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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Noah Charney: Why is the Mona Lisa so famous? |

TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/noah\\_charney\\_why\\_is\\_the\\_mona\\_lisa\\_so\\_famous](https://www.ted.com/talks/noah_charney_why_is_the_mona_lisa_so_famous)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### hoist

v. to elevate or drag anything to a higher position, usually with the help of ropes or specific equipment

*synonym*: raise, lift, haul up

(1) **hoist** the flags, (2) **hoist** the anchor

The surgeon **hoisted** the patient onto the operation table.

### two-pronged

*adj.* having two prongs:

(1) **two-pronged** process, (2) **two-pronged** fork

A **two-pronged** attack with synchronized landings at both camps was deemed the optimal strategy.

### tuck

v. to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable

*synonym*: insert, wrap, pinch

(1) **tuck** a baby in the blanket, (2) **tuck** into another cigarette

You should **tuck** your shirt into your trousers.

### groundbreaking

*adj.* producing fresh findings; using novel techniques

*synonym*: innovative, revolutionary

(1) **groundbreaking** concept, (2) **groundbreaking** settlement

He has produced **groundbreaking** research on the subject.

## hazy

*adj.* not clear due to a lack of recollection, comprehension, or detail; unsure or perplexed about something

*synonym* : blurred, clouded, foggy

(1) **hazy** dream, (2) **hazy** atmosphere

My memories of the holiday were **hazy**.

## gradation

*n.* a step-by-step change, or a slight change; levels into which anything is split; the process or outcome of something gradually altering

*synonym* : grade, step, nuance

(1) **gradation** of color, (2) subtle **gradations**

Though there is a **gradation** in the penalty, there is none in the categories of manslaughter.

## depict

*v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph

*synonym* : illustrate, describe, express

(1) **depict** a scene, (2) **depict** a feeling of isolation

His son had accurately **depicted** the bloom.

## Renaissance

*n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music

*synonym* : rebirth, golden age

(1) artistic **renaissance**, (2) industrial **renaissance**

Folk music is now experiencing a **renaissance**.

## gush

*v.* to flow or pour out rapidly and in large quantities

*synonym* : jet, burst, flush

(1) **gush** about my love for sports, (2) **gush** out and won't stop

A supertanker continues to **gush** oil off the coast of Spain.

## hypnotic

*adj.* inducing sleep; causing sleepiness, mainly as a result of a repetitive noise or motion

*synonym* : soothing, soporific, slumberous

(1) mild **hypnotic**, (2) **hypnotic** effect  
His voice had a **hypnotic** quality for me.

## imitation

*n.* a duplicate of anything, particularly something valuable; the act of replicating someone or something  
*synonym*: fabrication, replica, fake

(1) **imitation** antique, (2) artificial **imitation**

Many individuals believe that children learn languages through **imitation**.

## enviable

*adj.* causing envy; the kind of thing that is desirable and desired by others

*synonym*: desirable

(1) **enviable** versatility, (2) establish an **enviable** record

She has built herself an **enviable** reputation as a pianist.

## depose

*v.* to compel to depart; to remove from office

*synonym*: displace, oust, expel

(1) **depose** a prime minister, (2) **deposed** dictator

The citizens **deposed** the monarch.

## aristocracy

*n.* a group of persons with high social status

*synonym*: elite, nobility, upper class

(1) member of the **aristocracy**, (2) the blue-blooded **aristocracy**

Despite his popularity among the **aristocracy**, he was unpopular with the general public.

## conspicuous

*adj.* visible or observable; likely to draw attention

*synonym*: apparent, noticeable, evident

(1) a **conspicuous** achievement, (2) **conspicuous** consumption

Her golden hair was **conspicuous** in China.

## allure

*n.* attractiveness, interestingness, or excitement

*synonym*: attraction, charm, temptation

(1) the **allure** of cheap labor in China, (2) external **allure**  
He can't resist the attractive waitress's **allure**.

## impart

*v.* to expose or inform; to provide a portion of  
*synonym*: pass on, give, bestow

(1) **impart** a secret, (2) **impart** basic knowledge  
She had knowledge she couldn't wait to **impart**.

## treacherous

*adj.* that cannot be trusted; malicious; hazardous, even while seeming safe

*synonym*: dangerous, unfaithful, disloyal

(1) **treacherous** territory, (2) **treacherous** act  
Due to snow and ice, many roads have become **treacherous**, and motorists are advised to travel gently.

## timeless

*adj.* not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion

*synonym*: dateless, everlasting, imperishable

(1) **timeless** masterpiece, (2) **timeless** topic  
There is a **timeless** aspect to his most remarkable work.

## heist

*n.* a crime in which expensive items are illegally and frequently violently removed from a location or person

*synonym*: robbery, theft, rip-off

(1) **heist** man, (2) jewel **heist**  
Several airport security staff were involved in the **heist**.

## skyrocket

*v.* to rapidly ascend to a very high level; increase rapidly;  
*synonym*: rocket, soar, shoot up

(1) **skyrocket** the cost, (2) price **skyrocketed**  
Production has decreased, but costs and unemployment have **skyrocketed** dramatically.

## inconceivable

*adj.* hard to imagine or believe

*synonym*: unimaginable, impossible, unthinkable

(1) **inconceivable** pain, (2) **inconceivable** ideas

It would be **inconceivable** for him to alter his behavior.

## stairwell

*n.* a long, vertical route through a structure that is surrounded by a series of steps

(1) emergency **stairwell**, (2) open **stairwell**

Tom noticed them when he peered down the **stairwell**.

## interrogate

*v.* to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner

*synonym*: question, examine, probe

(1) **interrogate** an enemy soldier, (2) **interrogated** by police

The lawyer spent considerable time to adequately **interrogate** the witness.

## smuggle

*v.* to import or export something or someone without paying appropriate customs duties, often illegally

(1) **smuggle** drugs, (2) **smuggle** herself out of a country

He was able to **smuggle** a gun inside the prison.

## patriot

*n.* a person who loves their nation and would fight for it if required

*synonym*: nationalist, loyalist

(1) blind **patriot**, (2) zealous **patriot**

He is more of a hypocrite than a **patriot**, to be honest.

## wield

*v.* to possess and exercise power, authority, etc

*synonym*: exert, manage, handle

(1) **wield** her authority, (2) **wield** a bad influence

They **wielded** enormous power and influence.

## eyebrow

*n.* the hair arc over each eye in humans

*synonym*: brow, supercilium

(1) raise her **eyebrows**, (2) **eyebrow** cosmetics

She raised an inquiring **eyebrow** towards me.

## eyelash

*n.* any of the short hairs that grow around the eyes  
*synonym*: lash, cilium

(1) **eyelash** brush, (2) not bat an **eyelash**

An **eyelash** curler is a girl's best friend.

## bulletproof

*adj.* intended to resist bullet penetration  
*synonym*: unassailable, impregnable

(1) **bulletproof** armor, (2) **bulletproof** vehicle

Because of the **bulletproof** vest he was wearing, the officer could escape injury.

## exemplary

*adj.* setting a positive example for others to follow  
*synonym*: ideal, illustrative, admirable

(1) **exemplary** behavior, (2) **exemplary** customer service

He exhibited exceptional and **exemplary** bravery.

## testament

*n.* a thing that proves the existence or truth of something else

*synonym*: proof, testimony, testimonial

(1) give properties by **testament**, (2) **testament** to the superior quality

His wealth is a **testament** to his success.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. subtle gr\_\_\_\_\_ons  
*n.* a step-by-step change, or a slight change; levels into which anything is split; the process or outcome of something gradually altering
2. artistic ren\_\_\_\_\_ce  
*n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
3. gro\_\_\_\_\_ing settlement  
*adj.* producing fresh findings; using novel techniques
4. int\_\_\_\_\_ted by police  
*v.* to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner
5. ho\_\_t the flags  
*v.* to elevate or drag anything to a higher position, usually with the help of ropes or specific equipment
6. sm\_\_\_\_\_e drugs  
*v.* to import or export something or someone without paying appropriate customs duties, often illegally
7. ex\_\_\_\_\_ry customer service  
*adj.* setting a positive example for others to follow
8. ey\_\_\_\_\_h brush  
*n.* any of the short hairs that grow around the eyes
9. gr\_\_\_\_\_on of color  
*n.* a step-by-step change, or a slight change; levels into which anything is split; the process or outcome of something gradually altering

ANSWERS: 1. gradation, 2. Renaissance, 3. groundbreaking, 4. interrogate, 5. hoist, 6. smuggle, 7. exemplary, 8. eyelash, 9. gradation

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 10. establish an en_____le record  | <i>adj.</i> causing envy; the kind of thing that is desirable and desired by others                                 |
| 11. price sk_____eted              | <i>v.</i> to rapidly ascend to a very high level; increase rapidly;   |
| 12. jewel he__t                    | <i>n.</i> a crime in which expensive items are illegally and frequently violently removed from a location or person |
| 13. g__h out and won't stop        | <i>v.</i> to flow or pour out rapidly and in large quantities   |
| 14. en_____le versatility          | <i>adj.</i> causing envy; the kind of thing that is desirable and desired by others                                 |
| 15. im____t basic knowledge        | <i>v.</i> to expose or inform; to provide a portion of  |
| 16. open st_____ll                 | <i>n.</i> a long, vertical route through a structure that is surrounded by a series of steps                        |
| 17. blind pa_____t                 | <i>n.</i> a person who loves their nation and would fight for it if required  |
| 18. tre_____us territory           | <i>adj.</i> that cannot be trusted; malicious; hazardous, even while seeming safe                                   |
| 19. emergency st_____ll            | <i>n.</i> a long, vertical route through a structure that is surrounded by a series of steps                        |
| 20. de____t a feeling of isolation | <i>v.</i> to illustrate someone or something in a photograph  |
| 21. he__t man                      | <i>n.</i> a crime in which expensive items are illegally and frequently violently removed from a location or person |
| 22. h__y dream                     | <i>adj.</i> not clear due to a lack of recollection, comprehension, or detail; unsure or perplexed about something  |

ANSWERS: 10. enviable, 11. skyrocket, 12. heist, 13. gush, 14. enviable, 15. impart, 16. stairwell, 17. patriot, 18. treacherous, 19. stairwell, 20. depict, 21. heist, 22. hazy



23. ey\_\_\_\_w cosmetics *n.* the hair arc over each eye in humans
24. gro\_\_\_\_\_ing concept *adj.* producing fresh findings; using novel techniques
25. the al\_\_\_e of cheap labor in China *n.* attractiveness, interestingness, or excitement
26. t\_\_k a baby in the blanket *v.* to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable
27. ti\_\_\_\_\_ss topic *adj.* not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion
28. wi\_\_d a bad influence *v.* to possess and exercise power, authority, etc
29. im\_\_\_\_\_on antique *n.* a duplicate of anything, particularly something valuable; the act of replicating someone or something
30. h\_\_y atmosphere *adj.* not clear due to a lack of recollection, comprehension, or detail; unsure or perplexed about something
31. int\_\_\_\_\_te an enemy soldier *v.* to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner
32. hy\_\_\_\_\_ic effect *adj.* inducing sleep; causing sleepiness, mainly as a result of a repetitive noise or motion
33. tre\_\_\_\_\_us act *adj.* that cannot be trusted; malicious; hazardous, even while seeming safe
34. not bat an ey\_\_\_\_h *n.* any of the short hairs that grow around the eyes

ANSWERS: 23. eyebrow, 24. groundbreaking, 25. allure, 26. tuck, 27. timeless, 28. wield, 29. imitation, 30. hazy, 31. interrogate, 32. hypnotic, 33. treacherous, 34. eyelash

35. de\_\_\_t a scene *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
36. wi\_\_d her authority *v.* to possess and exercise power, authority, etc
37. im\_\_\_t a secret *v.* to expose or inform; to provide a portion of
38. external al\_\_\_e *n.* attractiveness, interestingness, or excitement
39. two\_\_\_\_\_ed process *adj.* having two prongs:
40. sm\_\_\_\_\_e herself out of a country *v.* to import or export something or someone without paying appropriate customs duties, often illegally
41. ex\_\_\_\_\_ry behavior *adj.* setting a positive example for others to follow
42. ho\_\_t the anchor *v.* to elevate or drag anything to a higher position, usually with the help of ropes or specific equipment
43. ti\_\_\_\_\_ss masterpiece *adj.* not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion
44. give properties by te\_\_\_\_\_nt *n.* a thing that proves the existence or truth of something else
45. te\_\_\_\_\_nt to the superior quality *n.* a thing that proves the existence or truth of something else
46. de\_\_\_e a prime minister *v.* to compel to depart; to remove from office
47. the blue-blooded ari\_\_\_\_\_cy *n.* a group of persons with high social status
48. mild hy\_\_\_\_\_ic *adj.* inducing sleep; causing sleepiness, mainly as a result of a repetitive noise or motion

ANSWERS: 35. depict, 36. wield, 37. impart, 38. allure, 39. two-pronged, 40. smuggle, 41. exemplary, 42. hoist, 43. timeless, 44. testament, 45. testament, 46. depose, 47. aristocracy, 48. hypnotic

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 49. raise her ey_____ws           | <i>n.</i> the hair arc over each eye in humans  |
| 50. sk_____et the cost            | <i>v.</i> to rapidly ascend to a very high level; increase rapidly;   |
| 51. bul_____of vehicle            | <i>adj.</i> intended to resist bullet penetration   |
| 52. two_____ed fork               | <i>adj.</i> having two prongs:  |
| 53. inc_____ble pain              | <i>adj.</i> hard to imagine or believe  |
| 54. bul_____of armor              | <i>adj.</i> intended to resist bullet penetration   |
| 55. artificial im_____on          | <i>n.</i> a duplicate of anything, particularly something valuable; the act of replicating someone or something                               |
| 56. zealous pa_____t              | <i>n.</i> a person who loves their nation and would fight for it if required  |
| 57. de___ed dictator              | <i>v.</i> to compel to depart; to remove from office  |
| 58. member of the ari_____cy      | <i>n.</i> a group of persons with high social status  |
| 59. industrial ren_____ce         | <i>n.</i> a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music  |
| 60. t__k into another cigarette   | <i>v.</i> to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable |
| 61. g__h about my love for sports | <i>v.</i> to flow or pour out rapidly and in large quantities   |
| 62. con_____us consumption        | <i>adj.</i> visible or observable; likely to draw attention   |

ANSWERS: 49. eyebrow, 50. skyrocket, 51. bulletproof, 52. two-pronged, 53. inconceivable, 54. bulletproof, 55. imitation, 56. patriot, 57. depose, 58. aristocracy, 59. Renaissance, 60. tuck, 61. gush, 62. conspicuous

63. a con\_\_\_\_\_us achievement

*adj.* visible or observable; likely to draw attention

64. inc\_\_\_\_\_ble ideas

*adj.* hard to imagine or believe

ANSWERS: 63. conspicuous, 64. inconceivable

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He exhibited exceptional and \_\_\_\_\_ bravery.  
*adj.* setting a positive example for others to follow
2. She has built herself an \_\_\_\_\_ reputation as a pianist.  
*adj.* causing envy; the kind of thing that is desirable and desired by others
3. His son had accurately \_\_\_\_\_ the bloom.  
*v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
4. He can't resist the attractive waitress's \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* attractiveness, interestingness, or excitement
5. An \_\_\_\_\_ curler is a girl's best friend.  
*n.* any of the short hairs that grow around the eyes
6. He has produced \_\_\_\_\_ research on the subject.  
*adj.* producing fresh findings; using novel techniques
7. Folk music is now experiencing a \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
8. Though there is a \_\_\_\_\_ in the penalty, there is none in the categories of manslaughter.  
*n.* a step-by-step change, or a slight change; levels into which anything is split; the process or outcome of something gradually altering

ANSWERS: 1. exemplary, 2. enviable, 3. depicted, 4. allure, 5. eyelash, 6. groundbreaking, 7. renaissance, 8. gradation

9. Her golden hair was \_\_\_\_\_ in China.  
*adj.* visible or observable; likely to draw attention
10. Tom noticed them when he peered down the \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a long, vertical route through a structure that is surrounded by a series of steps
11. Many individuals believe that children learn languages through \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a duplicate of anything, particularly something valuable; the act of replicating someone or something
12. She had knowledge she couldn't wait to \_\_\_\_\_.  
*v.* to expose or inform; to provide a portion of
13. His voice had a \_\_\_\_\_ quality for me.  
*adj.* inducing sleep; causing sleepiness, mainly as a result of a repetitive noise or motion
14. Despite his popularity among the \_\_\_\_\_ he was unpopular with the general public.  
*n.* a group of persons with high social status
15. It would be \_\_\_\_\_ for him to alter his behavior.  
*adj.* hard to imagine or believe
16. He is more of a hypocrite than a \_\_\_\_\_ to be honest.  
*n.* a person who loves their nation and would fight for it if required
17. Production has decreased, but costs and unemployment have \_\_\_\_\_ dramatically.  
*v.* to rapidly ascend to a very high level; increase rapidly;

ANSWERS: 9. conspicuous, 10. stairwell, 11. imitation, 12. impart, 13. hypnotic, 14. aristocracy, 15. inconceivable, 16. patriot, 17. skyrocketed

18. The lawyer spent considerable time to adequately \_\_\_\_\_ the witness.  
v. to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner
19. The citizens \_\_\_\_\_ the monarch.  
v. to compel to depart; to remove from office
20. They \_\_\_\_\_ enormous power and influence.  
v. to possess and exercise power, authority, etc
21. A supertanker continues to \_\_\_\_\_ oil off the coast of Spain.  
v. to flow or pour out rapidly and in large quantities
22. He was able to \_\_\_\_\_ a gun inside the prison.  
v. to import or export something or someone without paying appropriate customs duties, often illegally
23. You should \_\_\_\_\_ your shirt into your trousers.  
v. to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable
24. My memories of the holiday were \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* not clear due to a lack of recollection, comprehension, or detail; unsure or perplexed about something
25. Due to snow and ice, many roads have become \_\_\_\_\_ and motorists are advised to travel gently.  
*adj.* that cannot be trusted; malicious; hazardous, even while seeming safe

ANSWERS: 18. interrogate, 19. deposed, 20. wielded, 21. gush, 22. smuggle, 23. tuck, 24. hazy, 25. treacherous,

26. Several airport security staff were involved in the \_\_\_\_\_.

- n.* a crime in which expensive items are illegally and frequently violently removed from a location or person

27. She raised an inquiring \_\_\_\_\_ towards me.

- n.* the hair arc over each eye in humans

28. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_ vest he was wearing, the officer could escape injury.

- adj.* intended to resist bullet penetration

29. The surgeon \_\_\_\_\_ the patient onto the operation table.

- v.* to elevate or drag anything to a higher position, usually with the help of ropes or specific equipment

30. A \_\_\_\_\_ attack with synchronized landings at both camps was deemed the optimal strategy.

- adj.* having two prongs:

31. His wealth is a \_\_\_\_\_ to his success.

- n.* a thing that proves the existence or truth of something else

32. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ aspect to his most remarkable work.

- adj.* not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion

ANSWERS: 26. heist, 27. eyebrow, 28. bulletproof, 29. hoisted, 30. two-pronged, 31. testament, 32. timeless