

Reference material for the general GRE

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Here is a list of books that I thought were useful when preparing for the GRE exam. I have included a short description about what I thought about each book.

There are a number of GRE books and study material that one can use to prepare for the exam. Based on your personal skills ie; memorizing ability, critical thinking ability etc you might find different resources to be useful.

Books:

- Book by **ETS practicing for the GRE “big Book”** is the only book that has actual GRE questions. (the only draw back with this is that it has no explanations only answers, so I had to go back and check all the words in a dictionary. Not having explanations is a hassle when it comes to questions in the reading sections since it is easier to find the mistake if there are explanation)
- The **power prep CD (again by ETS)** is helpful to get a feel of the actual test if you are doing the computer adaptive test. The computer adaptive power prep can even be downloaded through the ETS website
- **ETS practicing for the GRE book**, -Includes 10 actual tests
- **GRE bulletin posted on the ETS website** incase you are doing the paper based exam.

(ETS is the organization that administers GRE exam-www.ets.org)

Though you have studied all the high frequency words it is not guaranteed that you will find these on the day of the exam. Esp: if you are taking the CBT since it is based on your performance. Don't be surprised incase you get words that you have never heard or seen before the day of the test!. I'm sure I got only around 5-6 words that I knew on the day of the exam, and the rest were words that I just saw on the day of the exam!. Therefore it is important that you are able to break down the word to it's roots and try to understand/or figure out the meaning of it rather than taxing your brain trying to memorize 1000+ words. Its great to improve your vocabulary but it might not be the smartest way to handle the exam!

- **GRE Premier Kaplan** Has a good verbal review and math review. The **CD on** that is good to practice for the computer adaptive test. I thought that Kaplan had a good review section for math as well
- You can **get free access to the Kaplan test prep(with above)**: and use this to try some diagnostic tests on line with Kaplan, might be helpful to see where you stand.
- **Barron** is very good to study words and also for the math review section. Though I hear from students that the math to be complicated. The math section in the Barron is a bit complicated than the actual math on the GRE, but I felt it had a good review of every section, and was helpful to remind myself on certain concepts .Barron has its own dictionary which is very helpful.
- **Princeton review cracking the GRE** is alright to get the “hit parade” or the high frequency words. But the math section is very basic and I thought it was extremely easy and didn't give good practice.

- **Princeton review word smart for the GRE** is a good book to study the words, it has only words on it and small exercises at the end of the chapters.
- For the analytical writing section just download the **Issue and Argumentative topics from the www.gre.org** website and just read over them.

If you need some feedback on the writing you can use the **‘Score it Now’** service offered through ETS. They score the essays for \$13 (both essays). But since it is computerized scoring it might not be the best way. But just to get a feel of where you stand this might be a good method if you are willing to spend for it!

- Apart from the above listed there are a lot more **GRE prep book, from Peterson, Arco.**
- **Also Petersons “success with words” that’s a SAT book but with many words applicable for GRE and some finds easy to study the way it is presented!**

If you go on **Amazon.com, or ebay** you might be able to search for above/some more books as well

In Sri Lanka – Sarasavi sells a low-cost Indian edition of Barron and other GRE books

Fulbright commission in Sri Lanka have many of above books in their “free of charge” ref/lending library.

Good luck with the preparation!.