



One Week GRE Study Guide

So, maybe you've procrastinated or recently learned that the program to which you're applying actually *does* require the GRE, and now you need to cram as much as you can about the exam into your brain in a very short time.

Obviously, this isn't an enviable position to be in, but, if you have to take the GRE within a week or so, do not throw up your hands in despair, exclaiming that there is nothing to be done! All is not lost!

Despite the belief that the GRE isn't teachable (trust me, this attitude is quite common), you CAN study and cram for the GRE, even if you have very little time. For those of you who find yourselves in need of a crash course, below is a 1 Week GRE Study Guide to help you improve your score!

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Materials

Essential Material

- [Magoosh GRE Prep](#)
- Magoosh's online [GRE Flashcards](#). They're free and you can use them on the web, on your [iPhone/iPad](#) or [Android!](#)
- [Vocabulary.com](#) (In-context vocabulary), [Quizlet.com](#) (on-line flashcards)
- [ETS Powerprep Free Tests 1 & 2](#)
 - If you would prefer to take the practice test on paper, you can print out a copy of [ETS's paper-delivered test](#). However, taking the paper-based GRE is pretty rare these days. If you are like most test takers and will be taking the exam online, we highly recommend that your practice and prep are also online--mimic the medium you'll be using on exam day as much as possible.

Optional Material

- [ETS's Official Guide to the GRE](#)
 - With only a week (maybe a few days more) to study, before you buy this resource, you might want to consider whether you'll have the time to really dig into the material.

1 Week Schedule

Days 1 – 3: Identify your strengths and weaknesses

Diving in

As soon as possible, take a full-length practice test through your Magoosh Dashboard to familiarize yourself with the test structure and format,

determine your current score, and get an overview of your strengths and weaknesses.

GRE math requires practice and more practice

Especially if you find that you struggle with math, begin with [Magoosh Math Lessons](#). You should spend at least two days reviewing basic concepts. An effective learning strategy is to follow up a video by practicing questions that relate to the concept discussed in the video. For instance, if you watch a few lesson videos on exponents, make sure you complete the Quiz that accompanies each module.

For more practice questions, you can also go to the “Customize your practice” feature on your dashboard. You can then choose to only see questions that fall under “Powers and Roots,” for example. It’s also a good idea to select the ‘easy’ option so that you can be sure to answer the question correctly. Conversely, if you sit back and only watch the lesson videos, you will not be able to apply the many concepts you learn (Remember: Use it or lose it!).

GRE reading is not reading as you know it

Often, students are more casual towards the verbal section than they are towards the math section. They reason that knowing how to read will translate to navigating GRE passages with relative ease. Don’t fall prey to this line of thinking!

The GRE has many obstacles that can stymie even the most careful of readers. You must learn the lay of the land, so to speak. Spend time going through Magoosh’s verbal lesson videos to learn essential tips and strategies for attacking the passages and, most importantly, the questions.

GRE vocabulary can be a daunting topic

If you know you need to level-up your vocabulary to be ready for GRE Text Completions and Sentence Equivalences (and even to help with the more

complex reading passages), use Magoosh's [GRE flashcards](#), which not only define words for you but also provide example sentences written by the GRE content team at Magoosh.

To memorize words as you go through practice questions, you can also use [quizlet.com](#), which allows users to create online flashcards. Then, go through Magoosh's verbal practice questions to hone your newfound strategies, and strengthen your vocabulary.

For those who find both math and verbal challenging

If you are having difficulty with both sections, then make sure not to neglect one. Try as much as possible to balance your prep. This goes for those topics that you find difficult. So let's say you struggle with bar graphs and pie charts. Head over to Magoosh's excellent Data Interpretation lessons.

Day 4: Mock test

Take an Official ETS Practice Test – [PowerPrep Tests](#)

There is no better way to prepare for the big day than by taking an official practice test. After a few days reviewing concepts and doing practice problems on Magoosh (you will have already become used to the stressful countdown timer), the test shouldn't be as daunting as it may have been only four short days ago. While you may not get your target score, you shouldn't despair. You still have time.

Day 5: Continue to do questions and lessons

Continue doing practice questions from both Magoosh and the Official Guide questions. Just as importantly, revisit questions you missed in the past. Can you get them right the second time? If not, why? Are there certain

techniques and strategies that you are struggling to apply? You may also want to consider going back over videos and lessons.

If you haven't already, try your best to work through all of the lesson modules. By this time, you should have nailed down the basics.

Day 6: Almost there!

You are getting very close. It is key not to become too stressed out. We know this is hard, but even if you are still missing many questions at this point, know that each error is an opportunity for improvement.

If you are not ready to take another PowerPrep test, don't feel you have to (if you have time, make sure to review your mistakes). Review questions, and do more questions from Magoosh.

If you are struggling with vocabulary, don't worry too much (after all, memorizing a thousand words in a week is difficult – and won't necessarily help you identify words in context). Do your best to eliminate as many answers as possible. And, don't be afraid to guess on test day. Still it doesn't hurt to try to learn the words you encounter in Magoosh's lessons. Many of these are high-frequency words on the GRE.

Day 7: This is it!

You should have gotten a good night's rest. Make sure you are calm, and as collected as possible. If you still need to go through formulas or strategies, do so, but make sure the experience isn't making you feel stressed. If it is, stop. Remember, going in with a clear head is far better than shaking in trepidation as you walk into the test center. And remember, if you've followed the above GRE study guide, you have much to be proud of. You've come a long way in so little time.

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Our affordable self-study plan includes exclusive official practice questions, full-length practice tests, and a score improvement guarantee.

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