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# Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Richard Thompson Ford: A tailored history of who wears what -- and why | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/richard\_thompson\_ford\_a\_t ailored\_history\_of\_who\_wears\_what\_and\_why



# Advanced Words Only

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# **Session 1: Word List**

#### monstrous

adj. extremely large or evil, or having a frightening appearance

*synonym*: grotesque, huge, deformed

(1) a monstrous iceberg, (2) monstrous behavior

The giant wave was **monstrous** and destroyed the small boat.

#### trousers

 a pair of leg coverings that extends from the waist to the ankles covering each leg separately, often referred to as pants

synonym: pants, slacks, jeans

(1) work trousers, (2) denim trousers

He wore black trousers and a white shirt to the job interview.

#### Renaissance

 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**.

#### confiscate

 to seize, take or appropriate something by authority, often as a penalty for breaking laws or rules

synonym: seize, take, expropriate

(1) confiscate drugs, (2) confiscate property

The security officer had to **confiscate** the weapon from the suspect.

folly

 a lack of good sense or judgment; foolishness or absurdity; specifically, a costly, useless, or pointless building or project that has been created or undertaken for no practical purpose or benefit

synonym: absurdity, foolishness, irrationality

(1) economic folly, (2) act of folly

It was **folly** for the hiker to climb the dangerous mountain alone.

# peninsula

 a long piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but is linked to a larger part of the land

synonym: cape, foreland

(1) the tip of the **peninsula**, (2) the Arab **peninsula**That **peninsula** was an essential base for the country's defense.

# bloodletting

 the act of intentionally cutting a person's skin or vein to remove blood once thought to cure various illnesses; indiscriminate slaughter

synonym: bleeding, phlebotomy, blood donation

(1) **bloodletting** device, (2) ethnic **bloodletting**The doctor used leeches for **bloodletting**, as they were thought to be more effective than cutting the skin.

ordeal

 a painful, difficult, or dangerous experience or trial; a severe test of endurance or patience

*synonym*: trial, hardship, torment

(1) **ordeal** by fire, (2) emotional **ordeal** 

The car accident was a traumatic **ordeal** for everyone involved.

# enlightened

adj. having or showing a rational, modern, and well-informed outlook

synonym: educated, informed, aware

(1) **enlightened** age, (2) make an **enlightened** decision The **enlightened** teacher taught the class about the importance of compassion and empathy.

#### scandalous

rev

 adj. causing public outrage or offense by being morally or socially unacceptable; involving shameful or improper behavior

synonym: disgraceful, shocking, shameful

- (1) **scandalous** behavior, (2) **scandalous** revelations The media exposed the **scandalous** affair between the politician and his assistant.
- n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym: revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

#### collarbone

 the bone that connects the shoulder blade to the breastbone; also known as the clavicle

synonym: clavicle, shoulder blade, scapula

(1) broken **collarbone**, (2) dislocated **collarbone**The athlete suffered a broken **collarbone** after a hard fall during the game.

sag

 to droop or hang down, especially due to a lack of support or the weight of something

synonym: droop, slump, bend

(1) **sag** my jaw, (2) **sag** with fatigue

The old mattress **sagged** in the middle, making it uncomfortable to sleep on.

#### attire

- n. clothing, especially for a particular occasion or purpose synonym: clothing, dress, garb
- (1) businesslike attire, (2) casual attire

The formal **attire** for the wedding was a black tie.

#### shorthand

 a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something

synonym: stenography, speedwriting, tachygraphy

(1) learn **shorthand**, (2) write in **shorthand** 

The secretary's **shorthand** was so good that she could type up meeting minutes within minutes.

#### credential

v. to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts

synonym: certify, verify, (noun) certificate

- (1) credential themselves by showing their registration,
- (2) teaching credential

To get the job, I need to **credential** my experience and education.

# patriarch

 a man who is the head of a family or tribe or a man who is revered because of his age, wisdom, or spiritual leadership

synonym: father, elder, leader

(1) **Patriarch** of Constantinople, (2) **patriarch** of a religion The family **patriarch** was a respected elder who was always consulted on important decisions.

# aristocracy

- n. a group of persons with high social statussynonym: 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.

### edgy

adj. being tense, nervous, or irritable; nervous, jittery behavior; having a provocative, unconventional, or avant-garde style or mentality

synonym: tense, nervous, anxious

(1) edgy haircut, (2) edgy fashion

I always feel **edgy** when I have to give a speech in front of a large crowd.

#### wardrobe

 a collection or set of clothing, especially for a particular occasion or purpose; a piece of furniture designed for storing clothes or personal belongings

synonym: clothing, attire, closet

(1) walk-in **wardrobe**, (2) minimalist **wardrobe**Her **wardrobe** selection included several pieces from high-end designer brands.

### artsy

adj. (also arty) relating to or characteristic of artists, especially those who are experimental, unconventional, avant-garde, or eclectic; having an interest in art, craft, or design, often in a creative, whimsical, or fanciful way

synonym: creative, artistic, imaginative

(1) artsy film, (2) artsy décor

The art exhibit showcased many different **artsy** pieces from local artists.

#### afterward

adv. after the time mentioned

synonym: later, thereafter, following

(1) a few years **afterward**, (2) go there **afterward**We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem **afterward**.

#### groom

v. to clean, brush, and care for the fur or feathers of an animal; to prepare oneself or someone else for a special event or occasion; to make something neat

synonym: brush, comb, neaten

(1) groom duties, (2) groom a horse

I need to **groom** my dog before his fur gets too long.

#### forbid

- v. to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising synonym: prohibit, ban, outlaw
- (1) **forbid** smoking in public areas, (2) **forbid** the use of chemical weapons

God **forbid** you should regret your marriage.

#### braid

n. a complex pattern, design, or plait formed out of three or more strands, often used decoratively in hair, clothing, or textiles; threads of silk, cotton, or other material attached to clothes, uniforms, or other things made of cloth, as a decoration

synonym: plait, twist, weave

(1) braid hair, (2) elastic cord braid

synonym: even up, align, untangle

She always wore her hair in a single **braid** down her back.

# straighten

v. to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned

(1) **straighten** out a problem, (2) **straighten** a crooked picture

I need to **straighten** my hair before I go to the party.

# stereotype

- a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
- avoid stereotype, (2) negative stereotypes
   Changing stereotypes about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.

#### circulate

 to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system

synonym: flow, disperse, rotate

(1) circulate a rumor, (2) circulate an agenda before the

### meeting

The fan **circulates** the air in the room quickly.

#### barefoot

adj. without shoes or other foot coverings; wearing nothing on the feet

synonym: bare, shoeless, unshod

(1) barefoot walk, (2) barefoot fashion

The **barefoot** hiker enjoyed feeling the earth beneath their feet.

#### nod

 to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

synonym: respond, acknowledge, greet

(1) **nod** at each other, (2) **nod** courteously

She **nodded** quietly in response to the question.

#### frivolous

adj. not serious or sensible; silly or unimportant synonym: silly, foolish, unimportant

(1) **frivolous** lawsuits, (2) engage in **frivolous** conversation He was accused of being **frivolous** and not taking his responsibilities seriously.

#### indifference

 a lack of interest, enthusiasm, or sympathy towards someone or something

synonym: apathy, disinterest, unconcern

(1) **indifference** to pain, (2) general **indifference**. I tried to assume an air of **indifference**.

#### ethic

n. a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems

*synonym*: moral code, code of conduct, principles

(1) moral ethic, (2) professional ethic

Having a strong work **ethic** is important for success in any

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#### field.

## pretension

 the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

*synonym*: presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

#### insidious

adj. tending to entrap or beguile unawares; working or spreading in a hidden and usually harmful way

synonym: sly, cunning, subtle

(1) **insidious** plot, (2) **insidious** behavior

The disease has an **insidious** onset, making it difficult to diagnose.

#### midtown

 the central area of a city or town, typically a busy commercial or business district

synonym: downtown, city center, central business district

(1) **midtown** traffic, (2) **midtown** coffee shop
The conference is being held in **midtown** Manhattan.

### subconscious

adj. relating to or concerning the part of the mind that is not fully conscious but still influences thoughts, feelings, and behavior

synonym: unconscious, latent, hidden

(1) **subconscious** influence, (2) **subconscious** behavior The **subconscious** mind is said to hold our deepest desires and fears.

# **Session 2: Spelling**

1.	stren a crooked picture	<i>v</i> .	to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned
2.	brd hair	n.	a complex pattern, design, or plait formed out of three or more strands, often used decoratively in hair, clothing, or textiles; threads of silk, cotton, or other material attached to clothes, uniforms, or other things made of cloth, as a decoration
3.	baot walk	adj.	without shoes or other foot coverings; wearing nothing on the feet
4.	creal themselves by showing their registration	ν.	to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts
5.	low-r_v engine	n.	a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
6.	fod the use of chemical weapons	<i>v</i> .	to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising
7.	baseless preon	n.	the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

ANSWERS: 1. straighten, 2. braid, 3. barefoot, 4. credential, 5. rev, 6. forbid, 7. pretension

ANSWERS: 8. frivolous, 9. aristocracy, 10. artsy, 11. trousers, 12. indifference, 13. bloodletting, 14. pretension, 15. confiscate, 16. enlightened

and well-informed outlook

17.	ey haircut	adj.	being tense, nervous, or irritable; nervous, jittery behavior; having a provocative, unconventional, or avant-garde style or mentality
18.	write in shnd	n.	a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something
19.	cite an agenda before the meeting	<i>v</i> .	to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system
20.	scaus revelations	adj.	causing public outrage or offense by being morally or socially unacceptable; involving shameful or improper behavior
21.	frus lawsuits	adj.	not serious or sensible; silly or unimportant
22.	dislocated colne	n.	the bone that connects the shoulder blade to the breastbone; also known as the clavicle
23.	n_d courteously	<i>v</i> .	to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
24.	r_v up the crowd	n.	a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 17. edgy, 18. shorthand, 19. circulate, 20. scandalous, 21. frivolous, 22. collarbone, 23. nod, 24. rev

ANSWERS: 25. credential, 26. circulate, 27. wardrobe, 28. subconscious, 29. ethic, 30. folly, 31. confiscate, 32. forbid

ANSWERS: 40. wardrobe, 41. monstrous, 42. indifference, 43. sag, 44. collarbone, 45. Renaissance, 46. stereotype, 47. aristocracy, 48. monstrous, 49. ethic

nature of morality and moral systems

50.	min coffee shop	n.	the central area of a city or town, typically a busy commercial or business district
51.	emotional orI	n.	a painful, difficult, or dangerous experience or trial; a severe test of endurance or patience
52.	min traffic	n.	the central area of a city or town, typically a busy commercial or business district
53.	make an enled decision	adj.	having or showing a rational, modern, and well-informed outlook
54.	avoid stepe	n.	a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
55.	inus plot	adj.	tending to entrap or beguile unawares; working or spreading in a hidden and usually harmful way
56.	the tip of the pela	n.	a long piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but is linked to a larger part of the land
57.	baot fashion	adj.	without shoes or other foot coverings; wearing nothing on the feet
58.	stren out a problem	<i>v</i> .	to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned
59.	pach of a religion	n.	a man who is the head of a family or tribe or a man who is revered because of his age, wisdom, or spiritual leadership

ANSWERS: 50. midtown, 51. ordeal, 52. midtown, 53. enlightened, 54. stereotype, 55. insidious, 56. peninsula, 57. barefoot, 58. straighten, 59. patriarch

ANSWERS: 60. afterward, 61. sag, 62. groom, 63. peninsula, 64. folly, 65. trousers, 66. edgy, 67. ordeal

67. or\_\_\_I by fire

avant-garde style or mentality

endurance or patience

a painful, difficult, or dangerous experience or trial; a severe test of

ANSWERS: 68. shorthand, 69. subconscious, 70. patriarch, 71. attire, 72. attire, 73. groom, 74. afterward

74. go there af rd

neat

adv. after the time mentioned

# **Session 3: Fill in the Blanks**

1.	Having a strong work is important for success in any field.
n.	a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems
2.	To get the job, I need to my experience and education.
v.	to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts
3.	Her selection included several pieces from high-end designer brands.
n.	a collection or set of clothing, especially for a particular occasion or purpose; a piece of furniture designed for storing clothes or personal belongings
4.	It was for the hiker to climb the dangerous mountain alone.
n.	a lack of good sense or judgment; foolishness or absurdity; specifically, a costly, useless, or pointless building or project that has been created or undertaken for no practical purpose or benefit
5.	The athlete suffered a broken after a hard fall during the game.
n.	the bone that connects the shoulder blade to the breastbone; also known as the clavicle
6.	The teacher taught the class about the importance of compassion and empathy.
adj	having or showing a rational, modern, and well-informed outlook
7.	The hiker enjoyed feeling the earth beneath their feet.
adj	without shoes or other foot coverings; wearing nothing on the feet
	SWERS: 1. ethic, 2. credential, 3. wardrobe, 4. folly, 5. collarbone, 6. enlightened parefoot