

# Qualities of Things: Essential GRE Vocabulary for Verbal Reasoning

Welcome, intrepid GRE aspirants! Your journey towards verbal reasoning mastery begins with a deep understanding of the qualities that describe things. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the nuances of GRE words that capture the characteristics, attributes, and properties of objects, beings, and concepts. By the end of this article, you will possess a formidable arsenal of vocabulary that will empower you to conquer any verbal reasoning question involving qualities of things.

## The Spectrum of Qualities

The GRE exam encompasses a wide range of qualities that can be used to describe things. These qualities fall into several broad categories:



### High Frequency GRE Words: Qualities of Things – Part 3 of 3 (GRE Word Lists Book 6) by Mary Jane Sterling

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## 1. Size, Shape, and Dimension

- Colossal, diminutive, spacious, labyrinthine - Cylindrical, spherical, angular, amorphous - Expansive, compact, elongated

## **2. Color, Texture, and Appearance**

- Azure, cerulean, incandescent, iridescent - Silky, velvety, gritty, coarse -  
Pristine, dilapidated, ornate, understated

## **3. Physical Properties**

- Buoyant, volatile, malleable, ductile - Corrosive, flammable, inert -  
Ethereal, ethereal, tangible

## **4. Psychological and Emotional Qualities**

- Gregarious, introverted, altruistic, narcissistic - Euphoric, despondent,  
serene, apprehensive - Enigmatic, transparent, alluring, repulsive

## **5. Abstract Qualities**

- Absolute, relative, hypothetical, conjectural - Empirical, theoretical,  
intuitive, logical - Inescapable, ephemeral, transient

## **Contextualizing Qualities**

Understanding the meaning of these words in isolation is just the first step. The true challenge lies in applying them effectively in context. Here are some tips for using qualities of things in GRE verbal reasoning questions:

### **1. Identify the Subject**

First, determine the specific thing that is being described. This could be a person, place, concept, or event.

### **2. Analyze the Context**

Read the surrounding sentences to gain insight into the author's tone, purpose, and perspective. This will help you understand the intended

meaning of the quality.

### **3. Consider Synonyms and Antonyms**

As you come across new qualities, try to think of synonyms and antonyms to expand your vocabulary and improve your understanding.

### **4. Practice with Real Examples**

The best way to master qualities of things is to practice with real GRE verbal reasoning questions. ETS, the creator of the GRE, provides many free practice questions on their website.

### **Sample Questions**

To further illustrate the use of qualities of things, let's consider the following sample questions:

#### **1. Sentence Completion**

The \_\_\_\_\_ nature of the evidence made it difficult to draw any definitive s.  
(A) elusive (B) tangible (C) ambiguous (D) superficial

#### **2. Text Completion**

The painting captured the \_\_\_\_\_ beauty of the natural world, with its vibrant colors and intricate textures. (A) ephemeral (B) pristine (C) enigmatic (D) enduring

#### **3. Reading Comprehension**

The speaker's \_\_\_\_\_ tone seemed to indicate a deep-seated contempt for her audience. (A) sarcastic (B) conciliatory (C) ambivalent (D) impassioned

Understanding the qualities of things is a crucial aspect of GRE verbal reasoning success. By familiarizing yourself with the vast array of words that describe characteristics, attributes, and properties, you will equip yourself with the vocabulary power to tackle even the most challenging verbal reasoning questions. Remember, practice is key. The more you engage with these words, the more comfortable and confident you will become in using them. So, embrace this vocabulary journey and conquer the GRE with the qualities of things!

### Additional Resources:

- ETS GRE Website
- Kaplan GRE Verbal Reasoning Prep
- Princeton Review GRE Prep



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