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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Jochen Wegner: What happened when we paired up thousands of strangers to talk politics | TED Talk*  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/jochen\\_wegner\\_what\\_happened\\_when\\_we\\_paired\\_up\\_thousands\\_of\\_strangers\\_to\\_talk\\_politics](https://www.ted.com/talks/jochen_wegner_what_happened_when_we_paired_up_thousands_of_strangers_to_talk_politics)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### rucksack

*n.* a type of backpack or knapsack that is typically used for hiking, camping, or other outdoor activities, which has shoulder straps and a compartment for storing gear or personal items

*synonym*: backpack, knapsack, pack

(1) **rucksack** straps, (2) hiking **rucksack**

I packed my clothes and supplies into my **rucksack** for the camping trip.

### irritating

*adj.* causing annoyance, frustration, or exasperation; provoking impatience or irritation

*synonym*: annoying, bothersome, vexing

(1) **irritating** noise, (2) **irritating** behavior

The garbage can in the kitchen has been producing an **irritating** smell for days.

### contentious

*adj.* likely to cause people to disagree and argue; liking to argue

*synonym*: antagonistic, combative, confrontational

(1) **contentious** subject, (2) **contentious** debate

There are many **contentious** issues in claiming a patent.

## 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.

## contradict

v. to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite;  
to be in conflict with

*synonym*: conflict, oppose, belie

(1) **contradict** each other, (2) **contradict** the principle

The book contains numerous statements that **contradict** previous reports.

## rethink

v. to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it

*synonym*: reexplore, review, reconsider

(1) **rethink** a marketing plan, (2) **rethink** the role of the manager

We have to **rethink** our company's product lineup for further growth.

## trump

n. a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games

(1) **trump** card, (2) choose **trump**

The **trump** suit in the game of bridge is determined at the beginning of each hand.

## reinvent

v. to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new

*synonym*: recreate, remake, revive

(1) **reinvent** local dishes, (2) **reinvent** our life

They have tried to **reinvent** their grocery stores.

## nerd

n. a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.

*synonym*: geek, techie, wonk

(1) a computer **nerd**, (2) **nerd** neck

He was, by nature, a cyber **nerd**.

## techie

*n.* a person who is highly skilled or knowledgeable in the field of technology, particularly with computers or electronic devices

*synonym* : geek, technician, computer expert

(1) gadget **techies**, (2) aspiring **techies**

Our company hired a **techie** consultant to help us improve our website's functionality.

## 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.

## germ

*n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

*synonym* : bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

## ax

*n.* a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials

*synonym* : hatchet, chopper, tomahawk

(1) chop wood with an **ax**, (2) an **ax** in the toolbox

He used an **ax** to chop the firewood for the campfire.

## bailiff

*n.* a court official responsible for maintaining order and security in a courtroom; an officer of the court who enforces judgments and court orders, such as evictions and repossessions; a person responsible for managing a large estate or property

*synonym* :

marshal, sheriff, constable

(1) **bailiff** duties, (2) high court **bailiff**

The county **bailiff** escorted the convicted criminal out of the courtroom.

## spokesperson

*n.* a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public

*synonym*: representative, interpreter, mouthpiece

(1) company **spokesperson**, (2) official **spokesperson**

The celebrity **spokesperson** made an appearance at the product launch event.

## hipster

*n.* a person who follows a trend or style characterized by a particular subculture, particularly one that is associated with alternative music, fashion, and lifestyle practices

*synonym*: trendsetter, nonconformist, bohemian

(1) **hipster** fashion, (2) **hipster** lifestyle

She is always wearing vintage clothing and listening to vinyl records, a true **hipster** at heart.

## beard

*n.* hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin

*synonym*: facial hair, whiskers, stubble

(1) a black **beard**, (2) shave my **beard**

He grew a thick **beard** to change his appearance.

## comprehend

*v.* to understand the nature or meaning of something fully

*synonym*: understand, grasp, apprehend

(1) **comprehend** English, (2) **comprehend** instructions

She struggled to **comprehend** complex math problems.

## Nazi

*n.* a member or supporter of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, which controlled Germany from 1933 to 1945 and carried out a genocidal campaign against Jews and other marginalized groups; someone who subscribes to similar racist or authoritarian beliefs

*synonym* : fascist, authoritarian, dictator

(1) **Nazi** regime, (2) neo- **Nazi** movement

The **Nazi** party was responsible for atrocities committed during World War II.

## selfie

*n.* a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam to share on social media

*synonym* : self-portrait, self-photo, self-snap

(1) **selfie** stick, (2) pose for a **selfie**

She took a **selfie** in front of the famous tower and shared it on the app.

## excite

*v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

*synonym* : thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

## slack

*adj.* lacking in tension or firmness; loose or not tight; having a relaxed or lazy attitude

*synonym* : loose, lax, floppy

(1) a **slack** rope, (2) **slack** performance

The team's **slack** attitude towards deadlines caused the project to fall behind schedule.

## 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.

## converge

*v.* to move or draw together at a specific location; (of lines) to move towards the same point where they join or meet

*synonym* : congregate, assemble, concentrate

(1) **converge** of a series, (2) **converge** from different points

The two rivers **converge** into one near this area.

## **grotto**

*n.* (also grot) a small cave or cavern, often with a natural or artificial structure that makes it suitable for use as a shelter, shrine, or place of worship

*synonym*: cave, cavern, grot

(1) underground **grotto**, (2) shrine **grotto**

The ancient temple has a beautiful indoor **grotto** with natural rock formations.

## **confer**

*v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

*synonym*: consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. co\_\_\_\_\_ge of a series  
*v.* to move or draw together at a specific location; (of lines) to move towards the same point where they join or meet
2. official spo\_\_\_\_\_son  
*n.* a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public
3. re\_\_\_\_\_nt local dishes  
*v.* to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
4. a computer n\_\_d  
*n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
5. con\_\_\_\_\_us debate  
*adj.* likely to cause people to disagree and argue; liking to argue
6. con\_\_\_\_\_ct each other  
*v.* to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with
7. ru\_\_\_\_\_ck straps  
*n.* a type of backpack or knapsack that is typically used for hiking, camping, or other outdoor activities, which has shoulder straps and a compartment for storing gear or personal items
8. 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
9. 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.

ANSWERS: 1. converge, 2. spokesperson, 3. reinvent, 4. nerd, 5. contentious, 6. contradict, 7. rucksack, 8. doe, 9. patron

10. ba\_\_\_\_f duties *n.* a court official responsible for maintaining order and security in a courtroom; an officer of the court who enforces judgments and court orders, such as evictions and repossessions; a person responsible for managing a large estate or property
11. con\_\_\_\_\_us subject *adj.* likely to cause people to disagree and argue; liking to argue
12. irr\_\_\_\_\_ng behavior *adj.* causing annoyance, frustration, or exasperation; provoking impatience or irritation
13. high court ba\_\_\_\_f *n.* a court official responsible for maintaining order and security in a courtroom; an officer of the court who enforces judgments and court orders, such as evictions and repossessions; a person responsible for managing a large estate or property
14. a sl\_\_k rope *adj.* lacking in tension or firmness; loose or not tight; having a relaxed or lazy attitude
15. an ax in the toolbox *n.* a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials
16. se\_\_\_e stick *n.* a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam to share on social media

ANSWERS: 10. bailiff, 11. contentious, 12. irritating, 13. bailiff, 14. slack, 15. ax, 16. selfie



17. shrine gr\_\_\_o *n.* (also grot) a small cave or cavern, often with a natural or artificial structure that makes it suitable for use as a shelter, shrine, or place of worship
18. choose tr\_\_\_p *n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games
19. shave my be\_\_d *n.* hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin
20. sl\_\_k performance *adj.* lacking in tension or firmness; loose or not tight; having a relaxed or lazy attitude
21. d\_e rabbit *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
22. neo-N\_\_i movement *n.* a member or supporter of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, which controlled Germany from 1933 to 1945 and carried out a genocidal campaign against Jews and other marginalized groups; someone who subscribes to similar racist or authoritarian beliefs
23. ex\_\_\_e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
24. underground gr\_\_\_o *n.* (also grot) a small cave or cavern, often with a natural or artificial structure that makes it suitable for use as a shelter, shrine, or place of worship
25. antibiotic-resistant g\_\_m *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

ANSWERS: 17. grotto, 18. trump, 19. beard, 20. slack, 21. doe, 22. Nazi, 23. excite, 24. grotto, 25. germ

26. hiking ru\_\_\_\_ck *n.* a type of backpack or knapsack that is typically used for hiking, camping, or other outdoor activities, which has shoulder straps and a compartment for storing gear or personal items
27. tr\_\_p card *n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games
28. re\_\_\_\_k the role of the manager *v.* to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it
29. irr\_\_\_\_\_ng noise *adj.* causing annoyance, frustration, or exasperation; provoking impatience or irritation
30. ex\_\_\_e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
31. gadget te\_\_\_es *n.* a person who is highly skilled or knowledgeable in the field of technology, particularly with computers or electronic devices
32. com\_\_\_\_\_nd English *v.* to understand the nature or meaning of something fully
33. re\_\_\_\_k a marketing plan *v.* to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it
34. hi\_\_\_\_\_r lifestyle *n.* a person who follows a trend or style characterized by a particular subculture, particularly one that is associated with alternative music, fashion, and lifestyle practices
35. a g\_\_m-free environment *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

ANSWERS: 26. rucksack, 27. trump, 28. rethink, 29. irritating, 30. excite, 31. techie, 32. comprehend, 33. rethink, 34. hipster, 35. germ

36. company spo\_\_\_\_\_son *n.* a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public
37. aspiring te\_\_\_es *n.* a person who is highly skilled or knowledgeable in the field of technology, particularly with computers or electronic devices
38. am\_\_\_\_\_y the effect *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
39. 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.
40. co\_\_\_\_\_ge from different points *v.* to move or draw together at a specific location; (of lines) to move towards the same point where they join or meet
41. co\_\_\_r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
42. n\_\_d neck *n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
43. am\_\_\_\_\_y a signal *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
44. pose for a se\_\_\_e *n.* a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam to share on social media

ANSWERS: 36. spokesperson, 37. techie, 38. amplify, 39. patron, 40. converge, 41. confer, 42. nerd, 43. amplify, 44. selfie

45. com\_\_\_\_\_nd instructions      *v.* to understand the nature or meaning of something fully
46. N\_\_i regime      *n.* a member or supporter of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, which controlled Germany from 1933 to 1945 and carried out a genocidal campaign against Jews and other marginalized groups; someone who subscribes to similar racist or authoritarian beliefs
47. re\_\_\_\_\_nt our life      *v.* to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
48. con\_\_\_\_\_ct the principle      *v.* to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with
49. hi\_\_\_\_\_r fashion      *n.* a person who follows a trend or style characterized by a particular subculture, particularly one that is associated with alternative music, fashion, and lifestyle practices
50. chop wood with an ax      *n.* a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials
51. co\_\_\_r degree      *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
52. a black be\_\_d      *n.* hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin

ANSWERS: 45. comprehend, 46. Nazi, 47. reinvent, 48. contradict, 49. hipster, 50. ax, 51. confer, 52. beard

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She is always wearing vintage clothing and listening to vinyl records, a true \_\_\_\_\_ at heart.
  - n.* a person who follows a trend or style characterized by a particular subculture, particularly one that is associated with alternative music, fashion, and lifestyle practices
  
2. The news of her promotion \_\_\_\_\_ her.
  - v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
  
3. He was, by nature, a cyber \_\_\_\_\_.
  - n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
  
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ suit in the game of bridge is determined at the beginning of each hand.
  - n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games
  
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ party was responsible for atrocities committed during World War II.
  - n.* a member or supporter of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, which controlled Germany from 1933 to 1945 and carried out a genocidal campaign against Jews and other marginalized groups; someone who subscribes to similar racist or authoritarian beliefs
  
6. The leaders of the two countries met to \_\_\_\_\_ on the issue.
  - v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
  
7. The celebrity \_\_\_\_\_ made an appearance at the product launch event.
  - n.* a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public

ANSWERS: 1. hipster, 2. excited, 3. nerd, 4. trump, 5. Nazi, 6. confer, 7. spokesperson

8. The \_\_\_\_\_ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.
- n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
9. They have tried to \_\_\_\_\_ their grocery stores.
- v.* to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
10. I packed my clothes and supplies into my \_\_\_\_\_ for the camping trip.
- n.* a type of backpack or knapsack that is typically used for hiking, camping, or other outdoor activities, which has shoulder straps and a compartment for storing gear or personal items
11. She struggled to \_\_\_\_\_ complex math problems.
- v.* to understand the nature or meaning of something fully
12. We have to \_\_\_\_\_ our company's product lineup for further growth.
- v.* to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it
13. He grew a thick \_\_\_\_\_ to change his appearance.
- n.* hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin
14. 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
15. The team's \_\_\_\_\_ attitude towards deadlines caused the project to fall behind schedule.
- adj.* lacking in tension or firmness; loose or not tight; having a relaxed or lazy attitude

ANSWERS: 8. germ, 9. reinvent, 10. rucksack, 11. comprehend, 12. rethink, 13. beard, 14. doe, 15. slack

16. There are many \_\_\_\_\_ issues in claiming a patent.  
*adj.* likely to cause people to disagree and argue; liking to argue
17. 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.
18. The county \_\_\_\_\_ escorted the convicted criminal out of the courtroom.  
*n.* a court official responsible for maintaining order and security in a courtroom; an officer of the court who enforces judgments and court orders, such as evictions and repossessions; a person responsible for managing a large estate or property
19. The ancient temple has a beautiful indoor \_\_\_\_\_ with natural rock formations.  
*n.* (also grot) a small cave or cavern, often with a natural or artificial structure that makes it suitable for use as a shelter, shrine, or place of worship
20. The two rivers \_\_\_\_\_ into one near this area.  
*v.* to move or draw together at a specific location; (of lines) to move towards the same point where they join or meet
21. The book contains numerous statements that \_\_\_\_\_ previous reports.  
*v.* to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with
22. Our company hired a \_\_\_\_\_ consultant to help us improve our website's functionality.  
*n.* a person who is highly skilled or knowledgeable in the field of technology, particularly with computers or electronic devices
23. The garbage can in the kitchen has been producing an \_\_\_\_\_ smell for days.  
*adj.* causing annoyance, frustration, or exasperation; provoking impatience or irritation

ANSWERS: 16. contentious, 17. patron, 18. bailiff, 19. grotto, 20. converge, 21. contradict, 22. techie, 23. irritating

24. She took a \_\_\_\_\_ in front of the famous tower and shared it on the app.

- n.* a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam to share on social media

25. He used an \_\_\_ to chop the firewood for the campfire.

- n.* a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials

26. You might need to \_\_\_\_\_ this point.

- v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

ANSWERS: 24. selfie, 25. ax, 26. amplify