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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Ryan Pfluger: The therapeutic value of photography | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/ryan\\_pfluger\\_the\\_therapeutic\\_value\\_of\\_photography](https://www.ted.com/talks/ryan_pfluger_the_therapeutic_value_of_photography)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### nomadic

*adj.* moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time

*synonym*: mobile, migratory, wandering

(1) **nomadic** life, (2) **nomadic** herdsmen

This dessert is the territory of **nomadic** tribes.

### depict

*v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph

*synonym*: illustrate, describe, express

(1) **depict** a scene, (2) **depict** a feeling of isolation

His son had accurately **depicted** the bloom.

### surreal

*adj.* strange and unreal; having an oddly dreamlike quality

*synonym*: dreamlike, fantastical, unreal

(1) **surreal** number, (2) **surreal** art

The dreamlike quality of the painting gave it a **surreal** feel.

### backstory

*n.* the history and events that occur before the main events of a story or the history and details of a person or thing that are not widely known

*synonym*: history, background, prehistory

(1) the **backstory** about this sweet moment, (2) **backstory** plot

The **backstory** of the main character added depth to the

story.

## abridge

*v.* to shorten or condense a book, a play, a speech, etc., while maintaining its essence

*synonym*: condense, shorten, abbreviate

(1) **abridge** a biography, (2) **abridge** a speech

I had to **abridge** the novel to fit it into the time allotted for the movie.

## casualty

*n.* a person who has been killed or injured in a war, accident, or other disasters; a victim

*synonym*: victim, injured, fatality

(1) civilian **casualty**, (2) military **casualty**

Unfortunately, the driver was the only **casualty** in the car accident.

## resentment

*n.* bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly

*synonym*: bitterness, enmity, animosity

(1) abiding **resentment**, (2) bitter **resentment**

She felt **resentment** towards her boss for not giving her a promotion.

## overwhelm

*v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

*synonym*: conquer, crush, dominate

(1) he was **overwhelmed** with gratitude, (2) **overwhelm** opponents by numbers

Too much variety may **overwhelm** and confuse viewers.

## screwdriver

*n.* a tool used for turning screws, typically consisting of a handle and a metal rod with a flattened tip that fits into the slot on the head of a screw; a popular cocktail made with vodka and orange juice

*synonym*: screw, driver, wrench

(1) open the can with a **screwdriver**, (2) electric **screwdriver**

I need a flathead **screwdriver** to tighten the loose screws on this cabinet.

## intellect

*n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

*synonym*: mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

## sober

*adj.* not drunk or affected by alcohol; dignified in manner or character and committed to keeping promises

*synonym*: calm, lucid, temperate

(1) **sober** discussion, (2) as **sober** as a judge

He led a **sober** life.

## estranged

*adj.* separated or alienated from someone or something that was once familiar or close; emotionally detached or distant due to a breakdown in a relationship or connection

*synonym*: alienated, distant, estrous

(1) **estranged** relationship, (2) become **estranged**

After years of not speaking to each other, the **estranged** family members finally reunited.

## collier

*n.* a coal miner or worker in the coal industry; a ship that transports coal

*synonym*: miner, digger, excavator

(1) **collier's** job, (2) **collier** factory

The town's economy was largely dependent on the **collier** industry.

## immersion

*n.* the act of putting someone or something into a liquid completely; the state of being completely involved in a subject or activity

*synonym*: submergence, involvement, engagement

(1) baptism by **immersion**, (2) **immersion** in acid

I felt like I was in a different world because of the **immersion** experience of virtual reality.

### **incapable**

*adj.* unable to do, control, or achieve something

*synonym*: unable, incompetent, unskilled

(1) drunk and **incapable**, (2) **incapable** of being resisted  
He seems **incapable** of understanding what she says.

### **spontaneously**

*adv.* in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden

*synonym*: impromptu, automatically, immediately

(1) recover **spontaneously** after five days, (2) this shift occurs **spontaneously**

The electrical cord **spontaneously** combusted.

### **stagnant**

*adj.* not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water

*synonym*: still, stagnant, unmoving

(1) **stagnant** car sales, (2) **stagnant** economy

The **stagnant** water in the pond is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

### **pivotal**

*adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something

*synonym*: crucial, essential, important

(1) **pivotal** moment, (2) **pivotal** role

The CEO's decision was **pivotal** in the success of the company's expansion plans.

### **catharsis**

*n.* a release or purging of emotional or psychological tension, often through artistic or creative experiences or expressions

*synonym*: cleansing, purification, purging

(1) **catharsis** of grief, (2) spiritual **catharsis**

Many people find that physical exercise provides a sense of **catharsis**, helping to relieve stress and anxiety.

- app** *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC  
*synonym* : application, software  
(1) killer **app**, (2) cannot log in to the **app**  
The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.
- hesitation** *n.* the act of pausing or being slow before saying or doing something, especially because you feel uncertain or nervous  
*synonym* : unwillingness, indecision, uncertainty  
(1) perform without **hesitation**, (2) after some **hesitation**  
There was a **hesitation** in her speech.
- queer** *adj.* strange or odd, typically in an interesting or attractive way  
*synonym* : strange, odd, unusual  
(1) **queer** money, (2) **queer** fashion  
The behavior of the clown at the party was quite **queer**.
- creepy** *adj.* causing an uneasy feeling of fear or unease  
*synonym* : eerie, unsettling, spooky  
(1) feel **creepy**, (2) **creepy** atmosphere  
The old, abandoned house was **creepy** and gave me the chills.
- trait** *n.* a particular feature of your nature  
*synonym* : attribute, feature, quality  
(1) chemical **trait**, (2) personality **traits**  
Multiple genes may influence behavioral **traits** concurrently.
- appraise** *v.* to assess or evaluate the value, quality, or condition of something or someone, often in a professional or organized manner  
*synonym* : evaluate, assess, judge  
(1) **appraise** his property, (2) **appraise** the situation

The real estate agent will **appraise** the value of your property before listing it.

## impulsive

*adj.* acting suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have

*synonym*: abrupt, hasty, capricious

(1) an **impulsive** force, (2) do **impulsive** buying

He regrets the **impulsive** behavior he took in his drunken state.

## contradictory

*adj.* containing or consisting of conflicting or incompatible elements

*synonym*: conflicting, opposing, inconsistent

(1) apparently **contradictory**, (2) **contradictory** evidence

His statements were **contradictory**, leaving the audience confused.

## reclaim

*v.* to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back

*synonym*: recoup, regain, retake

(1) **reclaim** a competitive position, (2) **reclaim** land from the sea

You may be entitled to **reclaim** some tax.

## denominator

*n.* the number below the line in a fraction

(1) common **denominator**, (2) different **denominators**

The first step is to rationalize the **denominator** of a fraction.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. con\_\_\_\_\_ory evidence *adj.* containing or consisting of conflicting or incompatible elements
2. ap\_\_\_\_\_se the situation *v.* to assess or evaluate the value, quality, or condition of something or someone, often in a professional or organized manner
3. personality tr\_\_ts *n.* a particular feature of your nature
4. qu\_\_r money *adj.* strange or odd, typically in an interesting or attractive way
5. pi\_\_\_\_\_l moment *adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something
6. human in\_\_\_\_\_ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
7. ab\_\_\_\_\_e a biography *v.* to shorten or condense a book, a play, a speech, etc., while maintaining its essence
8. su\_\_\_\_\_l art *adj.* strange and unreal; having an oddly dreamlike quality
9. es\_\_\_\_\_ed relationship *adj.* separated or alienated from someone or something that was once familiar or close; emotionally detached or distant due to a breakdown in a relationship or connection
10. recover spo \_\_\_\_\_sly after five days *adv.* in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden

ANSWERS: 1. contradictory, 2. appraise, 3. trait, 4. queer, 5. pivotal, 6. intellect, 7. abridge, 8. surreal, 9. estranged, 10. spontaneously

11. qu\_\_r fashion *adj.* strange or odd, typically in an interesting or attractive way
12. different den\_\_\_\_\_ors *n.* the number below the line in a fraction
13. no\_\_\_\_\_c life *adj.* moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time
14. open the can with a scr\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* a tool used for turning screws, typically consisting of a handle and a metal rod with a flattened tip that fits into the slot on the head of a screw; a popular cocktail made with vodka and orange juice
15. an im\_\_\_\_\_ve force *adj.* acting suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have
16. perform without hes\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* the act of pausing or being slow before saying or doing something, especially because you feel uncertain or nervous
17. cannot log in to the a\_p\_\_\_\_\_ *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
18. im\_\_\_\_\_on in acid *n.* the act of putting someone or something into a liquid completely; the state of being completely involved in a subject or activity
19. common den\_\_\_\_\_or *n.* the number below the line in a fraction
20. in\_\_\_\_\_le of being resisted *adj.* unable to do, control, or achieve something

ANSWERS: 11. queer, 12. denominator, 13. nomadic, 14. screwdriver, 15. impulsive, 16. hesitation, 17. app, 18. immersion, 19. denominator, 20. incapable



21. ba\_\_\_\_\_ry plot *n.* the history and events that occur before the main events of a story or the history and details of a person or thing that are not widely known
22. he was ov\_\_\_\_\_lmed with gratitude *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
23. so\_\_r discussion *adj.* not drunk or affected by alcohol; dignified in manner or character and committed to keeping promises
24. st\_\_\_\_\_nt economy *adj.* not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water
25. co\_\_\_\_\_r factory *n.* a coal miner or worker in the coal industry; a ship that transports coal
26. co\_\_\_\_\_r's job *n.* a coal miner or worker in the coal industry; a ship that transports coal
27. pi\_\_\_\_\_l role *adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something
28. cr\_\_\_y atmosphere *adj.* causing an uneasy feeling of fear or unease
29. killer a\_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
30. ca\_\_\_\_\_is of grief *n.* a release or purging of emotional or psychological tension, often through artistic or creative experiences or expressions

ANSWERS: 21. backstory, 22. overwhelm, 23. sober, 24. stagnant, 25. collier, 26. collier, 27. pivotal, 28. creepy, 29. app, 30. catharsis

31. ab\_\_\_\_e a speech *v.* to shorten or condense a book, a play, a speech, etc., while maintaining its essence
32. baptism by im\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* the act of putting someone or something into a liquid completely; the state of being completely involved in a subject or activity
33. electric scr\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* a tool used for turning screws, typically consisting of a handle and a metal rod with a flattened tip that fits into the slot on the head of a screw; a popular cocktail made with vodka and orange juice
34. bitter res\_\_\_\_\_nt *n.* bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly
35. de\_\_\_t a feeling of isolation *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
36. feel cr\_\_\_y *adj.* causing an uneasy feeling of fear or unease
37. ov\_\_\_\_\_lm opponents by numbers *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
38. su\_\_\_\_\_l number *adj.* strange and unreal; having an oddly dreamlike quality
39. after some hes\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* the act of pausing or being slow before saying or doing something, especially because you feel uncertain or nervous
40. become es\_\_\_\_\_ed *adj.* separated or alienated from someone or something that was once familiar or close; emotionally detached or distant due to a breakdown in a relationship or connection

ANSWERS: 31. abridge, 32. immersion, 33. screwdriver, 34. resentment, 35. depict, 36. creepy, 37. overwhelm, 38. surreal, 39. hesitation, 40. estranged

41. st\_\_\_\_\_nt car sales *adj.* not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water
42. apparently con\_\_\_\_\_ory *adj.* containing or consisting of conflicting or incompatible elements
43. military ca\_\_\_\_\_ty *n.* a person who has been killed or injured in a war, accident, or other disasters; a victim
44. ap\_\_\_\_\_se his property *v.* to assess or evaluate the value, quality, or condition of something or someone, often in a professional or organized manner
45. chemical tr\_\_t *n.* a particular feature of your nature
46. enrich my in\_\_\_\_\_ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
47. the ba\_\_\_\_\_ry about this sweet moment *n.* the history and events that occur before the main events of a story or the history and details of a person or thing that are not widely known
48. do im\_\_\_\_\_ve buying *adj.* acting suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have
49. no\_\_\_\_\_c herdsmen *adj.* moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time
50. as so\_\_r as a judge *adj.* not drunk or affected by alcohol; dignified in manner or character and committed to keeping promises
51. civilian ca\_\_\_\_\_ty *n.* a person who has been killed or injured in a war, accident, or other disasters; a victim

ANSWERS: 41. stagnant, 42. contradictory, 43. casualty, 44. appraise, 45. trait, 46. intellect, 47. backstory, 48. impulsive, 49. nomadic, 50. sober, 51. casualty

52. re\_\_\_\_m a competitive position      *v.* to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
53. drunk and in\_\_\_\_\_le      *adj.* unable to do, control, or achieve something
54. re\_\_\_\_m land from the sea      *v.* to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
55. de\_\_\_t a scene      *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
56. spiritual ca\_\_\_\_\_is      *n.* a release or purging of emotional or psychological tension, often through artistic or creative experiences or expressions
57. this shift occurs spo\_\_\_\_\_sly      *adv.* in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden
58. abiding res\_\_\_\_\_nt      *n.* bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly

ANSWERS: 52. reclaim, 53. incapable, 54. reclaim, 55. depict, 56. catharsis, 57. spontaneously, 58. resentment

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Too much variety may \_\_\_\_\_ and confuse viewers.
  - v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
  
2. Your \_\_\_\_\_ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.
  - n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
  
3. The CEO's decision was \_\_\_\_\_ in the success of the company's expansion plans.
  - adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something
  
4. There was a \_\_\_\_\_ in her speech.
  - n.* the act of pausing or being slow before saying or doing something, especially because you feel uncertain or nervous
  
5. You may be entitled to \_\_\_\_\_ some tax.
  - v.* to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
  
6. She felt \_\_\_\_\_ towards her boss for not giving her a promotion.
  - n.* bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly
  
7. The behavior of the clown at the party was quite \_\_\_\_\_.
  - adj.* strange or odd, typically in an interesting or attractive way
  
8. His statements were \_\_\_\_\_ leaving the audience confused.
  - adj.* containing or consisting of conflicting or incompatible elements

ANSWERS: 1. overwhelm, 2. intellect, 3. pivotal, 4. hesitation, 5. reclaim, 6. resentment, 7. queer, 8. contradictory,

9. Many people find that physical exercise provides a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ helping to relieve stress and anxiety.  
*n.* a release or purging of emotional or psychological tension, often through artistic or creative experiences or expressions
10. This desert is the territory of \_\_\_\_\_ tribes.  
*adj.* moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time
11. He regrets the \_\_\_\_\_ behavior he took in his drunken state.  
*adj.* acting suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have
12. The old, abandoned house was \_\_\_\_\_ and gave me the chills.  
*adj.* causing an uneasy feeling of fear or unease
13. Unfortunately, the driver was the only \_\_\_\_\_ in the car accident.  
*n.* a person who has been killed or injured in a war, accident, or other disasters; a victim
14. His son had accurately \_\_\_\_\_ the bloom.  
*v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
15. He seems \_\_\_\_\_ of understanding what she says.  
*adj.* unable to do, control, or achieve something
16. The town's economy was largely dependent on the \_\_\_\_\_ industry.  
*n.* a coal miner or worker in the coal industry; a ship that transports coal

ANSWERS: 9. catharsis, 10. nomadic, 11. impulsive, 12. creepy, 13. casualty, 14. depicted, 15. incapable, 16. collier

17. The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the \_\_\_\_\_ release.  
*n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
18. The electrical cord \_\_\_\_\_ combusted.  
*adv.* in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden
19. The dreamlike quality of the painting gave it a \_\_\_\_\_ feel.  
*adj.* strange and unreal; having an oddly dreamlike quality
20. Multiple genes may influence behavioral \_\_\_\_\_ concurrently.  
*n.* a particular feature of your nature
21. I felt like I was in a different world because of the \_\_\_\_\_ experience of virtual reality.  
*n.* the act of putting someone or something into a liquid completely; the state of being completely involved in a subject or activity
22. The \_\_\_\_\_ water in the pond is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.  
*adj.* not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water
23. The real estate agent will \_\_\_\_\_ the value of your property before listing it.  
*v.* to assess or evaluate the value, quality, or condition of something or someone, often in a professional or organized manner
24. After years of not speaking to each other, the \_\_\_\_\_ family members finally reunited.  
*adj.* separated or alienated from someone or something that was once familiar or close; emotionally detached or distant due to a breakdown in a relationship or connection

ANSWERS: 17. app's, 18. spontaneously, 19. surreal, 20. traits, 21. immersion, 22. stagnant, 23. appraise, 24. estranged

25. I need a flathead \_\_\_\_\_ to tighten the loose screws on this cabinet.
- n.* a tool used for turning screws, typically consisting of a handle and a metal rod with a flattened tip that fits into the slot on the head of a screw; a popular cocktail made with vodka and orange juice
26. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the main character added depth to the story.
- n.* the history and events that occur before the main events of a story or the history and details of a person or thing that are not widely known
27. He led a \_\_\_\_\_ life.
- adj.* not drunk or affected by alcohol; dignified in manner or character and committed to keeping promises
28. I had to \_\_\_\_\_ the novel to fit it into the time allotted for the movie.
- v.* to shorten or condense a book, a play, a speech, etc., while maintaining its essence
29. The first step is to rationalize the \_\_\_\_\_ of a fraction.
- n.* the number below the line in a fraction

ANSWERS: 25. screwdriver, 26. backstory, 27. sober, 28. abridge, 29. denominator