

**Barron GRE word list – P**

1. Pacifist: one opposed to force; antimilitarist; ADJ. N. pacifism: opposition to war as a means of resolving disputes
2. Pacify: soothe; make calm or quiet; subdue; bring peace to
3. Palatable: agreeable; pleasing to the taste
4. Palatial: of or suitable for a palace; magnificent
5. Pall: become boring; grow tiresome
6. Pallet: small poor bed; Ex. straw pallet
7. Palliate: ease pain (without curing); make less severe or offensive (a crime or illness)
8. Pallid: pale; wan; Ex. pallid complexion
9. Palpable: tangible; (of something bad) easily perceptible; obvious; Ex. Palpable blunder
10. Palpitate: throb; beat rapidly; flutter; tremble; Ex. Her heart began to palpitate.
11. Paltry: insignificant; petty; trifling; contemptible; Ex. paltry sum;
12. Panache: flair; manner of doing things without any difficulty (causing admiration); flamboyance; bunch of feathers (on a helmet); Ex. With great panache;
13. Pandemonium: wild tumult(commotion); wild noisy disorder;
14. Pander: cater to (the low desires of others)
15. Panegyric: formal praise; encomium; Ex. I don't deserve such panegyrics.
16. Pang: sudden sharp feeling of pain
17. Panoramic: denoting an unobstructed and comprehensive view; N. panorama: unbroken view of a wide area
18. Pantomime: acting without dialogue; V.



19. Papyrus: ancient paper made from stem of papyrus plant
20. Parable: short simple story teaching a moral
21. Paradigm: model; example that serves as a model; pattern; list of all the inflectional forms of a word
22. Paragon: model of perfection; Ex. paragon of virtue
23. Paramount: foremost in importance; supreme;
24. Paramour: illicit lover
25. Paraphrase: restate a passage in one's own words while retaining thought of author; N: restatement of a text in other words
26. Parched: extremely dry; very thirsty; V. parch: make or become extremely dry (by exposure to heat)
27. Pariah: social outcast;
28. Parish: area in the care of a single priest and served by one main church
29. Parity: equality; close resemblance;
30. Parlance: language; manner of speaking; idiom; Ex. in legal/common parlance
31. Parley: conference (between opponents);
32. Parochial: narrow in scope or outlook; provincial; related to parishes
33. Paroxysm: fit or attack of pain, laughter, rage; sudden outburst
34. Parquet: floor made of wood strips inlaid in a mosaic like matter;
35. Parry: ward off a blow; deflect; Ex. He parried the unwelcome question very skillfully; N.
36. Parsimony: stinginess; excessive frugality; ADJ. parsimonious



37. Partisan: one-sided; prejudiced; committed to a party (with dislike of any others); N: strong supporter of a party;
38. Parvenu: upstart; newly rich person
39. Pastoral: rural; of rural life; idyllic; of a pastor
40. Patent: obvious; easily seen; open for the public to read; of or protected by a patent; Ex. patent to everyone; N.
41. Patriarch: father and ruler of a family or tribe
42. Patrician: noble; aristocratic; N: person of high rank; aristocrat
43. Patrimony: property inherited from a father
44. Paucity: scarcity; dearth
45. Pauper: very poor person
46. Peccadillo: slight offense or fault;
47. Pecuniary: pertaining to money
48. Pedagogy: teaching; art of education
49. Pedant: scholar who overemphasizes book learning, trivial details of learning, or technicalities
50. Pedantic: bookish; showing off learning; marked by an excessive ostentatious concern for book learning; N. pedantry
51. Peddle: travel about selling (wares);
52. Pedestal: support or base as for a pillar or statue
53. Pedestrian: ordinary; dull; unimaginative(lacking in imagination); going on foot; Ex. pedestrian prose; N.



54. Peevish: bad-tempered; irritable; V. peeve: make angry
55. Pejorative: (of a word or phrase) suggesting that someone is of little value; negative in connotation; having a belittling effect;
56. Pellucid: transparent; limpid(crystal clear); clear in meaning; easy to understand
57. Penance: self-imposed punishment for sin; Ex. do penance for one's sins;
58. Penchant: strong inclination; strong liking (esp. for something that is disapproved of by other people); Ex. penchant for fast cars
59. Pendulous: hanging; suspended
60. Penitent: repentant; N.
61. Pensive: dreamily or deeply thoughtful; sadly thoughtful; thoughtful with a hint of sadness; contemplative;
62. Penury: extreme poverty; stinginess; ADJ. penurious: very poor; stingy
63. Percussion: striking one object against another sharply; Ex. Percussion instrument; N: striking together of two bodies; sound caused by percussion
64. Perdition: damnation; complete ruin; hell
65. Peregrination: journey; V. peregrinate
66. Peremptory: demanding and leaving no choice; imperative; Ex. Peremptory decree/knock
67. Perennial: something long-lasting; perennial plant; ADJ: lasting through the year or many years; lasting for a long time; enduring
68. Perfidious: treacherous; disloyal; N. perfidy: treachery
69. Perforate: pierce; put a hole through



70. Perfunctory: done routinely and with little care; superficial; not thorough; lacking interest, care, or enthusiasm; Ex. perfunctory kiss
71. Peripatetic: walking about from place to place (to work); moving; Ex. Peripatetic school of philosophy
72. Perjury: false testimony while under oath; V. perjure oneself: testify falsely under oath
73. Permeable: that can be permeated; penetrable; porous; allowing liquids or gas to pass through; V. permeate: spread or flow throughout; charge
74. Permissive: allowing much freedom; lenient; Ex. permissive society
75. Pernicious: very harmful; deadly; very destructive; Ex. pernicious effect/anemia
76. Peroration: conclusion of an oration; perorating; V. perorate: conclude a speech; speak at great length
77. Perpetrate: commit an offense; do (something wrong)
78. Perpetual: everlasting
79. Perpetuate: make perpetual; make something last for a long time; preserve from extinction; N. perpetuity
80. Perquisite: (perk) any gain above stipulated salary; Ex. perquisites such as free meals
81. and a car
82. Personable: attractive (in personality or appearance)
83. Perspicacious: (of someone) having insight; penetrating; astute
84. Perspicuity: clearness of expression; freedom from ambiguity
85. Perspicuous: (of something) plainly expressed; easy to understand; Ex. perspicuous comments



86. Pertinacious: holding tenaciously to an action; stubborn; persistent
87. Pertinent: suitable; to the point; relevant
88. Perturb: disturb greatly
89. Peruse: read through with care; N. perusal
90. Pervasive: spread throughout; V. pervade: (of smells, ideas, feelings) spread throughout; charge; perverse: purposely continuing to do something wrong; stubbornly wrongheaded; perverted; directed away from what is right; wicked and unacceptable; Ex. perverse satisfaction
91. Pessimism: belief that life is basically bad or evil; gloominess; tendency to take the gloomiest possible view of a situation; ADJ. pessimistic
92. Pestilential:(pestilent) causing plague; tending to cause death; baneful; N. pestilence: fatal epidemic disease (esp. bubonic plague)
93. Petrify: turn to stone; cause to become stone like; stun or paralyze
94. Petulant: touchy; peevish; ill-tempered
95. Philanderer: faithless lover; flirt
96. Philistine: narrow-minded person, uncultured and exclusively interested in material gain; uncultured person who is indifferent to artistic and cultural values; member of an ancient people in Palestine; OP. aesthete
97. Phlegmatic: calm and unexcitable; not easily disturbed
98. Piety: devoutness; reverence for God; ADJ. pious
99. Pilfer: steal things of small value; filch; snitch
100. Pillage: plunder



101. Pillory: punish by placing in a wooden frame or pillory; subject or expose to criticism and ridicule; N.
102. Pinion: restrain or immobilize by binding the wings or legs; N: bird's wing
103. Pinnacle: peak; highest point; acme; Ex. pinnacle of fame
104. Pious: devout; religious; N. piety
105. Piquant: pleasantly tart-tasting; spicy; pleasantly stimulating; Ex. Piquant situation when my old enemy asked for my help
106. Pique: irritation; resentment from wounded pride (eg. loss in a contest); V: provoke; arouse; annoy; cause to feel resentment; Ex. pique her curiosity
107. Pith: core or marrow; sponge like substance in the center of stems; essence; substance
108. Pithy: concise and meaningful; substantial; meaty
109. Pittance: small amount (of money); small allowance or wage
110. Pivotal: of a pivot; central; critical; crucial
111. Placate: pacify; bring peace to; conciliate; appease
112. Placebo: harmless substance prescribed as a dummy pill
113. Placid: peaceful; calm; Ex. placid child/lake
114. Plagiarize: steal another's ideas or writings and pass them off as one's own; Ex. ideas plagiarized from my article; N. plagiarism;
115. Plaintive: expressing sorrow; mournful; Ex. plaintive song
116. Platitude: trite remark; commonplace statement; ADJ. platitudinous
117. Plaudit: praise; enthusiastic approval; round(succession or series) of applause;
118. Plausible: conceivably true; having a show of truth but open to doubt; specious



119. Plebeian: common; vulgar; pertaining to the common people; N: common people in ancient Rome;
120. Plethora: excess; overabundance; Ex. a plethora of excuses
121. Pliable: flexible; easily influenced; yielding; adaptable
122. Pliant: flexible; easily influenced
123. Plight: difficult condition; condition or state (esp. a bad state or condition);
124. Predicament: ploy strategy to gain an advantage; tactic; Ex. management ploy
125. Plummet: fall sharply; fall straight down; Ex. Stock prices plummeted.
126. Poignancy: quality of being deeply moving; keenness of emotion; ADJ. poignant: touching; deeply moving; (of sorrow, grief, etc.) painful; keenly distressing to the mind; Ex. poignant memory/anxiety;
127. Poise: good judgment with composure; balance; V: place in a carefully balanced position
128. Polemic: attack or defense of an opinion; controversy or refutation; argument in support of point of view; N. polemics: art of debate or controversy
129. Polemical:(polemic) aggressive in verbal attack; disputatious (rather than simply expressing opinions)
130. Polity: (particular form of) political organization; form of government of nation or state; Ex. student polity
131. Polyglot: speaking several languages; multilingual; Ex. polyglot person/society;
132. Pomposity: self-important behavior; acting like a stuffed shirt(pompous person); ADJ. pompous: self-important





133. Ponderous: having great weight; weighty; unwieldy; lacking lightness; dull; Ex. ponderous body/style of writing
134. Portend: foretell; presage; be a sign or warning of; N. portent: sign; omen; forewarning
135. Posterity: descendants; future generations; Ex. go down to posterity;
136. Posture: assume an affected pose; act artificially; N: pose; attitude
137. Potable: suitable for drinking; drinkable
138. Potent: powerful; convincing; persuasive; greatly influential
139. Potentate: monarch; sovereign
140. Practicable: feasible
141. Prance: move about in a spirited manner (proudly and confidently)
142. Prate: talk idly; speak foolishly; boast idly
143. Prattle: talk idly; babble; N.
144. Preamble: introductory statement
145. Precarious: unsafe; lacking in stability; uncertain; risky; Ex. precarious living
146. Precedent: preceding (in time, rank, etc.)
147. Precept: practical rule guiding conduct; Ex. mother's precept
148. Precipice: cliff; dangerous position; Ex. on the edge of the precipice
149. Precipitant: something that causes a substance in a chemical solution to separate out in solid form; OP. solvent
150. Precipitate: hurl downward; throw headlong; hasten; cause to happen sooner; condense and fall as rain or snow
151. Precipitous: steep; overhasty; precipitate



152. Precocious: advanced in development; N. precocity
153. Precursor: forerunner; predecessor
154. Predicament: difficult situation; tricky or dangerous situation; dilemma
155. Predilection: preference; partiality
156. Predispose: give an inclination toward (in advance); make susceptible to; Ex. predispose people to certain cancer; N. predisposition
157. Preeminent: outstanding; superior
158. Preempt: prevent in advance; head off(forestall); forestall by acting first; appropriate for oneself before others; supplant; take the place of; displace; Ex. preempt any attempts; ADJ. preemptive
159. Preen: make oneself tidy in appearance; feel self-satisfaction or pride; (of a bird) smooth or clean (feathers) with the beak; Ex. preen oneself on;
160. Prefatory: introductory; of a preface
161. Prefigure: be a sign of; foreshadow
162. Prehensile: capable of grasping or holding (esp. by wrapping around); Ex. prehensile tails
163. Prelude: introduction; introductory performance or event; forerunner
164. Premeditate: plan in advance; Ex. premeditated murder
165. Premise: assumption; postulate; proposition upon which an argument is based
166. Premonition: forewarning; presentiment; foreboding
167. Premonitory: serving to warn
168. Preponderance: superiority of power, quantity, etc.; V. preponderate: be greater in power, weight, or importance; ADJ. preponderant



169. Prepossessing: attractive;
170. Preposterous: absurd; completely unreasonable; ridiculous
171. Prerogative: privilege; unquestionable right;
172. Presentiment: premonition; foreboding; feeling something will happen; anticipatory fear
173. pretentious ostentatious; showy; pompous; making unjustified claims;
174. prevalent: widespread; generally accepted
175. prevaricate: lie; hide the truth (by equivocating)
176. primordial: existing at the beginning (of time); rudimentary
177. primp: groom oneself with care; adorn oneself
178. Probity: uprightness; honesty; incorruptibility
179. Proclivity: inclination; natural tendency (esp. towards something bad)
180. Prodigal: wasteful; reckless with money; profuse; Ex. a mind prodigal of ideas; N. prodigality
181. Prodigious: enormous; marvelous; extraordinary; Ex. Prodigious amount/memory
182. Prodigy: highly gifted child; person with exceptional talents; marvel; wonder
183. Profane: violate; desecrate (something holy); treat unworthily; be profane for; ADJ: secular; nonreligious; irreverent for holy things
184. Profligate: wasteful (of money); dissipated; wildly immoral; dissolute; N: profligate person; N. profligacy
185. Profusion: great amount; plenty; overabundance; excess; lavish expenditure; Ex. profusion of choices; ADJ. profuse: plentiful; copious; giving or given abundantly; extravagant



186. Progeny: children; offspring; descendants
187. Proliferate: grow rapidly (in numbers); spread; multiply; N. proliferation
188. Prolific: producing offspring or fruit in abundance; fertile; fecund; abundantly fruitful; producing abundant works; Ex. prolific writer
189. Prolixity: tedious wordiness; verbosity; ADJ. prolix: wordy; verbose; diffuse
190. Promulgate: announce; proclaim a doctrine or law; make known by official publication
191. Propensity: natural inclination
192. Propinquity: nearness (in space or relationship); proximity; kinship
193. Propitiate: appease; conciliate; make peaceful; ADJ. propitiatory
194. Propitious: favorable; auspicious; advantageous; fortunate; Ex. Propitious day/sign
195. Proponent: supporter; backer; opposite of opponent
196. Propound: put forth for consideration or analysis; set forth; Ex. propound a problem/theory
197. Propriety: fitness; quality of being proper; correct conduct; conformity to prevailing customs and usages;
198. Propulsive: driving forward; N. propulsion
199. Prosaic: lacking in imagination; dull and unimaginative;
200. Proscribe: prohibit; ostracize; banish; outlaw
201. Provenance: place of origin; origin or source of something; Ex. Gunpowder is of Chinese provenance;



202. Providence: quality of being provident; divine care; god's care; Providence: god; Ex. It seemed like providence that the doctor happened to be there; ADJ. providential: of divine providence; fortunate
203. Provident: providing for future needs; displaying foresight; thrifty; preparing for emergencies; OP. improvident
204. Provincial: pertaining to a province; limited in outlook; narrow; unsophisticated
205. Prudent: cautious; careful; prudential
206. Pugacity: combativeness; disposition to fight; ADJ. pugnacious: (of people) belligerent; combative in nature
207. Pulchritude: beauty; comeliness; ADJ. pulchritudinous
208. Pulmonary: pertaining to the lungs
209. Pulverize: crush or grind into very small particles
210. Pummel: pommel; beat or pound with fists
211. Pungent: stinging; acrid; sharp in taste or smell; (of speech or writing) caustic; N. pungency
212. Punitive: punishing; Ex. punitive measures
213. Purgatory: place of spiritual expiation; temporary state or place in which the souls must expiate their sins
214. Purport: intention; purpose; meaning; V: claim; profess; Ex. order which
215. Pusillanimous: cowardly; lacking courage; fainthearted

