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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Katherine Maher: What Wikipedia teaches us about balancing truth and beliefs | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/katherine\\_maher\\_what\\_wikipedia\\_teaches\\_us\\_about\\_balancing\\_truth\\_and\\_beliefs](https://www.ted.com/talks/katherine_maher_what_wikipedia_teaches_us_about_balancing_truth_and_beliefs)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### coincide

*v.* to take place at or near the same time

*synonym*: overlap, coexist, concur

(1) partly **coincide**, (2) **coincide** with reality

These results **coincide** with our hypothesis.

### disinformation

*n.* false or misleading information that is spread deliberately, usually with the intent to deceive or manipulate public opinion

*synonym*: misinformation, propaganda, falsehood

(1) **disinformation** campaign, (2) **disinformation** warfare

The government is being criticized for spreading **disinformation** about the pandemic.

### skeptical

*adj.* doubting that something is accurate or useful

*synonym*: doubtful, distrustful, suspicious

(1) a **skeptical** attitude, (2) **skeptical** scientists

His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly **skeptical**.

### implausible

*adj.* difficult to believe or accept as true; not credible or convincing; unlikely or improbable

*synonym*: incredulous, far-fetched, unbelievable

(1) **implausible** theory, (2) **implausible** excuse

The detective found the suspect's story **implausible** and decided to investigate further.

### **contentious**

*adj.* likely to cause people to disagree and argue; liking to argue

*synonym*: antagonistic, combative, confrontational

(1) **contentious** subject, (2) **contentious** debate

There are many **contentious** issues in claiming a patent.

### **erupt**

*v.* (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently

*synonym*: eject, emit, burst

(1) **erupt** in anger, (2) **erupt** into tears

Battles between whites and blacks **erupted** immediately.

### **reverence**

*n.* a deep respect for someone or something

*synonym*: respect, honor, awe

(1) **reverence** for tradition, (2) pay **reverence** to him

The people of the village showed great **reverence** for the elderly.

### **distract**

*v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

*synonym*: divert, preoccupy, confuse

(1) **distract** attention from the real issue, (2) **distract** public opinion

Please don't **distract** me while I'm studying.

### **chronicle**

*n.* a historical account of events arranged in order of time, typically without analysis or interpretation

*synonym*: record, history, annals

(1) **chronicle** of the war, (2) heroic **chronicle**

The **chronicle** of the kingdom's history was passed down through generations of royalty.

## divisive

*adj.* tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people

*synonym* : polarizing, contentious, disagreeable

(1) **divisive** question, (2) suppress **divisive** arguments

The proposed policy has been met with **divisive** reactions from the public.

## human-made

*adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial

*synonym* : artificial, unnatural, manufactured

(1) **human-made** climate change, (2) the worst **human-made** disaster

The bridge is a **human-made** structure and was built to span the river.

## industrious

*adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

*synonym* : diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

## pandemic

*n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area

*synonym* : outbreak

(1) flu **pandemic**, (2) global **pandemic**

They fear a **pandemic** of a new type of virus.

## toolbox

*n.* a container or storage unit for tools, typically characterized by a handle and one or more compartments for organizing and storing various tools and equipment

*synonym* : tool chest, tool kit, tool bag

(1) design **toolbox**, (2) **toolbox** storage

You should always keep a basic **toolbox** in your car in case of an emergency.

## disparate

*adj.* very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way

*synonym*: different, distinct, separate

(1) **disparate** impact, (2) physically **disparate** location

The organization worked to bring together **disparate** groups in the community.

## fussy

*adj.* excessively concerned with minor details and trivialities; easily irritated or bothered by small annoyances; requiring or showing excessive attention or care

*synonym*: picky, finicky, particular

(1) **fussy** eater, (2) **fussy** cat

The baby's **fussy** behavior indicated that she was not feeling well.

## grapple

*v.* to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons

*synonym*: brawl, scuffle, wrestle

(1) **grapple** with problem, (2) **grapple** with each other

He needed to **grapple** with structural reforms to improve the company's revenue.

## intellect

*n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

*synonym*: mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

## agreeable

*adj.* pleasant and enjoyable

*synonym*: affable, amiable, cooperative

(1) **agreeable** weather, (2) **agreeable** to the plan

We spent a most **agreeable** couple of days.

## instinctively

*adv.* as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training

*synonym*: inherently, intuitively, naturally

(1) **instinctively** grabbed the knife, (2) **instinctively** bad

with children

Some researchers claim that even humans can **instinctively** sense earthquakes.

## polarization

*n.* the division or separation of something into two opposing or contrasting groups or factions; the condition of being polarized or having poles

*synonym*: polarity, division, separation

(1) **polarization** effect, (2) dielectric **polarization**

The **polarization** of political views has created a deep divide in the country.

## uphold

*v.* to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.

*synonym*: defend, maintain, sustain

(1) **uphold** the law, (2) **uphold** tradition

The judge may **uphold** the decision of the lower court.

## uplift

*n.* the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits

*synonym*: upthrust, upheaval, (verb) raise

(1) **uplift** mountains, (2) **uplift** my spirit

The **uplift** in the stock market has been a relief to investors.

## slant

*v.* to lean or slope in a particular direction; to present or interpret information or a situation in a biased or distorted way

*synonym*: slope, tilt, incline

(1) **slant** upward, (2) **slant** a hat

The news article **slanted** the story in favor of one political party.

## interdependence

*n.* the fact or state of depending on each other

*synonym*: relation, interconnection, linkage

(1) **interdependence** of mind and body, (2) global **interdependence**

The diplomatic rivalry between the two countries has strengthened the **interdependence** of their intra-regional supply chains for their manufacturing industries.

## humility

*n.* the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self

*synonym*: humbleness, modesty, unpretentiousness

(1) develop an attitude of **humility**, (2) lack of **humility**

We were filled with **humility** at the sight of the Queen.

## candor

*n.* the quality of being open, honest, and frank; the act of speaking truthfully and directly without evasion or pretense

*synonym*: frankness, honesty, openness

(1) **candor** policy, (2) speak with **candor**

Her **candor** in admitting her mistake was refreshing and earned her respect.

## opportune

*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

*synonym*: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. imp_____le excuse                | <i>adj.</i> difficult to believe or accept as true; not credible or convincing; unlikely or improbable                                 |
| 2. imp_____le theory                | <i>adj.</i> difficult to believe or accept as true; not credible or convincing; unlikely or improbable                                 |
| 3. speak with ca____r               | <i>n.</i> the quality of being open, honest, and frank; the act of speaking truthfully and directly without evasion or pretense        |
| 4. develop an attitude of hu_____ty | <i>n.</i> the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self   |
| 5. partly co_____de                 | <i>v.</i> to take place at or near the same time   |
| 6. enrich my in_____ct              | <i>n.</i> the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level                                   |
| 7. int_____nce of mind and body     | <i>n.</i> the fact or state of depending on each other   |
| 8. gr_____e with problem            | <i>v.</i> to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons                        |
| 9. dis_____ion warfare              | <i>n.</i> false or misleading information that is spread deliberately, usually with the intent to deceive or manipulate public opinion |
| 10. re_____ce for tradition         | <i>n.</i> a deep respect for someone or something  |

ANSWERS: 1. implausible, 2. implausible, 3. candor, 4. humility, 5. coincide, 6. intellect, 7. interdependence, 8. grapple, 9. disinformation, 10. reverence

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 11. suppress di_____ve arguments  | <i>adj.</i> tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people   |
| 12. up____d tradition             | <i>v.</i> to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.   |
| 13. con_____us subject            | <i>adj.</i> likely to cause people to disagree and argue; liking to argue   |
| 14. the worst hum_____de disaster | <i>adj.</i> created or produced by humans; artificial   |
| 15. dielectric pol_____ion        | <i>n.</i> the division or separation of something into two opposing or contrasting groups or factions; the condition of being polarized or having poles |
| 16. ind_____us worker             | <i>adj.</i> hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort   |
| 17. con_____us debate             | <i>adj.</i> likely to cause people to disagree and argue; liking to argue   |
| 18. sl__t upward                  | <i>v.</i> to lean or slope in a particular direction; to present or interpret information or a situation in a biased or distorted way                   |
| 19. lack of hu_____ty             | <i>n.</i> the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self  |
| 20. er__t in anger                | <i>v.</i> (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently   |
| 21. er__t into tears              | <i>v.</i> (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently   |
| 22. physically di_____te location | <i>adj.</i> very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way  |

ANSWERS: 11. divisive, 12. uphold, 13. contentious, 14. human-made, 15. polarization, 16. industrious, 17. contentious, 18. slant, 19. humility, 20. erupt, 21. erupt, 22. disparate



23. up\_\_\_d the law *v.* to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.
24. ca\_\_\_r policy *n.* the quality of being open, honest, and frank; the act of speaking truthfully and directly without evasion or pretense
25. di\_\_\_\_\_te impact *adj.* very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way
26. design to \_\_\_\_\_x *n.* a container or storage unit for tools, typically characterized by a handle and one or more compartments for organizing and storing various tools and equipment
27. fu\_\_y cat *adj.* excessively concerned with minor details and trivialities; easily irritated or bothered by small annoyances; requiring or showing excessive attention or care
28. an op\_\_\_\_\_ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
29. heroic ch\_\_\_\_\_le *n.* a historical account of events arranged in order of time, typically without analysis or interpretation
30. ins\_\_\_\_\_ely grabbed the knife *adv.* as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training
31. global pa\_\_\_\_\_ic *n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
32. ins\_\_\_\_\_ely bad with children *adv.* as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training

ANSWERS: 23. uphold, 24. candor, 25. disparate, 26. toolbox, 27. fussy, 28. opportune, 29. chronicle, 30. instinctively, 31. pandemic, 32. instinctively

33. dis\_\_\_\_\_ion campaign *n.* false or misleading information that is spread deliberately, usually with the intent to deceive or manipulate public opinion
34. co\_\_\_\_\_de with reality *v.* to take place at or near the same time
35. human in\_\_\_\_\_ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
36. di\_\_\_\_\_ct public opinion *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
37. a sk\_\_\_\_\_al attitude *adj.* doubting that something is accurate or useful
38. global int\_\_\_\_\_nce *n.* the fact or state of depending on each other
39. ag\_\_\_\_\_le to the plan *adj.* pleasant and enjoyable
40. gr\_\_\_\_\_e with each other *v.* to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons
41. ch\_\_\_\_\_le of the war *n.* a historical account of events arranged in order of time, typically without analysis or interpretation
42. pay re\_\_\_\_\_ce to him *n.* a deep respect for someone or something
43. di\_\_\_\_\_ve question *adj.* tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people
44. sk\_\_\_\_\_al scientists *adj.* doubting that something is accurate or useful
45. di\_\_\_\_\_ct attention from the real issue *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

ANSWERS: 33. disinformation, 34. coincide, 35. intellect, 36. distract, 37. skeptical, 38. interdependence, 39. agreeable, 40. grapple, 41. chronicle, 42. reverence, 43. divisive, 44. skeptical, 45. distract

46. hum\_\_\_\_\_de climate change      *adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial
47. fu\_\_y eater      *adj.* excessively concerned with minor details and trivialities; easily irritated or bothered by small annoyances; requiring or showing excessive attention or care
48. pol\_\_\_\_\_ion effect      *n.* the division or separation of something into two opposing or contrasting groups or factions; the condition of being polarized or having poles
49. flu pa\_\_\_\_\_ic      *n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
50. up\_\_\_t my spirit      *n.* the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits
51. ag\_\_\_\_\_le weather      *adj.* pleasant and enjoyable
52. up\_\_\_t mountains      *n.* the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits
53. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion      *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
54. sl\_\_t a hat      *v.* to lean or slope in a particular direction; to present or interpret information or a situation in a biased or distorted way
55. ind\_\_\_\_\_us student      *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
56. to\_\_\_\_\_x storage      *n.* a container or storage unit for tools, typically characterized by a handle and one or more compartments for organizing and storing various tools and equipment

ANSWERS: 46. human-made, 47. fussy, 48. polarization, 49. pandemic, 50. uplift, 51. agreeable, 52. uplift, 53. opportune, 54. slant, 55. industrious, 56. toolbox

ANSWERS:

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Her \_\_\_\_\_ in admitting her mistake was refreshing and earned her respect.  
*n.* the quality of being open, honest, and frank; the act of speaking truthfully and directly without evasion or pretense
2. The people of the village showed great \_\_\_\_\_ for the elderly.  
*n.* a deep respect for someone or something
3. They fear a \_\_\_\_\_ of a new type of virus.  
*n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
4. Battles between whites and blacks \_\_\_\_\_ immediately.  
*v.* (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently
5. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.  
*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom's history was passed down through generations of royalty.  
*n.* a historical account of events arranged in order of time, typically without analysis or interpretation
7. You should always keep a basic \_\_\_\_\_ in your car in case of an emergency.  
*n.* a container or storage unit for tools, typically characterized by a handle and one or more compartments for organizing and storing various tools and equipment

ANSWERS: 1. candor, 2. reverence, 3. pandemic, 4. erupted, 5. opportune, 6. chronicle, 7. toolbox

8. We were filled with \_\_\_\_\_ at the sight of the Queen.  
*n.* the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self
9. He needed to \_\_\_\_\_ with structural reforms to improve the company's revenue.  
*v.* to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons
10. The government is being criticized for spreading \_\_\_\_\_ about the pandemic.  
*n.* false or misleading information that is spread deliberately, usually with the intent to deceive or manipulate public opinion
11. The judge may \_\_\_\_\_ the decision of the lower court.  
*v.* to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the stock market has been a relief to investors.  
*n.* the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits
13. We spent a most \_\_\_\_\_ couple of days.  
*adj.* pleasant and enjoyable
14. The bridge is a \_\_\_\_\_ structure and was built to span the river.  
*adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial
15. There are many \_\_\_\_\_ issues in claiming a patent.  
*adj.* likely to cause people to disagree and argue; liking to argue

ANSWERS: 8. humility, 9. grapple, 10. disinformation, 11. uphold, 12. uplift, 13. agreeable, 14. human-made, 15. contentious

16. The baby's \_\_\_\_\_ behavior indicated that she was not feeling well.

*adj.* excessively concerned with minor details and trivialities; easily irritated or bothered by small annoyances; requiring or showing excessive attention or care

17. His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly \_\_\_\_\_.

*adj.* doubting that something is accurate or useful

18. The organization worked to bring together \_\_\_\_\_ groups in the community.

*adj.* very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way

19. The proposed policy has been met with \_\_\_\_\_ reactions from the public.

*adj.* tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people

20. The detective found the suspect's story \_\_\_\_\_ and decided to investigate further.

*adj.* difficult to believe or accept as true; not credible or convincing; unlikely or improbable

21. The diplomatic rivalry between the two countries has strengthened the \_\_\_\_\_ of their intra-regional supply chains for their manufacturing industries.

*n.* the fact or state of depending on each other

22. He was known to be very \_\_\_\_\_ and would often work late into the night.

*adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

23. The news article \_\_\_\_\_ the story in favor of one political party.

*v.* to lean or slope in a particular direction; to present or interpret information or a situation in a biased or distorted way

ANSWERS: 16. fussy, 17. skeptical, 18. disparate, 19. divisive, 20. implausible, 21. interdependence, 22. industrious, 23. slanted

24. Your \_\_\_\_\_ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.  
*n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
25. Some researchers claim that even humans can \_\_\_\_\_ sense earthquakes.  
*adv.* as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training
26. These results \_\_\_\_\_ with our hypothesis.  
*v.* to take place at or near the same time
27. The \_\_\_\_\_ of political views has created a deep divide in the country.  
*n.* the division or separation of something into two opposing or contrasting groups or factions; the condition of being polarized or having poles
28. Please don't \_\_\_\_\_ me while I'm studying.  
*v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

ANSWERS: 24. intellect, 25. instinctively, 26. coincide, 27. polarization, 28. distract