

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Soraya Field Fiorio: A day in the life of an ancient Babylonian business mogul | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/soraya_field_fiorio_a_day_in_the_life_of_an_ancient_babylonian_business_mogul

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

priestess

n. a female priest, especially one who is associated with a non-Christian religion or ancient belief system

(1) **priestess** of the Moon, (2) ancient **priestess** tradition
The **priestess** of the temple led the ceremony with grace and wisdom.

puberty

n. the process of a person's physical changes through which their sexual organs develop and become capable of reproduction

synonym: adolescence, young adulthood

(1) at the height of **puberty**., (2) the onset of **puberty**
In this culture, men are initiated when they reach **puberty**.

elevate

v. to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position

synonym: lift, heighten, promote

(1) **elevate** educational standards, (2) **elevate** a close relationship

Eating food in a hurry **elevates** blood glucose levels.

entrails

n. the internal organs of an animal or human body; the visceral organs, especially those in the abdominal cavity

or gut; the inner workings or essence of something

synonym : guts, intestines, insides

(1) animal **entrails**, (2) **entrails** of the earth

The chef used the pig's **entrails** to make a traditional dish from his homeland.

omen

n. a sign or warning of a future event, often seen as either positive or negative and believed to be an indication of divine power or influence

synonym : portent, sign, prediction

(1) bad **omen**, (2) prophetic **omen**

The alignment of the planets was considered an **omen** of major changes in people's lives.

affluent

adj. rich and wealthy; having a lot of money and material wealth

synonym : wealthy, rich, prosperous

(1) **affluent** society, (2) live in **affluent** circumstances

She lived in an **affluent** neighborhood surrounded by wealth and luxury.

celibate

adj. abstaining from sexual relations, typically for religious reasons; unmarried or single

synonym : abstinent, unmarried, chaste

(1) **celibate** life, (2) **celibate** priest

As a monk, he took a vow of **celibate** and refrained from any romantic relationships.

barley

n. a type of cereal grain that is used for food, either in the form of whole grains, flour, or malt

synonym : wheat, grain, oats

(1) **barley** field, (2) **barley** crop

The fields were ripe with **barley**, ready for harvest.

tavern

n. a public place where alcoholic drinks are served

synonym : bar, pub, saloon

(1) drink in a **tavern**, (2) traditional **taverns**

The **tavern** keeper was a friendly man who always had a good joke.

accusation

n. a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone

synonym: charge, indictment, imputation

(1) criminal **accusation**, (2) false **accusation**

The **accusation** of theft was unfounded, and the suspect was eventually cleared of all charges.

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.

drown

v. to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater

synonym: douse, drench, overwhelm

(1) **drown** in a bath, (2) I was **drowned** in work

Floods have the potential to **drown** any subsurface animals easily.

allegation

n. an assertion or claim that is made without proof or evidence; a statement that someone has done something wrong or illegal but which has not been proven in a court of law

synonym: claim, assertion, declaration

(1) baseless **allegations**, (2) **allegation** of corruption

The **allegation** of fraud against the politician damaged his reputation.

patron

n. a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, or activity; a loyal or regular customer of a particular shop, restaurant, etc.

synonym: contributor, sponsor, supporter

(1) the **patron** saint of a place, (2) political **patron**

They have been a **patron** of this restaurant for many years.

zigzag

adj. having short sharp turns or angles

synonym: bent, crinkled, crooked

(1) **zigzag** sewing machine, (2) a **zigzag** line

We had to go through a **zigzag** course.

pantheon

n. a temple dedicated to all the gods or goddesses of a particular religion or mythology; a group of something or someone that is remarkably respected, famous, or important

synonym: temple, shrine, sanctuary

(1) **pantheon** of products, (2) ancient **pantheon**

The **pantheon** of Greek gods and goddesses is well-known throughout Western culture.

sesame

n. an annual plant cultivated for its small seeds, which are used for food or oil; a flavoring derived from these seeds

synonym: tahini, benne, gingelly

(1) **sesame** oil, (2) **sesame** paste

Sesame seeds are often used as a topping on bagels and bread.

accuse

v. to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing

synonym: charge, blame, criticize

(1) **accuse** his rudeness, (2) **accuse** each other

The witness **accused** the defendant of committing the robbery.

dishonest

adj. capable of being corrupted, not honest

synonym: fraudulent, deceitful, untrustworthy

(1) **dishonest** politicians, (2) promote **dishonest** behavior

Often in drama, **dishonest** personalities gain popularity.

- pun**
- n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
synonym: joke, quip, wordplay
(1) witty **pun**, (2) silly **pun**
The comedian's **pun** had the audience laughing out loud.
- granary**
- n.* a storehouse or other building where grain is kept; a place where grain is grown
synonym: storage, warehouse, barn
(1) the public **granary**, (2) **granary** bread
The farmers stored their rice in the rice **granary** to protect it from pests.
- inherit**
- v.* to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
synonym: obtain, gain, acquire
(1) **inherit** estate, (2) **inherit** ancestral property
After his death, his sons **inherited** his business.
- preside**
- v.* to be in charge of or to lead a meeting, ceremony, or organization
synonym: chair, lead, control
(1) **preside** at the piano, (2) **preside** over ceremony
The **president** will preside over the meeting tomorrow.
- overseer**
- n.* a person who supervises or directs the work of others; a guardian or keeper of something
synonym: supervisor, manager, superintendent
(1) **overseer** of a plantation, (2) production **overseer**
The **overseer** of the construction project was responsible for ensuring everything was done on time and within budget.
- scribe**
- n.* a person who writes out copies of documents or manuscripts, especially in ancient times
synonym: copyist, transcriber, writer
(1) **scribe** in ancient Egypt, (2) financial **scribe**

The **scribe's** skills were in high demand in medieval times, when many people were illiterate.

mismanage

v. to organize or control something badly, improperly, or unskillfully

synonym: mishandle, misgovern, botch

(1) **mismanage** a crisis, (2) **mismanage** the needs

The funds were **mismanaged** for years.

cuneiform

adj. of or relating to a form of writing consisting of pressing a reed stylus into clay to create wedge-shaped marks used in ancient Mesopotamia

synonym: wedge-shaped, triangular, pyramidal

(1) **cuneiform** writing, (2) external **cuneiform** bone

The **cuneiform** tablets contain some of the oldest known examples of literature.

withhold

v. to not give or grant something due, expected, or requested

synonym: retain, hold back, keep back

(1) **withhold** my laughter, (2) **withhold** payment

The government decided to **withhold** the release of sensitive information.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. witty p_n | <i>n.</i> a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay |
| 2. ac___e his rudeness | <i>v.</i> to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing |
| 3. zi___g sewing machine | <i>adj.</i> having short sharp turns or angles |
| 4. baseless all_____ons | <i>n.</i> an assertion or claim that is made without proof or evidence; a statement that someone has done something wrong or illegal but which has not been proven in a court of law |
| 5. criminal acc_____on | <i>n.</i> a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone |
| 6. pr_____e over ceremony | <i>v.</i> to be in charge of or to lead a meeting, ceremony, or organization |
| 7. di___e a great idea | <i>v.</i> to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it |
| 8. the public gr_____y | <i>n.</i> a storehouse or other building where grain is kept; a place where grain is grown |
| 9. ba___y crop | <i>n.</i> a type of cereal grain that is used for food, either in the form of whole grains, flour, or malt |

ANSWERS: 1. pun, 2. accuse, 3. zigzag, 4. allegation, 5. accusation, 6. preside, 7. dilute, 8. granary, 9. barley

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 10. external cu_____rm bone | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to a form of writing consisting of pressing a reed stylus into clay to create wedge-shaped marks used in ancient Mesopotamia |
| 11. promote di_____st behavior | <i>adj.</i> capable of being corrupted, not honest |
| 12. se___e paste | <i>n.</i> an annual plant cultivated for its small seeds, which are used for food or oil; a flavoring derived from these seeds |
| 13. cu_____rm writing | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to a form of writing consisting of pressing a reed stylus into clay to create wedge-shaped marks used in ancient Mesopotamia |
| 14. in_____t estate | <i>v.</i> to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died |
| 15. en_____ls of the earth | <i>n.</i> the internal organs of an animal or human body; the visceral organs, especially those in the abdominal cavity or gut; the inner workings or essence of something |
| 16. pa_____on of products | <i>n.</i> a temple dedicated to all the gods or goddesses of a particular religion or mythology; a group of something or someone that is remarkably respected, famous, or important |
| 17. mi_____ge a crisis | <i>v.</i> to organize or control something badly, improperly, or unskillfully |
| 18. prophetic o__n | <i>n.</i> a sign or warning of a future event, often seen as either positive or negative and believed to be an indication of divine power or influence |

ANSWERS: 10. cuneiform, 11. dishonest, 12. sesame, 13. cuneiform, 14. inherit, 15. entrails, 16. pantheon, 17. mismanage, 18. omen

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 19. ce____te life | <i>adj.</i> abstaining from sexual relations, typically for religious reasons; unmarried or single |
| 20. ac____e each other | <i>v.</i> to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing |
| 21. at the height of pu____y. | <i>n.</i> the process of a person's physical changes through which their sexual organs develop and become capable of reproduction |
| 22. se____e oil | <i>n.</i> an annual plant cultivated for its small seeds, which are used for food or oil; a flavoring derived from these seeds |
| 23. al____on of corruption | <i>n.</i> an assertion or claim that is made without proof or evidence; a statement that someone has done something wrong or illegal but which has not been proven in a court of law |
| 24. ov____er of a plantation | <i>n.</i> a person who supervises or directs the work of others; a guardian or keeper of something |
| 25. af____nt society | <i>adj.</i> rich and wealthy; having a lot of money and material wealth |
| 26. ba____y field | <i>n.</i> a type of cereal grain that is used for food, either in the form of whole grains, flour, or malt |
| 27. animal en____ls | <i>n.</i> the internal organs of an animal or human body; the visceral organs, especially those in the abdominal cavity or gut; the inner workings or essence of something |

ANSWERS: 19. celibate, 20. accuse, 21. puberty, 22. sesame, 23. allegation, 24. overseer, 25. affluent, 26. barley, 27. entrails

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 28. in____t ancestral property | <i>v.</i> to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died |
| 29. bad o__n | <i>n.</i> a sign or warning of a future event, often seen as either positive or negative and believed to be an indication of divine power or influence |
| 30. false acc____on | <i>n.</i> a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone |
| 31. live in af____nt circumstances | <i>adj.</i> rich and wealthy; having a lot of money and material wealth |
| 32. drink in a ta____n | <i>n.</i> a public place where alcoholic drinks are served |
| 33. ancient pr____ss tradition | <i>n.</i> a female priest, especially one who is associated with a non-Christian religion or ancient belief system |
| 34. el____e educational standards | <i>v.</i> to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position |
| 35. di____st politicians | <i>adj.</i> capable of being corrupted, not honest |
| 36. political pa____n | <i>n.</i> a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, or activity; a loyal or regular customer of a particular shop, restaurant, etc. |
| 37. traditional ta____ns | <i>n.</i> a public place where alcoholic drinks are served |
| 38. mi____ge the needs | <i>v.</i> to organize or control something badly, improperly, or unskillfully |

ANSWERS: 28. inherit, 29. omen, 30. accusation, 31. affluent, 32. tavern, 33. priestess, 34. elevate, 35. dishonest, 36. patron, 37. tavern, 38. mismanage

39. production ov_____er	<i>n.</i> a person who supervises or directs the work of others; a guardian or keeper of something
40. gr_____y bread	<i>n.</i> a storehouse or other building where grain is kept; a place where grain is grown
41. pr_____ss of the Moon	<i>n.</i> a female priest, especially one who is associated with a non-Christian religion or ancient belief system
42. wi_____ld my laughter	<i>v.</i> to not give or grant something due, expected, or requested
43. I was dr__ned in work	<i>v.</i> to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater
44. a zi___g line	<i>adj.</i> having short sharp turns or angles
45. wi_____ld payment	<i>v.</i> to not give or grant something due, expected, or requested
46. sc___e in ancient Egypt	<i>n.</i> a person who writes out copies of documents or manuscripts, especially in ancient times
47. pr_____e at the piano	<i>v.</i> to be in charge of or to lead a meeting, ceremony, or organization
48. the pa___n saint of a place	<i>n.</i> a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, or activity; a loyal or regular customer of a particular shop, restaurant, etc.
49. financial sc___e	<i>n.</i> a person who writes out copies of documents or manuscripts, especially in ancient times

ANSWERS: 39. overseer, 40. granary, 41. priestess, 42. withhold, 43. drown, 44. zigzag, 45. withhold, 46. scribe, 47. preside, 48. patron, 49. scribe

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 50. di___e acid with water | <i>v.</i> to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it |
| 51. the onset of pu____y | <i>n.</i> the process of a person's physical changes through which their sexual organs develop and become capable of reproduction |
| 52. el_____e a close relationship | <i>v.</i> to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position |
| 53. ce_____te priest | <i>adj.</i> abstaining from sexual relations, typically for religious reasons; unmarried or single |
| 54. ancient pa_____on | <i>n.</i> a temple dedicated to all the gods or goddesses of a particular religion or mythology; a group of something or someone that is remarkably respected, famous, or important |
| 55. silly p_n | <i>n.</i> a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay |
| 56. dr__n in a bath | <i>v.</i> to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater |

ANSWERS: 50. dilute, 51. puberty, 52. elevate, 53. celibate, 54. pantheon, 55. pun, 56. drown

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. _____ seeds are often used as a topping on bagels and bread.
n. an annual plant cultivated for its small seeds, which are used for food or oil; a flavoring derived from these seeds
2. Often in drama, _____ personalities gain popularity.
adj. capable of being corrupted, not honest
3. The witness _____ the defendant of committing the robbery.
v. to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
4. They have been a _____ of this restaurant for many years.
n. a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, or activity; a loyal or regular customer of a particular shop, restaurant, etc.
5. The fields were ripe with _____ ready for harvest.
n. a type of cereal grain that is used for food, either in the form of whole grains, flour, or malt
6. The _____ of Greek gods and goddesses is well-known throughout Western culture.
n. a temple dedicated to all the gods or goddesses of a particular religion or mythology; a group of something or someone that is remarkably respected, famous, or important
7. The _____ skills were in high demand in medieval times, when many people were illiterate.
n. a person who writes out copies of documents or manuscripts, especially in ancient times

ANSWERS: 1. Sesame, 2. dishonest, 3. accused, 4. patron, 5. barley, 6. pantheon, 7. scribe's

8. After his death, his sons _____ his business.
v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
9. The _____ of theft was unfounded, and the suspect was eventually cleared of all charges.
n. a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone
10. The funds were _____ for years.
v. to organize or control something badly, improperly, or unskillfully
11. The government decided to _____ the release of sensitive information.
v. to not give or grant something due, expected, or requested
12. The chef used the pig's _____ to make a traditional dish from his homeland.
n. the internal organs of an animal or human body; the visceral organs, especially those in the abdominal cavity or gut; the inner workings or essence of something
13. The _____ of fraud against the politician damaged his reputation.
n. an assertion or claim that is made without proof or evidence; a statement that someone has done something wrong or illegal but which has not been proven in a court of law
14. The _____ will preside over the meeting tomorrow.
v. to be in charge of or to lead a meeting, ceremony, or organization
15. The _____ keeper was a friendly man who always had a good joke.
n. a public place where alcoholic drinks are served

ANSWERS: 8. inherited, 9. accusation, 10. mismanaged, 11. withhold, 12. entrails, 13. allegation, 14. president, 15. tavern

16. The farmers stored their rice in the rice _____ to protect it from pests.
n. a storehouse or other building where grain is kept; a place where grain is grown
17. She _____ the concentrated juice with water.
v. to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it
18. She lived in an _____ neighborhood surrounded by wealth and luxury.
adj. rich and wealthy; having a lot of money and material wealth
19. The _____ of the temple led the ceremony with grace and wisdom.
n. a female priest, especially one who is associated with a non-Christian religion or ancient belief system
20. We had to go through a _____ course.
adj. having short sharp turns or angles
21. As a monk, he took a vow of _____ and refrained from any romantic relationships.
adj. abstaining from sexual relations, typically for religious reasons; unmarried or single
22. The _____ of the construction project was responsible for ensuring everything was done on time and within budget.
n. a person who supervises or directs the work of others; a guardian or keeper of something
23. Floods have the potential to _____ any subsurface animals easily.
v. to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater

ANSWERS: 16. granary, 17. diluted, 18. affluent, 19. priestess, 20. zigzag, 21. celibate, 22. overseer, 23. drown

24. Eating food in a hurry _____ blood glucose levels.

- v.* to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position

25. The comedian's ____ had the audience laughing out loud.

- n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

26. The alignment of the planets was considered an _____ of major changes in people's lives.

- n.* a sign or warning of a future event, often seen as either positive or negative and believed to be an indication of divine power or influence

27. In this culture, men are initiated when they reach _____.

- n.* the process of a person's physical changes through which their sexual organs develop and become capable of reproduction

28. The _____ tablets contain some of the oldest known examples of literature.

- adj.* of or relating to a form of writing consisting of pressing a reed stylus into clay to create wedge-shaped marks used in ancient Mesopotamia

ANSWERS: 24. elevates, 25. pun, 26. omen, 27. puberty, 28. cuneiform