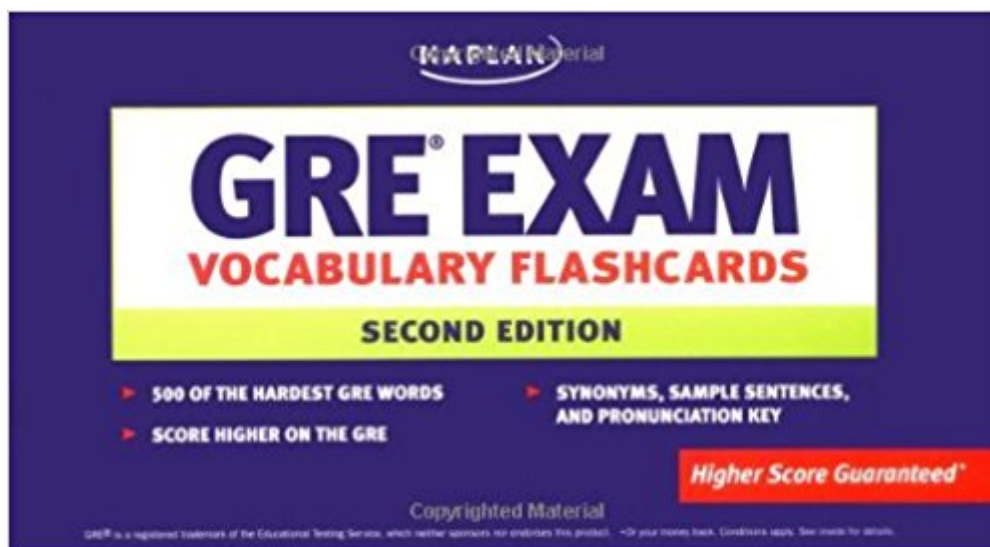


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GRE Exam Vocabulary Flashcards



Synopsis

The Kaplan GRE Vocabulary in a Box features 500 flashcards covering the most-tested GRE vocabulary words, sample sentences provide the words in context, synonyms and a pronunciation key to help you best prepare for the vocabulary most-likely to show up on the GRE. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Paperback: 512 pages

Publisher: Kaplan Education; 2 edition (August 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1419541943

ISBN-13: 978-1419541940

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 8.4 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 147 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,728,617 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation > Graduate School > Graduate Preparation #360 in Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation > Graduate School > GRE #1023 in Books > Education & Teaching > Studying & Workbooks > Flash Cards

Customer Reviews

Your score on the verbal section is ultimately going to be determined by how well you know the words used in it. And the only way you can improve your score is to broaden your vocabulary. I would say that the vocab in this box falls into three different categories: Category 1: Everyday words that you use frequently, such as: Lavish, Livid and Malleable. Category 2: Words you may not ever use, but you do see used in magazines like The New Yorker, and you may not know the exact definition: Efficacy, Obsequious and Sanguine. Category 3: Words you've never heard of: Zephyr, Coterie and Inchoate. On the GRE test I found that most of the words you needed to know were in category 1 and 2. Nothing in category 3 was touched, and it's not surprising since you have to come up with convoluted sentences or analogies to use them. Zephyr means "a gentle breeze; something airy or unsubstantial"

Bottom line: Buy this. Several words were on the actual test. Also/or get the free Android app (or

probably for iPhone too) which has all of these words and a good challenge/response system. These cards raised my score significantly. To give some perspective, I'm far from an English major (biology, actually) but I had a reasonably strong vocabulary before I started studying. I took the actual GRE today (pre-2011 revision) and scored a 640 on the verbal section, which is a very good score. The difficulty of this set was excellent. I found that I didn't know, or didn't fully know, about half the words in the box. I'll describe my study program with these cards, which anyone would probably come up with, but I found it effective. I started by going through all of the cards and separating them into two groups. If I read the word and was able to give a clear, concise, and complete definition, I put it in the "known" pile and never looked at it again. If not, I put it in the "to be learned" stack. Once this was done, I started by taking 20-30 cards from the to-be-learned stack and going through them. When I felt like I had a grip on about half, I took those cards out and put them in a "newly learned" pile, replacing them with to-be-learned cards. This way, words that I had a hard time remembering stayed in the active stack until I had them down. Every couple of days or so, I'd run through the "newly learned" cards to reinforce, and the those that I flubbed went back into to-be-learned. I found this to be an extremely effective system. You may believe that studying individual words is a low-yield way to improve your score, and you would be correct. Studying test mechanics and techniques is much more important. But aside from that, there isn't much else you can do for the verbal section. I was surprised at how many words from this set were on my test today, including two that were the root word in antonym questions. Without the cards I would have missed at least those questions and my score would be much lower. As for the cards themselves, they're kind of flimsy. If you stick them in your pocket for an afternoon they'll come out crinkled and folded. But how long are you really going to need them? They're also smaller than I expected, maybe 3/4th the size of a business card. The front has the word and the pronunciation, the back has the definition, synonyms, and an example sentence. You'll need more than these cards to prepare for the GRE. But if you're looking for a very competitive score (say, over the 68th percentile) you need to build vocabulary. And these cards are a good way to do it, in my experience.

I like the small size of the cards (they are about business card sized), so the box of 500 is small enough to tuck into a purse vs. the other brand which is a little larger box. It might not sound like a big deal, but I am finding the small size does lend itself to actually being taken along - or even just shuffled through on the couch while I am killing time waiting for something. The cards themselves are formatted well: The main word is on one side, along with adjective, noun, or verb. On the reverse is the meaning, a sentence using the word, and synonyms. The only negative thing is I wish

the words were formatted in all Caps - since that's how they will be written on the test. But that is a pretty minor point. I do think the synonyms on the back are very helpful since you may already have a stronger grasp of the synonym and it can help you build the memory for the new word. For example, I'm solidly familiar with the word eulogy... so to learn the new word panegyric I just remember that it is similar to eulogy. I'm also finding it helpful to stretch my thinking of words to be more broad: since a couple of the words seem to be different versions of a word I already know, just in another form. For example: arrogate is the verb form of arrogance, and magnate is the noun form of magnanimous. I consider myself to have a decent vocabulary from a broad range of interests but there are definitely some words I consider exotic in this set. If your interests have ever included: Dungeons and Dragons, Magic the Gathering, Vampire the Masquerade, Historical Re-enactments, The Bible, Classic Literature, Science fiction, Political Discourse, Medical terminology, Pop music, or Movies, then most of these words may at least "ring a bell". But some other words were just plain new to me, I don't recall ever having heard them anywhere - which is actually cool in a way. Overall I would recommend this set to anyone. It's actually been even fun to sit down with a helper and go through some of the words - it's interesting to see where they might have heard some of them, or what they would think of to help you remember them: "Insolent... Hey didn't Dr. Evil use that word in his monologue in an Austin Powers Movie", "Sully... hmm, I think that one is in a Sheryl Crow song." "Polyglot... um does that have anything to do with the epiglottis?" "Lionize... rhymes with... idolize.. got it!" These cards are well worth the money.

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