

Updated for the revised GRE, the Word Problems Guide analyzes the GRE's complex math word problems and provides structured frameworks for attacking each question type so that you can master the art of translating challenging word problems into organized data.

Not quite as good as the real thing. Identify the Most Important Section for You For the vast majority of programs, one section either Verbal or Quantitative will be most important. As you might imagine, math, science, and engineering-focused programs will usually care more about your Quant score, while humanities-focused programs care more about your Verbal score. For some programs like some in the social sciences both scores may be considered important. There are a few different kinds of GRE weaknesses you can target: These are weaknesses in your underlying understanding of the concepts the GRE tests. For Verbal, this could be a weak vocabulary or discomfort with complex passages. These are weaknesses that have to do with the specific test format. These are weaknesses that have to do with your broader test-taking strategy and approach. It includes things like running out of time on sections, forgetting to answer every question, not reading questions closely enough, and so on. Most people will have a handful of weaknesses of various types to target. Clearly you need to focus in on the passage-focused questions. This tiny turtle struggles with pacing and trigonometry. The truth is that GRE scores are only one part of your overall application to grad school. Of course, this does mean that you need to reach a certain baseline GRE score to be really considered at a school. All right answers are money in the bank where your GRE score is concerned! To that end, you want to learn everything there is to know about the format of the test: Luckily, we have a complete breakdown of all this information in our guide to the GRE format! Get Familiar With the Directions! This GRE tip will save you time at the very beginning of each section. They are actually the most important pieces of information you can get from practice! Really dig deep on why you got the question wrong and what weaknesses it reveals, and then target those weaknesses in your studying! Really dig in to unearth new insights. So, practice staying on track by timing yourself during practice sections. Both Verbal and Quant sections have 20 questions per section. Verbal sections have a minute time limit, giving you 1: Quant sections have a minute time limit, giving you 1: Obviously, there will be some variation in how long questions take, but you want to practice staying on track. Taking a complete practice test helps you prepare for just how fatiguing it can be to test for almost four hours in a row—and forewarned is forearmed! Want to improve your GRE score by 7 points? Built by world-class instructors with 99th percentile GRE scores, the program learns your strengths and weaknesses through machine learning data science, then customizes your prep program to you so you get the most effective prep possible. Try our 5-day full access trial for free: I know, taking a whole test makes you want to nap like this kitty. Study Vocab in Context While drilling vocab with flashcards has its benefits, you also need to learn vocab in context. This means figuring out how to use the words you are actually learning in sentences correctly. This way you will get a sense of how you might actually encounter them on the GRE. Read Complex Texts One of the most important things you can do for yourself to prepare for the Verbal section is to read complex texts on a variety of subjects. Try to read texts from many disciplines if you can—from science to history to current events. If you are a student and you have access to academic journals, those are a great choice. Try to figure out what the abstract is saying—what scientific questions is it trying to answer? What were the findings? Skull not necessary accessory for your complex texts. Review Math Concepts to Build a Foundation Most students will need to work on reviewing math concepts to meet their goals on the Quantitative section. Much of the math tested on the GRE is going to be stuff you learned in high school—which, depending on your major in college and job, you may not remember a whole lot of. So really reviewing underlying math concepts will help build a foundation for Quant that you can then build on with strategies for getting the correct answer like plugging in the answers and substituting numbers for variables. In this case, you may just waste time. See here for the pool of issue topics and here for the pool of argument topics. It is also a good idea to practice outlining essays for a few of the topics before you go in to write the essays on test day. Got a swimming pool of prompts; gonna dive in it. This means that it makes sense to

answer all the questions you can tackle relatively quickly and easily first. It makes more sense to gather the points that you know you can get more easily first, and then come back to things that are more difficult or stressful. If you have one minute left and five blank questions, skim them and quickly guess as best you can. Check out our best-in-class online GRE prep program. PrepScholar GRE is entirely online, and it customizes your prep program to your strengths and weaknesses. We also feature 2, practice questions, official practice tests, hours of interactive lessons, and 1-on-1 scoring and feedback on your AWA essays. Check out our 5-day free trial now: Have a Clear Thesis Analytical writing is primarily about cogently communicating a well-supported argument. For your argument to be clear, you need to have a clear thesis. And everything you write in your essay should ultimately support that thesis. If your thesis is that these rocks are best friends, make sure you have evidence to back it up! Use process of elimination to strike out answers that you know are wrong. These GRE strategies will help you ascend to new heights in your quant score! Plug in Numbers and Answers When you have variables, you can plug in numbers to make the equations easier to parse. This works especially well with quantitative comparison questions—you can plug in several numbers with different properties like 0, 1, a negative number, a fraction to see how the values really compare. These GRE tips will help make sure your test-day experience is as smooth as possible! You will probably do better on the test if you take a chance to let your brain rest before you tackle the GRE. Try to do something relaxing the day before, like watching a movie or reading a fun book. On that note, be sure you go to bed early! If you bring a granola bar, peanut butter sandwich, or something else with a little protein and carbs, it will help keep your blood sugar from crashing in the middle of the test. A blood sugar crash will make you feel foggy and tired—definitely something to avoid. Go to the bathroom, get a drink, have your snack. You need that break to help recharge your brain—plus, if you need to hit the bathroom or leave the room at any other point during the test, it will cut into your precious testing time. Take a little brain break. Picture a beautiful beach! The important thing is not to panic. Take a few deep breaths, move on to another question, and come back later. You can always get more, so scratch away! Keep Your Scratch Paper Neat However, even though scratch paper is an infinite resource where the GRE is concerned, you should still make an effort to keep your paper neat to help you avoid silly mistakes. So write your math out in a careful and orderly manner! Not the best use of your scratch paper—or your time. Knowing things like what section is the most important for you, what your goal score is, the test format, the directions, and all over test-relevant information helps you study smarter and have a smoother experience on test day. Use strategies to get the right answers and maximize your score: Take care of yourself: A decent component of GRE success is just keeping collected and calm and maintaining stamina. So keep the test in perspective, rest your brain the day before the test, and maintain self-care by taking the break and staying confident and collected on test day!

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