   (B) serenely unbothered
   (C) suffering a literal stroke
   (D) mildly annoyed
   (E) overcome with rage

10. *The splenetic old critic savaged every play he saw, his reviews dripping with spite and bad temper.*

    (A) genial and kindly
    (B) relating to the spleen
    (C) splendidly grand
    (D) coolly critical
    (E) bad-tempered and spiteful

GRE Practice Set 9

1. *Her candor was bracing after years of evasive managers: she told the staff exactly why the project had failed, sparing no one, least of all herself.*

   (A) brilliant whiteness
   (B) guarded evasiveness
   (C) diplomatic tactfulness
   (D) frankness; open honesty
   (E) sugary sweetness

2. *A forthright critic, she stated her objections plainly and to your face rather than hinting at them behind closed doors.*

   (A) boldly going into battle
   (B) evasive and roundabout
   (C) direct and straightforward
   (D) rudely blunt
   (E) positioned straight ahead

3. *Jurors trusted the veracious witness because her account never bent a single fact, even when honesty embarrassed her own side.*

   (A) wordy and rambling
   (B) habitually lying
   (C) merely believable-sounding
   (D) truthful and honest
   (E) greedy and grasping

4. *Rather than admit his terror, he dissembled, forcing a confident smile to mask the panic churning underneath.*

   (A) take apart into pieces
   (B) conceal one's true feelings
   (C) openly confess one's feelings
   (D) mimic another person's manner
   (E) wildly overstate one's emotions

5. *The broker's duplicity surfaced when the two clients discovered he had secretly promised each of them the very thing he had promised the other.*

   (A) the state of being twofold
   (B) plain, simple lying
   (C) double-dealing deceit
   (D) scrupulous honesty
   (E) wasteful duplication of effort

6. *She secured the contract through guile rather than merit, flattering the board to their faces while quietly discrediting her rivals.*

(A) blunt honesty
(B) harmless cleverness
(C) aggressive force
(D) gnawing remorse
(E) cunning deceit; craftiness

7. *His warmth was pure artifice, a rehearsed performance engineered to disarm anyone who might question the figures.*

(A) fine artistic skill
(B) an ancient artifact
(C) cunning trickery; contrivance
(D) genuine sincerity
(E) a clever, neutral device

8. *Investigators tested the witness's veracity by matching each of her claims against the security footage, and every detail held up.*

(A) habitual lying
(B) the truth itself, as fact
(C) eagerness to cooperate
(D) a ravenous appetite
(E) truthfulness; accuracy

9. *It was disingenuous of him to feign surprise, since he had drafted the very memo he now claimed never to have seen.*

(A) candidly sincere
(B) insincere; falsely innocent
(C) boldly deceitful
(D) lacking any cleverness
(E) ungenerous and mean

10. *Asked point-blank whether he had authorized the payment, the official prevaricated, offering vague half-answers to avoid saying yes or no.*

(A) put off a task by procrastinating
(B) speak evasively to mislead
(C) waver and fluctuate

(D) flatly refuse to speak
(E) answer plainly and directly

GRE Practice Set 10

1. *The judge was chosen for her probity: in thirty years on the bench, not one bribe, favor, or conflict of interest had ever touched her rulings.*

(A) deep-seated corruption
(B) a trial period of assessment
(C) sharp mental cleverness
(D) the act of probing or testing
(E) unshakable honesty; integrity

2. *The customs office was a byword for venality; every stamp and signature had its price, and nothing moved without a bribe.*

(A) incorruptible honesty
(B) a poisonous quality
(C) openness to bribery; corruptibility
(D) a mild, forgivable fault
(E) ordinary greed for wealth

3. *He was stripped of his license for moral turpitude after the court detailed a decade of fraud, perjury, and betrayal of clients.*

(A) spotless virtue
(B) a lapse of poor judgment
(C) murky, cloudy water
(D) wicked depravity; baseness
(E) dullness or sluggishness

4. *Her rectitude was legendary; offered a fortune to overlook the safety violations, she reported every one and resigned rather than stay silent.*

(A) an act of correction
(B) physical straightness of a line

(C) rigid stubbornness
(D) moral uprightness
(E) shameless dishonesty

5. *The witnesses described a scene of such depravity that even hardened investigators struggled to read the report aloud.*

(A) severe material poverty
(B) a state of deep sadness
(C) extreme moral corruption
(D) noble goodness
(E) a minor character flaw

6. *The prophet thundered against the city's iniquity, cataloguing the theft, cruelty, and betrayal that had rotted it from within.*

(A) righteous virtue
(B) a lack of equality
(C) gross injustice; wickedness
(D) ordinary unfairness
(E) a state of unfairness in taxes

7. *Her testimony was unimpeachable; every claim was documented, dated, and corroborated, leaving the defense no thread to pull.*

(A) easily discredited
(B) unable to be fenced or enclosed
(C) beyond question or reproach
(D) reasonably reliable
(E) not able to be removed from office

8. *The licentious court scandalized the pious countryside with its drunken revels and open disregard for every rule of decency.*

(A) strictly self-disciplined
(B) morally unrestrained; dissolute
(C) quick to sue in court
(D) holding an official permit
(E) casually informal

9. *Once a promising scholar, he sank into a dissolute life of gambling dens and midnight excess, his talents drowned in vice.*

   (A) merely carefree and idle
   (B) broken up or disbanded
   (C) unable to be resolved
   (D) virtuous and disciplined
   (E) morally loose; debauched

10. *The inspector's report documented outright malfeasance: officials had diverted relief funds into private accounts while victims went without aid.*

    (A) honest but careless error
    (B) wrongdoing by an official
    (C) faithful discharge of duty
    (D) a feast or banquet
    (E) a defect in physical form

GRE Practice Set 11

1. *The talks collapsed over the union's intransigence; it would not shift a single clause, and no counteroffer could move it an inch.*

   (A) firm but flexible resolve
   (B) lack of clear communication
   (C) a refusal to travel or move
   (D) easy willingness to bend
   (E) refusal to compromise

2. *The new pony proved wonderfully tractable, following the lead rope and standing still for the saddle without the least fuss.*

   (A) providing good grip or traction
   (B) physically strong and sturdy
   (C) able to be traced or tracked
   (D) wild and unmanageable
   (E) easily managed; obedient

3. *Too tired to keep arguing, she finally acquiesced, agreeing to the plan she had resisted for weeks just to end the dispute.*

   (A) agree reluctantly; give in
   (B) enthusiastically endorse
   (C) to acquire or obtain
   (D) firmly refuse
   (E) to become quiet or calm

4. *The creditor remained obdurate, unmoved by the family's pleas and refusing to grant even a single week's extension.*

   (A) obscure and hard to see
   (B) readily sympathetic
   (C) physically hard and durable
   (D) mildly hesitant
   (E) stubbornly unyielding

5. *The recalcitrant recruit ignored every order, argued with each drill, and had to be disciplined twice in his first week.*

   (A) meekly obedient
   (B) hardened by heat like lime
   (C) defiantly resistant to authority
   (D) prone to repeated calculation
   (E) quietly reluctant

6. *The docile students followed instructions to the letter, never questioning the assignment or straying from the method they were shown.*

   (A) eager and quick to learn
   (B) rebellious and defiant
   (C) shy and reserved
   (D) situated at a dock or harbor
   (E) easily led; submissive

7. *The young reed was pliant, bending flat in the storm and springing upright again while stiffer stalks around it snapped.*

   (A) brittle and fragile

(B) rigid and unbending
(C) layered or folded in plies
(D) diligently applied to a task
(E) easily bent; flexible

8. *The dispute proved intractable; after three mediators and two years, the parties were no closer to any agreement than when they began.*

(A) unable to be traced back
(B) moderately difficult
(C) quickly and easily settled
(D) impossible to manage or resolve
(E) lacking traction on the road

9. *The refractory patient refused every treatment the doctors proposed, discharging himself twice against all medical advice.*

(A) mildly uncertain
(B) cooperative and compliant
(C) resistant to high heat, as a lining
(D) bending light like a lens
(E) stubbornly disobedient; unruly

10. *Surprisingly amenable to the change, she agreed to move the deadline the moment it was suggested and even offered to help replan.*

(A) open and agreeable; willing
(B) pleasant and mild in climate
(C) cautiously neutral
(D) flatly opposed
(E) subject to being answered for

GRE Practice Set 12

1. *The erudite footnotes cited sources in six languages, ranging from medieval Latin chronicles to obscure modern monographs.*

(A) unschooled and ignorant

(B) deeply learned
(C) pretentiously showy
(D) rude or abrasive
(E) cleverly quick-witted

2. *His erudition was staggering; he could trace a single word's history across three millennia without consulting a note.*

(A) natural cleverness
(B) profound ignorance
(C) wandering or roaming
(D) the act of instructing others
(E) extensive scholarly knowledge

3. *A true polymath, Hildegard composed music, wrote treatises on medicine, and sketched original cosmological diagrams.*

(A) a many-sided crystal or figure
(B) a parrot-like mimic
(C) person skilled in many disciplines
(D) a narrow specialist
(E) a gifted mathematician

4. *Never having attended university, the autodidact taught himself Greek, calculus, and cabinetmaking entirely from library books.*

(A) a private tutor
(B) a formally schooled pupil
(C) a self-taught person
(D) an automated teaching machine
(E) a dictatorial ruler

5. *Only a true cognoscente could tell the two vintages apart; his years of deep study let him name the estate from a single sip.*

(A) a casual hobbyist
(B) a knowledgeable expert
(C) an ignorant novice
(D) a recognizable public figure

(E) a scented or fragrant thing

6. *Though brilliant with his hands, the unlettered craftsman had never learned to read and knew nothing of books.*

(A) simply shy or reserved
(B) unfettered and free
(C) having no engraved lettering
(D) uneducated and illiterate
(E) widely learned and bookish

7. *Her films are famously cerebral, appealing to the intellect with dense puzzles rather than to the emotions.*

(A) relating to the brain as an organ
(B) intellectual rather than emotional
(C) ceremonial or solemn
(D) coldly unfeeling
(E) purely emotional

8. *An inquisitive child, she took apart every clock in the house just to see what made it tick.*

(A) eagerly curious
(B) nosily intrusive
(C) wholly incurious
(D) relating to an official inquiry
(E) greedy to acquire possessions

9. *A lifelong philomath, he enrolled in a new evening course every term purely for the joy of learning something fresh.*

(A) a merely dutiful student
(B) a charitable philanthropist
(C) a lover of learning
(D) one who scorns study
(E) a mathematics enthusiast

10. *His encyclopedic memory for baseball let him recite every World Series score, roster, and batting average since 1903.*

(A) cyclical or recurring
(B) arranged like a reference book
(C) spotty and fragmentary
(D) comprehensive in knowledge
(E) merely retentive

GRE Practice Set 13

1. *A born iconoclast, she overturned every convention her field held sacred, discarding methods others had followed unquestioned for a century.*

(A) a celebrated, iconic figure
(B) a mere rebel against authority
(C) a staunch traditionalist
(D) an attacker of tradition
(E) a destroyer of religious images

2. *His iconoclastic designs mocked the reverent styles of his teachers, replacing their marble solemnity with plastic and neon.*

(A) reverently conventional
(B) merely eccentric
(C) attacking cherished conventions
(D) image-destroying in a religious sense
(E) iconic or emblematic

3. *That seminal paper founded an entire discipline; every later study traces its methods back to its few original pages.*

(A) relating to seed or reproduction
(B) very famous
(C) highly original and influential
(D) resembling a seminar
(E) derivative and forgettable

4. *The avant-garde troupe abandoned plot and dialogue entirely, staging experiments no established theater would have dared.*

(A) merely fashionable
(B) a garden or courtyard
(C) the vanguard of an army
(D) boldly ahead of convention
(E) conventional and traditional

5. *With inventive flair he solved the shortage by repurposing scrap that everyone else had thrown away.*

(A) unimaginative
(B) fabricated or made up
(C) creatively original
(D) attentive or watchful
(E) hardworking

6. *The engineers' ingenuity turned a broken pump and a garden hose into a working irrigation system overnight.*

(A) clever inventiveness
(B) frankness or innocence
(C) hapless incompetence
(D) sheer effort
(E) naive innocence

7. *The treaty was unprecedented; no two nations had ever before agreed to share sovereignty over a river in quite this way.*

(A) lacking a president
(B) long-established
(C) extremely rare
(D) never done before
(E) not preceded by a legal ruling

8. *Her novel approach to the old puzzle, reversing the question entirely, had simply never occurred to anyone before.*

(A) a long work of prose fiction
(B) stale and familiar
(C) notable or noteworthy

(D) new and original
(E) strange

9. *The composer's style is sui generis: it fits no school, resembles no predecessor, and has never been convincingly imitated.*

(A) highly unusual
(B) utterly typical
(C) self-generating or self-produced
(D) unique, in a class of its own
(E) a biological genus

10. *The screenplay leaned on every hackneyed line in the genre, 'we're not so different, you and I,' that audiences can now recite in their sleep.*

(A) strikingly fresh
(B) hacked into or broken open
(C) overused to the point of staleness
(D) simplistic
(E) worn out like an old hired horse

GRE Practice Set 14

1. *The garden's springtime profusion of blossoms overwhelmed every trellis, spilling color into paths that only weeks before had been bare.*

(A) a steady, measured supply
(B) wasteful expenditure of money
(C) a formal announcement
(D) abundant quantity
(E) a bare scarcity

2. *After a surfeit of rich food at the banquet, the guests grew queasy and swore off dessert for a week.*

(A) an excessive amount
(B) a meager portion
(C) a smooth outer layer

(D) a generous helping
(E) disgust from overindulgence

3. *The remote outpost suffered a dearth of fresh water, forcing residents to ration every drop through the dry season.*

(A) an oversupply
(B) famine-level hunger
(C) the state of being dead
(D) a modest shortfall
(E) a scarcity

4. *Reviewers criticized the paper for its paucity of evidence: a single anecdote could not support so sweeping a claim.*

(A) a pause or break
(B) a slight imperfection
(C) a small amount
(D) an abundance
(E) poverty of spirit

5. *Faced with a plethora of options on the menu, she found the sheer number paralyzing rather than pleasing.*

(A) a pleasing variety
(B) an overabundance
(C) a scant few
(D) a bodily excess of humors
(E) a decorative flourish

6. *Living on an exiguous stipend, the graduate student stretched each meager check to cover rent, ramen, and little else.*

(A) requiring an exit
(B) modestly sufficient
(C) lavishly ample
(D) urgently demanding
(E) scanty, meager

7. *Once wealthy, the gambler ended in utter penury, unable to afford even a room and begging for bread.*

   (A) great wealth
   (B) a narrow peninsula
   (C) a penalty imposed
   (D) chosen thriftiness
   (E) extreme poverty

8. *After the long rains the harvest was plenteous, granaries overflowing with more grain than the village could store.*

   (A) abundant and plentiful
   (B) meager and sparse
   (C) merely adequate
   (D) plaintive and mournful
   (E) pleasant and agreeable

9. *The editor trimmed the essay's superfluity of adjectives, arguing that three synonyms where one would do only cluttered the prose.*

   (A) an unnecessary luxury item
   (B) shallow superficiality
   (C) excess, more than needed
   (D) a bare minimum
   (E) a rich fullness

10. *The harvest festival table was a cornucopia of produce, squash, apples, and grain heaped so high they tumbled off the edges.*

    (A) an abundant supply
    (B) a tidy arrangement
    (C) a bare cupboard
    (D) a brass instrument
    (E) a curved horn ornament

GRE Practice Set 15

1. *The 1920s saw an efflorescence of jazz, the art form suddenly blossoming into clubs, records, and radio across the country.*

   (A) a flourishing, blossoming
   (B) a pleasant fragrance
   (C) a modest revival
   (D) a withering decline
   (E) a powdery crust on a surface

2. *Months in the cast caused the muscle to atrophy, shrinking and weakening until he could barely lift his own arm.*

   (A) to waste away
   (B) to grow stronger
   (C) the upper atmosphere
   (D) a prize or award
   (E) to shrink slightly

3. *The old dueling laws fell into desuetude, still technically on the books but unused for a century and forgotten by all.*

   (A) a state of disuse
   (B) a sweet quality or sweetness
   (C) constant active use
   (D) a legal lawsuit
   (E) gentle neglect

4. *The startup began to burgeon overnight, its user base doubling each month as demand exploded.*

   (A) to grow rapidly
   (B) to shrink away
   (C) to bud or sprout
   (D) to hold steady
   (E) a middle-class merchant

5. *Once thriving, the mill town was now moribund, its factories shuttered and its main street a row of boarded windows.*

(A) temporarily quiet
(B) gloomy or grim in mood
(C) tied or bound down
(D) vigorously thriving
(E) dying, near death

6. *The burgeoning startup doubled its staff twice in a year, its revenue swelling faster than the founders could track.*

(A) merely stable
(B) steadily shrinking
(C) rapidly growing
(D) budding but not yet open
(E) burdened with debt

7. *As autumn deepened, the daylight began to wane, each afternoon dimming earlier than the last.*

(A) to grow larger
(B) to decrease, diminish
(C) to vanish permanently
(D) a cart or wagon
(E) to complain peevishly

8. *After the rains, luxuriant vines smothered the fence, their leaves so thick and lush they blocked the sun.*

(A) expensively lavish
(B) lush, abundantly growing
(C) sparse and stunted
(D) self-indulgent in comfort
(E) brightly illuminated

9. *The mansion had fallen into decrepitude, its roof sagging, its stairs rotted, everything crumbling from decades of neglect.*

(A) sturdy soundness
(B) physical frailty of an old person
(C) a state of decay from age

(D) quaint shabbiness
(E) a set of secret chambers

10. *Botanists study senescence in leaves, tracking how the tissue ages, yellows, and dies as the season ends.*

(A) quiet stillness
(B) youthful vigor
(C) gradual ripening
(D) keen sensory awareness
(E) the process of aging

GRE Practice Set 16

1. *The pilgrims approached the shrine with veneration, bowing low before a relic they held profoundly sacred.*

(A) the effect of venom
(B) mild admiration
(C) deep reverence
(D) open contempt
(E) obedient fear

2. *His proposal met only derision, the committee laughing it out of the room as absurd.*

(A) a mathematical division
(B) harsh criticism
(C) mockery, ridicule
(D) a firm decision
(E) sincere praise

3. *Colleagues held her in the highest esteem, valuing her judgment so much that no major decision was made without her.*

(A) rising vapor or heat
(B) high regard
(C) to estimate a quantity

(D) open contempt
(E) mere fondness

4. *The ceremony was meant to hallow the ground where the soldiers fell, treating it as sacred and worthy of reverence.*

(A) make holy; honor as sacred
(B) merely commemorate
(C) defile or desecrate
(D) to make hollow or empty
(E) to shout or call out loudly

5. *The students spoke of their old teacher with reverence, their voices hushed in respect for all she had given them.*

(A) deep respect
(B) a daydream or musing
(C) fond affection
(D) a reversal or turning back
(E) open scorn

6. *The courtiers made deep obeisance as the queen entered, bowing until their heads nearly touched the floor.*

(A) a defiant snub
(B) an obituary notice
(C) a deferential gesture of respect
(D) excessive stoutness
(E) strict obedience

7. *The festival paid homage to the founder, honoring his memory with speeches and a bronze statue in the square.*

(A) a feudal vassal's pledge of loyalty
(B) public ridicule
(C) public honor and respect
(D) a blended mixture
(E) a fond memory

8. *The prisoner endured contumely from the guards, a stream of insults and humiliations meant to break his spirit.*

   (A) a state of calm continuity
   (B) stubborn defiance
   (C) courteous respect
   (D) stern discipline
   (E) insolent, contemptuous abuse

9. *The congregation gathered to adore their patron saint, kneeling in worshipful reverence before her image.*

   (A) worship or revere deeply
   (B) hold in contempt
   (C) to decorate or adorn
   (D) to plead for a favor
   (E) to merely like a great deal

10. *Her thesis won the committee's approbation, each examiner nodding warm approval of the work.*

    (A) strong disapproval
    (B) a trial or probation period
    (C) a careful testing of proof
    (D) approval, praise
    (E) grudging acceptance

CHAPTER 7

GRE Answer Key

Each entry gives the correct choice and, in italics, the trap category each distractor represents.

GRE Practice Set 1

Q1
(E) using very few words; terse *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q2
(E) cheerfully optimistic; confident of a good outcome *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) opposite-meaning.*

Q3
(B) to make unclear or obscure; to muddle *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q4
(A) calm and unexcitable; even-tempered *Traps: (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q5
(C) given to sudden, unpredictable changes of mood; volatile *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q6
(A) excessively eager to please; fawning and servile *Traps: (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q7
(A) given to lying; deliberately untruthful *Traps: (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q8
(A) perfectly clear and easy to understand *Traps: (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q9
(E) aggressively defiant and belligerent *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) opposite-meaning.*

Q10
(D) lasting only a very short time; fleeting *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (E) opposite-meaning.*

GRE Practice Set 2

Q1
(E) inexorable *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (C) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (D) antonym/contradicts context.*

Q2
(C) provenance *Traps: (A) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (B) wrong-sense word; (D) antonym/contradicts context; (E) near-synonym, imprecise nuance.*

Q3
(B) impunity *Traps: (A) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (C) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (D) antonym/contradicts context; (E) wrong-sense word.*

Q4
(E) credulous *Traps: (A) antonym/contradicts context; (B) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (C) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q5
(E) equivocal *Traps: (A) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (B) near-synonym,*

imprecise nuance; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) antonym/contradicts context.

Q6
(D) sully *Traps: (A) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (B) wrong-sense word; (C) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (E) antonym/contradicts context.*

Q7
(C) quell *Traps: (A) antonym/contradicts context; (B) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (D) wrong-sense word; (E) near-synonym, imprecise nuance.*

Q8
(E) onerous *Traps: (A) antonym/contradicts context; (B) wrong connotation/register; (C) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (D) near-synonym, imprecise nuance.*

Q9
(C) irreproachable *Traps: (A) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (B) wrong-sense word; (D) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (E) antonym/contradicts context.*

Q10
(E) surreptitious *Traps: (A) antonym/contradicts context; (B) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (C) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (D) wrong-sense word.*

GRE Practice Set 3

Q1
(D) despondent *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (B) antonym/contradicts context; (C) wrong connotation/register; (E) near-synonym, imprecise nuance.*

Q2
(E) refute *Traps: (A) wrong connotation/register; (B) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (C) antonym/contradicts context; (D) wrong-sense word.*

Q3
(D) terminate *Traps: (A) antonym/contradicts context; (B) wrong connotation/register; (C) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (E) wrong-sense word.*

Q4
(A) amiable *Traps: (B) wrong-sense word; (C) antonym/contradicts context; (D) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (E) wrong connotation/register.*

Q5
(E) disdain *Traps: (A) antonym/contradicts context; (B) wrong-sense word; (C) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (D) wrong connotation/register.*

Q6
(A) yearning *Traps: (B) wrong connotation/register; (C) wrong-sense word; (D) antonym/contradicts context; (E) near-synonym, imprecise nuance.*

Q7
(C) obsolete *Traps: (A) wrong connotation/register; (B) antonym/contradicts context; (D) wrong-sense word; (E) near-synonym, imprecise nuance.*

Q8
(D) surmise *Traps: (A) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (B) wrong connotation/register; (C) antonym/contradicts context; (E) wrong-sense word.*

Q9
(B) feasible *Traps: (A) wrong-sense word; (C) antonym/contradicts context; (D) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (E) wrong connotation/register.*

Q10
(C) unsound *Traps: (A) near-synonym, imprecise nuance; (B) wrong connotation/register; (D) wrong-sense word; (E) antonym/contradicts context.*

GRE Practice Set 4

Q1
(D) tediously wordy *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) opposite-meaning; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q2
(C) briefly and clearly stated *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q3
(D) brief and full of meaning *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q4
(A) given to long words *Traps: (B) opposite-meaning; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q5
(E) redundantly wordy *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) opposite-meaning.*

Q6
(E) concise but comprehensive *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) opposite-meaning.*

Q7
(D) roundabout, using extra words *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) opposite-meaning; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q8
(C) given to pompous moralizing *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) opposite-meaning; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q9
(B) very talkative *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q10
(D) fluently talkative *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) opposite-meaning; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

GRE Practice Set 5

Q1
(A) to praise highly *Traps: (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q2
(A) to praise enthusiastically *Traps: (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q3
(E) excessive praise or admiration *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) opposite-meaning.*

Q4
(E) to praise highly *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) opposite-meaning.*

Q5
(D) a speech of elaborate praise *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q6
(E) a formal expression of praise *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) opposite-meaning.*

Q7
(A) to flatter servilely *Traps: (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q8
(B) a self-serving flatterer *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q9
(A) a song of praise *Traps: (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q10
(A) an expression of praise *Traps: (B) opposite-meaning; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

GRE Practice Set 6

Q1
(B) clear and convincing *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q2
(D) fluent and persuasive in speech *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q3
(D) pompous and lofty in language *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) opposite-meaning; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q4
(B) pompous and inflated in speech *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q5
(A) sweet and smooth-sounding *Traps: (B) opposite-meaning; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q6
(B) the closing part of a speech *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q7
(B) to speak rhetorically and dramatically *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q8
(B) the art of eloquent public speaking *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense;*

(C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.

Q9
(A) deep and richly resonant *Traps: (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q10
(A) sharp and incisive *Traps: (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

GRE Practice Set 7

Q1
(C) fearless and bold *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q2
(E) not discouraged by danger *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q3
(E) rash boldness *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) opposite-meaning.*

Q4
(E) shameless boldness *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) opposite-meaning.*

Q5
(B) daring boldness *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q6
(D) spirited courage *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q7
(D) brave and resolute *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) opposite-meaning; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q8
(A) eager to take risks *Traps: (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q9
(C) boldly shameless *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q10
(D) great courage *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) opposite-meaning; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

GRE Practice Set 8

Q1
(A) intense fury *Traps: (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q2
(C) peevish irritability *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) opposite-meaning; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q3
(B) harshness of tone *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q4
(D) irritable anger *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) opposite-meaning; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q5
(A) anger *Traps: (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q6
(C) bitter resentment *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) opposite-meaning; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q7
(A) indignant resentment *Traps: (B) opposite-meaning; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q8
(D) offense or resentment *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) opposite-meaning; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q9
(E) overcome with rage *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) opposite-meaning; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q10
(E) bad-tempered and spiteful *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

GRE Practice Set 9

Q1
(D) frankness; open honesty *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) opposite-meaning; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q2
(C) direct and straightforward *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) opposite-meaning; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q3
(D) truthful and honest *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) opposite-meaning; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q4
(B) conceal one's true feelings *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q5
(C) double-dealing deceit *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q6
(E) cunning deceit; craftiness *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q7
(C) cunning trickery; contrivance *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q8
(E) truthfulness; accuracy *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q9
(B) insincere; falsely innocent *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q10
(B) speak evasively to mislead *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) opposite-meaning.*

GRE Practice Set 10

Q1
(E) unshakable honesty; integrity *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q2
(C) openness to bribery; corruptibility *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q3
(D) wicked depravity; baseness *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q4
(D) moral uprightness *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q5
(C) extreme moral corruption *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q6
(C) gross injustice; wickedness *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q7
(C) beyond question or reproach *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q8
(B) morally unrestrained; dissolute *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q9
(E) morally loose; debauched *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) opposite-meaning.*

Q10
(B) wrongdoing by an official *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

GRE Practice Set 11

Q1
(E) refusal to compromise *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) opposite-meaning.*

Q2
(E) easily managed; obedient *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) opposite-meaning.*

Q3
(A) agree reluctantly; give in *Traps: (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q4
(E) stubbornly unyielding *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) opposite-meaning; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q5
(C) defiantly resistant to authority *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q6
(E) easily led; submissive *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) opposite-meaning; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q7
(E) easily bent; flexible *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) opposite-meaning; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q8
(D) impossible to manage or resolve *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) opposite-meaning; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q9
(E) stubbornly disobedient; unruly *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) opposite-meaning; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q10
(A) open and agreeable; willing *Traps: (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

GRE Practice Set 12

Q1
(B) deeply learned *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q2
(E) extensive scholarly knowledge *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) opposite-meaning; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q3
(C) person skilled in many disciplines *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q4
(C) a self-taught person *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) opposite-meaning; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q5
(B) a knowledgeable expert *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q6
(D) uneducated and illiterate *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q7
(B) intellectual rather than emotional *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q8
(A) eagerly curious *Traps: (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q9
(C) a lover of learning *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q10
(D) comprehensive in knowledge *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) opposite-meaning; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

GRE Practice Set 13

Q1
(D) an attacker of tradition *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) opposite-meaning; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q2
(C) attacking cherished conventions *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q3
(C) highly original and influential *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q4
(D) boldly ahead of convention *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q5
(C) creatively original *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q6
(A) clever inventiveness *Traps: (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q7
(D) never done before *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) opposite-meaning; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q8
(D) new and original *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) opposite-meaning; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q9
(D) unique, in a class of its own *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) opposite-meaning; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q10
(C) overused to the point of staleness *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

GRE Practice Set 14

Q1
(D) abundant quantity *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q2
(A) an excessive amount *Traps: (B) opposite-meaning; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q3
(E) a scarcity *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q4
(C) a small amount *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q5
(B) an overabundance *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q6
(E) scanty, meager *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q7
(E) extreme poverty *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q8
(A) abundant and plentiful *Traps: (B) opposite-meaning; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q9
(C) excess, more than needed *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q10
(A) an abundant supply *Traps: (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

GRE Practice Set 15

Q1
(A) a flourishing, blossoming *Traps: (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q2
(A) to waste away *Traps: (B) opposite-meaning; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q3
(A) a state of disuse *Traps: (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q4
(A) to grow rapidly *Traps: (B) opposite-meaning; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q5
(E) dying, near death *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (D) opposite-meaning.*

Q6
(C) rapidly growing *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (B) opposite-meaning; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q7
(B) to decrease, diminish *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q8
(B) lush, abundantly growing *Traps: (A) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q9
(C) a state of decay from age *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (E) sound-alike-or-association.*

Q10
(E) the process of aging *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) opposite-meaning; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

GRE Practice Set 16

Q1
(C) deep reverence *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q2
(C) mockery, ridicule *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q3
(B) high regard *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) opposite-meaning; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q4
(A) make holy; honor as sacred *Traps: (B) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) wrong-dictionary-sense.*

Q5
(A) deep respect *Traps: (B) sound-alike-or-association; (C) near-synonym-wrong-nuance; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) opposite-meaning.*

Q6
(C) a deferential gesture of respect *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) sound-alike-or-association; (D) wrong-dictionary-sense; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q7
(C) public honor and respect *Traps: (A) wrong-dictionary-sense; (B) opposite-meaning; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q8
(E) insolent, contemptuous abuse *Traps: (A) sound-alike-or-association; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) opposite-meaning; (D) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q9
(A) worship or revere deeply *Traps: (B) opposite-meaning; (C) wrong-dictionary-sense; (D) sound-alike-or-association; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*

Q10
(D) approval, praise *Traps: (A) opposite-meaning; (B) wrong-dictionary-sense; (C) sound-alike-or-association; (E) near-synonym-wrong-nuance.*