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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Alex Gendler: The myth of Loki and the master builder | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/alex\\_gendler\\_the\\_myth\\_of\\_loki\\_and\\_the\\_master\\_builder](https://www.ted.com/talks/alex_gendler_the_myth_of_loki_and_the_master_builder)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

- troll**
- n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat
- synonym*: provocateur, antagonist, troublemaker
- (1) feed a **troll**, (2) copyright **troll**
- He was banned from the online forum for being a **troll** and causing trouble.
- despise**
- v.* to feel strong dislike or contempt for someone or something, often because of a perceived fault or failing; to have a low or unfavorable opinion of something
- synonym*: hate, loathe, detest
- (1) **despise** a particular food, (2) secretly **despise**
- I **despise** injustice and those who perpetrate it.
- foe**
- n.* an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another
- synonym*: enemy, adversary, opponent
- (1) a political **foe**, (2) bitter **foe**
- The superhero's arch- **foe** was an evil mastermind who always got away.

## astonishing

*adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe

*synonym* : surprising, shocking, astounding

(1) **astonishing** achievement, (2) make **astonishing** gains  
The news of her sudden death was **astonishing** to everyone who knew her.

## balk

*v.* to hesitate or stop abruptly before completing an action, often due to fear, uncertainty, or opposition; to refuse to comply with or agree to something

*synonym* : hesitate, recoil, shy away

(1) **balk** at extra work, (2) **balk** in fear

After her first attempt to bake a cake failed, she didn't **balk** at trying again.

## trickster

*n.* a person or character who uses cunning and deceit to achieve their goals, often in traditional folklore or mythology

*synonym* : swindler, cheat, deceiver

(1) **trickster** character, (2) cunning **trickster**

The con artist was known as a notorious **trickster** who scammed people out of their money.

## concoct

*v.* to make something, especially food, by mixing or adding different things; to invent a story or plan, especially for a dishonest purpose

*synonym* : conceive, invent, cook up

(1) **concoct** a conspiracy, (2) **concoct** herbal medicines

They **concocted** a plot to discredit the local politician.

## devious

*adj.* cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky

*synonym* : cunning, deceitful, tricky

(1) **devious** plot, (2) use **devious** methods

The **devious** plan to cheat on the test was foiled by the teacher.

## solemn

*adj.* formal and dignified, often with an emphasis on religious or ceremonial attitudes or practices; characterized by an

earnest sense of importance or gravity; serious or grave in tone or demeanor

*synonym* : serious, grave, somber

(1) **solemn** vow, (2) **solemn** ceremony

The priest led the **solemn** procession through the church.

## mason

*n.* a skilled worker who builds structures with stone, brick, or concrete

*synonym* : bricklayer, stonemason, masonry worker

(1) **mason** jar, (2) the craft of a **mason**

The accomplished **mason** expertly crafted the stone walls of the castle.

## nightfall

*n.* the time of day when the sun has set, also known as dusk or twilight

*synonym* : dusk, twilight, sundown

(1) early **nightfall**, (2) romantic **nightfall**

It is dangerous to walk alone through the forest after **nightfall**.

## trench

*n.* a long, deep ditch made in the ground, usually parallel to a plate boundary and marking a subduction zone; a long ditch built in the ground for carrying away water

*synonym* : aqueduct, ditch, channel

(1) deep-sea **trench**, (2) **trench** excavator

A **trench** was being dug alongside the road by workers.

## impenetrable

*adj.* not able to be passed through, entered, or understood

*synonym* : impassable, insurmountable, impregnable

(1) **impenetrable** fortress, (2) through an **impenetrable** fog

The jungle was so dense and **impenetrable** that it was almost impossible to find a way through.

## horrify

*v.* to shock or disgust greatly

*synonym* : shock, dismay, terrify

(1) **horrify** audience, (2) **horrify** victims

The series of terrorist attacks **horrify** the entire nation.

## plunge

*v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall

*synonym*: dive, drop, thrust

(1) **plunge** into the water, (2) **plunge** a dagger through his heart

The company's profits **plunged** after the recall of their new product.

## wager

*n.* a bet or gamble, typically involving a sum of money, on the outcome of an event or situation

*synonym*: bet, stake, gamble

(1) friendly **wager**, (2) make a **wager**

I placed a **wager** with my friend who would win the basketball game.

## imaginable

*adj.* capable of being imagined

*synonym*: conceivable, plausible, possible

(1) easily **imaginable**, (2) worst **imaginable** case

This is the only **imaginable** strategy.

## mare

*n.* an adult female horse, specifically used to distinguish adult female horses from their male counterparts, which are called "stallions" or "geldings"; nightmare (= a distressing or frightening dream)

*synonym*: female horse

(1) well-trained **mare**, (2) the **mare's** owner

They decided to breed their prized stallion with a magnificent Arabian **mare**.

## rein

*n.* a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control

*synonym*: strap, harness, headstall

(1) tight **rein**, (2) **rein** in costs

The new driver struggled to keep a firm grip on the **rein** as

the horse bolted.

## furious

*adj.* extremely angry; full of rage

*synonym*: angry, rageful, livid

(1) **furious** anger, (2) a **furious** sea

The coach was **furious** with the players for their lack of effort during the game.

## mannered

*adj.* behaving artificially or exaggeratedly, often to appear more sophisticated or cultured than one is; marked by artificiality or affected behavior

*synonym*: affected, artificial, pretentious

(1) **mannered** conversation, (2) **mannered** tone

Her overly **mannered** behavior made her seem insincere and artificial.

## terrifying

*adj.* very frightening or intimidating

*synonym*: frightening, intimidating, alarming

(1) **terrifying** experience, (2) **terrifying** events

Large earthquakes often generate **terrifying** tsunamis.

## sever

*v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly

*synonym*: cut apart, separate, detach

(1) **sever** a rope, (2) **sever** a positive relationship

He **severed** a branch from a tree quickly.

## foal

*n.* a young horse, typically under one year of age

(1) newborn **foal**, (2) train a **foal**

The mare gave birth to a healthy **foal** during the night.

## steed

*n.* a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle

*synonym*: horse, mount, charger

(1) a matchless **steed**, (2) black **steed**

The knight rode his trusty **steed** into battle.

## outrun

- v. to run faster or farther than someone or something else, often to escape from danger or capture; to outpace or outmaneuver someone or something in a competition or pursuit

*synonym*: outpace, outrank, outdistance

(1) **outrun** competitors, (2) **outrun** the cops

I'll need to **outrun** the rainstorm to make it home without getting soaked.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. se\_\_r a rope  
*v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
2. newborn f\_\_l  
*n.* a young horse, typically under one year of age
3. easily ima\_\_\_\_\_le  
*adj.* capable of being imagined
4. pl\_\_\_e a dagger through his heart  
*v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall
5. secretly de\_\_\_\_\_e  
*v.* to feel strong dislike or contempt for someone or something, often because of a perceived fault or failing; to have a low or unfavorable opinion of something
6. cunning tr\_\_\_\_\_er  
*n.* a person or character who uses cunning and deceit to achieve their goals, often in traditional folklore or mythology
7. ou\_\_\_n competitors  
*v.* to run faster or farther than someone or something else, often to escape from danger or capture; to outpace or outmaneuver someone or something in a competition or pursuit
8. the craft of a ma\_\_n  
*n.* a skilled worker who builds structures with stone, brick, or concrete
9. so\_\_\_n ceremony  
*adj.* formal and dignified, often with an emphasis on religious or ceremonial attitudes or practices; characterized by an earnest sense of importance or gravity; serious or grave in tone or demeanor

ANSWERS: 1. sever, 2. foal, 3. imaginable, 4. plunge, 5. despise, 6. trickster, 7. outrun, 8. mason, 9. solemn





19. through an imp\_\_\_\_\_ble fog      *adj.* not able to be passed through, entered, or understood
20. de\_\_\_\_\_s plot      *adj.* cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky
21. worst ima\_\_\_\_\_le case      *adj.* capable of being imagined
22. train a f\_\_l      *n.* a young horse, typically under one year of age
23. bitter f\_e      *n.* an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another
24. ho\_\_\_\_\_y audience      *v.* to shock or disgust greatly
25. use de\_\_\_\_\_s methods      *adj.* cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky
26. b\_\_k in fear      *v.* to hesitate or stop abruptly before completing an action, often due to fear, uncertainty, or opposition; to refuse to comply with or agree to something
27. deep-sea tr\_\_\_\_h      *n.* a long, deep ditch made in the ground, usually parallel to a plate boundary and marking a subduction zone; a long ditch built in the ground for carrying away water
28. ter\_\_\_\_\_ng events      *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
29. b\_\_k at extra work      *v.* to hesitate or stop abruptly before completing an action, often due to fear, uncertainty, or opposition; to refuse to comply with or agree to something
30. a matchless st\_\_d      *n.* a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle

ANSWERS: 19. impenetrable, 20. devious, 21. imaginable, 22. foal, 23. foe, 24. horrify, 25. devious, 26. balk, 27. trench, 28. terrifying, 29. balk, 30. steed

31. ma\_\_\_\_ed conversation      *adj.* behaving artificially or exaggeratedly, often to appear more sophisticated or cultured than one is; marked by artificiality or affected behavior
32. se\_\_r a positive relationship      *v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
33. ast\_\_\_\_\_ng achievement      *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
34. r\_\_n in costs      *n.* a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control
35. tr\_\_\_\_\_er character      *n.* a person or character who uses cunning and deceit to achieve their goals, often in traditional folklore or mythology
36. well-trained m\_\_e      *n.* an adult female horse, specifically used to distinguish adult female horses from their male counterparts, which are called "stallions" or "geldings"; nightmare (= a distressing or frightening dream)
37. tr\_\_\_h excavator      *n.* a long, deep ditch made in the ground, usually parallel to a plate boundary and marking a subduction zone; a long ditch built in the ground for carrying away water

ANSWERS: 31. mannered, 32. sever, 33. astonishing, 34. rein, 35. trickster, 36. mare, 37. trench

38. ter\_\_\_\_\_ng experience *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
39. ma\_\_\_\_\_ed tone *adj.* behaving artificially or exaggeratedly, often to appear more sophisticated or cultured than one is; marked by artificiality or affected behavior
40. copyright tr\_\_l *n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat
41. make ast\_\_\_\_\_ng gains *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
42. feed a tr\_\_l *n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat
43. co\_\_\_\_\_t herbal medicines *v.* to make something, especially food, by mixing or adding different things; to invent a story or plan, especially for a dishonest purpose
44. ma\_\_n jar *n.* a skilled worker who builds structures with stone, brick, or concrete
45. pl\_\_\_e into the water *v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall

ANSWERS: 38. terrifying, 39. mannered, 40. troll, 41. astonishing, 42. troll, 43. concoct, 44. mason, 45. plunge

46. tight r\_\_n *n.* a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control
47. imp\_\_\_\_\_ble fortress *adj.* not able to be passed through, entered, or understood
48. a political f\_e *n.* an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another
49. early ni\_\_\_\_\_ll *n.* the time of day when the sun has set, also known as dusk or twilight
50. de\_\_\_\_\_e a particular food *v.* to feel strong dislike or contempt for someone or something, often because of a perceived fault or failing; to have a low or unfavorable opinion of something
51. black st\_\_d *n.* a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle
52. fu\_\_\_\_\_s anger *adj.* extremely angry; full of rage

ANSWERS: 46. rein, 47. impenetrable, 48. foe, 49. nightfall, 50. despise, 51. steed, 52. furious

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. They decided to breed their prized stallion with a magnificent Arabian \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* an adult female horse, specifically used to distinguish adult female horses from their male counterparts, which are called "stallions" or "geldings"; nightmare (= a distressing or frightening dream)
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ was being dug alongside the road by workers.  
*n.* a long, deep ditch made in the ground, usually parallel to a plate boundary and marking a subduction zone; a long ditch built in the ground for carrying away water
3. Large earthquakes often generate \_\_\_\_\_ tsunamis.  
*adj.* very frightening or intimidating
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ injustice and those who perpetrate it.  
*v.* to feel strong dislike or contempt for someone or something, often because of a perceived fault or failing; to have a low or unfavorable opinion of something
5. The priest led the \_\_\_\_\_ procession through the church.  
*adj.* formal and dignified, often with an emphasis on religious or ceremonial attitudes or practices; characterized by an earnest sense of importance or gravity; serious or grave in tone or demeanor
6. The company's profits \_\_\_\_\_ after the recall of their new product.  
*v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall
7. The mare gave birth to a healthy \_\_\_\_\_ during the night.  
*n.* a young horse, typically under one year of age

ANSWERS: 1. mare, 2. trench, 3. terrifying, 4. despise, 5. solemn, 6. plunged, 7. foal

8. This is the only \_\_\_\_\_ strategy.

*adj.* capable of being imagined

9. I'll need to \_\_\_\_\_ the rainstorm to make it home without getting soaked.

*v.* to run faster or farther than someone or something else, often to escape from danger or capture; to outpace or outmaneuver someone or something in a competition or pursuit

10. It is dangerous to walk alone through the forest after \_\_\_\_\_.

*n.* the time of day when the sun has set, also known as dusk or twilight

11. He was banned from the online forum for being a \_\_\_\_\_ and causing trouble.

*n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat

12. Her overly \_\_\_\_\_ behavior made her seem insincere and artificial.

*adj.* behaving artificially or exaggeratedly, often to appear more sophisticated or cultured than one is; marked by artificiality or affected behavior

13. The news of her sudden death was \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone who knew her.

*adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe

14. The accomplished \_\_\_\_\_ expertly crafted the stone walls of the castle.

*n.* a skilled worker who builds structures with stone, brick, or concrete

15. They \_\_\_\_\_ a plot to discredit the local politician.

*v.* to make something, especially food, by mixing or adding different things; to invent a story or plan, especially for a dishonest purpose

ANSWERS: 8. imaginable, 9. outrun, 10. nightfall, 11. troll, 12. mannered, 13. astonishing, 14. mason, 15. concocted

16. The superhero's arch-\_\_\_\_ was an evil mastermind who always got away.  
*n.* an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another
17. The series of terrorist attacks \_\_\_\_\_ the entire nation.  
*v.* to shock or disgust greatly
18. The con artist was known as a notorious \_\_\_\_\_ who scammed people out of their money.  
*n.* a person or character who uses cunning and deceit to achieve their goals, often in traditional folklore or mythology
19. He \_\_\_\_\_ a branch from a tree quickly.  
*v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
20. The jungle was so dense and \_\_\_\_\_ that it was almost impossible to find a way through.  
*adj.* not able to be passed through, entered, or understood
21. The coach was \_\_\_\_\_ with the players for their lack of effort during the game.  
*adj.* extremely angry; full of rage
22. I placed a \_\_\_\_\_ with my friend who would win the basketball game.  
*n.* a bet or gamble, typically involving a sum of money, on the outcome of an event or situation
23. The \_\_\_\_\_ plan to cheat on the test was foiled by the teacher.  
*adj.* cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky

ANSWERS: 16. foe, 17. horrify, 18. trickster, 19. severed, 20. impenetrable, 21. furious, 22. wager, 23. devious

24. After her first attempt to bake a cake failed, she didn't \_\_\_\_\_ at trying again.

- v.* to hesitate or stop abruptly before completing an action, often due to fear, uncertainty, or opposition; to refuse to comply with or agree to something

25. The knight rode his trusty \_\_\_\_\_ into battle.

- n.* a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle

26. The new driver struggled to keep a firm grip on the \_\_\_\_\_ as the horse bolted.

- n.* a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control

ANSWERS: 24. balk, 25. steed, 26. rein