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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Lisa Winer: Can you solve the locker riddle? | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/lisa\\_winer\\_can\\_you\\_solve\\_the\\_locker\\_riddle](https://www.ted.com/talks/lisa_winer_can_you_solve_the_locker_riddle)

### All Words

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### eccentric

*adj.* weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way

*synonym* : bizarre, abnormal, curious

(1) display **eccentric** behavior, (2) **eccentric** characters

He was **eccentric**, but he was also a genius.

### nasty

*adj.* very bad, unpleasant, or offensive

*synonym* : disgusting, offensive, foul

(1) a **nasty** smell, (2) receive a **nasty** surprise

The weather turned **nasty**.

### relative

*adj.* considered and evaluated through comparison with something else

*synonym* : comparative, proximate, congeneric

(1) a remote **relative**, (2) **relative** factors

Most countries prohibit sexual activity between certain close **relatives**.

### pester

*v.* to trouble or annoy someone by asking them something repeatedly

*synonym* : disturb, bother, intrude

(1) **pester** her for a date, (2) **pester** him with complaints

Please don't **pester** me with phone calls.

## riddle

*n.* a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game

*synonym* : mystery, puzzle, enigma

(1) **riddle** me a riddle, (2) solve the **riddle**

The **riddle** remains mysterious to us.

## puzzle

*n.* a situation that is difficult to follow or solve; a game, problem, or toy that tests a person's ingenuity or knowledge; (verb) to cause someone to feel confused because of something difficult to understand

*synonym* : plight, maze, (verb) perplex

(1) crossword **puzzle**, (2) mathematical **puzzle**

This jigsaw **puzzle** is challenging because there are no pictures.

## evenly

*adv.* in equal amounts or shares; in a balanced or impartial way

*synonym* : constantly, smoothly, equally

(1) **evenly** colored, (2) almost **evenly** divided

This product can spread the cement **evenly**.

## inheritance

*n.* the money, property, etc., that someone gives you when they die; (genetics) attributes acquired via biological heredity from ancestors

*synonym* : legacy, estate, heritage

(1) paternal **inheritance**, (2) **inheritance** tax

His vast **inheritance** was equitably divided among the brothers.

## mansion

*n.* a very large and imposing house

*synonym* : estate, palace, villa

(1) reside in a **mansion**, (2) haunted **mansion**

They turned away the crowd at the gate of the governor's **mansion**.

## assign

v. to give a specific job or piece of work to a someone  
*synonym*: entrust, delegate, designate

(1) **assign** projects, (2) **assign** top priority

Please **assign** a different color to each other kind of item.

## heir

n. a person who has the legal right to receive someone's money, property, or a title from another person when that person dies

*synonym*: successor, inheritor, beneficiary

(1) an imperial **heir**, (2) **heir** at law

She recognized me as her lawful **heir**.

## specifically

adv. only associated with or meant for one thing

*synonym*: especially, particularly, notably

(1) designed **specifically** for men, (2) for **specifically** American customers

This ad campaign is aimed **specifically** at young women.

## crack

v. to break or cause to break without dividing into separate parts; (noun) a line on the surface of something along which it has separated without breaking

*synonym*: snap, burst, break

(1) **crack** an eggshell, (2) a **crack** in a board

He that would eat the kernel must **crack** the nut.

## cousin

n. the child of your aunt or uncle

*synonym*: relative

(1) cross- **cousin** marriage, (2) **cousin's** family

I used to play with my younger male **cousins** when I was a little girl.

## pause

v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing

*synonym*: halt, break, intermit

(1) **pause** a moment, (2) **pause** for a reaction

The man **paused** before opening the door.

- odd** *adj.* strange or unexpected; not divisible by two  
*synonym* : strange, bizarre, abnormal  
(1) in an **odd** way, (2) **odd** behavior  
His grandfather was an **odd** man.
- naturally** *adv.* as might be expected; by natural manners  
*synonym* : by nature, inherently, intrinsically  
(1) **naturally** arising, (2) **naturally** regenerated forest  
He was **naturally** gifted.
- multiply** *v.* to add a number to itself a specified number of times; to increase or cause to increase very much in number or quantity  
*synonym* : boost, amplify, reproduce  
(1) **multiply** 5 and 6, (2) **multiply** about hundredfold  
**Multiply** a number by itself twice.
- immediately** *adv.* now or without delay  
*synonym* : directly, instantly, promptly  
(1) **immediately** recall a product, (2) write him an answer  
**immediately**  
A suspension order from the court is effective **immediately**.
- prime** *adj.* main or most important; basic  
*synonym* : excellent, exceptional, premium  
(1) **prime** number, (2) deputy **prime** minister  
After a thorough investigation, she has been named as the **prime** suspect.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. write him an answer imm_____ly | <i>adv.</i> now or without delay  |
| 2. na_____ly regenerated forest   | <i>adv.</i> as might be expected; by natural manners  |
| 3. pe___r him with complaints     | <i>v.</i> to trouble or annoy someone by asking them something repeatedly   |
| 4. almost ev___y divided          | <i>adv.</i> in equal amounts or shares; in a balanced or impartial way  |
| 5. a remote re_____ve             | <i>adj.</i> considered and evaluated through comparison with something else   |
| 6. ri___e me a riddle             | <i>n.</i> a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game |
| 7. haunted ma_____n               | <i>n.</i> a very large and imposing house   |
| 8. display ec_____ic behavior     | <i>adj.</i> weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way  |
| 9. an imperial h___r              | <i>n.</i> a person who has the legal right to receive someone's money, property, or a title from another person when that person dies           |
| 10. pr___e number                 | <i>adj.</i> main or most important; basic   |
| 11. as___n projects               | <i>v.</i> to give a specific job or piece of work to a someone  |
| 12. pe___r her for a date         | <i>v.</i> to trouble or annoy someone by asking them something repeatedly   |

ANSWERS: 1. immediately, 2. naturally, 3. pester, 4. evenly, 5. relative, 6. riddle, 7. mansion, 8. eccentric, 9. heir, 10. prime, 11. assign, 12. pester

13. mu\_\_\_\_ly 5 and 6  
*v.* to add a number to itself a specified number of times; to increase or cause to increase very much in number or quantity
14. receive a na\_\_y surprise  
*adj.* very bad, unpleasant, or offensive
15. cross-co\_\_\_n marriage  
*n.* the child of your aunt or uncle
16. crossword pu\_\_\_e  
*n.* a situation that is difficult to follow or solve; a game, problem, or toy that tests a person's ingenuity or knowledge; (verb) to cause someone to feel confused because of something difficult to understand
17. reside in a ma\_\_\_\_n  
*n.* a very large and imposing house
18. co\_\_\_n's family  
*n.* the child of your aunt or uncle
19. ev\_\_\_y colored  
*adv.* in equal amounts or shares; in a balanced or impartial way
20. cr\_\_k an eggshell  
*v.* to break or cause to break without dividing into separate parts; (noun) a line on the surface of something along which it has separated without breaking
21. inh\_\_\_\_ce tax  
*n.* the money, property, etc., that someone gives you when they die; (genetics) attributes acquired via biological heredity from ancestors
22. h\_\_r at law  
*n.* a person who has the legal right to receive someone's money, property, or a title from another person when that person dies

ANSWERS: 13. multiply, 14. nasty, 15. cousin, 16. puzzle, 17. mansion, 18. cousin, 19. evenly, 20. crack, 21. inheritance, 22. heir

23. ec\_\_\_\_\_ic characters *adj.* weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way
24. o\_d behavior *adj.* strange or unexpected; not divisible by two
25. pa\_\_e for a reaction *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
26. a na\_\_y smell *adj.* very bad, unpleasant, or offensive
27. designed spe\_\_\_\_\_lly for men *adv.* only associated with or meant for one thing
28. re\_\_\_\_\_ve factors *adj.* considered and evaluated through comparison with something else
29. pa\_\_e a moment *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
30. imm\_\_\_\_\_ly recall a product *adv.* now or without delay
31. solve the ri\_\_\_e *n.* a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game
32. mu\_\_\_\_\_ly about hundredfold *v.* to add a number to itself a specified number of times; to increase or cause to increase very much in number or quantity
33. as\_\_\_n top priority *v.* to give a specific job or piece of work to a someone
34. in an o\_d way *adj.* strange or unexpected; not divisible by two
35. paternal inh\_\_\_\_\_ce *n.* the money, property, etc., that someone gives you when they die; (genetics) attributes acquired via biological heredity from ancestors

ANSWERS: 23. eccentric, 24. odd, 25. pause, 26. nasty, 27. specifically, 28. relative, 29. pause, 30. immediately, 31. riddle, 32. multiply, 33. assign, 34. odd, 35. inheritance

36. deputy pr\_\_e minister *adj.* main or most important; basic
37. na\_\_\_\_\_ly arising *adv.* as might be expected; by natural manners
38. for spe\_\_\_\_\_lly American customers *adv.* only associated with or meant for one thing
39. mathematical pu\_\_\_e *n.* a situation that is difficult to follow or solve; a game, problem, or toy that tests a person's ingenuity or knowledge; (verb) to cause someone to feel confused because of something difficult to understand
40. a cr\_\_k in a board *v.* to break or cause to break without dividing into separate parts; (noun) a line on the surface of something along which it has separated without breaking

ANSWERS: 36. prime, 37. naturally, 38. specifically, 39. puzzle, 40. crack



## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. A suspension order from the court is effective \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adv.* now or without delay
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ remains mysterious to us.  
*n.* a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game
3. He was \_\_\_\_\_ gifted.  
*adv.* as might be expected; by natural manners
4. Most countries prohibit sexual activity between certain close \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* considered and evaluated through comparison with something else
5. He that would eat the kernel must \_\_\_\_\_ the nut.  
*v.* to break or cause to break without dividing into separate parts; (noun) a line on the surface of something along which it has separated without breaking
6. I used to play with my younger male \_\_\_\_\_ when I was a little girl.  
*n.* the child of your aunt or uncle
7. The weather turned \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* very bad, unpleasant, or offensive
8. This ad campaign is aimed \_\_\_\_\_ at young women.  
*adv.* only associated with or meant for one thing
9. After a thorough investigation, she has been named as the \_\_\_\_\_ suspect.  
*adj.* main or most important; basic

ANSWERS: 1. immediately, 2. riddle, 3. naturally, 4. relatives, 5. crack, 6. cousins, 7. nasty, 8. specifically, 9. prime

10. He was \_\_\_\_\_ but he was also a genius.

*adj.* weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way

11. His vast \_\_\_\_\_ was equitably divided among the brothers.

*n.* the money, property, etc., that someone gives you when they die; (genetics) attributes acquired via biological heredity from ancestors

12. This jigsaw \_\_\_\_\_ is challenging because there are no pictures.

*n.* a situation that is difficult to follow or solve; a game, problem, or toy that tests a person's ingenuity or knowledge; (verb) to cause someone to feel confused because of something difficult to understand

13. Please don't \_\_\_\_\_ me with phone calls.

*v.* to trouble or annoy someone by asking them something repeatedly

14. Please \_\_\_\_\_ a different color to each other kind of item.

*v.* to give a specific job or piece of work to a someone

15. They turned away the crowd at the gate of the governor's \_\_\_\_\_.

*n.* a very large and imposing house

16. She recognized me as her lawful \_\_\_\_\_.

*n.* a person who has the legal right to receive someone's money, property, or a title from another person when that person dies

17. \_\_\_\_\_ a number by itself twice.

*v.* to add a number to itself a specified number of times; to increase or cause to increase very much in number or quantity

ANSWERS: 10. eccentric, 11. inheritance, 12. puzzle, 13. pester, 14. assign, 15. mansion, 16. heir, 17. Multiply

18. This product can spread the cement \_\_\_\_\_.

*adv.* in equal amounts or shares; in a balanced or impartial way

19. His grandfather was an \_\_\_\_ man.

*adj.* strange or unexpected; not divisible by two

20. The man \_\_\_\_\_ before opening the door.

*v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing

ANSWERS: 18. evenly, 19. odd, 20. paused