

Barron GRE word list - D

1. Dabble: work at in an unserious fashion; splash around; move noisily in a liquid
2. Dainty: delicate; delicately beautiful; fastidious; not easy to please.
3. Dally: trifle with; toy with; treat without the necessary seriousness; procrastinate; waste time
4. Dank: damp; unpleasantly wet
5. Dapper: neat and trim (in appearance); (of small men) neat in appearance and quick in movements; neat; spry
6. Dapple: spot
7. Dart: move or throw suddenly and quickly
8. Daub: smear (as with paint); cover with something sticky; Ex. daub one's clothes with mud/paint; N: small bit of sticky substance; Ex. a daub of paint
9. Daunt: intimidate; frighten; discourage; dishearten
10. Dauntless: bold; fearless
11. Dawdle: loiter; hang around; waste time doing nothing
12. Daze: stun as with a blow or shock; bemuse; benumb; N.
13. Dazzle: make blind with a sudden intense light; amaze; fill with wonder
14. Deadlock: standstill resulting from the opposition of two unrelenting forces; stalemate
15. Deadpan: wooden; impassive; with no show of feeling; with an expressionless face
16. Dearth: scarcity
17. Debacle: sudden disastrous downfall or defeat; complete disaster
18. Debar: forbid; exclude; Ex. debarred from jury services



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19. Debase: degrade; reduce in quality or value; degenerate; lower in esteem; disgrace; N. debasement
20. Debauch: corrupt morally; seduce from virtue; N. debauchery: wild behavior (with sex and alcohol)
21. Debilitate: weaken (esp. through heat, hunger, illness); enfeeble
22. Debonair: (of men) friendly, charming, and fashionably dressed; aiming to please; CF. of good disposition
23. Debris: rubble; wreckage; scattered remains of something broken or destroyed
24. Debunk: expose as false, exaggerated, worthless, etc.; ridicule
25. Debutante: young woman making formal entrance into society
26. Decant: pour off gently (wine or liquid)
27. Decapitate: behead
28. Decelerate: slow down
29. Deciduous: falling off at a specific season or stage of growth as of leaves; Ex. deciduous tree/teeth
30. Decimate: kill (usually one out of ten or every tenth man); destroy or kill a large part of
31. Decipher: decode; CF. indecipherable
32. Declivity: downward slope
33. Décolleté: (of a dress) having a low-cut neckline; CF. décolletage: low neckline (on a dress)
34. Decomposition: decay; V. decompose: decay; break and separate into simple parts
35. Decorous: proper (in behavior, conduct, or appearance)



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36. Decorum: propriety; orderliness and good taste in manners; appropriateness of behavior or conduct
37. Decoy: lure or bait; V.
38. Decree: authoritative order; edict; judgment of a court of law; V: order or judge by decree
39. Decrepit: weak and in bad condition from old age or hard use; Ex. decrepit old chair/man
40. Decrepitude: state of collapse or weakness caused by illness or old age
41. Decry: express strong disapproval of; condemn openly (something dangerous to the public); disparage; Ex. decry the violence of modern films
42. Deducible: derived by reasoning; V. deduce: infer; derive by reasoning
43. Deface: mar; disfigure
44. Defalcate: embezzle
45. Defer: give in respectfully; submit; delay till later; exempt temporarily; N. deferment; CF. show respect, comply with, courteous
46. Deference: courteous regard for another's wish; courteous yielding to another's wish or opinion (showing respect); ADJ. deferential; OP. effrontery
47. Defiance: refusal to yield; resistance; V. defy; ADJ. defiant
48. Defile: pollute; make filthy or dirty; corrupt morally; profane; desecrate; N: narrow passage or gorge through mountains
49. Defoliate: destroy leaves; deprive of leaves (by the use of chemicals); N. defoliant
50. Defray: provide for the payment of; undertake the payment of; pay
51. Defrock: strip a priest or minister of church authority; unfrock
52. Deft: neat; skillful



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53. Defunct: dead; no longer in use or existence
54. Degenerate: become worse in quality; deteriorate; ADJ: having become worse; Ex. a degenerate species; N: depraved or corrupt person
55. Deify: turn into a god; make a god of; idolize; Ex. Kings were deified; CF. deity
56. Deign: condescend; stoop
57. Deleterious: harmful
58. Deliberate: consider; ponder; ADJ: done on purpose; slow
59. Delineate: portray; depict; sketch; describe; N. delineation
60. Delirium: mental disorder marked by confusion; uncontrolled excitement; ADJ. delirious
61. Delta: flat plain of mud or sand between branches of a river
62. Delude: deceive
63. Deluge: flood; rush; V.
64. Delusive: deceptive; likely to delude; misleading; raising vain hopes; Ex. delusive promises
65. Delve: dig; search deeply; investigate
66. Demagogue: person who appeals to people's prejudice; false leader of people; CF. demagoguery
67. Demean: disgrace; humiliate; debase in dignity; behave
68. Demeanor: behavior; bearing
69. Demented: insane
70. Demerit: fault; bad quality
71. Demise: death
72. Demolition: destruction; V. demolish



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73. Demoniac: (demoniacal) fiendish; cruel; N. demon: evil supernatural being; devil
74. Demotic: of or pertaining to the people
75. Demur: object (because of doubts, scruples); raise an objection (showing qualms); hesitate;
Ex. demur at the idea of working on Sunday
76. Demure: (of a woman or child) grave; quiet and serious; coy; pretending to be demure
77. Denigrate: blacken; defame
78. Denizen: (animal, person, or plant) inhabitant or resident of a particular place; regular visitor
79. Denomination: religious group; unit in a system; name or designation; CF.
80. Denominator: common trait or characteristic
81. Denotation: meaning; distinguishing by name; V. denote: indicate; refer to directly; mean;
CF. connotation
82. Denouement: final outcome; final development of the plot of a play or other literary work;
the end of a story when everything is explained
83. Denounce: condemn; criticize; N. denunciation
84. Deplete: reduce; exhaust
85. Deplore: regret; express sorrow and severe disapproval for something bad; Ex. deplore their
violent behavior; ADJ. deplorable: very bad; deserving severe disapproval; Ex. deplorable
living condition
86. Deploy: spread out (troops) in an extended though shallow battle line;
87. Distribute: (persons or forces) systematically or strategically
88. Deport: send out of the country; behave; N. deportation, deportment
89. Depose: dethrone; remove from office; give a deposition; testify



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90. Deposition: testimony under oath; deposing; dethroning
91. Depravity: extreme corruption; wickedness; V. deprave
92. Deprecate: express disapproval of; deplore; protest against; belittle; ADJ.
93. Depredation: plundering; destruction
94. Deputize: work or appoint as a deputy; N. deputy: person who has the power to take charge when the leading person is away
95. Deranged: insane
96. Derelict: negligent; (of someone) neglectful of duty; (of something) deserted by an owner; abandoned; N: abandoned property; homeless or vagrant person
97. Dereliction: neglect of duty; abandonment
98. Deride: ridicule; treat with contempt; make fun of; OP. respect
99. Derision: ridicule; ADJ. derisive; CF. derisory
100. Derivation: deriving; origin or source of something; Ex. the derivation of the word
101. Derivative: unoriginal; obtained from another source; Ex. derivative prose style; N.
102. Derogatory: expressing a low opinion; disparaging; V. derogate: detract; disparage
103. Descry: catch sight of (something distant)
104. Desecrate: profane; violate the sanctity of deserts what someone deserves
105. Desiccate: dry up
106. Desolate: make desolate; forsake; abandon and desert
107. Desperado: reckless, desperate outlaw
108. Despise: look on with scorn; regard as worthless or distasteful; ADJ.
109. Despicable: contemptible



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110. Despoil: plunder; sack; Ex. despoil the village
111. Despondent: without hope and courage; depressed; gloomy; N. despondency: loss of hope with gloom; dejection
112. Despot: tyrant; harsh, authoritarian ruler; CF. despotism
113. Destitute: extremely poor; lacking means of subsistence; utterly lacking; devoid; Ex. destitute of any experience
114. Desultory: aimless; haphazard; digressing at random
115. Detain: keep waiting; prevent from leaving or going; N. detention
116. Deterrent: something that discourages or deters
117. Detonation: explosion
118. Detraction: slandering; aspersion; detracting; CF. detractor
119. Detrimental: harmful; damaging; N. detriment
120. Deviate: turn away from (a principle, norm); move away from an accepted standard; swerve; depart; diverge; N. deviation; Ex. deviation of the path of light by a prism
121. Devious: roundabout; erratic; deviating from the straight course; not straightforward; not completely honest; Ex. devious route
122. Devise: think up; invent; plan; bequeath; N: bequest
123. Devolve: deputize; pass or be passed to others (power, work, or property
124. Diadem: crown
125. Dialectical: relating to the art of debate; mutual or reciprocal; Ex. Dialectical situation; N. Dialectic: art of arriving at the truth by the exchange of logical arguments
126. Diaphanous: sheer; transparent



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127. Diatribe: bitter scolding or denunciation; invective; abuse
128. Dichotomy: division into two opposite parts; split; branching into two parts (especially contradictory ones)
129. Dictum: authoritative and weighty statement (made by a judge in court); saying; maxim;
CF. obiter dictum: incidental, nonbinding remark (something said in passing)
130. Didactic: (of speech or writing) intended to teach a moral lesson; teaching; instructional;
N. didacticism
131. Diffidence: shyness; lack of self-confidence; timidity; ADJ. diffident
132. Diffuse: wordy; verbose; rambling; spread out (like a gas); V: spread out in all directions;
disperse; N. diffusion; CF. suffuse
133. Dignitary: person of high rank or position
134. Digression: wandering away from the subject; V. digress
135. Dilapidated: falling to pieces; in a bad condition; ruined because of neglect; Ex.
dilapidated old car/castle; N. dilapidation
136. Dilatory: delaying; tending to delay
137. Dilemma: situation that requires a choice between equally unfavorable options; problem;
choice of two unsatisfactory alternatives
138. Dilettante: aimless follower of an art or a field of knowledge (not taking it seriously);
amateur; dabbler; CF. delight
139. Diligence: steadiness of effort; persistent hard work
140. Diminution: lessening; reduction in size; V. diminish



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141. Diorama: life-size, three-dimensional scene from nature or history; three dimensional scene with modeled figures against a painted background
142. Dire: warning of disaster; disastrous; (of needs and dangers) very great; urgent; Ex. dire prediction/need of food
143. Dirge: funeral song; slow mournful piece of music (sung over a dead person)
144. Disabuse: correct a false impression; undeceive; free from a wrong belief
145. Disaffected: disloyal; lacking loyalty; V. disaffect: cause to lose affection or loyalty
146. Disapprobation: disapproval; condemnation
147. Disarray: state of disorder; a disorderly or untidy state; Ex. with her clothes in disarray
148. Disavowal: denial; disclaiming; repudiating; disowning; V. disavow; CF. disclaim
149. Disband: dissolve; disperse; (of a group) break up and separate; Ex. The club has disbanded.
150. Disburse: pay out (as from a fund); N. disbursement; CF. purse
151. Discernible: distinguishable; perceivable; Ex. discernible improvement
152. Discerning: mentally quick and observant; having insight; perceptive; able to make good judgments; V. discern: perceive
153. Disclaim: disown; renounce claim to; deny; CF. disclaimer
154. Discombobulated: discomposed; confused
155. Discomfit: frustrate; put to rout; defeat; disconcert; embarrass; perturb
156. Discompose: disturb the composure of; confuse
157. Disconcert: confuse; upset; embarrass; perturb
158. Disconsolate: hopelessly sad (at the loss of something)



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159. Discord: conflict; lack of harmony; dissonance (when musical notes are played)
160. Discordant: not harmonious; conflicting
161. Discount: disregard; regard (a story or news) as unimportant; deduct from a cost
162. Discourse: serious speech, writing, or conversation; formal discussion (either written or spoken); conversation; V.
163. Discreditable: causing discredit; shameful
164. Discrepancy: lack of consistency or agreement as between facts; difference; Ex. discrepancy between two descriptions
165. Discrete: separate; unconnected
166. Discretion: prudence; ability to adjust actions to circumstances; freedom of action or judgment; ADJ. discreet; CF. discretionary
167. Discriminate: distinguish; make distinctions on the basis of preference
168. Discriminating: able to see differences; discerning; prejudiced; N. discrimination
169. Discursive: (of a person or writing) digressing; rambling (without any clear plan)
170. Disdain: treat with scorn or contempt
171. Disembark: debark; go ashore (from a ship); unload cargo from a ship; CF. embark
172. Disenfranchise: disfranchise; deprive of a civil right; OP. enfranchise
173. Disengage: uncouple; separate; disconnect; stop fighting; OP. engage
174. Disfigure: mar the appearance of; spoil
175. Disgorge: surrender something (stolen); eject; vomit; OP. gorge
176. Disgruntle: make discontented
177. Dishearten: discourage



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178. Disheveled: untidy (of hair or clothing); V. dishevel
179. Disinclination: unwillingness
180. Disingenuous: not naive; not candid; sophisticated; worldly wise; OP. ingenuous
181. Disinter: dig up; unearth; OP. inter
182. Disinterested: unprejudiced; free from bias and self-interest; objective
183. Disjointed: disconnected; lacking coherence; V. disjoint: disconnect; disjoin
184. Disjunction: act or state of separation; disunity; CF. disjunctive: expressing a choice between two ideas; CF. conjunction; CF. conjunctive
185. Dislodge: remove (forcibly); force out of a position; Ex. dislodge the food caught in his throat; CF. lodge
186. Dismantle: take apart; disassemble
187. Dismember: cut into small parts; cut (a body) apart limb from limb
188. to leave; ADJ. dismissive; N. dismissal
189. Disparage: belittle
190. Disparate: basically different; impossible to compare; unrelated
191. Disparity: difference; condition of inequality; OP. parity
192. Dispassionate: calm; impartial; not influenced by personal feelings
193. Dispatch: speediness; prompt execution; message sent with all due speed; V: send to a specified destination; finish promptly; kill
194. Dispel: scatter; drive away; cause to vanish
195. Dispense: distribute; prepare and give out (medicines); N. dispensation:
196. Dispensing: religious system; official exemption from an obligation or a rule



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197. Disperse: scatter; Ex. disperse the cloud/crowd
198. Dispirited: lacking in spirit
199. Disport: amuse; Ex. disport oneself; CF. divert
200. Disputatious: argumentative; fond of argument
201. Disquietude: uneasiness; anxiety; V. disquiet: make anxious
202. Disquisition: formal systematic inquiry; explanation of the results of a formal inquiry;
long formal speech or written report
203. Dissection: analysis; cutting apart in order to examine
204. Dissemble: disguise; hide the real nature of; pretend
205. Disseminate: distribute; spread; scatter (like seeds)
206. Dissension: disagreement of opinions causing strife within a group
207. Dissent: disagree
208. Dissertation: formal essay; treatise
209. Dissident: dissenting (with an opinion, a group, or a government); rebellious; N.
210. Dissimulate: pretend; conceal by feigning; dissemble
211. Dissipate: squander; waste foolishly; scatter
212. Dissolution: disintegration; reduction to a liquid form; looseness in morals; sensual
indulgence; debauchery; ADJ. dissolute: lacking in moral restraint; leading an immoral life
213. Dissonance: discord
214. Dissuade: persuade not to do; discourage; N. dissuasion
215. Distend: expand; swell out



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216. Distill: refine (a liquid by evaporating and subsequent condensation); concentrate; separate the most important parts from; Ex. Distill fresh water from sea water; CF. brew
217. Distract: absentminded; distracted
218. Distraught: upset; distracted by anxiety; very anxious and troubled almost to the point of madness; Ex. distraught with grief/worry
219. Diurnal: daily; occurring during the daytime
220. Diverge: vary; go in different directions from the same point; ADJ. divergent: differing; deviating
221. Diverse: differing in some characteristics (from each other); various; N. diversity: | variety; dissimilitude; lack of resemblance
222. Divest: strip (as of clothes); deprive (as of rights); dispossess; N.
223. Divulge: reveal
224. Docile: obedient; easily managed; submissive
225. Docket: program as for trial; book where such entries are made; list of things to be done; agenda; label fixed to a package listing contents or directions; V: describe in a docket
226. Doctrinaire: unable to compromise about points of doctrine; dogmatic; unyielding; marked by inflexible attachment to a doctrine without regard to its practical difficulties
227. Doctrine: teachings in general; particular principle (religious, legal, etc.) taught; dogma; tenet; ADJ. doctrinal
228. Doddering: shaky; infirm from old age; V. dodder
229. Dogged: determined; stubborn; stubbornly persevering; tenacious; Ex. Inspector Javert's dogged pursuit of Jean Valjean



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230. Doggerel: poor verse
231. Dogmatic: opinionated; holding stubbornly to one's opinion; arbitrary;
232. Doldrums: blues; listlessness (lack of spirit or energy); slack (inactive) period; period of stagnation; ocean area near the equator where ships cannot move because there is no wind;
Ex. in the doldrums
233. Dolorous: sorrowful; N. dolor
234. Dolt: slow-thinking stupid person; CF. dull
235. Domicile: home; V. ADJ. domiciled: having one's domicile; Ex. He is domiciled in Britain.
236. Domineer: rule over tyrannically
237. Dormant: sleeping; temporarily inactive; lethargic; latent
238. Dormer: window projecting upright from roof; CF. sleeping room
239. Dorsal: relating to the back of an animal; Ex. dorsal fin
240. Dossier: file of documents on a subject or person; file; CF. bundle of papers labeled on the back
241. Dotage: senility; feeble-mindedness of old age; Ex. In one's dotage
242. Dote: be excessively fond of; show signs of mental decline
243. Dour: sullen; gloomy; stubborn
244. Douse: plunge into water or liquid; dip; immerse; drench; wet thoroughly; extinguish; throw water over; dowse
245. Dowdy: untidy (of a woman or clothes); slovenly; dressed in an unattractive way; shabby; CF. unattractive woman



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246. Downcast: disheartened; dejected; sad; directed downward
247. Drab: dull; lacking color; cheerless ; Ex. drab coat/life
248. Draconian: extremely severe; Ex. draconian punishment; CF. Draco: Athenian politician
249. Drip: fall or let fall in drops; shed drops; N: action or sound of falling in drops; liquid that falls in drops
250. Drivel: nonsense; foolishness; V: talk nonsense
251. Droll: queer and amusing
252. Drone: talk dully; buzz or murmur like a bee; N.
253. Droop: bend or hang downward; become weakened; Ex. His shoulders drooped with tiredness; N.
254. Dross: waste matter; worthless impurities
255. Drudge: do drudgery; N: person who drudges
256. Drudgery: hard unpleasant work; menial work
257. Dubious: questionable; (of something) causing doubt; (of someone) filled with doubt; N. dubiety
258. Ductile: malleable; pliable; (of metals) easily pulled into shape; flexible; (of someone) easily influenced or controlled
259. Dulcet: sweet sounding; pleasing to the ear; melodious
260. Duress: forcible restraint, especially unlawfully; coercion by threat; illegal coercion; Ex. a promise made under duress
261. Dwindle: shrink; reduce gradually
262. Dynamic: energetic; vigorously active



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