Englist.me

Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jennifer 8. Lee: Why 1.5 billion people eat with chopsticks | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/jennifer_8_lee_why_1_5_billion_people_eat_with_chopsticks



All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

instrumental

adj. of, relating to, or performed on musical instruments; useful or important in achieving a purpose

synonym: functional, operational, practical

(1) **instrumental** in solving the crime, (2) **instrumental** music

The **instrumental** role of technology in modern society cannot be overstated.

vocabulary

 the words used by a language, group, or individual; the knowledge and understanding of words and their meanings that a person possesses

synonym: lexicon, glossary, dictionary

(1) vocabulary list, (2) academic vocabulary

Using proper **vocabulary** is essential for writing a good essay.

utensil

n. a tool used in the house

synonym: appliance, equipment, instrument

(1) cooking **utensils**, (2) cleaning **utensils**

This cuisine requires special kitchen **utensils**.

chopstick

 a pair of thin, tapered sticks used in East Asian cultures to pick up and eat food

chopstick holder, (2) wooden chopstick She struggled to grab the sushi with chopsticks.

stick

v. to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material

synonym: pierce, adhere, stay

(1) stick a key in a lock, (2) fire stick

You **stick** a bill in the change machine, and the coins pop out.

pincers

 a tool or instrument with two limbs or jaws that are jointed together and used for gripping and holding objects; the claws or appendages of certain creatures that are used for grasping, gripping, or crushing

synonym: pliers, tweezers, forceps

(1) scorpion **pincers**, (2) grip with **pincers**

The handyman used his trusty **pincers** to remove the rusty nails from the old boards.

movement

 a group of people working together to achieve a shared goal, especially a political, social, or artistic one; the process of moving or being moved, physically or figuratively

synonym: motion, progression, action

(1) a circular **movement**, (2) **movement** of troops

The **movement** of the dancers on stage was graceful and elegant.

bamboo

 a fast-growing plant that has long, hollow stems and is widely used as a building material, food source, and decorative element, especially in Asian cultures

synonym: cane, reed, stem

(1) bamboo crafts, (2) bamboo flooring

The stalks of **bamboo** can grow up to a foot per day in optimal conditions.

jade

 a green or white mineral, typically composed of jadeite or nephrite, used for making jewelry and ornamental objects; an old or over-worked horse

synonym: gemstone, stone, mineral

(1) a **jade** accessory, (2) decorated with **jade**

The **jade** sculpture was worth a fortune.

ivory

 a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items

synonym: elephant tusk, bone, tooth

(1) tower of ivory, (2) ivory carving

The intricate carvings on the **ivory** tusk were a work of art.

dumpling

 a small ball or lump of dough, often boiled or steamed and filled with meat or vegetables

synonym: doughball, potsticker, pierogi

(1) dumpling soup, (2) homemade dumpling

I ordered some delicious **dumplings** for lunch.

drumstick

- n. a thin stick used to strike a drum to produce a soundsynonym: beater, mallet, stick
- (1) drumstick grip, (2) drumstick case

The drummer used **drumsticks** to play the drumset.

tempting

adj. likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe

synonym: alluring, attractive, inviting

(1) **tempting** offer, (2) sound very **tempting**

The chocolate cake was too **tempting** for me to resist.

incense

 a substance that is burned to produce a pleasant scent, often used in religious or spiritual ceremonies; figuratively, something that is pleasing or satisfying to the senses, feelings, or emotions

synonym: fragrance, aroma, perfume

(1) **incense** burner, (2) **incense** stick In ancient times, people believed that burning **incense** helped ward off evil spirits.

echo

n. a sound heard after being reflected off a surface, such as a wall or a cliff

synonym: reverberate, repeat, reflection

the echo of a person's footsteps, (2) sound echo
 thunderous boom echoed throughout the valley.

sphere

 a round object or geometric shape that is three-dimensional and symmetrical around a central point; a particular aspect or scope of life or activity

synonym: ball, globe, scope

(1) **sphere** of influence, (2) business **sphere**The **sphere** of the earth is divided into several layers including the crust, mantle, and core.

slightly

adv. in a small degree or extent; a little synonym: barely, narrowly, scarcely

(1) increase **slightly**, (2) **slightly** alkaline soils He moved his body **slightly** to the left.

variation

 the act or state of changing; a difference or change in the way something is done, made or said

synonym: fluctuation, change, variation

(1) **variation** of temperature, (2) gene **variation**There is a lot of **variation** in the colors of flowers in the garden.

commonplace

adj. occurring very often; lacking originality or interest synonym: ordinary, routine, mundane

(1) become a **commonplace** sight, (2) **commonplace** event

Forgetting someone's name is a commonplace occurrence.

definitely

adv. without any question and beyond doubt; clearly synonym: absolutely, certainly, indeed

(1) **definitely** become a problem, (2) say **definitely** The paper is **definitely** worth reading thoroughly.

statistics

- the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data
- (1) **statistics** for cancer, (2) official **statistics**The **statistics** demonstrate that poverty and unemployment are genuine problems.

diplomat

 a person appointed by a government to conduct diplomacy (= the management of relationships between countries) with one or more other countries or international organizations

synonym: envoy, ambassador, representative

(1) allied **diplomat**, (2) expel a **diplomat**The senior **diplomat** worked tirelessly to negotiate a peace treaty between the two countries.

engagement

- n. a mutual promise to marry someone; an agreement to do something, especially at a particular timesynonym: betrothal, promise, commitment
- (1) a prior **engagement**, (2) break off an **engagement** They selected a gorgeous diamond **engagement** ring.

cuisine

n. the style of cooking characteristic of a particular country, region, or establishment

synonym: meal, cooking, gastronomy

(1) bistro-style **cuisine**, (2) **cuisine** taste Italian **cuisine** is known for its use of fresh ingredients and bold flavors.

dynasty

- a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country
- (1) **dynasty** of China, (2) during the Ming **dynasty** During the Habsburg **dynasty**, colonization began.

tripod

 a three-legged stand, typically one with a platform for a camera or other equipment

synonym: three-legged stand, three-legged base, three-legged support

(1) tripod mic stand, (2) tripod mount

The photographer set up his camera on a **tripod** to take the shot.

stir

v. to mix a liquid or substance by using a spoon or something similar; to cause to be agitated, excited, or roused

synonym: mix, swirl, provoke

(1) stir a sauce, (2) stir up controversy

Topics related to that war may **stir** up a political hornets' nest.

din

- n. a loud, confused noise; a loud, persistent racket synonym: noise, racket, clamor
- (1) **din** of traffic, (2) mighty **din**

The **din** of the city was overwhelming.

efficient

adj. performing at the highest level of productivity with the least wasted effort or resources; capable of achieving maximum output with minimum wasted effort, time, or materials

synonym: productive, effective, competent

(1) **efficient** operation, (2) energy- **efficient** appliances The new washing machine is much more **efficient** than the old one.

circular

adj. shaped like a circle; having a round form synonym: round, loopy, oblique

(1) **circular** economy, (2) non- **circular** orbit

The **circular** shape of the planet makes it difficult to determine which direction is north.

influence

 the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself

synonym: power, leverage, effect

(1) **influence** a child's future, (2) **influence** the daily life The former emperor had a particular **influence** even after he abdicated.

communal

adj. belonging to or used by a group rather than individuals; for common use

synonym: collaborative, combined, collective

(1) **communal** swimming pool, (2) **communal** combination of funds

Communal elections were held in several European countries.

individually

adv. separately or apart from others

synonym: separately, one by one, independently

(1) answer questions individually, (2) individually designed product

Each department has done its product costing **individually**.

legend

an old story that may or may not be accurate regarding n. some persons and events; a well-known person who is admired by others for a long time, particularly in a particular field

synonym: fable, fiction, myth

- (1) basketball **legend**, (2) **legend** of King Arthur Many of the **legends** of the famous general came about hundreds of years after his death.
- the place thought to be where bad people go and are punished after death, often depicted as being located beneath the earth; an extraordinarily unpleasant or difficult place

synonym: inferno, agony, misery

(1) run like hell, (2) hell broke loose The battlefield became **hell** on earth.

hell

starve

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

synonym: famish, hunger

- (1) **starve** for a victory, (2) **starve** to death If you don't eat soon, you're going to **starve**.
- n. (of various religious and mythological traditions) a place or state of existence considered to be the abode of the divine, the afterlife, or a higher realm of being; a state of great happiness, contentment, or beauty

synonym: paradise, nirvana, utopia

(1) ascend to **heaven**, (2) **heaven** on earth

He felt like **heaven** when he tasted the delicious chocolate cake.

heaven

Session 2: Spelling

1. s_r a sauce

2. the e__o of a person's footsteps

3. va____on of temperature

4. st___e to death

5. mighty d_n

6. increase sl ly

7. allied di____at

8. dr____ck grip

9. basketball le d

v. to mix a liquid or substance by using a spoon or something similar; to cause to be agitated, excited, or roused

 a sound heard after being reflected off a surface, such as a wall or a cliff

 the act or state of changing; a difference or change in the way something is done, made or said

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

n. a loud, confused noise; a loud, persistent racket

adv. in a small degree or extent; a little

 a person appointed by a government to conduct diplomacy (= the management of relationships between countries) with one or more other countries or international organizations

n. a thin stick used to strike a drum to produce a sound

n. an old story that may or may not be accurate regarding some persons and events; a well-known person who is admired by others for a long time, particularly in a particular field

ANSWERS: 1. stir, 2. echo, 3. variation, 4. starve, 5. din, 6. slightly, 7. diplomat, 8. drumstick, 9. legend

10. ciar economy	adj.	shaped like a circle; having a round form
11. gene vaon	n.	the act or state of changing; a difference or change in the way something is done, made or said
12. s_r up controversy	ν.	to mix a liquid or substance by using a spoon or something similar; to cause to be agitated, excited, or roused
13. expel a diat	n.	a person appointed by a government to conduct diplomacy (= the management of relationships between countries) with one or more other countries or international organizations
14. non-ciar orbit	adj.	shaped like a circle; having a round form
15. efnt operation	adj.	performing at the highest level of productivity with the least wasted effort or resources; capable of achieving maximum output with minimum wasted effort, time, or materials
16. teng offer	adj.	likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe
17. bao crafts	n.	a fast-growing plant that has long, hollow stems and is widely used as a building material, food source, and decorative element, especially in Asian cultures
18. instal music	adj.	of, relating to, or performed on musical instruments; useful or important in achieving a purpose

ANSWERS: 10. circular, 11. variation, 12. stir, 13. diplomat, 14. circular, 15. efficient, 16. tempting, 17. bamboo, 18. instrumental

cleaning utls	n.	a tool used in the house
dyy of China	n.	a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country
indlly designed product	adv.	separately or apart from others
grip with pis	n.	a tool or instrument with two limbs or jaws that are jointed together and used for gripping and holding objects; the claws or appendages of certain creatures that are used for grasping, gripping, or crushing
spe of influence	n.	a round object or geometric shape that is three-dimensional and symmetrical around a central point; a particular aspect or scope of life or activity
slly alkaline soils	adv.	in a small degree or extent; a little
a circular mont	n.	a group of people working together to achieve a shared goal, especially a political, social, or artistic one; the process of moving or being moved, physically or figuratively
energy-efnt appliances	adj.	performing at the highest level of productivity with the least wasted effort or resources; capable of achieving maximum output with minimum wasted effort, time, or materials
ince a child's future	n.	the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself
	indlly designed product grip with pis spe of influence slly alkaline soils a circular mont energy-efnt appliances	indlly designed product adv. grip with pis n. spe of influence n. slly alkaline soils adv. a circular mont n. energy-efnt appliances adj.

slightly, 25. movement, 26. efficient, 27. influence

28.	tower of ivy	n.	a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items
29.	run like hI	n.	the place thought to be where bad people go and are punished after death, often depicted as being located beneath the earth; an extraordinarily unpleasant or difficult place
30.	drck case	n.	a thin stick used to strike a drum to produce a sound
31.	sound very teng	adj.	likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe
32.	become a comce sight	adj.	occurring very often; lacking originality or interest
33.	during the Ming dyy	n.	a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country
34.	cue taste	n.	the style of cooking characteristic of a particular country, region, or establishment
35.	homemade dung	n.	a small ball or lump of dough, often boiled or steamed and filled with meat or vegetables
36.	vocry list	n.	the words used by a language, group, or individual; the knowledge and understanding of words and their meanings that a person possesses

ANSWERS: 28. ivory, 29. hell, 30. drumstick, 31. tempting, 32. commonplace, 33. dynasty, 34. cuisine, 35. dumpling, 36. vocabulary

37.	dung soup	n.	a small ball or lump of dough, often boiled or steamed and filled with meat or vegetables
38.	cooking utls	n.	a tool used in the house
39.	a je accessory	n.	a green or white mineral, typically composed of jadeite or nephrite, used for making jewelry and ornamental objects; an old or over-worked horse
40.	ince the daily life	n.	the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself
41.	trd mount	n.	a three-legged stand, typically one with a platform for a camera or other equipment
42.	academic vocry	n.	the words used by a language, group, or individual; the knowledge and understanding of words and their meanings that a person possesses
43.	stacs for cancer	n.	the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data
44.	instal in solving the crime	adj.	of, relating to, or performed on musical instruments; useful or important in achieving a purpose
45.	trd mic stand	n.	a three-legged stand, typically one with a platform for a camera or other equipment
46.	mont of troops	n.	a group of people working together to achieve a shared goal, especially a political, social, or artistic one; the process of moving or being moved, physically or figuratively

ANSWERS: 37. dumpling, 38. utensil, 39. jade, 40. influence, 41. tripod, 42. vocabulary, 43. statistics, 44. instrumental, 45. tripod, 46. movement

47. wooden chck	n.	a pair of thin, tapered sticks used in East Asian cultures to pick up and eat food
48. hI broke loose	n.	the place thought to be where bad people go and are punished after death, often depicted as being located beneath the earth; an extraordinarily unpleasant or difficult place
49. chck holder	n.	a pair of thin, tapered sticks used in East Asian cultures to pick up and eat food
50. official stacs	n.	the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data
51. a prior engnt	n.	a mutual promise to marry someone; an agreement to do something, especially at a particular time
52. led of King Arthur	n.	an old story that may or may not be accurate regarding some persons and events; a well-known person who is admired by others for a long time, particularly in a particular field
53. ste for a victory	ν.	to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
54. hen on earth	n.	(of various religious and mythological traditions) a place or state of existence considered to be the abode of the divine, the afterlife, or a higher realm of being; a state of great happiness, contentment, or beauty

ANSWERS: 47. chopstick, 48. hell, 49. chopstick, 50. statistics, 51. engagement, 52. legend, 53. starve, 54. heaven

56. coal swimming pool adj. belonging to or used by a group rather than individuals; for common use 57. coal combination of funds adj. belonging to or used by a group rather than individuals; for common use 58. scorpion pis n. a tool or instrument with two limbs or jaws that are jointed together and used for gripping and holding objects; the claws or appendages of certain creatures that are used for grasping, gripping, or crushing 59. fire st_k v. to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material 60. bistro-style cue n. the style of cooking characteristic of a particular country, region, or establishment 61. defly become a problem adv. without any question and beyond doubt; clearly 62. comce event adj. occurring very often; lacking originality or interest 63. ine stick n. a substance that is burned to produce a pleasant scent, often used in religious or spiritual ceremonies; figuratively, something that is pleasing or satisfying to the senses, feelings, or emotions	55.	decorated with je	n.	a green or white mineral, typically composed of jadeite or nephrite, used for making jewelry and ornamental objects; an old or over-worked horse
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or interest n. a substance that is burned to produce a pleasant scent, often used in religious or spiritual ceremonies; figuratively, something that is pleasing or satisfying	61.	defly become a problem	adv.	
pleasant scent, often used in religious or spiritual ceremonies; figuratively, something that is pleasing or satisfying	62.	comce event	adj.	
	63.	ine stick	n.	pleasant scent, often used in religious or spiritual ceremonies; figuratively, something that is pleasing or satisfying

ANSWERS: 55. jade, 56. communal, 57. communal, 58. pincers, 59. stick, 60. cuisine, 61. definitely, 62. commonplace, 63. incense

64.	answer questions indlly	adv.	separately or apart from others
65.	stk a key in a lock	ν.	to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material
66.	business spe	n.	a round object or geometric shape that is three-dimensional and symmetrical around a central point; a particular aspect or scope of life or activity
67.	sound eo	n.	a sound heard after being reflected off a surface, such as a wall or a cliff
68.	ascend to hen	n.	(of various religious and mythological traditions) a place or state of existence considered to be the abode of the divine, the afterlife, or a higher realm of being; a state of great happiness, contentment, or beauty
69.	say defly	adv.	without any question and beyond doubt; clearly
70.	bao flooring	n.	a fast-growing plant that has long, hollow stems and is widely used as a building material, food source, and decorative element, especially in Asian cultures
71.	ivy carving	n.	a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items

ANSWERS: 64. individually, 65. stick, 66. sphere, 67. echo, 68. heaven, 69. definitely, 70. bamboo, 71. ivory

72. break off an eng____nt

a mutual promise to marry someone; an agreement to do something, especially at a particular time

73. in____e burner

n. a substance that is burned to produce a pleasant scent, often used in religious or spiritual ceremonies; figuratively, something that is pleasing or satisfying to the senses, feelings, or emotions

74. d_n of traffic

n. a loud, confused noise; a loud, persistent racket

ANSWERS: 72. engagement, 73. incense, 74. din

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1.	In ancient times, people believed that burning helped ward off evil spirits.
n.	a substance that is burned to produce a pleasant scent, often used in religious or spiritual ceremonies; figuratively, something that is pleasing or satisfying to the senses, feelings, or emotions
2.	Many of the of the famous general came about hundreds of years after his death.
n.	an old story that may or may not be accurate regarding some persons and events; a well-known person who is admired by others for a long time, particularly in a particular field
3.	Forgetting someone's name is a occurrence.
adj	occurring very often; lacking originality or interest
4.	The photographer set up his camera on a to take the shot.
n.	a three-legged stand, typically one with a platform for a camera or other equipment
5.	Topics related to that war may up a political hornets' nest.
<i>v</i> .	to mix a liquid or substance by using a spoon or something similar; to cause to be agitated, excited, or roused
3.	A thunderous boom throughout the valley.
n.	
7.	elections were held in several European countries.
adj	belonging to or used by a group rather than individuals; for common use
	SWERS: 1. incense, 2. legends, 3. commonplace, 4. tripod, 5. stir, 6. echoed, 7. mmunal

ANSWERS: 8. pincers, 9. utensils, 10. jade, 11. vocabulary, 12. statistics, 13. influence, 14. tempting

that may not be wise or safe

15.	The new washing r	machine is much more	than the old one.
adj.	. •	le of achieving maximum or	with the least wasted effort or utput with minimum wasted effort,
16.	The stalks of	can grow up to a foot pe	r day in optimal conditions.
n.	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	_	ms and is widely used as a e element, especially in Asian
17.	The of the city	was overwhelming.	
n.	a loud, confused	noise; a loud, persistent rac	ket
	The sha	pe of the planet makes it dit	fficult to determine which direction
adj.	shaped like a circ	ele; having a round form	
19.	He felt like	when he tasted the deliciou	us chocolate cake.
n.	considered to be	, ,	ns) a place or state of existence afterlife, or a higher realm of nt, or beauty
20.	Italian is I	known for its use of fresh in	gredients and bold flavors.
n.	the style of cooking establishment	ng characteristic of a particu	ılar country, region, or
21.	There is a lot of	in the colors of flo	wers in the garden.
n.	the act or state of done, made or sa		hange in the way something is
	SWERS: 15. efficiel variation	nt, 16. bamboo, 17. din, 18.	circular, 19. heaven, 20. cuisine,

22. The intricate carvings on the tusk were a work of art.
n. a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items
23. The paper is worth reading thoroughly.
adv. without any question and beyond doubt; clearly
24. The of the dancers on stage was graceful and elegant.
 a group of people working together to achieve a shared goal, especially a political, social, or artistic one; the process of moving or being moved, physically or figuratively
25. During the Habsburg colonization began.
n. a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country
26. The role of technology in modern society cannot be overstated.
adj. of, relating to, or performed on musical instruments; useful or important in achieving a purpose
27. The battlefield became on earth.
n. the place thought to be where bad people go and are punished after death, often depicted as being located beneath the earth; an extraordinarily unpleasant or difficult place
28. Each department has done its product costing
adv. separately or apart from others
29. He moved his body to the left. adv. in a small degree or extent; a little
ANSWERS: 22. ivory, 23. definitely, 24. movement, 25. dynasty, 26. instrumental, 27 hell, 28. individually, 29. slightly

Vocab-Builder Ref from "Jennifer 8. Lee: Why 1.5 billion people eat with chopsticks | TED Talk" (37 words)

37	I ordered some delicio	us for lunch.
<i>υι</i> .	1 0100100 301110 001100	

n. a small ball or lump of dough, often boiled or steamed and filled with meat or vegetables

ANSWERS: 37. dumplings