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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Mia Nacamulli: Why should you read Kurt Vonnegut? | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/mia_nacamulli_why_should _you_read_kurt_vonnegut



Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

pilgrim	 <i>n</i>. a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion <i>synonym</i>: traveler, wayfarer, sojourner
	(1) shrine for pilgrims , (2) pilgrim site
	The group of pilgrims walked in silence, deep in thought and prayer.
abduct	 v. to take someone away illegally to an undisclosed location by force, usually to extract a ransom synonym: kidnap, seize, snatch
	(1) abduct a girl, (2) abduct at gunpoint
	The passerby witnessed the moment the boy was abducted .
unstick	 v. to free something that is stuck or adhering to something else
	synonym: detach, remove, free
	(1) unstick the door, (2) unstick the pages of a book
	I had to use a knife to unstick the envelope from the table.
canyon	 <i>n</i>. a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river <i>synonym</i>: gorge, valley, ravine
	(1) twisty canyon road, (2) canyon of skyscrapers

The Grand **Canyon** has an awe-inspiring sight.

optometrist	 n. a healthcare professional who specializes in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of vision and eye-related disorders and who may prescribe and fit corrective lenses or other optical aids synonym: eye doctor, optician, oculist 				
	(1) optometrist appointment, (2) licensed optometrist				
	I visited an optometrist to have my eyes checked for a new prescription for glasses.				
captivity	 n. the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from synonym: confinement, detention, imprisonment 				
	(1) escape from captivity , (2) animals in captivity in the zoo				
	Pandas rarely breed in captivity .				
intergalactic	 adj. existing or occurring between different galaxies (= an independent group of stars) 				
	synonym: extragalactic, cosmic, interstellar				
	(1) intergalactic travel, (2) intergalactic matter				
	The intergalactic spaceship traveled to distant planets.				
slaughterhouse	n. a facility where animals are killed and processed for meat				
	synonym: abattoir, meatpacking plant, butcher shop				
	(1) slaughterhouse operation, (2) slaughterhouse facility				
	The smell of the slaughterhouse made him feel sick to his stomach.				
demolish	 v. to completely destroy or tear down a building, structure, or other entity; to ruin or eliminate the effectiveness or power of something synonym: destroy, wreck, level 				
	(1) demolish a myth, (2) demolish a bridge				
	The city decided to demolish the old, unsafe building and				

build a new one.

anthropology	 n. the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species 				
	(1) social anthropology , (2) anthropology of religion				
	The areas of anthropology and psychology are significantly related to one another.				
spearhead	v. to lead or initiate an effort or campaignsynonym: lead, initiate, begin				
	(1) spearhead campaign, (2) spearhead movement				
	The CEO decided to spearhead the new project to ensure its success.				
zany	 adj. eccentric or unconventional humorously or foolishly; clownish; resembling a clown or jester synonym: wacky, absurd, ludicrous 				
	(1) zany behavior, (2) zany costume				
	The zany comedian had the audience laughing				
	uncontrollably.				
rev	 n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute 				
	synonym: revolution, RPM, speed				
	(1) low- rev engine, (2) rev up the crowd				
	He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud				
	rev.				
ambiguity	 n. the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning 				
	synonym: uncertainty, vagueness, obscurity				
	(1) free from ambiguity , (2) avoid ambiguity in writing				
	The ambiguity in the instructions made it difficult for her to				

complete the task.

chronology	 n. the science of arranging events in their order of occurrence in time synonym: history, timeline, order
	 (1) astronomical chronology, (2) chronology order The chronology of events was important for understanding history.
rarefied	adj. not commonly known or understood, particularly due to belonging to a specialized or elite group synonym: esoteric, rare, refined
	(1) the rarefied world of academics, (2) rarefied language The rarefied air at the mountaintop made breathing difficult for those not used to high altitudes.
luminous	adj. emitting or reflecting light, especially in the dark; shining or glowing brightly; full of light or enlightenmentsynonym: radiant, glowing, brilliant
	(1) luminous glow, (2) luminous stars
	The room was filled with luminous decorations that shone in
	the dark.
titanic	 adj. of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element) synonym: colossal, massive, immense
	(1) titanic battle, (2) titanic compound
	The titanic ship sank on its maiden voyage.
heroic	<i>adj.</i> courageous and daring; having or displaying qualities appropriate for legendary figures that is courage and daring
	synonym: brave, courageous, daring
	(1) a heroic poem, (2) heroic explorers
	The heroic actions of individuals are now easily spread worldwide by SNS.

	 adj. having no purpose or reason; serving no useful function; meaningless or senseless
	synonym: meaningless, purposeless, worthless
	(1) pointless argument, (2) pointless task
	The meeting was considered pointless since nothing was
	accomplished.
vantage	 n. a position or place that provides a commanding or advantageous view or perspective; a favorable position or advantage synonym: advantage, benefit, edge
	(1) strategic vantage , (2) gain a vantage
	From our vantage point, we could see the whole city skyline.
infundibulum	 n. a funnel-shaped part of a bodily structure, particularly the brain or reproductive system synonym: funnel, channel, duct
	(1) infundibulum hypothalami, (2) pituitary infundibulum
	The infundibulum of the brain helps to regulate the release
	of hormones.
adherent	 n. a person who supports a particular party, person, or set of ideas; the act or state of coming or being in close contact with something synonym: follower, supporter, believer
	(1) an adherent of the ideology, (2) non- adherent cell
	He was a devout adherent of the religion.
tenet	n. one of the fundamental ideas or beliefs upon which a theory or broader group of views is founded
	synonym: dogma, creed, principle
	(1) basic tenets , (2) a fundamental tenet of Judaism
confuse	(1) basic tenets , (2) a fundamental tenet of Judaism

	(1) confuse the listener, (2) confuse fantasy with reality		
	Her remarks confused the debate.		
meaningless	<i>adj.</i> having no meaning, direction, or purpose <i>synonym</i> : pointless, absurd, senseless		
	(1) a meaningless endeavor, (2) do a meaningless task This experiment's results are meaningless because the other conditions are not identical.		
bleak	 adj. unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope synonym: miserable, pathetic, dim 		
	(1) prospects were bleak , (2) bleak future		
	The political landscape looks bleak without a change of administration.		
moralize	 v. to express or teach a moral lesson or principle, often in a self-righteous or didactic way; to reflect on the ethical or moral aspects of a situation or behavior synonym: preach, lecture, sermonize 		
	(1) moralize a situation, (2) moralize about politics		
	I don't like it when people try to moralize me about my personal choices.		
intersperse	 v. to scatter or distribute among or between other things; to insert or place something at intervals synonym: scatter, distribute, insert 		
	 (1) intersperse his speech, (2) intersperse exclamation marks 		
	The author interspersed anecdotes throughout the book to break up the text and make it more engaging.		
morsel	 a small piece or fragment, particularly of food; a small, tasty, or pleasing bit of something synonym: bit, bite, fragment 		
	(1) mouth-watering morsel , (2) tiny morsel		

I only had a small **morsel** of cake while trying to watch my weight.

parable	 <i>n</i>. a short allegorical story designed to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson <i>synonym</i>: allegory, fable, tale (1) parable story, (2) biblical parable Jesus quoted parables to teach important lessons to his disciples.
suffocate	 v. to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression synonym: choke, smother, stifle
	(1) suffocate to death, (2) suffocate fire
	People can suffocate from a lack of oxygen in confined spaces.
excrement	 n. the waste matter discharged from the body, particularly that which is evacuated through the bowels or urinary tract synonym: waste, feces, dung
	 (1) animal excrement, (2) human excrement As a dog owner, cleaning up your pet's excrement is responsible.
insistence	 n. the act or an instance of demanding or saying something clearly; persistence synonym: persistence, determination, demand
	(1) collective insistence, (2) rigid insistence
	Despite her insistence , he refused to change his mind.

Session 2: Spelling

1.	zy behavior	adj.	eccentric or unconventional humorously or foolishly; clownish; resembling a clown or jester
2.	coe the listener	v.	to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
3.	prospects were blk	adj.	unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
4.	tic compound	adj.	of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)
5.	raed language	adj.	not commonly known or understood, particularly due to belonging to a specialized or elite group
6.	sute to death	v.	to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression
7.	intse his speech	v.	to scatter or distribute among or between other things; to insert or place something at intervals
8.	strategic vae	n.	a position or place that provides a commanding or advantageous view or perspective; a favorable position or advantage
9.	mouth-watering mol	n.	a small piece or fragment, particularly of food; a small, tasty, or pleasing bit of something

ANSWERS: 1. zany, 2. confuse, 3. bleak, 4. titanic, 5. rarefied, 6. suffocate, 7. intersperse, 8. vantage, 9. morsel

10. luus stars	adj.	emitting or reflecting light, especially in the dark; shining or glowing brightly; full of light or enlightenment
11. desh a bridge	v.	to completely destroy or tear down a building, structure, or other entity; to ruin or eliminate the effectiveness or power of something
12. non-adnt cell	n.	a person who supports a particular party, person, or set of ideas; the act or state of coming or being in close contact with something
13. low-r_v engine	n.	a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
14. unk the door	ν.	to free something that is stuck or adhering to something else
15. blk future	adj.	unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
16. social antogy	n.	the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
17. influm hypothalami	n.	a funnel-shaped part of a bodily structure, particularly the brain or reproductive system
18. can of skyscrapers	n.	a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river

ANSWERS: 10. luminous, 11. demolish, 12. adherent, 13. rev, 14. unstick, 15. bleak, 16. anthropology, 17. infundibulum, 18. canyon

19. r_v up the crowd	n.	a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
20. intse exclamation marks	v.	to scatter or distribute among or between other things; to insert or place something at intervals
21. abt a girl	ν.	to take someone away illegally to an undisclosed location by force, usually to extract a ransom
22. animals in caty in the zoo	n.	the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from
23. hec explorers	adj.	courageous and daring; having or displaying qualities appropriate for legendary figures that is courage and daring
24. luus glow	adj.	emitting or reflecting light, especially in the dark; shining or glowing brightly; full of light or enlightenment
25. chrgy order	n.	the science of arranging events in their order of occurrence in time
26. spad movement	v.	to lead or initiate an effort or campaign
27. poss task	adj.	having no purpose or reason; serving no useful function; meaningless or senseless
28. escape from caty	n.	the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from

ANSWERS: 19. rev, 20. intersperse, 21. abduct, 22. captivity, 23. heroic, 24. luminous, 25. chronology, 26. spearhead, 27. pointless, 28. captivity

29. animal exnt	n.	the waste matter discharged from the body, particularly that which is evacuated through the bowels or urinary tract
30. astronomical chrgy	n.	the science of arranging events in their order of occurrence in time
31. shrine for pims	n.	a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion
32. gain a vae	n.	a position or place that provides a commanding or advantageous view or perspective; a favorable position or advantage
33. free from amty	n.	the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
34. inttic matter	adj.	existing or occurring between different galaxies (= an independent group of stars)
35. basic tets	n.	one of the fundamental ideas or beliefs upon which a theory or broader group of views is founded
36. inttic travel	adj.	existing or occurring between different galaxies (= an independent group of stars)
37. slause facility	n.	a facility where animals are killed and processed for meat
38. pae story	n.	a short allegorical story designed to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson

ANSWERS: 29. excrement, 30. chronology, 31. pilgrim, 32. vantage, 33. ambiguity, 34. intergalactic, 35. tenet, 36. intergalactic, 37. slaughterhouse, 38. parable

39. collective insce	n.	the act or an instance of demanding or saying something clearly; persistence
40. pim site	n.	a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion
41. tic battle	adj.	of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)
42. moze about politics	v.	to express or teach a moral lesson or principle, often in a self-righteous or didactic way; to reflect on the ethical or moral aspects of a situation or behavior
43. human exnt	n.	the waste matter discharged from the body, particularly that which is evacuated through the bowels or urinary tract
44. do a meass task	adj.	having no meaning, direction, or purpose
45. abt at gunpoint	v.	to take someone away illegally to an undisclosed location by force, usually to extract a ransom
46. slause operation	n.	a facility where animals are killed and processed for meat
47. coe fantasy with reality	v.	to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
48. licensed optst	n.	a healthcare professional who specializes in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of vision and eye-related disorders and who may prescribe and fit corrective lenses or other optical aids

ANSWERS: 39. insistence, 40. pilgrim, 41. titanic, 42. moralize, 43. excrement, 44. meaningless, 45. abduct, 46. slaughterhouse, 47. confuse, 48. optometrist

49. unk the pages of a book	v.	to free something that is stuck or adhering to something else
50. an adnt of the ideology	n.	a person who supports a particular party, person, or set of ideas; the act or state of coming or being in close contact with something
51. a hec poem	adj.	courageous and daring; having or displaying qualities appropriate for legendary figures that is courage and daring
52. avoid amty in writing	n.	the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
53. antogy of religion	n.	the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
54. poss argument	adj.	having no purpose or reason; serving no useful function; meaningless or senseless
55. optst appointment	n.	a healthcare professional who specializes in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of vision and eye-related disorders and who may prescribe and fit corrective lenses or other optical aids
56. tiny mol	n.	a small piece or fragment, particularly of food; a small, tasty, or pleasing bit of something

ANSWERS: 49. unstick, 50. adherent, 51. heroic, 52. ambiguity, 53. anthropology, 54. pointless, 55. optometrist, 56. morsel

57. a fundamental tet of Judaism	n.	one of the fundamental ideas or beliefs upon which a theory or broader group of views is founded
58. rigid insce	n.	the act or an instance of demanding or saying something clearly; persistence
59. biblical pae	n.	a short allegorical story designed to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson
60. spad campaign	ν.	to lead or initiate an effort or campaign
61. pituitary influm	n.	a funnel-shaped part of a bodily structure, particularly the brain or reproductive system
62. the raed world of academics	adj.	not commonly known or understood, particularly due to belonging to a specialized or elite group
63. moze a situation	v.	to express or teach a moral lesson or principle, often in a self-righteous or didactic way; to reflect on the ethical or moral aspects of a situation or behavior
64. desh a myth	v.	to completely destroy or tear down a building, structure, or other entity; to ruin or eliminate the effectiveness or power of something
65. sute fire	v.	to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression
66. zy costume	adj.	eccentric or unconventional humorously or foolishly; clownish; resembling a clown or jester

ANSWERS: 57. tenet, 58. insistence, 59. parable, 60. spearhead, 61. infundibulum, 62. rarefied, 63. moralize, 64. demolish, 65. suffocate, 66. zany

- 67. a mea____ss endeavor
- 68. twisty ca___n road

- *adj.* having no meaning, direction, or purpose
- a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river

ANSWERS: 67. meaningless, 68. canyon

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

- 1. The group of ______ walked in silence, deep in thought and prayer.
- *n*. a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion
- 2. Jesus quoted ______ to teach important lessons to his disciples.
- *n.* a short allegorical story designed to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson
- 3. This experiment's results are _____ because the other conditions are not identical.
- adj. having no meaning, direction, or purpose
- 4. The ______ air at the mountaintop made breathing difficult for those not used to high altitudes.
- *adj.* not commonly known or understood, particularly due to belonging to a specialized or elite group
- 5. I only had a small _____ of cake while trying to watch my weight.
- *n.* a small piece or fragment, particularly of food; a small, tasty, or pleasing bit of something
- 6. I visited an ______ to have my eyes checked for a new prescription for glasses.
 - *n.* a healthcare professional who specializes in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of vision and eye-related disorders and who may prescribe and fit corrective lenses or other optical aids
- 7. I had to use a knife to _____ the envelope from the table.
- v. to free something that is stuck or adhering to something else

ANSWERS: 1. pilgrims, 2. parables, 3. meaningless, 4. rarefied, 5. morsel, 6. optometrist, 7. unstick

- 8. The political landscape looks _____ without a change of administration.
- *adj.* unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
- 9. The CEO decided to ______ the new project to ensure its success.
- v. to lead or initiate an effort or campaign
- 10. He was a devout _____ of the religion.
- *n.* a person who supports a particular party, person, or set of ideas; the act or state of coming or being in close contact with something
- 11. The _____ actions of individuals are now easily spread worldwide by SNS.
- *adj.* courageous and daring; having or displaying qualities appropriate for legendary figures that is courage and daring
- 12. Her remarks _____ the debate.
- v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
- 13. The ______ in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.
- *n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
- 14. The author ______ anecdotes throughout the book to break up the text and make it more engaging.
 - *v.* to scatter or distribute among or between other things; to insert or place something at intervals
- 15. The _____ comedian had the audience laughing uncontrollably.
- *adj.* eccentric or unconventional humorously or foolishly; clownish; resembling a clown or jester

ANSWERS: 8. bleak, 9. spearhead, 10. adherent, 11. heroic, 12. confused, 13. ambiguity, 14. interspersed, 15. zany

- 16. From our ______ point, we could see the whole city skyline.
- *n.* a position or place that provides a commanding or advantageous view or perspective; a favorable position or advantage
- 17. The passerby witnessed the moment the boy was _____.
- *v.* to take someone away illegally to an undisclosed location by force, usually to extract a ransom
- 18. The ______ spaceship traveled to distant planets.
- *adj.* existing or occurring between different galaxies (= an independent group of stars)
- 19. As a dog owner, cleaning up your pet's _____ is responsible.
- *n*. the waste matter discharged from the body, particularly that which is evacuated through the bowels or urinary tract
- 20. The ______ of events was important for understanding history.
- *n.* the science of arranging events in their order of occurrence in time
- 21. The room was filled with ______ decorations that shone in the dark.
- *adj.* emitting or reflecting light, especially in the dark; shining or glowing brightly; full of light or enlightenment
- 22. The ______ of the brain helps to regulate the release of hormones.
- *n.* a funnel-shaped part of a bodily structure, particularly the brain or reproductive system
- 23. People can ______ from a lack of oxygen in confined spaces.
 - v. to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression

ANSWERS: 16. vantage, 17. abducted, 18. intergalactic, 19. excrement, 20. chronology, 21. luminous, 22. infundibulum, 23. suffocate

- 24. I don't like it when people try to _____ me about my personal choices.
 - *v.* to express or teach a moral lesson or principle, often in a self-righteous or didactic way; to reflect on the ethical or moral aspects of a situation or behavior
- 25. The meeting was considered ______ since nothing was accomplished.
- *adj.* having no purpose or reason; serving no useful function; meaningless or senseless
- 26. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud ____.
- *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
- 27. The city decided to ______ the old, unsafe building and build a new one.
 - v. to completely destroy or tear down a building, structure, or other entity; to ruin or eliminate the effectiveness or power of something
- 28. Pandas rarely breed in _____.
- *n.* the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from
- 29. The smell of the ______ made him feel sick to his stomach.
- *n.* a facility where animals are killed and processed for meat
- 30. Despite her _____ he refused to change his mind.
- *n.* the act or an instance of demanding or saying something clearly; persistence
- 31. The Grand _____ has an awe-inspiring sight.
- *n.* a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river

ANSWERS: 24. moralize, 25. pointless, 26. rev, 27. demolish, 28. captivity, 29. slaughterhouse, 30. insistence, 31. Canyon

- 32. This section explains a central _____ of economics.
 - *n.* one of the fundamental ideas or beliefs upon which a theory or broader group of views is founded
- 33. The areas of ______ and psychology are significantly related to one another.
- *n.* the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
- 34. The ______ ship sank on its maiden voyage.
- *adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)

ANSWERS: 32. tenet, 33. anthropology, 34. titanic