

**Barron GRE word list – B**

1. Babble: chatter idly or foolishly; make continuous sounds like water running gently over rounded stone; N.
2. Bacchanal: noisy party with a lot of drinking
3. Bacchanalia: the ancient Roman festival in honor of Bacchus
4. Bacchanalian: drunken
5. Backslide: revert (to bad habits); N. reverter
6. Backwards and forwards; Ex. reciprocate his invitation by inviting him; N. reciprocity: reciprocal relationship; mutual interchange of advantages between two groups; Ex. reciprocity in trading rights
7. Badger: pester; annoy continually with demands; persuade by asking again and again; Ex. The children badgered me into taking them into the cinema; N: a kind of mountain animal
8. Badinage: teasing conversation; banter; joking talk
9. Baffle: frustrate; perplex
10. Baleful: evil; malignant in intent or effect; deadly; having a malign influence; portending evil; ominous; threatening; Ex. baleful look
11. Balk: stop short, as if faced with an obstacle, and refuse to continue; foil; stop or get in the way of; frustrate
12. Ballast: heavy substance used to add stability or weight
13. Banal: hackneyed; commonplace; trite; lacking originality; clichéd



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14. Bandy: discuss lightly or glibly; discuss in a frivolous manner; exchange (words) heatedly; quarrel; Ex. bandy words with
15. Bane: posion; cause of ruin; ADJ. baneful: harmful; poisonous
16. Bank: heap; piled-up mass; embankment; lateral tilting (as of an aircraft in turning); V: pile up; protect with a bank; tilt in turning
17. Baroque: highly ornate
18. Barrage: barrier laid down by artillery fire; overwhelming profusion; large number of questions or statements; Ex. a barrage of criticism
19. Barrister: counselor-at-law or lawyer in the higher court of law; CF. bar
20. Barterer: trader; V. barter: trade; exchange good for other goods rather than money
21. Base: contemptible; morally bad; inferior in value or quality; Ex. Base motives/conduct; Ex. base metal such as iron
22. Bask: luxuriate; take pleasure in warmth
23. Bastion: stronghold; something seen as a source of protection; Ex. the last bastion of male chauvinism
24. Bate: let down; lessen the force of; moderate; restrain; Ex. with bated breath; CF. abate
25. Battalion: army unit made up of four or more companies
26. Bauble: trinket; cheap jewel; trifle
27. Bawdy: indecent; obscene; about sex in a rude funny way; CF. bawd
28. Beatific: giving or showing bliss; blissful
29. Beatitude: blessedness; state of great happiness
30. Bedizen: dress with vulgar finery



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31. Bedraggle: wet thoroughly; ADJ. bedraggled: draggled
32. Beeline: direct quick route
33. Befuddle: confuse thoroughly
34. Beget: father; become the father of; produce; give rise to
35. Begrudge: envy; give or allow unwillingly; grudge; Ex. We shouldn't begrudge him his success.
36. Beguile: deceive; mislead or delude; cheat; pass time pleasantly; charm or attract; Ex. beguiling smile
37. Behemoth: huge creature; something of monstrous size or power
38. Beholden: obligated; indebted; owing thanks; obliged or indebted from gratitude
39. Behoove: (behave) be suited to; be incumbent upon; be right and necessary; Ex. It behooves one to do.
40. Belabor: harp on; dwell on tediously; explain or go over excessively or to a ridiculous degree; assail verbally; beat severely; attack physically
41. Belated: delayed
42. Beleaguer: besiege or attack (with an army); harass; beset
43. Belie: contradict; give a false impression; disguise; Ex. The poor sales belied our high hopes; Ex. Her smile belies her true feeling of displeasure.
44. Belittle: disparage; depreciate
45. Bellicose: warlike
46. Belligerent: quarrelsome
47. Bemoan: lament; moan for; express sorrow or disapproval of



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- 48. Bemused: confused; lost in thought; preoccupied
- 49. Benediction: blessing
- 50. Benefactor: gift giver; patron; person who does good or who gives money for a good purpose
- 51. Beneficent: kindly; doing good
- 52. Beneficial: helpful; useful; advantageous
- 53. Beneficiary: person entitled to benefits or proceeds of an insurance policy or will
- 54. Benevolent: generous; charitable; having a wish to do good
- 55. Benign: kindly; favorable; not malignant (disease); Ex. benign tumor
- 56. Bequeath: leave to someone by means of a will; hand down in his will; N. bequest
- 57. Berate: scold strongly
- 58. Bereaved: deprived of (someone beloved through death)
- 59. Bereavement: state of being deprived of something valuable or beloved; state of being bereaved or bereft
- 60. Bereft: deprived of (something valuable); lacking
- 61. Berserk: mad with violent anger; frenzied; madly excited
- 62. Beseech: beg; plead with
- 63. Beset: harass or trouble from all directions; hem in
- 64. Besiege: surround with armed forces; harass (with requests); annoy continually
- 65. Besmirch: soil; defile; make dirty
- 66. Bestial: beastlike; brutal; inhuman; very cruel
- 67. Bestow: confer
- 68. Betoken: signify; indicate; be a sign of



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69. Bevy: large group; Ex. a bevy of starlets
70. Bewitch: cast a spell over; captivate completely
71. Bicameral: two-chambered as a legislative body
72. Bicker: quarrel
73. Bid: command; utter (a greeting); offer as a price; N: offer of a price; amount offered; earnest effort to gain something; Ex. bid for freedom
74. Biennial: every two years
75. Bifurcated: divided into two branches; forked
76. Bilious: suffering from indigestion; sick from having too much bile; irritable; easily irritated
77. Bilk: swindle; cheat
78. Billow: large wave of water; a great swell or surge (of smoke); V: surge, swell, roll in billows
79. billowing swelling out in waves; surging
80. Bivouac: temporary encampment; camp without tents;
81. Blackball: vote against (an applicant); ostracize; N: negative vote
82. Blanch: bleach; whiten; make white or pale
83. Blare: loud or harsh roar or screech; dazzling blaze of light
84. Blasé: bored with pleasure or dissipation; uninterested or bored
85. Blasphemy: irreverence; sacrilege; cursing; bad language about God or holy things
86. Blatant: extremely (offensively) obvious; loudly offensive; Ex. blatant lie; N. blatancy
87. Bleak: cold or cheerless; frigid; unlikely to be favorable; depressing



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88. Blemish: mar; spoil the beauty or perfection of; N: flaw or defect (that spoils perfection); Ex. blemishes in the crystal; CF. unblemished
89. Blight: plant disease; V: infect with blight; ruin; destroy
90. Blighted: suffering from a disease; destroyed
91. Bliss: complete happiness; ADJ. blissful
92. Blithe: (blithesome) gay; joyous
93. Bloated: (unpleasantly) swollen or puffed as with water or air
94. Blotch: spot; blot; CF. blot+botch
95. Blowhard: talkative boaster; braggart
96. Bludgeon: club; heavy-headed weapon; V.
97. Bluff: pretense (of strength); deception; high cliff; ADJ: rough but goodnatured
98. Blunder: error; stupid mistake
99. Blunt: having a dull edge; abrupt and frank in speech or manner; brusque
100. Blur: utter impulsively from nervousness or excitement
101. Bluster: blow in heavy gusts; threaten emptily; bully; speak in a noisy or bullying manner; CF. breeze, gust, gale
102. Bode: foreshadow; portend
103. Bog: soft wet land; V: hinder or be hindered; Ex. bogged down in the mud
104. Bogus: counterfeit; not authentic; intentionally false; Ex. bogus interview
105. Bohemian: unconventional (in an artistic way)
106. Boisterous: violent; rough; noisy
107. Bolster: support; reinforce



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109. Bolt: door bar; fastening pin or screw; length of fabric; large roll of cloth; V: dash or dart off; fasten (a | door); gobble down
110. Bombardment: attack (as with missiles or bombs); V. bombard
111. Bombast: grandiloquent, pompous speech
112. Bombastic: pompous; using inflated language
113. Boon: blessing; benefit; something very helpful
114. Boor: rude, insensitive person
115. Boorish: rude; insensitive
116. Bountiful: generous; graciously generous; showing bounty
117. Bourgeois: middle class; selfishly materialistic; too interested in material possessions
118. Bout: match; short period of great activity; Ex. wrestling bout; bout of drinking/flu
119. Bovine: cowlike; placid and dull; slow-thinking; calm
120. Bowdlerize: expurgate; CF. Thomas Bowdler
121. Brackish: somewhat saline
122. Brag: boast
123. Braggadocio: boasting
124. Braggart: boaster; bragger
125. Braid: plait; interweave strands or lengths of; make by weaving strands together; N: braided segment (as of hair)
126. Brandish: wave around (a weapon); flourish
127. Bravado: swagger; assumed air of defiance; false show of bravery
128. Brave: face courageously; Ex. brave the storm



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129. Brawl: noisy quarrel
130. Brawn: human muscle; muscular strength; sturdiness
131. Brawny: muscular; having well-developed muscles
132. Brazen: insolent; without shame; bold; Ex. brazen lie; V: face with bold selfassurance or with unshamed confidence
133. Breach: breaking of contract or duty; fissure or gap; opening; V.
134. Brevity: conciseness; shortness of duration
135. Bridle: harness fitted about a horse's head (used to restrain); curb; check; V: put a bridle on; control or restrain; show anger
136. Brim: uppermost edge of a cup; projecting rim (as on a hat); Ex. The glass was full to the brim; V: be full to the brim
137. Brindled: tawny or grayish with streaks or spots (of animals)
138. Brink: edge (at the top of a cliff); Ex. on the brink of the Grand Canyon
139. Brisk: quick and active; marked by liveliness and vigor
140. Bristle: short stiff hair; V: (hair or fur) stand up stiffly
141. Broach: introduce as a subject; moot; open up
142. Brocade: rich, figured(patterned) fabric
143. Bromide: platitude; chemical compound used to calm excitement
144. Brood: sit on in order to hatch; think deeply or worry anxiously; N: the young of certain animals; group of young birds hatched at one time
145. Brook: tolerate; endure; Ex. brook no interference; N: small stream
146. Browbeat: bully; intimidate





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147. Browse: graze; feed on growing grass; skim or glance at casually
148. Brunt: main impact or shock (of an attack or blow); Ex. brunt of the argument
149. Brusque: blunt; abrupt; curt; not wanting to waste time being nice
150. Buccaneer: pirate
151. Bucolic: rustic; pastoral
152. Buffet: strike forcefully; slap; batter; knock out; N: table with food set out for people to server themselves; meal at which people help themselves to food that's been set
153. Buffoon: stupid person; clown
154. Bulwark: strong wall built for defense; earthwork or other strong defense; person who defends
155. Bungle: mismanage; blunder; botch; blow; spoil by clumsy behavior
156. Buoyant: able to float; cheerful and optimistic; N. buoyancy; Ex. buoyancy of wood/water/American market
157. Bureaucracy: overregulated administrative system marked by red tape; ADJ. bureaucratic
158. Burgeon: grow rapidly; grow forth; send out buds; Ex. burgeoning computer industry; CF. bludgeon
159. Burlesque: give an imitation that ridicules; imitate mockingly
160. Burnish: make shiny by rubbing; polish
161. Bust: piece of sculpture showing a person's head, shoulders, and upper chest; V: break up; arrest; Ex. crimebuster
162. Buttress: support; prop up; N. stationary structure to support wall
163. Buxom: full-bosomed; plump; jolly



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