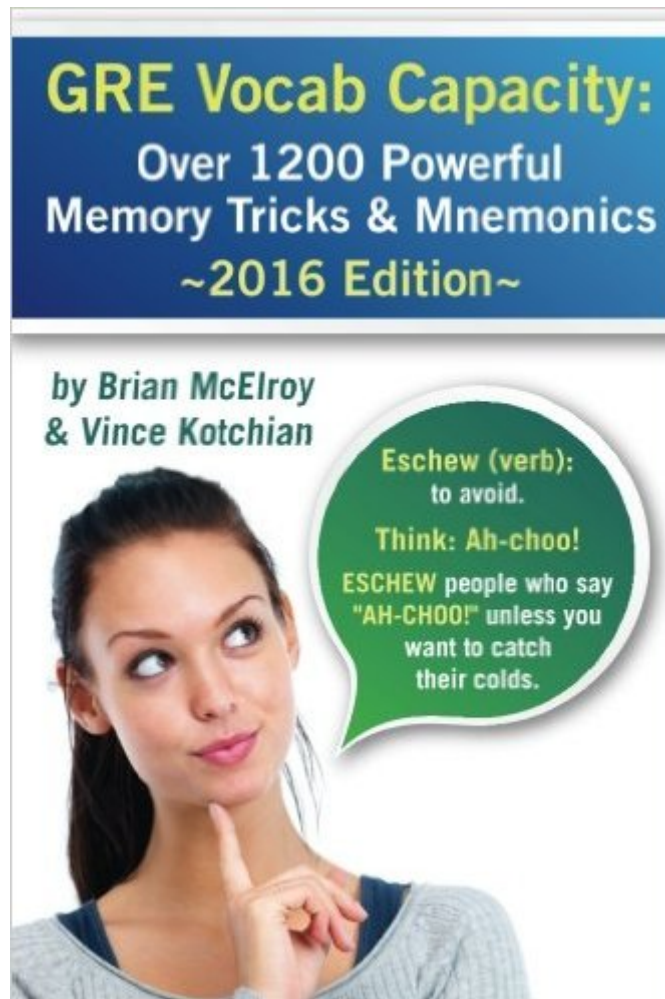


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GRE Vocab Capacity: 2016 Edition - Over 1,200 Powerful Memory Tricks And Mnemonics



Synopsis

2016 version published on 11/5/15. Need a good way to remember that the word "prodigal" means "wasteful"? Just think of prada gal - a girl who spends all of her money on designer clothes. Brian McElroy (Harvard, '02) and Vince Kotchian (Boston College, '97), two of San Diego's most sought after test-prep tutors, provide a series of clever, unconventional, and funny memory devices aimed toward helping you to improve your vocabulary and remember words long-term so that you don't ever forget their meanings. Brian and Vince, combined, have been tutoring the test for over 20 years. They have analyzed all available official GRE tests to select the words that appear in this book. The vocabulary words in this book are best suited for students at a 9th-grade level or above. The words in this edition are specifically targeted toward the GRE exam, but they are also helpful for students who are preparing for other standardized tests such as the SAT, ACT, ISEE, SSAT, GMAT, LSAT or MCAT, or anyone at any age who simply wants to improve his/her knowledge of English vocabulary. Disclaimer: a few of our mnemonics might not be appropriate for kids - some contain adult language or situations. Over 950 of the words in this book appear in our other mnemonics book, SAT Vocab Capacity. So if you're easily offended, the SAT version might be a better choice.

Why This Book Is Different If you're studying for the GRE, SAT, or for any other standardized test that measures your vocabulary, you may be feeling a little bit anxious - especially if you've taken a practice test and encountered words you didn't know (or maybe never even saw before)! Whether you have seven days or seven months to prepare for the test, you're going to want to boost your vocabulary. But it's not that simple - you've got to remember the words you learn. And on many GRE text completion and sentence equivalence questions, getting the right answer comes down to knowing the precise definition of the words. You could make vocabulary flashcards. You could look up words you don't know. You could read a book with lots of big words. But unless you give your brain a way to hold on to the words you learn, it will probably have a harder time remembering them when they appear on the test. That's the problem with most vocabulary books: the definitions and sentences in the books aren't especially memorable. That's where this book is different. We've not only clearly defined the words but we've also created sentences designed to help you remember the words through a variety of associations - using mnemonics.

Mnemonic Examples A mnemonic is just a memory device. It works by creating a link in your brain to something else, so that recall of one thing helps recall of the other. This can be done in many ways - but the strongest links are through senses, emotions, rhymes, and patterns. Consider this example: Quash (verb): to completely stop from happening. Think: squash. The best way to quash an invasion of ants in your kitchen is simple:

squash them. Now your brain has a link from the word quash (which it may not have known) to the word squash (which it probably knows). Both words sound and look the same, so it's easy to create a visual and aural link. If you picture someone squashing ants (and maybe get grossed out), you also have another visual link and an emotional link. Here's another example: Eschew (verb): to avoid. Think: ah-choo! Eschew people who say "ah-choo!" unless you want to catch their colds. The word eschew sounds similar to a sneeze (ah-choo!), so your brain will now link the two sounds. If you picture yourself avoiding someone who is about to sneeze in your face, even better! Again, the more connections you make in your brain to the new word, the easier it will be for you to recall it.

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Customer Reviews

If you've been studying for the GRE, I'm sure you know that no one book is enough. I personally purchased 15+ study aides from [Manhattan](#) and I can honestly say that this was the most helpful for strengthening my vocabulary and making the definitions "stick." The authors are extremely witty and come up with hilarious sentences that you will remember. (I took the GRE a month ago and I still think of this book's sentence for "assail" whenever I hear that word... I mean, it has the phrase "come at me, bro" in it. You'll never forget that.) I remember sitting at Starbucks and having people stare at me because I was laughing so hard while reading these sentences. I also remember thinking that studying for the GRE couldn't and shouldn't be this fun. But aside from its entertaining quality, the most important thing about this book is that its method actually works. I bought Manhattan's GRE flashcards--both the essential and advanced set--and I definitely recommend

those as well (they're easy to carry around and study whenever you have a few free minutes in your busy schedule). But the problem for me was that there were some words that I could NOT remember, regardless of how many times I looked at the flashcard; the word just was not registering in my brain. That's where this book came into play. For those particularly difficult, why-do-I-not-know-this-even-though-I've-seen-it-a-million-times words, these mnemonic devices did the trick. Because the sentences are so unique/outlandish, they're not easily forgotten. In short, I highly recommend this book as part of a comprehensive set of study tools. You can either use it how I did (as described in the preceding paragraph), or you can use it right from the start by making flashcards for all the words or reading through the book and highlighting the ones you don't know.

Tutors Brian McElroy and Vince Kotchian believe that mastering challenging vocabulary is easier when you employ mnemonics or catchy memory devices. "GRE Vocab Capacity" contains a thousand words arranged alphabetically, with concise and clear definitions and off-beat sentences that are designed to trigger an emotional or sensory response. For example, the authors define "quash" as "to completely stop from happening." Their sentence is, "The best way to quash an invasion of ants in your kitchen is simple: squash them." Theoretically, the gross image of dead and dying ants and the fact that "quash" and "squash" rhyme will help ingrain the meaning of "quash" in test takers' minds. Some of the sentences are silly, off-color, and/or touch on sensitive topics, such as strippers who pole dance, movie sex-comedies, and drug dealers. Brian and Vince issue a disclaimer stating that some of their material contains "adult language." Their target audience is high-school and college students who want to master vocabulary words likely to appear on the Scholastic Aptitude Test or the Graduate Record Exam. "GRE Vocab Capacity" would be a useful tool for individuals who find vocabulary particularly challenging. The authors assign each word a rating on a scale of one to four, one being "basic words that could appear on any level of an exam," and four being "uncommon words" that are good to know but rarely used. The words appear in an easy-to-read font in bold type, and in upper case letters when used in a sentence. Although proper pronunciation is not necessary for standardized tests such as the SAT, a pronunciation guide would have been useful. An important aspect of adding words to one's mental lexicon is incorporating them into everyday speech. To do this, students need to know how words like "machination," "schadenfreude," and "prescient" are pronounced. On the plus side, "GRE Vocab" contains a handy appendix with prefixes, suffixes, and root-words that should boost students' ability to recognize English language patterns. For example, knowing that "ante" means before and "chron" means time could be the key to understanding and remembering "antedate" and "synchronize." Should

test-takers throw away their flash cards? Not necessarily. Absorbing new words is a complex and never-ending process. It pays to use various methods and see what sticks. Reading quality literature and a good daily newspaper, looking up unfamiliar terms in a dictionary, and making lists of challenging words are all excellent ways to boost your vocabulary for life. Still, it cannot hurt to try "GRE Vocab Capacity," since it will make you laugh while you learn. You may even find yourself impressing your friends when you tell them, "I feel enervated today since I slept fitfully last night in a room without air-conditioning. I hope that a quick nap will rejuvenate me."

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