

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Ming Luke: What's a squillo, and why do opera singers need it? | TED Talk

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

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

vengeful

adj. feeling or showing a strong desire for revenge; vindictive
synonym : retaliatory, revengeful, vindictive

(1) feel **vengeful** toward him, (2) **vengeful** actions

She was **vengeful** and always sought revenge on those who wronged her.

titular

adj. holding or bearing a particular title or designation, often without having the full authority or functional responsibilities that normally accompany the position; pertaining to or existing in name only

synonym : named, nominal, formal

(1) **titular** character, (2) **titular** ruler

Despite being the company's **titular** leader, she had little authority in decision-making.

aria

n. a song that is performed solo by a singer in an opera or oratorio, often with instrumental accompaniment

synonym : song, melody, tune

(1) **aria** singer, (2) dramatic **aria**

The soprano performed an emotional **aria** that brought the audience to tears.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym: group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

soar

v. to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease

synonym: fly, rise, ascend

(1) **soar** in popularity, (2) **soar** to new heights

The bird **soared** through the sky, and its wings spread wide.

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.

hone

v. to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice

synonym: sharpen, refine, perfect

(1) **hone** abilities, (2) **hone** intuition

The athlete worked with a coach to **hone** her techniques and improve her performance.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

vibrate

v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side

synonym : oscillate, convulse, jerk

(1) **vibrate** at a regular frequency, (2) **vibrate** with anger

During the flight, the wings of the plane **vibrate**.

overtone

n. a subtle or implicit meaning or inference that is conveyed in addition to the primary or literal meaning of something; a musical tone that is produced in addition to the fundamental pitch of a note and which gives color and character to the sound

synonym : harmonic, undertone, implication

(1) **overtone** color, (2) emotional **overtones**

The singer's voice had a beautiful **overtone**, adding depth to the song.

harmonic

adj. relating to the production of sound waves with a frequency that is an integral multiple of the frequency of the original wave; having a pleasing, pleasing, or agreeable sound.

synonym : melodic, balanced, harmonious

(1) **harmonic** oscillator, (2) a natural **harmonic** quality

The violin's sound was so pure and **harmonic** that it gave me chills.

clarinet

n. a musical instrument of the woodwind family, with a single reed, a cylindrical bore, and a curved mouthpiece, known for its versatility and rich, warm tone

synonym : reed instrument

(1) **clarinet** reed, (2) **clarinet** player

The **clarinet's** unique sound added to the jazz ensemble.

resonate

v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound

synonym : echo, reverberate, resound

(1) deeply **resonate** with the consumers, (2) **resonate** in the same frequency

The sound **resonates** well in this theater.

attune

v. to make receptive or aware; to bring into harmony or alignment

synonym: align, harmonize, acclimate

(1) **attune** to nature, (2) **attune** myself to the rhythm

It is important to **attune** yourself to your customers' needs to provide the best service possible.

soprano

n. the highest-pitched voice or vocal range of a female or child singer; a female or child singer with a soprano voice; the highest-pitched member of an instrumental family, such as a violin or clarinet

synonym: treble

(1) **soprano** singer, (2) dramatic **soprano**

The **soprano's** voice was so beautiful that it brought the audience to tears.

advantageous

adj. providing a benefit or advantage; favorable or beneficial

synonym: beneficial, favorable, profitable

(1) **advantageous** conditions, (2) **advantageous** interest rate

The new job opportunity offered by the company is highly **advantageous**.

timbre

n. the quality of sound that is produced by particular voices or musical instruments sounds different from each other

synonym: resonance, tone, inflection

(1) the **timbre** of a musical sound, (2) the **timbre** of her soprano

His voice had a deep **timbre**.

accentuate

v. to emphasize or highlight something, often by making it more prominent or noticeable

synonym: emphasize, highlight, stress

(1) **accentuate** features, (2) **accentuate** the positive

The dress's plunging neckline was designed to **accentuate** the model's curves.

dampen

v. to make something wet or moist; to reduce the intensity or impact of something, such as a feeling, sound, or movement

synonym: drench, moisten, saturate

(1) **dampen** the sound, (2) **dampen** the enthusiasm

The rain helped **dampen** the flames of the campfire.

vibrato

n. a musical technique in which a sustained note is varied in pitch and volume to produce a pulsating or wavering effect; a similar effect produced in speech or other forms of sound production

synonym: tremolo, fluctuation, modulation

(1) sing with **vibrato**, (2) **vibrato** technique

The violinist added a **vibrato** to the final notes of the piece, creating a beautiful effect.

oscillate

v. to swing or move back and forth like a pendulum or a wave; to fluctuate or alternate between two points or states; to hesitate or be indecisive

synonym: fluctuate, swing, vibrate

(1) **oscillate** back and forth, (2) **oscillate** between joy and anger

The fan in the room **oscillates**, making the airflow more evenly.

airflow

n. the flow of air, especially around a moving object such as an aircraft or vehicle

synonym: current, breeze, breath

(1) **airflow** duct, (2) high-speed **airflow**

They thoroughly tested the **airflow** around their latest formula car.

stamina

n. the physical or mental endurance and strength needed to sustain prolonged effort or activity; the ability to withstand fatigue, stress, or other challenges and continue functioning effectively

synonym: endurance, staying power, resilience

(1) **stamina** training, (2) lose **stamina**

The athlete's **stamina** was tested during the grueling triathlon.

decibel

n. (also "dB") a unit used to measure the intensity of sound or the comparative loudness of two sounds based on a logarithmic scale

synonym: dB, sound level, volume

(1) **decibel** level, (2) adjust the **decibel**

The concert reached 100 **decibels**, causing many people to cover their ears.

canto

n. a division of an epic poem, typically one of a series of songs or poems sung by a bard in ancient epic poetry

synonym: verse, song, poem

(1) **canto** part, (2) **canto** song

The singer performed a beautiful **canto** in her native language, accompanied by a traditional musical instrument.

vault

n. a large room or chamber used for storage, often for valuables such as money, documents, or artwork; (verb) to leap or jump over something; to move quickly or suddenly

synonym: safe, strongbox, coffer

(1) **vault** door, (2) **vault** from five to fifty percent

The government **vault** contains top-secret documents and classified information that only a few individuals can access.

acrobatic

adj. relating to or involving gymnastic or athletic feats performed with agility, balance, and coordination; agile, flexible, and graceful

synonym: nimble, agile, flexible

(1) **acrobatic** leaps, (2) **acrobatic** skills

The **acrobatic** performance was breathtaking and left the audience in awe.

amplify

v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

synonym: intensify, boost, argument

(1) **amplify** a signal, (2) **amplify** the effect

You might need to **amplify** this point.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ha____ic oscillator
adj. relating to the production of sound waves with a frequency that is an integral multiple of the frequency of the original wave; having a pleasing, pleasing, or agreeable sound.
2. political pa____n
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.
3. ov____ne color
n. a subtle or implicit meaning or inference that is conveyed in addition to the primary or literal meaning of something; a musical tone that is produced in addition to the fundamental pitch of a note and which gives color and character to the sound
4. environmental det____nt
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
5. adjust the de____l
n. (also "dB") a unit used to measure the intensity of sound or the comparative loudness of two sounds based on a logarithmic scale
6. vi____e with anger
v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side

ANSWERS: 1. harmonic, 2. patron, 3. overtone, 4. determinant, 5. decibel, 6. vibrate

7. ve____ul actions *adj.* feeling or showing a strong desire for revenge; vindictive
8. h__e abilities *v.* to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice
9. va__t door *n.* a large room or chamber used for storage, often for valuables such as money, documents, or artwork; (verb) to leap or jump over something; to move quickly or suddenly
10. so____o singer *n.* the highest-pitched voice or vocal range of a female or child singer; a female or child singer with a soprano voice; the highest-pitched member of an instrumental family, such as a violin or clarinet
11. ca__o song *n.* a division of an epic poem, typically one of a series of songs or poems sung by a bard in ancient epic poetry
12. dramatic so____o *n.* the highest-pitched voice or vocal range of a female or child singer; a female or child singer with a soprano voice; the highest-pitched member of an instrumental family, such as a violin or clarinet
13. adv____ous interest rate *adj.* providing a benefit or advantage; favorable or beneficial
14. ti____r ruler *adj.* holding or bearing a particular title or designation, often without having the full authority or functional responsibilities that normally accompany the position; pertaining to or existing in name only

ANSWERS: 7. vengeful, 8. hone, 9. vault, 10. soprano, 11. canto, 12. soprano, 13. advantageous, 14. titular

15. the ti___e of her soprano *n.* the quality of sound that is produced by particular voices or musical instruments sounds different from each other
16. acc_____te the positive *v.* to emphasize or highlight something, often by making it more prominent or noticeable
17. va__t from five to fifty percent *n.* a large room or chamber used for storage, often for valuables such as money, documents, or artwork; (verb) to leap or jump over something; to move quickly or suddenly
18. ac_____ic leaps *adj.* relating to or involving gymnastic or athletic feats performed with agility, balance, and coordination; agile, flexible, and graceful
19. ac_____ic skills *adj.* relating to or involving gymnastic or athletic feats performed with agility, balance, and coordination; agile, flexible, and graceful
20. at___e to nature *v.* to make receptive or aware; to bring into harmony or alignment
21. deeply re_____te with the consumers *v.* to be filled with a deep echoing sound
22. am_____y the effect *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
23. a natural ha_____ic quality *adj.* relating to the production of sound waves with a frequency that is an integral multiple of the frequency of the original wave; having a pleasing, pleasing, or agreeable sound.

ANSWERS: 15. timbre, 16. accentuate, 17. vault, 18. acrobatic, 19. acrobatic, 20. attune, 21. resonate, 22. amplify, 23. harmonic

24. lose st____a *n.* the physical or mental endurance and strength needed to sustain prolonged effort or activity; the ability to withstand fatigue, stress, or other challenges and continue functioning effectively
25. the ti____e of a musical sound *n.* the quality of sound that is produced by particular voices or musical instruments sounds different from each other
26. dramatic a__a *n.* a song that is performed solo by a singer in an opera or oratorio, often with instrumental accompaniment
27. de____l level *n.* (also "dB") a unit used to measure the intensity of sound or the comparative loudness of two sounds based on a logarithmic scale
28. feel ve____ul toward him *adj.* feeling or showing a strong desire for revenge; vindictive
29. the pa____n saint of a place *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.
30. cl____et reed *n.* a musical instrument of the woodwind family, with a single reed, a cylindrical bore, and a curved mouthpiece, known for its versatility and rich, warm tone
31. da____n the sound *v.* to make something wet or moist; to reduce the intensity or impact of something, such as a feeling, sound, or movement
32. vi____e at a regular frequency *v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side

ANSWERS: 24. stamina, 25. timbre, 26. aria, 27. decibel, 28. vengeful, 29. patron, 30. clarinet, 31. dampen, 32. vibrate

33. h__e intuition *v.* to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice
34. ai_____w duct *n.* the flow of air, especially around a moving object such as an aircraft or vehicle
35. st_____a training *n.* the physical or mental endurance and strength needed to sustain prolonged effort or activity; the ability to withstand fatigue, stress, or other challenges and continue functioning effectively
36. cl_____et player *n.* a musical instrument of the woodwind family, with a single reed, a cylindrical bore, and a curved mouthpiece, known for its versatility and rich, warm tone
37. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
38. secret s__t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
39. acc_____te features *v.* to emphasize or highlight something, often by making it more prominent or noticeable
40. am_____y a signal *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
41. s__r to new heights *v.* to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease

ANSWERS: 33. hone, 34. airflow, 35. stamina, 36. clarinet, 37. sect, 38. sect, 39. accentuate, 40. amplify, 41. soar

42. emotional ov____nes *n.* a subtle or implicit meaning or inference that is conveyed in addition to the primary or literal meaning of something; a musical tone that is produced in addition to the fundamental pitch of a note and which gives color and character to the sound
43. a__a singer *n.* a song that is performed solo by a singer in an opera or oratorio, often with instrumental accompaniment
44. re____te in the same frequency *v.* to be filled with a deep echoing sound
45. ti____r character *adj.* holding or bearing a particular title or designation, often without having the full authority or functional responsibilities that normally accompany the position; pertaining to or existing in name only
46. sing with vi____o *n.* a musical technique in which a sustained note is varied in pitch and volume to produce a pulsating or wavering effect; a similar effect produced in speech or other forms of sound production
47. da____n the enthusiasm *v.* to make something wet or moist; to reduce the intensity or impact of something, such as a feeling, sound, or movement
48. os____te back and forth *v.* to swing or move back and forth like a pendulum or a wave; to fluctuate or alternate between two points or states; to hesitate or be indecisive

ANSWERS: 42. overtone, 43. aria, 44. resonate, 45. titular, 46. vibrato, 47. dampen, 48. oscillate

49. adv_____ous conditions *adj.* providing a benefit or advantage; favorable or beneficial
50. high-speed ai_____w *n.* the flow of air, especially around a moving object such as an aircraft or vehicle
51. s__r in popularity *v.* to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease
52. vi_____o technique *n.* a musical technique in which a sustained note is varied in pitch and volume to produce a pulsating or wavering effect; a similar effect produced in speech or other forms of sound production
53. ca__o part *n.* a division of an epic poem, typically one of a series of songs or poems sung by a bard in ancient epic poetry
54. os_____te between joy and anger *v.* to swing or move back and forth like a pendulum or a wave; to fluctuate or alternate between two points or states; to hesitate or be indecisive
55. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
56. at___e myself to the rhythm *v.* to make receptive or aware; to bring into harmony or alignment

ANSWERS: 49. advantageous, 50. airflow, 51. soar, 52. vibrato, 53. canto, 54. oscillate, 55. determinant, 56. attune

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The singer's voice had a beautiful _____ adding depth to the song.
 - n.* a subtle or implicit meaning or inference that is conveyed in addition to the primary or literal meaning of something; a musical tone that is produced in addition to the fundamental pitch of a note and which gives color and character to the sound
2. The athlete's _____ was tested during the grueling triathlon.
 - n.* the physical or mental endurance and strength needed to sustain prolonged effort or activity; the ability to withstand fatigue, stress, or other challenges and continue functioning effectively
3. The violin's sound was so pure and _____ that it gave me chills.
 - adj.* relating to the production of sound waves with a frequency that is an integral multiple of the frequency of the original wave; having a pleasing, pleasing, or agreeable sound.
4. The violinist added a _____ to the final notes of the piece, creating a beautiful effect.
 - n.* a musical technique in which a sustained note is varied in pitch and volume to produce a pulsating or wavering effect; a similar effect produced in speech or other forms of sound production
5. The concert reached 100 _____ causing many people to cover their ears.
 - n.* (also "dB") a unit used to measure the intensity of sound or the comparative loudness of two sounds based on a logarithmic scale
6. The _____ unique sound added to the jazz ensemble.
 - n.* a musical instrument of the woodwind family, with a single reed, a cylindrical bore, and a curved mouthpiece, known for its versatility and rich, warm tone

ANSWERS: 1. overtone, 2. stamina, 3. harmonic, 4. vibrato, 5. decibels, 6. clarinet's

7. The _____ performance was breathtaking and left the audience in awe.
adj. relating to or involving gymnastic or athletic feats performed with agility, balance, and coordination; agile, flexible, and graceful
8. Despite being the company's _____ leader, she had little authority in decision-making.
adj. holding or bearing a particular title or designation, often without having the full authority or functional responsibilities that normally accompany the position; pertaining to or existing in name only
9. During the flight, the wings of the plane _____.
v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
10. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
11. His voice had a deep _____.
n. the quality of sound that is produced by particular voices or musical instruments sounds different from each other
12. She was _____ and always sought revenge on those who wronged her.
adj. feeling or showing a strong desire for revenge; vindictive
13. The sound _____ well in this theater.
v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound
14. The government _____ contains top-secret documents and classified information that only a few individuals can access.
n. a large room or chamber used for storage, often for valuables such as money, documents, or artwork; (verb) to leap or jump over something; to move quickly or suddenly

ANSWERS: 7. acrobatic, 8. titular, 9. vibrate, 10. sect, 11. timbre, 12. vengeful, 13. resonates, 14. vault

15. 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.
16. The fan in the room _____ making the airflow more evenly.
- v.* to swing or move back and forth like a pendulum or a wave; to fluctuate or alternate between two points or states; to hesitate or be indecisive
17. The soprano performed an emotional _____ that brought the audience to tears.
- n.* a song that is performed solo by a singer in an opera or oratorio, often with instrumental accompaniment
18. The athlete worked with a coach to _____ her techniques and improve her performance.
- v.* to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice
19. They thoroughly tested the _____ around their latest formula car.
- n.* the flow of air, especially around a moving object such as an aircraft or vehicle
20. The _____ voice was so beautiful that it brought the audience to tears.
- n.* the highest-pitched voice or vocal range of a female or child singer; a female or child singer with a soprano voice; the highest-pitched member of an instrumental family, such as a violin or clarinet
21. The dress's plunging neckline was designed to _____ the model's curves.
- v.* to emphasize or highlight something, often by making it more prominent or noticeable
22. You might need to _____ this point.
- v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

ANSWERS: 15. patron, 16. oscillates, 17. aria, 18. hone, 19. airflow, 20. soprano's, 21. accentuate, 22. amplify

23. The new job opportunity offered by the company is highly _____.
adj. providing a benefit or advantage; favorable or beneficial
24. The bird _____ through the sky, and its wings spread wide.
v. to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease
25. The rain helped _____ the flames of the campfire.
v. to make something wet or moist; to reduce the intensity or impact of something, such as a feeling, sound, or movement
26. It is important to _____ yourself to your customers' needs to provide the best service possible.
v. to make receptive or aware; to bring into harmony or alignment
27. The singer performed a beautiful _____ in her native language, accompanied by a traditional musical instrument.
n. a division of an epic poem, typically one of a series of songs or poems sung by a bard in ancient epic poetry
28. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 23. advantageous, 24. soared, 25. dampen, 26. attune, 27. canto, 28. determinant