

GRE Prep September 29, 2007

Congrats on preparing to take the GRE! You all are starting off in the right direction!

Books

One of the first things I recommend is to find a GRE prep book. There are a few out there, expensive and inexpensive. Libraries in Austin carry a few copies if you don't want to buy them. I know for a fact that the Faulk-Central library has some brand new books! I really don't have a recommendation on which is better. The one I used was through ETS, which is the company that develops and administers the test.

Practicing to Take the General Test, 10th Edition,
\$21 through the site but maybe cheaper elsewhere!

Online Resources

There are also some online GRE prep sites available for free. A few might require an account but it's all free! The site I used a lot was www.ets.org. I used the **Power Prep** software, which you can download for free from the site. It was very similar to the real test that is administered online. This helped me get better acquainted with the format so I knew what to expect on the actual day of the test.

Some other sites I found are:

- http://www.testprepreview.com/gre_practice.htm
- <http://www.greguide.com/>
- <http://www.number2.com/>

Vocabulary

- One way to prepare for the vocabulary part is to learn the words that are most frequently on the GRE test. The prep books usually have a list of words and you can find lists online. I listed a few websites below that have lists of high frequency vocabulary words commonly found on the tests GRE.
 1. <http://www.testprepreview.com/vocabulary.htm>
 2. <http://supervocab.com/flashjavascript.cgi?id=2>
 3. http://www.wordhacker.com/en/article/free_gre_word_list_a.htm
- Learning common root words, prefixes, and suffixes will be very helpful. There will be words that you have no clue in what they mean but if you break it down you are able to come up with an idea of what it might mean and that is better than not knowing at all. Of course you probably won't be able to learn ALL of them, but as long as you know some it is better than nothing! Here is a site that I found that may help:

1. <http://www.betterendings.org/homeschool/Words/Root%20Words.htm>

- In the context of time you should only spend a minute or less on each question. There are more questions than time.

Time Management

- **TIME MANAGEMENT IS KEY!** It is important to time yourself on each subject, including the writing portion, when taking the test. This will help you determine how much time you should spend on questions, how long it should take you to read a passage and analyze a graph, and how much time to take when writing each section. You need to practice, practice, and practice time management.
- Make sure you answer **ALL** the questions even if you have to guess because the penalty for not answering a question is more severe than getting it wrong.

Math

- The math section might be intimidating but remember it is really just algebra and geometry.
- Become familiar and practice simple algebraic equations such as how to solve linear and quadratic equations, find the slope of a line, find the circumference and radius and etc. For geometry you need to know how to calculate degrees of angles, the basic formulas in calculating perimeter, height and area. This is just a small list of some basics you should know. If you forgot how to do fractions, decimals, and percentages practice those too! There will also be graphs and charts so make sure you know how to read them.
- Just because you learned it back in school a few years back, make sure you refresh your mind just in case. Sometimes you think you know what it is but when the time comes sometimes your mind goes blank.

Writing

- It is important to know the structure of your essay. There are five parts: One paragraph for the introduction, three paragraphs of content, and one paragraph for a conclusion.
- This is another area to practice time management. You need to time on how long you can spend on each part. For example on the 45 minute essay, you can divide it as: ten minutes to think about the topic and write the intro, fifteen to twenty minutes for the content, 10 minutes for the conclusion, and five minutes to proof-read.
- Try to utilize transitional phrases and write clearly and concise.

Good luck! ☺