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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Nancy Rabalais: The "dead zone" of the Gulf of Mexico | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/nancy\\_rabalais\\_the\\_dead\\_zone\\_of\\_the\\_gulf\\_of\\_mexico](https://www.ted.com/talks/nancy_rabalais_the_dead_zone_of_the_gulf_of_mexico)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

- gulf** *n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land  
*synonym*: chasm, divide, abyss  
(1) **gulf** war, (2) **gulf** stream  
The **Gulf** of Mexico is a body of water in the southern United States.
- dissolve** *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss  
*synonym*: disband, disappear, liquefy  
(1) **dissolve** the sugar, (2) officially **dissolved** the marriage  
The political party **dissolved** after much internal fighting.
- phosphorus** *n.* a chemical element with the symbol P and atomic number 15 that is a non-metallic, highly reactive, and luminescent element  
*synonym*: P, phosphoric, phosphorous  
(1) **phosphorus** element, (2) yellow **phosphorus**  
**Phosphorus** compounds are commonly used to manufacture fertilizers to promote plant growth.
- ominous** *adj.* giving the impression that something bad is going to happen; foreboding

*synonym* : foreboding, portentous, ominous

(1) an **ominous** silence, (2) **ominous** sign

The **ominous** clouds in the sky foretold of an approaching storm.

## microscopic

*adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy

*synonym* : infinitesimal, tiny, atomic

(1) **microscopic** inquiry, (2) **microscopic** analysis

Inspectors noticed **microscopic** cracks in the submarine's hull.

## phytoplankton

*n.* tiny little plants that float on the surface of the water and on which sea creatures feed

(1) marine **phytoplankton**, (2) **phytoplankton** blooms

She studies the relationship between marine creatures' toxicity and the **phytoplankton** they feed on.

## zooplankton

*n.* very small animals that live in water and on which other sea creatures feed

(1) freshwater **zooplankton**, (2) floating **zooplankton**

The diversity of riverine ecosystems influences the variety of **zooplankton** in marine areas.

## decompose

*v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements

*synonym* : break down, rot, spoil

(1) **decompose** matter, (2) **decompose** into simpler molecules

After the earthquake, many of the buildings in the city were left in ruins and began to **decompose**.

## trawl

*v.* to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information

*synonym* : fish, dredge, drag

(1) **trawl** the Internet for free music, (2) **trawl** for fish  
The fisherman used a net to **trawl** the bottom of the river for his catch.

### crisscross

v. to move or make lines that intersect or cross each other in a pattern resembling a series of X's

(1) **crisscross** over the edges of the walls, (2) **crisscross** my heart

The roads **crisscrossed** through the countryside, creating a beautiful scenic drive.

### sneak

v. to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily

*synonym*: creep, tiptoe, smuggle

(1) **sneak** a cigarette, (2) **sneak** out of danger

The children tried to **sneak** out and eat the candy.

### barracuda

n. a large, predatory, tropical sea fish with sharp teeth that can attack people

(1) great **barracuda**, (2) process **barracuda** meat

I fished a giant greyish-brown **barracuda** highly regarded as food.

### farmland

n. land used for farming or agricultural purposes

*synonym*: agriculture, cropland

(1) **farmland** acreage, (2) fertile **farmland**

The government is encouraging farmers to expand their **farmland** to increase food production.

### soybean

n. a legume crop widely cultivated for its nutritious seeds, often ground into meal or pressed into oil for food products, with other uses including animal feed, fuel, and industrial applications

*synonym*: soya, edamame

(1) **soybean** oil, (2) **soybean** production

The farmer harvested his **soybean** crop and took it to market.

## pothole

*n.* a hole or depression in a road surface, usually caused by wear, weathering, or erosion; can be dangerous to drivers and cause damage to vehicles

*synonym* : chuckhole, pit, depression

(1) deep **pothole**, (2) **pothole** repair

The car hit a **pothole** and caused a flat tire.

## fertilize

*v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

*synonym* : pollinate, inseminate, enrich

(1) **fertilize** the soil, (2) **fertilize** the female egg

The couple decided to use the non-husband sperm to **fertilize** a wife.

## perennial

*adj.* lasting for an indefinitely long time; enduring

*synonym* : long-lasting, recurrent, persistent

(1) **perennial** battle, (2) **perennial** asthma

The **perennial** flowers returned yearly, providing a beautiful display in the garden.

## algae

*n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots

(1) **algae** biofuel, (2) blue **algae**

**Algae** has jammed the inlet to the water turbine.

## senator

*n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate

*synonym* : legislator, politician, representative

(1) junior **senator**, (2) **senator** term

The hawkish **senator** gave a speech on the new bill in the Senate.

## bipartisan

*adj.* involving or supported by both of the main political parties in a country

*synonym* : neutral, impartial, nonpartisan

(1) promote **bipartisan** cooperation, (2) **bipartisan** agreement

The legislation was passed with **bipartisan** support from both parties.

## 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.

## plenary

*adj.* complete or absolute; full in scope or extent; attended by all members or participants

*synonym* : complete, full, absolute

(1) **plenary** power, (2) **plenary** discussions

The conference will include a **plenary** session for all attendees to participate in.

## hog

*n.* a domesticated pig or swine; a selfish or greedy person who keeps or takes more than their fair share of something; (verb) to take or use more than one's fair share of something, often to the detriment of others

*synonym* : pig, swine, boar

(1) **hog** farming, (2) **hog** all the glory

The farmer raised his **hogs** for meat and sold them at a local market.

## consumptive

*adj.* relating to or caused by the consumption, especially the wasting effects of tuberculosis or other chronic illness; excessively consuming or draining

*synonym* : wasting, draining, depleting

(1) **consumptive** lifestyle, (2) **consumptive** use of resources

The **consumptive** cough was a symptom of the patient's advanced tuberculosis.

## footprint

*n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface

*synonym*: footmark, imprint, impression

(1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization

We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon **footprint**.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. deep po\_\_\_\_e *n.* a hole or depression in a road surface, usually caused by wear, weathering, or erosion; can be dangerous to drivers and cause damage to vehicles
2. marine phy\_\_\_\_\_ton *n.* tiny little plants that float on the surface of the water and on which sea creatures feed
3. h\_g all the glory *n.* a domesticated pig or swine; a selfish or greedy person who keeps or takes more than their fair share of something; (verb) to take or use more than one's fair share of something, often to the detriment of others
4. sn\_\_k a cigarette *v.* to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily
5. yellow pho\_\_\_\_\_us *n.* a chemical element with the symbol P and atomic number 15 that is a non-metallic, highly reactive, and luminescent element
6. mic\_\_\_\_\_ic inquiry *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
7. process ba\_\_\_\_\_da meat *n.* a large, predatory, tropical sea fish with sharp teeth that can attack people
8. fe\_\_\_\_\_ze the soil *v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

ANSWERS: 1. pothole, 2. phytoplankton, 3. hog, 4. sneak, 5. phosphorus, 6. microscopic, 7. barracuda, 8. fertilize

9. an om\_\_\_\_s silence *adj.* giving the impression that something bad is going to happen; foreboding
10. cri\_\_\_\_\_ss my heart *v.* to move or make lines that intersect or cross each other in a pattern resembling a series of X's
11. al\_\_e biofuel *n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
12. con\_\_\_\_\_ve lifestyle *adj.* relating to or caused by the consumption, especially the wasting effects of tuberculosis or other chronic illness; excessively consuming or draining
13. pho\_\_\_\_\_us element *n.* a chemical element with the symbol P and atomic number 15 that is a non-metallic, highly reactive, and luminescent element
14. g\_\_f war *n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land
15. phy\_\_\_\_\_ton blooms *n.* tiny little plants that float on the surface of the water and on which sea creatures feed
16. junior se\_\_\_\_\_r *n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
17. sn\_\_k out of danger *v.* to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily
18. h\_g farming *n.* a domesticated pig or swine; a selfish or greedy person who keeps or takes more than their fair share of something; (verb) to take or use more than one's fair share of something, often to the detriment of others

ANSWERS: 9. ominous, 10. crisscross, 11. algae, 12. consumptive, 13. phosphorus, 14. gulf, 15. phytoplankton, 16. senator, 17. sneak, 18. hog



19. pl\_\_\_\_\_y power *adj.* complete or absolute; full in scope or extent; attended by all members or participants
20. de\_\_\_\_\_se into simpler molecules *v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
21. blue al\_\_e *n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
22. so\_\_\_\_\_n oil *n.* a legume crop widely cultivated for its nutritious seeds, often ground into meal or pressed into oil for food products, with other uses including animal feed, fuel, and industrial applications
23. tr\_\_l the Internet for free music *v.* to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information
24. bip\_\_\_\_\_an agreement *adj.* involving or supported by both of the main political parties in a country
25. tr\_\_l for fish *v.* to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information
26. pe\_\_\_\_\_al asthma *adj.* lasting for an indefinitely long time; enduring
27. de\_\_\_\_\_se matter *v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements

ANSWERS: 19. plenary, 20. decompose, 21. algae, 22. soybean, 23. trawl, 24. bipartisan, 25. trawl, 26. perennial, 27. decompose

28. fa\_\_\_\_\_nd acreage *n.* land used for farming or agricultural purposes
29. the fo\_\_\_\_\_nts of an earlier civilization *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
30. fe\_\_\_\_\_ze the female egg *v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well
31. se\_\_\_\_\_r term *n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
32. fertile fa\_\_\_\_\_nd *n.* land used for farming or agricultural purposes
33. om\_\_\_\_\_s sign *adj.* giving the impression that something bad is going to happen; foreboding
34. freshwater zoo\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* very small animals that live in water and on which other sea creatures feed
35. floating zoo\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* very small animals that live in water and on which other sea creatures feed
36. fo\_\_\_\_\_nts in the snow *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
37. great ba\_\_\_\_\_da *n.* a large, predatory, tropical sea fish with sharp teeth that can attack people
38. cri\_\_\_\_\_ss over the edges of the walls *v.* to move or make lines that intersect or cross each other in a pattern resembling a series of X's
39. so\_\_\_\_\_n production *n.* a legume crop widely cultivated for its nutritious seeds, often ground into meal or pressed into oil for food products, with other uses including animal feed, fuel, and industrial applications

ANSWERS: 28. farmland, 29. footprint, 30. fertilize, 31. senator, 32. farmland, 33. ominous, 34. zooplankton, 35. zooplankton, 36. footprint, 37. barracuda, 38. crisscross, 39. soybean

40. co\_\_\_r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
41. di\_\_\_\_ve the sugar *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
42. g\_\_f stream *n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land
43. promote bip\_\_\_\_an cooperation *adj.* involving or supported by both of the main political parties in a country
44. officially di\_\_\_\_ved the marriage *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
45. pl\_\_\_\_y discussions *adj.* complete or absolute; full in scope or extent; attended by all members or participants
46. con\_\_\_\_ve use of resources *adj.* relating to or caused by the consumption, especially the wasting effects of tuberculosis or other chronic illness; excessively consuming or draining
47. co\_\_\_r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
48. po\_\_\_\_e repair *n.* a hole or depression in a road surface, usually caused by wear, weathering, or erosion; can be dangerous to drivers and cause damage to vehicles
49. mic\_\_\_\_ic analysis *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy

ANSWERS: 40. confer, 41. dissolve, 42. gulf, 43. bipartisan, 44. dissolve, 45. plenary, 46. consumptive, 47. confer, 48. pothole, 49. microscopic

50. pe\_\_\_\_\_al battle

*adj.* lasting for an indefinitely long time;  
enduring

ANSWERS: 50. perennial

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ flowers returned yearly, providing a beautiful display in the garden.  
*adj.* lasting for an indefinitely long time; enduring
  
2. The farmer raised his \_\_\_\_\_ for meat and sold them at a local market.  
*n.* a domesticated pig or swine; a selfish or greedy person who keeps or takes more than their fair share of something; (verb) to take or use more than one's fair share of something, often to the detriment of others
  
3. The roads \_\_\_\_\_ through the countryside, creating a beautiful scenic drive.  
*v.* to move or make lines that intersect or cross each other in a pattern resembling a series of X's
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ compounds are commonly used to manufacture fertilizers to promote plant growth.  
*n.* a chemical element with the symbol P and atomic number 15 that is a non-metallic, highly reactive, and luminescent element
  
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ cough was a symptom of the patient's advanced tuberculosis.  
*adj.* relating to or caused by the consumption, especially the wasting effects of tuberculosis or other chronic illness; excessively consuming or draining
  
6. The hawkish \_\_\_\_\_ gave a speech on the new bill in the Senate.  
*n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
  
7. The couple decided to use the non-husband sperm to \_\_\_\_\_ a wife.  
*v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

ANSWERS: 1. perennial, 2. hogs, 3. crisscrossed, 4. Phosphorus, 5. consumptive, 6. senator, 7. fertilize

8. The farmer harvested his \_\_\_\_\_ crop and took it to market.  
*n.* a legume crop widely cultivated for its nutritious seeds, often ground into meal or pressed into oil for food products, with other uses including animal feed, fuel, and industrial applications
9. Inspectors noticed \_\_\_\_\_ cracks in the submarine's hull.  
*adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
10. After the earthquake, many of the buildings in the city were left in ruins and began to \_\_\_\_\_.  
*v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
11. \_\_\_\_\_ has jammed the inlet to the water turbine.  
*n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
12. 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
13. The children tried to \_\_\_\_\_ out and eat the candy.  
*v.* to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily
14. The political party \_\_\_\_\_ after much internal fighting.  
*v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
15. The legislation was passed with \_\_\_\_\_ support from both parties.  
*adj.* involving or supported by both of the main political parties in a country

ANSWERS: 8. soybean, 9. microscopic, 10. decompose, 11. Algae, 12. confer, 13. sneak, 14. dissolved, 15. bipartisan

16. The conference will include a \_\_\_\_\_ session for all attendees to participate in.  
*adj.* complete or absolute; full in scope or extent; attended by all members or participants
17. I fished a giant greyish-brown \_\_\_\_\_ highly regarded as food.  
*n.* a large, predatory, tropical sea fish with sharp teeth that can attack people
18. The diversity of riverine ecosystems influences the variety of \_\_\_\_\_ in marine areas.  
*n.* very small animals that live in water and on which other sea creatures feed
19. The car hit a \_\_\_\_\_ and caused a flat tire.  
*n.* a hole or depression in a road surface, usually caused by wear, weathering, or erosion; can be dangerous to drivers and cause damage to vehicles
20. She studies the relationship between marine creatures' toxicity and the \_\_\_\_\_ they feed on.  
*n.* tiny little plants that float on the surface of the water and on which sea creatures feed
21. We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
22. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Mexico is a body of water in the southern United States.  
*n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land
23. The fisherman used a net to \_\_\_\_\_ the bottom of the river for his catch.  
*v.* to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information

ANSWERS: 16. plenary, 17. barracuda, 18. zooplankton, 19. pothole, 20. phytoplankton, 21. footprint, 22. Gulf, 23. trawl

24. The \_\_\_\_\_ clouds in the sky foretold of an approaching storm.

*adj.* giving the impression that something bad is going to happen; foreboding

25. The government is encouraging farmers to expand their \_\_\_\_\_ to increase food production.

*n.* land used for farming or agricultural purposes

ANSWERS: 24. ominous, 25. farmland