

Magoosh GRE Vocabulary Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. Which word means an exclusive right or privilege reserved for a particular person or group?**
 - A. Perquisite**
 - B. Snub**
 - C. Cumbersome**
 - D. Stymie**

- 2. In everyday usage, 'ersatz' most nearly means which of the following?**
 - A. Not real or genuine**
 - B. Fake**
 - C. Genuine**
 - D. Original**

- 3. Which noun means a universal remedy or cure-all?**
 - A. Bastardization**
 - B. Halcyon**
 - C. Graft**
 - D. Panacea**

- 4. Which adjective describes someone showing a cheerful willingness to do favors for others?**
 - A. Creditable**
 - B. Ample**
 - C. Obliging**
 - D. Boorish**

- 5. Which adjective describes something that is like a meteor in speed or brilliance or transience?**
 - A. Meteoric**
 - B. Rapid**
 - C. Brilliant**
 - D. Fleeting**

- 6. Which term means a small amount of money?**
- A. Junta**
 - B. Amuck**
 - C. Virago**
 - D. Pittance**
- 7. Which word means clear and persuasive?**
- A. Cogent**
 - B. Animosity**
 - C. Checkered**
 - D. Vicarious**
- 8. Which word means relevant and appropriate?**
- A. Eschew**
 - B. Germane**
 - C. Glut**
 - D. Engender**
- 9. Which word is listed as a synonym for admonitory?**
- A. Cautionary**
 - B. Exemplary**
 - C. Monitory**
 - D. Warning**
- 10. Which term best means native to the area where something is found?**
- A. Indigenous**
 - B. Foreign**
 - C. Transient**
 - D. Cosmopolitan**

Answers

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1. A
2. A
3. D
4. C
5. A
6. D
7. A
8. B
9. C
10. A

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Explanations

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1. Which word means an exclusive right or privilege reserved for a particular person or group?

- A. Perquisite
- B. Snub
- C. Cumbersome
- D. Stymie

This question tests understanding of a word for an exclusive right or privilege reserved for a particular person or group. Perquisite is a noun for a benefit or privilege that accompanies a position or status—often a job perk or extra advantage tied specifically to the role. In other words, it signals something additional that only someone in that position can claim. The other options describe actions or qualities rather than entitlement: snub means to ignore or disdain, cumbersome means awkwardly heavy or burdensome, and stymie means to block or hinder progress. So perquisite best fits the idea of a privilege attached to a particular status.

2. In everyday usage, 'ersatz' most nearly means which of the following?

- A. Not real or genuine
- B. Fake
- C. Genuine
- D. Original

Ersatz signals an artificial substitute for something real. In everyday use, it describes something that stands in for the genuine article, often of lower quality or authenticity. That makes “not real or genuine” the best fit, since the word points to a substitute rather than the real thing. For example, ersatz coffee is a substitute made with ingredients other than real coffee beans. The other ideas describe the genuine or the false to deceive, which aren’t aligned with the common sense of ersatz as a substitute or imitation.

3. Which noun means a universal remedy or cure-all?

- A. Bastardization
- B. Halcyon
- C. Graft
- D. Panacea

Panacea is a noun meaning a universal remedy or cure-all. It comes from Panacea, the goddess of healing in Greek myth, and in modern usage it refers to a solution that would fix many problems—though it’s often used with a hint of skepticism about any one thing truly curing all ills. For example, you’ll hear phrases like “there is no panacea for all our problems.” The other words don’t fit because they describe different ideas: bastardization means corruption or adulteration, halcyon refers to a calm, idealized time, and graft can mean a piece of plant material or illegal earnings, none of which convey the sense of a single cure-all.

4. Which adjective describes someone showing a cheerful willingness to do favors for others?

- A. Creditable
- B. Ample
- C. Obliging**
- D. Boorish

The main concept here is selecting an adjective that conveys a cheerful willingness to do favors for others. Obliging fits this perfectly: it describes someone who is eager to help, cooperative, and accommodating, with a positive, ready-to-assist attitude. That cheerful readiness is the nuance the word carries, beyond simply being helpful. Creditable means deserving praise for merit, not specifically about offering to help others. Ample refers to quantity or sufficiency, not to a person's character. Boorish describes rudeness or a lack of consideration, the opposite of a willing, pleasant helper. So, using it in context, you might say, "She was obliging, always ready to lend a hand."

5. Which adjective describes something that is like a meteor in speed or brilliance or transience?

- A. Meteoric**
- B. Rapid
- C. Brilliant
- D. Fleeting

Speed, brightness, and a sense of being short-lived all come together in meteoric. The word evokes something that happens in a blaze—fast and brilliant—often with the underlying idea that it won't endure for long. That combination is exactly what the prompt describes: something moving with meteor-like rapidity and splendor, with transience in mind. Rapid is simply quick; it notes speed but not the dazzling brilliance or the fleeting nature. Brilliant focuses on brightness or exceptional cleverness but doesn't imply the swift, meteoric rise or its impermanence. Fleeting emphasizes transience but lacks the sense of speed and radiant impact. So the term that best fits a phenomenon described as fast, brilliantly impressive, and temporary is meteoric.

6. Which term means a small amount of money?

- A. Junta
- B. Amuck
- C. Virago
- D. Pittance**

A pittance means a small amount of money—often a pay or allowance that feels insufficient. It carries a sense of being barely enough to live on, which is exactly what the clue points to. For example, "He earned a pittance for years of work" uses the term to emphasize how little the money was. The other terms describe people or kinds of actions rather than money: a junta is a political/military group that seizes control; amuck (amok) means in a frenzied, uncontrolled state; a virago refers to a loud or domineering woman. That mismatch makes pittance the best fit for the clue.

7. Which word means clear and persuasive?

- A. Cogent**
- B. Animosity**
- C. Checkered**
- D. Vicarious**

Cogent describes reasoning that is clear, logical, and persuasive. In a cogent argument, the points are well-structured and backed by relevant evidence, so the conclusion feels convincing and hard to refute. For example, a cogent explanation would lay out the reasoning step by step and show why the evidence supports the conclusion, making the overall case strong. Animosity means strong hostility or ill will toward someone. Checkered refers to something marked by changes or a history that's been uneven or questionable. Vicarious means experiencing something indirectly through another person. These ideas don't convey the sense of a well-reasoned, convincing argument, which is how cogent is used.

8. Which word means relevant and appropriate?

- A. Eschew**
- B. Germane**
- C. Glut**
- D. Engender**

A word meaning relevant and appropriate is germane. Germane describes something that is closely related to the topic at hand or properly connected to the matter being considered; it signals aptness and fit in the current context. For instance, in a discussion about education policy, a point about school funding would be germane, while a remark about weekend plans would not be. Eschew means to avoid or abstain from; Glut refers to an excess or overabundance; Engender means to cause or bring about. None of these capture the sense of relevance as clearly as germane.

9. Which word is listed as a synonym for admonitory?

- A. Cautionary**
- B. Exemplary**
- C. Monitory**
- D. Warning**

Admonitory is all about giving admonition or warning. The word that most directly captures that sense is monitory because it literally means conveying admonition or a warning, often in a formal or literary way. It emphasizes the act of warning or reproving, which fits the meaning of admonitory precisely. Cautionary also relates to warnings, but it tends to emphasize advising someone to take precautions rather than issuing a reproach or admonition. Warning is closely related, but it's more of a direct alert or noun form rather than the adjectival sense of admonishing. Exemplary is unrelated, since it means serving as a model or example.

10. Which term best means native to the area where something is found?

A. Indigenous

B. Foreign

C. Transient

D. Cosmopolitan

Indigenous describes something that originates in and is native to the place where it is found. It emphasizes local origin, whether we're talking about people, plants, or cultures. For example, indigenous species occur naturally in a region and aren't introduced from elsewhere. Foreign would mean coming from another place, not native to the area. Transient implies temporary presence, not a lasting resident. Cosmopolitan describes something that is worldly or spread across many places, not tied to a single region. So the best choice is indigenous, since it directly conveys native to the area.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://magooshgrevocab.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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