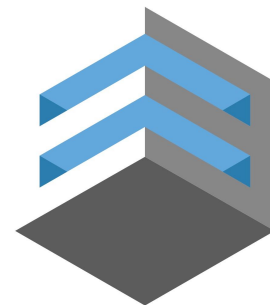


Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

David Peterson: Why language is humanity's greatest invention | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

ornament

n. a decoration or embellishment that adds beauty or enhances the appearance of something, especially a Christmas tree or a piece of jewelry

synonym: decoration, embellishment, adornment

(1) Christmas **ornament**, (2) glass **ornament**

The **ornament** on the tree was delicate and intricate, adding to its beauty.

devote

v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

synonym: commit, dedicate, apply

(1) **devote** all of my energies, (2) **devote** my own life

He **devoted** himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

linguist

n. a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics

synonym: grammarist, philologue, polyglot

(1) foreign **linguist**, (2) cognitive **linguist**

Though I love literature, I'm a bad **linguist**.

linguistics

n. the study of language and its structure, including the study of grammar, syntax, and phonetics

synonym: language studies, phonology, etymology

(1) comparative **linguistics**, (2) **linguistics** professor

A new study in **linguistics** research showed that bilingualism delays the onset of dementia.

uncover

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

synonym: disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth

He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

aorta

n. the main and largest artery (= thick tube that carries blood from the heart to the body) in the human body originating from the heart

(1) abdominal **aorta**, (2) repair of an **aorta**

The patient will undergo bypass surgery of the **aorta** today.

cryptography

n. the study of the techniques and methods used for secure communication and information processing, particularly using codes and ciphers

synonym: coding, steganography, encryption

(1) asymmetric **cryptography**, (2) digital **cryptography**

The software engineers developed a new **cryptography** algorithm to protect users' data.

scramble

v. to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you

synonym: jumble, disarrange

(1) **scramble** my mind, (2) **scramble** for support

Local business owners **scrambled** to find skilled workers.

chalk

n. a soft, white, porous sedimentary rock composed of calcium carbonate, often used for drawing or writing on surfaces such as blackboards

synonym: white rock, limestone, gypsum

(1) a piece of **chalk**, (2) **chalk** on a blackboard

The kids used colored **chalk** to create a mural on the pavement.

misunderstand

v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

synonym: misinterpret, misperceive, misapprehend

(1) **misunderstand** each other, (2) **misunderstand** entirely about her

You should not **misunderstand** the meaning of freedom.

underlie

v. to be the support, basis, hidden cause of something; to be located under or below

synonym: govern, control, determine

(1) **underlie** the theory of the big bang, (2) **underlie** the current economic deadlock

His bitter experiences **underlie** his moral principles.

quote

v. to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services

synonym: cite, reference, mention

(1) **quote** a source, (2) **quote** a price

In his speech, he **quoted** a famous philosopher to emphasize his point.

mania

n. a psychological or emotional state that is marked by excessive enthusiasm, excitement, or delusions; a strong and uncontrollable desire or craving for something

synonym: obsession, craze, frenzy

(1) start-up **mania**, (2) dance **mania**

The **mania** for collecting rare books led him to spend his savings on a first edition.

ingest

v. to take food or drink into the body, often through the mouth; to absorb or assimilate something, often used to describe the intake of information or knowledge

synonym: swallow, consume, devour

(1) **ingest** food, (2) **ingest** medication

People who compulsively **ingest** non-food items, such as dirt or chalk, suffer from a condition called pica.

conlang

n. (short for "constructed language") an artificial language created by individuals or communities for artistic, scientific, or cultural purposes

synonym: constructed language, artificial language

(1) **conlang** dictionary, (2) **conlang** grammar

The **conlang** community has grown tremendously with the rise of fantasy literature and films.

superficial

adj. existing or occurring only at or on the surface; appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely

synonym: shallow, facile, cursory

(1) **superficial** wound, (2) **superficial** knowledge

The journalist's **superficial** reporting should have captured the full scope of the issue.

alas

adv. (also exclamation) an expression of grief, condolence, or regret that is used to acknowledge a situation or outcome that is unfortunate or disappointing

synonym: alack, regrettably, unluckily

(1) **alas**, we did not win the game, (2) **alas**, I cannot attend the party

Alas, I realized I had left my keys at home and couldn't enter the building.

poignant

adj. evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret; emotionally moving; deeply affecting or touching

synonym: touching, moving, emotional

(1) **poignant** moment, (2) **poignant** memories

The movie's **poignant** ending left most of the audience in tears.

rubric

n. a set of established guidelines or instructions, particularly for academic or assessment purposes; a title

or heading that indicates the nature or purpose of a particular section of a text

synonym: heading, title, category

(1) **rubric** template, (2) assessment **rubric**

My teacher provided a detailed **rubric** for our group project.

alumni

n. (the plural form of "alumnus" or "alumna") former students or graduates of an educational institution or program

synonym: graduates, former students, alum

(1) **alumni** network, (2) **alumni** relations

Many **alumni** of our college have become successful in their chosen fields.

hindsight

n. understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect

synonym: retrospect, afterthought

(1) **hindsight** bias, (2) 20/20 **hindsight**

With **hindsight**, we can see that investing in that company was a mistake.

doe

n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

synonym: rabbit, bunny, hare

(1) **doe** rabbit, (2) buck and **doe**

Hunters use a whistle that makes the **doe** sound to lure stags.

urn

n. a large, typically rounded container, often made of ceramic, metal, or glass, used for storing the ashes of a cremated person or pet or for decorative purposes

synonym: vase, container, jar

(1) memorial **urn**, (2) **urn** decoration

The athlete's remains were scattered at sea rather than placed in an **urn**.

vowel

n. a speech sound pronounced with an open vocal tract, typically made by vibrating the vocal cords and without any constriction or obstruction of airflow in the lungs or mouth

synonym: letter, sound, syllable

(1) **vowel** chart, (2) **vowel** combination

Please pronounce your name slowly and emphasize the **vowel** sounds.

inflection

n. a change in the pitch or tone of one's voice; a change in the form of a word to indicate tense, mood, gender, or other grammatical categories

synonym: accent, intonation, modulation

(1) **inflection** in voice, (2) **inflection** pattern

The linguist studied the **inflection** of the language's inflection in speech.

fluent

adj. able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily

synonym: eloquent, articulate, smooth-spoken

(1) **fluent** Chinese, (2) in a **fluent** tone

She learned five languages but is only **fluent** in two of them.

imp

n. a mischievous or misbehaving child; a small and mischievous demon or sprite in folklore

synonym: demon, sprite, mischievous child

(1) a little **imp**, (2) behave like an **imp**

The mischievous **imp** caused trouble wherever it went.

Session 2: Spelling

1. 20/20 hi_____ht *n.* understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect
2. sup_____al wound *adj.* existing or occurring only at or on the surface; appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely
3. al____i relations *n.* (the plural form of "alumnus" or "alumna") former students or graduates of an educational institution or program
4. inf_____on pattern *n.* a change in the pitch or tone of one's voice; a change in the form of a word to indicate tense, mood, gender, or other grammatical categories
5. un_____ie the theory of the big bang *v.* to be the support, basis, hidden cause of something; to be located under or below
6. u_n decoration *n.* a large, typically rounded container, often made of ceramic, metal, or glass, used for storing the ashes of a cremated person or pet or for decorative purposes
7. po_____nt memories *adj.* evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret; emotionally moving; deeply affecting or touching
8. mis_____and entirely about her *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

ANSWERS: 1. hindsight, 2. superficial, 3. alumni, 4. inflection, 5. underlie, 6. urn, 7. poignant, 8. misunderstand

9. Christmas or _____nt *n.* a decoration or embellishment that adds beauty or enhances the appearance of something, especially a Christmas tree or a piece of jewelry
10. in____t medication *v.* to take food or drink into the body, often through the mouth; to absorb or assimilate something, often used to describe the intake of information or knowledge
11. behave like an i_p *n.* a mischievous or misbehaving child; a small and mischievous demon or sprite in folklore
12. ch__k on a blackboard *n.* a soft, white, porous sedimentary rock composed of calcium carbonate, often used for drawing or writing on surfaces such as blackboards
13. un____ie the current economic deadlock *v.* to be the support, basis, hidden cause of something; to be located under or below
14. foreign li____st *n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
15. abdominal ao__a *n.* the main and largest artery (= thick tube that carries blood from the heart to the body) in the human body originating from the heart
16. a__s, I cannot attend the party *adv.* (also exclamation) an expression of grief, condolence, or regret that is used to acknowledge a situation or outcome that is unfortunate or disappointing

ANSWERS: 9. ornament, 10. ingest, 11. imp, 12. chalk, 13. underlie, 14. linguist, 15. aorta, 16. alas

17. sup_____al knowledge *adj.* existing or occurring only at or on the surface; appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely
18. sc_____le my mind *v.* to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you
19. cognitive li_____st *n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
20. repair of an ao__a *n.* the main and largest artery (= thick tube that carries blood from the heart to the body) in the human body originating from the heart
21. vo__l combination *n.* a speech sound pronounced with an open vocal tract, typically made by vibrating the vocal cords and without any constriction or obstruction of airflow in the lungs or mouth
22. d_e rabbit *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
23. in____t food *v.* to take food or drink into the body, often through the mouth; to absorb or assimilate something, often used to describe the intake of information or knowledge
24. qu__e a source *v.* to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services

ANSWERS: 17. superficial, 18. scramble, 19. linguist, 20. aorta, 21. vowel, 22. doe, 23. ingest, 24. quote

25. a__s, we did not win the game *adv.* (also exclamation) an expression of grief, condolence, or regret that is used to acknowledge a situation or outcome that is unfortunate or disappointing
26. a piece of ch__k *n.* a soft, white, porous sedimentary rock composed of calcium carbonate, often used for drawing or writing on surfaces such as blackboards
27. inf____on in voice *n.* a change in the pitch or tone of one's voice; a change in the form of a word to indicate tense, mood, gender, or other grammatical categories
28. un____r a potential problem *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
29. de___e my own life *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
30. comparative lin____cs *n.* the study of language and its structure, including the study of grammar, syntax, and phonetics
31. buck and d_e *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
32. vo__l chart *n.* a speech sound pronounced with an open vocal tract, typically made by vibrating the vocal cords and without any constriction or obstruction of airflow in the lungs or mouth
33. memorial u_n *n.* a large, typically rounded container, often made of ceramic, metal, or glass, used for storing the ashes of a cremated person or pet or for decorative purposes

ANSWERS: 25. alas, 26. chalk, 27. inflection, 28. uncover, 29. devote, 30. linguistics, 31. doe, 32. vowel, 33. urn

34. mis_____ and each other *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
35. fl___t Chinese *adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
36. de___e all of my energies *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
37. un_____r the truth *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
38. ru___c template *n.* a set of established guidelines or instructions, particularly for academic or assessment purposes; a title or heading that indicates the nature or purpose of a particular section of a text
39. po_____nt moment *adj.* evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret; emotionally moving; deeply affecting or touching
40. sc_____le for support *v.* to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you
41. dance ma__a *n.* a psychological or emotional state that is marked by excessive enthusiasm, excitement, or delusions; a strong and uncontrollable desire or craving for something
42. glass or_____nt *n.* a decoration or embellishment that adds beauty or enhances the appearance of something, especially a Christmas tree or a piece of jewelry

ANSWERS: 34. misunderstand, 35. fluent, 36. devote, 37. uncover, 38. rubric, 39. poignant, 40. scramble, 41. mania, 42. ornament

43. hi_____ht bias *n.* understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect
44. co_____g grammar *n.* (short for "constructed language") an artificial language created by individuals or communities for artistic, scientific, or cultural purposes
45. start-up ma__a *n.* a psychological or emotional state that is marked by excessive enthusiasm, excitement, or delusions; a strong and uncontrollable desire or craving for something
46. digital cry_____phy *n.* the study of the techniques and methods used for secure communication and information processing, particularly using codes and ciphers
47. in a fl___t tone *adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
48. asymmetric cry_____phy *n.* the study of the techniques and methods used for secure communication and information processing, particularly using codes and ciphers
49. assessment ru___c *n.* a set of established guidelines or instructions, particularly for academic or assessment purposes; a title or heading that indicates the nature or purpose of a particular section of a text

ANSWERS: 43. hindsight, 44. conlang, 45. mania, 46. cryptography, 47. fluent, 48. cryptography, 49. rubric

50. al__i network *n.* (the plural form of "alumnus" or "alumna") former students or graduates of an educational institution or program
51. qu__e a price *v.* to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services
52. lin____cs professor *n.* the study of language and its structure, including the study of grammar, syntax, and phonetics
53. a little i_p *n.* a mischievous or misbehaving child; a small and mischievous demon or sprite in folklore
54. co____g dictionary *n.* (short for "constructed language") an artificial language created by individuals or communities for artistic, scientific, or cultural purposes

ANSWERS: 50. alumni, 51. quote, 52. linguistics, 53. imp, 54. conlang

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The patient will undergo bypass surgery of the _____ today.
 - n.* the main and largest artery (= thick tube that carries blood from the heart to the body) in the human body originating from the heart

2. The _____ community has grown tremendously with the rise of fantasy literature and films.
 - n.* (short for "constructed language") an artificial language created by individuals or communities for artistic, scientific, or cultural purposes

3. The mischievous ____ caused trouble wherever it went.
 - n.* a mischievous or misbehaving child; a small and mischievous demon or sprite in folklore

4. Many _____ of our college have become successful in their chosen fields.
 - n.* (the plural form of "alumnus" or "alumna") former students or graduates of an educational institution or program

5. Though I love literature, I'm a bad _____.
 - n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics

6. The _____ for collecting rare books led him to spend his savings on a first edition.
 - n.* a psychological or emotional state that is marked by excessive enthusiasm, excitement, or delusions; a strong and uncontrollable desire or craving for something

7. My teacher provided a detailed _____ for our group project.
 - n.* a set of established guidelines or instructions, particularly for academic or assessment purposes; a title or heading that indicates the nature or purpose of a particular section of a text

ANSWERS: 1. aorta, 2. conlang, 3. imp, 4. alumni, 5. linguist, 6. mania, 7. rubric

8. People who compulsively _____ non-food items, such as dirt or chalk, suffer from a condition called pica.
- v.* to take food or drink into the body, often through the mouth; to absorb or assimilate something, often used to describe the intake of information or knowledge
9. Local business owners _____ to find skilled workers.
- v.* to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you
10. The movie's _____ ending left most of the audience in tears.
- adj.* evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret; emotionally moving; deeply affecting or touching
11. Please pronounce your name slowly and emphasize the _____ sounds.
- n.* a speech sound pronounced with an open vocal tract, typically made by vibrating the vocal cords and without any constriction or obstruction of airflow in the lungs or mouth
12. The _____ on the tree was delicate and intricate, adding to its beauty.
- n.* a decoration or embellishment that adds beauty or enhances the appearance of something, especially a Christmas tree or a piece of jewelry
13. The journalist's _____ reporting should have captured the full scope of the issue.
- adj.* existing or occurring only at or on the surface; appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely
14. The kids used colored _____ to create a mural on the pavement.
- n.* a soft, white, porous sedimentary rock composed of calcium carbonate, often used for drawing or writing on surfaces such as blackboards

ANSWERS: 8. ingest, 9. scrambled, 10. poignant, 11. vowel, 12. ornament, 13. superficial, 14. chalk

15. _____ I realized I had left my keys at home and couldn't enter the building.
adv. (also exclamation) an expression of grief, condolence, or regret that is used to acknowledge a situation or outcome that is unfortunate or disappointing
16. Hunters use a whistle that makes the ____ sound to lure stags.
n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
17. He continued his investigation and soon _____ another crime.
v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
18. You should not _____ the meaning of freedom.
v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
19. With _____ we can see that investing in that company was a mistake.
n. understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect
20. The linguist studied the _____ of the language's inflection in speech.
n. a change in the pitch or tone of one's voice; a change in the form of a word to indicate tense, mood, gender, or other grammatical categories
21. He _____ himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.
v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
22. The athlete's remains were scattered at sea rather than placed in an _____.
n. a large, typically rounded container, often made of ceramic, metal, or glass, used for storing the ashes of a cremated person or pet or for decorative purposes

ANSWERS: 15. Alas, 16. doe, 17. uncovered, 18. misunderstand, 19. hindsight, 20. inflection, 21. devoted, 22. urn

23. A new study in _____ research showed that bilingualism delays the onset of dementia.
- n.* the study of language and its structure, including the study of grammar, syntax, and phonetics
24. In his speech, he _____ a famous philosopher to emphasize his point.
- v.* to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services
25. His bitter experiences _____ his moral principles.
- v.* to be the support, basis, hidden cause of something; to be located under or below
26. She learned five languages but is only _____ in two of them.
- adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
27. The software engineers developed a new _____ algorithm to protect users' data.
- n.* the study of the techniques and methods used for secure communication and information processing, particularly using codes and ciphers

ANSWERS: 23. linguistics, 24. quoted, 25. underlie, 26. fluent, 27. cryptography