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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Elise LeGrow: "You Never Can Tell" "Over the Mountain, Across the Sea" | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/elise\\_legrow\\_you\\_never\\_can\\_tell\\_over\\_the\\_mountain\\_across\\_the\\_sea](https://www.ted.com/talks/elise_legrow_you_never_can_tell_over_the_mountain_across_the_sea)

### All Words

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### singe

*v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake

*synonym*: sear, char, burn

(1) **singe** off the hair over the flames, (2) **singe** the edges of a fabric

I didn't realize the iron was still hot and **singed** my dress.

### folk

*n.* people in general, especially those of a particular group or type

*synonym*: community, family, person

(1) **folk** art, (2) the **folk** songs of a particular district

Some seaweed was used as **folk** medicine in ancient times.

### mademoiselle

*n.* a French term used to address a young, unmarried woman, often abbreviated to "Mlle." in written form; a French women's magazine that was published from 1937-2001 and aimed at young women

*synonym*: miss, demoiselle, young lady

(1) **mademoiselle** magazine, (2) petite **mademoiselle**

Excuse me, **mademoiselle**, do you speak English?

### monsieur

*n.* a French title of respect and formality used to address or refer to a man, typically accompanied by the person's

last name

*synonym* : gentleman, mister, sir

(1) gentle **monsieur**, (2) distinguished **monsieur**

Despite his humble origins, **Monsieur** Petit became a respected figure in the art community.

**madam**

*n.* a term of polite address or title used to address a woman, particularly one in a position of authority or respect

*synonym* : lady, ma'am, madame

(1) **madam** speaker, (2) dear **madam**

**Madam** President, may I ask a question regarding the new policy?

**chapel**

*n.* a place of worship, especially a non-conformist or dissenting place of worship

*synonym* : sanctuary, church, place of worship

(1) a **chapel** royal, (2) **chapel** bell

The spacious **chapel** was a peaceful sanctuary for the couple to exchange their vows.

**vie**

*v.* to compete or contend for something, usually a prize, position, or advantage; to strive for superiority or mastery in one's field or area of expertise

*synonym* : compete, contend, strive

(1) **vie** for a trophy, (2) **vie** for attention

They both **vied** for the top spot in the company.

**furnish**

*v.* to provide a room or building with furniture and fittings; to provide something useful or necessary

*synonym* : equip, provide, fit out

(1) **furnish** a suitable occasion, (2) **furnish** the information

The new homeowners decided to **furnish** the living room with new furniture.

## cram

*v.* to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space

*synonym* : stuff, pack, jam

(1) **cram** more circuits into chips, (2) **cram** five people into a car

She had to **cram** for the final exam and stayed up all night studying.

## ginger

*n.* a plant (*Zingiber officinale*) that is widely cultivated for its aromatic underground stem (rhizome), which is used as a spice, especially in Asian cooking

*synonym* : ginger root, gingerroot, zingiber

(1) **ginger** tea, (2) **ginger** extract

I added fresh **ginger** to the stir-fry to add a little extra zing.

## souped-up

*adj.* made more powerful or improved in some way beyond the standard or original design; exaggerated or overdone

*synonym* : pimped-out, upgraded, tricked-out

(1) **souped-up** engine, (2) **souped-up** graphics card

He was pulled over for driving a **souped-up** car with an illegal exhaust system.

## jitney

*n.* a small bus or van used for transportation, often operating on a fixed route and charging a low fare

*synonym* : shuttle, minibus, van

(1) **jitney** service, (2) hail a **jitney**

I took a **jitney** to get across town since it was quicker than waiting for a bus.

## celebrate

*v.* to acknowledge a memorable or good day or event with a social gathering or enjoyable activity

*synonym* : praise, glorify, honor

(1) **celebrate** his election, (2) **celebrate** Christmas

He **celebrated** the 10th anniversary of his tenure.

## anniversary

*n.* the annual recurrence of a date marking a notable event; a date on which an event occurred in a previous year

*synonym*: commemoration, celebration, observance

(1) **anniversary** celebration, (2) a bicentennial **anniversary**

They celebrated their 10th **anniversary** with a romantic dinner.

## wed

*v.* to marry someone

*synonym*: marry, get hitched with

(1) **wed** my intended, (2) **wed** the rich man

The couple will **wed** after the tenth anniversary.

## tremendous

*adj.* very great in degree or extent or amount or impact; extremely good

*synonym*: enormous, giant, immense

(1) **tremendous** amount, (2) **tremendous** popularity

We had a **tremendous** time yesterday.

## opportune

*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

*synonym*: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

## vast

*adj.* enormous in size, number, amount, or quantity

*synonym*: expansive, extended, boundless

(1) **vast** majority, (2) **vast** desert

A **vast** audience viewed the broadcast.

## release

*v.* to set free or allow to escape from confinement

*synonym*: free, let go, discharge

(1) **release** a prisoner, (2) **release** CO2 into the air

The animal rights group worked to **release** the dolphins back into the wild.

## label

*n.* a small piece of paper, fabric, or other material attached to an object and giving information about it; (verb) to assign to a category

*synonym* : tag, mark, identifier

(1) a mailing **label**, (2) **label** a bag with my name

The **label** on the food package lists the ingredients and nutritional information.

## homage

*n.* a show of respect or honor, often by performing an act of reverence or by paying tribute

*synonym* : respect, deference, reverence

(1) paying **homage** to tradition, (2) vassal **homage**

The crowd gave a standing ovation as a sign of **homage** to the retiring athlete.

## innovate

*v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

*synonym* : bring in, introduce, found

(1) **innovate** a new method, (2) **innovate** the quality of his life

Companies developing self-driving cars consistently **innovate** the emerging technologies.

## roll

*v.* to move in a particular direction by turning over and over or from side to side

*synonym* : spin, swirl, wheel

(1) **roll** a ball, (2) **roll** down his cheeks

He was exhausted and **rolled** into bed as soon as he got home.

## sand

*n.* finely granulated particles of rock or mineral material typically found along beaches, deserts, or riverbeds; used in construction, landscaping, and other applications requiring drainage or abrasive action

*synonym* : grit, dust, powder

(1) **sand** dunes, (2) **sand** castle

The **sand** on the beach was warm and golden.

## blade

*n.* the flat part of a knife, weapon, or machine with a very thin edge used for cutting

*synonym* : knife, sword, cutter

(1) a **blade** of grass, (2) the **blade** of a turbine

The **blade** of the katana itself is still in excellent condition.

## mystery

*n.* something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle

*synonym* : enigma, puzzle, secret

(1) **mystery** novel, (2) unsolved **mystery**

The **mystery** surrounding the disappearance of the traveler has yet to be solved by authorities.

## sealed

*adj.* closed or secured with

*synonym* : closed, impenetrable

(1) **sealed** orders, (2) **sealed** jar

We packed and shipped the product in **sealed** containers.

## tight

*adj.* fixed, fastened, or kept together firmly or closely

*synonym* : closed, secured, cramped

(1) a **tight** game, (2) student on a **tight** budget

The national election was held amid **tight** security.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. in____te the quality of his life | <i>v.</i> to introduce new methods, ideas, or products  |
| 2. se____d orders                   | <i>adj.</i> closed or secured with  |
| 3. student on a ti__t budget        | <i>adj.</i> fixed, fastened, or kept together firmly or closely   |
| 4. v__t desert                      | <i>adj.</i> enormous in size, number, amount, or quantity   |
| 5. si__e the edges of a fabric      | <i>v.</i> to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake   |
| 6. paying ho____e to tradition      | <i>n.</i> a show of respect or honor, often by performing an act of reverence or by paying tribute  |
| 7. re____e a prisoner               | <i>v.</i> to set free or allow to escape from confinement   |
| 8. gi____r tea                      | <i>n.</i> a plant ( <i>Zingiber officinale</i> ) that is widely cultivated for its aromatic underground stem (rhizome), which is used as a spice, especially in Asian cooking |
| 9. r__l a ball                      | <i>v.</i> to move in a particular direction by turning over and over or from side to side   |
| 10. v__t majority                   | <i>adj.</i> enormous in size, number, amount, or quantity   |
| 11. so____up engine                 | <i>adj.</i> made more powerful or improved in some way beyond the standard or original design; exaggerated or overdone  |

ANSWERS: 1. innovate, 2. sealed, 3. tight, 4. vast, 5. singe, 6. homage, 7. release, 8. ginger, 9. roll, 10. vast, 11. souped-up

12. ce\_\_\_\_\_te his election      *v.* to acknowledge a memorable or good day or event with a social gathering or enjoyable activity
13. my\_\_\_\_\_y novel      *n.* something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle
14. c\_\_m five people into a car      *v.* to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space
15. petite mad\_\_\_\_\_lle      *n.* a French term used to address a young, unmarried woman, often abbreviated to "Mlle." in written form; a French women's magazine that was published from 1937-2001 and aimed at young women
16. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion      *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
17. the bl\_\_e of a turbine      *n.* the flat part of a knife, weapon, or machine with a very thin edge used for cutting
18. ann\_\_\_\_\_ry celebration      *n.* the annual recurrence of a date marking a notable event; a date on which an event occurred in a previous year
19. re\_\_\_\_\_e CO2 into the air      *v.* to set free or allow to escape from confinement

ANSWERS: 12. celebrate, 13. mystery, 14. cram, 15. mademoiselle, 16. opportune, 17. blade, 18. anniversary, 19. release



20. ma\_\_m speaker *n.* a term of polite address or title used to address a woman, particularly one in a position of authority or respect
21. a ch\_\_\_l royal *n.* a place of worship, especially a non-conformist or dissenting place of worship
22. vassal ho\_\_\_e *n.* a show of respect or honor, often by performing an act of reverence or by paying tribute
23. s\_\_d dunes *n.* finely granulated particles of rock or mineral material typically found along beaches, deserts, or riverbeds; used in construction, landscaping, and other applications requiring drainage or abrasive action
24. v\_e for attention *v.* to compete or contend for something, usually a prize, position, or advantage; to strive for superiority or mastery in one's field or area of expertise
25. dear ma\_\_m *n.* a term of polite address or title used to address a woman, particularly one in a position of authority or respect
26. gentle mo\_\_\_\_ur *n.* a French title of respect and formality used to address or refer to a man, typically accompanied by the person's last name
27. ce\_\_\_\_\_te Christmas *v.* to acknowledge a memorable or good day or event with a social gathering or enjoyable activity
28. hail a ji\_\_\_y *n.* a small bus or van used for transportation, often operating on a fixed route and charging a low fare

ANSWERS: 20. madam, 21. chapel, 22. homage, 23. sand, 24. vie, 25. madam, 26. monsieur, 27. celebrate, 28. jitney

29. v\_e for a trophy
30. r\_\_l down his cheeks
31. gi\_\_\_r extract
32. a mailing la\_\_l
33. fu\_\_\_\_\_h a suitable occasion
34. unsolved my\_\_\_\_\_y
35. mad\_\_\_\_\_lle magazine
- v. to compete or contend for something, usually a prize, position, or advantage; to strive for superiority or mastery in one's field or area of expertise
- v. to move in a particular direction by turning over and over or from side to side
- n. a plant (*Zingiber officinale*) that is widely cultivated for its aromatic underground stem (rhizome), which is used as a spice, especially in Asian cooking
- n. a small piece of paper, fabric, or other material attached to an object and giving information about it; (verb) to assign to a category
- v. to provide a room or building with furniture and fittings; to provide something useful or necessary
- n. something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle
- n. a French term used to address a young, unmarried woman, often abbreviated to "Mlle." in written form; a French women's magazine that was published from 1937-2001 and aimed at young women

ANSWERS: 29. vie, 30. roll, 31. ginger, 32. label, 33. furnish, 34. mystery, 35. mademoiselle

36. a bl\_\_e of grass *n.* the flat part of a knife, weapon, or machine with a very thin edge used for cutting
37. ji\_\_\_y service *n.* a small bus or van used for transportation, often operating on a fixed route and charging a low fare
38. f\_\_k art *n.* people in general, especially those of a particular group or type
39. s\_\_d castle *n.* finely granulated particles of rock or mineral material typically found along beaches, deserts, or riverbeds; used in construction, landscaping, and other applications requiring drainage or abrasive action
40. w\_d my intended *v.* to marry someone
41. si\_\_e off the hair over the flames *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
42. fu\_\_\_\_h the information *v.* to provide a room or building with furniture and fittings; to provide something useful or necessary
43. a ti\_\_t game *adj.* fixed, fastened, or kept together firmly or closely
44. la\_\_l a bag with my name *n.* a small piece of paper, fabric, or other material attached to an object and giving information about it; (verb) to assign to a category
45. a bicentennial ann\_\_\_\_\_ry *n.* the annual recurrence of a date marking a notable event; a date on which an event occurred in a previous year

ANSWERS: 36. blade, 37. jitney, 38. folk, 39. sand, 40. wed, 41. singe, 42. furnish, 43. tight, 44. label, 45. anniversary

46. distinguished mo\_\_\_\_ur *n.* a French title of respect and formality used to address or refer to a man, typically accompanied by the person's last name
47. so\_\_\_\_up graphics card *adj.* made more powerful or improved in some way beyond the standard or original design; exaggerated or overdone
48. in\_\_\_\_te a new method *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
49. c\_\_m more circuits into chips *v.* to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space
50. the f\_\_k songs of a particular district *n.* people in general, especially those of a particular group or type
51. se\_\_\_\_d jar *adj.* closed or secured with
52. w\_d the rich man *v.* to marry someone
53. an op\_\_\_\_ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
54. tre\_\_\_\_us amount *adj.* very great in degree or extent or amount or impact; extremely good
55. tre\_\_\_\_us popularity *adj.* very great in degree or extent or amount or impact; extremely good
56. ch\_\_\_\_l bell *n.* a place of worship, especially a non-conformist or dissenting place of worship

ANSWERS: 46. monsieur, 47. souped-up, 48. innovate, 49. cram, 50. folk, 51. sealed, 52. wed, 53. opportune, 54. tremendous, 55. tremendous, 56. chapel

ANSWERS:

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He was exhausted and \_\_\_\_\_ into bed as soon as he got home.
  - v. to move in a particular direction by turning over and over or from side to side
  
2. The new homeowners decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the living room with new furniture.
  - v. to provide a room or building with furniture and fittings; to provide something useful or necessary
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ President, may I ask a question regarding the new policy?
  - n. a term of polite address or title used to address a woman, particularly one in a position of authority or respect
  
4. Excuse me, \_\_\_\_\_ do you speak English?
  - n. a French term used to address a young, unmarried woman, often abbreviated to "Mlle." in written form; a French women's magazine that was published from 1937-2001 and aimed at young women
  
5. The crowd gave a standing ovation as a sign of \_\_\_\_\_ to the retiring athlete.
  - n. a show of respect or honor, often by performing an act of reverence or by paying tribute
  
6. The couple will \_\_\_\_\_ after the tenth anniversary.
  - v. to marry someone
  
7. I added fresh \_\_\_\_\_ to the stir-fry to add a little extra zing.
  - n. a plant (*Zingiber officinale*) that is widely cultivated for its aromatic underground stem (rhizome), which is used as a spice, especially in Asian cooking

ANSWERS: 1. rolled, 2. furnish, 3. Madam, 4. mademoiselle, 5. homage, 6. wed, 7. ginger

8. The national election was held amid \_\_\_\_\_ security.  
*adj.* fixed, fastened, or kept together firmly or closely
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ on the food package lists the ingredients and nutritional information.  
*n.* a small piece of paper, fabric, or other material attached to an object and giving information about it; (verb) to assign to a category
10. We packed and shipped the product in \_\_\_\_\_ containers.  
*adj.* closed or secured with
11. The animal rights group worked to \_\_\_\_\_ the dolphins back into the wild.  
*v.* to set free or allow to escape from confinement
12. A \_\_\_\_\_ audience viewed the broadcast.  
*adj.* enormous in size, number, amount, or quantity
13. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.  
*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
14. They celebrated their 10th \_\_\_\_\_ with a romantic dinner.  
*n.* the annual recurrence of a date marking a notable event; a date on which an event occurred in a previous year
15. They both \_\_\_\_\_ for the top spot in the company.  
*v.* to compete or contend for something, usually a prize, position, or advantage; to strive for superiority or mastery in one's field or area of expertise
16. I took a \_\_\_\_\_ to get across town since it was quicker than waiting for a bus.  
*n.* a small bus or van used for transportation, often operating on a fixed route and charging a low fare

ANSWERS: 8. tight, 9. label, 10. sealed, 11. release, 12. vast, 13. opportune, 14. anniversary, 15. vied, 16. jitney

17. He was pulled over for driving a \_\_\_\_\_ car with an illegal exhaust system.  
*adj.* made more powerful or improved in some way beyond the standard or original design; exaggerated or overdone
18. Companies developing self-driving cars consistently \_\_\_\_\_ the emerging technologies.  
*v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
19. Despite his humble origins, \_\_\_\_\_ Petit became a respected figure in the art community.  
*n.* a French title of respect and formality used to address or refer to a man, typically accompanied by the person's last name
20. She had to \_\_\_\_\_ for the final exam and stayed up all night studying.  
*v.* to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space
21. The \_\_\_\_\_ on the beach was warm and golden.  
*n.* finely granulated particles of rock or mineral material typically found along beaches, deserts, or riverbeds; used in construction, landscaping, and other applications requiring drainage or abrasive action
22. He \_\_\_\_\_ the 10th anniversary of his tenure.  
*v.* to acknowledge a memorable or good day or event with a social gathering or enjoyable activity
23. The \_\_\_\_\_ surrounding the disappearance of the traveler has yet to be solved by authorities.  
*n.* something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle

ANSWERS: 17. souped-up, 18. innovate, 19. Monsieur, 20. cram, 21. sand, 22. celebrated, 23. mystery



24. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the katana itself is still in excellent condition.
- n.* the flat part of a knife, weapon, or machine with a very thin edge used for cutting
25. We had a \_\_\_\_\_ time yesterday.
- adj.* very great in degree or extent or amount or impact; extremely good
26. The spacious \_\_\_\_\_ was a peaceful sanctuary for the couple to exchange their VOWS.
- n.* a place of worship, especially a non-conformist or dissenting place of worship
27. I didn't realize the iron was still hot and \_\_\_\_\_ my dress.
- v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
28. Some seaweed was used as \_\_\_\_\_ medicine in ancient times.
- n.* people in general, especially those of a particular group or type

ANSWERS: 24. blade, 25. tremendous, 26. chapel, 27. singed, 28. folk