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# Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Lizzo: The Black history of twerking -- and how it taught me self-love | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/lizzo\_the\_black\_history\_of \_twerking\_and\_how\_it\_taught\_me\_self\_love



# Advanced Words Only

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# **Session 1: Word List**

#### ovation

 a sustained and enthusiastic show of appreciation, usually given in the form of applause, for something or someone that is admired or respected

synonym: applause, accolade, praise

(1) standing **ovation**, (2) spontaneous **ovation**The singer received an **ovation** from the crowd after her performance.

#### twerk

v. to dance in a sexually suggestive manner, often involving rhythmic movements of the buttocks; (noun) a type of dance characterized by rapid and rhythmic movements of the hips and buttocks in a low squatting stance

synonym: shake, jiggle, wiggle

(1) twerk dance, (2) twerk passionately

She decided to **twerk** in the middle of the dance floor, much to the shock of the other party-goers.

#### bestie

 a term of endearment used to describe one's closest friend, a term that connotes a deep and unbreakable bond between the two friends

synonym: friend, pal, buddy

(1) bestie bond, (2) longtime bestie

I love having a loyal and supportive **bestie** like her in my life.

## whoop

v. to shout or cry out loudly, often in celebration or excitement; to make an exuberant noise

synonym: yell, shout, cheer

(1) **whoop** with joy, (2) **whoop** it up at a party
The winning team began to **whoop** and holler with
excitement.

### gutter

 a channel along the edge of a road or structure for carrying away rainwater

synonym: channel, trench, drain

(1) gutter system, (2) a building gutter

The **gutter** on the roof's edge was clogged with leaves, causing water to overflow.

#### transatlantic

 adj. relating to or situated on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, especially about travel communication or cultural exchange between Europe and North America

synonym: intercontinental, across-the-pond

(1) **transatlantic** cable, (2) **transatlantic** partnership **Transatlantic** cooperation is important for global security and stability.

# jitterbug

 a fast or energetic swing dance that originated in the United States in the 1930s and typically involved partners performing acrobatic or dynamic movements

synonym: dance, swing, jive

(1) jitterbug dance, (2) jitterbug phone

She wore a vintage swing dress and kicked up her heels doing the **jitterbug** with her partner.

# etymology

- n. the study of the origin and history of words, including changes in meaning and form over time; the history of a particular word or phrase
- (1) **etymology** dictionary, (2) the **etymology** of a word The study of **etymology** helps us to understand the origins of

#### words.

#### blackness

the quality or condition of being black or dark; an absence of light; a state or condition of darkness, bleakness, or depression; the fact of being part of a group of individuals with dark skin who originate from or whose ancestors originated from Africa

synonym: darkness, obscurity, void

- (1) the **blackness** of the night, (2) anti- **blackness** racism The forest's darkness was complete, with a **blackness** that seemed to swallow everything.
- a special anniversary or celebration, especially one marking a 25th, 50th, or 60th year

synonym: anniversary, celebration, commemorative event

(1) jubilee procession, (2) golden jubilee The royal family celebrated their **jubilee** with a parade and a

special concert.

yang

jubilee

in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat

synonym: masculine, positive, active

- (1) the **yang** principle, (2) embody **yang** energy He saw the balance between the yin and yang as crucial for a harmonious life.
- to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake

synonym: sear, char, burn

(1) **singe** off the hair over the flames, (2) **singe** the edges of a fabric

I didn't realize the iron was still hot and **singed** my dress.

adj. stylish, elegant, or refined in a way that conveys sophistication and good taste

synonym: stylish, elegant, sophisticated

singe

classy

(1) classy outfit, (2) classy restaurant

The hotel's rooftop bar offers a **classy** and sophisticated setting to enjoy cocktails.

#### preach

- v. to deliver a religious or moral message to an audience synonym: expound, advocate, sermonize
- (1) preach the gospel, (2) preach to the massesThe pastor preached about the importance of forgiveness.

#### reintroduce

v. to bring back something that has been previously abolished or discontinued

synonym: bring back, restore, reestablish

(1) **reintroduce** species, (2) **reintroduce** capital punishment

The government is planning to **reintroduce** wolves to the national park to restore the balance of the ecosystem.

### empower

- v. to give someone the power or authority to do something synonym: authorize, endow, entitle
- (1) **empower** my life, (2) **empower** the secretary to do the same

The company **empowered** employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.

#### disturb

- v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc. synonym: agitate, bother, intrude
- (1) **disturb** the peace, (2) **disturb** his sleep Tourists frequently **disturb** the island's delicate natural balance.

# disgust

- n. a strong feeling of dislike or disapprovalsynonym: nauseate, hate, dislike
- public disgust, (2) show disgust at his actions
   He was filled with disgust and fear for the threat of war.

#### sexualize

- v. to make something sexual in nature; to emphasize or draw attention to the sexual aspects of somethingsynonym: eroticize, sensualize
- (1) **sexualize** athletes, (2) **sexualize** advertising It is not appropriate to **sexualize** children's toys or clothing.

#### misunderstand

- v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way synonym: misinterpret, misperceive, misapprehend
- (1) **misunderstand** each other, (2) **misunderstand** entirely about her

You should not misunderstand the meaning of freedom.

#### bittersweet

- adj. having a mixture of both positive and negative emotions or experiences; simultaneously pleasant and painfulsynonym: semisweet, ambivalent, mixed
- (1) **bittersweet** ending, (2) a **bittersweet** memory

  The graduation ceremony was **bittersweet** as the students said goodbye to their classmates and teachers.

# optimism

 a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation

synonym: positiveness, sanguinity, bullishness

(1) sense of **optimism**, (2) political **optimism**There is considerable **optimism** that the economy will recover soon.

# gatekeeper

 a person, organization, or system that controls or monitors access to something, often a website, database, or institution; a person or group that controls or regulates access to information, especially for a particular perspective or interest

synonym: guardian, watchman, custodian

(1) **gatekeeper** role, (2) information **gatekeeper**The company's **gatekeeper screened** all incoming phone calls and emails to ensure only important ones reached the boss.

#### reclamation

the process of restoring or reclaiming something, particularly land or resources that have been damaged or depleted; the act of obtaining or recovering something that was lost or taken away

synonym: recovery, reutilization, restoration

(1) reclamation district, (2) coastal reclamation

The **reclamation** of the wetlands allowed for the restoration of the natural ecosystem.

#### confer

to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

synonym: consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression

synonym: emancipate, release, set free

- (1) **liberate** people from oppression, (2) **liberate** potential The prisoners were **liberated** after the war ended.
- a character in a story, movie, or play which often n. opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel

synonym: scoundrel, rogue, antagonist

(1) evil villain, (2) authoritarian villain

The **villain** in the movie was a complex character with a tragic backstory.

#### subculture

a distinct social group or community within a larger society that shares a set of practices, beliefs, or values that are different from those of the dominant culture

synonym: underground culture, alternative culture

(1) **subculture** movement, (2) **subculture** fashion

The punk **subculture** emerged in the 1970s as a response to mainstream society and its values.

### liberate

### villain

#### hail

v. to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky

*synonym*: greet, salute, welcome

- (1) **hail** the victorious team with cheers, (2) **hail** forecast People in the area were forced to **hail** a taxi due to the lack of public transportation options.
- a large bird of prey with a bald head, sharp beak, and keen eyesight, feeding mainly on carrion (the flesh of dead animals)

synonym: buzzard, scavenger, carrion bird

(1) **vulture** colony, (2) scavenging **vulture**The **vulture's** sharp eyesight allows it to spot carrion from great distances.

#### vixen

vulture

 a female fox, particularly one regarded as sly or cunning; a woman regarded as sexually attractive and alluring

synonym: fox, shrew, termagant

(1) red vixen, (2) sly vixen

The farmer set a trap to catch the **vixen** that had been killing his chickens.

#### undeniable

adj. not possible to deny; true or certain synonym: absolute, definite, indubitable

(1) an **undeniable** fact, (2) an **undeniable** masterpiece Her influence on teenagers is **undeniable**.

#### ancestor

- n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefathersynonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor
- (1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

#### reclaim

v. to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back

synonym: recoup, regain, retake

(1) **reclaim** a competitive position, (2) **reclaim** land from the sea

You may be entitled to **reclaim** some tax.

# blueprint

 a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine

synonym: draft, prototype, sketch

(1) **blueprint** for economic reform, (2) architect's **blueprint** A business plan is a **blueprint** for your success.

# **Session 2: Spelling**

1. ji\_\_\_\_ug dance

2. co r honor

3. et\_\_\_\_gy dictionary

4. rei\_\_\_\_ce species

5. gat\_\_\_\_er role

6. si\_e off the hair over the flames

7. tw k passionately

- a fast or energetic swing dance that originated in the United States in the 1930s and typically involved partners performing acrobatic or dynamic movements
- v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
- n. the study of the origin and history of words, including changes in meaning and form over time; the history of a particular word or phrase
- v. to bring back something that has been previously abolished or discontinued
- n. a person, organization, or system that controls or monitors access to something, often a website, database, or institution; a person or group that controls or regulates access to information, especially for a particular perspective or interest
- v. to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
- v. to dance in a sexually suggestive manner, often involving rhythmic movements of the buttocks; (noun) a type of dance characterized by rapid and rhythmic movements of the hips and buttocks in a low squatting stance

ANSWERS: 1. jitterbug, 2. confer, 3. etymology, 4. reintroduce, 5. gatekeeper, 6. singe, 7. twerk

ANSWERS: 8. disturb, 9. jubilee, 10. gatekeeper, 11. bestie, 12. ovation, 13. ovation, 14. yang, 15. optimism

aspects of a situation

- 16. cl\_\_\_y restaurant
- 17. scavenging vu\_\_\_\_e
- 18. evil vi\_\_\_\_n
- 19. h\_\_I the victorious team with cheers

- 20. a bit et memory
- 21. sly vi\_\_n
- 22. co\_\_\_r degree
- 23. cl y outfit
- 24. em\_\_\_r the secretary to do the same
- 25. sense of op\_\_\_sm

- adj. stylish, elegant, or refined in a way that conveys sophistication and good taste
- a large bird of prey with a bald head, sharp beak, and keen eyesight, feeding mainly on carrion (the flesh of dead animals)
- a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel
- v. to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky
- adj. having a mixture of both positive and negative emotions or experiences; simultaneously pleasant and painful
- a female fox, particularly one regarded as sly or cunning; a woman regarded as sexually attractive and alluring
- v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
- adj. stylish, elegant, or refined in a way that conveys sophistication and good taste
- v. to give someone the power or authority to do something
- a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation

ANSWERS: 16. classy, 17. vulture, 18. villain, 19. hail, 20. bittersweet, 21. vixen, 22. confer, 23. classy, 24. empower, 25. optimism

to take back something previously lost, 26. re m a competitive position ν. given, or paid, or ask to have it back 27. sub\_\_\_\_re fashion a distinct social group or community n. within a larger society that shares a set of practices, beliefs, or values that are different from those of the dominant culture 28. mis\_\_\_\_and entirely about her to interpret or understand something in the wrong way to burn something slightly or 29. si\_\_e the edges of a fabric superficially, usually by mistake to dance in a sexually suggestive 30. tw k dance ν. manner, often involving rhythmic movements of the buttocks: (noun) a type of dance characterized by rapid and rhythmic movements of the hips and buttocks in a low squatting stance 31. gu r system a channel along the edge of a road or n. structure for carrying away rainwater 32. di b the peace to interrupt someone who is trying to ν. work, sleep, etc. in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or 33. embody y g energy n. active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat 34. pr\_\_h to the masses to deliver a religious or moral message to an audience 35. se\_\_\_\_ze athletes to make something sexual in nature; to ν. emphasize or draw attention to the sexual aspects of something

ANSWERS: 26. reclaim, 27. subculture, 28. misunderstand, 29. singe, 30. twerk, 31. gutter, 32. disturb, 33. yang, 34. preach, 35. sexualize

36.	recon district	n.	the process of restoring or reclaiming something, particularly land or resources that have been damaged or depleted; the act of obtaining or recovering something that was lost or taken away
37.	lite people from oppression	v.	to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression
38.	red vin	n.	a female fox, particularly one regarded as sly or cunning; a woman regarded as sexually attractive and alluring
39.	architect's blnt	n.	a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
40.	an undle fact	adj.	not possible to deny; true or certain
41.	longtime bee	n.	a term of endearment used to describe one's closest friend, a term that connotes a deep and unbreakable bond between the two friends
42.	whp with joy	ν.	to shout or cry out loudly, often in celebration or excitement; to make an exuberant noise
43.	a building gur	n.	a channel along the edge of a road or structure for carrying away rainwater
44.	the etgy of a word	n.	the study of the origin and history of words, including changes in meaning and form over time; the history of a particular word or phrase
45.	anti-blss racism	n.	the quality or condition of being black or dark; an absence of light; a state or condition of darkness, bleakness, or depression; the fact of being part of a group of individuals with dark skin who originate from or whose ancestors originated from Africa

ANSWERS: 36. reclamation, 37. liberate, 38. vixen, 39. blueprint, 40. undeniable, 41. bestie, 42. whoop, 43. gutter, 44. etymology, 45. blackness

46. ji_	ug phone	n.	a fast or energetic swing dance that originated in the United States in the 1930s and typically involved partners performing acrobatic or dynamic movements
47. pı	ublic dit	n.	a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
48. sł	now dit at his actions	n.	a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
49. pr	rh the gospel	<i>v</i> .	to deliver a religious or moral message to an audience
50. go	olden jue	n.	a special anniversary or celebration, especially one marking a 25th, 50th, or 60th year
51. ea	arliest human anor	n.	a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
52. bi	tet ending	adj.	having a mixture of both positive and negative emotions or experiences; simultaneously pleasant and painful
53. w	hp it up at a party	<i>v</i> .	to shout or cry out loudly, often in celebration or excitement; to make an exuberant noise
54. bl	nt for economic reform	n.	a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
55. li_	te potential	ν.	to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression
56. aı	uthoritarian vin	n.	a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel
57. νι	ue colony	n.	a large bird of prey with a bald head, sharp beak, and keen eyesight, feeding mainly on carrion (the flesh of dead animals)

ANSWERS: 46. jitterbug, 47. disgust, 48. disgust, 49. preach, 50. jubilee, 51. ancestor, 52. bittersweet, 53. whoop, 54. blueprint, 55. liberate, 56. villain, 57. vulture

ANSWERS: 58. misunderstand, 59. transatlantic, 60. undeniable, 61. hail, 62. ancestor, 63. subculture, 64. reintroduce, 65. reclamation

ANSWERS: 66. empower, 67. blackness, 68. transatlantic, 69. sexualize, 70. reclaim

ν.

to take back something previously lost,

given, or paid, or ask to have it back

70. re\_\_\_\_m land from the sea

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

1.	The sharp eyesight allows it to spot carrion from great distances.
n.	a large bird of prey with a bald head, sharp beak, and keen eyesight, feeding mainly on carrion (the flesh of dead animals)
2.	My remote immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s
n.	a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
3.	You may be entitled to some tax.
ν.	to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
4.	The hotel's rooftop bar offers a and sophisticated setting to enjoy cocktails.
adj	stylish, elegant, or refined in a way that conveys sophistication and good taste
5.	The in the movie was a complex character with a tragic backstory.
n.	a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel
6.	The on the roof's edge was clogged with leaves, causing water to overflow.
n.	a channel along the edge of a road or structure for carrying away rainwater
7.	The study of helps us to understand the origins of words.
n.	the study of the origin and history of words, including changes in meaning and form over time; the history of a particular word or phrase
8.	The prisoners were after the war ended.
<i>v</i> .	to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression
	SWERS: 1. vulture's, 2. ancestor, 3. reclaim, 4. classy, 5. villain, 6. gutter, 7. mology, 8. liberated