

# 50 High-Yield GRE Word Families

Essential Latin & Greek Roots for Verbal Success

## Judgment & Opinion

### PROB (test, prove)

- probable - likely
- probity - moral integrity
- probe - investigate deeply
- reprobate - morally unprincipled

### PLAC (please, calm)

- placate - soothe; appease
- complacent - self-satisfied
- implacable - cannot be appeased
- placid - calm; peaceful

### LAUD (praise)

- laud - praise highly
- laudable - praiseworthy
- applaud - praise publicly
- laudatory - expressing praise

### CRED (believe, trust)

- credible - believable
- credulous - easily fooled
- incredulous - skeptical; doubtful
- credential - proof of ability

### VER (truth)

- veracity - truthfulness
- verify - confirm as true
- verdict - official judgment
- veritable - genuine; true

### JUR/JUD (law, judge)

- jurisdiction - legal authority
- jurisprudence - body of law
- adjudicate - judge formally
- prejudice - pre-judgment bias

### CRIT/CRIS (judge, decide)

- criticize - find fault
- critique - formal evaluation
- critical - judgmental; vital
- criterion - standard for judgment

### SENT (feel, think)

- sentiment - attitude; feeling
- assent - agree
- dissent - disagree
- consent - give permission

### RAT (reason, calculate)

- rational - reasonable
- irrational - not logical
- rationalize - justify logically
- ratio - proportion

### DOGM (belief, opinion)

- dogma - fixed belief
- dogmatic - stubbornly certain
- dogmatism - rigid belief system
- dogmatize - assert as fact

## Movement & Change

### MOB/MOT (move)

- mobile - able to move
- mobility - ability to move
- motion - movement
- motivate - spur to act

### MUT (change)

- mutate - change form
- mutable - changeable
- immutable - unchanging
- transmute - change completely

### VERS/VERT (turn)

- convert - change into
- invert - turn upside-down
- reverse - turn back
- diverse - varied

### MIGR (move, wander)

- migrate - move location
- immigrant - one who enters
- emigrate - move out
- migratory - moving seasonally

### CED/CESS (go, yield)

- precede - go before
- concede - yield; admit
- recede - go back
- secede - withdraw

### FLU/FLUX (flow)

- fluent - flowing smoothly
- influx - incoming flow
- effluent - outflow; waste
- fluctuate - vary up/down

### CAD/CAS (fall)

- decay - fall apart
- cascade - waterfall
- cadence - rhythmic flow
- incident - event; occurrence

### VOLV/EVOL (roll, turn)

- evolve - develop gradually
- revolve - turn around
- revolution - dramatic change
- convoluted - twisted; complex

### TRANS (across)

- transfer - move across
- transform - change form
- transition - pass into
- transpose - change position

### NOV (new)

- novel - new; original
- innovate - introduce new
- novation - replace with new
- novice - beginner

## Communication

### VOC/VOK (voice, call)

- vocal - spoken
- vocation - calling; career
- advocate - speak for
- equivocal - unclear

### LOQU/LOCU (speak)

- loquacious - very talkative
- colloquial - informal speech
- soliloquy - speech alone
- elocution - speech delivery

### DICT (say)

- dictate - say authoritatively
- contradict - speak against
- predict - say beforehand
- diction - word choice

### SCRIB/SCRIPT (write)

- describe - write about
- inscription - writing on
- manuscript - handwritten text
- script - written text

### NARR (tell)

- narrate - tell a story
- narrative - a story
- narrator - storyteller
- narration - act of telling

### SIGN (mark, indicate)

- signal - a sign
- signify - mean; indicate
- signature - signed name
- insignia - distinctive emblem

**GRAM/GRAPH (write, draw)**

- grammar - language rules
- telegram - short message
- autograph - signature
- paragraph - text section

**LING (language, tongue)**

- linguistics - language study
- bilingual - two languages
- multilingual - many languages
- lingual - relating to tongue

**AUD (hear)**

- audible - can be heard
- audience - group of listeners
- audition - hearing test
- auditory - relating to hearing

**PORT (carry)**

- report - carry back info
- import - bring in
- export - send out
- portable - easy to carry

**Knowledge & Learning****COGN (know)**

- cognition - act of knowing
- cognitive - relating to thinking
- cognizant - aware
- recognize - know again

**SCI/SCIO (know)**

- science - systematic knowledge
- prescient - knowing beforehand
- omniscient - all-knowing
- nescient - ignorant

**SOPH (wisdom)**

- philosophy - love of wisdom
- sophisticated - worldly; complex
- sophistry - clever false reasoning
- sophomoric - immature; naive

**DOC/DOCT (teach)**

- doctrine - set of teachings
- docile - easily taught
- doctorate - highest degree
- indoctrinate - teach rigidly

**MEM (remember)**

- memory - ability to recall
- memorial - remembrance
- commemorate - honor; remember
- memento - reminder

**LOG (study, reason)**

- logic - reasoning
- biology - study of life
- psychology - study of mind
- catalog - organized list

**GNOS/GNOSIS (knowledge)**

- diagnose - identify problem
- diagnosis - identification
- prognosis - forecast outcome
- agnostic - without knowledge

**THEOR (contemplate, view)**

- theory - explanatory idea
- theorem - proven statement
- theorize - form a theory
- theoretical - abstract; not practical

**LECT (read)**

- lecture - spoken lesson
- select - choose
- collect - gather together
- legible - easy to read

**DISC (learn)**

- discover - find out
- disciple - a learner
- discipline - training; control
- discern - see clearly

**Good & Bad****BENE (good, well)**

- benefit - helpful advantage
- benefactor - one who gives
- benevolent - kind intentions
- beneficent - doing good deeds

**BON (good)**

- bonus - extra benefit
- bonhomie - good-natured warmth
- bonanza - sudden good fortune
- bona fide - genuine; real

**EU (good, well)**

- euphemism - pleasant substitute term
- eulogy - speech of praise
- euphoria - intense happiness
- euthanasia - mercy death

**SAN (healthy, sound)**

- sanitary - clean; healthy
- sanitation - public cleanliness
- sanitize - make clean
- sanity - sound mind

**SALV/SALUT (safe, health)**

- salvation - being saved
- salvage - save from loss
- salutary - healthful effect
- salubrious - healthy; wholesome

**PUR (pure, clean)**

- purify - make pure
- purity - cleanness
- purge - clean out
- impure - not pure

**MAL/MALE (bad, evil)**

- malicious - harmful intent
- malady - illness
- malfunction - work badly
- malevolent - wishing harm

**NOC/NOX (harm)**

- noxious - harmful; toxic
- innocuous - harmless
- innocent - not guilty
- noxious - injurious

**MORB (disease)**

- morbid - disease-related
- morbidity - illness rate
- moribund - near death
- moribific - causing disease

**VIT (life)**

- vital - essential
- vitality - life force
- revive - bring back life
- invigorate - give energy