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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Julia Gillard and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: 6 essential lessons for women leaders | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/julia\\_gillard\\_and\\_ngozi\\_okonjo\\_iweala\\_6\\_essential\\_lessons\\_for\\_women\\_leaders](https://www.ted.com/talks/julia_gillard_and_ngozi_okonjo_iweala_6_essential_lessons_for_women_leaders)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### blindside

v. to surprise or attack someone unexpectedly and from a position they are not aware of, often to gain an advantage

*synonym*: surprise, ambush, catch off guard

(1) **blindside** the audience, (2) **blindside** opponent

My boss's criticism of my work **blindsided** me during the meeting.

### excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

*synonym*: thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

### overwhelm

v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

*synonym*: conquer, crush, dominate

(1) he was **overwhelmed** with gratitude, (2) **overwhelm** opponents by numbers

Too much variety may **overwhelm** and confuse viewers.

### aspiring

*adj.* desiring or striving for recognition or advancement; wanting to be successful in life

*synonym* : hopeful, ambitious, eager

(1) **aspiring** prime minister, (2) have **aspiring** eyes

He was extremely generous to the **aspiring** young artist.

## standout

*n.* a person or thing that is exceptionally good, impressive, or noticeable amidst others; something that stands out from the rest; (adjective) particularly prominent, noticeable, or superior in comparison to others in a group or context

*synonym* : highlight, superiority

(1) **standout** feature, (2) **standout** player

Her bright green dress made her **standout** among the crowd of black suits and dresses.

## 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.

## pretension

*n.* 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.

## aspiration

*n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath

*synonym* : ambition, inhalation, intake

(1) no **aspiration** for fame, (2) **aspiration** into the lungs

He has an **aspiration** to become a doctor.

## envy

*v.* to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something

that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success

*synonym* : covet, resent, grudge

(1) **envy** his success, (2) feeling **envy** toward him

I can't help but **envy** my friend's ability to stay calm in stressful situations.

## visceral

*adj.* relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses

*synonym* : instinctive, intuitive, gut

(1) **visceral** organ, (2) **visceral** fear

After watching the horror movie, she had a **visceral** reaction and couldn't sleep all night.

## revulsion

*n.* a strong feeling of disgust, loathing, or aversion; an intense reaction that is often triggered by something unpleasant or offensive

*synonym* : disgust, repugnance, aversion

(1) sense of **revulsion**, (2) physical **revulsion**

His **revulsion** towards the cruel treatment of animals led him to become a vegan.

## mind-boggling

*adj.* extremely surprising or overwhelming and, therefore, difficult to understand or imagine

*synonym* : overwhelming, amazing, astonishing

(1) a **mind-boggling** puzzle, (2) a **mind-boggling** display

Educating hundreds of thousands of recruits is a **mind-boggling** task.

## tightrope

*n.* a rope or wire stretched tightly between two points, on which acrobats, tightrope walkers, etc., perform; a risky or precarious situation that requires one to balance carefully to avoid falling or failure

*synonym* : rope walk, high wire, funambulism

(1) **tightrope** performer, (2) **tightrope** act

The **tightrope** walker balanced precariously above the crowd.

## empathy

*n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

*synonym*: compassion, sympathy, tenderness

(1) full of **empathy**, (2) **empathy** for patients

**Empathy** is also necessary to understand history.

## likable

*adj.* having qualities that make a person or thing well-liked or attractive; pleasant, friendly, or enjoyable

*synonym*: sympathetic, appealing, charming

(1) **likable** personality, (2) a **likable** character

He's a very **likable** person who makes friends easily.

## stereotype

*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

(1) avoid **stereotype**, (2) negative **stereotypes**

Changing **stereotypes** about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.

## whir

*v.* to make a low, continuous, and often rhythmic sound, similar to the sound of a machine or a motor rotating at high speed; (noun) a low, continuous sound that is produced by something rotating quickly or moving rapidly through the air

*synonym*: whizz, buzz, hum

(1) **whir** up and down, (2) machines **whirring**

The sound of the engine **whirred** as the plane took off.

## portray

*v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work

*synonym*: depict, describe, illustrate

(1) **portray** feelings in words, (2) accurately **portray** the condition

We often **portray** political problems as religious issues.

## destine

- v. to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome

*synonym*: ordain, doom, predestine

(1) **destine** us to meet again, (2) be **destined** to become a great artist

Some people believe that we are all **destined** for greatness.

## mince

- v. to chop or cut food into very small pieces, often with a knife or food processor; to walk in an affected or dainty manner, as if taking very small steps; to soften the impact of one's speech by using tactful language or diplomatic phrasing

*synonym*: chop, grind, dice

(1) **mince** around town, (2) **mince** meat

Be sure to **mince** the garlic finely for the pasta sauce.

## disproportionately

- adv.* in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else

*synonym*: excessively, unequally

(1) **disproportionately** affected, (2) **disproportionately** high

The rich can often **disproportionately** benefit from tax breaks and other advantages.

## wary

- adj.* cautious or distrustful, especially because of a previous bad experience

*synonym*: cautious, suspicious, leery

(1) a **wary** statesman, (2) **wary** of marriage

She was **wary** of meeting new people because of past experiences.

## erode

- v. to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time

*synonym*: wear away, deteriorate, corrode

(1) **erode** coast, (2) **erode** trust

The ongoing budget cuts have **eroded** the quality of education in many schools.

## **scarcity**

*n.* the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount

*synonym*: lack, absence, dearth

(1) fuel **scarcity**, (2) **scarcity** of capital

Some research says that a relative decline in teacher salaries is causing labor **scarcity**.

## **forearm**

*n.* the part of a person's arm between the elbow and the wrist; (verb) to arm in advance of a confrontation

(1) **forearm** bone, (2) several veins of the **forearm**

The accident left him with numbness in his left **forearm**.

## **debunk**

*v.* to expose or dismiss as false, exaggerated, or worthless

*synonym*: expose, discredit, demystify

(1) **debunk** an urban legend, (2) **debunk** theory

The myth was **debunked** by scientists, who provided evidence to the contrary.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |  |      |   |
|--|------|---|
| 1. de_____e us to meet again             | v.   | to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome |
| 2. sc_____ty of capital                  | n.   | the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount   |
| 3. li_____e personality                  | adj. | having qualities that make a person or thing well-liked or attractive; pleasant, friendly, or enjoyable   |
| 4. er__e coast                           | v.   | to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time   |
| 5. ov_____lm opponents by numbers        | v.   | to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody  |
| 6. have as_____ng eyes                   | adj. | desiring or striving for recognition or advancement; wanting to be successful in life   |
| 7. be de_____ed to become a great artist | v.   | to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome |

ANSWERS: 1. destine, 2. scarcity, 3. likable, 4. erode, 5. overwhelm, 6. aspiring, 7. destine

8. a min\_\_\_\_\_ing display      *adj.* extremely surprising or overwhelming and, therefore, difficult to understand or imagine
9. a li\_\_\_\_\_e character      *adj.* having qualities that make a person or thing well-liked or attractive; pleasant, friendly, or enjoyable
10. a w\_\_y statesman      *adj.* cautious or distrustful, especially because of a previous bad experience
11. asp\_\_\_\_\_on into the lungs      *n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
12. st\_\_\_\_\_ut player      *n.* a person or thing that is exceptionally good, impressive, or noticeable amidst others; something that stands out from the rest; (adjective) particularly prominent, noticeable, or superior in comparison to others in a group or context
13. ti\_\_\_\_\_pe act      *n.* a rope or wire stretched tightly between two points, on which acrobats, tightrope walkers, etc., perform; a risky or precarious situation that requires one to balance carefully to avoid falling or failure
14. ti\_\_\_\_\_pe performer      *n.* a rope or wire stretched tightly between two points, on which acrobats, tightrope walkers, etc., perform; a risky or precarious situation that requires one to balance carefully to avoid falling or failure
15. mi\_\_e around town      *v.* to chop or cut food into very small pieces, often with a knife or food processor; to walk in an affected or dainty manner, as if taking very small steps; to soften the impact of one's speech by using tactful language or diplomatic phrasing

ANSWERS: 8. mind-boggling, 9. likable, 10. wary, 11. aspiration, 12. standout, 13. tightrope, 14. tightrope, 15. mince



16. he was ov\_\_\_\_\_lmed with gratitude      *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
17. ex\_\_\_e the crowd      *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
18. physical re\_\_\_\_\_on      *n.* a strong feeling of disgust, loathing, or aversion; an intense reaction that is often triggered by something unpleasant or offensive
19. po\_\_\_\_\_y feelings in words      *v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
20. no asp\_\_\_\_\_on for fame      *n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
21. pre\_\_\_\_\_on to authority      *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
22. dis\_\_\_\_\_ely high      *adv.* in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else
23. bl\_\_\_\_\_de opponent      *v.* to surprise or attack someone unexpectedly and from a position they are not aware of, often to gain an advantage
24. vi\_\_\_\_\_al organ      *adj.* relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses

ANSWERS: 16. overwhelm, 17. excite, 18. revulsion, 19. portray, 20. aspiration, 21. pretension, 22. disproportionately, 23. blindside, 24. visceral

25. mi\_\_e meat
- v. to chop or cut food into very small pieces, often with a knife or food processor; to walk in an affected or dainty manner, as if taking very small steps; to soften the impact of one's speech by using tactful language or diplomatic phrasing
26. as\_\_\_\_ng prime minister
- adj.* desiring or striving for recognition or advancement; wanting to be successful in life
27. fuel sc\_\_\_\_ty
- n.* the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount
28. fo\_\_\_\_m bone
- n.* the part of a person's arm between the elbow and the wrist; (verb) to arm in advance of a confrontation
29. e\_\_y his success
- v. to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success
30. de\_\_\_\_k theory
- v. to expose or dismiss as false, exaggerated, or worthless
31. st\_\_\_\_ut feature
- n.* a person or thing that is exceptionally good, impressive, or noticeable amidst others; something that stands out from the rest; (adjective) particularly prominent, noticeable, or superior in comparison to others in a group or context

ANSWERS: 25. mince, 26. aspiring, 27. scarcity, 28. forearm, 29. envy, 30. debunk, 31. standout

32. avoid ste\_\_\_\_\_pe *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
33. an op\_\_\_\_\_ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
34. em\_\_\_\_\_y for patients *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
35. de\_\_\_k an urban legend *v.* to expose or dismiss as false, exaggerated, or worthless
36. full of em\_\_\_\_\_y *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
37. dis\_\_\_\_\_ely affected *adv.* in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else
38. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
39. er\_\_e trust *v.* to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time
40. machines w\_\_rring *v.* to make a low, continuous, and often rhythmic sound, similar to the sound of a machine or a motor rotating at high speed; (noun) a low, continuous sound that is produced by something rotating quickly or moving rapidly through the air

ANSWERS: 32. stereotype, 33. opportune, 34. empathy, 35. debunk, 36. empathy, 37. disproportionately, 38. opportune, 39. erode, 40. whir

41. vi\_\_\_\_al fear  
*adj.* relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses
42. ex\_\_\_\_e rebellion  
*v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
43. w\_\_r up and down  
*v.* to make a low, continuous, and often rhythmic sound, similar to the sound of a machine or a motor rotating at high speed; (noun) a low, continuous sound that is produced by something rotating quickly or moving rapidly through the air
44. a min\_\_\_\_\_ing puzzle  
*adj.* extremely surprising or overwhelming and, therefore, difficult to understand or imagine
45. several veins of the fo\_\_\_\_m  
*n.* the part of a person's arm between the elbow and the wrist; (verb) to arm in advance of a confrontation
46. w\_\_y of marriage  
*adj.* cautious or distrustful, especially because of a previous bad experience
47. negative ste\_\_\_\_\_pes  
*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
48. accurately po\_\_\_\_\_y the condition  
*v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
49. feeling e\_\_y toward him  
*v.* to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success

ANSWERS: 41. visceral, 42. excite, 43. whirl, 44. mind-boggling, 45. forearm, 46. wary, 47. stereotype, 48. portray, 49. envy

50. bl\_\_\_\_\_de the audience

*v.* to surprise or attack someone unexpectedly and from a position they are not aware of, often to gain an advantage

51. sense of re\_\_\_\_\_on

*n.* a strong feeling of disgust, loathing, or aversion; an intense reaction that is often triggered by something unpleasant or offensive

52. baseless pre\_\_\_\_\_on

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

ANSWERS: 50. blindside, 51. revulsion, 52. pretension

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She was \_\_\_\_\_ of meeting new people because of past experiences.  
*adj.* cautious or distrustful, especially because of a previous bad experience
2. Be sure to \_\_\_\_\_ the garlic finely for the pasta sauce.  
*v.* to chop or cut food into very small pieces, often with a knife or food processor; to walk in an affected or dainty manner, as if taking very small steps; to soften the impact of one's speech by using tactful language or diplomatic phrasing
3. He was extremely generous to the \_\_\_\_\_ young artist.  
*adj.* desiring or striving for recognition or advancement; wanting to be successful in life
4. He has an \_\_\_\_\_ to become a doctor.  
*n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
5. After watching the horror movie, she had a \_\_\_\_\_ reaction and couldn't sleep all night.  
*adj.* relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses
6. His \_\_\_\_\_ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.  
*n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
7. The accident left him with numbness in his left \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* the part of a person's arm between the elbow and the wrist; (verb) to arm in advance of a confrontation

ANSWERS: 1. wary, 2. mince, 3. aspiring, 4. aspiration, 5. visceral, 6. pretensions, 7. forearm

8. \_\_\_\_\_ is also necessary to understand history.
- n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
9. He's a very \_\_\_\_\_ person who makes friends easily.
- adj.* having qualities that make a person or thing well-liked or attractive; pleasant, friendly, or enjoyable
10. Some people believe that we are all \_\_\_\_\_ for greatness.
- v.* to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome
11. My boss's criticism of my work \_\_\_\_\_ me during the meeting.
- v.* to surprise or attack someone unexpectedly and from a position they are not aware of, often to gain an advantage
12. We often \_\_\_\_\_ political problems as religious issues.
- v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
13. His \_\_\_\_\_ towards the cruel treatment of animals led him to become a vegan.
- n.* a strong feeling of disgust, loathing, or aversion; an intense reaction that is often triggered by something unpleasant or offensive
14. Too much variety may \_\_\_\_\_ and confuse viewers.
- v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

ANSWERS: 8. Empathy, 9. likable, 10. destined, 11. blindsided, 12. portray, 13. revulsion, 14. overwhelm



15. The \_\_\_\_\_ walker balanced precariously above the crowd.
- n.* a rope or wire stretched tightly between two points, on which acrobats, tightrope walkers, etc., perform; a risky or precarious situation that requires one to balance carefully to avoid falling or failure
16. Her bright green dress made her \_\_\_\_\_ among the crowd of black suits and dresses.
- n.* a person or thing that is exceptionally good, impressive, or noticeable amidst others; something that stands out from the rest; (adjective) particularly prominent, noticeable, or superior in comparison to others in a group or context
17. Changing \_\_\_\_\_ about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.
- 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
18. Educating hundreds of thousands of recruits is a \_\_\_\_\_ task.
- adj.* extremely surprising or overwhelming and, therefore, difficult to understand or imagine
19. The rich can often \_\_\_\_\_ benefit from tax breaks and other advantages.
- adv.* in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else
20. Some research says that a relative decline in teacher salaries is causing labor \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount
21. The sound of the engine \_\_\_\_\_ as the plane took off.
- v.* to make a low, continuous, and often rhythmic sound, similar to the sound of a machine or a motor rotating at high speed; (noun) a low, continuous sound that is produced by something rotating quickly or moving rapidly through the air

ANSWERS: 15. tightrope, 16. standout, 17. stereotypes, 18. mind-boggling, 19. disproportionately, 20. scarcity, 21. whirred

22. I can't help but \_\_\_\_\_ my friend's ability to stay calm in stressful situations.

- v. to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success

23. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.

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

24. The news of her promotion \_\_\_\_\_ her.

- v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

25. The myth was \_\_\_\_\_ by scientists, who provided evidence to the contrary.

- v. to expose or dismiss as false, exaggerated, or worthless

26. The ongoing budget cuts have \_\_\_\_\_ the quality of education in many schools.

- v. to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time

ANSWERS: 22. envy, 23. opportune, 24. excited, 25. debunked, 26. eroded