



2 to 3 Month GRE Study Guide

This GRE guide sets out weekly goals based on about 2 to 3 hours of daily study. The guide is meant to be flexible, allowing you to map out your best path. Ergo, your approach to the work should be organized according to your availability. The content is holistic and highlights verbal and quantitative subject areas, techniques, and strategies—all of which are aimed at elevating your GRE performance.

If you'd prefer more of a daily blueprint than a weekly guideline for your study, then check out our [other schedules](#), including a Three-Month (90-Day) Beginner and Three-Month Advanced offering, which could easily be modified to accommodate a two-month timeline.

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Essential Material

[Magoosh GRE Prep](#)

[ETS's Official Guide to the GRE book](#)

[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.

[Magoosh's GRE Vocabulary Flashcards App](#) and [Magoosh's GRE Math Flashcards App](#): They're free and you can use them on the web, iPhone/iPad or Android!

[Magoosh's Complete Guide to the GRE PDF](#): This comprehensive, web-based guide to the GRE gives you the quick but very helpful overview you need to understand this test. You'll see how the GRE is designed and

scored, what skills it tests, how to find and use the best GRE prep, and how to study for each test section.

Reading materials and journal (error log): More detail on each of these below, in the “About the Material” section.

Optional Material

[Top 5 Free GRE Practice Resources](#): This page includes instructions on where to find good full-length GRE practice tests, and how to take practice tests and incorporate them into your studies. This page also has links to Magoosh’s free GRE diagnostic quizzes.

[Quizlet.com](#): Gives you online access to flashcards, making it easier, say, to quiz yourself on your mobile device

[Vocabulary.com](#): Provides conversational example sentences and a flood of example sentences. If you are really trying to achieve a high verbal score, you can also check out [lists of crazy hard GRE words](#) that other users have compiled.

About the Material

About Vocabulary

If you are striving for a top-notch verbal score, daily review of vocab is vital. 30 days is not a lot of time; however, you can certainly memorize a few hundred (maybe more) words in that timeframe.

Make use of Magoosh’s GRE Flashcards, but don’t limit yourself to just these words. Whenever you encounter a word you don’t know, look it up, make a flashcard, and add it to your own flashcard deck. You can go the

old-fashioned route with hand-written, paper cards or opt for a digital version like [Quizlet](#).

Organizing Flashcards

As you work through your flashcards you'll want to organize them into three piles/categories. One category is for words that are "new" to you and you're just trying to absorb their definitions/usage. Another category is for words that you've almost mastered--maybe you still need context clues to grasp their meanings. The final category represents a "done" stack that is only rarely reviewed.

Reading Material

We cannot stress the importance of reading to build your reading comprehension skills, refine your understanding of grammar and usage, and expand your vocabulary. You have to challenge yourself to read material that is written at the same level as the passages you'll encounter on test day. Check out the links below for reliable sources and advice:

- [Non-fiction, scholarly books](#), history and social science topics are preferable.
- [How to Practice with Recommended Sources](#): *Scientific American*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Yorker*, *National Geographic*, *The Economist*, *Arts and Letters Daily*, or *The New York Times* (a Sunday subscription is a great idea!).

Error Log

A notebook or digital document to keep a written record of the questions that you miss. For each question you enter into your log do the following:

- Try to determine and make note of why you missed the question
- Read any related text explanations and watch any related video explanations
- Watch any recommended lesson videos (don't worry about watching them out of order. You'll likely be watching the videos a few times, especially those that relate to your weaker areas.)
- Be aware of any trends that help you identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- When you come across vocabulary that you don't know or only sorta know in a question, be sure to add it to your flashcards. We use words that are trending on the GRE to create our content.
- Not sure how to set up your error log? Here's a free [template](#).

About Older ETS Prep Materials

ETS launched the shorter version of the GRE in 2023. So, what does that mean if you have older prep materials? Good news!! You do not need to go out and buy new ones. Because there were no changes to the content that ETS tests, there have been no real changes to the [prep books](#) that cover that content. In fact, at the time of this writing, ETS hasn't even released a new edition of its own prep material, The Official Guide, but does provide the following note:

"The practice tests in this book are for the General Test that was administered before September 22, 2023. However, because the shorter GRE includes the same question types (except for the Analyze an Argument essay task which has been removed), this book is a great way to prepare for the shorter GRE."

Thus, if you have older versions of prep materials, you should be all set to dive in. Just be sure to skip any content related to the Analyze an Argument part of the AWA, and be sure to review the GRE's updated timing and structure.

Using This Guide Without a Premium Magoosh Subscription

Without your own [Magoosh account](#), you won't be able to access many of the lessons, practice questions, and practice tests that are linked in the daily tasks; however, there are a number of lessons and practice materials that are publically available, and, of course, you can also follow the daily breakdown of topics and activities using The Official Guide or any other material(s) you are using for your GRE prep.

Weeks 1-2

Primary Goals

- Progress through Magoosh's Math and Verbal Video Lessons. Target completing half of the verbal videos and around a third of the math ones, as there are more math videos. After each video, practice related questions. This reinforces the concepts you just learned. Avoid binge-watching lessons without engaging in questions; this risks forgetting the content. For example, after viewing videos on exponents, complete the accompanying quiz for that module.
- Use the ETS Official Guide or the two ETS practice question guides to reinforce specific concepts. It's fine to jump around in these books to find pertinent questions.
- Aim to finish 100 practice questions from both Verbal and Math in Magoosh. This can include the quizzes post-lesson videos.
- If you are retesting, then attempt the diagnostic test available to you on the ETS site.

Secondary Goals

- [Arts and Letter's Daily](#) is a great resource for links to advanced reading material. Once per week, choose one or more articles that are around 5-20 pages long. While reading, try to identify at least fifty unfamiliar words. A quick google search will yield definitions.
- Afterwards, write a concise summary or review of one of the articles, weaving in the vocabulary words you've learned from not only the articles but also lessons, practice questions, reading, etc.
- Use the Magoosh Flashcard App and challenge yourself to learn 10 words daily. At the end of 15 days, you will have encountered 150 words. For a deeper understanding of these words in context, refer to [Vocabulary.com](#).

- As you encounter words you don't know or only sorta know from articles, make flashcards in your app of choice or with good old pen and paper.

Weeks 3-4

Primary Goals

- Complete all remaining video lessons in Magoosh.
- Take ETS PowerPrep Test 1 to gauge where you're at in relation to your ultimate goal.
- Do a deep-dive review of your error log. Remember to consider the following:
 - Try to determine and make note of why you missed the question
 - Read any related text explanations and watch any related video explanations
 - Watch any recommended lesson videos (don't worry about watching them out of order. You'll likely be watching the videos a few times, especially those that relate to your weaker areas.)
 - Be aware of any trends that help you identify your strengths and weaknesses.
 - When you come across vocabulary that you don't know or only sorta know in a question, be sure to add it to your flashcards. We use words that are trending on the GRE to create our content.
- Tackle an additional 75 Verbal and 75 Math questions within Magoosh.
- Begin with the ETS Official Guide, focusing on the easier and medium-difficulty sections for both math and verbal.

Secondary Goals

- Continue using Magoosh GRE Flashcards, learn at least 5 words each day, and dedicate time to test yourself on all the words you've been

trying to master. The [Magoosh Vocabulary Builder](#) will come in handy as well.

- Increase the number of articles you're reading per week from [Arts and Letter's Daily](#) and continue to identify 50 words each week.
- If you're still grappling with basic math areas like fractions or exponents consider viewing the collaboratively developed [GRE Math Review from ETS and Khan Academy](#).
- Delve into practice sets in the ETS Official Verbal and Quantitative question guides.

Weeks 5-6

Primary Goals

- Tackle an additional 175 Verbal and 175 Math questions in Magoosh.
- Complete remaining ETS Official Guide questions.
- Use your error log to identify any question types that you are still struggling with and revisit any Magoosh lesson videos that relate to content tested by those questions.
- Now is also a good time to identify questions that fall into your skip or guess buckets. Immediately recognizing questions that you should either return to later or make a guess and move on from is a key component in a [successful pacing strategy](#).

Secondary Goals

- Keep assiduously studying vocabulary.
- If quant is your priority, work through math problems in the Official GRE Quantitative Questions Guide, adjusting your focus based on areas of weakness .

- If verbal is your priority, work through verbal problems in the Official GRE Verbal Practice Question Guide, adjusting your focus based on areas of weakness .
- If math and verbal are of equal concern, strike a balance and be sure that you are narrowing-in on your challenge areas across the different sections of the exam.
- If basic math is still posing a challenge, continue consulting ETS resources and make sure you grasp the solution process for easier question types by reviewing lessons and practice questions in the Magoosh platform.

Weeks 7-8

Primary Goals

- Tailor practice sessions in Magoosh to address your weak areas. If you have not done so already, aim to complete all verbal and math questions.
- Take ETS PowerPrep Test 2.
- Prioritize taking timed sections, no matter what resource you're using. If you find that you cannot complete an entire section before time runs out, take a closer look at opportunities for you to skip. With a pacing strategy based on what you've learned about your strengths and weaknesses as a GRE test-taker, finishing a section within the allotted time should be an achievable goal.

Secondary Goals

- Continue with your vocabulary journey, aiming for mastery of the more arcane terms. By now, you should be familiar with at least 800 words.

Congratulations!

The journey to prepare for the GRE is both demanding and rewarding. If you've stuck with it over eight weeks, then you have equipped yourself with the tools and knowledge needed for success on test day.

If you haven't taken advantage of more personalized support yet and still have some time before your test date, you can sign up for [a premium Magoosh GRE account](#). We have affordable 1 month or 6 month subscriptions, or you can always test out the material first with a free 1 week trial.

As you continue down the path towards test day, remember to consistently evaluate your progress (error log all the way!) and adjust accordingly. All the best in your continued preparation, and here's to achieving your desired GRE score!