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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alex Gendler: Can you solve the multiplying rabbits riddle? | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/alex\\_gendler\\_can\\_you\\_solve\\_the\\_multiplying\\_rabbits\\_riddle](https://www.ted.com/talks/alex_gendler_can_you_solve_the_multiplying_rabbits_riddle)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### nanoscale

*adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale

(1) **nanoscale** device, (2) things at the **nanoscale**

This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the **nanoscale** lattice structure of the metal.

### invert

*v.* to turn something upside down, inside out; to reverse the position, order, or relationship of something

*synonym*: turn upside down, reverse, flip

(1) **invert** a glass, (2) **invert** position

He decided to **invert** his investment portfolio, shifting from stocks to bonds.

### hermaphrodite

*n.* an organism that possesses both male and female reproductive organs; a person who possesses both male and female physical characteristics

*synonym*: intersex, androgyne, bisex

(1) **hermaphrodite** fish, (2) **hermaphrodite** human

The biology textbook discussed the **hermaphrodite** reproductive system of certain animals.

### overrun

*v.* to invade or occupy a place or territory by force, especially in large numbers; (noun) the act of taking

control or overwhelming something or someone

*synonym* : invade, conquer, occupy

(1) **overrun** an area, (2) garden **overrun** with weeds

The invading army quickly may **overrun** the small country and took control of its capital city.

## sabotage

*n.* the deliberate and malicious damage, destruction, or disruption of equipment, machinery, or other property, often by someone with a particular agenda or motive; the subversion of an organization or institution by secret agents or spies

*synonym* : sabotage, subversion, destruction

(1) act of **sabotage**, (2) **sabotage** mission

The **sabotage** of the factory's equipment caused significant damage.

## malfunction

*v.* to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate

*synonym* : malfunction, break down, fail

(1) **malfunction** alarm, (2) **malfunction** and start moving unpredictably

The car's engine **malfunctioned** on the highway, so we had to call for a tow truck.

## apocalyptic

*adj.* describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world

*synonym* : fateful, prophetic, ominous

(1) **apocalyptic** event, (2) have **apocalyptic** overtones

The **apocalyptic** landscape of burnt-out villages and bombed-out ruins spread out before them.

## hare

*n.* a fast-running mammal with long ears and a short tail that closely resembles a rabbit but is larger and has longer hind legs

*synonym* : rabbit, bunny, lapin

(1) **hare** hunting, (2) brown **hare**

The farmer noticed a group of **hares** had been eating his vegetables, so he put up a fence to keep them out.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. apo\_\_\_\_\_ic event *adj.* describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world
2. garden ov\_\_\_\_\_n with weeds *v.* to invade or occupy a place or territory by force, especially in large numbers; (noun) the act of taking control or overwhelming something or someone
3. her\_\_\_\_\_ite fish *n.* an organism that possesses both male and female reproductive organs; a person who possesses both male and female physical characteristics
4. mal\_\_\_\_\_on alarm *v.* to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate
5. in\_\_\_\_t position *v.* to turn something upside down, inside out; to reverse the position, order, or relationship of something
6. sa\_\_\_\_\_ge mission *n.* the deliberate and malicious damage, destruction, or disruption of equipment, machinery, or other property, often by someone with a particular agenda or motive; the subversion of an organization or institution by secret agents or spies
7. have apo\_\_\_\_\_ic overtones *adj.* describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world

ANSWERS: 1. apocalyptic, 2. overrun, 3. hermaphrodite, 4. malfunction, 5. invert, 6. sabotage, 7. apocalyptic

8. na\_\_\_\_\_le device *adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
9. in\_\_\_t a glass *v.* to turn something upside down, inside out; to reverse the position, order, or relationship of something
10. act of sa\_\_\_\_\_ge *n.* the deliberate and malicious damage, destruction, or disruption of equipment, machinery, or other property, often by someone with a particular agenda or motive; the subversion of an organization or institution by secret agents or spies
11. her\_\_\_\_\_ite human *n.* an organism that possesses both male and female reproductive organs; a person who possesses both male and female physical characteristics
12. h\_\_e hunting *n.* a fast-running mammal with long ears and a short tail that closely resembles a rabbit but is larger and has longer hind legs
13. things at the na\_\_\_\_\_le *adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
14. brown h\_\_e *n.* a fast-running mammal with long ears and a short tail that closely resembles a rabbit but is larger and has longer hind legs
15. mal\_\_\_\_\_on and start moving unpredictably *v.* to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate

ANSWERS: 8. nanoscale, 9. invert, 10. sabotage, 11. hermaphrodite, 12. hare, 13. nanoscale, 14. hare, 15. malfunction

16. ov\_\_\_\_n an area

v. to invade or occupy a place or territory by force, especially in large numbers;  
(noun) the act of taking control or overwhelming something or someone

ANSWERS: 16. overrun

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He decided to \_\_\_\_\_ his investment portfolio, shifting from stocks to bonds.
  - v.* to turn something upside down, inside out; to reverse the position, order, or relationship of something
  
2. The farmer noticed a group of \_\_\_\_\_ had been eating his vegetables, so he put up a fence to keep them out.
  - n.* a fast-running mammal with long ears and a short tail that closely resembles a rabbit but is larger and has longer hind legs
  
3. This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the \_\_\_\_\_ lattice structure of the metal.
  - adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
  
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the factory's equipment caused significant damage.
  - n.* the deliberate and malicious damage, destruction, or disruption of equipment, machinery, or other property, often by someone with a particular agenda or motive; the subversion of an organization or institution by secret agents or spies
  
5. The invading army quickly may \_\_\_\_\_ the small country and took control of its capital city.
  - v.* to invade or occupy a place or territory by force, especially in large numbers; (noun) the act of taking control or overwhelming something or someone
  
6. The biology textbook discussed the \_\_\_\_\_ reproductive system of certain animals.
  - n.* an organism that possesses both male and female reproductive organs; a person who possesses both male and female physical characteristics

ANSWERS: 1. invert, 2. hares, 3. nanoscale, 4. sabotage, 5. overrun, 6. hermaphrodite

7. The car's engine \_\_\_\_\_ on the highway, so we had to call for a tow truck.
- v. to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ landscape of burnt-out villages and bombed-out ruins spread out before them.
- adj. describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world

ANSWERS: 7. malfunctioned, 8. apocalyptic