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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Niro Sivanathan: The counterintuitive way to be more persuasive | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/niro\\_sivanathan\\_the\\_counterintuitive\\_way\\_to\\_be\\_more\\_persuasive](https://www.ted.com/talks/niro_sivanathan_the_counterintuitive_way_to_be_more_persuasive)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### saucer

*n.* a small, shallow dish with a slightly raised edge or rim used for holding a cup or as a decorative object; a flying object that is often associated with UFO sightings

*synonym*: dish, plate, salver

(1) tea **saucer**, (2) flying **saucer**

She sipped her tea from a delicate **saucer**.

### whopping

*adj.* extremely large, impressive, or noteworthy; it can also be used to describe a surprise or shock

*synonym*: enormous, gigantic, massive

(1) **whopping** price, (2) **whopping** success

The new smartphone has a **whopping** 1TB of storage space.

### irrational

*adj.* not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking; (mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers

*synonym*: illogical, ludicrous, senseless

(1) an **irrational** request, (2) **irrational** numbers

They continued to endure **irrational** treatment by the dictatorship.

### dilution

*n.* the process of making something weaker, less concentrated, or less potent by adding or mixing in other

substances; the act of reducing the strength or impact of an idea, principle, or tradition

*synonym* : diluting, reduction, weakening

(1) **dilution** of power, (2) **dilution** of the original message

The **dilution** of the chemical solution weakened its strength.

## dilute

*v.* to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it

*synonym* : weaken, thin, reduce

(1) **dilute** acid with water, (2) **dilute** a great idea

She **diluted** the concentrated juice with water.

## quirk

*n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group

*synonym* : eccentricity, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity

(1) personality **quirk**, (2) a **quirk** of fate

One of her **quirks** is that she always wears mismatched socks.

## mold

*n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long

*synonym* : cavity, cast, mildew

(1) a casting **mold**, (2) **mold** allergy

Mushrooms and **mold** are fungi.

## aisle

*n.* a passage between rows of seats in a theater, airplane, or other public building, typically one of two or more running parallel with the main body of the structure

*synonym* : corridor, passageway, gangway

(1) **aisle** seat, (2) the center **aisle** of a church

She walked down the **aisle** to the front of the church.

## grandparent

*n.* a parent of one's father or mother

(1) great- **grandparent**, (2) person of **grandparent** age

She was close to her paternal **grandparents** and often spent summers with them.

## aptitude

*n.* a natural ability or talent for something; suitability or fitness for a particular task or kind of work

*synonym*: ability, talent, skill

(1) **aptitude** test, (2) natural **aptitude**

Her **aptitude** for mathematics helped her excel in her engineering courses at college.

## scholastic

*adj.* relating to education or learning, particularly in an academic setting; marked by rigorous or formal adherence to academic rules and conventions; like that of a scholar or student

*synonym*: educational, academic, scholarly

(1) **scholastic** education, (2) **scholastic** competition

She received a **scholastic** award for her outstanding academic achievements.

## inconsequential

*adj.* of little or no importance or significance; trivial or negligible

*synonym*: insignificant, trivial, minor

(1) **inconsequential** details, (2) **inconsequential** effect

The mistake was **inconsequential** and did not significantly impact the outcome.

## confer

*v.* 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## prance

v. to move or dance about in a lively or playful manner, often with exaggerated movements or steps; to walk or move in a proud or arrogant manner, often with exaggerated or showy movements

*synonym*: skip, hop, bounce

(1) **prance** around the living room, (2) **prance** like a horse

The peacock spread its feathers and **pranced** around, trying to impress the female peahens.

## revelry

n. lively and noisy festivities, typically involving drinking, dancing, and general merrymaking; a celebration marked by indulgence and enjoyment

*synonym*: festivity, merrymaking, celebration

(1) **revelry** in the streets, (2) festival **revelry**

The street was filled with **revelry** on New Year's Eve.

## devote

v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

*synonym*: commit, dedicate, apply

(1) **devote** all of my energies, (2) **devote** my own life

He **devoted** himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

## blurt

v. to utter suddenly and impulsively, without prior thought or consideration; to let something slip out unintentionally

*synonym*: blab, spill, reveal

(1) **blurt** about the inside story, (2) **blurt** in frustration

I didn't mean to **blurt** out the answer, but it came out before I could stop.

**itch**

*v.* to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it  
*synonym*: scratch, tingle, irritate  
(1) **itch** constantly, (2) **itch** to speak  
I can't stop **itching** my arm because of the mosquito bite.

**paradoxical**

*adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true  
*synonym*: contradictory, conflicting, perplexing  
(1) a **paradoxical** anecdote, (2) apparently **paradoxical** it is **paradoxical** that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.

**trump**

*n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games  
(1) **trump** card, (2) choose **trump**  
The **trump** suit in the game of bridge is determined at the beginning of each hand.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. wh\_\_\_\_ng price *adj.* extremely large, impressive, or noteworthy; it can also be used to describe a surprise or shock
2. bl\_\_t about the inside story *v.* to utter suddenly and impulsively, without prior thought or consideration; to let something slip out unintentionally
3. inc\_\_\_\_\_ial details *adj.* of little or no importance or significance; trivial or negligible
4. i\_\_h constantly *v.* to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it
5. choose tr\_\_p *n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games
6. personality qu\_\_k *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
7. di\_\_\_e a great idea *v.* to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it
8. di\_\_\_e acid with water *v.* to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it
9. natural ap\_\_\_\_de *n.* a natural ability or talent for something; suitability or fitness for a particular task or kind of work
10. inc\_\_\_\_\_ial effect *adj.* of little or no importance or significance; trivial or negligible

ANSWERS: 1. whopping, 2. blurt, 3. inconsequential, 4. itch, 5. trump, 6. quirk, 7. dilute, 8. dilute, 9. aptitude, 10. inconsequential

11. de\_\_\_e all of my energies      *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
12. flying sa\_\_\_r      *n.* a small, shallow dish with a slightly raised edge or rim used for holding a cup or as a decorative object; a flying object that is often associated with UFO sightings
13. ap\_\_\_\_de test      *n.* a natural ability or talent for something; suitability or fitness for a particular task or kind of work
14. irr\_\_\_\_\_al numbers      *adj.* not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking; (mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers
15. tra\_\_\_\_\_tic cable      *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
16. i\_\_h to speak      *v.* to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it
17. di\_\_\_\_\_ct public opinion      *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
18. a qu\_\_k of fate      *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
19. great-gra\_\_\_\_\_nt      *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
20. tea sa\_\_\_r      *n.* a small, shallow dish with a slightly raised edge or rim used for holding a cup or as a decorative object; a flying object that is often associated with UFO sightings

ANSWERS: 11. devote, 12. saucer, 13. aptitude, 14. irrational, 15. transatlantic, 16. itch, 17. distract, 18. quirk, 19. grandparent, 20. saucer

21. person of gra\_\_\_\_\_nt age      *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
22. tr\_\_p card      *n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games
23. wh\_\_\_\_\_ng success      *adj.* extremely large, impressive, or noteworthy; it can also be used to describe a surprise or shock
24. co\_\_\_r degree      *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
25. an irr\_\_\_\_\_al request      *adj.* not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking; (mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers
26. a casting m\_\_d      *n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
27. di\_\_\_\_\_on of the original message      *n.* the process of making something weaker, less concentrated, or less potent by adding or mixing in other substances; the act of reducing the strength or impact of an idea, principle, or tradition
28. a par\_\_\_\_\_al anecdote      *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true

ANSWERS: 21. grandparent, 22. trump, 23. whopping, 24. confer, 25. irrational, 26. mold, 27. dilution, 28. paradoxical



29. sch\_\_\_\_\_ic competition      *adj.* relating to education or learning, particularly in an academic setting; marked by rigorous or formal adherence to academic rules and conventions; like that of a scholar or student
30. de\_\_\_e my own life      *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
31. ai\_\_e seat      *n.* a passage between rows of seats in a theater, airplane, or other public building, typically one of two or more running parallel with the main body of the structure
32. co\_\_\_r honor      *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
33. di\_\_\_\_\_on of power      *n.* the process of making something weaker, less concentrated, or less potent by adding or mixing in other substances; the act of reducing the strength or impact of an idea, principle, or tradition
34. pr\_\_\_e like a horse      *v.* to move or dance about in a lively or playful manner, often with exaggerated movements or steps; to walk or move in a proud or arrogant manner, often with exaggerated or showy movements
35. apparently par\_\_\_\_\_al      *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true

ANSWERS: 29. scholastic, 30. devote, 31. aisle, 32. confer, 33. dilution, 34. prance, 35. paradoxical

36. sch\_\_\_\_\_ic education      *adj.* relating to education or learning, particularly in an academic setting; marked by rigorous or formal adherence to academic rules and conventions; like that of a scholar or student
37. pr\_\_\_e around the living room      *v.* to move or dance about in a lively or playful manner, often with exaggerated movements or steps; to walk or move in a proud or arrogant manner, often with exaggerated or showy movements
38. tra\_\_\_\_\_tic partnership      *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
39. m\_\_d allergy      *n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
40. re\_\_\_\_\_y in the streets      *n.* lively and noisy festivities, typically involving drinking, dancing, and general merrymaking; a celebration marked by indulgence and enjoyment
41. di\_\_\_\_\_ct attention from the real issue      *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
42. the center ai\_\_e of a church      *n.* a passage between rows of seats in a theater, airplane, or other public building, typically one of two or more running parallel with the main body of the structure

ANSWERS: 36. scholastic, 37. prance, 38. transatlantic, 39. mold, 40. revelry, 41. distract, 42. aisle

43. festival re\_\_\_\_y

*n.* lively and noisy festivities, typically involving drinking, dancing, and general merrymaking; a celebration marked by indulgence and enjoyment

44. bl\_\_t in frustration

*v.* to utter suddenly and impulsively, without prior thought or consideration; to let something slip out unintentionally

ANSWERS: 43. revelry, 44. blurt

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. One of her \_\_\_\_\_ is that she always wears mismatched socks.  
*n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
  
2. The peacock spread its feathers and \_\_\_\_\_ around, trying to impress the female peahens.  
*v.* to move or dance about in a lively or playful manner, often with exaggerated movements or steps; to walk or move in a proud or arrogant manner, often with exaggerated or showy movements
  
3. I can't stop \_\_\_\_\_ my arm because of the mosquito bite.  
*v.* to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it
  
4. She \_\_\_\_\_ the concentrated juice with water.  
*v.* to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it
  
5. Please don't \_\_\_\_\_ me while I'm studying.  
*v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
  
6. Mushrooms and \_\_\_\_\_ are fungi.  
*n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
  
7. They continued to endure \_\_\_\_\_ treatment by the dictatorship.  
*adj.* not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking; (mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers

ANSWERS: 1. quirks, 2. pranced, 3. itching, 4. diluted, 5. distract, 6. mold, 7. irrational

8. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the chemical solution weakened its strength.
- n.* the process of making something weaker, less concentrated, or less potent by adding or mixing in other substances; the act of reducing the strength or impact of an idea, principle, or tradition
9. The new smartphone has a \_\_\_\_\_ 1TB of storage space.
- adj.* extremely large, impressive, or noteworthy; it can also be used to describe a surprise or shock
10. The street was filled with \_\_\_\_\_ on New Year's Eve.
- n.* lively and noisy festivities, typically involving drinking, dancing, and general merrymaking; a celebration marked by indulgence and enjoyment
11. it is \_\_\_\_\_ that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.
- adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
12. She sipped her tea from a delicate \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a small, shallow dish with a slightly raised edge or rim used for holding a cup or as a decorative object; a flying object that is often associated with UFO sightings
13. She received a \_\_\_\_\_ award for her outstanding academic achievements.
- adj.* relating to education or learning, particularly in an academic setting; marked by rigorous or formal adherence to academic rules and conventions; like that of a scholar or student
14. She was close to her paternal \_\_\_\_\_ and often spent summers with them.
- n.* a parent of one's father or mother

ANSWERS: 8. dilution, 9. whopping, 10. revelry, 11. paradoxical, 12. saucer, 13. scholastic, 14. grandparents

15. The mistake was \_\_\_\_\_ and did not significantly impact the outcome.

*adj.* of little or no importance or significance; trivial or negligible

16. Her \_\_\_\_\_ for mathematics helped her excel in her engineering courses at college.

*n.* a natural ability or talent for something; suitability or fitness for a particular task or kind of work

17. The leaders of the two countries met to \_\_\_\_\_ on the issue.

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

18. She walked down the \_\_\_\_\_ to the front of the church.

*n.* a passage between rows of seats in a theater, airplane, or other public building, typically one of two or more running parallel with the main body of the structure

19. The \_\_\_\_\_ suit in the game of bridge is determined at the beginning of each hand.

*n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games

20. He \_\_\_\_\_ himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

*v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

21. \_\_\_\_\_ cooperation is important for global security and stability.

*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

22. I didn't mean to \_\_\_\_\_ out the answer, but it came out before I could stop.

*v.* to utter suddenly and impulsively, without prior thought or consideration; to let something slip out unintentionally

ANSWERS: 15. inconsequential, 16. aptitude, 17. confer, 18. aisle, 19. trump, 20. devoted, 21. Transatlantic, 22. blurt

ANSWERS: