

**Barron GRE word list - A**

1. Abase: lower; degrade; humiliate; make humble; make (oneself) lose self-respect
2. Abash: embarrass
3. Abate: subside or moderate
4. Abbreviate: shorten
5. Abdicate: renounce; give up (position, right, or responsibility)
6. Aberrant: abnormal or deviant
7. Aberration: deviation from the normal; mental disorder
8. Abet: assist usually in doing something wrong; encourage
9. Abeyance: suspended action
10. Abhor: detest; hate
11. Abide: Dwell; abide by: comply with; put up with; tolerate; Ex. abide by the rules; Ex. I can't abide rude people.
12. Abject: (of a condition) wretched; as low as possible; lacking pride; very humble; showing lack of self-respect; Ex. abject apology
13. Abjure: renounce upon oath
14. Ablution: washing
15. Abnegation: renunciation; self-sacrifice; self-abnegation
16. Abode: dwelling place; home
17. Abolish: cancel; put an end to
18. Abominable: detestable; extremely unpleasant
19. Abominate: loathe; hate



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20. Aboriginal: being the first of its kind in a region; primitive; native; indigenous; N. aborigine
21. Abortive: unsuccessful; fruitless
22. Abrasive: rubbing away; tending to grind down
23. Abridge: condense or shorten
24. Abrogate: abolish
25. Abscission: cutting off; separation
26. Abscond: depart secretly and hide
27. Absolute: complete; totally unlimited; having complete power; certain; not relative; Ex.
28. Absolute: honesty/ruler; CF. absolutism
29. Absolve: pardon (an offense)
30. Abstain: refrain; withhold from participation; intentionally not use one's vote;
31. Abstemious: sparing in eating and drinking; temperate
32. Abstinence: restraint from pleasant things, esp. eating or drinking; CF. abstention: act of
33. Abstaining: from vote
34. Abstract: theoretical; not concrete; nonrepresentational
35. Abstruse: obscure; profound; difficult to understand
36. Abusive: coarsely insulting; physically harmful
37. Abut: border upon; adjoin
38. Abysmal: bottomless
39. Abyss: enormous chasm; vast bottomless pit
40. Academic: related to a school; not practical or directly useful



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41. Accede: agree
42. Accelerate: move faster
43. Accessible: easy to approach; obtainable
44. Accessory: additional object; useful but not essential thing
45. Acclaim: applaud; praise; greet with great approval; announce with great approval; Ex. The new drug has been acclaimed as the most important discoveries for years; N: strong expression of approval and praise
46. Acclimate: adjust to climate or environment; adapt acclivity sharp upslope of a hill; OP. declivity
47. Accolade: award of merit; strong praise and approval
48. Accommodate: oblige or help someone; adjust or bring into harmony; adapt; make enough space for; ADJ. accommodative; CF. accomodating: helpful and obliging
49. Accomplice: partner in crime
50. Accord: agreement
51. Accost: approach and speak first to a person
52. Accouter: equip; N. accoutrement
53. Accretion: growth or increase in size by gradual addition; growth; increase; increase by natural growth; Ex. towers and other accretions of the castle; V. accrete
54. Accrue come to one as a gain; accumulate over time; come about by addition; Ex. benefits
55. that accrue from scientific research; Ex. interest accruing in a bank account; N. accrual
56. Acerbity: bitterness of speech and temper; ADJ. acerbic: bitter; acrid (in taste, manner, or



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57. tone)
58. Acetic: vinegary
59. Acidulous: slightly sour (in taste or manner); sharp; caustic
60. Acknowledge: recognize; admit
61. Acme: peak; pinnacle; highest point
62. Acne: skin disease (on the face)
63. Acoustics: science of sound; quality that makes a room easy or hard to hear in
64. Acquiesce: assent; agree passively; comply without protest
65. Acquittal: deliverance from a charge; V. acquit: free from a charge or accusation; discharge from a duty; conduct (oneself) in a specified manner
66. Acrid: bitter (to the taste or smell); sharp; bitterly pungent
67. Acrimonious: stinging; caustic; bitter in words or manner; N. acrimony: bitter ill-natured animosity in speech or behavior
68. Acrophobia: fear of heights
69. Actuarial: calculating; pertaining to insurance statistics
70. Actuary: someone who advises insurance companies
71. Actuate: motivate; activate; cause to act
72. Acuity: sharpness (of mind or senses of sight or hearing)
73. Acumen: mental keenness; sharpness of judgment; ability to judge quickly and well; Ex. business acumen
74. Acute: (of the senses) sharp; quickly perceptive; keen; penetrating; brief and severe; Ex. acute sense of smell/analysis/pain



75. Adage: wise saying; proverb
76. Adamant: hard; inflexible
77. Addendum: addition; appendix to book; something that is added (as at the end of a speech or
78. book)
79. Addle: make or become confused; muddle; drive crazy; become rotten (egg)
80. Adept: expert at; very skilled
81. Adhere: stick fast; be a devoted follower; N. adhesion: adhering; devotion; loyalty
82. Adherent: supporter; follower
83. Adjacent: adjoining; neighboring; close by
84. Adjoin: be next to
85. Adjourn: suspend until a later time; move from one place to another
86. Adjunct: something attached to but holding an inferior position
87. Adjuration: solemn urging; V. adjure: entreat earnestly; enjoin solemnly
88. Adjutant: staff officer assisting the commander; assistant
89. Admonish: warn or speak to with gentle disapproval; reprove
90. Adorn: decorate
91. Adroit: skillful (in using mind or hand)
92. Adulation: flattery; admiration that is more than is necessary or deserved
93. Adulterate: make impure or of poorer quality by adding inferior or tainted(contaminated) substances
94. Advent: arrival



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95. Adventitious: accidental; casual; happening by chance
96. Adversary: opponent; enemy
97. Adverse: going against; opposing; unfavorable; hostile adversity great hardship or affliction; misfortune; calamitous event
98. Advert: refer
99. Advocacy: support; active pleading on behalf of someone or something advocate speak in favor of; support (an idea or plan); urge; plead for
100. Aegis: shield; protection; defense
101. Aerie: nest of a large bird of prey
102. Affable: easily approachable; easy to talk to; warmly friendly
103. Affected: artificial; pretended
104. Affidavit: written statement made under oath (for use as proof in a court of law)
105. Affiliation: joining; associating with
106. Affinity: feeling of kinship; similarity; Ex. strong affinity for her; Ex. many affinities between two languages
107. Affluence: abundance; wealth
108. Affront: insult; offense; intentional act of disrespect; V: insult or hurt the feelings of intentionally
109. Agape: openmouthed
110. Agglomeration: collection; heap; V. agglomerate: gather into a rounded mass; N. agglomerate: jumbled mass; heap



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111. Aggrandize: make greater; increase in power, wealth, rank, or honor; N.  
aggrandizement
112. Aggregate: sum; total; ADJ. V: gather into a mass or whole; accumulate; add up  
to; Ex. aggregate 100 dollars
113. Aghast: filled with great surprise or fear; horrified
114. Agility: nimbleness; ability to move quickly
115. Agitate: stir up; disturb
116. Agnostic: one who is skeptical of the existence or knowability of a god or any  
ultimate reality
117. Agog: highly excited; intensely curious
118. Agrarian: pertaining to land or its cultivation; Ex. agrarian reform
119. Airy: of air; high in the air; lofty; immaterial; unreal
120. Alacrity: cheerful promptness without reluctance
121. Alchemy: medieval chemistry
122. Alcove: nook; recess
123. Alias: an assumed name esp. by a criminal (usually to mislead people); ADV.  
alias
124. Alienate: make unfriendly or hostile; estrange; separate; change the ownership of
125. Alimentary: supplying nourishment
126. Allay: calm; pacify
127. Allege: state without proof
128. Allegiance: loyalty



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129. Allegory: story, play, or picture in which characters are used as symbols; fable
130. Alleviate: relieve (pain)
131. Alliteration: repetition of beginning sound in poetry
132. Allocate: assign; set apart for a particular purpose
133. Alloy: mixture as of metals; something added that lowers in value or purity; V: mix; make less pure; lower in value or quality; spoil; CF. unalloyed: not in mixture with other metals; pure; complete; unqualified; Ex. unalloyed happiness
134. Allude: refer indirectly; N. allusion: indirect reference
135. Allure: entice; attract; tempt
136. Alluvial: pertaining to soil deposits left by running water
137. Alms: money or goods given to the poor
138. Aloft: upward; high up in the air
139. Aloof: apart; not open in one's relationship with other people; reserved; ADV.
140. Altercation: noisy quarrel
141. Altruistic: unselfishly generous; concerned for others; N. altruism: unselfish concern for the welfare of others; unselfishness; OP. egoism
142. Amalgam: combination of different things; mixture of metals (containing mercury) used for filling holes in teeth; Amalgamate (of societies or groups) combine; unite in one body
143. Amass: collect (gradually, in a very large amount)
144. Ambidextrous: capable of using either hand with equal ease





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145. Ambience: environment; atmosphere; Ex. restaurant with a pleasant ambience;  
ADJ.
146. Ambient: completely surrounding; Ex. ambient temperature
147. Ambiguous: unclear or doubtful in meaning; having more than one possible interpretation
148. Ambivalence: the state of having contradictory or conflicting emotional attitudes or opinions
149. Amble: walking at an easy unhurried pace; V: walk slowly and aimlessly
150. Ambrosia: food of the gods
151. Ambulatory: able to walk
152. Ambush: act of lying in wait to attack by surprise; sudden attack made from a concealed position; Ex. lie in ambush; V.
153. Ameliorate: improve
154. Amenable: obedient; compliant; readily managed; responsive; willing to be led; answerable or accountable legally; responsible; able to be tested by; Ex. amenable to sensible suggestions
155. Amend: correct; change ; generally for the better
156. Amenities: convenient features that helps to make life pleasant; social courtesies
157. Amiable: agreeable; lovable; warmly friendly
158. Amicable: peaceful; politely friendly; not quarrelsome; Ex. amicable settlement
159. Amiss: wrong; faulty; Ex. something amiss; ADV.
160. Amity: friendship; peaceful relationship as between nations



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161. Amnesty: pardon (allowed by government to political criminals)
162. Amok: in a state of rage; Ex. run amok
163. Amoral: having no understanding of right and wrong
164. Amorous: moved by sexual love; loving; of sexual love; Ex. amorous advances
165. Amorphous: formless; lacking shape or definition
166. Amphitheater: oval building with tiers of seats; CF. arena
167. Ample: enough; abundant; spacious; large in size; Ex. ample opportunity/garden;  
N. amplitude: quality of being ample; abundance; largeness of space
168. Amplify: increase in size or effect; expand; broaden or clarify by expanding;  
intensify; make stronger; Ex. amplify one's remarks with a graph
169. Amulet: charm; talisman; an object worn believed to protect against evil, bad luck
170. Anachronism: an error involving time in a story; something or someone  
misplaced in time; ADJ. anachronistic
171. Analgesic: causing insensitivity to pain; N.
172. Analogous: comparable; similar
173. Analogy: similarity; parallelism; comparing two similar things
174. Anarchist: person who seeks to overturn the established government; advocate of  
abolishing authority; anarchy absence of governing body; state of disorder
175. Anathema: solemn curse; someone or something regarded as a curse; V.  
anathematize
176. Ancillary: serving as an aid or accessory; auxiliary; N.
177. Anecdote: short story of an amusing or interesting event



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178. Anguish: acute pain; extreme suffering
179. Animadversion: critical remark; V. animadvert: comment critically with disapproval
180. Animated: lively; spirited
181. Animosity: active enmity
182. Animus: hostile feeling or intent; animosity; hostility; disposition
183. Annals: records arranged in yearly parts; history
184. Anneal: reduce brittleness and improve toughness by heating and cooling (metal or glass)
185. Annex: attach; add to a large thing; take possession of; incorporate (territory) into a larger existing political unit (by force); N: building added to a large one
186. Annihilate: destroy
187. Annotate: comment; make explanatory notes
188. Annuity: yearly allowance
189. Annul: make void
190. Anoint: consecrate; put oil on (in a religious ceremony)
191. Anomalous: abnormal; irregular; anomaly irregularity
192. Anonymity: state of being nameless; anonymousness; ADJ. anonymous
193. Antagonism: hostility; active opposition; V. antagonize: cause to become an enemy; N.
194. Antagonist: person who is opposed to another; opponent; adversary; principal character in opposition to the protagonist



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195. Antecede: precede; antecedents: preceding events that influence what comes later; ancestors or early background
196. Antediluvian: antiquated; extremely ancient
197. Anthology: book of literary selections by various authors; CF. omnibus
198. Anthropoid: manlike; resembling a human being; N.
199. Anthropomorphic: having human form or characteristics
200. Anticlimax: letdown in thought or emotion; something unexciting, ordinary, or disappointing coming after something important or exciting
201. Antipathy: aversion; dislike or opposition
202. Antiquated: obsolete; old-fashioned; outdated
203. Antique: made in an earlier period and usu. valuable; N: object that was made in an earlier period and that is rare or valuable
204. Antiquity: quality of being very old; ancient times;
205. Antithesis: contrast; direct opposite of or to; ADJ. antithetic or antithetical
206. Antler: bony growth on the head of a deer
207. Anvil: iron block used in hammering out metals
208. Apathy: lack of caring; indifference; lack of concern or interest in important matters; Ex. He was sunk in apathy after his failure; ADJ. apathetic
209. Ape: imitate or mimic (a person's behavior or manner)
210. Aperture: opening; hole; adjustable opening in a camera that limits the amount of light
211. Apex: tip; summit; climax; highest point



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212. Aphorism: pithy maxim or saying; ADJ. aphoristic
213. Apiary: a place where bees are kept
214. Apiculture bee-keeping
215. Aplomb: poise; composure in difficult situations; assurance; self-confidence
216. Apocalyptic: prophetic; pertaining to revelations especially of disaster; N. apocalypse
217. Apocryphal: (of a story) widely believed but untrue
218. Apogee: highest point; the point farthest from the earth; OP. perigee
219. Apolitical: having an aversion or lack of concern for political affairs
220. Apologist: one who writes in defense of a cause or institution; N. apologia
221. Apoplexy: stroke; loss of consciousness caused by too much blood in the brain
222. Apostate: one who abandons his religious faith or political beliefs; N. apostasy
223. Apothecary: druggist; pharmacist
224. Apothegm: (apophthegm) pithy, compact saying
225. Apotheosis: elevation to godhood; an ideal example of something
226. Appall: dismay; shock deeply
227. Apparent: evident; easily seen or understood; appearing as such; Ex. apparent improvement
228. Apparition: ghost; phantom
229. Appease: pacify or soothe; Ex. appease a crying baby; N. appeasement
230. Appellation: name; title
231. Append: attach



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232. Application: diligent attention; diligence; V. apply oneself
233. Apposite: appropriate; fitting
234. Appraise: estimate value of; N. appraisal
235. Appreciate: be thankful for; increase in worth; be thoroughly conscious of; ADJ.  
appreciable:
236. enough to be felt; Ex. appreciable difference
237. apprehend: arrest (a criminal); dread; perceive; N. apprehension; apprehensive:  
fearful; discerning
238. apprise: inform
239. Approbation: approval
240. Appropriate: acquire; take possession of for one's own use without permission; set  
aside for a particular purpose; allocate; CF. misappropriate
241. Appurtenances: subordinate possessions; something added to a more important  
thing
242. Apropos: with reference to; regarding; Ex. remarks apropos (of) the present  
situation;
243. Aquiline: curved; hooked; of or like an eagle; Ex. aquiline nose
244. Arable: fit for growing crops; Ex. arable land
245. Arbiter: person with power to decide a matter in dispute; judge who is in a  
position to make influential judgments; Ex. supreme arbiter of fashion in beachware
246. Arbitrary: unreasonable or capricious; random; tyrannical; Ex. arbitrary ruler
247. Arbitrate: act as judge (at the request of both sides)



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248. Arboreal: of or living in trees
249. Arboretum: place where different trees and shrubs are studied and exhibited
250. Arcade: a covered passageway usually lined with shops
251. Arcane: esoteric; secret; mysterious; known only to the initiated; Ex. arcane ritual;
252. Arch: chief; first; Ex. archbishop
253. Archaeology: study of artifacts and relics of early mankind
254. Archaic: antiquated; no longer used; belonging to the past; N.
255. Archetype: prototype; primitive pattern
256. Archipelago: group of closely located islands
257. Archives: public records; place where public records are kept
258. Ardor: heat; passion; zeal; ADJ. ardent
259. Arduous: hard; strenuous; Ex. arduous work
260. Aria: operatic solo; a song sung by one person in an opera or oratorio
261. Arid: (of land) dry; barren; unproductive
262. Aristocracy: hereditary nobility; privileged class; government by nobility; N.  
aristocrat
263. Armada: fleet of warships
264. Aromatic: fragrant; having a sweet smell; N. aroma: strong pleasant smell
265. Arraign :charge in court; indict
266. Array: marshal; draw up in order; arrange in order; clothe splendidly; adorn; N:  
fine clothes; ordered group; Ex. in battle array



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267. Arrears: being in debt; money that should have been paid; work that should have been
268. done
269. Arrhythmic: lacking rhythm or regularity; N. arrhythmia
270. Arrogance: pride; haughtiness; ADJ. arrogant: unpleasantly self-important (with a strong confidence in one's own importance and a lack of respect for other people)
271. Arroyo: gully; narrow channel formed by rainwater
272. Arsenal: storage place for military equipment
273. Artful: exhibiting art or skill; deceitful; cunning; CF. artifice
274. Articulate: effective; distinct; expressing ideas clearly; having clear sounds; having joints; Ex. articulate speech; V: express thoughts and feeling clearly; pronounce clearly;
275. Artifice: deception; trickery
276. Artisan: a manually skilled worker
277. Artless: without guile; open and honest
278. Ascendancy: controlling influence; position of controlling influence; CF. in the ascendant
279. Ascertain: find out for certain; make certain
280. Ascetic: practicing self-denial; avoiding physical pleasures and comforts; austere; Ex.
281. Ascetic: life of Buddhist monks; N. asceticism
282. Ascribe: refer; attribute; assign





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283. Aseptic: preventing infection; having a cleansing effect
284. Ashen: ash-colored; deadly pale
285. Asinine: stupid; Ex. asinine remarks
286. Askance: with a sideways or indirect look (with disapproval or distrust); Ex. look askance at
287. Askew: crookedly; slanted; at an angle
288. Asperity: sharpness; roughness; severity (of temper or weather); Ex. asperities of a Russian winter
289. Aspersion: slanderous remark; Ex. cast aspersions on
290. Assail: assault
291. Assay: analyze (to discover what materials are present); evaluate (soil or ore)
292. Assent: agree; accept; N. assessment
293. Assiduous: diligent
294. Assimilate: absorb; take (food) into the body and digest it; understand (knowledge) completely and be able to use properly; cause to become homogeneous (the people of a country or race in the ways of behaving or thinking)
295. Assuage: make less severe; ease or lessen (pain); satisfy (hunger); soothe (anger)
296. Assurance: firm statement that something is certainly true; promise or pledge; certainty; confidence in one's own ability; self-confidence; Ex. In spite of all his assurances, he did not come back;
297. Astral: relating to the stars



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298. Astringent: binding; causing contraction (stopping bleeding); harsh or severe; stringent; Ex. astringent criticism
299. Astronomical: enormously large or extensive
300. Astute: wise; shrewd; keen; seeing quickly something that is to one's advantage
301. Asunder: into parts; apart; V. sunder
302. Asylum: place of refuge or shelter; protection (religious or political)
303. Atavism: resemblance to remote ancestors rather than to parents; reversion to an earlier type; throwback; ADJ. atavistic
304. Atheistic: denying the existence of God; N. atheism
305. Atone: make amends for; pay for; Ex. atone for
306. Atrocity: brutal deed; ADJ. atrocious
307. Atrophy: wasting away; V: weaken and lose flesh and muscle (through lack of blood or lack of use)
308. Attenuate: make thin; weaken
309. Attest: testify; bear witness
310. Attrition: rubbing away by friction; gradual decrease in numbers or strength; reduction in the work force without firing employees; wearing away of opposition by means of harassment; Ex. a war of attrition
311. Atypical: not normal; not typical
312. Audacious: daring; bold; N. audacity
313. Audit: examination of accounts of a business; official examination; V.
314. Augment: increase; add to



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315. Augury: omen; prophecy; sign of coming events; V. augur: predict; foretell; be a sign of
316. (something in future)
317. August: impressive; majestic
318. Aureole: sun's corona; halo; bright circle of light
319. Auspicious: favoring success; giving signs of future success; Cf. auspices
320. Austere: forbiddingly stern; ascetic; without comfort or enjoyment; severely simple and unornamented; Ex. a monk's austere life; Ex. austere grandeur of the cathedral; N. austerity
321. Authenticate: prove genuine
322. Authoritarian: subordinating the individual to the state; completely dominating another's will;
323. Ex. authoritarian regime/father
324. Authoritative: having the weight of authority; regarded as providing knowledge that can be
325. trusted; reliable; peremptory and dictatorial; Ex. Authoritative dictionary/manner; CF. definitive
326. Autocratic: having absolute unchecked power; dictatorial; N. autocrat, autocracy
327. Automaton: mechanism that imitates actions of humans; machine that works by itself
328. Autonomous: self-governing; N. autonomy
329. Auxiliary: offering or providing help; additional or subsidiary; N: helper; assistant



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330.      Avalanche: great mass of falling snow and ice
331.      avant-garde: group of artists whose work is based on the newest ideas and methods; CF.
332.      vanguard
333.      avarice: greediness for wealth
334.      avenge: take vengeance for something or on behalf of someone; Ex. They avenged his death
335.      by burning the village; Ex. He swore to avenge his brother; Ex. They avenged themselves on their enemy.
336.      Aver: state confidently; declare as true
337.      Averse: reluctant; disinclined; not liking or opposed; Ex. averse to cats/doing the house
338.      Work; aversion: firm dislike
339.      Avert: prevent; avoid; turn away (eyes or thought); Ex. An accident was averted by his quick thinking; Ex. She averted her eyes from the terrible sight.
340.      Aviary: enclosure for birds; large cage
341.      Avid: greedy; extremely eager for; Ex. avid learner; N. avidity
342.      Avocation: secondary or minor occupation
343.      Avow: declare openly; N. avowal
344.      Avuncular: of or like an uncle
345.      Awe: solemn wonder; feeling of respect mixed with wonder and fear; V: fill with awe;



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- 346. Awry: distorted; crooked; bent; Ex. Our plans have gone awry.
- 347. Axiom: self-evident truth requiring no proof
- 348. Azure: sky blue

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